

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Preservation Department

CONSERVATION CONDITION REPORT AND TREATMENT PROPOSAL

Date received: 12/19/2013 (By Melissa Tedone)

Date of report: 8/24/2016

Conservator: Sofia (Sonya) Barron

Call Number: MS 91

Title: Grand Champion ear of pure bred Reid's Yellow Dent corn

Collection: Descartes Pascal

Curator/Archivist: Laura Sullivan

Author/Creator: Descartes Pascal

Imprint/Date of creation: 1907

Format: artifact: ear of corn sealed in a glass case

Materials: corn, wood, metal, glass, paper

Dimensions of case: H 33.1 cm x W 23.3 cm x Th 10.2 cm

CONDITION REPORT

Description

Ear of desiccated corn, mounted on a rod or spike; sealed within a display case made of wood and glass, with metal screws. Descriptive labels attached to the case on the interior, printed in black ink on machine-made paper.

Condition

The ear of corn is not mounted securely inside the case. When the case is moved, the ear of corn tilts to the side and touches the glass wall of the case. Two (2) kernels have become detached from the ear and have fallen to the bottom of the case. Both of the paper labels are cockled; the smaller label on the bottom of the case exhibits staining and a tideline.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

- 1) Disassemble the case. Remove the ear of corn and the labels
- 2) Store the ear of corn in a crater cut made in Ethafoam and lined with Teflon film.
- 3) Store the loose corn kernels in a polyethylene zip-locked bag.
- 4) Store all of the components of the artifact together in compartments of the same enclosure.

Estimated hours: 20

Photos on file: BT, AT

Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Preservation Department

CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT

Date received: 12/19/2013 (By Melissa Tedone)

Date of report: 5/12/2017

Conservator: Sofia (Sonya) Barron (Conservator), Melinda Moeller (Conservation Assistant)

Call Number: MS 91

Title: Grand Champion ear of pure bred Reid's Yellow Dent corn

Collection: Descartes Pascal

Curator/Archivist: Laura Sullivan

Author/Creator: Descartes Pascal

Imprint/Date of creation: 1907

Format: artifact: ear of corn sealed in a glass case

Materials: corn, wood, metal, glass, paper

Dimensions of case: H 33.1 cm x W 23.3 cm x Th 10.2 cm

Dimensions of ear of corn: H 25.4 cm x W 6.7 cm x Th 6.9 cm

TREATMENT REPORT

1. Disassembled the display case. Removed the ear of corn from the screw mount. Reassembled the display case.
2. Double-bagged the ear of corn in non-recycled polyethylene resealable bags. Put the bagged ear of corn through the standard freeze-and-thaw cycle at -20C (-3C). Freeze for 48 hours, thaw for 24 hours. Repeat.
3. Took the ear of corn out of the bags. Sealed the ear of corn on all sides in heavy weight non-recycled polyethylene, using the Polyweld unit.
4. Constructed a tray-and-lid storage box out of archival corrugated blue board, with two separate compartments. The display case was housed in one compartment and the corn was housed in the other. The bottom of the box was reinforced with a sheet of 60pt board.
5. Housed the sealed ear of corn in a cut-out made in Ethafoam® block, lined with Teflon® film.
6. Stored the loose corn kernels in a non-recycled polyethylene resealable bag, next to the ear of corn.
7. Placed a photo-ID label on the lid of the box.

Materials used:

Ethafoam®, Teflon film®, E-flute corrugated blue board, 60pt gray and white board, non-recycled resealable polyethylene bag; heavy weight non-recycled polyethylene sheet.

Hours spent: 16

Photos on file: BT, DT, AT

Curatorial Approval Signature: _____

Date signed: _____

MS 91 Corn

Before Treatment

Recto



Verso



After Treatment

Interior of box



Exterior of box

