

# CONSERVATION OR RESTORATION?

SAVING SAN DIEGO'S  
HISTORY - ONE STEP  
AT A TIME



# Why are public records so important?

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“Records are utilitarian in nature, and are created to fulfill a business function and document business processes. . . . They are created in the first instances to control or direct an organization and to help orient staff to a common goal or purpose. They have residual value because they document the outcomes of the directing and controlling activities and because they provide evidence of an organization’s rights as well as its obligations to its staff and society.” *(1)*



## What is the difference between conservation and restoration?

### Conservation

To preserve against further deterioration

### Restoration

To restore the original appearance and functionality  
- without erasing history!

Monday, 9 September 13

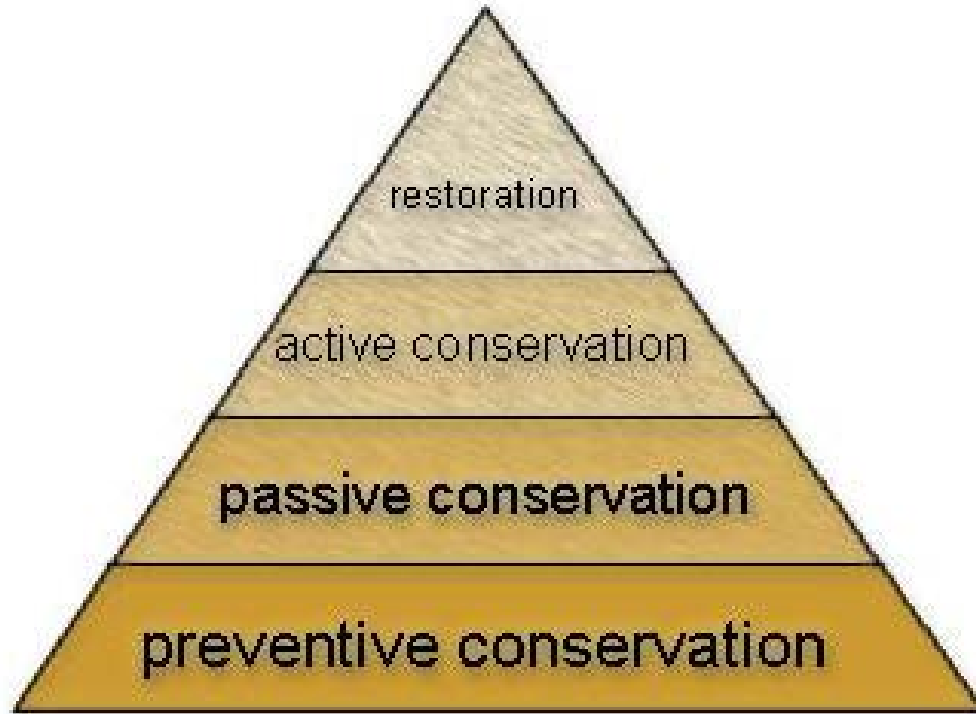
## CONSERVATION OR RESTORATION?

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Dependent on the record and the value, sometimes you may need to Restore and Conserve.

# CONSERVATION HIERARCHY

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Severe damage like iron gall ink corrosion, mechanical damage, moisture and infestation due to the physical nature of the objects, which are made of organic materials. The kind and level of damage differs country to country. Tropical circumstances like a high temperature and a high humidity have an accelerating effect on the decay of the archives.

# TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR BOUND ARTIFACTS MAY INCLUDE:

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Surface-cleaning to remove surface dirt and dust

Mold removal

Removing mending tapes and adhesive residues

Mending tears with either Japanese paper and starch paste adhesive, solvent-set tissue or archival heat-set tissue

Re-sewing loose pages

Deacidification / alkalization of acidic papers

Aqueous washing to remove ingrained dirt and to reduce acidity and stains

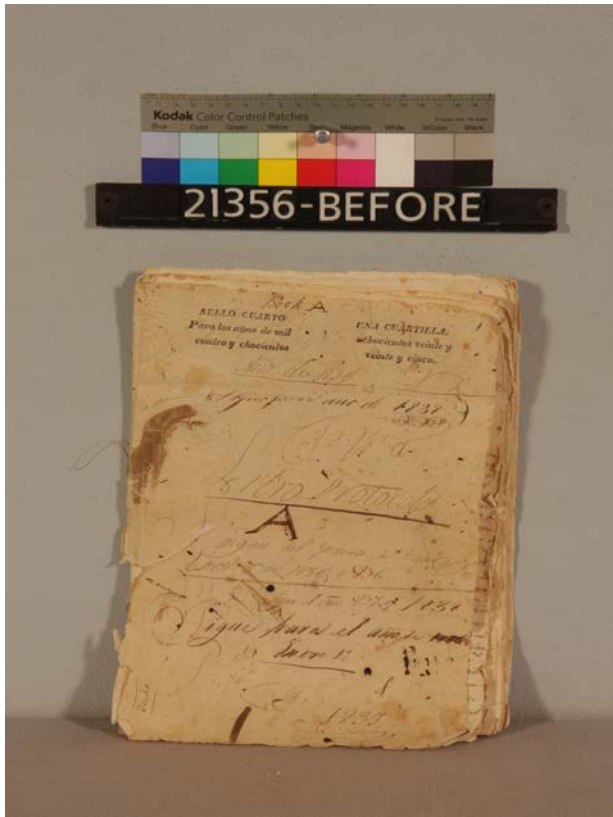
Restoration of leather, cloth, paper or vellum covers

Gold or blind tooling historic, period styles

Books with deteriorated covers rebound in a similar style and material to preserve the principle of provenance

Custom-designed housing such as drop-spine boxes and four-flap enclosures





Threats to these formats and ways to identify when they are at risk



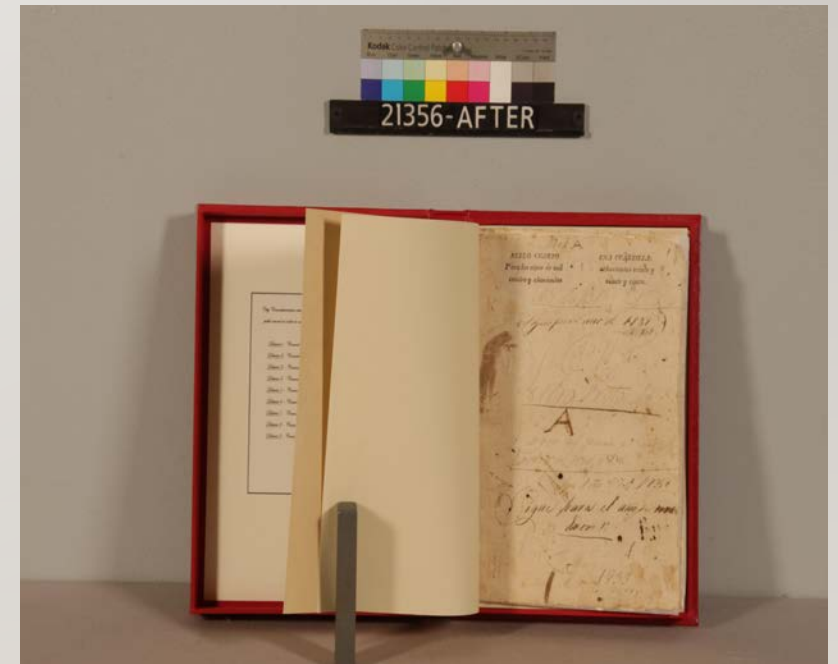
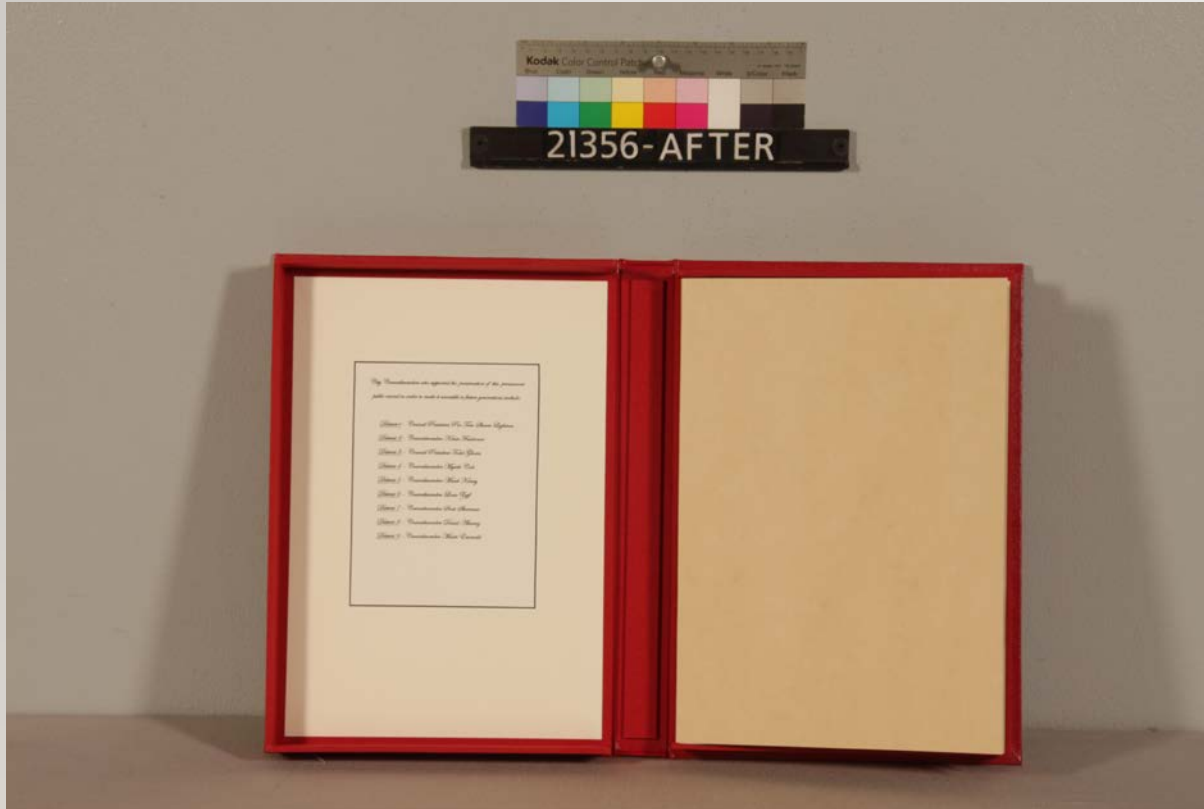
“PORT OF COURT” IS ONE OF THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL HOLDINGS TO DATE (1835-1839)

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The linen thread “Port of Court (1835-1839)” will be indefinitely safeguarded

Clamshell boxes are used specifically for the rare records in the highest form in conservation. The lid closes tightly for protection against dust, dirt and other harmful atmospheric pollutants

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# TRIAGE APPROACH

Each record presents an explanation in our city's history. It is our duty to prevent the biological decay of these one-of-a-kind legal and historical records.

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Preservation is the combination of activities, prioritization, and planning that extends the useful life of your collections and makes them *accessible*.





DAMAGE IS  
IRREVERSIBLE ONCE  
THE RECORD HAS  
BEEN CONSUMED BY  
MOLECULAR DAMAGE

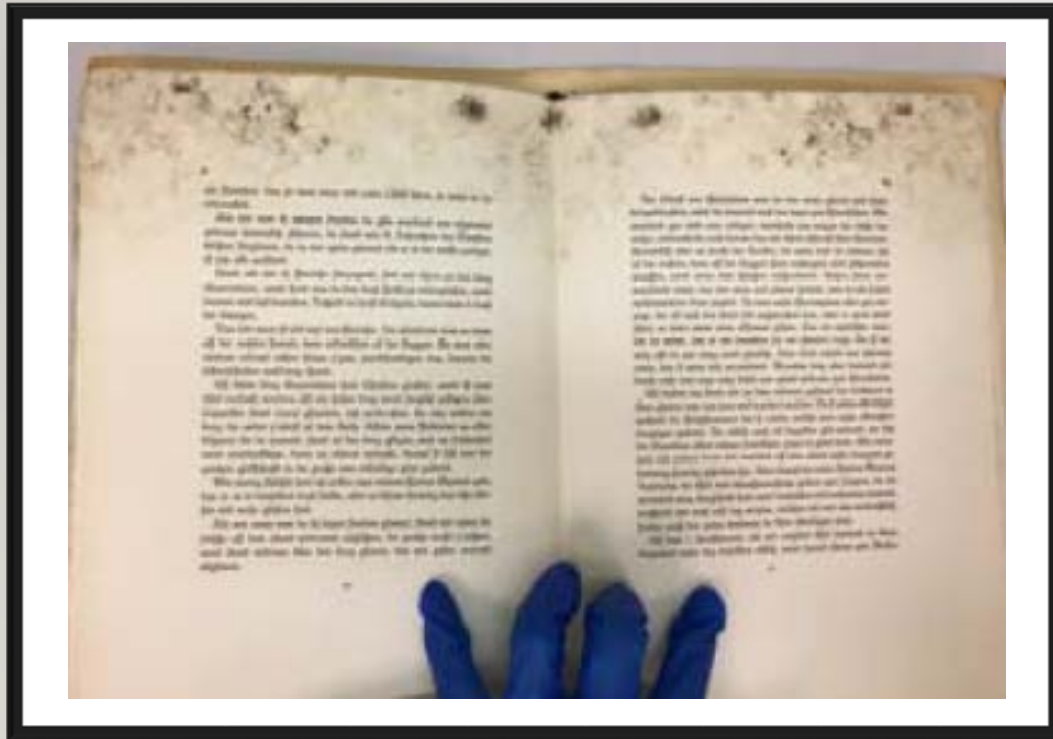
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The process of identifying materials to be preserved because of their *enduring value*, especially those materials to be physically transferred to an archives.

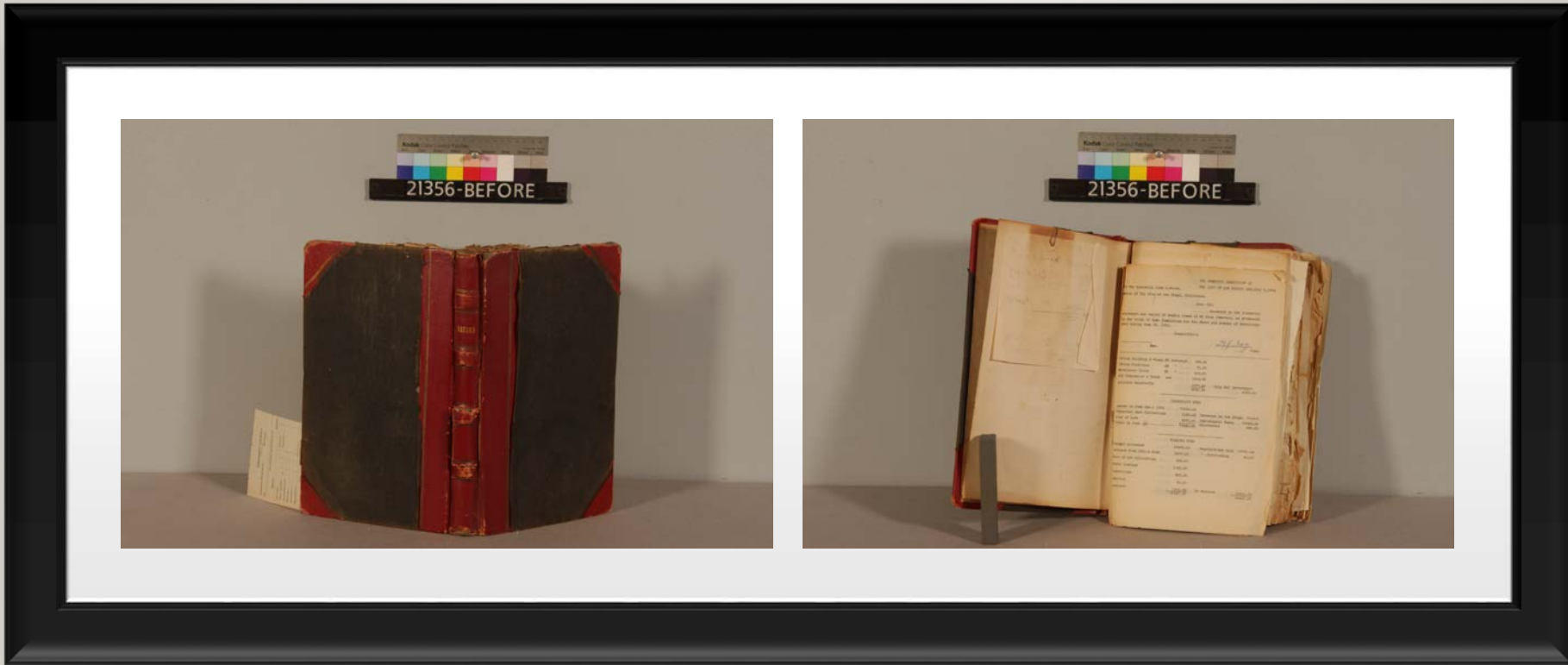
--SAA Glossary, 2005



# PRESERVATION IS NOT.....

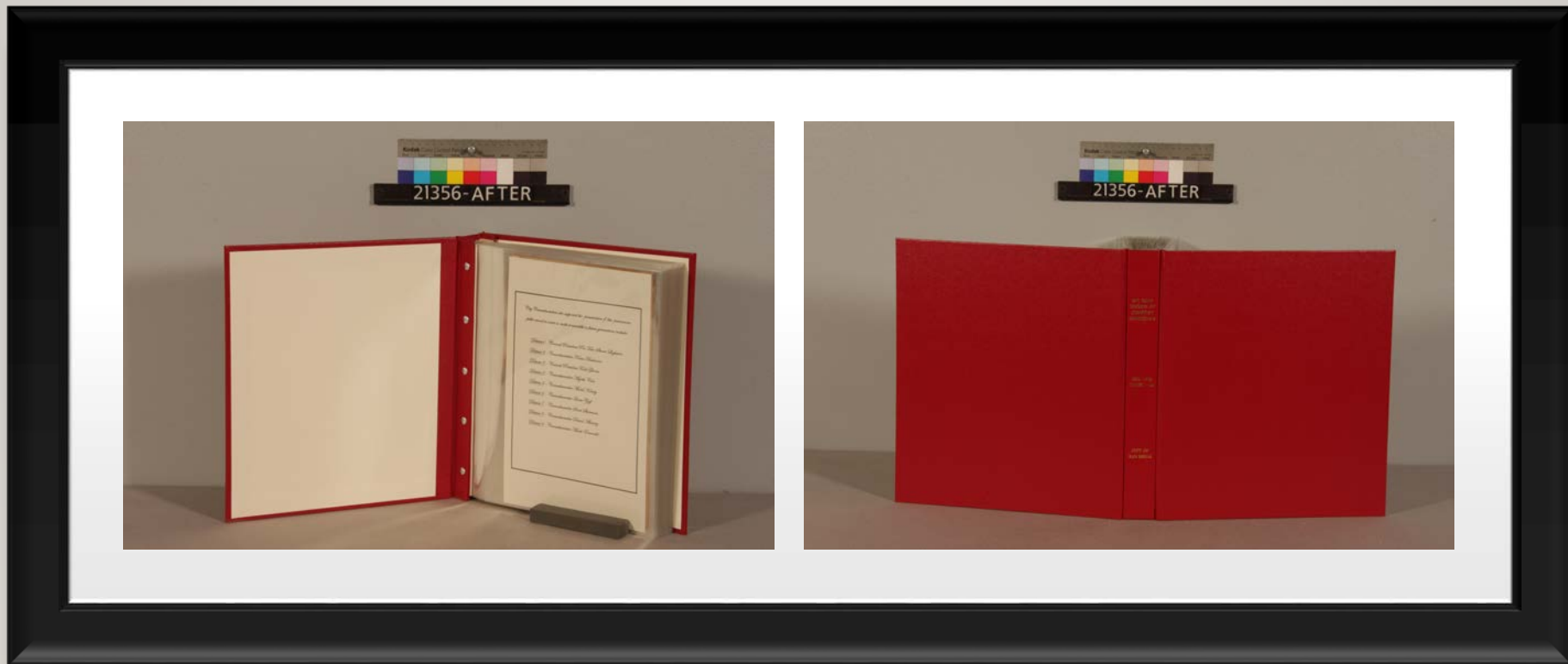


- Justification for making collections inaccessible
- Too expensive, too complicated or too much work when you prioritize and plan
- Limited to professional conservators



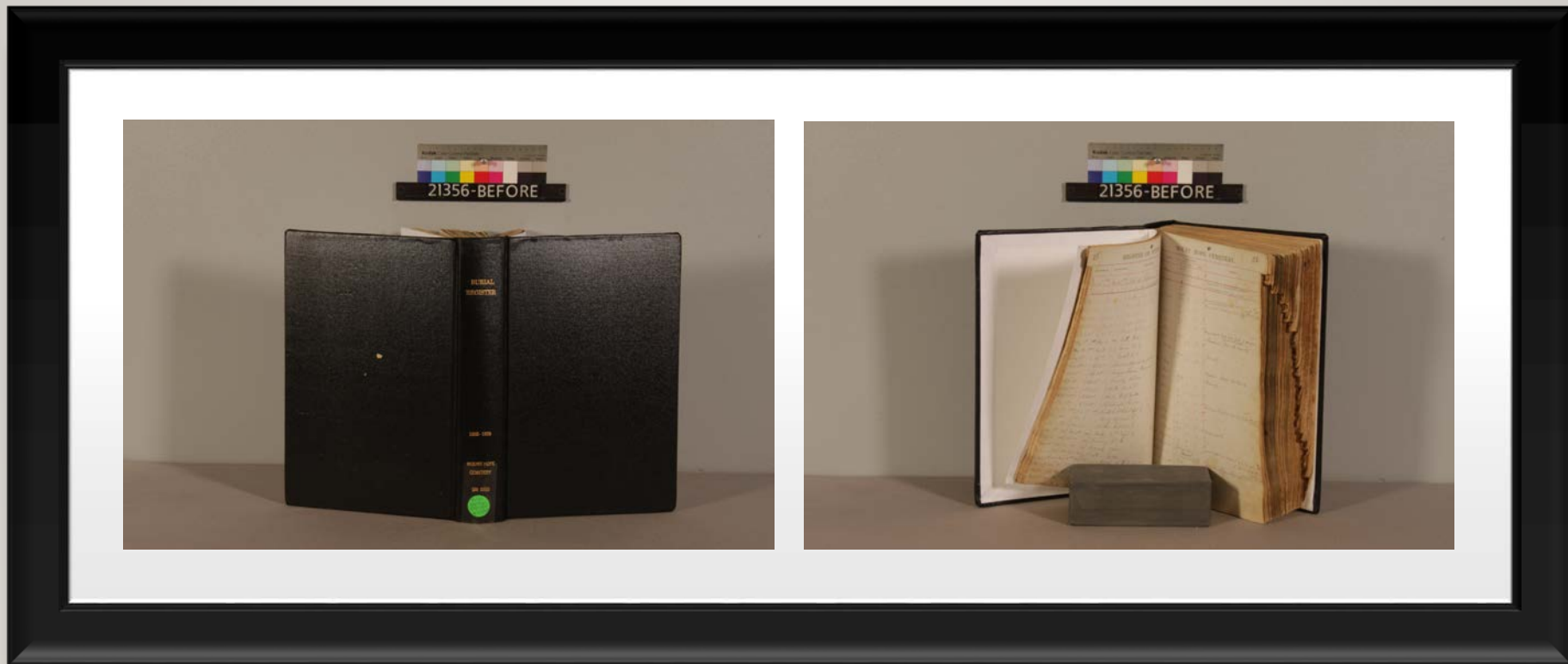
**BEFORE PHOTO OF MOUNT HOPE RECORD OF CEMETERY  
COMMISSION, 1920-1926**

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**AFTER PHOTO OF THE MOUNT HOPE RECORD OF CEMETERY  
COMMISSION 1920-1926**

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BEFORE PHOTO OF MOUNT HOPE BURIAL REGISTER, 1868-1909

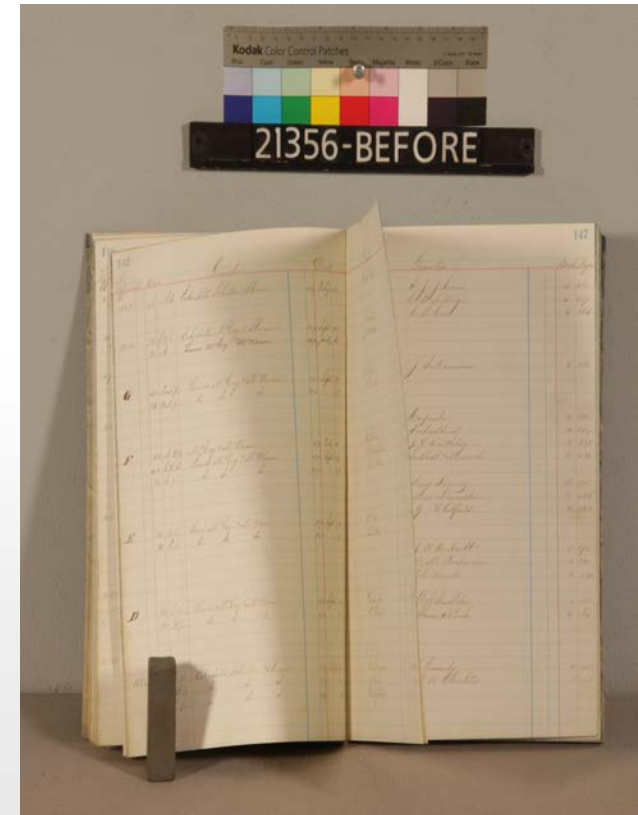
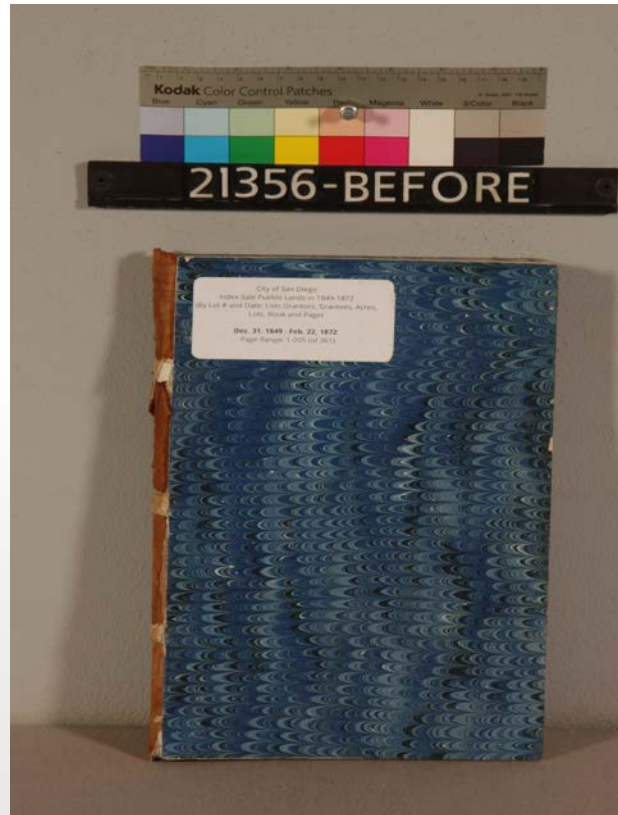


**AFTER PHOTO OF THE PHOTO OF MOUNT HOPE BURIAL  
REGISTER, 1868-1909**

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# BEFORE PHOTO OF PUEBLO LOT INDEX, 1849-1872

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AFTER PHOTO OF THE PHOTO OF PUEBLO LOT INDEX, 1849-1872