



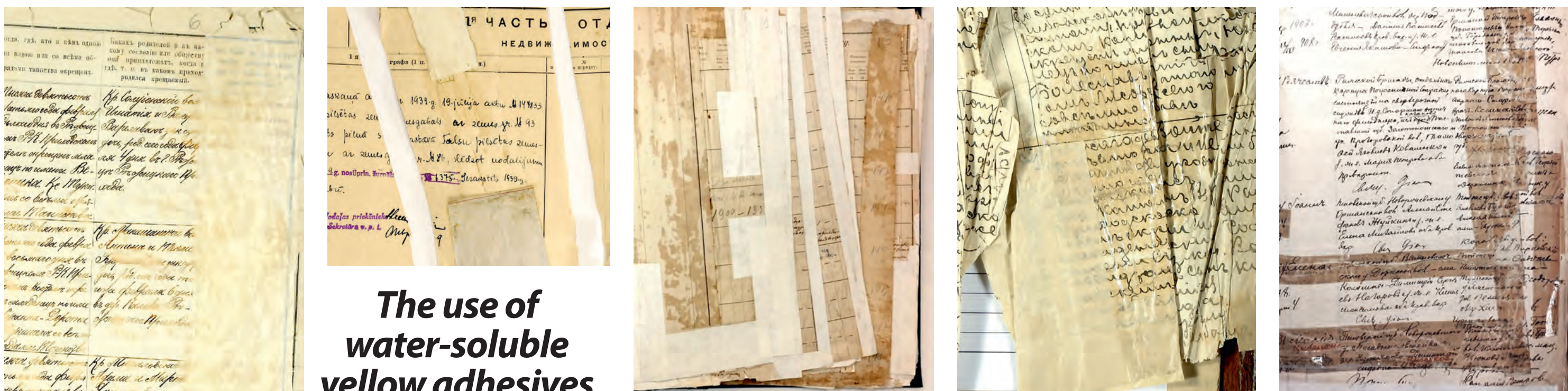
Latvijas Nacionālais arhīvs

RESTORATION OF A PREVIOUSLY POORLY REPAIRED LATVIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH CURCH BOOK

GUNA SARKSŅA, Specialist restorer of manuscripts, documents and books
guna.sarksna@arhivi.gov.lv
National Archives of Latvia, Department of the Preventive Preservation
Bezdelīgu Street 1A, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia

INTRODUCTION

The State Historical Archive of Latvia holds a significant number of church books. These records have long served as essential sources for genealogical research. Unfortunately, frequent use and time have affected their physical condition. Over the years, many low-quality repairs have been made with materials incompatible with the original object, that in some cases, even worsened the preservation state of the books.



Repair with alkaline glue have resulted in the text fading

The use of water-soluble yellow adhesives (possibly animal glue) has left yellowish stains on pages

The use of opaque paper for mending has obscure the underlying information

Reapair using adhesive tape

Restoration Process:

- The block was dismantled and dusted.
- The text was tested for bleeding resistance to water and ethanol, revealing that the coloured inks used for the numerous notes are not water-resistant.
- An iron ion test with bathophenanthroline indicator paper was performed on the text. The main text showed the presence of soluble Fe²⁺ ions. These results and ink damage suggest that the used ink is iron gall ink.
- The unstable (dissolving) ink was treated with damp filter paper to reduce fluidity, followed by treatment with a cyclododecane solution in hexane.
- The most damaged pages and those with previous repairs underwent wet treatment - washing in water, removal of previous repairs, neutralization of Fe²⁺ ions in a calcium phytate solution, deacidification in a calcium bicarbonate solution, spraying over with a 3% gelatine solution, and treatment with a Tylose MH300 solution.
- Losses were filled and tears reinforced using Japanese paper of appropriate thickness and tone, adhered with a 13% wheat starch paste.
- The pages were pressed and dried between non-woven polyester and cardboard sheets and boards.
- The pages were organized into signatures and digitized, then sewn back into the block. The original front cover was augmented with external corners. The rear cover and spine were newly made and coated with fabric (calico). The block was rebound in the prepared covers.

RESTORATION

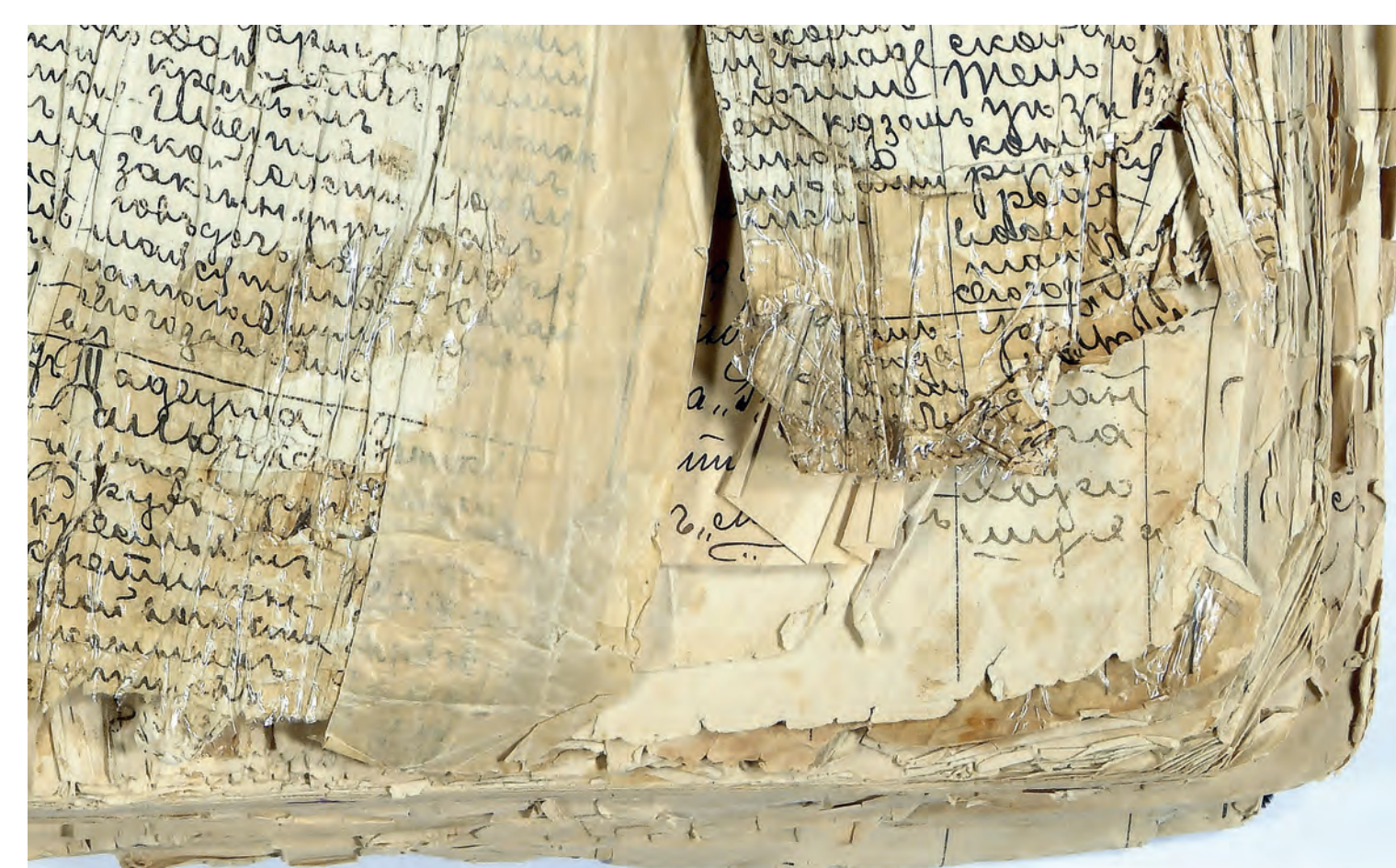
In the restoration a church book of the State Historical Archives of Latvia (LVVA) from Liepaja parish where such repairs are evident (reference: LV_LNA_LVVA_F7085_6_554).

Object Description:

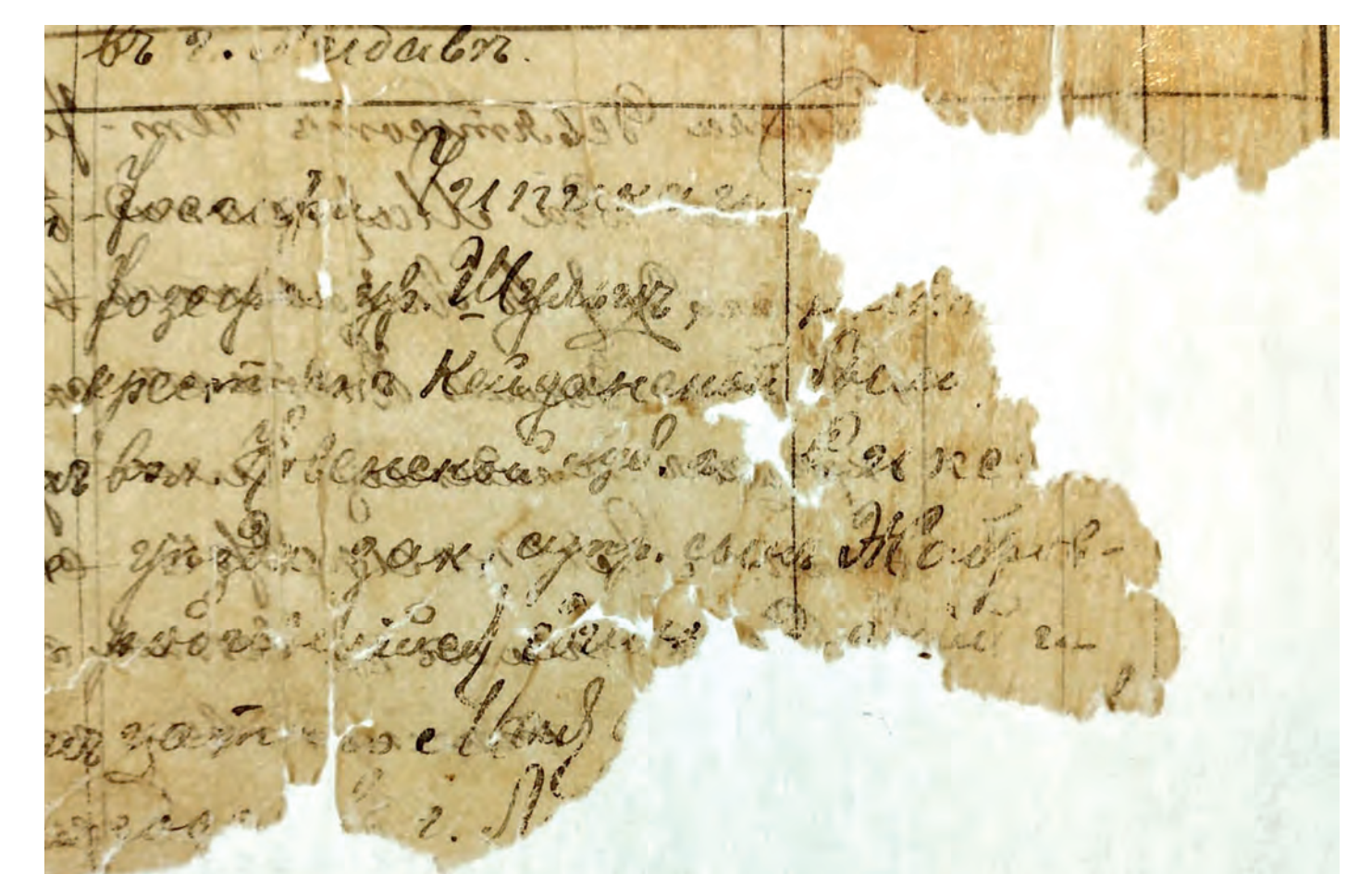
The object consists of a block of 252 pages, bound in cardboard covers coated with black paper with a leather spine. The block is sewn on 3 cords with linen thread. All pages have two perforation holes. The pages feature typographically printed tables, complete with lines and headings. The tables are filled in by hand using dark brown ink. Various notes are made throughout the text in different ink colours.

Damage:

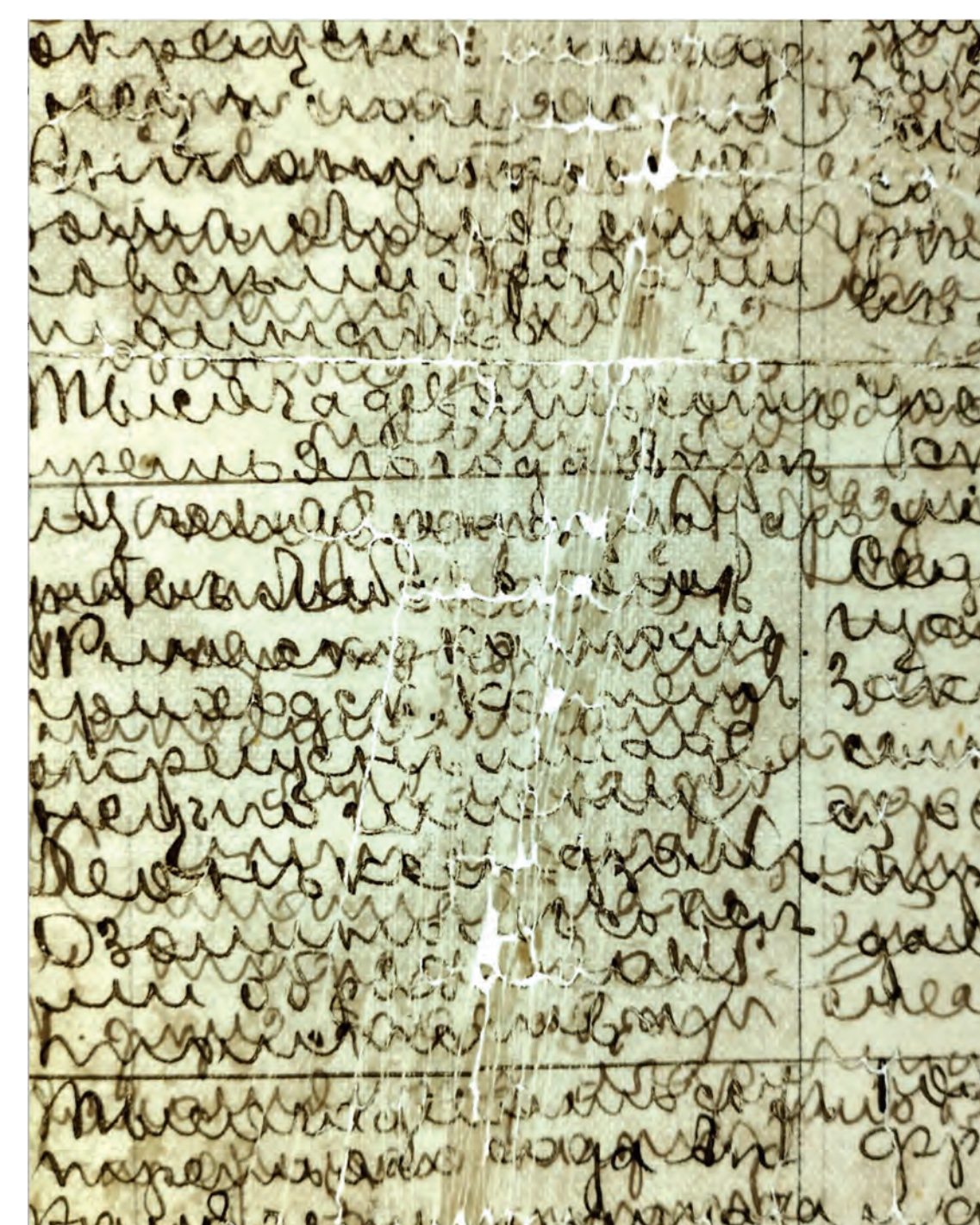
- The covers have detached from the block. The block is partially disassembled, with fragile cords
- The covers show significant wear to the surface layer, edges, and corners
- The leather has detached from the cover resulting in some material loss
- Transparent paper and film (not adhesive tape), attached with water-soluble glue have been used for repairs, leaving yellow-brown stains
- All pages exhibit numerous paper abrasions, tears, material loss, cuts, and stains along the corners and edges
- In certain areas, ink corrosion is observed, resulting in flaking, cracks, tears, and material loss in the text



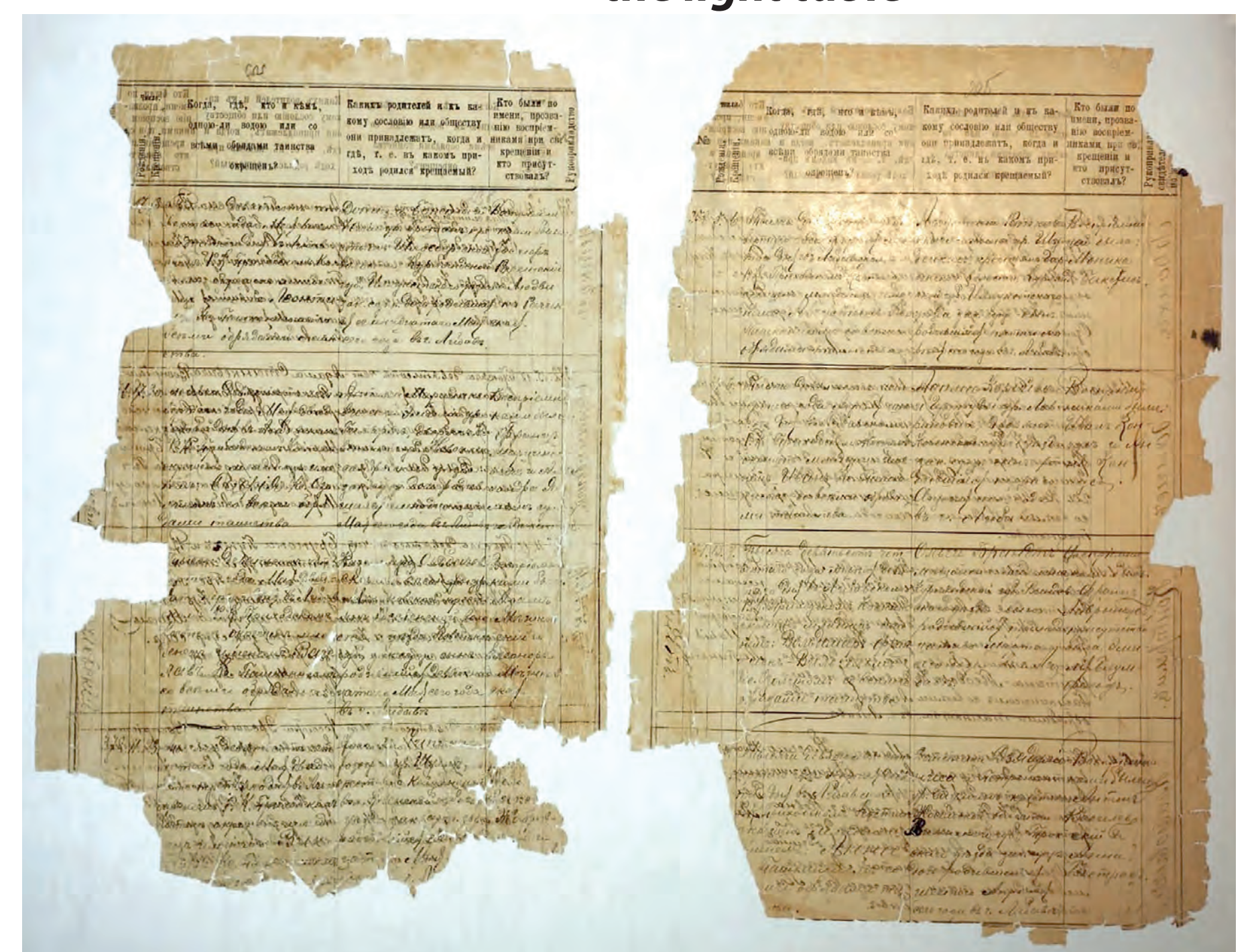
Damages and previous made repairs



Fragment during restoration process on the light table



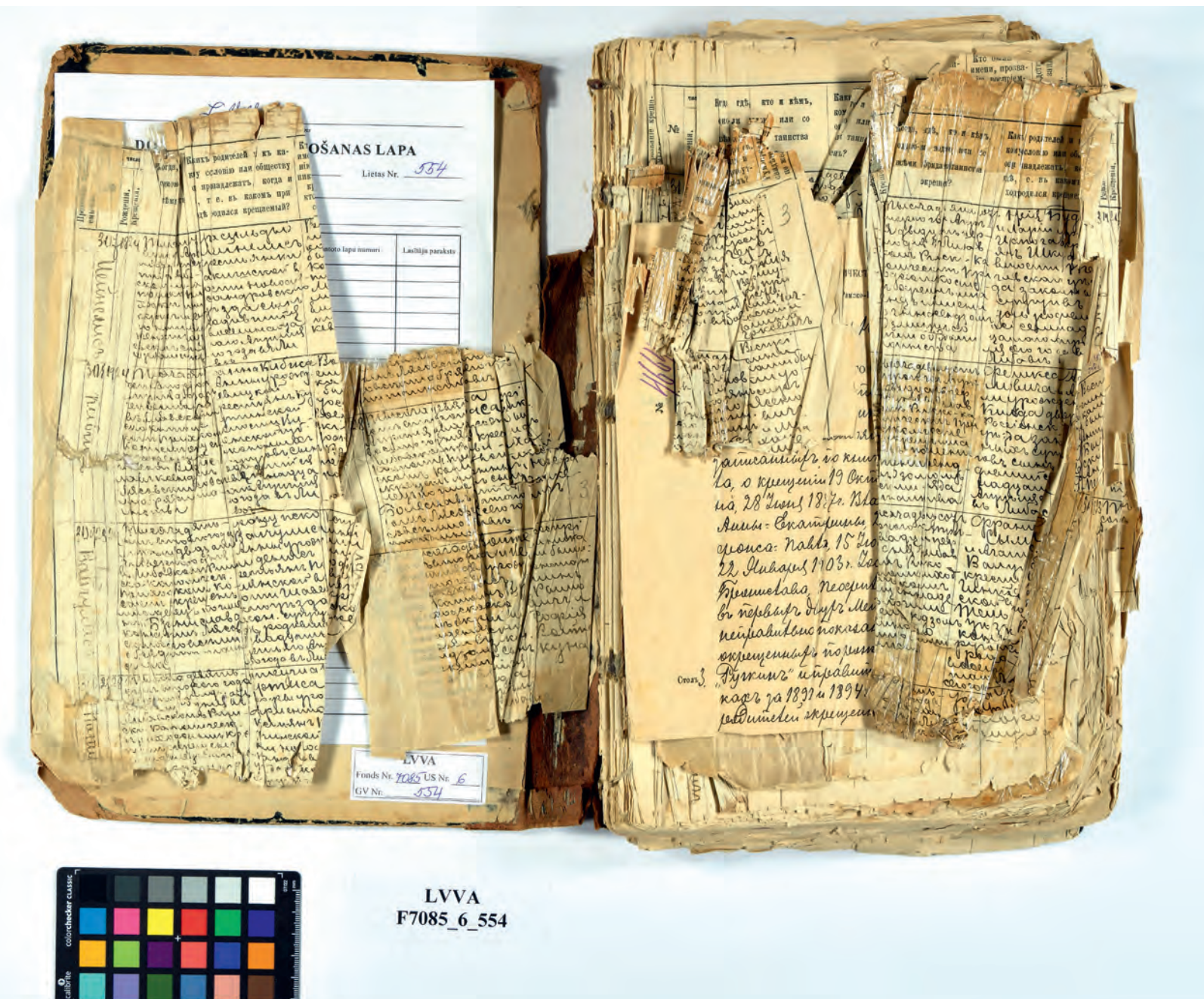
Fragment during restoration process on the light table



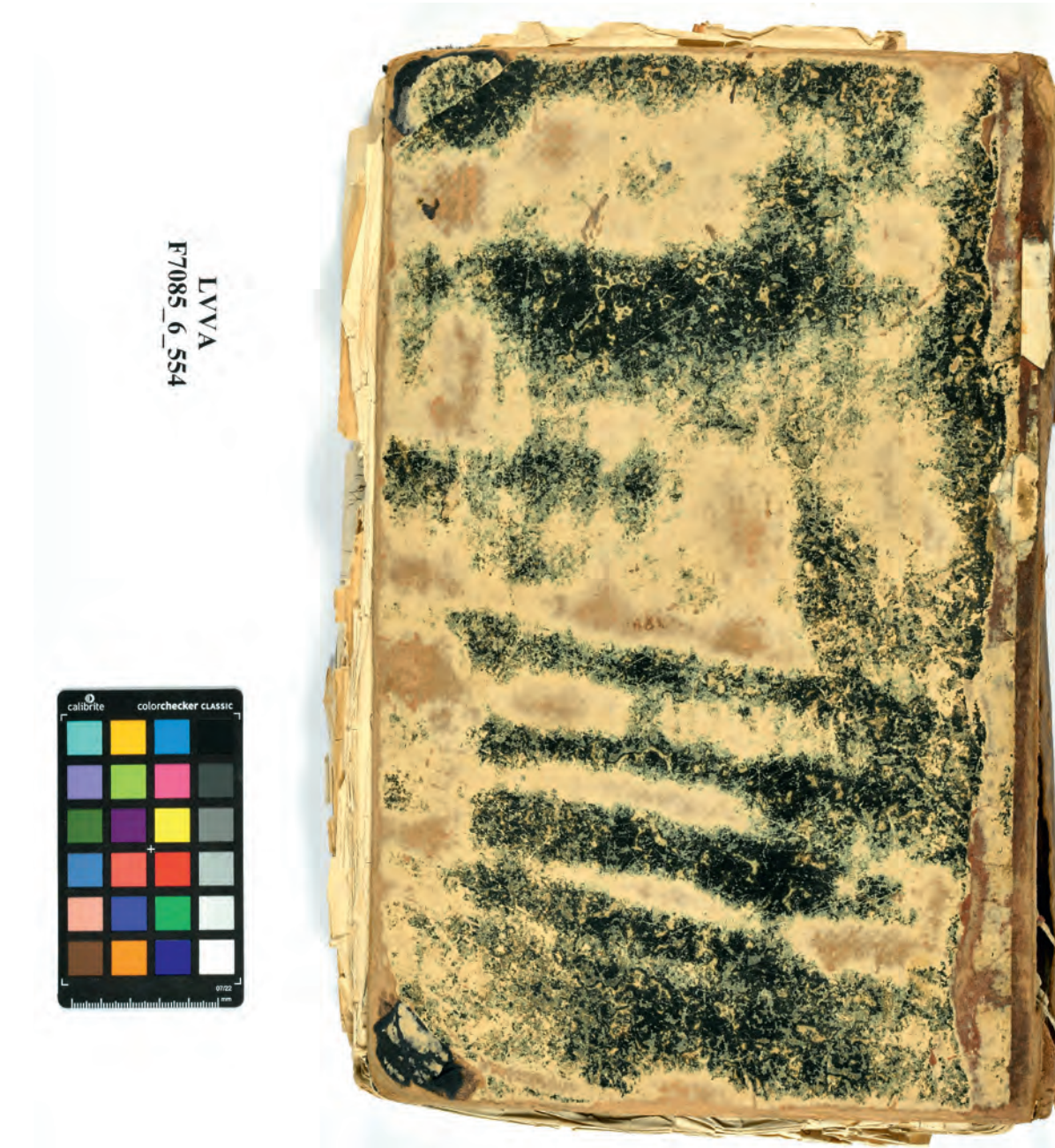
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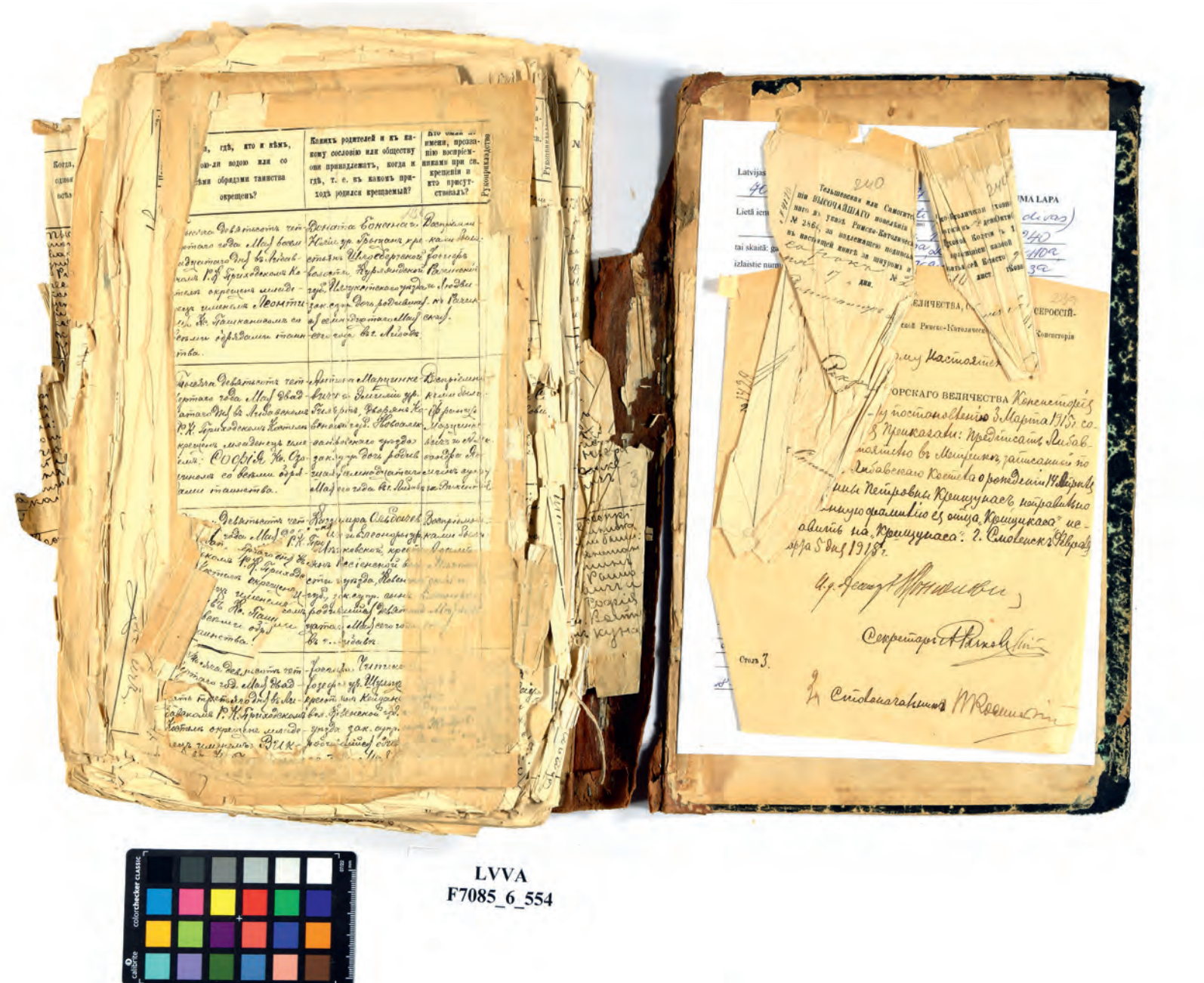
Book cover (front) before restoration



Pages before restoration



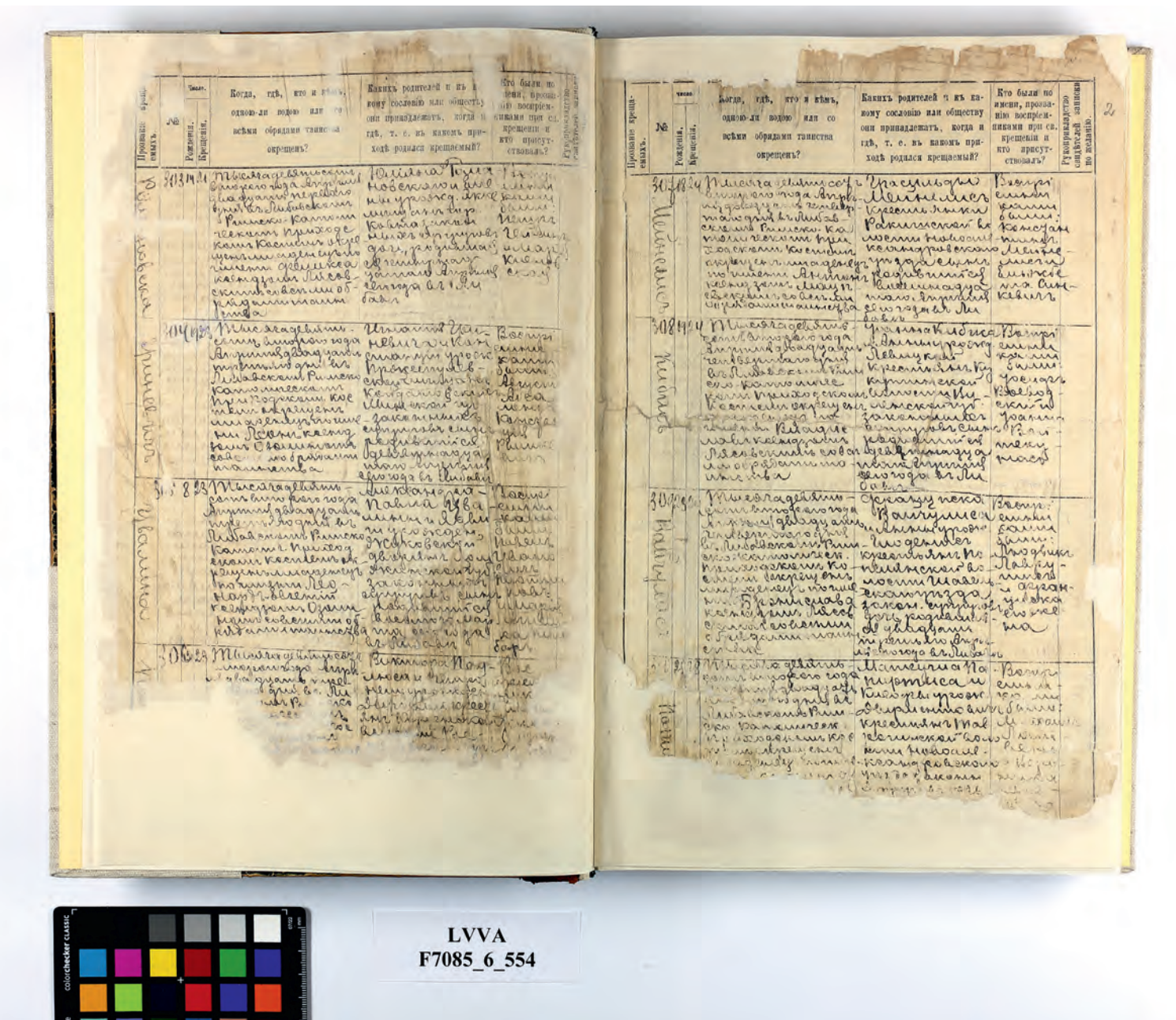
Book cover (back) before restoration



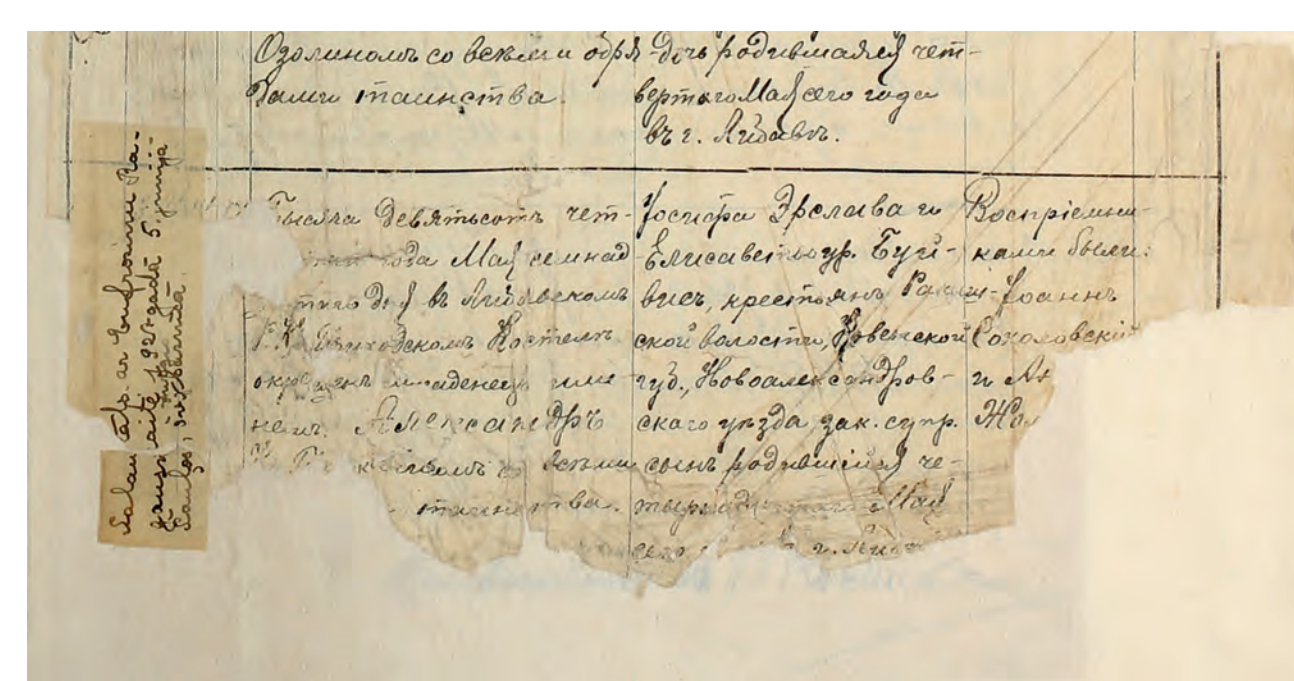
Pages before restoration



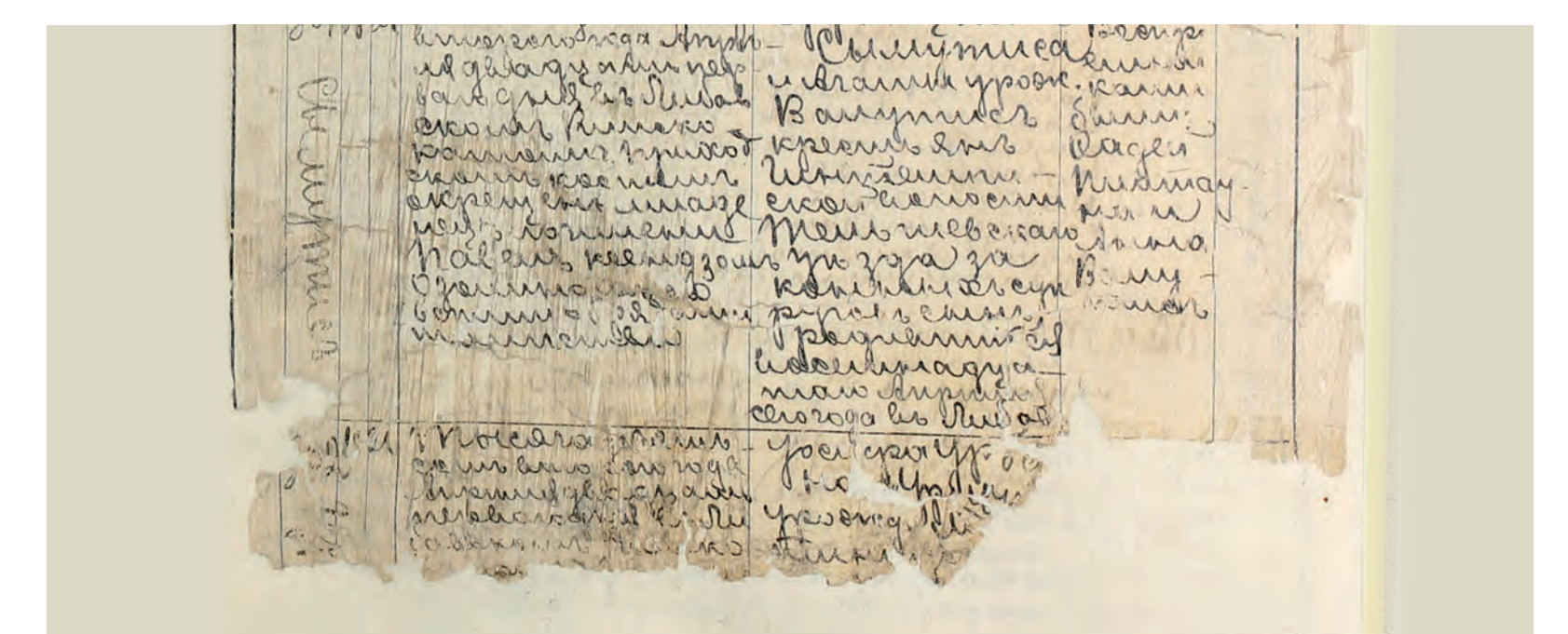
Book cover (front) after restoration



Pages after restoration



Pages after restoration



Pages after restoration