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Preservation

Ellen T. McGrath

University at Buffalo School of Law, emcgrath@buffalo.edu

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PRESERVATION
Patricia Denham
University of Cincinnati

This column in the November 1988 issue included my report of the September 1988 A.L.A. Binding Institute. I indicated that I would send copies of "Guidelines for Inspecting Library Bound Volumes" and "Methods of Leaf Attachment: A Decision Tree for Library Binding" to those requesting them. To date I have received thirteen requests--a wonderful response! Apparently, this subject is of interest to readers. I do have more copies of these pages if anyone else would like them. My address is in the November issue.

Ellen McGrath, Catalog Librarian at the SUNY at Buffalo Law Library, is the guest editor for this month's preservation column. I want to thank her for writing this article.

The Charles B. Sears Law Library (SUNY at Buffalo) is fortunate to have a Preservation Office within its general libraries system. The SUNY at Buffalo Preservation Office was established through state funding. The Office concentrates its efforts on maintaining a working collection in good repair, and has been referred to as a model in the achievement of this objective. The Law Library's preservation activities came about approximately one year ago, as a direct result of outreach and education on the part of the University's Preservation Officer.

Since this preservation assistance has become available on campus, the Law Library has instituted procedures to make use of those services, as did other units throughout the libraries system. The catalog librarian and the bindery clerk have assumed the planning and supervisory aspects of overseeing the relationship with the Preservation Office. There is a student assistant who devotes ten hours each week to preservation work. The clerk and student assistant received training at the Preservation Office. This included pamphlet binding using a sewing technique, as well as training in the testing of paper for brittleness. The clerk and student were introduced to, and shown examples of, the types of treatment available at the Office.

The student assembles candidates for preservation treatment in one of three ways: new acquisitions requiring pamphlet binding or tip-ins are routed to her; damaged items are placed on a "Repair" shelf behind the circulation desk; and frequent, systematic passes are made by the student through the stacks, in order to collect items that are in need of preservation attention. The pamphlet binding is done by the student in her work area in the Law Library. All other work is performed at the Preservation Office.

Aside from pamphlet binding, the types of treatment most often requested are: repair of torn spines, covers, etc.; paper

enclosures for works with brittle or semi-brittle paper; and tip-ins of errata slips, loose pages, or of photocopies of torn or missing pages. The Preservation Office does an excellent job with all types of treatment, and the turnaround time is remarkably fast.

In terms of statistics for the past year, the Law Library has had 541 items pamphlet bound, 157 have been given intermediate treatment (spine repair, tip-ins, etc.), and 36 items have had enclosures made for them. The number of volumes given intermediate treatment probably reflects a direct saving in the bindery budget, although no such statistics have been collected to date.

All of the Law Library staff members have been quite impressed with the results of these preservation efforts. The bindery clerk and the student assistant have taken an active interest, and have contributed a great deal to the improvement of the condition and appearance of the Law Library's collection in the short space of one year. Now that the relationship between the Law Library and the Preservation Office has been established, it is expected that planning for treatment of the rare book collection and other special projects will proceed at a future date.

SELECTED CONTENTS OF PRESERVATION PERIODICALS

Fleischauer, Carol. "Binding Decisions: Criteria and Process." RTSD Newsletter, 13, no. 6 (1988): 59-60.

The author presents criteria to use in determining which periodicals and paperbacks to bind.

Nelson, Milo. "Strong Conversation on a Brittle Subject: TAPPI meets in Washington." Wilson Library Bulletin, 63, no. 4 (December 1988): 66-67.

The annual symposium of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) took place last October. This article thoroughly reports the various speeches. Representative Major Owens (D-N.Y.) emphasized that preservation efforts are not for posterity alone but they also make materials useable today. The focus of the efforts needs to move beyond scholars and to reach more of the general public. Richard Smith asserted that the temperature of storage is more important than generally acknowledged. A "downside" of the conference was the negative message by the representative from GPO. Samuel Scaggs discouraged the audience from believing that the GPO can influence the use of alkaline paper. The author states that it was clear at the end of the symposium that more vigorous national leadership needs to be given in combating book deterioration and that a variety of technological options should be explored.

"Senator Pell Seeks Legislation on Acid-Free Paper." Abbey Newsletter, 12, no. 8 (December 1988): 126-127.

Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of Congress's Joint Committee on the Library, will introduce a joint resolution to establish a national policy on permanent papers. The text of the resolution and editorial comments are included in this article.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 22-24 May 1989, IFLA Conference, "Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature," at the Library of Congress. Fee: \$150. For more information and registration form, write Robert Harriman, Chair, Symposium Organizing Committee, Serial Record Division-LM515, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

QUARTERLY QUOTE: "Informed preservation administrators are aware of the fact that both publishers and paper manufacturers do not exist for the pleasure of, nor are they significantly supported by, libraries. We appreciate the fact that they run businesses and must survive in the economic marketplace. But clearly our problem stems from paper that does not serve our needs." Sally Buchanan.