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PAC Regional Center: Caracas

The Conservation Center of the National Library of Venezuela has been designated a regional center of the Preservation and Conservation Core Program (PAC) that IFLA is sponsoring on a worldwide scale. The regional center, officially designated in January 1988, will serve the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is the South American link in an international pattern that the PAC Focal Point at the Library of Congress has been shaping as it proceeds towards meeting its goals of establishing strong international cooperation on a sound basis.

The Conservation Center at the Biblioteca Nacional was created in 1981 to provide the latest methods of conservation to the Library's collections. At present the Center occupies approximately 500 square meters of space at three different locations. The main workshops and laboratories are housed on the first floor of a building in La Trinidad, an industrial/residential district of Caracas where many National Library departments have been situ-

ated temporarily pending the completion of the Library's new downtown headquarters, the Nueva Sede. The Center's microfilming operations are conducted at various branches which hold crucial high-priority items that have been identified in the nationwide preservation microfilming program. These items include the newspaper and magazine collections at the Hemeroteca; the Tulio Febres Cordero collection of 19th century periodicals and imprints, in the city of Mérida in the Andes; and the rare books, manuscripts, and brittle items in the main library building.

The Center operates with a staff of approximately 40 technicians, all of whom have been trained or retrained by the Library in the concepts and practices of conservation. Some of this training has taken place abroad, but the fundamental growth and development of the Center have been the result of an ongoing training and apprenticeship program in which prominent conservators from the United

States, England, and Canada have played a vital role. This work with international experts is most important because Venezuela lacks an established instructional program for conservators of any media.

The Center is composed of six departments or divisions. The Micrographics Division, the Paper Conservation Department, and the Binding Department are the largest in terms of staff, space, and equipment. While smaller, the Photographic and Cinematographic Departments and the training/publishing section are also essential to the overall growth, sophisticated perspectives, and basic program objectives of the Center.

Micrographics Division

Great emphasis is placed on preservation microfilming activities, with top priority given to unstable newspaper collections all over the country, regardless of ownership. Special attention is being given to 19th century imprints, state records, pamphlets, and government publications. The Micrographics Division is a fully integrated operation with one

16mm and five 35mm cameras, two film processors, and quality control stations. Yearly production averages 300,000 negative images and over 600,000 duplicate images for readers.

This division also provides technical support to the entire library system for acquisition and maintenance of equipment. In addition, it trains operators from other government institutions that are initiating microfilming programs and from other countries. In its new home in the Nueva Sede, the Micrographics Division will occupy five times its current space.



International Preservation News is a publication of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) that reports on the preservation activities of IFLA and highlights international activities and events that support efforts to preserve materials in the world's libraries and archives. It is available without charge to interested institutions.

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Paper Conservation Department

The Paper Conservation Department has been, until this year, the most crucial station of the entire Center for the physical conservation of all library objects requiring attention, whether they be flat paper supports, photographs (one of the Library's fastest growing collections), maps, manuscripts, or books. It is the workshop with the largest physical area and is adequately equipped with treatment sinks, light tables for manual restoration, a fume hood in the chemical section, a Spanish leafcasting system (the Vinyector), and a suction table developed by a staff member that is used in treatment of delicate drawings, prints, and manuscripts.

Manual treatments are used most often on the extensive map collections, prints, drawings, and manuscripts; mechanical leafcasting techniques are applied to paper badly damaged by insect infestation or corroding inks, especially in the pre-1800 manuscript church rec-

ords. The Vinyector has been used in training and demonstrations as well as in experimental papermaking for use in conservation work.

The preservation section of the paper workshop is one of the most production-intensive areas in the Center. Not only does it provide supervision for general collection maintenance, particularly with the audiovisual storage rooms, but it also produces all conservation mounts, frames, and supports required by an intense program of monthly exhibitions which the Library conducts in order to disseminate its audiovisual archives.

Binding Department

The Binding Department is the oldest section of the Center. When it was established, binding seemed to have nothing to do with conservation but rather was the substitution of new structures for old ones. The idea of conservation binding for historical collections was introduced between 1980 and 1982. Two levels of work were defined:



Virginia Betancourt, Director, National Library of Venezuela (l.) and Lourdes Blanco, Director, PAC Regional Center (rt.)



Paper Conservation Department, Conservation Center, National Library of Venezuela

conservation binding for historical collections that required more than just rebinding, and standard case construction for general collections.

Under the influence of North American book conservator Gary Frost, who spent four months in Caracas in order to introduce his innovative rebinding techniques and advise on the creation of a preservation bindery, the department has experienced the most radical change in its history—conceptually, practically, esthetically, and ethically. The concept of book conservation (in which binding and rebinding play roles next to other types of specifications) is the prevailing principle in furthering this section. The department's production is being reorganized to feature both a book lab as well as a preservation bindery, all of which will be fully operational when the Center occupies its new premises.

The Binding Department will assume its appropriate role in deter-

mining treatment for all book collections and will also take an active part in preservation of items in the stacks. Binding models will be provided to commercial shops in an effort to increase the quality of bindings applied to public library collections. The enhanced functions of the Binding Department will balance the workload at the Center so that the cleaning and preparation of the collections for the relocation in the Nueva Sede can be an inter-departmental effort.

Photographic and Cinematographic Departments

The Photographic and Cinematographic Departments are still small in size and diversity of functions, but are nevertheless crucial to the Center and are expected to grow when more space is available. At present, the Photographic Department fulfills four basic needs: photodocumentation of conservation

treatments; photoduplication services for readers; archival processing of glass and diacetate negatives; and preparation of backup negatives of unique photo prints in the collections. For over a year a Cibachrome copier has been functioning. It has proven successful in producing fast, facsimile-like color copies for research and exhibitions. The copies last longer than those produced with most color processes and are generated in a matter of minutes.

In the Cinematographic Department cleaning of the collections with traditional as well as ultrasonic equipment has been initiated as an experimental project. Already completed is a careful segregation process to isolate both nitrate and acetate or diacetate films from the more stable safety-based films. The department's present priority, in close collaboration with a recently established chemical testing section, is to influence film processing laboratories in order to guarantee that the



Conservation Center at the National Library of Venezuela, La Trinidad

new safety-based copies which are being produced for the Library collection comply with archival standards.

Training/Publishing Section

In the past eight years an ongoing activity has been in-house training and retraining with emphasis on the need to understand the nature of historical objects and the materials of which they are composed. The training program brings specialists from abroad for paper, photographic, and book conservation seminars and courses. Most recently, the Center launched a publishing program to advance the field by producing current literature in

Spanish in fascicle-type editions. The first issue of *Conservaplan: Documentos para Conservar* is a Spanish translation of the IFLA Principles (1986). *Documentos* No. 2 and 3 are devoted to the brittle book problem and to conserving works of art on paper.¹ The training and publishing programs are mutually dependent and will evolve in relationship to each other.

[Lourdes Blanco, Director
PAC Regional Center, Caracas]

¹ The documents can be obtained by writing to: Centro de Conservación, Biblioteca Nacional, Zona Industrial La Trinidad, Calle Soledad, Edificio Rogi, Caracas, Venezuela.

Disaster in Leningrad Library

A February 14-15 fire, which took fire fighters twenty hours to bring under control, caused serious damage to Leningrad's historic Academy of Sciences Library, founded by Peter The Great in 1714.

According to articles in the Leningrad press, the fire started on the third floor of the library in the newspaper collection. Acting Chief of the Fire Protection Directorate, Colonel of the Internal Service, I. D. Vasilevich is reported to have said that there has not been such a difficult fire since the blockade of Leningrad (1942-45) and that 400 men were required to put it out.

The extent of the damage is not

fully known, but the *Leningradskaya Pravda* reported on February 17 that part of the newspapers from the Soviet period, and part of the modern Soviet books and foreign periodicals before 1930 are among the materials that burned or were water-damaged. *Izvestiia* (February 24, 1988) reported that the fire also damaged 300,000 items in the famous collection of books and papers of scientist Karl von Baer, one of the founders of modern embryology and a founder of the Russian geographical society. Library workers are cleaning up the mess left by the fire, salvaging charred materials, and working to dry out waterlogged books.

Preservation Initiatives in the Federal Republic of Germany

In the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) the Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut (DBI) has established a Committee on Preservation. It has six members, one each from the State Library in Berlin, the German Library Institute in Berlin, the German Library in Frankfurt, the University Library in Heidelberg, the Bavarian State Library in Munich, and the University Library in Tuebingen. Initially a questionnaire was sent to all libraries active and interested in the field of preservation to determine what the main topics of activity for this committee should be.

Based on responses to the questionnaire the committee decided to focus its efforts on six general goals. These are: 1) to strive for the development of a plant for the prophylactic mass treatment of books in FRG libraries that are endangered by decay, *i.e.*, a plant at a library in the FRG for deacidification and alkaline buffering of the paper in bound books; 2) to strive for research projects that identify methods to restrengthen paper that has suffered decay; 3) to conduct a survey on the actual state of damage and decay in book stocks in research libraries in the FRG; 4) to conduct a survey on the storage conditions of books in FRG research libraries; 5) to publish a primer of library preservation with emphasis on the special situation in FRG research libraries; and 6) to promote current activities of preservation microfilming.

Deacidification

Just at the time the Committee

was being established, the German Ministry for Research and Technology in Bonn and the German Library in Frankfurt initiated a study to explore the possibilities for developing a mass deacidification plant that could work for the libraries and archives of the Federation. This study was given to the Battelle Institute to conduct. The newly founded Committee on Preservation was nominated to be the advisory body for the work. The Committee insisted that the work concentrate on a comparison of the two methods of mass deacidification that already exist, or at least are out of the research laboratory. This approach seemed preferable to re-evaluating all relevant efforts that are to be found in the technical literature of the last forty years and to searching for totally new methods that would mean repeating a good part of research done during the last forty years. Both existing methods are of American origin: methanolic solution of methyl magnesium carbonate, *i.e.*, the Wei T'o system of Richard D. Smith (plants in Ottawa, Canada and in Sablé, France for the National Library in Paris); and diethyl zinc gas, *i.e.*, the DEZ system of the Library of Congress.

As of March 1988 there were two main preliminary findings of the Battelle study. The first is that the DEZ system is the more elegant solution to the acidic paper problem, but requires highly sophisticated apparatus and very specialized technical knowledge to be used properly. A DEZ plant cannot be an annex to a library or archives in the FRG but can only be located in a separate structure in the area and under the direction of a large firm in chemical heavy industry. It seems advisable to wait for at least two years of undisturbed and safe operation of the plant that the

Library of Congress is constructing before a license for the process is sought for the FRG. Also, some chemical questions regarding the effect of the treatment must be clarified.

A second finding of the study is that both of the existing Wei T'o system plants are pilot plants. Technologically they are not as highly developed as seems possible with regard to the system. It would be an interesting task for a high and low pressure engineer (which the Battelle people performing the study are) to discover weaknesses and to suggest improvements. The system as it works now has some limitations that prohibit its indiscriminate use for all books. Although a lot of research seems to have taken place, both in Ottawa and Sablé and by the inventor to overcome these disadvantages, further research to be done in Germany may be promising.

Paper Strengthening and Research

At this time, four methods of re-strengthening paper that seem to be applicable to large quantities of materials are in operation (or are at least being seriously discussed) worldwide. These are: re-sizing with an aqueous solution of methyl cellulose executed in a vacuum chamber and followed by freeze drying (Vienna method); splitting the paper, possibly after filling in its lost parts by leafcasting (Leipzig method); impregnating the paper with monomers and polymerization *in situ* and/or graft polymerization (British Library method); and treating the paper with a strong alkali to change the molecular structure of the cellulose (Darmstadt method).

The DBI Committee on Preservation will pursue the relevant progress of these methods. Further-

more, it may be opportune to promote research in the most promising direction. The main question is: What direction might be most promising? A survey of the actual state of research progress in the field of library preservation and conservation that was conducted by a member of the Committee and will be published in the *Zeitschrift fuer Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie* (ZfBB), the main FRG library journal, does not give much cause for enthusiasm. From the sobering result of this study more general questions arise. For example, what research has been done in the field? Which of the results are really useful for the practice of library preservation, and which are more of general interest than of use? What special topics (*e.g.*, storage conditions) should be the object of further research? The Committee feels obliged to study these and other issues.

Actual State of Damage

Relevant studies on the actual condition of collections have never been undertaken in the libraries of the FRG. Results from abroad differ, varying between less than 19 percent and more than 90 percent. Such a difference is too great to be the result of different conditions of storage and use. For the most part, it must result from different conceptions of what defines a book as "damaged" or "endangered." A test performed on the same books by different people demonstrated very different results. One book was defined by one person as "o.k.," by another as "endangered," by a third as "slightly damaged," and by a fourth as "heavily damaged." As a consequence of this lack of correlation, the Committee will first establish clear criteria that can be followed in identifying an endan-

gered or damaged book. When these criteria have been tested successfully they shall be put together in a questionnaire and sent to all large research libraries as the basis for a 0.01 random sample survey. Results of the survey may be presented by the end of 1988.

Primer of Preservation

Only a few publications exist that could be considered primers of preservation. They include the booklet of A.D. Baynes-Cope, *Caring for Books and Documents* (British Museum Publication, 1981; German translation, 1983), and the IFLA *Principles of Conservation* (published in five languages 1979-81; English text revised 1986). The Committee's first activity must be to collect relevant titles and carefully study their content. The Committee's aim is to find or promote the development of a practical text, possibly at some cost in scientific exactitude, *i.e.*, if these two cannot be integrated.

Permanent and Durable Paper

As was the case with deacidification, the involvement of the Committee in the issue of permanent and durable paper is not so much the result of the Committee's own initiative as it is the result of the initiatives of others whose interests coincide with those of the Commit-

tee. At about the same time that the Committee was established, the DIN (Deutsches Institut fuer Normung—German Institute for Standardization) established a Working Group on Paper Permanence. This activity was also initiated by a product from the United States: the ANSI Standard Z39.48-1984. Most of the members of the DIN Working Group come from the paper industry and primarily represent firms that are producing paper using the older, "acidic" technology. Consequently, they do not favor ANSI Z39.48-1984, which prescribes alkaline production for paper that may be called "permanent and durable."

The German standard intends to prescribe certain levels of physical strength that must be retained after accelerated aging. These levels are not oriented toward the relevant strength of the unaged paper, but toward the "real use" of paper in a library (as the papermakers understand it). The proponents of the standard argue that folding endurance should not be used as an indicator of strength because it does not represent the stress of real use. Instead, tensile strength and tear resistance are discussed. The required stress levels for these tests are quite low, as is the period of accelerated aging. As the discussion now stands, it would be possible to define a paper as "permanent and

durable in the lower degree" or "permanent and durable in the highest degree." The criteria that must be met for the first designation are that the paper must have 5N tensile strength and must withstand 0.5% tension after an aging time of 72 hours. Criteria for the higher degree designation are the same, but after an accelerated aging time of 576 hours.

Two members of the DBI Committee on Preservation are also members of the DIN Working Group on Paper Permanence. They are working hard to convince the forum that these numbers represent the strength of the paper immediately before brittleness. They hope to convince the Working Group that the term "permanence" cannot be a matter of degree: a paper is either permanent and durable or it is not. A "little bit" permanent is logical nonsense. Further, they are trying to convince the forum that the proposed standard will have only one result: to dash the hope of advocates of library preservation that the paper produced tomorrow will be better than the paper produced yesterday. The paper produced during the past 150 years has created the need for a Committee on Preservation which requires millions of marks to be spent to finance its activities.

[Helmut Bansa
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek]

Preservation Perspective in Australia

Few library preservation facilities anywhere in the world have views that surpass those from the preservation section of the National Library of Australia. Inspired, perhaps, by this pleasant outlook, the staff of the section has increased its efforts to raise the awareness of the Australian library and conservation

communities to the preservation needs of Australian library and archives collections.

Until recently, only one or two Australian libraries acknowledged preservation as an essential component in the management of their collections. If preservation was considered, it was inevitably in the

narrow sense of the conservation of the library's "treasures," usually for exhibition purposes. This situation is slowly changing, and in 1988, the year that marks 200 years of European settlement in Australia, some important advances can be identified. Staff members of the National Library cannot claim all the credit for these developments, but they certainly have been instrumental in accelerating progress.



View from the office window of Jan Lyall, Director, Preservation Services, National Library of Australia

Australian Libraries Summit Meeting

Australian librarians will address the major issues facing their institutions at the Australian Libraries Summit Meeting to be held in Canberra from 17-19 October 1988. The steering committee for the meeting has identified twelve key issues that must be discussed in order to determine and reach agreement on the most effective structures and processes for delivering library and information services throughout the nation. Preservation is one of the key issues.

A discussion paper on possible methods of achieving a national preservation plan for Australia was prepared by Jan Lyall, Director, Preservation Services, National Li-

brary of Australia. This paper, along with the discussion papers on all other key issues, was circulated in mid-March to state library organizations for consideration. State-level discussions are taking place over the following three months. Responses to the discussion papers are to be formulated and dispatched to the Summit organizers by mid-June. The agenda and format of the Summit Meeting itself will be determined largely by the nature of the responses received from the state organizations.

The delegates to the Summit will be able to formulate solutions to many of the key issues. It is hoped that some difficulties, which have arisen in the past when considering a national preservation plan, can be overcome. This meeting marks the

first occasion in Australia where preservation issues will be discussed by both preservation experts and leaders in the library community.

Despite the fact that Australia does not yet have a national preservation plan, a number of achievements of national significance have recently been made.

Standard on Permanence of Paper

Following a meeting sponsored by the Library Association of Australia (May 1987) on the production and use of permanent paper, an approach was made by the National Library to the Standards Association of Australia to develop Australian Standards that defined permanence of papers. A commit-

tee has been established and at its first meeting in February 1988 a draft Australian Standard, broadly based on the American Standard (ANSI Z39.48-1984) was prepared. This draft will be circulated to all interested parties within the next month. It is anticipated that an Australian Standard on permanence of uncoated paper will be adopted by the end of 1988.

Further progress on the promotion of the benefits of permanent paper has been made by the Archival Paper Action Committee of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials. The ambitious twelve-month program planned by this committee consists of the following: support for initiatives to develop Australian Standards relating to permanence and durability for selected grades of paper and board; identification of an independent paper testing laboratory; gaining acceptance of the benefits of permanent paper by government authorities, printers, and publishers; and gaining tariff con-

cessions for paper used in preservation and conservation.

The committee's greatest achievement so far has been to heighten awareness among federal and state politicians of the need to use permanent paper for important records and publications.

Training Programs

The Canberra College of Advanced Education, which operates the only training program in Australia for conservators, is offering in 1988 two new courses in the Preservation of Library and Archive Materials. These courses are designed to introduce both library and conservation students to library and archives preservation. Several library schools are becoming interested in developing preservation courses.

National Register of Microform Masters

The National Library of Australia has conducted a pilot study into

the feasibility of developing a national register of microform masters. The results of this study indicate that the vast majority of microform masters are held by state and university libraries. A nationwide survey is about to commence to compile a national listing of microform masters.

Special Interest Group in Library Preservation

In 1987 the Library Association of Australia established a special interest group in library preservation. The group has held several meetings and produced a newsletter.

Information on Australian activities can be obtained from Jan Lyall, Director, Preservation Services, National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia.

*[Jan Lyall
National Library of Australia]*

Preservation Microfilming In Canada by CIHM

Canada, being a loose federation of provinces with strong regional loyalties, has never developed into a highly centralized administrative unit. Moreover, this strong regional bias is reflected in Canadian publishing where no one town, at least in the nineteenth century, enjoyed the national pre-eminence of London or New York. This situation gave rise, in turn, to strong regional collections of Canadiana instead of to a single national collection of overwhelming size or importance on the scale of the Library of Congress or the British Library.

Preservation and Access

While the dispersed and uneven nature of Canadiana collections hampered research, it was not saving the books themselves from progressive deterioration. The natural processes of decay brought on by atmospheric and other causes, as well as wear and tear at the hands of a growing number of readers, was, by the 1960's, putting printed Canadiana in all parts of the country at risk.

It was to solve these problems of preservation and access that the

Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) was founded in 1978. A Consultative Group, which had been convened by the Canada Council a year earlier to report on the most pressing problems facing university libraries, had drawn attention to a major weakness in library holdings of printed Canadiana. The group had cautioned that even in regions boasting collections of Canadiana, long-term access could not be guaranteed because the materials were rapidly deteriorating through natural aging processes and through heavy use.

The Canada Council, acting quickly and decisively on the Group's recommendations, estab-



A NORTH WEST VIEW OF PRINCE OF WALES'S FORT IN ILLINOIS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDERNESS (1851)

Image from Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions fiche number 35434

lished the Institute on January 17, 1978, as an independent, non-profit corporation. The Council endowed it with two million dollars and, in a contract dated March 15, 1978, set forth in general terms the Institute's aims and objectives. The Institute was 1) to improve access to printed Canadiana already in the country; 2) to make Canadiana not now in Canada available to Canadian researchers; 3) to make rare and scarce Canadiana more widely available; 4) to bring together fragmented collections of Canadiana; and 5) to ensure the preservation of Canadiana in Canada and elsewhere.

Finances and Marketing

With the foundation grant as seed money, the Institute has succeeded in generating additional support for the project either in money or services from two main sources. The National Library has lent substantial support by providing space and technical training, as well as by buying information on early publications for its retrospec-

tive bibliography. Thirty-one research libraries have helped by subscribing to the entire collection. By acting collectively, they have made it possible for all of them to acquire a catalogued collection at bargain prices.

Progress to Date

In the past many projects have set out to preserve the printed word on microfilm. What is unique about the Institute is the boldness of its mandate: to make a nation's entire printed heritage available on microfiche. To date, over 56,000 titles have been filmed on 121,685 fiche. The pre-1901 monograph phase (including books, pamphlets, and printed ephemera) is now complete. Work has begun on a multi-year program that will see 2,500 pieces of pre-1901 Canadian sheet music and 98,000 serial issues transferred to high quality microfiche and made available to a wider audience.

[Robert Montague
Executive Director, CIHM]

IFLA Working Group to Study Preservation Education

David Clements (U.K.), Josephine Fang (U.S.A.), John Feather (U.K.), and David Thomas (U.K.), all members of the IFLA working group on guidelines for the teaching of preservation for librarians, archivists, and documentalists, met in August 1987 during the IFLA General Conference to consider an important draft proposal. The proposal, prepared by Sally Buchanan (U.S.A.), Josephine Fang, and Ann Russell (U.S.A.), presented questions to be asked, steps to be taken, and goals to be kept in mind as the working group develops guidelines for the teaching of preservation.

After revising the proposal, the working group members agreed to circulate their expanded outline of the project to a limited number of colleagues in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States in an attempt to collect information on the current practices in preservation education as well as examples of course content. Similar information will be gathered for other countries as part of a UNESCO-funded project being carried out by the IFLA Conservation Section.

At its start, the proposal clearly states that its objective is the development of guidelines for the teaching of preservation. For the purposes of the study, preservation is defined as a broadly based function concerned with protecting information and the artifacts and supports that carry such information for current and future users. Planning and policy making; the development and application of preservation measures to minimize

deterioration and degradation; treatments to retain, repair, or copy materials; and restoration of original items are presented as the major activities of preservation.

Preservation education is defined as "three-tiered," beginning with a basic level of preservation training to be included in the general education of professional librarians and archivists. The second, more detailed tier of education is for managers who will deal with preservation problems on a daily basis, and the third and final tier is at the specialist level and is for preservation administrators who will have to organize and operate preservation programs.

To realize the highest level of sophistication in preservation education, it is imperative to gather information on current practices in library and archives education. A questionnaire, loosely modeled on one designed by the Education Panel of the National Preservation Advisory Committee (U.K.), will be distributed to the countries previously mentioned. The working group hopes that this survey will yield enough data on course content and current teaching practices to enable group members to draft a report for presentation at the 1988 IFLA General Conference in Sydney.

{Joan Futscher, IFLA/PAC}

UNESCO Supports IFLA Conservation Section Project

The IFLA Conservation Section has received a grant of \$5,000 from UNESCO to conduct a study of training needs in the fields of preservation and conservation. Questionnaires will be distributed to approximately 100 library or ar-

chives schools around the world (excluding North America, which is being separately reviewed under another IFLA project) to determine whether the schools offer training in preservation and conservation. If so, the schools will be asked to describe the extent and depth of the training and to indicate the number of hours devoted to training, whether the training is compulsory or elective, whether any practical work is undertaken, and whether or not the training includes visits to workshops and binderies.

In addition, questionnaires will be distributed to approximately 250 libraries and archives worldwide to determine how many professional staff members in these institutions have any knowledge of preservation issues or experience in conservation practices; where and how such knowledge and experience

were obtained; and whether the institution itself provides any training on such preservation issues as care and handling to its professional and non-professional staff. The questionnaire will also collect information on the training, experience, and future needs of conservation and technical staff.

An analysis of the data gathered will provide valuable information about the level of preservation and conservation training available worldwide and will help identify training needs. The project, to be completed in mid-1988, is directed by D. W. G. Clements (Chair, IFLA Conservation Section), with the assistance of J. H. McIlwaine (University College, London, U.K.) and A. C. Thurston (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, U.K.).

Socialist Countries Meet to Discuss Preservation

A Consultation Meeting of Socialist Countries on Preservation and Conservation was held in Warsaw 19-23 October 1987 to discuss

issues of preservation, conservation, and accessibility to library materials. Representatives from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Hungary, the Soviet Union, Poland, and IFLA attended.

Nineteen papers were presented on a variety of topics, including the



Representatives from Socialist countries and IFLA discuss issues of library preservation

state of collections in national libraries and the needs for conservation; documentation of conservation work; methods of conservation of paper and leather; and biological and chemical aspects of conservation. Other presentations included a discussion of mass conservation of newspapers by Wolfgang Wächter, Director of the PAC regional center in Leipzig, and a description of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) by Adam Wysocki, IFLA.

The meeting adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation and broadening the exchange of experience among the participants. In addition to formal presentations, participants visited exhibitions organized by the Polish National Library on conservation techniques and equipment submitted by foreign firms.

Latin Americans Discuss Preservation Of Literary Manuscripts

The preservation of 19th and 20th century materials was the subject of an international conference held in Paris 28–29 September 1987 and organized by the Association Archives of Latin American Literature (Friends of Miguel Angel Asturias), a non-governmental international organization linked to UNESCO.

Experts on literary manuscripts from twenty-two countries, including the directors of five national libraries of Latin America, attended the conference. Participants agreed that literary manuscripts must be considered unique cultural patrimony because they are the written testimony of creative activity. This

testimony is in danger of being lost, since the material on which it is recorded is often particularly vulnerable to deterioration. The meeting outlined the conditions that are unfavorable to the preservation of manuscripts: extreme fragility of supports; absence of systematic, reliable inventories; and inadequate treatment facilities, funding, and qualified personnel (particularly in developing countries).

General agreements emphasized the establishment of international cooperative efforts that would permit, among other goals, the following: a public awareness campaign to save 19th and 20th century literary manuscripts; cooperative efforts to strengthen existing infrastructures and to create new ones; interchange of information on methods of conservation employed by developed countries; training courses for manuscripts preservation; standardized cataloging to enable interchange of information; exchange mechanisms permitting the use of copies of manuscripts; and compilation of a list of national libraries that would act as coordinating agents in different parts of the world.

Final recommendations were to: undertake reliable, systematic inventories; compile a list of manuscripts that should be preserved; describe the nature and condition of the manuscripts; determine preservation and treatment procedures; identify resources available institu-

tionally for the project; improve conditions of access; and define rules governing the listing, use, and research of manuscripts.

The directors of national libraries present at the meeting—which included Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, and Venezuela from the Latin America region and Spain, France, Italy, and Portugal, from Europe—also signed an official agreement in which they pledged their institutions to conduct specific activities oriented toward the preservation and use of manuscripts. The most important of these activities are: to establish in each country a center of documentation for the microfilming of contemporary literary manuscripts; to establish a priority for microfilming manuscripts and documents related to authors already featured in the collection of the Latin American Archives Association; to exchange microfilms of manuscripts; and to complete the survey which will determine the condition of manuscripts and ways of accessing them in the libraries and institutions where they are collected. The agreement also stipulated that the Archives Association would be responsible for developing the program and follow-up, including the possibility of informing other Latin American and Caribbean National Libraries so they might adhere to the project.

*[Lourdes Blanco, Director
PAC Regional Center, Caracas]*

Meeting of ICA Round Table on Archives

The 25th Conference of the Round Table on Archives (International Council on Archives) took place 21–24 September 1987 in Gardone Riviera, Italy and was devoted to policies for the preserva-

tion of the archival heritage. Representatives from more than fifty countries and international organizations took part in the debates, which were organized in four working sessions.

The first working session discussed the current state of preservation and conservation of the archival heritage based on a report prepared by David Clements (Chair, IFLA Conservation Section). The results of the UNESCO/IFLA/ICA survey and the outcome of a series of short visits to twelve selected countries were reviewed.

During this session the Conference discussed items such as properties of documents, buildings, environmental issues, biological pests, use, handling and storage, preservation and conservation resources, and information dissemination. In addition, the scale and scope of the preservation problem and proposed action programs were considered.

The second session dealt with awareness, education, and training issues. The program focused on the establishment of educational and promotional programs to increase the awareness of preservation problems and on the need for good practices among funding bodies, archival and library authorities, professional staff, and the general public. The participants also discussed possibilities for program implementation.

The third working session considered the options proposed by the UNESCO/IFLA/ICA enquiry aimed both at preventive measures to reduce the risk of damage or reduce the rate of deterioration and active measures to repair or replace the documents themselves.

The last session was devoted to policy development and implementation measures. Its goal was twofold: to identify the most effective methods for devising a coherent policy and for applying it at institutional and national levels; and to identify national and institutional conservation and preservation priorities.

More information on the outcome of the Conference is available from the ICA Secretariat, 60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois, 75003 Paris, France.

[*Adam Wysocki, IFLA*]

Venezuela Assists Jamaica in Preservation

Assistance from the National Library of Venezuela has led to significant improvements in the preservation program at the National Library of Jamaica. Cooperation between the two institutions first began in 1986 when two staff members from the Conservation Center at the National Library of Venezuela, Jorge Gutierrez and Roberto Martinez, visited Jamaica for a week. They observed the Library's preservation activities and conducted a three-day workshop on general preservation techniques.

In March 1987 Gutierrez, Martinez, and three of their colleagues returned to Jamaica for a week. The group conducted an intensive training program in microphotography and preservation techniques for all categories of material with emphasis on maps, prints, and photographs. The program was enthusiastically received by the staff of the National Library.

Subsequently, a follow-up program was developed in which three members of the staff (two from the Bindery and one from the Microfilm Section) went to Venezuela for one month to be trained in microphotography, preservation, and historical binding. While in Venezuela, the two conservators/binders participated in a Regional Workshop/Course in Book Conservation and Binding conducted at the

National Library by conservator Gary Frost (U.S.A.).

The assistance the National Library of Jamaica is receiving from its counterpart in Venezuela is of great value because it is not only from one national library to another, but is also from a library in a developing country with similar problems and budgetary restraints. The National Library of Jamaica therefore welcomes the news that the National Library of Venezuela has been named a regional center for the PAC program and feels that it has an important leadership role to play in preservation activities in the region and in devising solutions to problems faced by many developing countries.

The National Library of Jamaica looks forward to continued assistance and cooperation from the National Library of Venezuela in its preservation activities.

[*Stephney Ferguson, Director National Library of Jamaica*]

News from PAC

Contributions to IPN

IPN welcomes any contribution of preservation news items. What preservation initiatives are under way in your country? Is your institution sponsoring a conference, seminar, or workshop? Can you offer an encouraging report on the development of a disaster plan for your institution? Do you know of any new publications that other members of the preservation community would like to read? Have you had challenging preservation problems that resulted in creative solutions? Preservation efforts exist at all levels. Your experience and information could be of great use to a sister institution in your

own or another country. Get involved! Help us share preservation knowledge on an international scale. The deadline for receipt of articles for *IPN* No. 4 (September 1988) is June 24, 1988.

AV Programs Available from Regional Centers

Two 35mm slide programs on preservation are now available from the PAC regional centers in Sablé and Leipzig. *Handling Books in General Collections* and *Planning a Preservation Program* may be borrowed in French or English from the Sablé center and in German from the Leipzig center.

The 10-minute book handling program provides an overview of proper and safe methods for storing and handling books by library users and staff. Topics discussed include shelving practices, transportation within the library, general handling of materials by staff and readers, in-house processing, photocopying, and the damage that results when safe methods are not used.

The 24-minute planning program is presented in two parts. The first gives a summary of the causes of deterioration in library materials, including inherent chemical instability, the effects of an adverse environment, and the effects of use and abuse. The second part focuses on the preservation planning process, which includes conducting collection and environmental surveys, reviewing processing and handling procedures, establishing goals and priorities, and identifying resources for preservation information, supplies, and funding.

Information on the availability of the programs may be obtained from the directors of the regional centers: Jean-Marie Arnoult, Bibliothèque Nationale, Chateau de

Sablé, 72300 Sablé-s/Sarthe, France; and Wolfgang Wächter, Deutsche Bücherei, Deutscher Platz 1, DDR-7010 Leipzig, German Democratic Republic.

International Conference on the Preservation of Serial Literature

An international conference on **Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature** is being planned and will take place 9-11 May 1989 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.). Sponsored by IFLA/PAC, IFLA Conservation Section, IFLA Serials Section, and the IFLA Working Group on Newspapers, the conference will expand upon matters raised at the international newspaper preservation conference held in London prior to the 1987 IFLA Annual Conference in Brighton. Topics to be considered include management issues in preservation, preservation in original format, preservation in secondary format, information needs for preservation, information management issues, and a design for an international preservation information program. *For information:* Robert Harriman, Chair, IFLA Working Group on Newspapers, Library of Congress, LM-515, Washington, D.C. 20540, U.S.A., or Merrily Smith, Director, PAC, Library of Congress, LM-G07, Washington, D.C. 20540, U.S.A.

Preservation Calendar

May 3-6 (Leipzig, German Democratic Republic)

Seminar on Advances in the Field of Preservation and Conservation after the Conference Held in Vienna, April 1986—

Demand and Impact on the Development of National Programmes. *For information:* Petra Hanitzsch, IFLA National Committee of the GDR, Tieckstr. 16, 1040 Berlin, GDR.

May 10-12 (Ottawa, Canada)

International Symposium on Conservation in Archives: Current Dimensions and Future Developments took place at the National Archives of Canada. *For information:* International Colloquium on Conservation, C.P. 3162, Succursale D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6H7.

July 5-8 (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)

Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. Seminar on Access to Library Resources Through Technology and Preservation to take place between American and Soviet librarians at the Library of Congress.

August 27-September 3 (Sydney, Australia)

Library Association of Australia 25th Biennial Conference and International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) General Conference at the University of New South Wales. The Conservation Section will have a workshop on disasters from 11:30 to 17:00 on Wednesday, August 31, and will have its program session from 9:00 to 11:30 on Thursday, September 1. In addition, a summary of current PAC activities will be presented at the Open Forum of the Programme Management Committee on Wednesday, August 31, between 9:00 and 11:00. *For information:* IFLA Headquarters, POB 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands.

October 3-6 (Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A.)

Fourth U.S.-Japan Conference

on **Library and Information Science in Higher Education**, co-sponsored by the American Library Association Committee on Liaison with Japanese Libraries and the Japanese University Libraries International Relations Committee. The theme of the conference is "U.S. and Japan: Strengthening the Partnership in the Global Information Flow." Included in the program are papers by an American speaker and a Japanese speaker on issues surrounding conservation and preservation of library materials with emphasis on new technologies. In addition, a working group will consider the topic "Conservation & Preservation: Problems, Solutions, Recommendations for Action." **For information:** Theodore F. Welch, Chair, ALA Committee on Liaison with Japanese Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

December 5-7 (Orleans, France)

Conference on **Pigments and Colorants** sponsored by L'Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation des Documents Graphiques du CNRS. **For information:** Denise Reynaud, Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, 3B, avenue de la Recherche Scientifique, 45071 Orleans Cedex 2, France.

Publications

Magnetic media deteriorate at a rate and in a manner that differ considerably from those of most paper-based materials. Because these media are relatively new, less

has been written on the subject of their preservation. In the past few years, however, many new documents have been produced on the topic. Following is a selected list of recent publications that address the preservation of magnetic media. A lengthier bibliography is available from the PAC office at the Library of Congress.

Association for Recorded Sound Collections. Associated Audio Archives Committee. **Audio Preservation: A Planning Study**. Silver Spring, Maryland: Association for Recorded Sound Collections, 1987.

This report, the product of a two-year study, examines current preservation issues, contains recommendations for reformatting audio materials and for the establishment of technical standards, and suggests guidelines for preserving recorded sound collections. It contains an extensive bibliography and a glossary of audio terminology. Available from: Elwood McKee, 118 Monroe Street, Apt. 610, Rockville, Maryland 20850, U.S.A.

Bradshaw, R., et al. "Chemical and mechanical performance of flexible magnetic recording tape containing chromium dioxide." **IBM Journal of Research and Development**. 30:2, March 1986.

Brown, D. W., R. E. Lowery, and L. E. Smith. **Predictions of Long-Term Stability of Polyester-based Recording Media**, National Bureau of Standards Institute Report 86-3474, Progress report to June 1986. Washington, D.C.: National Bureau of Standards, 1986.

Magnetic data tapes were aged at several temperatures and relative humidities. Data recorded on tapes were read back after aging. The inability to read data on the tapes was used to make a preliminary estimate of tape lifetime. Based

on the results of the study, a useful tape lifetime of 20 years at ambient conditions was estimated. Reading failures with rapidly aged tapes appear to be caused primarily by exudation of material from the binding layer. Available from: National Technical Information Services (NTIS), Springfield, Virginia 22161, U.S.A.

Camras, Marvin. **Magnetic Recording Handbook**. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1988.

This basic manual describes recording procedures and discusses equipment, handling, and storage of magnetic media. It includes an index and extensive bibliography.

Committee on Preservation of Historical Records. **Preservation of Historic Records: Magnetic Recording Media**. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1986.

The publication discusses the archival properties of audio, video, and computer magnetic storage; the effects of hydrolysis on tapes; and recommended storage conditions. It assesses trends in magnetic recording media and projects the estimated archival life of tape and disc magnetic storage media. The publication concludes that, in general, a good-quality tape, stored in the proper environment (65° F or 18° C and 45% RH) and accorded careful mechanical handling, will probably remain usable for more than twenty years. However, magnetic recording media and other machine-readable recording media cannot be recommended for long-term preservation because of the difficulty of maintaining software, hardware, and documentation. Provision for repeated file conversion can overcome this limitation.

Geller, Sidney B. **Care and Handling of Computer Magnetic Storage Media**. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards, 1983.

The publication deals with the physical/chemical preservation of computer magnetic storage media and their stored data through the application of proper care and handling methods under various conditions. It also considers measures that can be initiated during media transit and in the aftermath of catastrophic or uncontrollable events. It does not address the problem of computer storage system security from the viewpoint of data theft or intentional data modification. Available from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 20402 U.S.A. (NBS Special Publication V. 500-101.) Cost: \$5.00 in U.S.A.; \$7.00 outside U.S.A.

Parson, Douglas. "Videotape conservation and restoration: usual defects, possible remedies," *Minutes and Working Papers of the FIAT/IFTA 6th General Assembly, 29th September-1st October, 1986, Montreal*. Madrid: International Federation of TV Archives (FIAT/IFTA), 1987.

Available from: International Federation of TV Archives (FIAT/IFTA), Centro Documentacion RTVE, Apartado 150.135, 08023 Madrid, Spain.

Rikitake, Tsuneji. *Magnetic and Electromagnetic Shielding*. Tokyo; Terra Scientific Pub. Co.; Dordrecht; Boston: D. Reidel Pub. Co.; Hingham, Massachusetts, U.S.A., 1987. Sold and distributed in the U.S.A. and Canada by Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Seltzer, Richard, "Acid baths help recover Challenger tapes." *Chemical and Engineering News*. August 26, 1986.

Summarizes IBM's recovery of the taped conversations of four of the seven astronauts during their 73-second flight in the space shuttle Challenger.

Sound Tape Recording, Television Tape Recording, and Film Techniques for the International Exchange of Programmes. Geneva: International Telecommunication

Union, International Radio Consultative Committee, 1985.

This report makes recommendations for the international exchange of recorded sound programs on magnetic tape. Recording standards for "wow and flutter" and "signal-to-noise ratio" are included. Time and control code standards for television are addressed, and standards for the international exchange of monochrome and color television programs on film are covered. Also included are a bibliography and a list of current International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and International Standards Organization (ISO) standards pertaining to sound and television recording.

[Mark Roosa, Library of Congress]



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