

# INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION

A Newsletter of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation

N° 6 - June 1993

# NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL  
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NEWS  
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Thanks to the efficient cooperation of different organisms and institutions headed by IFLA (ALP Programme in cooperation with PAC Programme), a Pan-African Seminar on Conservation will be held at Nairobi from June 21 to June 25, 1993. It will take place after two preceding seminars organized for the English-speaking and French-speaking authorities of libraries and archives (Paris and Sable, 1988; Loughborough, 1989). As you will see in the programme below, the objectives tend to evaluate the scope of the main fields of conservation in Africa and to present to about 100 participants with the results of the most important topics. A survey has been conducted through about 50 institutions in order to identify the problems in Africa. Results and communications will be edited. In the next issue of IPN, we will have the opportunity to present a report of the Seminar, but we are pleased today to present you two texts on conservation in Western Africa and in South Africa.

**Programme of the communications at the Pan-African Seminar :**

- Preservation and conservation of library and archive materials
- Overview of preservation and conservation programmes in African sub-regions
- A review of problems related to the establishment of effective conservation and restoration programmes
- Interventions in libraries and archives in which infections and/or infestation have occurred
- The effects of fluctuations in relative humidity and temperature on library and archival materials
- Protection of collections from damage caused by pollution
- Designing of library buildings : a case study
- Every day book care in libraries
- Preservation and Conservation of non-book materials in libraries and archives
- How to develop a disaster plan for a library or an archival institution
- A review of recent research findings on preservation and conservation of library and archive materials
- Availability, affordability and application of preservation and conservation technologies
- The application of microforms in the management of libraries and archives
- Proposals for training programmes in conservation and restoration in Africa
- A review of actual areas and potential cooperation in preservation and conservation efforts.

# **"Who destroys a good booke, kills reason it selfe."**

**To perpetuate  
what is derisory  
without derision**

Jean-Marie ARNOULT,  
PAC Programme Director,  
Bibliothèque Nationale

In our societies reared with written and printed materials, the destruction of a book remains a crime. A book stands for knowledge, promise of knowledge, to share and to pass on. It is a symbol of a conformed, regained or snatched from democracy. It is a tangible sign of freedom of thought, of writing, of printing, and freedom of distributing and reading. In return, it implies the duty to keep, and without this necessity, freedom would have no memory.

A lot has been written on the symbolism of the destruction of a book, by great authors and smaller ones, good and second-rate ones, I will quote but John Milton, who in his *Areopagitica* (London, 1644) wrote learnedly: « Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image, but thee who destroys a good booke, kills reason it selfe. »

There are many ways to kill a book, but none is noble, and do you know any that are justifiable ? From the deprivation of paper, the prohibition of printing, censor, till deliberate destruction, man has resorted to all the possibilities he could think of. We will not draw

up a list because it would be too offensive for the centuries of the past civilisations and a useless challenge for those to come.

Despair is often mixed with a feeling of conceit to translate the absurdity that no forgiveness could be saved by mere oblivion.

This very absurdity, linked with a guilty thoughtlessness and a lack of foresight, is all the more revolting as it ignores the most basic lessons, the most basic protection against elements, fire and water. Throughout these last decades, there have been so many disasters that have given birth to numerous writings, and among which the most important ones in the conservation and preservation literature. Unfortunately they did not prevent further accidents, and we may wonder about its utility. However, let us not be too much disheartened as we do not know the quantity of disasters that have been avoided thanks to them.

Eventually, the most degrading absurdity results from unjustifiable wars. When one thinks at the Library of Bucharest, that was taken into hostage between two camps until it was completely destroyed, when one peruse the list of the destroyed libraries, either big or small, in what used to be Yugoslavia, one tends to fear that reason disappears from that world.

In this pessimistic context, the scientific discussions on the consequences of humidity, dryness of temperature, and pollution sound rather futile. Despite this feeling of despair that already pervaded in 1644, we must persist in promoting the need for preservation and conservation, « permanent » materials, and perpetuate what is derisory without derision. It is sometimes difficult to find the justification of our requirements.

Once, I happened to give up rescuing books to carry an old woman to a hospital that had not the means to cure her. Today the books have been covered by the sand and the old woman is probably dead for lack of care.

My powerless regrets are for the old woman first, but how can we escape from our own contradictions and not believe in the futility of our convictions at the same time ?

# "The priorities mainly regard staff and acquisition of

## A brief survey of the African situation

Virginie KREMP,  
PAC Programme Assistant,  
Bibliothèque Nationale

Most of the literature available on preservation and conservation in African libraries and archives is either out of date or rare. This is the reason why PAC International Centre, together with the cooperation of ALP Core Programme, has conducted a questionnaire that was sent to various libraries, archives, documentary centers and university libraries, in order to assess today's situation and the actual needs.

Incidentally, the results have been comparatively close to those revealed by several technical reports undertaken from 1980 to 1987, on behalf of UNESCO, after the request of several African countries (1).

The PAC Programme questionnaire was sent to 48 institutions throughout Africa: 21 answers were sent back. The figures indicated below concern this very questionnaire. The conclusions drawn from a sample of thirteen UNESCO technical reports are identified under the abbreviation «UTR».

The first striking aspect deals with the construction of libraries and archives: 40 % of them were built between 1950 and 1970, when there was no major concern about conservation, and when the outlook on the effect of architecture on the preservation of the collections was different. An extension or repairs of the buildings have been done for 3 % of them after 1980.

Thirty three percent of them are made of concrete and are usually without earthquake or/and hurricane protections. However 23 % are protected against fire and theft. One must stress the importance of water damages (19 %) due to mere negligence or inadequate architecture, and of insects infestation, both having a drastic effect on the collections.

Seventeen percent are equipped with air-conditioning system, however when perusing the UTR, it transpired that some did not work or were not on. Avafia E. Kwami reports that in 17 African university libraries, «air-conditioning had been avoided on the ground of expense»(2). In any case air-conditioning doesn't seem to be sufficient to regular the ideal temperature and the relative humidity: 10,5 % of the institutions check the relative humidity level, 15 % the temperature, and 8 % control the pollution level. The optimistic bit concerns the regular cleaning of the collections (33 %), and 40% have a dust cleaning done on a regular basis.

All in all, most of the complaints regard heat and humidity matters, and the lack of money that prevents any palliative solutions.

As far as the technical equipments are concerned, 52 % have a binding workshop. UTR stated that Gabon, Tunisia, Kenya and Sudan were also equipped, but all complain about understaffing and lack of trained staff. Restoration and photography workshops are fewer (10 % of each). Photographic reproduction (preservation) mostly concerns newspapers (23 %), printed books (19 %), and manuscripts (8 %). Binding is usually the most convenient way of preserving materials (25 %); boxes are also used (21 %).

One can but observe that traditional restoration is very rare: 12,5 % of the institutions perform it on manuscripts, 10,5 % on printed books and newspapers. Modern techniques are even fewer: hot lamination: 8 %; cold lamination: 6 %; disinfection process: 8 %; deacidification: 6 %.

### Priorities

All these figures show that preservation and conservation in Africa is far from being widely spread and developed, that most institutions do

not have any preservation facilities at all. The priorities mainly regard staff training, consciousness of the authorities and acquisition of technical equipment. These points can but be solved at a governmental level. Moreover, many countries do not have any legislation regarding the conservation of archives. Some others do not have specific protection for cultural goods at all.

There is also a high concern about the graduating of students: a scale of degrees has to be settled in order to establish the levels of graduation and the relevant salaries. That could strengthen cooperation and exchanges within African institutions.

Although libraries are aware of the importance of conservation (3), it is worth repeating that low cost alternatives have to be found. One may wonder why some encouraging steps have been taken towards museums collections and that comparatively so little has been done for the written and printed heritage. The growing importance of tourism is of course the first answer to come to the mind. The rather recent creation of libraries is another reason; as a matter of fact, most were created some 100-150 years ago with the establishing of the administrative structures of the former colonies (4).

Although the development of the paper industry and of the editing business (especially newspapers) is being developed, Africa is compelled to pace up with the worldwide vortex and despite all the difficulties, strives to blossom.

The authorities in charge must bear in mind that in libraries and archives a part of their cultural patrimony (the past and the future one) is at stake and that, what is even more important, libraries have an active part in the eradication of illiteracy.

(1) UNESCO-PGI, Paris.

(2) Avafia E. Kwami «University Libraries: The African Scene». Comp. and ed. by Michael Wise. *Aspects of African Librarianship: A Collection of Writings*. London: Mansell 1985.

(3) Idem.

(4) Henri Sène. «Les bibliothèques en Afrique occidentale française: 1800-1945». Libri, octobre-décembre, 1992.

*training, consciousness of the authorities technical equipment."*

## Architectural protection of library materials in Western Africa

Antoine TENDENG  
EBAD-Sénégal



The first and foremost attention to be paid on library materials concerns architectural protection.

Western Africa spreads between the 5th and the 18th degrees of the boreal latitude. From North to South 16 countries are included : Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Burkina Faso, Sierra-Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria.

Savannah is part of this geographical area, which endangers the conservation of documents.

### Characteristics of the Western African climate

The more up North you go, the greater the gap between the hottest month and the coldest, which dries up documents during the fair season and make mould and condensation appear during the rainy season.

The North and the Eastern-North trade wind blows solidly throughout the year over the Western coast and as far as Dakar.

The harmattan, a dry and warm wind from the East and the North-East, emphasizes the evaporation process, thus intensifying dryness. It is mostly dangerous for the collections because of the sand winds it raises.

### Conditions of preservation

Within storage areas, a homogeneous and equable climate must be insured. Documents must be kept with even conditions of the dry temperature of the air and hygrometry.

New mediums :

- master microfilms : 30 % RH for 18°C

- black and white photographs and documents : 35 % RH for 12°C

-colour photographs and documents : 35 % RH for 5°C

-magnetic mediums : 40 % RH for 18°C

Traditional mediums :

Anglo-Saxon countries : 50-60 % RH for 13-18°C

France : 55 % RH for 18°C.

### Partitions

Partitions is the safest way to isolate storage areas and their thermic inertia.

Outside partitions :

if the surface of the outside partition is limited, an equable micro-climate and an adequate thermic isolation can be insured within the storage areas. A building shouldn't have any outside surface. If it is not the case, storage areas should be protected with a double partition.

A good orientation of the storage areas prevents outside partitions from being right in the sun thus avoiding too much heat. For the same reason, storage areas should not be orientated in the sun nor should they face dominating winds.

Reinforced concrete partitions must be forbidden as, when the sun is shining, they diffuse heat into the building, then to the metallic shelves, transforming them into real heaters.

Glass surfaces must be as few as possible and preferably situated in a place the sun can't reach.

Inside partitions :

in order to avoid any contact with the outside, three solutions are possible :

- to enclose storage areas, or to surround them with offices and working rooms ;

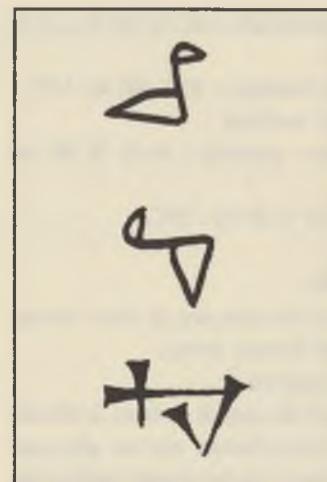
- to build a double partition with an air vacuum between the inside and the outside parts;

- to build a corridor that runs around the storage area, or a vacuum of about 1, 50m between the storage areas and the outside .

### Protection against nuisance

The best way to protect documents from fungi is to put them in a place where mould can't easily develop, thanks to the levels of the temperature and of the RH (below 15°C and between 50-60 % RH), with an even air-conditioning and a minimum of sun light. Unfortunately, it is difficult

# "No conservation area should be built at ground level."



to gather all these conditions in the intertropical area of Western Africa.

As far as insects are concerned, four categories are the most frequently seen :

- silverfish is a regular visitor of the storage areas. It is a small insect, silver white, that waves its way by digging deep galleries into the paper. Its favourite food is adhesive; it gnaws the surface of the bindings : a heap of papers or a book eaten by silverfish look like an embroidery work cut across.

- Common furniture beetle looks like brownish millet seeds. It digs thin, needle-like holes and circular galleries into both paper and leather. It is also very fond of wood.

- Capricorn beetle eats wood. It usually tucks into buildings rather than documents.

- Cockroaches flee from light; they gather in dark and damp places. The bindings of registers are their favourite dishes.

- Termites proliferate in tropical countries : as they are the most ravenous, they are the most dangerous. They flee both from air and light. When they don't destroy documents, they soil all of them.

#### Architectural protection against termites :

No conservation area should be built at ground level: the best solution consists in building on concrete piles or at least, on empty and air-conditioned foundations.

A concrete terrace surrounding the whole building allows to detect quickly the presence of termites as they dig tunnels.

A concrete ditch with vertical partitions is an efficient protection against termites and most creepings.

#### Biological agents

Water has two effects on documents :

- a direct effect : it dissolves paper cellulose (hydrolyse), some inks (iron gallotane inks), it liquefies adhesives, soaks and softens leathers and bindings.

- an indirect effect : it contributes to the development of fungi germs.

Documents may be damaged either because of inundations, leaking pipes, seeping roofs or windows, or because of condensation.

In areas subjected to inundations, four orders are to be followed : building must be built on piles ; roofs must be waterproof and regularly

checked ; gutters must be regularly checked ; windows must be kept closed.

In very rainy places, it is advised to surround buildings with a covering gallery which prevents the rain from running along the windows (it also protects from sun strays).

No pipe should cross the rooms where the documents are kept. If pipes are already there, avoid to put documents right under them or too close to them.

In damp countries, buildings must stand on piles. In any case, no conservation room must be built at ground level. An air-conditioned cellar or at least, a void space for the circulation of the air is needed.

Needless to say that the smaller the windows of a building are, the better it is to fight against light. They should also be protected with thick curtains or opaque screens.

#### Chemical agents

Even in Western African countries pollution is a worrying matter, especially around and in capital cities.

The best way to fight against acid and oxidizing agents is to equip areas with air filters, which also filter dust, flying insects and spores.

If air filters are not available, boxes are an efficient protection too. Silica particles have a grating action which is particularly damaging. Iron particles in touch with the sulphurous anhydride of the air form sulphurous acid. Fungi and bacteria germs lay and develop into mushrooms and insects.

In order to prevent fire damage, a conservation building must be non-flammable, and equipped with fire walls. Within the buildings, storage areas must be isolated from staff working areas with «2 hours fire doors and walls» (thick metallic doors with a layer of non-flammable materials).

Wiring is the main cause of fires (shorts) and it must be fitted in agreement with the services specialized in fire protection.

Circuit-breakers must be fitted in a way that enables electric cuts to be done in the storage areas outside duty hours.

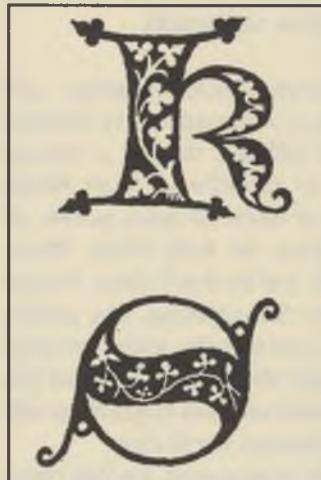
In storage areas, plugs mustn't be set at ground level in order to prevent shorts when water cleaning is done; they should be protected

# *"There is a national programme to microfilm all South African newspapers."*

with covers. Beware of jutting plugs as they may be caught in on trolleys.

If a building is high and remote, a lightning conductor is necessary. As a matter of fact, the beginnings and the ends of the Western African winters are subjected to violent tornados due to the harmattan and the monsoon struggling together.

Materials architectural protection in Western Africa presents contradictory requirements. Because of the alternance of a dry season with a damp one, the difficulties of conservation are heightened. Steps taken against water and damp during the rainy season can be damaging for the documents during the dry season. However, the main concern regards economical means and cheaper running costs.



Peter COATES  
Head Preservation Department,  
South African Library

## PUBLIC READING IN MALIA

The French Malian Operation of Public Reading of Mali has been awarded in Bologna for promoting young children's reading in 1992. Founded fifteen years ago, it is the most national important structure of libraries in French-speaking Africa, which aims at promoting a decentralized reading policy for young people and grown-ups.

## *Preservation in South Africa - The present situation*

For reasons of internal political flux and because of the world-wide recession, economic conditions in South Africa have been at their lowest point since many decades. Compared with the provision of new material for mass-upliftment programmes to the new materials for research in support of business and industrial development, costly conservation and restoration of old material has such a low priority at the national level that only a handful of the most dedicated libraries are making even token financial allocations for this kind of work.

The wide climatic diversity in South Africa ranges from tropical to temperate, humid to arid, and each has an influence on the preservation of printed material, and serious problems have arisen in the tropical and sub-tropical areas, principally mould and insect damage. In these areas, libraries have already provided good

## A BOOK TRUCK FOR MALIA

The Association «Bibliothèques sans frontières» (libraries without borders) aims at widening exchanges of documents and professional experiences. Towards the end of 1992, it undertook to replace the library truck that had been driving on a 700 kilometers railway throughout Malia since 1977. The truck breathed its last a few years ago and librarians were compelled to bring books in tin trunks. The Association asked the SNCF (the French National Railways Network) to restore a new truck and to sent it to Malia, which will allow the travelling library to shuttle as it used to be between the 11 spots situated between Bamako (the capital), and Kayes (at the Senegalese border).

environmental control. Other major libraries have also installed air-conditioning, and the two national libraries (the South African Library and the State Library) have included environmental control in their current and forthcoming building programmes.

The South African Library, which is required by the National Libraries Act, 1985, «to act as the national preservation library and to provide a restoration service on a country-wide basis» (Section 4(f)), finds no provision in its State subsidy formula for fulfilling this statutory requirement. The fact that a conservation workshop is operating at the South African Library is due to sacrifices made elsewhere in its budget, and the generosity of private benefactors. The result is that it can not provide the required national service, and it can barely begin to meet with its own internal needs.

In all they are eight conservation workshops attached to large libraries in South Africa, having at least one properly qualified conservator. A ninth was closed down in 1991, and there have been staff reductions in some others. There is only one independent laboratory at the present time. By now, 40 paper conservators have been joining the South African Paper Conservation Group, which organizes local and national meetings and conferences. With a few exceptions, all larger libraries have bookbinding workshops which can deal with binding repairs and more straightforward paper repairs. As far as it can be determined, there is no mass-deacidification equipment for books in operation in any South African library, presumably because of the extremely high cost of equipment in local currency terms, and the existing methods are considered to be only developmental.

In a recent survey of national and university public libraries in South Africa, undertaken in view of the Pan African Conference on Preservation, there was a 55 % response, all from long-established libraries, and not a single response from any library established since the 1920s. This suggests that either the interest in

conservation is minimal in South Africa, or that the more recently established libraries, possessing old stock, have not yet had to face up to serious preservation problems.

### Encouraging efforts

Arising from the survey, it was seen that 58 % of the respondents had a clear preservation policy, the remainder responded to problems in an ad hoc way. Every respondent did have a binding programme for their stock. Only one of them claimed to meet the standards of the Library Binding Institute or other standard, although most binderies undoubtedly do perform work which would meet these requirements.

Preservation micro-formatting and photocopying is widely practised by individual libraries. In addition, there is a national programme to microfilm all South African newspapers, of which the major partners are the State Library, the South African Library, Microfilm Ltd., and the British Library. Progress has been slow but continuous. One problem has been the need to re-film newspapers which had been badly filmed in the 1940s and 50s. Microfilm masters are stored in accordance with the national standard specifications.

In addition to newspapers, the State Library and the South African Library are producing microfiche copies of government publications; books and journals in danger of disintegration on account of brittle paper.

The South African Library collects pamphlets on practical preservation issues and makes copies available to country-wide libraries free of charge. It also organized a major conference on preservation in 1986 which first awakened libraries' interest in preservation, and has made concerted efforts to persuade South African paper mills to change over to alkaline paper with some success. Its director is a member of the IFLA Standing Committee on paper conservation, thereby being in touch with international developments, and the Library is keeping up to date on modern document digitizing techniques such as CD-ROM.

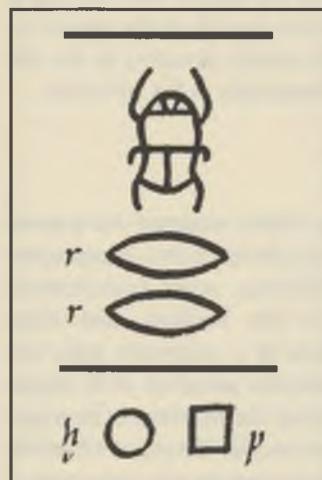
The South African Library has actively promoted the need for disaster preparedness,

# *"The Dar al-Kutub Restoration Center includes a materials science library and seven laboratories."*

althrough few of the responding libraries, even now, have a disaster reaction plan in place.

No formal training programme for paper conservators exists in South Africa now. A course was proposed but job opportunities were insufficient to warrant the minimum number of registered students needed to run such a course. Nor there is a training course for library bookbinders. The training that takes place is done on an apprenticeship basis and ends without accredited certification.

Overall, the situation in South Africa is quite disheartening, but more settled conditions in the future will almost certainly lead to a gradual improvement.



Kenneth HARRIS  
Director of the PAC Regional Center

## *The Library of Congress Activities in Egypt*

Kenneth E. Harris, Director for Preservation at the Library of Congress (LC), travelled to Egypt in April 1992 to attend the LC Field Director's Conference, to consult with the Director of the National Library of Egypt and the Minister of Culture concerning long-range preservation plans for the National Library, and to participate in the preservation to the Director and the library staff of oral reports about a preservation needs assessment conducted by Debra McKern, an ALA-USIS Book Fellow.

During his visit, Mr Harris met with Mr Nabil Elwardany, Deputy General Manager of Al-Ahram, the major Egyptian newspaper, to discuss the technical capabilities and the range of filming activities carried out throughout Egypt by Al-Ahram's microfiling center, which films materials other than newspapers for other Egyptian institutions on a reimbursable basis.

# *"This project will provide Egypt with the first steps towards saving some of her most precious properties."*



At the Jewish Temple Library, which is a consolidation of libraries from 10 Jewish temples in Egypt, Mr Harris discussed the environmental and facility problems associated with housing these consolidated collections. At the National Library of Egypt, he was conducted through a tour of the institution's Dar al-Kutub building as well as the adjoining parent institution, GEBO (The General Egyptian Book Organization) which is publishing and printing arm of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. The Dar al-Kutub Restoration Center includes a materials science library and the following seven laboratories: pollution, research, microbiology, entomology, chemistry, microfilming, conservation and rare book binding.

Mr Harris met with Dr Elibrachy, a prominent Cairo attorney and former advisor to King Farouk, who is heading up a Friends of the National Library Committee that is offering to raise funds to support programmes at the National Library. He also consulted with Dr. Iskander, General Director of Conservation, Egyptian Organization of Antiquities, headquartered at the Egyptian Museum. Of primary interest was their ongoing pursuit of preservation of the Sphinx, with the assistance of an international group of experts, and the cooperative development, by the Antiquities Organization and the Getty Conservation Institute, of passive environmental storage cases that can be used for mummies and other artifacts; development of these special case designs may be adaptable for exhibition storage of valuable library materials.

## Dar-al-Kutub

Under the Library Fellows Programme sponsored by the American Library Association and the United States Information Agency, Debra McKern, Assistant Binding Officer at the LC, spent 7 months at the National Library of Egypt (Dar al-Kutub).

It was the first national library to be established in the Middle East. Founded in 1870, its collection initially consisted of manuscripts gathered from mosques, shrines, educational

institutions, endowments and government offices throughout the country. Many rare books have been donated by members of the Egyptian Royal Family over the years. Among the Library's most precious holdings are early printed Korans from an era when Islamic law restricted the use of the printing press.

Dar al-Kutub is housed in an eight-story, 1970's era building that does not have heating, air conditioning or ventilation systems. In the summer, windows are opened for relief from the heat and the collection is thus exposed to dust, insects, and other dangers. In the winter, temperatures in Cairo can fall to 35 degrees. The Egyptian government is eager to renovate Dar al-Kutub or the library's other building at Bab al-Khal (now shared with the Islamic Art Museum) into suitable repository for the rare books and manuscripts in the collection.

## Project

The library Fellow's assignment was to survey the Dar al-Kutub collection in terms of preservation needs and priorities, assess environmental conditions in the building, and make recommendations for a preservation policy and improved preservation procedures. In the original fellowship proposal, the importance of the project was stated unequivocally: «This project will provide Egypt with the first steps towards saving some of her most precious properties.»

During the first five months of the fellowship, volumes of data were gathered from the collections. McKern used as an assessment tool in the process the preservation needs assessment instrument developed by the Research Library Group (RLG). The LC field office in Cairo offered a good deal of support and advice as well.

By February 1992, the focus of the preservation needs assessment at Dar al-Kutub was shifting from data collection to data analysis. The 440 volume samples of the collection received the most attention at this point. All completed survey data was analysed according to the RLG needs assessment model, modified for the Dar al-Kutub project.

Debra Mc Kern recommended that the Dar al-Kutub make environmental controls, disaster preparedness, and stack maintenance its top three preservation priorities. «Better housing is needed to prevent or retard further damage to the collections. By placing the emphasis on prevention rather than treatment, the cost per volume is lower and some items are saved that otherwise might be destroyed.» She also suggested organizational changes that would improve the library's ability to obtain funding and would create departments such as Collections Management and Special Collections to deal with preservation centrally. Finally, a phased approach to preservation was advised: phase 1 -little or no cost activities (e.g., translate preservation standards and guidelines into Arabic); phase 2 -smaller, stand-alone projects (e.g., conduct care and handling workshops for staff and users); phase 3 -large-scale projects (e.g., conduct a retrospective microfilming project for newspapers and journals).

them in solving particular problems such as parchment binding, restoration of brittle paper, disinfection.

M. Otto trained them with practical exercises; every colleague was given a book in bad repair coming from the storage area. They unbound them and treated them in aqueous milieux at medium temperature and bleached them with potassium permanganate and sodium borhydrid. Gaps were filled by hand in humid milieux and the lining was done with a special adhesive made for that purpose. Paper splitting has only been shown. Then the books were bound anew after their original bindings. A parchment binding was made after the historical techniques by each participant, and a modern one was made too.

From the Croatian side, a great interest has been shown and the workshop proved to be successful. It will take place again on a three months basis spread over three years. Besides particular needs to be discussed and worked on, next programme will show how to make wooden boards, and a one day seminary is due for the interested libraries and archives of Ex-Yugoslavia.

## Help from Leipzig

### News from the Regional Centers

The National and University Library of Ljubljana in Slovenia asked for the technical help of the Conservation department (Zentrum für Bücherhaltung) of the Deutsche Bücherei of Leipzig. Mr Henrik Otto went there for a four weeks course to initiate the restaurators with the techniques in use at Leipzig.

Thanks to the enterprising personality of a bookbinder, M. Peter Staut, the National Library of Ljubljana has been acquainted to the basics of restoration from the early eighties. In 1991 the restoration department employed five young people, all high school graduated, who organized a six month training programme mostly on bookbinding. Unfortunately M. Staut retired and the department happened to be in great need of somebody who could help them to design, supervise the restoration process, and to advise

## 1992-93 Activities at the Caracas Conservation Center

### Courses

The center administers a course which features at least 600 class hours and 200 hours for internship projects, beginning each year in September and ending in August. Scholarships for this course are provided by the Perez Guerrero trust fund of the Group 77 of the United Nations which aims to train conservation technicians in archives and libraries throughout the region as part of a larger effort to



institutionalize preservation programmes and services.

### Seminar in Cordoba, Argentina

As a follow up on the survey of the Jesuit book collection completed by the Center in 1989, the Universidad Nacional de Cordoba in Argentina and the Center in Caracas organized a seminar for southern cone countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay) which received financial support of the UNESCO Cultural Offices in Cuba. The seminar was designed as an introduction to preservation concepts, techniques and alternatives. Twelve institutions were represented, including collection directors and their technicians. One of the highlights of the seminar was the presentation of the slide and tape produced and co-produced in Caracas «Disaster Response and Recovery».

### Technical assistance

The Center's Technical Director, Zigmunt Dolinski, travelled to Buenos Aires (Argentina) and to Montevideo in Uruguay, in order to advise on micrographic installations and production. In addition, the Center's micrographics division provided the quality control supports which the preservation project for the Fifth Centennial -ABIANA programming was requiring and in many cases contributed the negative film.

### Survey of special collections and preservation facilities

As part of the Fifth Centennial efforts, the Center undertook to survey special collections and preservation services existing in five countries of South America. They include Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Bolivia. The sixth country is Panama and was visited previously. The five reports make up a more than 120 pages volume of information that will help the Center to have a better and more up to date panorama of the situation both from the point of view of resources as well as conceptual limitations.

### Funding

The Norwegian Directorate for public and school libraries has granted the National Library of Venezuela the sum of NOK 120,000 as a contribution toward the organization of a preservation course for technicians and librarians from Central American countries. To become acquainted with the public library system and with the Conservation Center of the National Library, Mr. Langeland and Mr. Bendik Rugaas, National Library of Norway, visited Venezuela early in March.

### Support to El Salvador

Alicia Briceno, Chief of the Division for Conservation of books printed after 1850, visited El Salvador in October 1992 in order to undertake a condition survey for the National Library of El Salvador. In addition, she will conduct a demonstration workshop and give audiovisual talks on the principles of preservation and conservation. This mission is requested by the Director of the NL of El Salvador, Sonia De La Cruz de Luna.

### Memory of Iberoamerica

The Association of Iberoamerican National Libraries is preparing a new project with a strong preservation component that is entitled «Memory of Iberoamerica». The objectives are: union catalog and microfilming for preservation; establishment of preservation services and interlibrary lending through microfilm record.; training of preservation technicians and library staff.

### LOURDES BLANCO RETIRES

After having created in 1988 the Caracas Pac Regional Center in the Conservation Center of the National Library of Venezuela, Lourdes Blanco has decided to retire in March 1993. Thanks to her untiring activity, she contributed to promote conservation throughout South America, and to defend the Spanish language with the neverending joviality all her PAC colleagues were so much delighted with. Thanks Lourdes for keeping to fight to save our patrimony which is in great need of your advice and energy !

**"The delegates to the workshop demonstrated a wide range of abilities and commitment."**

## **ALIA-APSIG Preservation Management Workshop in Suva (Fiji) by the Canberra Preservation Office**

A second Australian Library and Information Association - Asia Pacific Special Interest Group (ALIA-APSIG) preservation management workshop was held at the University of South Pacific Library, from 30 November to 4 December 1992. The workshop was coordinated and led by Wendy Smith, Preservation Services, National Library of Australia; Dr Ross Harvey, Senior Lecturer, Monash University, co-author of the workshop training manual; also took part Mr Kim Morris, Paper Conservator, National Library of Australia, who was present to provide additional professional help with practical sessions. Twenty three delegates from a total of thirteen South Pacific countries attended the workshop.

It was funded principally by a grant to ALIA-APSIG from Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Additional funding was provided by a number of sources including: the Australian Commission for UNESCO, the National Library of Australia, Monash University, and IFLA (through Wendy Smith's Vosper Fellowship for 1992/93.) A further grant from the IFLA-PAC Core Programme has been requested to provide a set of basic training materials for each library which sent delegates to the workshop.

### **Teaching methods**

Teaching was by means of lectures, demonstrations, and practical sessions. In the

afternoon of 3 December, delegates inspected the conservation laboratory of the National Archives of Fiji. The training manual which was used for this workshop was developed initially for a similar workshop in Bangkok and was found to be quite appropriate for the situation in the Pacific. Overnight exercises consisted of delegates responding to a series of questions concerning problems faced in their own institutions. This enabled the focussing of theoretical sessions towards identified problems, and as an approach, was found to be very satisfactory. The workshop concluded with a group exercise on setting preservation priorities. With a cohesive language group, communication was not a problem and satisfactory progress was made in establishing the basis of a preservation management policies for three different types of institutions - a large national or university library, a small regional library, and a small national archive.

The selection of appropriate candidates for workshops and seminars continues to be a problem and the delegates to the Fiji workshop demonstrated a wide range of abilities and commitment.

Since returning home, delegates have been contacted for a follow up report on their work since returning to their own institutions.



*Jan Lyall.  
Director of the Canberra Regional Center.*

# *"A few libraries have complaints about biodeterioration and brittle paper."*

## ► SHORTER REVIEW

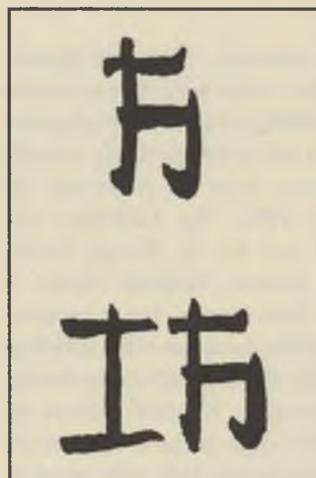
### ■ Project «Memory of the World»

IFLA takes part in the elaboration of a new UNESCO project called «Memory of the World». The first studies were launched in 1992 to identify the scope of the project. Its aim is to save documents and materials (libraries and archives) that are regarded as the major testimonies of the intellectual history of humanity and that may disappear because of lack of money. The first phase of the programme consists in identifying these artifacts of memory; the ways to make use of their access (thanks to photographic reproduction and data bank) have then to be determined; then the restoration or conservation work has to be made realizable thanks to a selffinancing system coming from the marketing of the pictures of the documents.

A first and extraordinary spot has been studied in 1992 - the manuscripts of Sana'a Great Mosque in Yemen. The historical qualities of the collection that consists of 15,000 pieces of parchment and paper and of volumes found in the ceiling of the Mosque, are outstanding.

Since 1992, an Austrian restorer woman, with the help of a small team, has been tackling a momentous classification and restoration work with remarkable patience, courage and energy, but there is still a lot to be done.

Other spots and ways of saving will be studied shortly. IFLA is very active in the elaboration of the criteria that will be decisive for determining the future collections and the documents that are regarded as part of the memory of the world.



### **Preservation needs survey conducted by the PAC Regional Center for Asia (Tokyo)**

In August 1992 the PAC Regional Center for Asia at the National Diet Library (NDL), Japan, conducted a Library Preservation Needs Survey of National Libraries in Asia and Pacific Regions. As a joint project with the Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific in the National Library of Australia, the aim of the survey was for the Regional Centers to evaluate the likely scope of the existing problems and to determine the preservation needs of the region.

The questionnaire was sent to 20 libraries with collecting and preservation responsibilities at the national level in East and South-West Asia. (South-East Asia and the Pacific were covered by the Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific).

So far we have received replies from 10 libraries out of 20.

#### **Results**

In the following we try to show some of the findings of the survey. In so doing we do not intend to generalize about the conditions of the entire region, because we think that the information obtained is not sufficient. Generalization or simplification would be very misleading because the natural, historical and cultural backgrounds vary greatly from country to country in the region.

This survey was aimed at libraries with collecting and preservation responsibilities at the national level. It should be noted that in most cases there is more than one library that has national responsibilities, apart from Japan where the NDL is the sole national library.

### National Library of Brasil

The National Library of Brasil has reorganized its preservation services. The new coordinator is the Chemist Antonio Carlos Nunes Baptista. Both the micro-reproduction and the conservation/restoration divisions will report to him.

### National Library of Argentina

The National Library of Argentina has begun relocating its collections from the traditional Avenida Mexico building to the new headquarters officially inaugurated in April. The library has the support of a society of friends which is making plans for the creation of a preservation service beginning with microfilming. National Librarian Enrique Pavon Perira has been successful in obtaining financial support to contract the microfilming of the «sala del tesoro», a collection where manuscripts and European and American incunabulae, are housed. Recent reports indicated that the work had already begun and was progressing on schedule.

### Biblioteca Mayor in Cordoba, Argentina

Following the seminar on preservation offered jointly with the Center of Caracas, in December 1991, the Biblioteca Mayor in Cordoba, that houses major rare book collections of Argentina, organized a very successful seminar on the responsibility of librarians in preservation. The seminar was entitled: Reunion Sobre Preservacion y Conservacion en Bibliotecas y Archivos. It was attended by 32 persons, including librarians and archivists from all the university libraries in Cordoba and from institutions in the vicinity.

This is important information when the PAC Regional Center tries to establish communication networks and to disseminate information in the region.

It is foreseeable that many countries, if not all, have a legal deposit system of one kind or another. The Regional Center is interested to know whether or not there is government legislation which governs preservation functions, a written national policy for the preservation of library materials, and a national conservation/preservation programme. Positive answers to these questions could hardly be found. It is noteworthy, however, that the Republic of Korea has a Library Promotion Law according to which the National Center Library has the responsibility of preserving as well as collecting domestic and foreign materials. How it is working is not known.

Nationally coordinated cooperative preservation programmes have yet to start in all countries. The NDL of Japan has a preservation Cooperation Programme which seeks to bring cooperative preservation programmes into being.

Although the leadership of national libraries in preservation is very important in light of the IFLA PAC Core Programme, the responses to this question are not very positive. It is encouraging however, that the National Library of Pakistan, the GPSH of DPRK and the NDL of Japan are making efforts to raise preservation awareness in their countries through publications, workshops and seminars.

The section on the national library's leadership role includes a question whether or not the national libraries are compiling a union list of master negative microforms. This is one of the possible areas of cooperative preservation programmes but no such project is known to be undertaken. In this connection, it should be taken into consideration that only four libraries out of nine replied that they were operating a microfilming programme. We therefore have to admit that this question, like some others, was irrelevant to many libraries.

Most of the libraries described the general condition of their collections as fairly good,

but a few have complaints about biodeterioration and brittle paper; as for acidic paper, only the GPSH replied that it was undertaking deacidification but the details are not known.

All libraries are operating in-house exhibition programmes. The problem is that many are not monitoring environmental conditions in the exhibition areas. It is also noteworthy that only two libraries are monitoring temperature and relative humidity in the storage area other than the exhibition areas. Not all libraries have air conditioning.

Only two libraries replied that they had a written disaster plan. Because disaster prevention and response is an important subject of preservation and conservation, there will be a need to increase awareness of the importance of a disaster plan.

### Expectations

The last section of the questionnaire was devoted to the need for the IFLA PAC Core Programme. As far as the survey shows, what the libraries expect from the PAC Regional Centers are information service, workshops/seminars, professional training programmes, and research/development.

The IFLA PAC Core Programme is expected to provide national libraries with up-to-date preservation information; manuals, guidelines, standards, etc...educational materials on conservation treatment, repairing and book binding.

The Regional Centers were interested to know in the survey what kind of topics would be thought appropriate, if a workshop/seminar should be held. The replies are: overall views of preservation; preservation management for library administrators; conservation treatment, repairing, and book binding, environmental control for library materials.

This is only a rough abstract of the results of the survey. The information obtained will be used for the Regional Center to plan preservation programmes in years to come. The cooperation of the national libraries in the region for this survey is highly appreciated.

## Literature

### CONFERENCE

#### Dahlem Workshop Report on Durability and Change: The Science, Responsibility, and Cost of Sustaining Cultural Heritage

Report of the Workshop held from 6-11 december 1992, Berlin.

The purpose of the Dahlem Konferenzen is to promote international interdisciplinary exchange of scientific information and ideas to stimulate international cooperation in research. This is achieved by arranging discussion workshop, mainly in life science and environmental sciences, organized according to a model developed and tested by the Dahlem Konferenzen.

The discussions of the workshop are organized around four key questions, each tackled by a group of about twelve participants with a range of expertise. There are no lectures; instead, prior to the workshop, selected participants write background papers that review particular facets of the topic and serve as the basis for discussion. These papers are distributed to all participants before the meeting, then each of the four discussion groups prepares a report reflecting the ideas, opinions and controversies that have emerged from their discussion as well as identifying problems areas and directions for future research.

The revised background papers and group reports are published as the Dahlem Workshop Reports. They are published in two series: Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences

The topics developed during the December 1992 workshop are:

- What is Durability in Artifacts and What Inherent Factors Determine it?
- How Do External Factors Accelerate Change?
- What Are Appropriate Techniques to

Evaluate Change and to Sustain Cultural Heritage,

-What Are Responsibilities for Cultural Heritage and where Do they Lie?

Publisher and Distributor: John Wiley et Sons, Ltd  
Baffins Lane, UK- Chichester PO19 1UD

### BOOKS

#### Biodeterioration of Paper and Books by YU. P. Nyuksha.

The author has summarized her own investigations of many years into preservation of libraries, archives and museum goods.

Their permanence is considered against the background of micromycetes inhabiting book-stores. Contamination ways and stages and forms of fungal development on various editions are established. Identification is given of 288 species of fungi inhabiting paper and books. Deterioration features and the biochemistry of disintegration processes have been studied. Dependences between human mycopathology and book diseases are described. Methods to regulate and protect books and other documents against fungal deterioration have been proposed.

Available from the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
1, Birzhevaja , St Petersbourg, Russia.

#### Theft and Loss from UK Libraries: A National Survey

by John Burrows, Diane Cooper.  
London: Home Police department, 1992, 56 p.  
(Crime prevention unit series; Paper 37). ISBN  
0-86252-777-5

An accurate study interesting for its methodology and for its surprising and frightening conclusions : 28 % of the surveyed libraries never do stocktaking; staff thievery isn't that infrequent !

#### La restauration des livres manuscrits et imprimés - Principes et méthodologie.

Paris. Direction du Livre et de la Lecture. Bibliothèque Nationale, 1992.  
96 p. (Coll. «Pro Libris»). FF 175.  
ISBN 2 7177 1865 6

A detailed description of the management of the stocks and the priorities to be determined for the restoration of documents, such as it is in use at the Bibliothèque Nationale. The stress is laid on the difference between restoration and mere repairing. This book, first intended to help librarians in managing their old stocks, is a valuable companion to anyone interested in the subject.

### ARTICLES

#### The Goals and Objectives of Collections Conservation by Brian J. Baird. in Restaurator, vol.13, n°4, 1992.

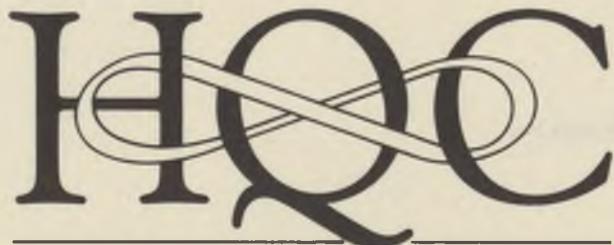
This paper deals with the matter of planning a sensible and well-thought conservation policy of the collections of libraries.

It points out simple methods of organization on the part of the conservators in charge who must inform and brief librarians, the first ones to be in touch with books in bad repair, about the necessity of preservation.

B.Baird stresses the importance of increasing the quality of the treatments performed: expensive as they may be, the soundest the treatments are, the more economical and the more usable books become in the long term. All this must be done on a short time basis in order not to disturb the flow of the patrons' needs. These requirements should be made possible thanks to a well integration of the conservation policy into the every day life of a library.

### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE EX-YUGOSLAVIA

The Director of the National and University Library of Zagreb, Dr. Ivan Mihel and the Chief of the Development Department, Dr. Dubravka



HAUTE QUALITÉ DE CONSERVATION

***ARCHIVER - PRESENTER***

*Plis Barrière*

*Pochettes Papier Permanent*

*Pochettes Film Patrimoine*

*Classeurs Patrimoine*

*Boîtes Patrimoine*

***DUPLIQUER***

*Papier Photocopie Conservation*

***RESTAURER***

*Pâte Linters de coton*

*Papier Barrière*

*Papiers Japonais*

*Buvard Neutre 100 % chiffon*

***MONTER - ENCADRER***

*Vélin de Montage*

*Papiers Permanents*

*Cartons Museum*

*Cartons Conservation*

*Contrecollés Beaux-Arts couleur*

# Patrimoine

canson®

Skender, have issued 2 important publications to inform the international community of the disasters of the Croatian cultural heritage.

*Croatian Libraries in Target* is a guide that collects data concerning 210 libraries. School libraries seem to have more suffered from damages. Besides building destructions, many collections have been looted or destroyed.

The second publication is entitled: *War in Croatia*. It is a bibliography of articles published in Croatian and foreign newspapers, composed of 3 volumes:

- 1- *Destruction in 1991*.
- 2- *Destruction and rebuilding, 1992*.
- 3- *Repercussions in foreign newspapers, 1991-92*.

For more information, please contact:  
Nacionalna i Sveucilisna Biblioteka. Hrvatska,  
41001 Zagreb. Ex-Yugoslavia.  
Tel: 428 440 - Fax: 426 676.

**1993, COPENHAGEN, 1-4 August**  
**8th European Conference on Reading -**  
**Experience and Knowledge**

The International Reading Association (IFLA) and the Danish Reading Organization are holding this conference that will take place in H.C. Orsted Institute, University of Copenhagen.

for further information:  
Dis Congress Service; Copenhagen A/S; Herlev Ringvej 2C  
DK 2730 Herlev, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Tel: 45 4492 4492  
Fax: 45 4492 50500

**1993, AMSTERDAM, 13-15 December**  
**International Conference on Grey Literature**

This International Conference on Grey Literature is the first of its kind and will no doubt offer a solid platform on which to manifest the State of Art and provide, as did the Weinberg Report, a vision and standard for the years to come.

Besides the official opening of the exhibition and Information market, there will also be a special session for presentation by the exhibitors of their information products, services, and other R&D activities.

Information from:  
Transatlantic Information Consultancy and Translation Bureau  
Koninginneweg 201, 1075 CR Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Combi-Tel-Fax: (31) (0) 20 67 11 818

## Coming events

**1993, BARCELONA, 22-28 August**  
**59th IFLA Council and General Conference**

Full day workshop on conservation. Theme:  
New technologies for conservation.

**1993, LONDON, August to October**  
**Short Courses for Photographic Conservation Programme:**

The Center for Photographic Conservation proposes a series of short courses spreading from August to October 1993.

Contact: The Centre for Photographic Conservation  
233 Stanstead Rd, Forest Hill, London SE 23 1HU  
Tel: 081 690 36 78.