

INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION

A Newsletter of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation

NEWS

N° 7 - December 1993

Contents

Seminar in Nairobi

page 6

Education for Preservation

page 8

The Regional Centre of Venezuela: A
Conservation Centre with National and
Regional Commitments

page 11

Emergency Response for Libraries

page 12

News from the Regional Centre for
Western Europe

page 13

Literature

page 15

Coming Events

page 16



INTERNATIONAL FOCAL POINT

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 Direction technique
 2, rue Vivienne
 75084 Paris Cedex 02
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Director: Jean-Marie Arnoult
 Tel.: (33.1) 47.03.88.32
 Fax: (33.1) 47.03.85.52

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 U.S.A.

Director: Kenneth Harris
 Tel.: 1.202.707.5213
 Fax: 1.202.707.3434

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 Fax: 58.2.941.5219

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INTERNATIONAL
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n° 7 December 1993 NEWS

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The Pan-African conference in Nairobi will be a landmark in the history of the conservation of the collections in African libraries and archives.

It gave the opportunity to African countries to take stock of the situation. Some presentations were very cogent especially where conservation is still in dire straits. A feeling of bitterness pervaded through the conference about the lack of interest of governments. However, librarians and archivists showed their willingness and continue to do their best. Never feel dispondent was the motto of that conference.

In most cases, conservation must face harsh difficulties due to climate, lack of staff and technical means. Theoretical solutions are interesting as far as they can be adapted to the very specific demands of the African countries. The attention and the curiosity of the participants showed how the search for solutions is the first priority of librarians, technicians and scientifics. It has been decided that platforms for inter-African cooperation should be set shortly in order to coordinate activities, to implement the search for solutions and to open new files.

The conference is over, the real work is beginning now.

Jean-Marie ARNOULT

‘Locally produced paper is

Seminar in Nairobi



List of resolutions

■ The conference recommends that the professionals of archives, libraries, museums, and related disciplines undertake awareness raising activities at institutional and national levels.

■ Conscious of the communications problems in Africa and internationally, the conference recommends the use of the existing publications of IFLA and ICA to inform about preservation and conservation activities taking place in Africa.

■ Aware of the need for preservation policies for library and archival materials, the conference strongly recommends the establishment in each country of a committee to develop a national preservation policy for implementation by their governments.

■ This conference urges the governments of Africa to recognize the need to devote financial and other resources to ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage.

As it was announced in our previous issue, the Pan-African Seminar on Conservation took place in Nairobi from June 21 to 25, 1993. About 40 communications were given, most of them assessing the needs and difficulties of the 25 African countries that were present.

Without underestimating the individual needs that are specific to each country, there was a general complaint about the lack of money, staff and facilities that prevent the African institutions from carrying through their preservation policies. The message emphasizing the necessity to develop preservation activities has been passed on and there seemed to be a general awareness of the matter among librarians and archivists throughout Africa. However since financial solutions are usually hampered by economic situations shared by most African countries, alternative solutions have to be found.

In this connection, René Georges Sonnet-Azize, Director of the National Archives of Gabon, gave a realistic review of the preservation and conservation structures in Central Africa regarding legislation, housing, equipment and budget. He proposed teaching programmes adapted to Central Africa and concluded that the primary emphasis must be placed on raising the awareness of African governments and the people responsible for counties.

Leyla Berrada, Lecturer at the School of Sciences of Information (ESI) of Morocco presented the cooperation activities that the ESI has been developing with non governmental and governmental organizations. The effort could attain full efficiency, said L. Berrada, if the emphasis were laid on the training of high level instructors in the field of restoration, and the establishment of a national training centre on restoration techniques. These activities could be coordinated by a Moroccan agency.

Proposals for training programmes in conservation and preservation have been developed by Antoine Tendeng, Lecturer at the EBAD: he suggested a three-week course that would provide some theoretical and practical knowledge necessary for the conservation of documents with a particular stress laid on the different African climatic zones.

The flaws of the conservation programmes in Africa

Peter C. Mazikana, Managing Director of the Techtop Consulting Services of Zimbabwe, made a complete analysis of the existing literature on the conditions of the African archives and libraries. According to him, *'the preservation process has to begin with a particular carefulness that must be attached to the quality of the materials being used, that do not contain within them the very seeds of their own self-destruction.'*

Thus the quality of paper used, the film stock for microforms and the discs for computers must be made with ingredients that assure a long life. However it is seldom that this requirement can be met in Africa. Locally produced paper is usually of very inferior quality. The markets are often small so that they are not many paper plants to compete for and to improve the quality. There are not many facilities even for testing the acidity of the materials. An alternative is to introduce regulatory mechanisms to ensure that copies for preservation are recorded on suitable materials. In libraries the situation is slightly better but similar problems are experienced with the local productions which are produced on inferior materials. This problem especially affects the depositary libraries, the mandate of which is to preserve the local publications for posterity.

The situation outlined above comprises the first and fundamental failure of the preservation and conservation programmes in Africa. Unless resources can be released to extend the role of the custodians for this phase of life cycle, all the others parameters are almost impossible to be implemented successfully... No amount of legislation can force public entities to use good quality paper for

usually of very inferior quality

■ Recognizing the needs for various levels of preservation training and education, the conference recommends the expansion of existing training programmes for librarians and archivists to devote more attention to preservation issues and the underlying sciences. It also recognizes the need for training preservation technicians within the existing library and archives institutions.

■ The establishment of research programmes in existing research institutions for working on problems specific to African preservation issues is recommended.

■ Recognizing the need for the recording and preservation of Africa oral history and traditions, and the need to raise awareness of the importance of this cultural heritage, the conference recommends the convening of a Pan-African conference on this subject.

■ Recognizing that Africa does not have standards on conservation and preservation, and aware that national standards bodies exist in individual countries, this conference recommends that professionals liaise with these national bodies and research institutes on preservation needs. Moreover the conference urges professionals to become corresponding members of International Standards Organization and when necessary request ICA to present African needs and views.

record copies if the pulp plants cannot hope to secure the requisite inputs many of which require foreign currency. The book industry depends on the resources the printers are able to find...

P.C. Mazikana also complained about some idle conservation equipments for lack of repairing facilities. In order to curb this wastage, he proposes the establishment of "regional supply centers" that could facilitate the links between aid programmes so that libraries and archives could use local currency to bring in the imports.

Technical communications have also been delivered. To name but a few, K. Harris spoke about research findings on preservation and conservation of library and archival materials; G. Mackenzie's communication dealt with the availability, affordability and application of preservation and conservation technologies; Jan Lyall presented instructions for a disaster plan etc.

All the communications have been gathered by the PAC International Centre and will be printed shortly. By summer 94 they will be available from the International Centre at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

Resolutions

The matters brought up during the seminar have given birth to the elaboration of a list of resolutions drawn up by the IFLA's African Regional Standing Committee coopt in cooperation with the ICA's regional branches in order to find solutions and to try to implement them.

Among the hottest issues, the conference recommends that procedures to record the oral cultures of African countries be taken, and that professionals work in close cooperation with national and international preservation bodies (see in the margins).

Virginie KREMP ■

Judy Segal Trust makes first awards and invites further applications

■ The Judy Segal Trust has recently made its first awards for projects which will further the preservation and conservation of archive and library materials in less developed countries. The recipients were Dra Milagros Mercedes Vaillant Callol, Principal Researcher with the *Archivo Nacional de Cuba*, and Flossie Alinawo Matenje, Senior Assistant Librarian at the Chancellor College Library of the University of Malawi. The Trust was established in 1990 in memory of Judy Segal, who was a Senior Paper Conservator at the Bodleian Library in Oxford until her death in November 1989. It exists to further the preservation and conservation of archives, manuscripts and books in less well developed countries where the need is greatest. The Trustees seek, in particular, to reinforce institutions which have already developed basic

conservation facilities and infrastructures and where there are clear long-term benefits to be derived from the projects proposed.

Applications are now invited for grants from the Trust for the period September 1994 to August 1995. Grants will normally be in the range of £2,500 to £5,000. Strong preference will be given to projects in which the beneficiaries offer to meet part of the costs or in which the Trust would be co-sponsor with other funding agencies.

The types of project which will be considered favourably by the Trustees include:

1. Short-term internships in established conservation centres to enable conservators (including archivists and librarians engaged in the management of preservation and conservation programmes) from less developed countries to learn new skills or upgrade their existing ones.
2. Attendance by such conservators at relevant conservation workshops, seminars, short courses, etc.

3. Short-term conservation consultancies in less developed countries.

4. Provision of instructors for national or regional conservation workshops in less developed countries.

5. Provision of experienced conservators to work short-term alongside conservators in less developed countries to pass on new skills and techniques or to develop existing ones.

More details about award guidelines and application forms may be obtained from: the Secretary, Judy Segal Trust, c/o The Management Centre, 9/15 Blackett Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5BS, England. Tel: +44 91 222 1632 - Fax: +44 91 261 7002

The last date for receipt of applications for projects to be undertaken during the period September to December 1994 will be 11 April 1994. The last date for receipt of applications for projects to be undertaken after 1 January 1995 will be 12 September 1994.

Michael ROPER, Chairman ■



Education for preservation



The delegates of the Fiji workshops, December 92.

PRODUCT

MicroChamber has released Active Archival Storage Materials, which they say, actively contribute to the preservation of the collections they house.

The porous, open weave of the transmission surface of MicroChamber Active Archival Papers and Boards is an extremely strong conservation paper made of pure, long fiber alpha cellulose. The sulfur and lignin-free fibers are manufactured to various specific porosities through which the internal, active layers of MicroChamber materials have access to the interiors of storage enclosures.

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As the result of a grant under the IFLA Robert Vosper Fellowship scheme for 1992/93, the author has been developing, as part of the IFLA-PAC programme, a series of interactive training modules in preservation management for use in the South East Asia and Pacific regions. They are based, in a large part, on face to face workshops undertaken in Thailand and Fiji in 1992 (see IPN n. 5 and 6).

Training in developing countries

Training in library preservation methods and procedures has been identified as a high priority need in many developing countries. However, Western methods and materials are not always available or even suitable for preservation in some regions of the world. The unquestioning application of such procedures is not necessarily effective and can sometimes be counter productive. An understanding of the issues and management practices that underlie preservation decision making is of prime importance to

‘Training can be und

the running of an effective library preservation programme in any institution. This project attempts to develop tools which will aid the explanation and development of preservation management strategies for use in developing regions of the world.

The work relies on the concept that before any effective preservation management strategy can be put in place in any institution, two important conditions need to be fulfilled:

- A statement on the scope and purpose of its collections should exist - what they are for, how they are used, and how long they need to be kept.
- Basic facts on how the collections can best be preserved should be known - taking into account the scope and purpose of the collections.

From this, it can be seen that the building up of a clear picture of any institution - its policies, collections and housing, is a prerequisite for any preservation management plan.

The ultimate intention is that training can be undertaken primarily by correspondence - which, in terms of financial resources, will represent an enormous saving. Each module will include exercises for assessment and comment, to be undertaken in the first trial by the National Library of Australia in its role as IFLA-PAC Regional Centre. It is proposed that a small fee may need to be charged to cover loan of materials and equipment, but in general it is seen as a very low cost way to achieve an effective first line preservation training programme in the region.

The major thrust of the work is based on three propositions: preservation is for access; not all library collections can be preserved; not all library collections need to be preserved.

The first major step in developing training materials came as part of the ALIA-APSIG preservation management workshop held in Bangkok in April 1992.

The workshop manual was seen as an essential teaching aid - providing written coverage of the topics of the workshop, including copies of all overhead transparencies. This allowed delegates to concentrate on the material presented without the need to take exhaustive notes.

Post workshop follow-up

Post workshop follow-up was considered an essential part of the timetable. In January 1993, delegates to the workshop were contacted and asked to provide feedback on the workshop, commenting on what longer term effects they believe it has had on their work place with respect to progress with preservation activities, and particularly with res-

ertaken by correspondence

pect to desirable outcomes identified by them in the final workshop session. Reports -received by April 93- were all very positive, although progress in any institution will always be hampered by lack of resources. What is very important though, is the increased awareness of preservation issues and of preventive procedures involved in aspects such as housing and building design.

Follow-up on progress for the second workshop, which took place in Fiji in Winter 92, has been much more speedy. Delegates have been contacted within a few weeks of the workshop finishing, asking for a progress report. Besides keeping the issue of preservation management to the forefront in the delegates' post workshop activities, it was hoped that this more immediate follow-up would provide useful information on the validity of the workshop materials. It was also intended to set the scene for an interactive response to the delegates. By asking them for a progress report, and in particular for prototype policies, the opportunity to provide constructive comment on progress to date exists. Up to now, only a small number of delegates have replied.

Partly because of the distances involved, and the relatively small populations of Pacific and Oceania countries, the problem of co-ordination for that region are even more immense. Travel in particular is very difficult, and can involve delegates in absences of up to four weeks or longer to attend a one-week course. However regional workshops are an excellent way of bringing people together with similar interests, allowing an exchange of information on a one to one basis.

Tools

For both workshops, a considerable amount of teaching material has already been put together building on this material and other such as the IFLA PAC (1991) package *Disaster Response and Recovery: Books and Manuscripts* which was produced after a workshop in Venezuela. The package will be more than just a series of readings. Active participation and feedback are essential components of any effective learning process, and an integral component of the package is a set of programmed exercises. Satisfactory completion of one module is expected before progression to the next. Individual commitment to the process by any trainee is obviously very important.

It is expected that the package will be used in two different ways: the first with a trained resource person in attendance, in which case a workshop situation is appropriate; the second as a correspondence course, for organizations or individuals where a workshop situation is not practical. In the short

term, the Australian IFLA PAC Regional Centre will act as the host institution for assessment purposes.

Initially the material will be prepared in English, although the possibility of translating it into other languages could be considered once the modules have been tested. The contents of the package will follow, in general terms, the guidelines contained in the publication *Principles for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials*, (Dureau and Clements, IFLA, 1986). The actual content will be based on the 1992 Bangkok and Fiji ALIA-APSIG workshops, amended after appropriate evaluation.

The training manual itself has performed very satisfactorily at two workshops in quite different environments. With some minor editorial changes it could be used in a variety of situations if a trained instructor is provided on site. The future of any interactive or remote training scenario depends on the availability of an off site trainer. It is possible to guide any library by correspondence through the processes needed to come up with a preservation management plan. The ready access to electronic mail in some countries in the region will lend an immediacy to the process not currently available through traditional postal channels.

The real test of the feasibility of this interactive process will stand the test however, when resources are needed to provide that trainer. Although it has been possible to develop training materials for off site use, satisfactory implementation in that mode needs the commitment of institutional or organizational resources at an international level.

Proposed preservation training package

There will be three major components to the training materials:

1) A preservation questionnaire, completed before the workshop begins or before the first learning module - to build up a world picture of the institution.

2) Background information on what preservation is about - why it is necessary; what there is about library materials that make them subject to decay; what can be done to retard this decay; how information can be preserved if the original document cannot.

3) Development of a preservation management plan for the institution, using the information gathered in the questionnaire, and learnt in the earlier modules.

The chief emphasis of the package will be to encourage participants to develop realistic and practical preservation policies and procedures, both strategic and operational, for use in their own institutions.

Contents

The contents of the packages will include information on the following:

- how to undertake a survey of physical and environmental condition in the institution;
- the physical and chemical composition of library materials;
- the effects of the physical environment and its control;
- the effects of the human environment;
- treatment option;
- disaster preparedness (to be used in conjunction with the Venezuelan package);
- institutional priorities for preservation;
- developing an institutional preservation policy.

Format

It is intended that the format of the training package be as follows:

- loose leaf training manual consisting of a series of readings and related references;
- a set of practical exercises: on site - to be completed following relevant training session; by correspondence - to be completed following relevant reading, then returned to the host institution for assessment;
- for each set of readings where appropriate, a series of 35mm photographic slides. For the correspondence version, these could be for loan only or for purchase;
- workshop materials, list of suppliers and samples as appropriate;
- current relevant preservation videos for loan or purchase.

The concept behind this package is to have materials that can be modified to suit local needs, or to take account of changing or updated methods and philosophies of preservation. For this reason, a loose leaf manual is preferred to a bound one, and 35mm slides are preferred to video or movie. It is not considered cost effective to produce videos as part of the training package, as they are generally expensive to produce, and lack flexibility in application. However, identified suitable videos would be made available for loan if appropriate.

The target date for the completion of the package is early 1994. If any institution or individual is interested in being part of the first trials of the package, they should contact Dr. Jan Lyall, Director, IFLA PAC Regional Centre at the National Library of Australia.

Wendy SMITH

Lecturer in Paper Conservation, National Centre
for Cultural Heritage Science Studies,
University of Canberra, Australia ■

‘Resources are extremely limited’

■ ICP (Inštitut za Celulozo in Papir)

In collaboration with the Archives of Slovenia, the Pulp & Paper Institute of Ljubljana has developed a permanent paper for conservation and restoration purposes and for long life printed publications. It is made of quality pulp fibers (cotton, fibers, bleached sulphate cellulose of coniferous and deciduous trees, it is sized in a neutral medium with alkaline sizing agents (pH = 8 - 10). The filler is CaCo₃ of not less than 5% used as alkaline buffer.

The characteristics of the paper and board comply with the specifications contained in recommendation ISO-TC 46SC 10/N 45-1991 applying to papers of increased aging stability for long life records used in archives, libraries and museums.

(in *Degradácia Archívnych a Knižničných Materiálov - Degradation of Archives and Library Materials*).

National Libraries Towards the 21st Century, Taipei

In April 20-24, an international conference on the theme “National Libraries Towards the 21st Century” took place at the National Library of Taipei which gathered about 200 persons coming from Asia, among whom 134 from Taiwan.

The main themes discussed the future and the mutation of national libraries, the legislation of legal deposit in Asia, and computerization. Conservation was cited as one of the essential function of a national library. Unfortunately not all the libraries and archives in Asia are provided with preservation centres.

K.G. Tyagi precised that the primary task of the

National Library of India regarded acquisition and preservation but that this latter “had to be looked into”. The Indian Council of Social Sciences Research set up an Inter-Library Resources Centre at New Delhi, inviting libraries to deposit their less used serial material at the Centre so that preservation activities could be ensured in line with scientific methods. In order to lessen the preservation work load of the National Library, such centers should be set up throughout the country and could work in coordination with one another.

On the other hand, there is no central policy for conservation and preservation in Hong Kong. However many different libraries have been carrying out this work together with the Public Records Office (PRO). Since 1960, a lot of titles of old Hong Kong and China Coast newspapers have been microfilmed and are stored in the PRO, the City Hall Library and other local libraries. The PRO has done a lot of microfilming at the request of the Fung Ping Shan University Library. The Chinese University of Hong Kong Library has funds allocated to the microfilming of old Hong Kong newspapers in view of preservation. Repairs and bindings on Chinese and Western rare books are performed by the bindery of the University of Hong Kong Libraries.

Virginie KREMP ■

News from Slovenia

The Preservation Department of the National and University Library in Slovenia was established in 1992. It is divided into three departments: restoration, bookbinding, formatting. To date, three bookbinders, four restorers with different technical backgrounds, and two chemists have been working in the Department which suffers from a lack of any kind of appropriate training programmes for staff. In order to solve the problem, short courses on preservation and restoration are organized thanks to the assistance of external help. Mr. Otto from the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig has already given a four-week course (see IPN n. 6). Towards the end of the year, a long week course on leafcasting techniques is planned and will be conducted by Dr. Bansa from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. A lot of effort is put on the search for training.

However because of the difficult economic situation, resources for the conservation and preservation activities are extremely limited. This problem is par-

tially solved by the action “Adopt a Book”, which has been initiated last year. Thanks to the good media coverage, the awareness of the authorities, and of the general public is being raised by the action. Financial help has also been received from international and European organizations.

Also the Library has to face a problem concerning the storage of artifacts for there is a lack of adequate storage rooms. This matter should be settled shortly with the construction of the new library's building, the beginning of which is planned for 1994. The plans for the conditioning systems, as well as the fire and theft control are in the last phase of preparation, and the building of the old library will be equipped accordingly. Moreover, a brief plan of action in case of water or fire disaster has been prepared in 1992 and should be extended in the near future. The plan of activities in war situations is fully prepared.

Next year the Pulp and Paper Institute of Ljubljana will carry out a research project on the mechanisms of aging of paper.

Jana KOLAR

Head of the Preservation Department,
National and University Library, Ljubljana ■



'The Centre increased its support to libraries in other countries'

■ CHILE

In 1982, the National Center of Conservation and Restoration for libraries, archives and museums has been set up, giving training sessions for museum curators and restorators (since 1984). Short seminars on preventive conservation are also given in cooperation with the ICCROM and the UNDP.

A foundation for the preservation and the conservation of the cultural patrimony has been created lately, the activities of which will be focused on research.

■ UNESCO: the 'Memory of the World' Programme

The first meeting of the international advisory committee of the 'Memory of the World' Programme took place in Pultusk (Poland) in September 12-14, 1993. The first regional consultation on conservation, safeguard and promotion of the Eastern and Central Europe documentary patrimony was held in the same time and at the same place. "Memory of the World" aims at safeguarding the collections of libraries and archives that are in danger of destruction, and at consulting these collections with the best adapted technical means.

A Conservation Centre with national and regional commitments

■ PAC Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conservation Centre of the National Library of Venezuela was instituted in 1981 as a directorate incorporating the binding, the conservation treatment, and the microfilming functions under development during the preceding four years. As early as 1978, the Library's new legislation had foreseen establishing a conservation facility specializing in bibliographic and audiovisual records with a nationwide mandate. As nucleus of a growing, automated-information system, the National Library was eager to implement preservation actions for its intermediate needs as well as laying the ground work for demands that soon follow as a result of its national programme.

The challenges of hiring and training staff at a competent technical level and the long-term utility of sharing accumulated knowhow with the region were quickly understood. The Centre's subsequent growth into a balanced, fully equipped conservation-preservation service with a central laboratory of more than five hundred square meters; a permanent staff of 40 people, and an intense annual work plan for both production and training, converted the facility into an important resource for other libraries, archives and museums that were lacking infrastructure and expertise.

Since 1988, when it was designated IFLA-PAC Regional Centre, the Conservation Centre increased its support to libraries and archives in other countries. With the cooperation of regional libraries associations and institutions, such as the ABINIA (Ibero-American National Libraries) and ACURIL, the Centre sought international funding for specific projects in order to meet the needs already identified in several countries. Numerous missions within the region have been successfully completed, from technical consultancy on microfilming to condition surveys of national collections. Year in and year out, the Centre has undertaken to disseminate preservation awareness and training through conferences, seminars, courses, internships and technical visits.

Attention has been specially undertaken in countries with active national libraries or where standards for conservation decision making had been missing and required bolstering up. General surveys have been undertaken in almost all South America, in most Central America countries, and in the larger Caribbean nations.

Recent developments at the Centre

To further the Centre's rebinding, microfilming and treatment sections, three new areas of crucial interest are under development: an Analytical Laboratory for testing and research, a one-year training programme at a technical level which will expand to a two and three-year certificate, and a translation/publishing venture that seeks to make conservation literature available to Spanish speaking countries.

Although still small, the Analytical Laboratory is equipped to conduct testing of films that have been archivally processed. It has undertaken several research projects such as: fungus in tropical conditions; toxic substances employed by fumigation companies. The laboratory also advises treatment staff on adequate materials to be employed in conservation work or as preservation packaging. The Centre's newest division is devoted to moving images technology, and efforts are underway to provide the basic infrastructure, procedures and trained technicians for the study of conservation actions applied to motion picture film and video.

While in-house training has been a standard practice from the onset, it was not until 1987 that the Centre developed the basic course scheme, and converted the project into a twelve-month syllabus. Between 1988 and 1992 more than 30 technicians have completed the one-year basic programme, including students from the neighbouring countries.

The Centre is a highly productive conservation facility and receives an average of thirteen hundred items annually, processing through its different divisions more than 700 orders per year. They include over 600,000 original microfilm frames, and 800,000 duplicates; 700 volumes requiring repair and rebinding on a one-to-one basis, including conservation treatment for rare books, architectural plans, maps, manuscripts, documents, prints and drawings belonging to the National Library's collections and to other historical institutions or private collectors.

For further information on the Centre's services, training courses, audiovisual aids and translation / edition programme, contact the Director for Conservation.

Lourdes BLANCO ■





Ayako KAIHARA,
Director of the PAC Regional
Centre for Asia.

■ PAC Regional Centre for Asia

The Sixth Preservation and Conservation Forum at the National Diet Library

For its sixth Forum on March 12, Dr. Richard Smith, President of Wei T'o Associates Inc., was invited to speak on "The Wei T'o Deacidification System from the Experiences of the National Library / National Archives of Canada." The forum was attended by 59 librarians, archivists, conservators and other professionals.

A specialist of ceramic engineering and librarianship, Dr. Smith started research on a paper deacidification system in the 1960s and established Wei T'o Associates. In 1981 the Wei T'o system went into production. Since then it has been used by the National Library / National Archives of Canada, the Bibliothèque Nationale's plant at Sable/Sarthe, and the Deutsche Bibliothek in Leipzig. Lately the State M.E. Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library in St Petersburg has also decided to adopt it.

Dr. Smith compared three major deacidification systems: the Akzo (DEZ) system, FMC, and the Wei

T'o. The comparison was based on the study conducted by the Library of Congress, which attempted ratings of these systems on many indicators such as: moisture content in percent by weight; tensile energy absorption degradation; stretchability of paper; hydrogen ion concentration - cold extract pH and hot extract pH; completeness of deacidification; fold endurance degradation rate, effect on the color of the paper; retention of alkali reserve in the paper; odor of the paper after treatment.

As regards new developments at Wei T'o Associates, Dr. Smith suggested an increase of productivity and a cost-down possibility. He also discussed the need to change the solvents used in the Wei T'o system from CFC to HCFC in order to comply with the global ban on fluorocarbon gas, a hot issue in the protection of the atmosphere.

pH value

In August 1992, the Centre checked the pH value of the paper of newly acquired books. The results indicate that the rate of acid free paper in use is 73.6% for the books produced by private publishers, and 33.3% for the publications produced by the governments, both central and local. The trend has been the same since 1990.

A. KAIHARA ■

■ Techniques of restoration for Italy

Sylvia Rodgers Albro, Senior paper Conservator at the Library of Congress, and Robert Futernick of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco taught a two-week section on "Techniques of Restoration" in March-April 1993 at Spoleto, Italy, in the course "Corso Europeo de Formazione Specialistica per Conservatori e Restauratori di Beni Librari" (European Course for Conservators - Restorers of Library Materials). The course, co-sponsored by the Istituto Centrale per la Patologia del Libro, the Italian Ministry of Culture, and the European Economic Community, was conducted in Italian and directed at first-year students in a two-year programme, most of whom had very little conservation treatment experience. Students who successfully complete the course in 1994 will receive a diploma of professional qualification in Conservation of Library Materials.

■ PAC Regional Centre for the USA and Canada

The Library of Congress' Preservation Directorate, in cooperation with the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada, presented three workshops in emergency preparedness and response to sixty Library employees and managers. The workshops were held September 28-30 in Washington, D.C. The training provided staff with instruction in how to respond to fire or water emergencies affecting the collections, and how to mount a collections recovery operation.

Emergency response for libraries

Like the LC, both the National Archives and the National Library of Canada have experienced water leaks that damaged their collections. The most celebrated incident occurred on July 4th, 1990, when a burst water pipe severely damaged a large part of the National Archives' valuable atlas collection. This incident prompted the staff and managers of both institutions to begin implementing a course of action that would improve their ability to deal with disasters and recovery. Critical steps included: assessing each collection to determine priorities based on value or format; identifying means of improving the physical plant in order to prevent emergencies; creating and implementing an emergency response plan; and training staff response and recovery.

Twenty Library employees participated in each day of training. The days began with a visual introduction to the July 4th event in Canada. The effects of the event on the staff and the collections, and the political fallout that occurred from extensive damage to valuable Canadian treasures

'The most celebrated inci

dent occurred on July 4th

were emphasized. Lectures followed on contingency planning for emergencies and the steps needed to plan for an emergency that may involve collection materials. The specific roles of individuals in library management and the responsibilities of each employee were discussed. The need for the development of a Disaster Action Team prior to an emergency was strongly emphasized.

A tour of stack areas in both Law Library and Geography and Map Division oriented attendees to the need for regular physical plant inspections. In each location the instructors pointed out "hidden" disasters such as unmarked pipes, electrical panels placed under sprinkler heads, and poorly marked exits.

The afternoon segment was devoted to the basics of a coordinated recovery of collection materials. The instructors provided detailed descriptions of how leather, coated stock papers, magnetic media and photographic materials, are affected by water damage and how they can be treated.

The highlight of the afternoon came with the presentation of a Mock Disaster, during which attendees were required to form a Disaster Action Team and recover actual water damaged

library materials. Roles and responsibilities were assigned and everyone participated in a recovery operation to experience the level of commitment and expertise needed to recover damaged materials. The toll, both physical and psychological, on recovery staff can occur in the event of a large scale emergency that can be mitigated by carrying out routine drills and exercises. A post-mortem of the Mock Disaster was held to discuss all aspects of the recovery operation. Participation was particularly high in this session and many thoughtful recommendations were brought forward by Library staff.

The Library of Congress' disaster preparedness

So what is the Preservation Directorate doing to keep the spirit of emergency preparedness alive? Plenty! At the end of the last fiscal year, we purchased over 160 emergency recovery supply kits to be distributed to each custodial area. In addition, several pieces of heavy industrial equipment were purchased, including wet/dry vacs, and floor fans that will be placed in each of the five collection storage buildings. Preservation and other offices in the Library are forming an Emergency Response Team that will be charged with defining roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency.

A staff emergency booklet, to be distributed with the newly revised version of the LC Telephone Directory, provides basic information for staff to follow when faced with a variety of emergency situations. This cooperative inter-Service Unit endeavor has been in the works of the last few years. Collections assessments are being conducted and a training module is being developed by staff in the National Preservation Programme Office (NPPPO), so that regular training in emergency response and recovery can be provided to LC staff.

Finally, the Library has begun to develop a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan that will be customized to meet the individual needs of each collection areas.

It is hoped that the Library never has to experience a disaster like the National Library of Canada did. The key to success will be our ability to stick with our programme and prepare ourselves for a disaster before it happens. Most building disasters are not acts of God. They result from a breakdown in the system: deferred maintenance, ignorance, and apathy.

Carrie BEYER
and Diane KRESH ■

■ Conservation in-between Microfilming and Digitization

Seminar at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Centre de Sablé, France, on November 8-9, 1993.

Where is microfilming up to ten years after the campaigns led by the Direction du Livre (the Book Direction of the Ministry of Culture) and the BN.

Is there a future in face of the speedy progresses of digitization (Microfilming and digitization are two complementary means of preservation. This topic will be developed in the future by IPN).

■ PAC Regional Centre for Western Europe, Middle East and Africa

TUNISIA

Mission

Bernard Dulac, Technician responsible of the Photographic Service of the Conservation Center at Sablé-sur-Sarthe (Bibliothèque Nationale) has been requested by the National Library of Tunis to supervise the microfilming laboratory's activities. He was assigned to follow through the training of a Tunisian photograph technician formerly trained at Sablé, to identify the needs for further training within the laboratory, and to assess the progresses regarding microfilming and the quality of the process.

Move of collections

The National Library of Tunis is about to experience an important turn in its history. Shortly the

collections will be moving into the new buildings that have been set up outside the Medina. With the help of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris a seminar has been organized at the National Library of Tunis in late October 93 to think about the conditions of the move of newspapers, the first documents to be transferred. The checking and microfilming of the collections have been studied closely thanks to a working scheme adapted to the urgency of the situation.

EGYPT

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris is in charge of the training of the first technician from the Conservation Department of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The French government takes care of this training that will be lasting six months. The technician will tackle all the problems connected with conservation and restoration, namely preventive conservation, the restoration of manuscripts and microfilming.

'A genuine policy of conservation should be

■ EROMM (European Register of Microform Masters)

The preoperative stage of the EROMM project financed by the Commission of the European Communities and the Commission on Preservation and Access draw to a close on October, 31, 1993. The four partners of the projects, namely the Biblioteca Nacional of Lisbon, the British Library of London, the Staats-und-Universitätsbibliothek of Göttingen, and the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris have decided to continue to work together and to set a permanent bibliographic database that will operate in Spring 1994. Today, the EROMM text-basis, hosted by the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, holds 45.000 notes of documents copied on microforms for preservation concerns. Most of these copies are monographs and newspapers of all ages and origins and in all languages.

Seminar on the development of the Dar Al-Kutub, July 7-8, 1993, Cairo.

Over a two-day meeting, professionals from Tunisia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Great-Britain, France have confronted their opinions on the Dar Al-Kutub project, the building of which takes place in Cairo. It has been decided that a general catalog of the manuscripts kept in Egypt should be established thanks to the mustering of human and technical means. The creation of a conservation centre has also been suggested. This project is related to the renovation of the National Library of Cairo which is now definitely separated from the General Book organization, to which it belonged since 1971.

MOROCCO

Project for a national library

Morocco is carrying on thinking about the creation of a national library. Thanks to earlier consultations, the needs of the actual General Library and Archives have been identified closely and it has been possible to draw the main lines of the programme of the future national library. The Moroccan authorities requested the help of UNESCO to set the architectural programme of the library and to establish proposals for the architectural examination. The creation of a conservation centre is also under consideration.

GHANA

Seminar on Conservation, November 21-24, 1993

The Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Ghana together with the Balme Library of the University of Accra organized a seminar on Conservation with the support of the University of Accra and the PAC International Centre. It was

attended by about sixty persons who debated together and drew a list of resolutions.

C.O. Kisiedu, Director of the Balme Library, reviewed the state of the collections kept at the University of Accra and concluded that the main cause of deterioration are due to climate, insects and mould.

Then S.K. Agyei, Head Department of the Library and Archival studies from the University of Accra, talked about education for conservation within the frame of a programme devoted to the education of professionals of libraries in Ghana. The third communication was given by Christina Kwei, Deputy Director of the George Padmore Memorial Library, who took stock of the equipments and methods for the conservation of public libraries in Ghana.

The problems encountered by the National Archives of Ghana have been assessed by C.K. Gadzekpo who also listed the solutions to solve them.

Jean-Marie Arnoult gave several lectures on the worldwide concern for conservation, the use for need assessment, the technics of reformatting documents and the methods for use in case of disasters.

These discussions allowed to draw a list of resolutions to be submitted to the authorities of the country. A genuine policy on conservation should be implemented urgently on a national basis. Moreover, the creation of a national committee is strongly advised (in lines with the resolution n°4 drafted at the Pan-African Conference in Nairobi in June 93).

It would be necessary to reorganize teaching sessions on conservation in the country with the help of international organizations such as the IFLA, ICA, ICCROM, to start thinking on normalization and to planify a policy on the safeguard of the national patrimony.

Jean-Marie ARNOULT ■

■ News from BARCELONA 1993

According to the terms of his mandate, Jean-Marie Arnoult left the presidency of the Conservation Section. Beatrix Kastaly has been elected to take over together with Ralph Manning, who will be assisting her as a secretary.

Beatrix Kastaly is responsible of the Conservation and Restoration Department of the National Library of Hungary in Budapest.

Ralph Manning is Head of the Standardization Department at the National Library of Canada in Ottawa..



implemented shortly

■ Association for the Rebirth of the National Library of Sarajevo

Chairman: Ms. Suada Tozo-Waldmann
23-25, rue des Petites-Ecuries
75010 Paris, France
Tel: (00.33.1) 43.49.24.62
Fax: (00.33.1) 44.61.84.83

The National Library of Sarajevo burnt in August 1992. In order to restore the cultural heritage of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a French association for the rebirth of the Library has been created in Paris. It aims to muster financial resources that will help to reconstruct the building, and documents that can replace the ones that have been burnt down. A list of the most urgently needed books has been set up and can be obtained from the above-mentioned address. The Association is planning a cooperation with UNESCO, and the IFLA has adopted resolutions and expressed its solidarity in the efforts to restore the access to information.

Literature

■ NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter - Regional Section for Latin America and the Caribbean / Noticias - Sección Regional para América Latina y el Caribe

The IFLA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean publishes a Newsletter in English and Spanish twice a year (December and June).
FEBAB, Rua Avanhandava, 40 - cj. 110, 01306 - Sao Paulo - SP - Brasil
Tel: 55-11-257-9979 (SP)
Fax: 55-11-292-2993 (SP)

APOYO Newsletter (Asociación para la Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural de la América)

Published in Spanish by Amparo R. de Torres and Ann Seibert, both Conservation Office staff members at the Library of Congress, it deals with conservation issues and it is mailed to 1000 professionals all over the American hemisphere. Two issues were completed in 1992, and one issue has been mailed in 1993.

A. de Torres, Library of Congress, LM-G38 Conservation Office Washington D.C. - USA
Fax: 1-202-707-1525

■ BARCELONA 93: Browsing through the conference papers

Araújo, M.F., Brazil. *Technical treatment and preservation of the photographic collection of the Brazilian National Library.*
Balsamo, L., Italy. *Recovering the past of a European challenge.*

Battin, P., USA. *From preservation to access: paradigm for the nineties.*

Ching-Chih, C., USA. *CD-ROM and multimedia.*

Colomar, M. A., Spain. *La retroconversión de los materiales cartográficos en el Proyecto de Informatización del Archivo General de Indias.*

Hamilton, G., UK. *Satisfying researchers' needs for access to newspapers: are there new solutions to an old problem?*

Marcetteau-Paul, A., Vallas, P., France. *Une expérience régionale de conservation des périodiques: l'action de l'ARMELL dans les Pays de la Loire-France.*

Muller, K., USA. *Preservation and news ways of information delivery: will the information be there when we need it?*

Richer, S., France. *Le disque compact dans la francophonie du Sud.*

Smith, R., UK. *National Bibliographies on CD-ROM: development of a common approach.*

These proceedings are available on request at the International Centre.

■ CONFERENCES

Degradation of Archives and Library Materials vs Permanent and Durable Paper for Archives, Bratislava, April 22-24, 1993

The efforts of the Slovak and a few other Eastern libraries and archives to perpetuate their cultural heritage by meeting with the standards for permanent paper are reported in these proceedings printed in Slovak and English.

Available from:
Mr. Jozef Hanus, Head Department of Archives Preservation Slovensky Narodny Archiv

817 01 Bratislava, Drotarska Cesta 42 - Slovakia.

Preservation Research and Development: Round Table Proceedings, September 28-29, 1992

In September 1992, the LC hosted a conference that provided laboratory scientists, other technical experts, and preservation research and development efforts to discuss areas of common interest and concern. In addition to providing a forum for a number of prominent research organizations to report briefly on areas of scientific inquiry, the meeting focused primarily upon digital technology initiatives, mass preservation R&D efforts, and photographic image preservation.

Published in April 1993.

Carrie Beyer Library of Congress Preservation Directorate Washington D.C. 20540 - USA

10th Triennial Meeting Washington, DC, USA, August 22-27 1993
Preprints, 2 volumes

Twenty six working groups gathering all aspects of conservation ranging from the artistic point of view to the latest scientific methods.

Working Group 22 discussed training in conservation and restoration.

Available from:
ICCROM Via di San Michele 13, 00153 Rome - Italy
Fax: 39 (6) 588-4265

■ FURTHER READINGS

Ownership Marking of Paper-Based Materials

In June 1993 the LC's Preservation Directorate issued a revised edition of its



Preservation Leaflet n°4, which describes methods that may be employed to emboss, punch, perforate, or ink-stamp ownership marks on library and archival materials. It includes useful information about stamps, stamp pads, and manuscripts marking ink.
Carrie Beyer
Library of Congress

European Directory of Acid-Free and Permanent Book Paper / Répertoire européen des papiers d'édition sans acide et permanents

This directory both intends to raise awareness and to serve as a practical guide. It was prepared in March and April 1993 by the European Foundation for Library Cooperation/Groupe de Lausanne, on request by and with the support of the

Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General X "Audiovisual, Information, Communication, Culture", within the framework of the campaign for raising European public awareness of books and reading "Reading for Pleasure".

Marc Walkiers
EFLC-Librime
17, Chemin des Vieux-Amis
B-1380 Lasne - Belgium

Phased Materials Specifications

Since the fall of 1992, conservators and scientists at the LC have prepared updated specifications for conservation quality materials used primarily for protective enclosures that are recommended for the proper housing of library and archival materials. Specifications are available for

paper, file folders, mat boards, polyester films, document storage boxes, pamphlet binders, and paper enclosures for photographic materials.
The Conservation Office
Library of Congress

Storage of Natural History Collections

Published by the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections in Pittsburgh in 1992, and edited by Amparo R. de Torres of the LC Conservation Office and Carolyn L. Rose of the Smithsonian Institution. Over 170 authors, reviewers, and production volunteers contributed to this 345 page, illustrated reference work. The volume includes a Glossary, a Suppliers and Manufacturers List, and an Index.
A. de Torres

Conservation Office
Library of Congress

'The Conservation of an Oversized Charcoal Drawing: a Venezuelan Case'

by Amelia Rampton.
An enlightening paper that discusses the conservation and mounting of an oversized charcoal drawing by a Venezuelan artist. The author, who worked with a Venezuelan reduced team had to use the materials available on site, and described the stages of the restoration work. She sets out the conservation issues from the Venezuelan side and pinpoints the local needs together with the advantages derived from such an experience of cooperation.
in *The Conference Papers - Manchester 1992*.

Coming Events

■ **MARCH 3-5, 1994, London,**
Modern Works - Modern Problems ?

A three-day conference to be held at the Tate Gallery that aims to give a fresh outlook to the problems that arise in conserving modern works of art on paper, by bringing together artists, historians, curators and conservators.

Information from:
Clare Hampson - IPC
Leigh Lodge, Leigh, Worcester,
WR6 5LB, UK
Tel: 0886-832323
Fax: 0886-833688

■ **APRIL 11-16, 1994, Bath (UK),**
'Photographs: Preserving a Moment in Time'
International conference.

Conference Convenor
The Centre for Photographic Conservation
233 Stantead Road,
Forest Hill
London SE23 1HU, UK
Tel: 081-690 3678
Fax: 081-314 1940

■ **MAY 16-20, 1994, PARIS,**
Environment and Conservation of Graphic, Photographic and Audiovisual Documents

The 'Association pour la Recherche Scientifique des Arts Graphiques' (ARSAG) works in close cooperation with the 'Centre de Recherches sur la Conservation des Documents Graphiques' (CRCDG). It aims to promote researches for the long-term preservation of graphic and

photographic materials, and to favour exchanges between professionals, both in the public and the private fields.

In 1991 took place the first ARSAG International Symposium: 'Sauvegarde et conservation des photographies, dessins, imprimés et manuscrits'.

That second symposium will be devoted to the effects of pollution and biodeterioration, and to the perspectives of conservation of modern materials. It will take place at the IMA (Institut du Monde Arabe / Institute of the Arabian World).

A visit of the Ministry of Culture's restoration workshop and research laboratories is also planned.

For further information please contact:
ARSAG, 36, rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire - 75005 Paris
Tel: (1)-45-87-06-12
Fax: (1)-47-07-62-95

■ **AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3, 1994, Oxford,**
'New Horizons' Designer Bookbinder Conference
Latest methods of Book Conservation and Fine Binding.

To take place at Christ Church.
Conference Administration
Millstream Europe Ltd
South Harting, Petersfield
Hampshire GU31 5LF
United Kingdom
Tel: 0730-825711
Fax: 0730-825763

■ **NOVEMBER 1994**
Restoration - Is it Acceptable?
Call for papers.
To be held at the British Museum, London.
Restoration Conference
Department of Conservation
The British Museum
London WC1B 3DG, UK
Tel: 071 63601555 ext. 8238