



Newsletter of

Volume II, Number 2

The Association of Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences

October, 1978

Copyright 1978 by the Association

Recent literature on preservation

compiled by Inci A. Bowman

A review of recent literature shows that preservation is no longer a problem tackled by rare book curators and archivists alone; rather it is a national concern shared by librarians in general. The following is a select list of publications which would be of interest to librarians involved in historical collections.

Banks, Paul H. "The Conservation of Maps and Atlases." In 1976 AB Bookman's Yearbook. Clifton, N.J.: AB Bookman Publications, Inc., 1976, pp. 53-62.

The conservator of the Newberry Library discusses the control of the environment, protective storage, and the treatment (deacidification and encapsulation) of maps and atlases.

"Books in Peril." Library Journal, 15 November 1976, pp.2342-51.

The special section on conservation, which begins with a passionate plea, "Call to Action," by Pamela W. Darling, is devoted to the general problem of millions of books deteriorating in American libraries. It includes "A Local Preservation Program: Where to Start," by Pamela W. Darling; "Cooperative Approaches to Conservation," by Paul N. Banks; and "The Proposed National Preservation Program of the Library of Congress," by Frazer G. Poole.

Cunha, George M. "Preservation of Library Materials." In the ALA Yearbook 1977. Chicago, American Library Association, 1977, pp.245-48.

One of the leading conservators summarizes the year's activities in the field of preservation. Stressing the increasing awareness by librarians of their role in preserving library materials, Mr. Cunha reviews conferences and training programs, deacidification experiments, and significant publications on the subject of conservation.

Darling, Pamela W. "Preservation: a National Plan at Last?" Library Journal, 15 February 1977, pp. 447-49.

Ms. Darling summarizes basic issues discussed at the Planning Conference for a National Preservation Program which took place on December 16-17, 1976, at the Library of Congress. As the result of this conference, a National Preservation Program Office was established under auspices of the LC.

Library of Congress. Office of the Assistant Director for Preservation. Preservation Leaflets. Washington, D.C., 1975- .

The series of leaflets is intended for librarians and archivists who need basic information on the preservation of collections. So far, five leaflets (available without charge) have been issued:

1. Selected References in the Literature of Conservation, February 1975 (being revised)
2. Environmental Protection of Books and Related Materials, February 1975
3. Preserving Leather Bookbindings, February 1975
4. Marking Manuscripts, February 1977
5. Preserving Newspapers and Newspaper-Type Materials, October 1977.

Leaflets covering various other topics are in preparation.

Poole, Frazer G. "Current Lamination Policies of the Library of Congress." The American Archivist 39(2): 157-59, 1976.

The Assistant Director for Preservation at the LC explains the results of investigations on lamination, and recommends encapsulation for documents considered in the "archival preservation" category.

Poole, Frazer G. "Some Aspects of the Conservation Problem in Archives." The American Archivist

40(2):163-171, 1977.

In this useful summary of problems in conservation, Mr. Poole reviews improvements and innovations, and makes recommendations for action. He argues that the preservation of collections is a shared concern, problems and solutions varying only in degree.

Rath, Frederick L. and O'Connell, Merrill R., eds. A Bibliography on Historical Organization Practices. Vol. 2: Care and Conservation of Collections, compiled by Rosemary S. Reese. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

Compiled to assist administrators, curators, specialists in conservation as well as non-specialists, the bibliography covers publications dealing with principles of conservation, training of conservators, and care of books, photographs, paintings, and other artifacts. Chapter 6 is devoted to the conservation of library materials.

Smithsonian Institution. Office of Museum Programs. Conservation Information for Museums, Audiovisual Loan Program, 1977-78. Washington, D.C., 1977.

Prepared by the staff of the Smithsonian Institution, the slide and videotape presentations deal mostly with museum conservation. However, a number of programs are of interest to librarians working with historical collections. Slide and videotape presentations, which are designed either to create awareness of basic principles or to illustrate techniques, can be borrowed or purchased from the Smithsonian Institution.

Weinstein, Robert A. and Booth, Larry. Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

An extremely important guide on historical photographs, the book deals with various aspects of administering a photographic collection — acquisition, arrangement, preservation and restoration. It also contains a useful bibliography index and information on materials and resources.

Williams, John C., ed. Preservation of Paper and Textiles of Historic and Artistic Value. Advances in Chemistry Series, no. 164. Washington, D.C.: American Chemical Society, 1977.

The book is the result of a symposium sponsored by the American Chemical Society, and the first section includes 11 papers on the care and preservation of books and manuscripts. Other sections relate to the care of textiles and estimation of permanence. A number of articles deal with deacidification, drying and fumigation of water-damaged library materials. The

entire volume is a "must" for those involved in paper conservation.

Wingate, Robert B. "'Kitchen Chemistry' in the Care of Books." AB Bookman's Weekly, 6 June 1977, pp. 3506-07.

Dr. Wingate, Chief of Rare Books and Special Collections of the State Library of Pennsylvania, outlines simple techniques of preservation which can be applied safely by librarians who are not trained in conservation. Topics cover deacidifying paper, repairing torn pages and bindings, treating old leather bindings, and cellulose tape removal.

Books & articles of note...

CHAFF, SANDRA L., Ruth Haimbach, Carol Fenichel, Nina B. Woodside, eds. Women in Medicine: A Bibliography of the Literature on Women Physicians. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1977. 1136 pp., index. \$35.00. LC 77-24914. ISBN 0-1808-1056-5.

Women in Medicine provides a greatly needed reference to the published literature about women physicians from the 18th century through 1975. This exceptional volume is an annotated bibliography of 4,000 citations which comprehensively cover the published literature about women physicians in all parts of the world. Arranged in fourteen broad subject classifications, the citations include books, medical and nonmedical journal articles, alumnae and alumni magazine articles, and doctoral theses. In addition to the subject divisions, entries are divided geographically. Complete bibliographic citations are provided, along with carefully written annotations which are informative and allow the researcher to determine the most useful items. As an additional aid, the volume is indexed by personal name, author and subject.

The authors of this impressive work include a medical librarian, an editor with a major publishing company, an information science specialist, and a physician. The project was developed at the Florence A. Moore Library of Medicine, Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Women in Medicine is an indispensable research tool which will be of interest to anyone exploring women's heritage in general, as well as to those interested in the history of women in medicine.

Virginia E. Allen

Discussion on Valuation

WHAT IS YOUR COLLECTION WORTH?

by Estelle Brodman

All librarians with any sense of responsibility must worry about what would happen to their collections in case of theft, fire, water damage, acts of God or of rioting people. The first thing such librarians do is to try to guard as much as possible against any of the above happening; as a result, fire extinguishers are sprinkled around the premises (no pun intended); entrances and accesses to the collection are controlled in various ways; and air conditioning and humidity controls are routinely installed; while especially valuable collections are protected by specially filtered lighting and security systems which alert guards and police when no staff are in the premises.

In spite of all this, however, catastrophes do occur, and most libraries tend to have some form of insurance to reimburse the institution at such times. (Occasionally a governmental or large university may find that its parent body will decide to act as co-insurer; this is becoming more common as insurance rates go up.) The usual library insurance follows the A.L.A. guidelines on the subject, and usually includes fire and theft losses, if nothing else. Two methods of accounting for the value of the collection are used: one assigns an average value to each volume in the collection. Here the amount the library will be reimbursed for losses is the sum of the number of books lost, burned, or destroyed times the average value per book. The shelf-list is the proof of the holdings of the library and is normally deposited (in microfilm or microfiche form) with the insurance company or some outside-the-library depository. Naturally this system is invoked only when a large amount of the collection is damaged; to claim recompense for a single or a few books is not worth the time and effort required.

A second method is to list each item in the collection and to attach a value to each one. This method is employed most frequently with rare material and especially with collections of artifacts and art object, such as coins, stamps, or statues. The loss of any one item can then be reimbursed easily and comparatively speedily. The problem here, of course, is to obtain the evaluation of each item.

At the Washington University School of Medicine Library several methods of insurance are used. The general run of the collection is insured on an average-value basis, while the rare collections are insured on an exact-value basis. For the latter we have used professional evaluation firms — rare book dealers or art history companies who do evaluation — and we have attached a copy of these evaluations to our insurance policies. The cost of this service (usually 1 1/2% of the total value) is normally borne by the library, if it wishes the collection.

Such a system is fine when one receives a new and large collection; it may be used, also, when an individual volume is purchased and added to the collection. It becomes less helpful when a donor gives one or a few items, which hardly warrant the use of specialists to evaluate them, but which need to have a value set on them both for insurance and for the income-tax deduction of the donor. Here this Library tries to determine what the same or a similar edition of the volume brought at a sale in the recent past. Sometimes this is not possible, and an arbitrary value has to be assigned. Of course the Library does not evaluate anything likely to fall into the category of the Internal Revenue Service's ceiling for recipient appraisal.

The most complicated problem, however, is how to cope with the increases in value due to inflation — a problem which libraries share with homeowners and businesses, of course. In this Library we have merely added the increase in the cost of living to our gross valuation each time we renew our insurance policy, hoping that this will take care of the problem. This is a pragmatic approach; if other libraries know of a better one, we would like to learn of it.

Luckily so far we have never had to claim our insurance; deo volente, we will continue to be so lucky.

PRICING OF OLD MEDICAL BOOKS

by G. S. T. Cavanagh

The general impression that the prices of old medical books have been rising is of course correct. On the surface it might seem that some rough formula could be arrived at whereby insurance values, for example, could be updated across the board from time to time. Several factors complicate the scene to the point where such a formula is not practicable.

First and most obvious, over any prolonged period values do not rise with any degree of

uniformity. Comparison of prices in the 1930's with those in the 70's will reveal some that have remained static, or even declined, as well as others which have increased by multiples of ten or even fifty times. Radical increases are usually explainable by changes in fashion such as the growth of the Osler cult, increased attention to the history of the neurosciences or, more generally, to the Printing-and-the-mind-of-man syndrome which requires that books be recognized not for authorship, style or beauty but for their impact on "our way of life."

A second factor tending to make life short and judgment difficult is the astonishing range at which the same book can be found offered for sale within a matter of weeks or months. Condition alone cannot account for variations of one thousand per cent in prices asked by two knowledgeable booksellers, yet both prices go on record and have their effect on trends.

Finally, in some cases there is the appearance of factors extraneous to the original purpose for which a book was acquired. The clearest current example is the sudden, recent interest in the development of photography which has led to some books of minor importance in medicine taking on much greater value as landmarks in photography.

The moral is simply that appraising books is a matter of individual judgment, and that librarians are rarely in a position to acquire the right kind of experience to make such a judgment in the light of changing conditions. There really is no substitute for the opinion of someone who sets prices daily and who makes a profit or a loss according to their validity.

Note: The Editor is in hopes that more contributions will be submitted on this important subject. Comments, formal and informal, are solicited.

News & announcements...

Philip Weimerskirch, recently awarded the degree of Doctor of Library Science of Columbia University, has assumed a new position at the Edward G. Miner Library, University of Rochester, as Medical Historian/Archivist, with responsibilities for producing a series of publications and exhibits on the rare and historical collections of that institution. Mrs. Janet Brady Berk becomes History of Medicine Librarian.

Ellen G. Gartrell has resigned as Curator of the Historical Collections, Library, College

of Physicians of Philadelphia, to undertake graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania. She is replaced by Christine Ruggere, formerly Assistant to the Curator, New York Academy of Medicine.

New Member, ALHHS: Ms. Barbara Williams, recently appointed Archivist and History of Medicine Librarian, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, 245 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia Pa., 19102, brings to that new post some eighteen years' experience at Hahnemann. We are glad to welcome her to ALHHS.

Directory of libraries in the history of the health sciences...

Selected entries

ARIZONA. UNIVERSITY. ARIZONA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER LIBRARY. Founded 1967 1501 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona, 85724. 602-626-6121 TWX: 910-952-1238

Hours: Library open 24 hours; History Room 8-5, Mon.-Fri., except by prior arrangement.

Librarian: T. D. Higdon.

Services to the general public: Not open except by letter of introduction or adequate identification; photocopy (10¢ page, \$1 minimum; 5¢ page on premises); interlibrary loan (journals by photocopy; books by ALA code; no early material.) No borrowing.

General collection: Serves teaching hospital and the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. 100,000 volumes; 2,900 current subscriptions.

Materials in the history of the health sciences:

Collection begun in 1969 with transfer from University Library of Hugh H. Smith collection (180 titles in general medical history, public health, and tropical disease, 17th to 20th centuries). 400 titles in Medical History Room. Non-print and artifacts not yet organized.

Catalogues, etc. "Arizona University Library Special Collections. Dr. Hugh H. Smith Gift" ... [a selected, annotated list by Phyllis Ball] September, 1958. 21 p., mimeographed. No longer available. (See also, "The Dr. Hugh H. Smith Gift, University of Arizona Library," *J. hist. med.* 14: 381-382, 1959). Also: Arizona University College of Medicine. Library. The Hugh H. Smith, M.D. Collection in the College of Medicine Library ... January, 1970. 16 leaves. No longer available.

Holdings reported to Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (UCLA) Region XI.

120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas
66612
913-296-3251

Curator: Patricia A. Michaelis.

Materials in the history of the health sciences: Physicians, etc.: John R. Brinkley,

Museum materials: Some physicians' and dentists' instruments. Reconstruction of dentist's office, ca. 1890, and doctor's office, ca. 1900.

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
1500 R Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508.
402-432-2793 Founded 1874

State Archivist: James Potter.

General collection: Papers and records pertaining to Nebraska history.

Materials in the history of the health sciences:

Manuscripts, archives, etc.: Organizations:

Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society, scrapbooks, 1860-1956; 2 vols. Nebraska State Medical Association, records, 1965-1969; 2,000 items. Nebraska Society of Radiological Technologists, records, 1930-1976, 8,400 items. Nebraska State Medical Association, records, 1868-1959; 50 items.

Physicians, etc.: Charles Harrison Arnold, 1888-1966, scrapbooks and papers; 1,000 items. George W. Covey, 1889-1966, papers, 1910-1944; 200 items. Harry E. Flansburg, 1885- , papers, 1918-1974, 13 items. Ray Orvin Hummel, 1880- , papers, 1900-1938, 500 items. Homer L. Kindred, 1866- , account books, 1897-1916, 1 box. James Wesley McKibbin, 1852-1921, papers, 1875-1922; 400 items. Laureston Alphonso Merriam, 1843- , papers; 13 items. John Marshall Neely, 1836-1897, diary, 1864. Hiram Winnett Orr, 1877-1956, papers, journals; 2,000 items. Joseph Armitage Paxson, 1842-1888, diary, 1869-1870, 1 reel microfilm. George E. Pennington, 1875-1960, papers, 25 items. William Rice, record of patient accounts, 1854-1868. Samuel F. Sanders, 1854-1926, papers and records; 600 items. H. G. Smith, patients' register, evidently from a Civil War hospital (Union), 1862; 1 vol. Melville W. Stone, 1837- , papers; 20 items. Richard Jerome Tanner, 1869-1943, correspondence and papers; 4,000 items. John M. Waterman, 1833-1896, diary, papers; 6 items. Charles Henry Wilson, 1835-1890, papers, 1,000 items. Hudson Josiah Winnett, 1846-1918, papers; 1 box.

YALE UNIVERSITY, YALE MEDICAL LIBRARY,
HISTORICAL LIBRARY. Founded 1941

333 Cedar Street, New Haven, Conn., 06510
203-436-2566 TWX: 710-465-1145

Hours: 8:45 - 4:45 Mon.-Fri.

Medical Librarian: Betty Feeney. Historical

Librarian: Ferenc Gyorgyey. Assistant Histor-

ical Librarian: Thomas Falco. Historical

Consultant: Madeline Stanton. Assistants:

1 full-time; 2 part-time.

Services restricted to members of the university, the health professions, scholars and students of the history of medicine and allied fields. Photocopy (charged at 5 c

page; minimum \$3.50); microfilm; inter-library loan, at discretion of librarian.

General collection: 413,000 volumes.

Materials in the history of the health sciences:

Printed materials: Incunabula, 333 vols.

Classics (works of authors born before 1475): 2,470. 16th century (works of authors born before 1575): 3,000. 17th century (works of authors born before 1675): 4,600. 18th century (works of authors born before 1775): 9,000. 19th century (works printed before 1901; authors born after 1774): 19,500. Foreign medical theses, 1870-1954: 100,000.

On medical specialties: Early anatomy and surgery, 10,000 volumes (chiefly from Harvey Cushing's collection). Physiology, experimental medicine, neurophysiology, 10,000 volumes, chiefly from John F. Fulton's collection.

On special topics: Herbals (200), early plague tracts; inoculation-vaccination (1200); sources concerning medical and scientific incunabula (Arnold C. Klebs Collection). Military medicine, 700 vols.; early anesthesia, 600 vols.; aeronautics, 50 vols.; Yale Medical School archives and faculty publications, 440 ft. Ichthyology, 700 vols. Weights and measures, 350 vols.

By and about noted physicians: Hippocrates, 300 vols.; Galen, 280 vols.; Vesalius, 500 vols.; William Harvey, 450 vols.; Robert Boyle, 425 vols.; S. Weir Mitchell, 235 vols.; Sir Kenelm Digby, 120 vols.; Albrecht von Haller, 480 vols.; Jonathan Knight's library, 124 vols.

Early journals: 380 titles (3,400 vols.) before 1871.

Americana: 841 items published before 1821; 89 journal titles before 1850.

Manuscripts, archives, etc. Organizations, institutions, etc.: Society of Clinical Surgery, 7 vols., 2 boxes. Harvey Cushing Society, 4 vols. Physicians: Harvey Williams Cushing, 1869-1939, 75 vols., 24 drawers. John Farquhar Fulton, 1899-1960, 45 vols., 38 drawers. Arnold Carl Klebs, 1870-1943, 10 drawers, 9 ft. Elisha Bartlett, 1804-1855, 40 items. William Henry Carnalt, 1836-1929, 19 vols. Emil DuBois-Reymond, 1818-1896, 120 items. Samuel Clark Harvey, 1886-1933, 9 ft. William Patrick Campbell, 3 boxes. Robert M. Yerkes, 1876-1956, 28 drawers. Sir William Osler, 1849-1919, 2 boxes. Sir Charles Scott Sherrington, 1857-1952, 2 boxes. Henry Ernest Sigerist, 1891-1957, 18ft. John Redman Paul, 1893-1971, 22 boxes. Edward Clark Streeter, 1874-1947, 1 box.

Secondary materials: 16,250 vols. Histories of medicine and science, 6,500 vols. General

histories, 2,500 vols. Biographies, approx. 6,500 vols. Collected biographies, 750 vols. Bibliographies: G. Miller's Checklist II, complete. Current journals in the history of medicine: 46.

Museum materials: 86 oil paintings by Lam Qua of patients of Peter Parker, 1804-1888. in Canton, China. Clements C. Fry Collection of Prints and Drawings, about 1,200 items. Currier and Ives engravings of children, 65 items. Warren S. Lowenhaupt Collection of 3,000 foreign and American bookplates of physicians. Lithographs and photographs of physicians, about 2,000. Motion-picture films: "Harvey and the Circulation of the Blood," both versions. 1500 slides. Items may be loaned and copied at the discretion of the librarian; fees charged for items reproduced for publication in books for trade. Edward Clark Streeter Collection of weights and measures — one of the largest such collections in the world. Pharmacy — Continental and American — one large room. Collection of medical instruments, 19th and early 20th centuries, uncatalogued. Items may be borrowed and photographed at the discretion of the librarian.

Catalogues, etc. Harvey Cushing Collection of Books and Manuscripts (New York, Schuman, 1943.) Catalogue of the Edward Clark Streeter Collection of Weights and Measures in preparation. Historical Library collections partially indexed in NUC; manuscripts partially indexed in NUCMC.



Medicine
Science
Technology

Rare Books,
Manuscripts,
& Prints

Catalogues Issued

Libraries or important single volumes purchased

Jeremy Norman & Co., Inc.

442 Post Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

[415] 781-6402 • Cable: LOGOS