

INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION

A Newsletter of the IFLA Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation

NEWS

N° 9 - April 1995

Contents

Memory of the World

■ page 5

The Conservation of Mongolian Books

■ page 6

Microfilming of the Meiji Era Book Collection

■ page 7

Conservation News from Sri Lanka

■ page 8

International Symposium on Dunhuang Archives
Heritage

■ page 8

Chinese Inventions for Restoring and Protecting
Deteriorated Writings

■ page 9

The National Library of Kazakhstan

■ page 10

News from the Regional Centres

■ page 11

Second National Newsplan Conference

■ page 14

Literature

■ page 16

Events

■ page 16



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INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION NEWS

n° 9 April 1995

ISSN 0890 - 4960

International Preservation News is a publication of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Core Programme on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) that reports on the preservation activities and events that support efforts to preserve materials in the world's libraries and archives.

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Layout: Rolland Tindilière
 Ateliers Impression Opéra
Printing: Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris

PAC Newsletter is published free of charge twice a year.
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This publication is printed on a Yearling paper which meets the requirements of "ISO 9706:1994", Information and documentation - Paper for documents - "Requirements for permanence", generously provided by CANSON.



ISO 9706

IPN WELCOMES ANY CONTRIBUTION OF PRESERVATION NEWS ITEMS (PICTURES ARE WELCOME TOO). THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ARTICLES FOR IPN 11, IS OCTOBER 1st, 1995.



1994 has been a year of great changes for PAC, mostly due to the changes undergone by the hosting library. To cut a long story short, the Bibliothèque Nationale which has been hosting the International Centre since 1992, merged in January 1994 with the Etablissement Public de la Bibliothèque de France to form the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

The internal organization of the library changed, some people were given new responsibilities. Jean-Marie Arnoult, Director of the PAC Programme, left for the Direction du Livre and the new Director of the Preservation Department had so much to do with the reorganization and the building of the new premises that she could not deal with international matters. Jean-Marie Arnoult kept on running current affairs until the appointment of the new PAC Director, Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff.

First of all, I would like to convey my gratitude for the work accomplished by Jean-Marie Arnoult as the Director of the PAC Core Programme. When I took over the PAC activities last September, things were facilitated greatly by what had been done or undertaken before. Jean-Marie had built a whole network of librarians and conservators involved in preservation and had paved the way for an efficient cooperation with the Regional Centres.

It will be my duty to go on raising awareness on conservation problems, to create new links, or to reinforce those already existing, between librarians, conservators, readers and why not, potential supporters (or sponsors), to stimulate training programmes, specially in less developed countries.

For the next two years I have a few projects, among which:

- the revision of **The Principles for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials** by J.-M. Dureau and D.W.G. Clements, and for which your comments are very welcome
- the launching of a worldwide **Survey on the State of Photographic Collections** leading to the constitution of a data base on historical and/or ethnographical photographic collections, to the establishment of guidelines concerning the preservation of photographs, to the organization of a symposium on photographic preservation, and for those collections which are most in danger, to digitization. Such an ambitious project which aims to safeguard part of the world's memory cannot be led by one person and the co-operation of all will be needed.

Also, I intend to establish very close contacts with the Regional Centres and I plan to visit them all, which I have already started, going to Leipzig last December, and to Washington in February. Tight links should also be maintained with other associations, institutions or ONGs dealing with preservation or other IFLA Sections or Core Programmes, and I will devote myself to strengthening them and working on a co-operative basis as much as possible.

I thank Mrs Kaihara for her assistance in the coordination work of this n°9 issue devoted to conservation activities in Central and South-East Asia. I wish the publication of this IPN issue had come earlier, but we had some very good reason to postpone it: Virginie Kremp, the PAC technical assistant, who has been the mainspring of the publication since N°5, became last November the mother of a little girl and had to stop working for a few months. We are very happy to have her back.

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff

“The project aims to safeguard the most endangered collections”

Memory of the World

Help us save our documentary heritage, ensure the success of the “Memory of the World” Programme and co-operate in answering the questionnaire that has been sent to you. Disseminate it among people you think are concerned: librarian, curator or preservation technician, we do need the support of each.

In 1992 UNESCO launched a new programme to protect and promote the world's documentary heritage. The Programme, implemented by the Division of the General Information Programme (PGI), is designed to embody a new approach to protecting endangered documentary heritage, democratizing access to it and ensuring its wider dissemination. Its objectives are complementary and of equal importance.

They aim to safeguard the most endangered collections, handwritten, printed and audiovisual, to make accessible to most through the highest technology, while ensuring that the originals are maintained in best repair. High-quality image banks would be compiled and could then be used to duplicate them in all sorts of forms, such as videodiscs, albums, books, postcards, microfilms, etc. Any proceeds from the sale of related products will then be ploughed back into the Programme.

A first meeting was held in Pultusk, Poland, September 1993, and the International Advisory Committee of the Programme, whose members are appointed by the General Director of UNESCO, recommended that the concept of documentary heritage be extended to include documents in any medium, in particular audiovisual documents, computerized recordings and oral traditions, the importance of which varies from region to region.

National and Regional committees, composed of experts and representatives of the users should be appointed to select projects, submit them to the International Advisory Committee and, thereafter, follow them up.

Selection criteria should concern the content (cultural, literary, scientific, artistic value), the national, regional or international interest, the physical condition, the context, the degree of

risk, the project's feasibility (whether achievable within a reasonable time).

Five pilot projects have already been elaborated :

- A demonstration CD-ROM prepared by the National Library in **Prague**, in collaboration with UNESCO and Albertina Ltd. presents some of the most valuable manuscripts and other documents in its historic collections.

- The “**Saint Sofia**” project, an attempt at a multimedia edition of Bulgarian manuscripts on an interactive compact disc, devised by a group of Bulgarian and French writers. It is intended to evoke the symbolic figure of Saint Sofia, patron saint of Sofia, capital city of Bulgaria, in Bulgarian history, literature and civilization from the eleventh to the seventeenth centuries.

- The **Radziwill Chronicle**, a prototype CD-ROM produced by close co-operation between UNESCO, the Library of Congress and the Library of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Saint Petersburg. The Radziwill Chronicle retraces the origin of the peoples of Europe and describes the salient events of their history.

- **Memoria de Iberoamerica**, a project submitted in 1992 by ABINIA (Asociacion de Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamerica) to UNESCO, concerned the protection of the nineteenth century press published in Latin America and improving access to it for historians and interested members of the public. The national libraries of seven countries (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Venezuela) are taking part in the project which has led to the drawing up of a computerized inventory of some 2,000 newspaper titles and other press organs.

- In 1972, after heavy rain, a section of the wall of the Great Mosque of Sana'a collapsed and about one thousand volumes were discovered. A national committee has been set up to identify, among the **Sana's manuscripts (Yemen)**, which were the more suitable to be selected for a demonstration disc. The active participation of the former Federal Republic of Germany led to the construction of a House of Manuscripts, the restoration of some 12,000 fragments of parchment, their storage, identification and classification, and a grant from the

Getty Institute allowed research work on illuminated fragments and on bindings.

The essential steps for carrying out any project in the “Memory of the World” Programme are: selecting and preparing the documents, ensuring that they are placed in a suitable physical environment, photographing them where necessary, digitizing them, describing and annotating them, providing the staff to perform these tasks with appropriate ad hoc training where necessary, translating bibliographical descriptions where necessary, or even the texts themselves, and ensuring that the resultant product is distributed as widely as possible.

To assist in the identification of “Memory of the World” project three lists are being prepared :

- a list of library collections and archive holdings which have suffered irreparable destruction,
- a list of current activities to safeguard documentary heritage,
- a world list of endangered library collections and archive holdings.

IFLA and ICA have been asked by UNESCO to prepare the first two lists for library and archive collections respectively. UNESCO is compiling the third one. In order to compile the list on current preservation activities IFLA has asked Jan Lyall, Director of the National Preservation Office at the National Library of Australia and Director of the Regional PAC Centre for the Pacific area, to prepare a questionnaire and administer a survey on current preservation activities in libraries. A desk research, is conducted at the Royal Library in The Hague to compile the list of library collections which have suffered irreparable destruction.

These three lists will take the form of data bases periodically updated and will constitute the indispensable basis for the “Memory of the World” Programme.

Jan Lyall was also asked to prepare guidelines on the Programme's technical, legal and financial framework and its working structures, a work she is achieving right now with great skill and which will be shortly published.

The PAC Programme is much involved in this Programme and will be present in discussions and meetings with UNESCO and other partners.

For further details on the Programme, please contact M.-Th. VARLAMOFF, PAC director, or Jan LYALL, director of the Regional Centre in Canberra ■

The Conservation of Mongolian Books

The State Central Library of Mongolia acts both as a research centre for the Mongolian culture and written materials and as a deposit for highly valuable books made by nomadic and Buddhist peoples in Central Asia. Thus it is a nucleus in the Asian region and worldwide.

The Library owns 4 million books, among which up to one million of very rare and ancient manuscripts in Mongolian, Tibetan, Mandchurian, Chinese, Sanskrit and other languages. Since the XIth and XIIIth centuries, when the Mongol adopted their own writing, they have made and printed books. Some of those that have been handed on show that they had worked out their own printing methods.

For instance, current Mongolian books can be divided into manuscripts and block prints.

Manuscripts were written with a bamboo feather or with a brush. Rare books, such as the unique *Gold Clasp* from Louvsandanzan, a very important historical document, or the 210 volumes of the outstanding *History of the Yuan Dynasty* were written with a bamboo feather. These books are kept at the State Central

Library very cautiously and cannot be found elsewhere in the world.

Block prints were prepared with a wood-block, or a stone-block or even a metal-block (copper, pewter...). All of them were scattered throughout Mongolia.

Many Mongolian and Tibetan books were processed that way. Since the XIIIth century, 1000 copies have been made of the book *Since the*

Morning on the Seven Stars/on the Ursa Major, and of the *Kanjur* and the *Tanjur*, Buddhist Encyclopedia of 344 volumes printed at the beginning of the XVIIIth century (one volume being 76,5 x 22,8 x 14,5 cm in size).

Other materials such as copper, pewter were used by the masters of carving. Copper was used for the *Jadamba*, 53,4 x 14,7 cm, pp. 1494, now kept at our library.

There has been a long way from the carving on rocks and stone steles to artifacts made with birch-bark. According to their own specific techniques, the Mongols have successively developed special cardboards, stiff and polished black papers. Wrought silver leaves, polychromic silk threads, golden acid, black and cinnabar inks, and gems were used to adorn books.

In the nineteenth-century Mongolian craftsman Dagva became famous for nielloing the *Sangduin Jud* with a solid gold thread. Each page of the book is decorated with a god, gold-painted and ornamented with diamonds, pearls, coral, etc. All in all, 52,46 kg of gold and silver have been used for decorating that 222-page book.

Preservation Activities

The conservation of the priceless heritage of the Library requires minute and complex techniques. Obviously, smooth Chinese paper, boiled cardboard, glazed black paper, silk, cloths can't all be kept in the same environment as Russian papers or today's papers. However, we apply the Russian methods of conservation and preservation to our holdings. Utmost attention is paid to light; books are protected from daylight and our storage areas are poorly lit with a 40-60 volt bulb placed every two other meters.

The deterioration of paper, cardboard, parchment and leather accelerates with humidity, but too dry an environment isn't suitable either as paper and parchment will become brittle. In this respect, much attention is devoted to the air conditioning and aeration of our storage areas.

Humidity is controlled with a psychrometer (Avgoust PB 1 6 II, MB-4 and Gost 6353Mzch) and a hygrometer on a three-month basis. We try to store them at 17-19°C



and 50-55% RH. Mongolia suffers from a dry climate and dust flies in and gathers on the shelves; daily Hoovering and acid disinfection are compulsory.

Regular actions are more difficult to implement in back storage areas. Light and temperature are not easily controlled and the lack of rules and equipment prevents us from satisfying our goal. It entails faster deterioration of papers, fading colours for materials written in

cinnabar, wear and tear on the edges of the rolled documents, etc. We are much worried by the deterioration of this kind of documents and we are trying to do our best. Since 1993, the conservation of birch-bark books has been tackled with the help of specialists from the German University in Central Asia. Bulky documents are rolled into air- and water-tight tubes.

The improvement of our conservation laboratory specialized in ancient Mongolian books is

underway and qualified staff are being appointed. However, our curators still have to think about the best way to restore and preserve the books made of silk and other fragile materials such as gold, silver and metal, and to keep blocks in wood, copper and pewter in good repair.

J. SERJEE,

**Director of the State Central Library
of Mongolia ■**

Microfilming of the Meiji Era Book Collection: A Major Project Completed

As everybody knows, repeated access to books hastens their deterioration. Libraries that assume the role of depositary libraries, such as the National Diet Library (NDL), have suffered from the need to satisfy the users' demand without causing damage to materials.

In order to hinder the deterioration of the Meiji Era book collection, the National Diet Library (NDL) has turned to microforming, as one efficient way of solving the problem.

The Meiji era (1868-1912) is the starting point of Japan's modernization, when the foundations of the present development of Japan were laid. For about 40 years, around the turn of the century, Japan experienced very rapid changes in all fields, political, economic, social and cultural. The number of the books published in the Meiji era, excluding periodicals, is estimated at some 220,000 volumes, 75 percent volumes of which are held by the NDL. Reflecting the importance of the age in Japan's

history, these publications are deemed an invaluable cultural heritage and indispensable historical materials. Therefore, it is our duty to preserve and pass them on to future generations.

But it was not an easy job to microfilm about 34 million pages of 160,000 volumes of deteriorating books. Because of its limited budget and restrictive accounting system, the NDL could not have afforded this costly and time-consuming project. Most fortunately however, the Maruzen Ltd., one of Japan's oldest and largest bookstores/publishers, decided to undertake the huge project in commemoration of its 120th anniversary. The Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd. also offered technical assistance.

The project, started in September 1989, required not only advanced technology but also precision work. A total of 130 men using 30 cameras of high efficiency were employed. Work went on every day. Consequently, this major project came to an end in June 1991, much earlier than expected.

A complete set of microfilms, can be ordered at Maruzen Ltd. It is possible to obtain microfilm sets of 24 different subjects separately. For details, please apply to Maruzen.

For public use, the NDL is making microfiche copies from master films. Those on philosophy, religion, history, biography, and geography & customs - will be available in the near future, but the microfiche of the other subjects depends on the NDL's budget in the next years.

**(Also see NDL Newsletter, n° 87,
March 1992) ■**



*Zenken kojitsu,
1868.*

Conservation News from Sri Lanka

The Conservation Department of the National Archives of Sri Lanka is involved in the conservation and preservation of documents, and procedures have been adopted for their implementation.

Manual conservation is being carried out with handmade papers and Japanese tissues (LX tissues). An insecticide and fungicide paste is used too.

Deacidification

Barrow's single stage process using calcium hydroxide is still in practice. The possibility of using magnesium carbonate suspension in I.M.S. as a spraying technique has also been explored. It is observed that this technique could be used for the deacidification of paper. It has been worked out after a deacidification technique, by Dr. Wettasinghe [Technical Asst. Archivist in the National Archives, Sri Lanka.] as part of a Ph. D. research programme on "A

Study of the Chemical Deterioration of Papers Using FTIR and the Stabilizing and Strengthening of Mechanical Wood Pulp Papers".

Fumigation

The Conservation Department of the National Archives has carried out experiments in fumigation by creating a vacuum for insects. Since it was not very effective, fumigation is now done by using phosphine gas and happens to be far more efficient. Thymol fumigation is done to destroy fungus.

The following research projects are under consideration :

- (1) advantages and disadvantages with phosphine fumigation,
- (2) development of an insecticide for the conservation of library and archive materials with the local means, mainly "Margosa" (*Azadirachta Indica*)

Dr. Wettasinghe plans to continue her research in the strengthening and stabilization of paper.

Conservation Centre Project at the National Library

In 1993, the National Library of Sri Lanka launched a conservation centre project, the objectives of which were to establish and develop conservation activities among libraries, to encourage library's staff in the conservation and preservation of library materials, and to raise awareness among libraries in rural areas and throughout the island.

As a preliminary step, 36 conservation centres have been created within the main public libraries in the island since 1993. Another 13 centres have been set up in 1994. Altogether there are now 49 conservation centres. This project is a joint effort from the Sri Lanka's National Library Services Board and the local government institution with which the relevant Public Library is connected.

The National Library Services Board supplies the centres with equipments and the librarians in charge attended a two-week training on the conservation and preservation of library materials. ■

International Symposium on Dunhuang Archives Heritage



Pilgrim monk,
IXth century.

Early in August 1994, an International Symposium on Dunhuang Archives Heritage was held in Dunhuang, Gansu province of China by the State Archives Bureau of China and the Gansu Provincial Archives Bureau.

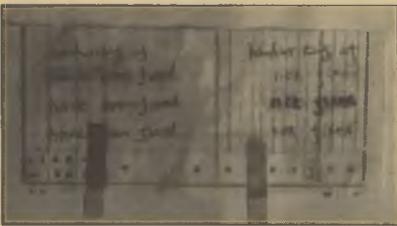
Sixty participants from China, Japan and US discussed the archives discovered in Muo Kao Koo caves at Dunhuang at the beginning of

this century, commonly named "Dunhuang Archives". They consist of papers and manuscripts in various languages dating back from the seventh to tenth centuries, that are now scattered in various national libraries in France, England, Russia, China and Japan.

Mr. Kunio Suzuki, a Japanese archivist, gave a slide-show to report on the use of the compact disc for the duplication of the Dunhuang Archives kept in the Ohmiya Library of Ryukoku University in Japan, that hooked everybody's interest. Delegates were thus provided with a fruitful example of the way to enjoy new technologies in preservation.

A conference on the preservation on Dunhuang archives items is planned for February 1996 in Paris (more about it in *IPN* 10). ■

Chinese Inventions for Restoring and Protecting Deteriorated Writings



The difficulty in restoring and protecting deteriorated writings had not been solved for a long time until professor Li Yuhu set up a series of inventions. They are based on systematic studies and analyses of the chemical composition of the residue, and the deteriorating and restoring mechanism of deteriorated written materials.

The principle is to stabilize and repair various documents including faded and bled inks, ball-point inks, and carbon papers. Tests show that documents can be restored clearly and protected durably. Conservators and archivists will await with interest the results of accelerated ageing tests and other information on these discoveries.

These products are described as follows :

- **Restoring agents for diffused handwritings with ball-point pens and carbon papers (BS73 TH22 NHJ)**

The documents written with ball-point pens and carbon papers are very common and make the major part of the deteriorated documents. The BS73-TH22-NHJ restoring agent can make the diffused dye of the strokes of a document revert to its former stage. It makes seriously blurred writings, even unreadable ones, look almost the same as the original. In addition, it eliminates the factors of diffusion.

- **Restoring agents for faded writings with ball-point pens and carbon papers (BAH. DAH)**

These products restore the chromophoric

group in dye molecules (usually called Crystal violet and Victoria Pure Blue). Faded writing can be restored to a satisfying level.

- **Fixing agent for writings in ball-point pens and carbon papers (FWP)**

FWP fixing agent fixes the handwriting of ball-point pens and carbon papers so that fading and dispersing cannot happen. It also removes the acidity of paper and thus allows documents to be preserved permanently.

- **Fixing and restoring agent for blueprints (FRB)**

FRB agent fixes drawing lines and handwritings, preventing their fading even when exposed to light and subject to foxing. It also restores faded blueprints and removes the acidity of paper thus contributing to its permanent preservation.

- **Restoring and fixing agent for handwritings in blue ink (LC)**

The agent reacts with the residue of faded blue inks, so that it forms the chromophoric group of the dye, called "ink blue" by specialists, and recovers strokes of handwritings that have seriously or utterly faded, to such an extent that they look as if recently written. Moreover, it can turn "ink blue" into a solid, insoluble in water. It resists to light and it fixes handwritings that have not been faded. Also it may eliminate the corrosion of inorganic acid in blue inks and papers, which is harmful to the preservation of papers and the strokes of the handwriting

- **IB series of preserving agents (IB-E and IB-F)**

A mounting technique with paste is widely

used in China for files in archives. A great number of files to be mounted were written or printed in red ink and other water soluble dyes, that bleed easily during the pasting process. In some cases, original documents are even deformed. With the invented IB-E, most of the disadvantages can be avoided. Red ink handwriting is very easy to fade, IB-E can prevent the fading caused by moisture and oxidation. Besides, it may reduce cellulose hydrolyzing and make the paper last much longer. Pencil writings are usually easy to erase and become easily unreadable. However, if the writing is preserved with IB-F, it cannot be erased even with a rubber.

These inventions were awarded gold and silver medals by the 1992 Beijing International Invention Exhibition and the First Class Rank



Effect of contrast after using light to expedite the fading.

for Scientific and Technology Achievement by the State Archives Bureau.

These inventions can only be applied on modern documents. In China, this technique has already been applied for practical preservation in archival works. Local tests and careful checks may be required if the methods were to be tried at your own repository.

**For more information,
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“Rare books are wrapped into red silk”

The National Library of Kazakhstan

One of the major tasks of the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan regards the conservation of the printed documents and manuscripts. For 100 years, the Library's collection has been growing thanks to the legal deposit and it now owns all the books printed in Kazakhstan.

The Library is also equipped with a data bank on the Kazakh ethnic group. Five million volumes in ten languages are kept, including five hundred manuscripts, three thousand incunabula, more than 250,000 books from the nineteenth century. On a world scale, the Library is rather small, but its holdings are part of the national Kazakh culture, which is rich with a significant past, and that must be incorporated into the world's book heritage.

The Library was built in 1970 and was aimed to hold three million volumes. Saying that we are now running out of room is an understatement. The lack of storage areas impedes the proper conservation of documents. On top of that, the radiation rate in our town fastens the deterioration of the paper. However, strong steps are taken to fight against dust, light, humidity, moist. Disinfection, cleaning and pest controls are done on a regular basis. The Library is equipped with a fire suppression system too.

Rare books are disinfected with formaline then enclosed into boxes. According to our curators, the best way to preserve rare books is to wrap them into red silk.

No deacidification of paper is done

Conservation activities have been existing for 25 years and were carried out by a staff of four. Unfortunately, old books and today's documents are both repaired with yesterday's materials and methods because of the lack of equipment. Our conservators deem that home-made flavour paste lasts longer and seems less harmful for documents. The Firdawst, Nizāmi, Navā't, Hākim Sirali manuscripts, treatises on philosophy, Islam, astrology, *Arabic Grammar* by Abu'l-Rāshid Kārī are still awaiting to be restored according to scientific recommendations.

Today, Kazakh newspapers are in jeopardy. They are kept at the Department of rare books and manuscripts. Prior to 1929, Kazakh newspapers were written in Arabic, Latin script was

adopted from 1929 until 1939 when the Cyrillic alphabet took over. Political and social changes caused an increase in our national identity and in the consultation of these documents by researchers, who regard them as primary documentary sources. As a consequence, their deterioration rate grows faster and faster and the lack of funds prevents their microfilming.

Newly acquired books are not treated and no deacidification of paper is done.

For the first time a preservation centre is foreseen

The Republic of Kazakhstan has implemented a programme titled "Conservation and access to printed documents and manuscripts in the libraries of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 1993-2000". The programme will consider the legislation on conservation, the funding of advanced technologies, analyse the state of the collections and set up procedures to improve preservation and conservation. The training of the conservators will be examined too. As a newborn State, the Republic regards the ratification of acts of Parliament on preservation and conservation as a priority. To date, monies were inadequate to carry out our goals but they helped us determine the most urgent needs and to begin actions.

Time has come for us to take new decisions, to assess our activities and develop the conservation and preservation of our collections. In this respect, the creation of a centre for the preservation and conservation of documents is foreseen. The centre will be equipped with a research department and a laboratory for physics and chemistry with a consultation and advisory service to all the libraries in the Republic. The future activities of the centre will be focused on the implementation of new techniques on conservation after the experience of foreign libraries, on the co-operation among the major libraries in the country, on paper deacidification and the purchase of microfilming facilities. The authorities in charge will have to think about CD-ROM, since microfilms are on the verge of becoming out-dated.

Education is a stumbling matter and up to now there was no training policy. Yet conservators have to pace up with new techniques. Courses will be organized in colleges and universities. The centre should co-operate with the corporation of printers and publishers in order to solve the matter of the quality of the paper, and to ensure the long-term preservation of today's documents.

Rosa BERDIGALIEVA, Director of the National Library of Kazakhstan, Zarëma SHAIMARDANOVA, Head Curator ■



Manuscript illustrating a poem by Nizāmi.

■ PAC Regional Centre for USA and Canada

Congress approves Library of Congress book preservation plan

Congress has approved a plan submitted by the Library of Congress to begin using a new book deacidification technology while continuing to evaluate other methods over the next two years. On January 31, 1995 the Senate Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations added its approval to the plan which had been approved by the House Subcommittee on January 23.

The plan calls for the Library to contract with Preservation Technologies, Inc. (PTI) of Glenshaw, PA to enhance its Bookkeeper mass deacidification process and treat up to 72,000 books during the next two years. At the same time, the Library has placed an announcement in the *Commerce Business Daily* designed to continue encouraging other companies with competing technologies to step forward, if their process has the potential to meet or exceed the Library's requirements.

The new plan follows an earlier effort by the Library to refine a process which uses diethyl zinc (DEZ) gas to deacidify large quantities of books and, at the same time, evaluate the Bookkeeper process as a promising alternative. The DEZ process was patented by the Library in 1975. Development of this process has been suspended since April 1994. Unlike DEZ, which is a gaseous technology, the Bookkeeper method uses particules of magnesium oxide suspended in a fluid.

Information about the Library's evaluation and testing of both programmes is available on Internet through LC's Gopher. The textual pages of separate reports about the Bookkeeper and DEZ technologies can be accessed by telnetting to "Marvel.loc.gov." and logging in as "Marvel." To locate the two reports on Marvel, select "Libraries and Publishers (Technical Services)," "Preservation at the Library of Congress," then "Mass deacidification : Reports". ■

PRINCIPLES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Due to the advancement of techniques in the field of preservation and conservation, the *Principles for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Materials* by J.-M. Dureau and D.W.G. Clements, published by IFLA HQ in 1986 (IFLA Professional Reports, N°8) need to be updated.

The revision cannot be the work of one person and we urge you to send comments on whatever paragraph seems obsolete or needs to be changed.

Please, send your comments before June 1995 to :

Marie-Thérèse Varlamoff, IFLA PAC Core Programme Director, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 2 rue Vivienne, 75084 PARIS Cedex 02 France - Fax : 33 1 47 03 77 25
E-mail : marie-therese.varlamoff@bnf.fr

All your comments will be taken into consideration by a small group of experts and a draft of the new version will be proposed for discussion at the Budapest Satellite Meeting on Conservation and at the IFLA General Conference in Istanbul, where members of PAC and of the Section on Conservation will work on the rewriting of the final version.

The new version is to be published in 1996.

Judy Segal Trust Makes Further Awards and Invites New Applications

The Judy Segal Trust has made two more awards for projects which will further the preservation and conservation of archive and library materials in less developed countries. The recipients were Moses Chisenga, Conservation and Reprographics Officer at the National Archives of Zambia, and Maria Antonieta Palma Varas, head of the planned Centre of Conservation of the National Library of Chile.

The award to Mr Chisenga enabled him to undertake a twelve-week studentship in conservation in the School of Art History and Conservation at Camberwell College of Arts, London. The grant to Sra Palma supported her during a study visit to conservation laboratories at the Bibliothèque nationale de France and other institutions in Paris and elsewhere in France.

Awards for projects to be implemented during the early part of 1995 are currently under consideration.

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 where the need is greatest. The Trustees seek, in particular, to reinforce institutions which have already established 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 1995 to August 1996. Grants will normally be in the range of £1,000 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 projects 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 conserva-

tion 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 detailed award guidelines and application forms may be obtained from The Secretary, Judy Segal Trust, c/o The Management Centre, 65 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SG, England ; tel : +44 191 222 1632 ; fax : +44 191 261 7002. The date for receipt of applications for projects to be undertaken after 1 January 1996 will be 11 September 1995.

Michael ROPER, Chairman ■

“Manual translated into Vietnamese”

■ PAC Regional Centre for South-East Asia

Alia Apsig Library Preservation Management Seminars - Bangkok and Hanoi, 1994

In June 1994, Wendy Smith (Lecturer in Paper Conservation, University of Canberra), and Ross Harvey (then Senior Lecturer in Librarianship, Monash University) packed their bags and trusty computer and set off for another round of preservation management training sessions in South-East Asia. The seminars continued from a previous workshop held in Bangkok in 1992 (see IPN n°5, Dec. 92).

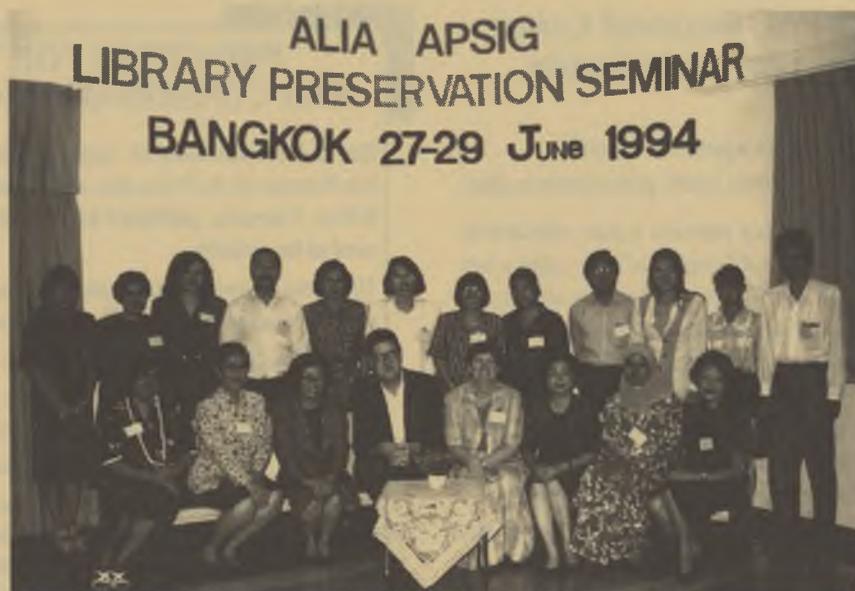
The major sponsor was the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) through its Professional Associations International Development Scheme (PAIDS) programme.

The first seminar was in Bangkok and was opened by Mrs Thara Kanakamani, Director of the National Library of Thailand (NLT). Sixteen delegates attended, including six from our previous workshop. All returning delegates reported on developments since 1992. These showed considerable progress has already been made in improving the preservation of their collections.

Two innovations were to include a visit to the NLT collection areas and to undertake a small scale sample survey. To do this we “invaded” a section of one of the general reading rooms and set about examining the condition of some of the collections. The visit was also appreciated. It was a good chance to see traditional Thai materials, their repair and storage. Highlights of the seminar for the delegates were probably these activities.

Delegates to the seminar drew up a list of seminar resolutions. Among the important ones, were those recognizing the role of library associations in furthering the cause of preservation of the collections and highlighting the need for preservation education and training.

A second activity in Bangkok was to attend a meeting organized by the Thai Library Association and chaired by Professor Khunying Maenmas Chavalit to discuss training needs for library preservation. The issue



of formal v. on the job training continues to be a very big issue and there was much interesting discussion about a regional or national conservation facility. Delegates to the meeting were very interested in hearing of the Australian experience in establishing library preservation training courses and in setting up conservation laboratories.

A major building project should help rectify preservation matters

The official opening of the seminar in Hanoi, attended by eighteen delegates, was performed by the Vice Minister of Culture and Information, Professor Dr Luu Tran Tieu. Mr Do Huu Du, responsible for libraries in the Ministry of Culture and Information and Mr Vuong Thinh, Director of International Relations Department of the Ministry, also gave speeches.

As in Thailand, we received a warm welcome from the delegates to the 1992 Bangkok workshop. The six returning delegates talked about their own institutions and the progress they had made in preservation activities since then. One very pleasant surprise was that our manual has now been translated into Vietnamese by Nguyen Tuan Khanh. Two delegates reported on papers published on library preservation in Vietnamese scholarly journals, and there was anecdotal evidence about the use of the 1992 manual in others institutions.

Dirt, dust, lack of storage, damage by insect pests, high humidity and lack of resources are all very critical factors hindering any immediate improvements of conditions in Hanoi. The tour of the National Library of Vietnam's collections confirmed this. At the same time, Library staff are very aware of these problems and are taking whatever steps they can to improve conditions. The National Library is commencing a major building project that will see many of them rectified.

There is an awareness of the need to develop an infrastructure within the country that will help in the sharing of information about conservation. Discussions with individual delegates also confirmed that there is move to establish a professional library organization.

The overall impression given by the Hanoi librarians was of a group with a great willingness and ability to learn, but with an almost total lack of resources to put anything but the most basic procedures into practice. With relatively modest assistance by Australian standards, the potential for vast improvement exists.

Wendy SMITH,
Lecturer in Paper Conservation,
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Science Studies,
Faculty of Applied Science,
University of Canberra. ■

■ PAC Regional Centre for Central and East Asia

The Eighth Preservation and Conservation Forum was held on June 13, 1994 as part of the co-operative preservation programme conducted by the Preservation Planning Office. Ms. Toshiko Kenjō, Emeritus Researcher of the Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, was invited to speak on "The Stack Environment for Rare Books." The forum was attended by 56 persons from the National Diet Library, university libraries, public libraries, archives and related business corporations.

A conservation unit at the National Diet Library is being set up for the repairing and binding of books, manuscripts, serial publications, deacidification of brittle documents, preservation of original formats through scientific methods and application of micrographic methods for the preservation of rare and valuable materials.

■ PAC Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean

Brittle Papers: A Stumbling-block

In 1992, Antonio Pascuali, an expert on communication, gave the alert on the acidity of Latin American books. The results of a study conducted by the University of Miami were appalling; Venezuela's case was cited as the most worrying because of the high percentage of lignin in papers. M. Pascuali recalled of the 57th resolution of the American Congress, that became a Public Law thanks to President Bush, and that compelled publishers to use permanent paper for documents of permanent interest. M. Pascuali regretted that this example had not been followed by Latin American countries.

Maintenance of a specialized document supply service

Venezuela's National Conservation Centre is now able to distribute the bibliography, printed or computerized, of all the publications in the field of preservation and conservation held by its documentary centre and to facilitate copies of documents of interest.

Before that, in 1980, Mark Grover, from the Brigham Young University Library (Utah) communicated to Latin American specialists the disquieting conclusions on the quality of university books published all over Latin America. The quality of the paper, the presence of mechanical wood pulp, the binding resistance were tested. Venezuela was ranked as the worst with the highest percentage of mechanical wood pulp. However, the printing dates of the tested books were not given.

In light of these results, several questions arise. Did the studies deal with Venezuelan books or Latin American books kept in Venezuela? Is our situation such a catastrophe?

Are the positive results reached abroad suitable for the holdings kept in Caracas?

Mass deacidification is inadequate

For instance, would microfilming or photocopying on alkaline papers be worth adopted by the National Library of Venezuela? What would be the cost of these undertakings and how could they be integrated into the timetable of our staff? Would these solutions help us change the percentage of jeopardized books? We had already expressed our doubts on mass deacidification treatments for none of them can be applied to brittle books. Moreover, because of the wide range of climates in the country, the conservation of our holdings is a baffling field that hasn't been investigated yet. Data on natural ageing may be different from North American or European ones. Mass conservation methods

Ms. Kenjō presented the underground stack of the NDL's annex building which has adopted a modern style structure. She explains how the Shosoin treasury called "Azekura" style, made of trimmed logs, was an ingenious device to fight against the deterioration of books caused by temperature, steaming and humidity, by maintaining a constant flow of air in cool dry weather.

The stack of the Archives and Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency is built after the same principle, which is a good example of using natural air conditioning.

Ms Kenjō concluded that future tasks will be to adapt modern preservation technology as well as utilize the traditional wisdom of Japanese ancestors. ■

are to be invented for the Latin American specific context.

New legislation should urge papermakers to adopt alkaline paper

Alkaline paper is certainly the best solution for today's documents, which accounts why the USA and most European countries turned to it. In Venezuela, the National Library induced papermakers to study the feasibility and the economic interest in turning to alkaline paper. A Brazilian company has already adopted neutral paper after French techniques. A Swedish papermaking industry owns hundreds of miles of forest in Chile. But this is not enough. False information may have made Latin American industries reluctant towards alkaline paper. It has been regarded as a competitor to recycled paper. The truth is that recycled paper can't be made alkaline but it can be strengthened with an addition of alkaline pulp. Also, it is important to stress that alkaline paper mills are no threat to the environment. The sole valid argument for printers' reluctance may lie in the fact that many printing equipment, such as offset, are acid and turning to alkaline paper would mean to become acquainted with new techniques.

Publishing firms do not feel concerned either. Why should they adopt alkaline paper for books that are hardly sold? They are far more worried about high productivity and advantageous delivery matters. Therefore, alkaline paper should be used for valuable documents of permanent interest. New legislation should urge papermakers to adopt alkaline paper and thus meet international standards.

Lourdes BLANCO ■

“Microfilming: get it right first time”

■ Second National Newsplan Conference

Durham, England, 7-8 March 1994

The two-day Conference included twelve speakers and a workshop on the funding of microfilming projects as a key to implementation.

The Mellon microfilming project

As a Mellon microfilming officer, Valerie Ferris of the British Library, National Preservation Office, recalled some essential recommendations to fulfill the purpose in view: applying for grants. She made some very practical and sensible comments on various points to keep to and gave general advice on preparing and costing. In the U.K. the Mellon Microfilming Project has been one of the most important initiatives of the last few years. It could also help implementation of Newsplan recommendations when well prepared applications come forward.

Next day, Valerie Ferris gave a paper on the “Concern for Quality in Preservation Microfilming” and thus followed up the workshop of the day before. She insisted on the importance of care and quality in the microfilming project, pointing out pitfalls and issues to be addressed. “The best quality of the original that is possible to produce” should be the aim at each stage of the process, and time for methodical preparation and planning should be de rigueur. “Get it right first time” should be the point - as there may not be another opportunity. On the whole, for a successful high quality programme the keyword is planning.

Robert Harriman of the Library of Congress (LC) introduced the participants to the US Newspaper Programme of which he is the coordinator. It is a co-operative initiative with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the LC and from non-federal sources. The programme aims to locate all issues of every newspapers published in the US and Trust Territories, to

create a database for all titles and, in principle, to microfilm all American newspapers. To date, 22 States of the US as well as the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have been covered, but completion is only to be expected in about 10 years. At the moment, a staff of 125 is working on the Programme all over the country. The global funding is planned to be \$ 12,5 million from non-federal sources.

Henry Snyder, of the University of California, Riverside, gave a short paper on the new Early Serials Project (EES) to supplement the on line English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC) which does not include newspapers. The idea of EES is to create a single master record for each title produced in England and its dependencies before 1801, and to constitute a union catalogue of all newspapers up to nowadays.

Dr. Patricia Donlon, Director of the National Library of Ireland, described the production and the publication of the Newsplan in *Ireland Report* (1992), which she qualified as “a perfect example of every which way co-operation”. She thinks that the network of committees set up to implement the programme is proving to be “highly effective”. Funding is being sought from the Mellon Microfilming Project by the Joint Liaison Committee. The microfilming unit will be established at the National Library in Dublin as most holdings of Irish Newspapers are located there. Two hundred and thirty four Irish newspapers are in urgent need of filming (that means some 8000 reels to be done). The Newsplan Project in Ireland is a three-year plan.

A model of co-operation between the British Library and the rest of the library community

Two representatives from the newspaper industry came to talk about the effects of the digital revolution and the implications of the change from written to computer literacy with regard to written tradition. The challenge for librarians and archivists due to the electronic revolution was underlined by both speakers.

Nevertheless, they did not envisage the revolution to happen immediately.

Copyright and digitization were also on the Conference programme. Geoff Smith of the British Library Newspaper Library, dealt with the potential of digitization in the preservation of printed newspapers, and the possibilities and limitations of the technology available at the moment. Digitization systems are still at an early stage of development. In spite of potential benefits from this technology, microfilm remains the best medium for large-scale, long-term preservation and use of newspapers within libraries.

Geoffrey Hamilton, Head of the British Library Newspaper Library, responsible for the link between the British Library and the 10 regional Newsplan Projects underlined that newsplan had proved itself as “a model of co-operation between the British Library and the rest of the library community”. He brought out some concerns to be addressed in the coming years :

- selective as opposed to comprehensive preservation,
- the urgency of a coordinated microfilming programme at a national level,
- the establishment of a national newspaper database,
- the potential for co-operative interaction with international projects,
- the need for quality in microfilming and the importance of the master negative,
- the need for microfilming units associated with the National Libraries and co-operation in marketing their services,
- co-operation with newspaper publishers to deal with the digital revolution,
- the balance between speculative investment in digitization and maintaining microfilming work,
- the search for new resources,
- fuller coordination of microfilming programmes in National Libraries.

A wide scope for an excellent conference which met many concerns of the Newspaper and Preservation Sections within the library community.

Else DELAUNAY
Bibliothèque nationale de France,
Serials Department ■

HQOC

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

Buward Neutre 100 % chiffon

MONTER - ENCADRER

Vélin de Montage

Papiers Permanents

Cartons Museum

Cartons Conservation

Contrecollés Beaux-Arts couleur

Patrimoine


CANSON®

Literature

■ De Tutela Librorum

La conservation des livres et des documents d'archives / Die Erhaltung von Büchern und Archivalien
Andréa Giovannini
Les Editions I.E.S.
Institut d'Etudes Sociales, Case postale
CH - 1211 Genève 4
Switzerland

■ Material Published by Members of the Library of Congress

Preservation Directorate: A Bibliography
Compiled by Carole Zimmermann
Library of Congress
Preservation Directorate
Washington D.C. 20540 USA

■ Bibliography on Mass Deacidification

Compiled by Carole Zimmermann
Library of Congress Preservation Office
Washington D.C. 20540 USA

■ Global Perspectives on Preservation Education

by Michèle Valerie Cloonan
IFLA Publications 69, 1994
K.G. Saur

■ Preservation in Australian and New Zealand Libraries 2nd ed

by Ross Harvey
Centre for Information Studies,
Charles Sturt University
Riverina, 1994 - Locked Bag 660
Wagga Wagga, 2678 Australia

Events

■ 27-30 March 1995, SINGAPORE Digital Libraries Conference & Multimedia Workshop

Definition, information and technology trends, case studies, implementation issues.

Ms Kwok Slew Quen, Secretary,
Organizing Committee
Tel: 77 20 917 - Fax: 77 80 993

■ 9-17 July 1995, SANTA FE Preservation Management for Colleges Libraries

The major topics regarding preservation will be covered and enable academic libraries to implement effective, decentralized strategies for preserving their general collections. Most useful for the

librarian responsible for planning and coordinating preservation activities for the library's circulating collection.

More information from:
Tom Clareson, AMIGOS Preservation Service Manager
800/843-8482 or 214/851-8000
Internet: clareson@amigos.org

■ 15-17 August 1995, BUDAPEST Satellite Meeting on Library Preservation and Conservation in the 90s Organizer: IFLA Section on Conservation in cooperation with PAC Programme

Plenary sessions on:

- new technologies for libraries
- preventive conservation and disaster recovery
- mass conservation methods and dilemmas
- international and regional efforts on preservation and access (PAC, IFLA

Section on Conservation, the American and European Commissions Preservation and Access and the "Memory of the World" Project)

Parallel meetings with the PAC Regional Centres on preservation practices, training for conservators and librarians.

Visits to book and paper conservation workshops.

■ 23-25 August 1995, LONDON The Preservation and Conservation of Photographic Materials

How to identify degradation, to handle and store photographic images: aims specially for those with the care and responsibility for photographic collections.

The Centre Photographic Conservation
233 Stantead Rd, Forest Hill
London SE23 1HU

Tel: 081-690 3678 - Fax: 081-314 1940

Redefining Disasters: A Decade of Counter-disaster Planning

The State Library of New South Wales announces a three-day International conference to be held at the State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, on 20-22 September 1995.

Rationale: As many of us have found out in recent years, there is nothing that can put a library, archive or museum out of business faster than a fire, flood or earthquake. Disasters destroy collections, cost money and reduce morale. No institution is immune but some are managing the threat. Planning for potential disasters can make the difference between temporary loss of service and catastrophe.

It is sixteen years since the publication of Peter Waters' influential book, *Procedures for Salvage of Water-Damaged Library Materials*. Six years later Sally Buchanan visited Australia and cata-

lysed the development of counter-disaster plans for the Australian environment. Many of those who attended the workshop have since written counter-disaster plans and are now revising them.

Redefining disasters: a decade of counter-disaster planning will look at what has happened in the past ten years in libraries, archives, museums and galleries. National and international speakers will discuss how threats have changed and been quantified, how plans have worked or failed, what can be learnt from case histories, the impact of disasters on new technologies and directions for future action. Included will be the latest developments in recovery techniques, communications issues, legal issues, fire detection and suppression systems and risk management. A full topics list

and guidelines for intending speakers is available.

Fees: A\$495 (A\$445 speakers) including conference papers, conference dinner, 3 lunches and 2 receptions.

Call for papers. Papers are invited on these subjects. To submit a paper for consideration by the program committee, send the title of your paper, a 150-word abstract, and contact details by 1 April 1995 to: Marion Roubos-Bennett, Manager, Conservation Access State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, Australia. Telephone:(02) 230-1676, Fax:(02) 232-4816 Email: ahowell@ilanet.sinsw.gov.au. Successful speakers will be notified by 1 May. Full papers will be required by 1 August 1995.