

BOOK REVIEW

Carolyn Horton.—Cleaning and preserving bindings and related materials. Chicago, Library Technology Program, American Library Association, 1967. 96p Illus. \$3.50 (U.S. price). Reviewed by J. Bruce.

This is the first volume of a series which will eventually constitute a manual on the care and repair of books and other library materials. The Council on Library Resources, Inc., assisted in the preparation of this item.

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It is always useful, in any professional field, for a manual to be provided which supplies details of all processes from the laboratory evaluation of materials to exact description of work procedures. This volume is no exception. It is based on practical as well as theoretical considerations, and emphasis is placed on the fact that the cleaning and preserving of bindings is an *art*. The techniques recommended in this manual could be carried out at very reasonable cost in smaller libraries, as well as in larger ones.

The statement in the editorial preface (p. XIV, par. 3) to the effect that uniformity is not a reality in the world of books should bear thinking about, and the librarian will need to consider its implications very carefully.

The author comments on problems caused by air pollution in modern cities. Thanks to improved methods of treatment, especially the use of air-conditioning and the adoption of better standards in paper manufacturing (i.e. use of acid-free papers) this problem could be overcome to a large extent. However, smaller libraries may never have air-conditioning, or, when they do get this facility, they may not have an air-conditioning plant specially designed to assist in the preservation of paper. The smaller library, incorporated as it often is in an industrial or commercial building, or in a school or government department, may well participate in only the "fringe benefit" of air-conditioning adjusted to suit the comfort of human beings, and turned off each night when human beings vacate the building. The quality of paper may well improve, but in the last analysis it is not the librarian or the archivist who determines the quality of the paper on which his books are printed or his archives are written.

The proposal to train librarians in the field of book repair has its problems in this country. Librarians are vitally concerned about the way book binding is done, but this does not make them binders. It seems to the present reviewer that the book under review can achieve most by informing librarians as to the nature of the tasks to be done, leaving the actual processes of repair to the binder who is trained for the work. Few, of course, are specialists in repair of fragile materials, though the use of books such as Mrs Horton's can help equip the qualified book binder with the additional skills needed.

In "Preparing to recondition a library", Mrs Horton has presented her material accurately and clearly. Some of the illustrations, such as that showing how to support books with the right hand after a few of those in the shelf in question have been removed, seem to emphasize the obvious, and there is certainly a reiteration of elementary instructions throughout the book, which might infuriate the initiated. On the other hand, instructions on "leaf repair and loose plates", and on "treatment

of leathers", contain useful information that could be applied in many libraries in Australia.

On pp 55 - 62 there is a glossary of terms, which constitutes a splendid summary of the different parts of the book, and of materials and tools to be used. For someone setting up a bindery, this glossary would be invaluable. A warning should be issued about American usage, however, for some terms used in the U.S.A. are not accepted in Australia. "Barrier sheets", for instance, are called fencing in Australia. "Crash, super or mull" is to be translated as muslin or skim, and a "headcap" is a set head.

The volume could have been improved by the incorporation of a chapter on book sewing, quite apart from the section on saddle sewing on p. 41. No matter how good the binder or how the book is bound, book sewing is the fundamental basis of the art, and this volume should have given it some treatment.

A selected bibliography is appended, together with lists of supplies and equipment and a directory of sources of supply.

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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(These "Introductions" are reprinted by permission of the Library Board of Western Australia. The Preliminary Inventories of which they form part are now out of print).

A. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The records described in this inventory are now held in the Western Australian Archives, and constitute the entire records of the Governor's Office for the Crown Colony period, i.e. 1829-1890. They were transferred from Government House in November 1951. The total volume is about 36 cubic feet. They are here arranged and described by series.

The first Governor of Western Australia took office as Lieutenant-Governor, his only authority being a letter of appointment from the Colonial Office dated Dec. 30, 1828. On May 14, 1829, "An Act to provide until the thirty-first day of December 1834 for the Government of His Majesty's Settlement in Western Australia, on the Western coast of New Holland" (10 Geo IV No. XXII) received the Royal Assent, but Stirling's Commission as Governor and Commander-in-chief, with the accompanying Royal Instructions, was not issued until March 4, 1831, and only reached him in Australia at the end of that year. During the interim, the Governor had autocratic powers within the Colony, and these powers virtually continued throughout the Crown Colony period. Although Executive and Legislative Councils were formed at the beginning of 1832 to assist the Governor in the administration of the Colony, the powers of these Councils were restricted. All laws had first to be proposed by the Governor, and in any case, were liable to be disallowed by the