

ARCHIVAL CONSERVATION

An Annotated Bibliography by T. C. WALSH

Books and Pamphlets

Caring for Photographs: display, storage and restoration. Time-Life, New York 1972.

This book is divided into the following sections: Restoring photographs; Processing for permanence; storage—safe yet accessible; Displaying pictures and the photographic show. There is a useful bibliography and index. It covers all aspects of keeping photographs in archival collections, including restoring early daguerreotypes, processing, archival standards, mounting for display and generally the preservation of photographic material. This book is of value to any institution or group with photographs of any sort in its collection.

Conservation and Restoration of Archive Materials, by Yash Pal Kathpalia. UNESCO, Paris 1973.

This paperback volume by one of India's best-known conservators is especially relevant to Australia because of the similar climatic conditions between parts of India and Australia. Kathpalia deals with the nature of archival material, causes of deterioration and various methods of treatment. There is a useful bibliography (but no index) and a number of appendices list suppliers, equipment needed in a conservation workshop, formulae for things like pastes and inks, and basic physical and chemical testing.

Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art, The Treatment, Repair and Restoration, by N. J. Plenderleith and A. E. A. Warner. Oxford University Press, London 1971.

Both Plenderleith and Warner have been Keepers of the Research Laboratory at the British Museum, and this book covers most of the types of material found in that institution, including paper, leather and parchment. The book is divided into three broad parts dealing with organic materials, metals, and siliceous and related materials. There are eighteen appendices dealing with chemicals, methods for recording relative humidity, various basic chemical tests and so on. The book has an extensive index, bibliography and list of suppliers.

Conservation of Library Materials. A Manual and Bibliography on the Care, Repair and Restoration of Library Materials, by George Martin Cunha and Dorothy Grant Cunha. 2 volumes. The Scarecrow Press, Metuchen 1971 (Second Edition).

This two-volume work is perhaps the most comprehensive of its type ever undertaken. The first volume is made up under the following chapter headings: Historical Background; the Nature of Library Materials; The Enemies of Library Materials; Preventative Care; Repair and Restoration; When Disaster Strikes; and The Co-operative Approach to Conservation. There are then appendices dealing with specific topics such as Standards and Specifications,

Research, Physics of Light, Deacidification. The volume deals in great detail with the nature and cause of deterioration of all material found in libraries and archives including leather, vellum, photographic material, magnetic tape, stone. A wide variety of remedies are given, and techniques are carefully described. The second volume is a bibliography of 4,882 separate references to conservation matter found in a wide range of books, journals and pamphlets. Both volumes are fully indexed and should be the first purchase of anyone responsible for the care of an archive or library.

Document Repair, by D. M. Wardle. Society of Archivists, London 1971.

This book outlines traditional conservation methods as practised in the Public Record Office. All forms of paper conservation are covered as well as items such as seals, tally sticks and maps. Paste and size, and deacidification, are also dealt with. There is a good index and list of items of equipment and material necessary for basic conservation work. The administration of a conservation section and the general record-keeping procedures necessary are explained.

Library and Archives Conservation, edited by George Martin Cunha and Norman Paul Tucker. The Boston Athenaeum's 1971 Seminar on the Application of Chemical and Physical Methods to the Conservation of Library and Archive Materials, 17-21 May 1971. The Library of the Boston Athenaeum, Boston 1972.

The proceedings of this most useful seminar consists of papers on: The Scope of the Problem; Review of Materials; Material Control and Testing; Causes for Deterioration; Fungus Deterioration; Permanence Research at the W. J. Barrow Research Laboratory; Environment Control; Some References on Environment Control; Air Conditioning; Some Practical Considerations of Humidity Control; Sulphur Dioxide Test Papers; Housekeeping; Storage; Pest Control; Routine Care of Materials; Picture Conservation; Maranyl as a fixative for Pastel; Library Binding; the Co-operative Approach to Conservation; Interstate Library Compact and the New England Document Conservation Centre; Mobile Units; Deacidification; Lamination; Disaster Control; Recovery from Disaster; Literature Review; Research Centres and Professional Associations; Conservation Program of the Research Libraries.

New Directions in Bookbinding, by Philip Smith. Studio Vista, London 1974.

This book covers traditional methods of bookbinding and also contemporary techniques. It contains a useful section by Anthony Cains entitled, 'New Attitudes to Conservation' which explains how a conservation section can be set up and operated. There are appendices on Planning; the Manufacture of Leather; a check list of binding operations; Adhesives; and Tools and Equipment. Many of the colour plates are magnificent.

Preservation of Documentary Material in the Pacific Area. A Practical Guide, by N. J. Plenderleith. Australian National Advisory Committee for UNESCO. A.G.P.S., Canberra 1972.

This small pamphlet is the result of a visit to the Pacific area in 1971 by Plenderleith, one time Keeper of the Research Laboratory at the British Museum. He covers very succinctly the common problems and remedies for mould, insect pests, air pollution and other hazards to archival material. He gives a brief description of acidity in paper and the remedy as well as describing lamination processes. There is a useful bibliography and there are appendices on Hygrometry; Dehumidifiers; the Deacidification of Paper; and Lamination.

Preserving the Moving Image, by Ralph N. Sargent (edited by Glen Fleck). Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington 1974.

This publication is concerned wholly with the long-term preservation and use of visual material and includes all film types, magnetic and computer tapes, videotapes and video discs. It is made up of a number of interviews with film archivists, technical experts and manufacturers, and each section has specific recommendations for the treatment and storage of particular materials. It has an index, and it is very much a 'state of the art' work.

Procedures for Salvage of Water Damaged Library Materials, by Peter Waters. Library of Congress, Washington 1975.

Very useful and easy to follow, this pamphlet contains the following main parts: Assessment of damage and planning for salvage; How water affects books and unbound material; Freezing; First procedures for salvage; The Salvage Team; Preliminaries to removal from affected areas; Removal and packing of water-damaged materials; Cleaning and drying without freezing; Handling separate sheets and leaves; Photographic materials; Evaluation of loss; Summary of emergency procedures; Sources of services, supplies and equipment. Every archivist should have access to this booklet. Sometime in his career he is bound to be faced with the problem of taking prompt action to recover material affected by water and mould. In thirty pages this book gives all the information necessary to prepare for and cope with a water-caused disaster.

Journals and Leaflets

Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material Bulletin.

This Australian organization arranges seminars on conservation and the general exchange of ideas on the whole range of cultural conservation. The *Bulletin* contains coverage of useful aspects of conservation techniques, materials and suppliers in Australia and elsewhere. Membership of the I.C.C.M. can be arranged through the Secretary, Dr Colin Pearson, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2617.

Library of Congress Preservation Leaflets

No. 1: Selected References in the Literature of Conservation.

No. 2: Environmental Protection of Books and Related Materials: Causes of paper deterioration; Temperature and Humidity; Mould; Atmospheric Pollutants; Light; Insects and Rodents; Recommended References; Sources of Supplies.

No. 3: Preserving Leather Bookbindings: Cleaning Leather Bookbindings; Treatment with Neat's-foot Oil and Lanolin; Formates; Sources; Recommended References.

These are obtainable, free of charge, from the Assistant Director for Preservation, Administrative Department, Library of Congress, Washington D.C. 20540, U.S.A. Further titles are in preparation.

The Paper Conservator

This journal is produced by the paper conservation group of the International Institute of Conservation. It may be obtained from Paul Collet, Art and Museum Department, Administrative Office, Bayley Road, Coventry, U.K. It deals with all aspects of paper conservation.