Displaying Your Memories: The Danger of Light

Family records, such as marriage licenses and military service papers, have a personal value far beyond their market worth. The guidelines for displaying paper documents and photographs are very similar to the guidelines for the storage of these items. Storage conditions have a significant impact on the life of paper documents and photographs. A constant level of humidity (50%) and temperature (70°F), always should be maintained. Special additional care is needed for items that are to be framed and displayed.

First, the item should not touch the glass, and only “acid-free” or acid-neutral materials and archival adhesives should be used. The type and amount of light that will be allowed to touch the document should be carefully considered. Light that is rich in high frequency radiation (ultra-violet light) is responsible for photochemical changes or can cause photosensitized reactions in paper and many other organic materials. Light embrittles and weakens paper by breaking down its cellulose molecules. This destruction is assisted by oxygen and ozone in the air, high relative humidity and temperature, as well as air pollutants and impurities in the paper’s structure. The same light that can harm paper also can cause fading of such design materials as the dyes in paints, pastels, crayons, and inks. The damage depends on the intensity and the length of the item’s exposure to light.

Sunlight and fluorescent artificial lights are very rich in ultraviolet (UV) rays. These UV rays, although wonderful for houseplants, are dangerous for paper and photographic items being displayed. Incandescent lights (old fashioned light bulbs) are much lower in UV rays and are a much safer source of light. Where fluorescent lighting is utilized museums, libraries, and archives may install ultraviolet shielding. The UV shields in use at the CAC are slipped over the fluorescent tubes as a protective jacket. UV shields are available from conservation supply companies.

If it is not possible to adjust the lighting of a room, there are ways to prevent light from harming the item in the frame. Framing professionals may insert a sheet of styrene in the frame between the item and the glass. Styrene blocks a large percentage of UV rays. It resembles plexiglass however, it is about half as thick as a sheet of glass. By placing the styrene underneath the glass rather than over it, it is protected from being scratched when the frame is cleaned. The cost of styrene is comparable to glass. Another alternative is to frame objects behind Denglas®. This is a glass that has been coated with a material that blocks out UV rays; it is similar to that used to coat both sides of a camera lens to reduce reflection. It is actually baked on the glass and has the added advantage of being a non-glare surface. However, at approximately $10.00 per square foot, this can be expensive. To find sources for these materials, check the yellow pages in your local telephone directory under “Picture Frames-Dealers.”

We strongly suggest that “copies” rather than original photographs be displayed. This will assure the continued preservation of the original.

TRADER’S CORNER

Architecture in the Ohio Heritage $5.00
Atlas of Wood County 1912 $15.00
Bowling Green Directory 1957 $7.50
Cram’s Unrualed Atlas 1921 $10.00
Directory and Guide to Wards (Lucas County Board of Elections) 1928 (3 copies), 1931 (2 copies), 1933 (3 copies) 1961, 1964 and 1966 (1 copy each) $5.00 @
Fremont City Directory 1935, 1937, 1939 $7.50 @
Key Yearbook (BGSU) 1960, 1961, 1972, 1974 $5.00 @
Mary Manse College Yearbook 1926, 1959, 1969, 1970 $5.00 @
Pemberette (Pemberville, Ohio High School Yearbook) 1935-1938 $5.00 @
The Guymon Detective Fiction Manuscript Collection is currently being processed, and will be available soon to researchers. The Center’s highlight is the voluminous correspondence between the internationally known book collector Edward T. (Ned) Guymon, Jr. and his many friends in the detective fiction world. The Collection was the gift of Mrs. Edward T. Guymon, Jr. of Rancho Santa Fe, California and complements the Guymon book collection which was received in 1983.

The Rare Books Collection has recently acquired an interesting addition to its Ray Bradbury holdings. Long After Ecclesiastes, a miniature book of poetry by Bradbury, was recently released by Gold Skin Press of Saint Ana, California, and subsequently purchased by the CAC. It indeed will be an asset to the Bradbury holdings.

REFERENCE

Due to an increased number of special photographic projects undertaken by the CAC, we regret that we must postpone all off-campus darkroom requests until July, 1986. We apologize for this inconvenience. The expertise of the Preservation staff will continue to be available, and if you need information about preserving photographs, we encourage you to call the office.

The Regional Historic Preservation Coordinator has begun the process of creating a solid core collection, at the CAC, of published materials on various aspects of historic preservation. This pamphlet will provide information about architectural styles and restoration techniques, the laws governing historic preservation activity, the development of the preservation movement and how to organize for neighborhood action.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A major focus of the Historic Preservation Office is the National Register of Historic Places. The National Registerting the list of the nation’s historic and prehistoric cultural resources that have been determined by the Secretary of Interior, to be worthy of recognition and preservation. The register documenting historic preservation efforts, church, parks, governmental buildings, churches, bridges, archaeological sites and historic objects.

In order to have a cultural resource listed on the National Register, a comprehensive history of the resource must be conducted. For example, if a house is being nominated as a historic property it must be completed to discover all past owners, the significance of each owner must be identified, and the types of changes the house has undergone should be documented. Then all the information must be organized and placed on an official nomination form.

The Center for Archival Collections provides excellent resources for anyone conducting such research. After the researcher has established the chain of ownership, he has an opportunity to use the extensive collection of historical materials at the CAC. This includes such publications as county, city, and town fire insurance maps, city directories, and local government documents such as tax assessment rolls, marriage records and cemetery records. The Preservation Office has a number of completed Ohio Historic Inventory Forms which provide a brief description and history of many resources in the region. Ohio Historic Inventory Forms may be obtained at the Historic Preservation Office located at the CAC.

The Historic Preservation Office can assist with National Register nominations. When nominations are received, most research has been completed, and it is then edited to conform with the nomination format. The Historic Preservation Office does initiate nominations. Currently of interest is the Friends Meeting House which is located near West Unity in Williams County. It is a unique example of Quaker architecture unusual to Northeast Ohio. The Historic Preservation Office is interested in learning about any other Quaker meeting houses in this region. For information about this meeting house or the Quaker community should be addressed to Diana Moran care of the CAC.

The Historic Preservation Office welcomes information about other resources in this region. This includes buildings, objects or sites—that could be examined to determine their eligibility for listing on the National Register. The Office will be happy to assist any one interested in nominating a property to the National Register.

FROM THE DIRECTOR... On April 3, 1986, the Center for Archival Collections will host its second annual History Conference. The conference will again bring together historians, educators, museum and library administrators, archivists, students, and others interested in current developments and new concepts in Local History.

Scheduled sessions will focus on “the community and family.” Ideas and suggestions for topics to be explored in the upcoming conference, as well as that being planned for 1987, will be welcomed. For registration information, write to the CAC, attention Sharon Book.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

As a part of the continuing year-long celebration of Bowling Green State University’s 75th Anniversary, the University Archives produced a photographic exhibit illustrating the historical development of the University. The exhibit, located in the McFaul Gallery (2nd Floor, McFaul Center), is open to the public and can be viewed between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Local Government Records

Allen County City of Lima

City Council: Code of the City of Lima, 1 v., 1949

Lucas County Clerk of Courts

Civil Docket, 1 v., 1891

Criminal Docket, 1 v., 1918

Naturalization Petition Record, 22 v., 1906-1929

Index to Naturalizations, 2 v., n.d.

Naturalization Records Declarations of Intention, 53 v., 1906-1929

Index to Declarations of Intention, 1 v., n.d.

List of Certificates of Naturalization, 1 v., 1907-1951

Trial Docket, 1 v., 1930-1951

Lucas County Probate Court

Miscellaneous Judge’s papers (Entry Notices, Jury Lists, Correspondence, Ministers’ Certificates, Pension Papers, Appointments and Petitions), ff., 1844-1885

Birth Records, 4 v., 1857-1907

Index to Birth Records, 4 v., 1867-1910

Death Records, 2 v., 1867-1909

Index to Death Records, 2 v., 1867-1909

Index to Marriages, 1 v., 1702-1905

Index to Marriages, 7 v., 1833-1892

Medical Certificates, 3 v., 1856-1879

Minister’s Licenses, 6 v., 1900-1976

Nursery Records, 1 v., 1856-1900

Naturalization Records Declarations of Intention, 8 v., 1856-1900

Will Record, Volumes 1-28, 11 v., 1835-1901

Seneca County Liberty Township

Township Trustees: Account Books, 1 v., 1877-1915

Board of Education Minutes and Account Books, 11 v., 1859-1918

Board of Education Record of Graduation, 1 v., 1902-1907

Chattell Marriage Records with Index, 3 v., 1879-1906

Ditch Journal, 3 v., 1879-1917

Justice of the Peace Dockets, 6 v., 1842-1879

Marshall’s Records, 2 v., 1848-1868

Minutes, 9 v., 1865-1858

Poll Books and Tally Sheets, 10 v., 1909-1925

Road Tax, 2 v., 1900-1902

Township Poor Record, 1 v., 1867-1897

Northwest Ohio

Wood County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society. Index to the 1870 United States Census of Wood County, Ohio, 1885.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bettie Neidecker, a CAC Field Assistant and a former collector Edward T. (Ned) Guymon, Jr. and his many friends in the detective fiction world including Fred Dannay (“Ellery Queen”), August Derleth, Ross McDonald, Craig Rice, and Vincent Starrett. Also of special interest are a number of literary manuscripts, intriguing material on the Baker Street Irregulars and the Mystery Writers of America, and many rare photographs of Mr. Guymon and his famous friends.

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CENTER FOR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS STAFF

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Judith A. Robins, Reference Archivist/Newsletter Editor
Nancy G. Steen, Rare Books Librarian

VISITATION HOURS AT THE CAC

Please Note that between December 17, 1985 and January 19, 1986, the CAC will be open: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After January 19th, 1986, the CAC will maintain its regular schedule, and will be open Sunday 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; and Tuesday through Friday 8:30 - 4:30 p.m.

These hours are subject to change in accordance with the schedule of the Jerome Library. Please call ahead to verify these hours before you visit.