



BOOKS AT BROWN

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MICROPHOTOGRAPHY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

EARLY in 1935 the University Library's modest outfit of a Leica camera, Valoy enlarger, and Leitz wall projector was set up between shelves in a stock room. The operating staff, all part-time or occasional, consisted of an NYA student assistant who had had experience with photomicrography in the course of taking his doctorate in Biology, a loan desk assistant with trade school training and native ingenuity, supervised by a cataloger, who was an amateur photographer, and advised by some of the faculty, particularly Professor Robert H. George of the History Department, who had used the Leica a good deal in his research work. There was cooperation with the John Carter Brown Library and its photostat equipment. In 1938 the John Carter Brown Library took over all the equipment.

In December, 1939, the University set up a Photographic Laboratory, responsible to the President's Office and equipped with up-to-date apparatus, primarily for printing material on microfilm — "miniature" film of 35 mm width. The Laboratory also turns out many 2" x 2" lantern slides, both colored and otherwise, and is interested in planning photographic projects of any kind. Since its establishment it has been under the direction of Dr. Edward C. Roosen-Runge, who also had done distinguished photomicrography (the making of enlarged photographs of microscopic objects) in the field of Biology. The Laboratory is adequately staffed by two assistants and a secretary, all trained in microphotography, and several student assistants. There are also two special catalogers at the University Library who catalog the film for the Mathematics and Latin Americana projects.

Several of the faculty have collaborated from time to time, particularly Professor Carl W. Miller of the Physics Department, who has been carrying on some experimentation with color slides with the aim of correcting the usual defects of excessive contrasts (harshness of reproduction) and desaturation (or loss of color brilliancy) as well as of reducing costs. Strictly speaking, this is in the field of photography rather

than microphotography, but its objective is to determine a satisfactory process for duplicating color slides on microfilm.

Another new process that has been worked out is the so-called "dermaprint" or photochemical mimeograph stencil. By means of these stencils it is possible to duplicate printed matter, intricate line drawings, wood cuts and even etchings inexpensively and with a high degree of accuracy.

When the Library started on its film experimentation, it was from the consumption or acquisition point of view. The Photographic Laboratory was set up from the production point of view. These two different points of view, however, have caused no conflict in the Photographic Laboratory, and the Laboratory has carried on where the Library left off.

The Photographic Laboratory's best customer, to which, in fact, it owes its existence, is the *Mathematical Reviews*. The international scope and importance of this undertaking of the American Mathematical Society is a matter of great significance in the general matter of documentation, but at the moment we are concerned only with its relation to microphotography. The grants for the *Reviews* from the Carnegie Corporation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the Mathematical Association of America were supplemented by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for the Laboratory itself and its service to scholars in supplying complete texts of articles abstracted in the *Reviews*, either on microfilm, at the rate of approximately two cents per exposure, or as photoprints at sixteen cents per sheet.

As the strength of its Mathematics library was a determining factor in the location of *Mathematical Reviews* and the Photographic Laboratory at Brown University, the further strengthening of this library by microfilms of back files of certain periodicals and of books not already available came in as a third project, also on a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Mathematics library now has around 2,500 volumes on film, selected by Professor R. C. Archibald, upon whom, during the last thirty years, we have depended for guidance in the Mathematics field.

Some of the University Library's earlier projects may be described briefly as follows.

Music scores have been microfilmed for wall projection in classes while records are being played. This is much less expensive than the purchase of a great number of scores.

Another project, temporarily discontinued, was the microfilming of all paintings and other art objects owned by the University. Small

prints, in triplicate, were made from these films for the purpose of cataloging and identification.

Manuscripts and rare books in other collections, and consequently unobtainable, have been filmed for the Lincoln Collection. Over 2,000 photoprints or photostats have also been obtained. This project, thanks to a gift from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, '97, is still continuing.

Another Lincoln Collection project that is being held in abeyance during the war is the use of microphotography as a substitute for a clipping system in collecting newspaper items about Lincoln. The indexing of Lincoln items in Illinois newspapers down to 1870 by the Illinois Historical Records Survey has provided us with several thousand reference slips.

The Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays has not carried its project of filming newspaper and magazine verse beyond the first year's experiment — ten years (1829-1839) of the *Providence Journal* and a few early songsters and similar items.

The Latin American Microfilming Project was undertaken because of the unique strength of the John Carter Brown Library in Latin Americana to the year 1800 and the supporting strength in later periods of the University Library's George Earl Church Collection on South America. A grant from the Rockefeller Foundation made it possible to employ Mr. Albert Harkness, Jr., and, after his transfer to the Instituto Chileno-Norte-Americano de Cultura, Mr. Alberto Echeverria, in the Medina Library in Santiago de Chile. To date there have been filmed in Chile two reels of manuscripts and 1,742 titles selected from the Medina bibliographies. Positive copies of the film are deposited in the Library of Congress as well as in the John Carter Brown Library and they may be purchased by others. A list of about 1,200 titles has just been issued. As in the case of the Mathematics projects, the intention is not merely to increase the Library resources of Brown University but, by this increase and by photographic services and all other means at our disposal, to increase the availability of research materials throughout the country.

It can be taken for granted that orders to the Photographic Laboratory in connection with the work of individual scholars are growing constantly. The character of these individual orders, if itemized, would inevitably show more or less direct relation to the war effort, whether for class use, examinations (e.g. Army tests), or in the inter-library loan service to individuals or to research groups. It may well be that in the end these ordinary and unspectacular services of the Photographic Laboratory will have greater significance than the acquisitional projects, upon which they are based, for research whether in the field of

national defense or in any other field of study. Two years ago these individual orders constituted about one-fourth the total business of the Photographic Laboratory. Now they about equal the work done on special projects. In the post war era, the fields of research may change and the subject matter of individual microfilm orders will change with them. Our special projects, on the other hand, even though the three most active ones have an obvious, and now and then direct relation to the war, are essentially post-war, long-range, cultural in interest and objective.

H. B. Van Hoesen

LIBRARIAN

DESIDERATA

A Recordak microfilm reader is wanted at the Physical Sciences Library. There are one or two rather simple readers available but nothing as easy or as satisfactory as the Recordak. The present cost is around \$385, plus a priority rating, and it is believed that the rating can be secured since the Physical Sciences Library is kept busy with war research. The FRIENDS already have \$185, contributed by several industrial concerns for the use of this Library. How do they feel about spending this for the Recordak machine, plus a few more contributions?

Two additional copies of the June, 1943, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine* are wanted, one for the War Information Center and one for Pembroke College Library. This issue contains nearly a thousand illustrations of the insignia of the Armed Forces of the United States. If any members of the FRIENDS have copies they would like to pass along, won't they please drop a card to the Librarian to that effect? Then the Library can accept the first two offered and not deprive other members of their copies after the want has been filled.

Maps from the *National Geographic Magazine* would also be appreciated by the War Information Center, as well as copies of *Fortune* for the last year or two.

A long felt need (and if we may be permitted a small joke at nobody's expense, perhaps felt most by the FRIENDS who have attended our meetings) is, or should it be are, chairs. Skipping the grammar but not the fact, about seventy-five folding chairs of graceful design and padded seat would be very much appreciated. Repeated borrowings of chairs can become very embarrassing. The folding chairs of the University, we must confess, have seen their better days long ago, and now the Army units at the University have an option on all available chairs of all types for the study halls, all of which is going to leave us practically seatless when the fall meetings begin again. Before the war we had a

quotation of about three dollars per chair, and those were beauties with blue plush inserts in the back. Have any of our FRIENDS any ideas? Perhaps you know of someone who has such chairs stored away for the duration and who might like to get them out for the sake of a dusting.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GIFTS

March 1, 1943 — May 30, 1943

Professor R. C. Archibald. *Mantissas of Trigonometric Functions at Intervals of Ten Mil.* Rev. Alexander P. Bourne, '90. Four volumes.

Miss Madeleine M. Bubier. Two dollars for the purchase of Coleman, Satis N. and Bregman, Adolph. *Songs of American Folks.*

Mr. Edgar Sheffield Brightman, '06. Six reprints of his articles.

Mr. John Hutchins Cady, '03. *The Hunter of the Alps*, by William Dimond.

Mrs. Gammell Cross. Twenty-five dollars for the Friends of the Library Lincoln Fund.

Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott. Her publication, *Memories of the Civil War, 1861-1864*. For Lincoln Collection.

Mr. James Geddes, Jr. *In Memoriam Paul Passy, 1859-1939*, by James Geddes, Jr.

Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed. Three manuscripts.

Hon. Theodore Francis Green, '87. Speeches and report on *Manpower. A Graphic History of the War*. Four hundred and fifty items.

Mr. Giacomo Grillo. Twenty-one Italian books; also his latest book, *Poets of the Court of Ferrara; Ariosto, Tasso, and Guarini.*

Mr. Arthur B. Lisle. *The Seventh Century of Additions to the Flora of Virginia*, by M. L. Fernald.

Mr. Albert E. Lownes, '20. *Sky and Telescope.*

Professor Thomas O. Mabbott. His publication, *Walt Whitman's " 'Tis but Ten Years Since"*. For Harris Collection.

Mr. George T. Marsh. A number of French war posters from World War I.

Mr. Wallace G. Maxon. Seventeen pieces of sheet music.

Mrs. Jesse H. Metcalf. Twenty-five dollars for the Friends of the Library Lincoln Fund.

Mrs. Lois Allen Michel, '38. Her paper, *The Bateman Family*, for the Harris Collection.

Mr. George L. Miner, '97. *The Maritime Provinces of British North America and the American Revolution*, by Wilfred B. Kerr.

Mr. Carleton D. Morse, '13. Twelve dollars for the purchase of *Sir Francis Drake and the Beginning of English Sea Power*, by John D. Upcott; *Eine Gedächtnissrede, gehalten bei der Todtenfeier am 24*, by Rudolf Virchow; *The National Catalog of United States Coins*, by Edward T. Wallis, ed.

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, '11. His article, *Game as Meat Supply in the New York Herald Tribune*. For Archives Collection.

Rabbi Louis I. Newman, '13. His book, *A New Reform Judaism*, and the *New Union Prayer Book*.

Mr. Ralph Mallory Palmer, '10. Five dollars for the purchase of *Chemistry of the Ancient Assyrians*, by R. C. Thompson.

Dr. Victor H. Paltsits. *First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, New York.*

Mr. Clarence H. Philbrick, '13. Five dollars for the purchase of a book for the Lincoln Collection.

Dean R. G. D. Richardson. *The Quarterly of Applied Mathematics.*

Professor Charles A. Robinson, Jr. *Technical Studies*.

Miss Bessie Rose. Five volumes and seven broadsides.

Mr. Albert L. Scott, '00. Twenty-five dollars for the Friends of the Library Lincoln Fund.

Mr. Henry D. Sharpe, '94. *Review of World Affairs*, by Kenneth De Courcy. Four volumes.

Professor C. H. Smiley. *Nicholas Copernicus, 1543-1943*, by Stephen P. Mizwa.

Col. George Allen Taylor, '01. *The American Field*, October 31, 1942 and December 26, 1942, containing articles for the Archives Collection.

Mrs. Frederick A. Wallace. Subscription for one year to the *American Neptune*.

Rev. Arthur L. Washburn. *Bossuet*, by Gustave Lanson. *The Neutral Ground*, by Frank O. Hough.

Hon. George C. Wing, Jr., '00. *Re-Union Poems*, by A. S. Twitchell.

Mr. W. Chesley Worthington, '23. *End of Dreams*, by Philip Jerome Cleveland.

LIBRARY NOTES

The personnel situation grows more and more precarious in library work as elsewhere. Our greatest loss has been that of four professional assistants within the last four months. Mr. Norman L. Kilpatrick, Assistant Librarian in Charge of the Preparations Division, is now connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library. Miss Edith A. Wright, formerly of the Order Department, is also in Washington, working at the Library of Congress on the American Library Association "Books for Latin America" project. Miss Elizabeth K. Thomas, who had been rendering valuable service at the Biological Sciences Library, is now with the WACS, and Miss Elly Van Aalten, of the Periodical Department, has just become Librarian of the Board for the Netherlands Indies, Surinam and Curaçao.

To offset these losses we are fortunate in having Miss Marion L. Kesselring to promote from her work as reviser in the Catalog Department to Acting Charge of the Cataloging Department, and Miss Hope P. Litchfield assumes full charge of the Order Department.

Under the V-12 program of the Navy, the Library becomes host to a dozen or so classes in English which will meet on the top floor during the day.

The Army's Pre-Meteorological unit still uses the top floor for study in the evenings.

Issued from John Hay Library, Providence, Rhode Island