

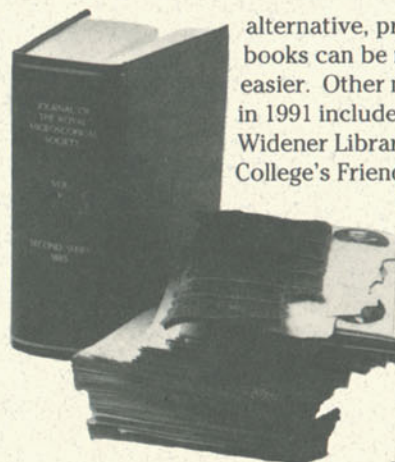
A Division of Library Binding Service

news

Brittle Book Replacement Expands Service

The Brittle Book Replacement Service had a busy year in 1991, with projects ranging from replacing several hundred volumes for a large university to adding many new, small-order customers. Last year the Brittle Book Replacement Service reproduced approximately 400 volumes in conjunction with Columbia University's Butler Library Annex Recovery Project. By coordinating buckram color, spine lettering, call numbers, and other specific information, several old and damaged volumes were replaced in Columbia's collections of *Journal Official*, *Bavaria Lantag*, *Riksdagens Protokoll*, *India Legislative Assembly Debates*, and others. But customers like Randall Ramey of Port Ledlow, Washington are important too. When Mr. Ramey's old and treasured copy of *The Frozen Pirate* (copyright unknown) began falling apart irreparably, he contacted Archival Products to see if his book could be replaced without being disbound. Because the binding was strong and the inner margins were generous, the Brittle Book Service was able to produce a photocopied edition with the binding left intact.

The Library of Congress also joined Archival Products' growing customer list by sending several volumes for photocopy reproduction and subsequent shipment to their own bindery. This request prompted the Brittle Book Replacement Service to offer another new option - photocopy reproduction without binding. Many libraries may have a commitment to a bindery or can bind photocopied pages in house. With this new



alternative, preserving rare books can be made one step easier. Other new customers in 1991 include Harvard's Widener Library, Swarthmore College's Friends Historical Library, and the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, California, who had Italian newspapers from

the 1932 Olympic Games photocopied, bound, and preserved for their archives.

The Brittle Book Replacement Service staff enjoys the challenge of new, unconventional, even complex customer requests. Color plates and photographs can be reproduced in the facsimile editions as they appear in the original volumes, and large or odd-shaped map foldouts have never been a problem. As always, photocopied pages are collated two times before binding and rechecked before shipping to insure all pages are photocopied and bound correctly.

Because of the expanded service to customers, all future brittle book kits will include an added "BBRS Questionnaire." These information sheets will detail all of the particulars needed to ensure replacement volumes are produced exactly as ordered. The questionnaires include specifications for color copies, photographs, foldouts, missing or partial pages, spine lettering, lettering color, leaf attachment, repairs, and oversized materials. Cover material swatch booklets will also be added to all book kits, with printed call numbers for each cloth color.

Customers can receive brittle book kits, questionnaires, swatch booklets, and additional BBRS binding tickets by calling 1-800-526-5640.

Pamphlet Binders and their use in research libraries — by Randy Silverman

By definition, research libraries have a commitment to preserving pamphlets as well as all print and non-print media they collect. A discussion of the preservation requirements for pamphlets is useful for their survival, and pamphlet binders are an important tool in preparing these often ephemeral "thin books" for storage and circulation. Specifications concerning the permanence requirements of a library's pamphlet binders can eliminate harmful shelf preparation and save costs in replacing binders that eventually damage the pamphlet.

In an earlier study (Silverman 1988) specifications for a binding structure appropriate for conserving pamphlets were defined. Two elements of these specifications are applicable to commercially

Pamphlet binders are an important tool in preparing for storage and circulation

produced pamphlet binders as well. They are: 1) The physical attachment between the pamphlet and the binder should not damage the pamphlet over time, and 2) the durability and chemical stability of the materials used in the binder's manufacture

should promote the long-term storage requirements of the library.

Many types of commercially produced pamphlet binders do not address these points. The most blatant offenders cause damage to the pamphlets they house due to the adhesive attachment between the pamphlet and the binder. This type of binder uses a pre-gummed cloth flange. The adhesive, in coming in contact with the pamphlet, tends to stiffen and eventually break the first and last leaves of the pamphlet at the hard edge created by the flange. Even if the leaves do not break, the adhesive can "skin" these pages if delamination occurs, or discolor the paper as the adhesive cross-links to it — either of which may cause the loss of significant information from what is quite often the pamphlet's title page. Additionally, adhesive attachments that affect the spine of the pamphlet restrict its openability.

Another common form of physical damage is caused by stapling the pamphlet to the binder through the pamphlet's side. This is unnecessary

for material that was previously sewn or stapled through the fold, as it restricts the pamphlet's openability and forces the paper to crease and become weakened at the edge created by the staple. If the pamphlet was originally sewn or stapled through the side, repeating the process by stapling it to a pamphlet binder can be argued to be no more damaging than was the original method of manufacture. However, a pamphlet anticipated to receive heavy use, an older pamphlet with weakened paper, or a pamphlet already damaged by this method of side-stitching may require the added expense of sewing through the fold to improve what may be a damaging method of attachment. In the case of pamphlets that are adhesive bound, stapling through the side may be

Loss can be easily prevented by using a non-damaging pamphlet binder

considered acceptable if the width of the inner margin allows; again, so long as the practice does not result in needless physical damage.

Chemical degradation of the pamphlet's paper can be caused by housing the pamphlet in a

binder manufactured from acidic materials. Problems associated with the migration of acids from the binder to the pamphlet are multiplied by the binder's greater mass than that of the pamphlet. This condition is augmented by the centuries of storage a pamphlet may undergo, further accelerating its chemical deterioration.

All of these forms of damage are unacceptable within the context of permanent retention, as they result in ongoing repair costs or irreversible damage to the collection. This loss can be easily prevented by using a non-damaging pamphlet binder.

What follows are criteria for a durable, non-damaging pamphlet binder appropriate for thin material of one, two, or more sections. Materials used in the binder's manufacture should be rigid enough to prevent physical damage from abrasion. Ideally, paper-based materials used in the binder should be alkaline, or if polyester, of archival quality. Cloth used in the binder's construction should be durable. Pressure-sensitive adhesives applied to the cloth should never come into contact with the pamphlet itself. Pockets used to contain separate parts (such as music or maps) should be made of durable alkaline paper.

When binding, the pamphlet should be attached



Continued on page 3

We are interested in your conservation and preservation projects. Archival Products encourages readers to share their thoughts and ideas on any subject affecting the Library Community.

Address articles to:

LBS/Archival
Products
Attn: Kerrie Elliott
P.O. Box 1413
Des Moines, IA 50305

Pamphlet Binders continued from page 2

to the binder (whenever the original sewing or stapling allows) by sewing or stapling through the fold. In the case of paper that is weakened, sewing may prove less stressful over time than stapling. The stress of this attachment can be minimized by using a "free guard," that is, a fold of Japanese paper placed (without adhesive) in the center of the section before sewing. This acts as a reinforcement between the thread and paper.

If a pamphlet was stitched through the side (by thread or staple) it can be attached to the binder by side stitching again if the paper can withstand the process. While this provides a practical solution to this problem, it should be done with discretion as stabbing can result in damage to the pamphlet. Side stitching is an imperfect time saving technique for pamphlets with damaged spine folds, which are better mended before being sewn through the fold.

Pamphlets that are adhesive bound (as is the case with many journals today) can be successfully sewn through what would have been the fold, or stapled through the side. No adhesive attachment between the pamphlet and binder should be necessary.

There are many pamphlet binders commercially available. In choosing a binder, the research library is advised to weigh the long-term effects the structure and materials will have on thousands of pamphlets slated for permanent retention. The cost of upkeep and repair should be factored into the original price, as short-term savings may result in significantly higher operating costs in the long run.

Silverman, R. "Small, Not Insignificant: An Examination of Pamphlet Binding Structures." *American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works* 6 (1988):111-139.

Mr. Silverman is Preservation Librarian at Brigham Young University.

New Products planned for 1992

In October of 1991 Archival Products introduced the Acid Free File Folder, and two more new products will be available in 1992. Recommended by the School of Art Institute of Chicago, the file folders were developed to protect important collection pieces and provide easier access to materials that are used frequently. The institute's collection of rare "artist's books" will be housed in the new folders, where they will be protected from further deterioration and damage by making the books easier to retrieve.

The hanging folders are made from .010 Dark Tan Archival Board with clear 1/5 cut plastic tabs. Regular folders are also available, with a choice of legal or letter paper sizes.

New for 1992, the Manuscript Folder was created in response to the demand for a safe and effective way to house manuscript collections. Thanks to creative ideas from the New York Academy of Medicine and the Columbia Teacher's College, the manuscript folders will be offered in various sizes and styles.

These folders are made with acid-free envelopes and .060 Dark Tan Archival Board. One style will offer a hinged construction, with the envelope attached by flexible C-grade cloth. A second style will be available with the envelope secured on the back cover. The envelopes can be ordered with or without a top flap, with or without an inside sleeve, cut diagonally or horizontally across the top, or cut vertically along the side. All materials used are archivally sound.

Also new for '92, the Four Flap Enclosure will be available with depth and custom scoring on the inside flaps. Building on the success of the enclosures for pamphlets and other thin materials, Archival Products has developed a sturdier version for thicker materials. An enclosure that safely houses audio compact disks will also be available.

The 1992 Archival Products catalog will be coming your way in April. It will include the latest products and updated prices.

ARCHIVAL PRODUCTS PRODUCT LIST

- Academy Folders
- Archival Folders
- Brittle Book Replacement Service
- Compact Disk Holder
- Custom Four Flap Enclosures
- Dark Tan Archival Board
- Davey Acid-Free Binders Board
- Acid-Free File Folders

- Four Flap Enclosures
- Grey/White Archival Board
- High Density Acrylic Coated Pamphlet Board
- Hinged Board Covers
- Manuscript Folders
- Music Binders
- Pamphlet Binders

- Staplers
- Stainless Steel Staples

Please call our Archival Products Representative for our 1992 catalog.

1-800-526-5640

The Oversew Option

— by James W. Craven

We at the Bentley Historical Library are entrusted with a great variety of materials ranging in age from the fifteenth century to the present. On these materials we perform a wide range of treatments, and resewing is one of those treatments. As such, oversewing remains as one of our many sewing options. Because of their condition or importance, most of the books we handle require sewing by hand, but there is a small percentage which lends itself well to sewing by machine. Having been involved with the oversewing machine for such a long time, I view it as a friendly appliance - one of many tools I use in treating books.

Often when one mentions old books and an oversewing machine in the same sentence it elicits a negative emotional response. Those who are passionately opposed to it do have grounds for complaint. I have seen many oversewn books with problems, but it is my opinion that these books should never have been presented to the machine in the first place. They may have had poor quality paper, narrow gutter margins, poor preparation for sewing, or a grain running perpendicular to the binding edge. However, when a book is properly suited, oversewing can be a healthy means for binding.

The treatment of any book we handle here in our conservation program is decided upon in discussions with the librarians or archivists who are in charge of it. The value of the book and its uses are a large part of that discussion. Oversewing is just one of the many sewing options that we draw upon. If a book is extremely valuable for monetary or historic reasons, we go to great lengths to rebind

it in its original style by reinforcing or reconstructing signature folds as needed and sewing by hand. Books whose main value lie in the information they contain, and need to be bound economically, are good candidates for oversewing.

Books that we oversee must possess strong paper that is in good condition, contain wide gutter margins, and have the grain running parallel to the binding edge. We mostly use the machine for sewing modern materials, but there are occasions when we use it on old books. When a book is well suited for oversewing, its strength and flexibility compare favorably with that of handsewn books.

I have modified our machine to make it more compatible for use with older materials by adding a

When a book is properly suited, oversewing can be a healthy means for binding.

variable-speed motor. The motor can be slowed to a point where the full operation of the machine can be viewed in good detail to make certain that all the threads are catching properly. I feel that slowing the machine also gives the benefit of doing

less damage to the pages of the book in that the punches are driven more gently than at high speed.

Since our facility has a strong teaching mission, we also use the oversewing machine as a teaching tool. We not only run it in demonstration lectures to librarians and archivists, but teach its uses to students who are pursuing an independent study program in conservation.

The oversee machine has been in use for over 60 years with very little modification. Its contribution to the lending library system by providing strong, economical sewing for binding and rebinding has been enormous. It seems to be in a slight decline at present as other page attachment systems develop, but it should not be summarily dismissed as a tool for bookbinding and/or conservation.

Mr. Craven is a Document Restoration Specialist and Director of Conservation at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.



A Division of Library Binding Service

LBS/Archival Products
2134 East Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 1413
Des Moines, Iowa 50305

1-800-526-5640
515-262-3191
FAX 515-262-3839

E-MAIL: INET: 70632.1316 @
Compuserve.Com