

Notes from British Museum Research Laboratory
June 13, 1967 from David (?) for Keeser
to P.W.

Size is applied to paper for two reasons: to give a non-absorbent surface for writing with liquid inks and to stick the fibers of the paper to give strength and rigidity. Gelatine or crudely, glue has been used since before 700 AD and still holds place as best & safest.

We have used soluble Nylon in conservation work only, where paper is very fragile or torn and regard it as safe & justified. We have not anticipated its use on a large scale as a general size for paper, being of the opinion that gelatine was to be preferred for all normal work.

It is known to everyone who has ever used gelatine or glue that it is good food for moulds & fungi, but world wide experience has shown that there are few materials upon which moulds & fungi will not feed and proliferate. It is known, too, that unsized filter paper can be attacked by moulds. There is abundant evidence that glue sized paper stored at a Relative Humidity (RH) below 65% is not attacked by fungi and moulds save under the most extraordinary conditions.

Our experience with nylon is that no hazard has been detected in its use, but the exceptional strengthening power of this material, coupled with its slight tendency to cross link has made it impossible so far to detect any chemical effect that it may have had on paper. Only gelatin can be truthfully said to have passed the test of over one thousand years use.

Carolyn + friend Peggy Mc Ne from Chicago.

What a day! Only 2 of the original students have returned. That was the beginning. Peter during the weekend had gone thru all the work done + made notes on the quality of the work. A great deal had to be returned for minor changes. Peter had a list of remarks + suggestions which I was to interpret about (16) - Then they were taken to room 5, shown some of the other repairs done by other binders i.e. Palatologia del Libro but done by someone in

They were asked their opinion of repairs + re-binding. Then Chris took them into room 1 + showed them 16th 17th limp vellum bindings, how they had withstood wear + tear better than vellum binding of 18th century. Then back to work room. Sitting #70 to redo some of his work.

Then in came Carolyn, Peggy + Sheila + what a cackling! So I had to start showing them how to repair!

Two of the workers are ready to go down-stairs to the main room where eventually there will be 30 repairs.

Carolyn + Peggy had me show them this new method of heat set mending. Also Dorothy G.

New recruit, Mammo Bogale from Ethiopia 2 Italians. Mammo was not allowed to remain.

Three awful days! Finally had to ask Peggy to stop talking.

Peter + Sheila away

Letters from Bobby, Johanna, Flower son #3 and Ruth Erickson.

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This morning Dorothy C. very tactfully asked Peggy if "she was ready to graduate to downstairs work room" + so my problem was solved. It was a quite day.

Mr. Atkinson from Aberdeen, Scotland Prof. Majewski came in from N.Y.

Last night John Codoroy came in with Judith, Marhat, and 2 am. girls. Judith is at C.R.I.G. office. They were locked in Room 1 for a while. Very funny. Young English boy had been taking books 19th century downstairs. He was to lock the door as he left but having an armful of books he couldn't. So he took the books downstairs then dashed up stair + locked the door. In the meantime John + 3 girls had wandered in. Luckily there was an inter-com telephone.

Woke up during the night + panicked for a while - what a mess everything is in. How I have not put over all the points in this project. etc. But went back to sleep. Woke up at 5:45 so got up and started to write notes on the procedure. These should be translated and given to each student. Too bad the heelpattern press are held up at the customs. I don't think the students will really appreciate what they are doing until they see their work in action.

Went to Am. Ex. this am. left at 11 am. Made arrangements to go to Rarunga Sat + Sunday by bus. It is now raining, thunder + lightning. hope it clears up by to-morrow. 4 new students, then old ones returned, then down again just because Bill short right was. (was from B.M.)

Making a list of things students should watch out for. Grain of paper etc. Decided to keep Peggy's book as object lesson of what "not to do"

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Beautiful day after the rain yesterday, thundery & lightning. Left Firenze at 8 a.m. on CIAT bus. Through lovely country & along hairpin turning until we reached 907 m. elevation. Passo Del Muraglione in the Appenninas. Arrived in Ravenna about noon. 'Did' Sant' Afallinare ~~Meo~~ then lunch at Hotel San Marco. Good food then to St Vitale & Halla Placidia. I returned to hotel & arranged to remain over - night & to - morrow go by taxi to Sant' Afallinare in Classe. Then see the S.A. house again & get bus to Firenze at 2:30. I wandered about the town after sex, it being Saturday & everyone out all decked out. Bought some toys for Brad & Parker which I will send. Giacomo can show them how to play. One is a tobacilla set, very small & the other is a bocci ball set in plastic. Could have gotten a wooden set but was afraid they would kill each other. An ash tray for Johanna - have my doubts about it now! Stayed at Hotel San Marco, Via 13th ~~Giunio~~ ~~Giunio~~

Yesterday on the trip to Ravenna I saw a truck being loaded with cut branches & small trunks of trees. Nearby were 6 or 8 mules tied & eating. Later I saw some mules & each one with wood on side saddles & being guided by a man. Had noticed on mountain as I drove by that there were patches of dried branches here & there. This is when they are cut, loaded on mules & brought to road side & on to trucks.

We were late in getting out of Ravenna due to two traffic jams - reason? So the driver decided to make up the half hour by keeping his hand on horn & zooming around on three wheels. Rather a rough ride. One passenger sick so they had to stop!

Letter from Tito, Bessie & Rena

Casa Conteneria - Red house ever so often on Road to Ravenna. Road supervisor's houses suff. who look after road of district.

8/26
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Eleven students this morning. One man appeared - on being shown showed aptitude but Tushing him showing an american around asked how he got up there. "He's my best washer" So here we are - a tug-of-war.

Peter W much up set, had received a telegram saying Barrow had died. P. was to fly to London & meet him & return with him to Florence. He was a most intelligent man & P. was hoping for his backing & sizing of books etc.

Chris & Dorothy to leave Wednesday - leaving me alone upstairs & only Bill ~~Har~~ the B.M. man to oversee the students downstairs. Most insensitive man, a real shop foreman.

Chris suggests that by Saturday these eleven could go down and ~~me~~ ^{me} too. It's going to be very hot down stairs but more convenient.

There is a man Sig. Manetti who is a labor-relations, represents the workers. Now things are a little clearer. Why foreign students from Ethiopia etc. are not allowed to take the place of employable people. Why doesn't he get the workers more money! \$1.00 a month.

To-morrow Chris will talk on paper. All ^{students} are to come up stairs. I'll all the list P.W. gave me last week & a few of my own.

Heat setting plates have not set yet. This is holding up the work as we cannot mend the books fold until all pages have been laminated.

Chris gave a very clear concise 1 hr talk on how paper is made, how the mould wires, chain line, grain. How they are to be sure of grain of paper. What happens when paper odd is contrary to grain of book. By 9:45 he packed up! Hard to translate technical terms. Students seem to get the idea.

^{Campsteys}
Dorothy C has noticed that when painting 39 gnydol on edges where fleinsy it leave a faint line - water lines. So now unless the whole page is treated with Nynol we will use 1% methyl cellulose (tylose)

Had lunch with Chris in the "cave" & he retold the story of the week-end to Peregrina with Tony - tiny English painter & John Callier. Evidently John is a slow poor driver & is always weaving along. They were to camp out.

Drove down a narrow road with ditches & trees planted along edge of other side of ditch. This road led to the edge of Lake Trasimeno. John had decided this would be a good place to camp. There was a terrible stench of dead fish. Shore full of nets & equipment of fishermen. "No" this wouldn't do. Should they back up? "No" I can turn" say John. - He ended up in the ditch - This after he'd been pushed out of it once with aid of fisherman's boxes etc then had forgotten to put on brakes & slipped back. Then when he tried to start an awful noise - gear box - & couldn't move. So they camped there it was then past midnight. About 4 AM Fishman in truck arrived to find this mess across the road. They had to carry everything over bodies in sleeping bags & around car - much swearing. Tony & Chris came back on train. John did not get back until late Tuesday afternoon!

29/8

Cloudy + rain in the early evening. Some workers improving some won't ever do. # 70 Paolo Rossi

Miss Chris very much. He will return in December during school holidays + work on the volume bindings. The aim is to reproduce the books of each century in the style of its own ~~center~~ time. He is a very knowledgeable

Had dinner with Carolyn + Richard Young from Library of Congress. He will be here 3 months. We ate out side in the Santa Trinita with all the fumes + noise of cars Carolyn thought it great fun!

Peter, Shila were in a auto accident but neither hurt. Had us all worried.

Carolyn had letter from Paul Banks saying she would live Patricia Puget. She will arrive about Sept. 25th. C.H. who is checking on the Personnel for CRIA, thinks she should take over from me. Had a letter from Hannah.

Tried again to reach Tito's friends but no luck.

Edwardo Hiscox is over seeing the student downstairs + showing them how to sew books - dummies - they are all thrilled.

He leaves next week. John Cardray to - morrow Lewis left to-day. Shila + little boys next week. Seems British money has run out.

CRIA is to pay Tony ^{for his} two year stay here. He will take over from Peter.

Three Russians here - restorers they will return on the 5th of September.

Peter + Shila to Beacci for fortune with me arrived 8:35 because of Kitten + boys. Late Carolyn joined us for brandy Bed 11:45

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Feeling a bit dizzy at times - think I'll stay off coffee for a while. 7 Students + Richard Young who wants to learn mending. John Corderoy left today. Had lunch with Richard + Carolyn. It's cooler now. Got package packed to send to Parker + Brad will mail on Sat. Grey suit to Cleaner.

Bookbinding for Beginners

John Corderoy - Studio Vista 10/6
Watson Gaptill USA 1967

Conservation of Library Materials

Cleaning & Preserving Bindings & Related Materials
Pamphlet #1 of a Series

Carolyn Norton

Library of Technology Program 350

American Library Association

40 E. Huron, Chicago, Ill.

I Problemi di Ulisse Dopo il Diluvio

Ulisse Anno XX Vol IX aprile 1967
Sansoni - Firenze

Carolyn left early this morning. Richard doesn't seem to know what he's to do. Started to show him how to mend but then he had to go to a conference with C.H. + others.

No power on Sat. We moved all material down stairs as we will work there now. There are now a bit awkward as Bill Hitchcox, "Edwards" is still here + he doesn't quite see our way of mending. But he leaves at end of week - 9/10. Took my beautifully wrapped package to mail + they took it apart + made 2 smaller packages. Hope they reach their destination intact. After 3 glove store found dark grey suede gloves. Walked to other side of Arno in pavers section + bought old Copper Jar for Remo + Johanna.

Sunday morning to Batt Office - even before 10 am. It was crowded. German, English, French groups. Bought all cards of painting in which books appear. Beads all a cart under portico. Italian had lived in N.Y. & spoke English well. Sign on an other cart. "Never mind your poor Italian, here he speaks broken English." Looked at book stores where I want to return. Met Tany Patten (painter - teacher - English) She had just come from Desmodici Palace. I when there when we parted. Back to Pennine naps. Then to Fiesole. Hot again but cooler there walked to Benedictine Monastery back to hotel by 7 P.M. shower & dressed for dinner. Awakened in middle of night by noise in street - couldn't tell if it was 5 after 4 or 20 after one. But it was the latter & so I managed to sleep again. Awakened by rain, thunder & lightning. Taxi to work.

A most amazing thing happen. One of the porters had a bad coughing fit. Wet his pants & then proceeded to pull down his pants & had a BM right in the middle of the big room where we are now working. Must be about

Shila, Tony Mrs Basted & I had to go & have a Vermont & coffee.

Seems the man has epileptic fits & cannot contain him self - result of war when a child. Does not happen often. Last time in November.

Peter off to Milano with Bennie

Letter from Desmond

Cord -
Barbour Thread Ltd.
34 Colgate
Norwich, Nor 68K
England

3 new students - getting them started. Pete returned from Milano. Lunch at the Cafe with Richard. Dinner with him so he could show me where he eats at "fixed price". Good nights sleep. No mail. Cleared up toward evening. Nice Red sun.

Wed. Two students eliminated - 2 men didn't seem to get with it.

Hair cut from Roberto 16 Corso Mosso Finiguerra. Asked one of the girls where she got her hair cut & she made the appointment 1000 + 200 tip to little girls. I don't recognize my self. It's so puffed out & full of goop. But feels good to get all that wool off.

No mail. Should get some to-morrow or Friday.

Join I.C.C.

International Institute for Conservation
of Historic & Artistic Works
c/o National Gallery
Trafalgar Square
London W.C.2.

Miss Sprielman

5/6/9