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Collecting with a Plan: The Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library

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Collecting with a Plan

The Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library

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The Henry Ford

An offer we couldn't refuse

The Problem

Another large collection

Where will it go?

When will it be processed?

The Problem

The size: Approximately 1300 items.

The backlog: At least three other recent book collections of similar size waiting for processing.

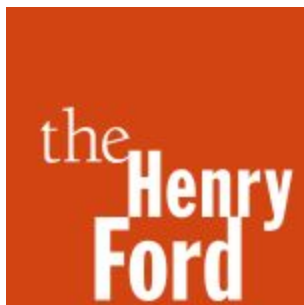
The Problem

Storage: Would like to keep it together, using donor's inventory system.

The Problem

Adding it to the queue: another large collection being cataloged at the time; two others in various stages of processing.

The Henry Ford



The Henry Ford provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America's traditions of ingenuity, resourcefulness and innovation. Our purpose is to inspire people to learn from these traditions to help shape a better future.

Benson Ford Research Center

- 31,000+ Trade Catalogs and Related Literature
- Rare materials, including
 - McGuffey Readers
 - Titles by Noah Webster
- 19th and 20th Century Periodicals
- Literature relating to:
 - Agricultural practices
 - Domestic life and etiquette
 - Automotive manufacturing
 - Design
 - Aviation
 - Industrial development
 - US history
 - Civil rights
 - Technology

Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library

Gift offer

Donor's library on "the
history of innovation"

Traces the history of
science and engineering,
1650-present

The Donor

Dr. Arthur S. Obermayer (1931-2016)

- American chemist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist
- Founder & president of Moleculon Research Corporation
 - Chemical, polymer, and pharmaceutical R&D company
- Inducted, along with wife Judith, into the White House's Small Business Innovation Research Hall of Fame

Acquisition Process

Donor contact through AskUs (LibAnswers)

Initial review by appropriate staff

Check current holdings

Acquisition Process

Proceed through Collections Committee

Estimated shipping costs included

Acquisition approved

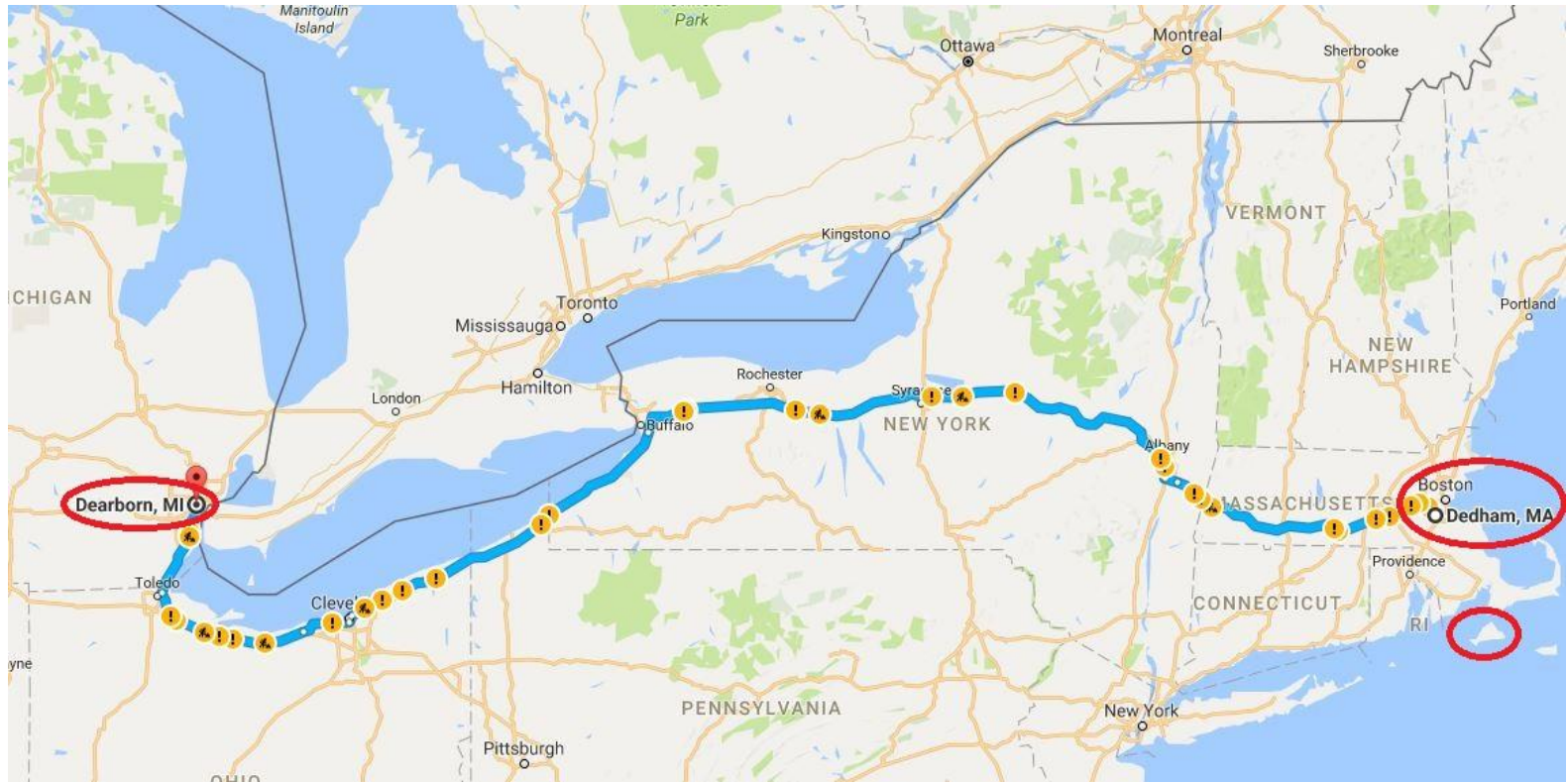
Getting Here

Curator oversaw packing and shipping.

Held briefly in art storage warehouse in Boston.

Coordinated with trip to Martha's Vineyard.

Getting Here



The Solution

Donor inventory

Conservation tracking

Available storage space



The Arrival

Inventorying

Checked against donor's list

Conservation examination

Separated items needing treatment

Recorded on list



Conservation

144 number of items identified as needing conservation work

42 completed (as of 3/9/2017)



Conservation

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Catalogue (1) - Display". The window has a menu bar (File, Edit, Select, View, Tools, Tabs, Parts, Archives, Multimedia, Window, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. On the left, there is a table with "Field" and "Value" columns. The main area displays "Object Page View - All Attached Images" with a table of metadata. The status bar at the bottom shows "Display Object 1 of 1" and "saraha Archiving emuthf".

Field	Value
ID: (Object...)	2016.20.A90703
Object Ty...	CCO
Object Ra...	Rank 2
Denominat...	Documents
Current Lo...	[BFRC3.LIB.2.1.2-2.1...
Permanent...	[BFRC3.LIB.2.1.2-2.1...
Accession...	[2016.20] - (Gift)
Credit Line...	From the Collections ...
Object Na...	Book
Object Na...	
Title: (Desi...	Book, "Flying Machin...
Title: (Res...	
Source: (R...	
Collection ...	Arthur S. Obermayer ...
Creator's ...	
Place of C...	
Creator Di...	
Date Creat...	

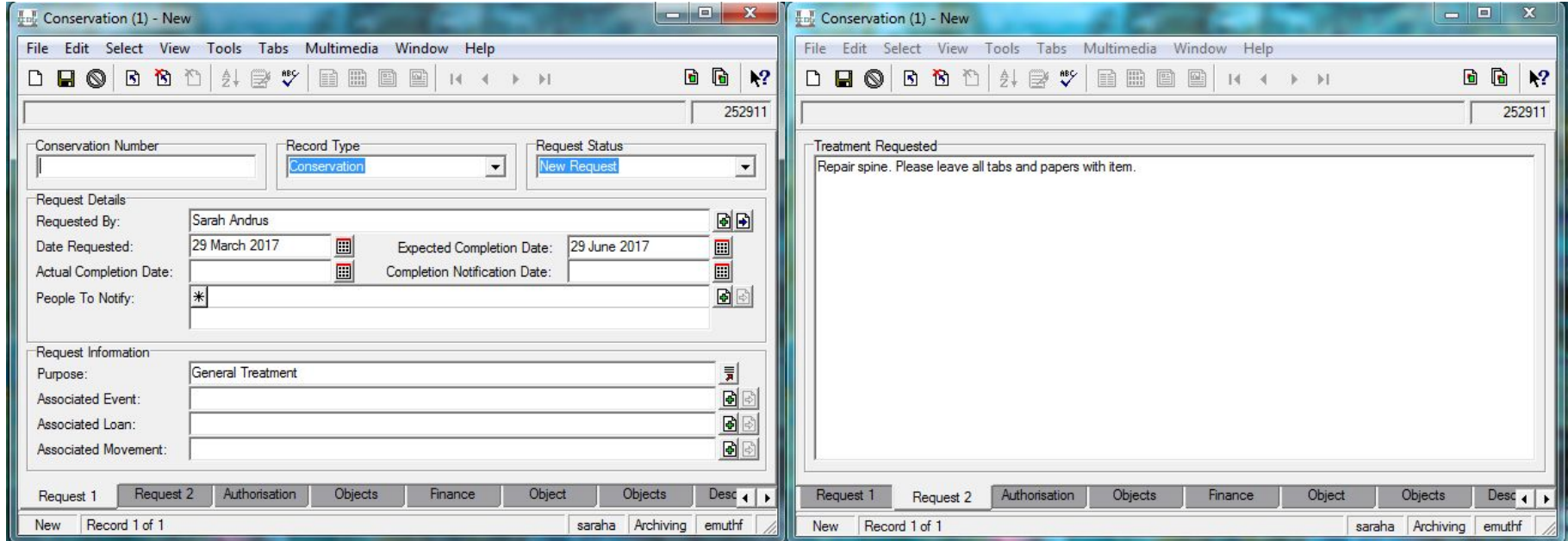
Object Page View - All Attached Images	
Object ID:	2016.20.A90703
Object Name:	Book
Title:	Book, "Flying Machines: Past, Present and Future," by Alfred W. Marshall and Henry Greenly, 1907
Current Location:	[BFRC3.LIB.2.1.2-2.1.25] Benson Ford Research Center - Collections - BFRC3 - [ARCH.2016.20] Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library, Accession 2016.20
Physical Description:	128 pages, softbound
Material:	Paper (Fiber product)
Technique:	Printing (Process)
Subject (Genre terms):	Books

Tracked in EMu

Item record created

Conservation

Conservation request submitted



Conservation

Location updated

Custom location

created for collection

The screenshot displays a software interface for managing digital objects. The left sidebar contains a list of fields such as ID, Object Type, Rank, Denominations, and various metadata fields. The main window shows details for object 2016.20.SA89701, including its current location, movement history, and other metadata. The movement history table is highlighted below.

Loc	Date	Moved History	Current Location	Moved By
1	21 March 2017		[BFRC3 LIB 2.1.2.2.1.25] Benson Ford Research Center - Collections - BFRC3 - [ARCH 2016.20] Arthur S. Obemayer Personal Library, Accession 2016.20	
2	20 December 2016		[BFRC3 LIB 2.1.2.2.1.25] Benson Ford Research Center - Collections - BFRC3 - [ARCH 2016.20] Arthur S. Obemayer P...	Erin Murray
3	01 December 2016		[C.600] Collections Processing - Conservation - 600 - Paper Lab	Erin Murray
4	13 April 2016		[BFRC3 LIB 2.1.2.2.1.25] Benson Ford Research Center - Collections - BFRC3 - [ARCH 2016.20] Arthur S. Obemayer P...	

Classification



A Mystery

Year is the base of ID number

Separated by donor created subjects

Single items with multiple object IDs

A New Home

Storage

Recently cleared space available

Discarded 7 bays of auction catalogs



A New Home

Storage

To be kept together as a collection







Retain original order



The Future

Cataloging

Physical processing

-  **Progress in flying machines**
Octave Chanute 1832-1910. Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library
Multiple versions found
To view, click on the title or the link to the right
-  **[Photocopy of page 165 of The Scientific American for September 8, 1860 containing two brief articles : "Flying machines in the future" and "Flying machines - a birdwoman."]**
Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library 1860
● Available at Benson Ford Research Center Book (non-circulating) (OBE A86001)
[Find it](#) [Details](#) [Virtual Browse](#)
-  **The Gentleman's Magazine: and Historical Chronicle, for the year 1785, volume 55, Part - the first.**
Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library 1785
● Available at Benson Ford Research Center Book (non-circulating) (OBE A78501)
[Find it](#) [Details](#) [Virtual Browse](#)
-  **The Langley aerodrome.**
Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library 1901
● Available at Benson Ford Research Center Book (non-circulating) (OBE A90101)
[Find it](#) [Details](#) [Virtual Browse](#)
-  **[Miscellaneous articles and letters regarding Jacob Friederich Brodbeck and his attempt at airtflight before the Wright Brothers 1885.]**
Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library 1968-1982
● Available at Benson Ford Research Center Book (non-circulating) (OBE A:UK05.1)
[Find it](#) [Details](#) [Virtual Browse](#)
-  **Aeronautics (New York : 1893-).**
Arthur S. Obermayer Personal Library 1893
● Available at Benson Ford Research Center Book (non-circulating) (OBE A89302)
[Find it](#) [Details](#) [Virtual Browse](#)

Conclusion

Problems were identified early on.

Items were tracked in multiple ways.

Collection has been regularly worked on since arrival.

A timeline is in place for completion.

Questions?

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