
Research Archives

Charles Jones

1983/84 has seen a considerable amount of reorganization of the Research Archives. Much of the summer of 1983 was spent consolidating the periodical collection from various nooks and crannies, shifting all journals earlier than 1950 into the newly converted room 200. We also moved the pamphlet file and the card catalog into room 200, and in the fall a photocopying machine was installed. The photocopying machine is in almost constant use, averaging three thousand pages per week. There is still space in room 200 for working storage of duplicate volumes and books for sale. During the past summer more stacks were added in room 200 and books transferred there to further relieve the space problems in the reading room.

Having prepared the way by renovating room 200, during the next few months we are carrying out a major reorganization of the reading room bookstacks. We have found that by turning the stacks 90° we can effectively double the free-standing shelf space without significantly reducing the present study area. This plan will require a major purchase of two or three additional rows of bookstacks, and will require that the Archives be closed for about a week during the reorganization. In addition to giving us room for a few more years of growth, this arrangement will increase visibility in the Archives. I must emphasize, as did my predecessors, that space will continue to be a major problem. If the

collection continues to grow in its second decade as it has in the first, study space will be reduced by one-half by 1994 unless some alternative book-space is found. At a time when use of the Archives is rapidly increasing, we can hardly afford to lose the seats.

Acquisitions have continued at a solid pace even under the current budgetary restrictions. Comparison of the 1983/84 figures with those of the previous year indicates that an approximately equal number of books has been acquired and catalogued. However, this comparison obscures the fact that there has been a significant cut in the funds spent. We have been able to maintain the rate of acquisition while cutting the budget for two reasons: 1) We have managed to sell a number of duplicate runs of journals which had been held in reserve; 2) we have expanded our exchanges, particularly with Prof. Z. J. Kapera of Krakow, Poland.

	Acquisitions (July 1983— March 1984)	Total Holdings
Monographs	386	7,439
Series	141	3,497
Journals	313	6,198
Total	<u>840</u>	<u>17,131</u>
Pamphlets	64	8,190

Our major new acquisition this year was the purchase of a large Islamic and

Arabic reference collection at the request of Professor Fred M. Donner. This collection consists of over one hundred volumes of Arabic texts and some fifty volumes of reference tools. Other acquisitions include an almost complete run of the rare Russian journal *Palestinskiy Sbornik* and a number of volumes of the equally rare *Epigrafika Vostoka* (which we expect to complete in the next few months); the new journal *Damaszener Mitteilungen*; three new (to us) journals from Italy; and the complete series *Studies on the Texts of the Deserts of Judah*. The acquisition of new and current books is our primary concern in this time of fiscal difficulty, but we still try to find and purchase older items as the budget permits.

We have found in our exchanges that even the most commonly available western journals are highly valued in

eastern Europe where currency restrictions hamper the purchase of most material from the West. For this reason we encourage donations of new or used publications dealing with the Near East even if they duplicate material in the Archives.

Two items of continuing concern are the deterioration of the ceiling and stonework around the windows and the imminent disintegration of the draperies on all the windows.

The following individuals have given invaluable aid, both in time and material: Klaus Baer, Lanny and Martha Bell, Robert Biggs, John Brinkman, Fred Donner, Donna Freilich, McGuire Gibson, Richard Jasnow, Jan Johnson, Helene Kantor, Silvin Košak, Charles Nims, Dennis Pardee, Robert Ritner and Bruce Williams. Thanks also to Eleanor Swift and Bud Haas for their continuing interest and support.