



The Library Company of Philadelphia The McLean Conservation Department Fact Sheet

- The first in-house “bindery” was established at The Library Company of Philadelphia in 1954 by Fritz Eberhardt, a master bookbinder from Germany. Today, the McLean Conservation Department at The Library Company of Philadelphia conserves thousands of books annually, allowing the organization to fulfill its mission as a full-functioning research library, where the entire collection is available for everyday use by visitors and scholars.
- Home to more than 500,000 of volumes in collection, the Library Company conservators are responsible for:
 - Collection and maintenance, including selecting appropriate housing materials and creating custom storage for books in the collection;
 - Conserving individual items and working with the curatorial team to determine the extent of treatment needed;
 - Establishing guidelines for environmental controls throughout collection storage and exhibition areas – including monitoring temperature and humidity levels;
 - Matting, framing and designing custom book supports for exhibitions;
 - Preparing materials for loan to other institutions.
- The McLean Conservation Department is staffed by professionally trained book conservators.
- Current Chief of Conservation Jennifer W. Rosner came to the Library Company in 1980. In addition to her responsibilities as conservator, Jennifer and her colleague Andrea Krupp have been researching many aspects of the 19th-century book, and they have created a Database of 19th-century Cloth Bindings that is a rich source of information about the structure, materials and appearance of cloth covered books from 1800 to 1899. Online access to this database will soon be available.
- Everything in the Library Company of Philadelphia’s collection is available for public use, and this is true largely due to the fully-functioning McLean Conservation Department.
- For more information, please visit <http://www.librarycompany.org/collections/conservation/index.htm>.

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