

## "Kulturschätze" in den Archiven der Colorado School of Mines, USA

### Cultural "Treasures" in the Colorado School of Mines Archive, USA

### "Сокровища культуры" в архивах "Colorado School of Mines", США

Von/by

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#### Schlüsselworte

*Archive*  
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#### Abstract

The Arthur LAKES Library of the Colorado School of Mines serves as a cultural repository for items, print and non-print, relating to the Colorado School of Mines, the mining history of Colorado and memorabilia of the West. In recognition of that function, the RUSSELL L. and Lyn Wood mining history archive was dedicated in April of 1995. This Archive holds rare monographs such as Georg AGRICOLA's *De Re Metallica* (1556), maps, medals, silver diplomas, lantern slides, plates from books, photographs, and other memorabilia.

Arthur LAKES, for whom the Library is named and the *'Father of Colorado Geology'*, was also an artist. His technical work, water colors, and oils are on display. This work was done between 1900 - 1910. Other art work is also hung in the Library, most notably several of E. S. CURTIS' photogravures of Native Americans.

The Frank C. ALLISON gold collection is in a prominent location at the entrance to the Library. The BOETTCHER family assisted in the purchase of this collection of native gold for the Colorado School of Mines.

The Arthur LAKES Library on the Colorado School of Mines campus, at the foot of Clear Creek Canyon in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains on the western edge of the Denver metropolitan area, is ideally located as a

cultural repository for items, print and non-print, relating to the mining history of Colorado, the School of Mines and the West. The William Green RUSSELL expedition of 1858 and the discovery of gold along the Front Range brought about the gold rush of 1859. The Right Reverend George M. RANDALL of Boston, Massachusetts, as Missionary Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Colorado planned for a school of mines (as well as theology) and chose the Golden area for that site. The Territory of Colorado was deeded the school of mines and property and when statehood was achieved in 1876, the School became a state institution. On July 6, 1874, the first Board of Trustees met in Golden with F. A. H. LOVELAND, railroad tycoon and empire builder, elected as President and Captain E. L. BERTHOUD, engineer and explorer, elected as secretary (HOYT, 1949). From its inception, the history of the School of Mines and the history of mining were inexorably entwined.

Because of that history, the RUSSELL L. and Lyn Wood Mining History Archive was dedicated in April of 1995. RUSSELL L. WOOD is an alumnus of the Colorado School of Mines, graduating as an Engineer of Mines in 1949. Mr. WOOD has been a member of the Colorado School of Mines Board of Trustees since 1981 and served seven of those years as Board president. He was president and chief executive officer of Asamera Minerals from 1991 until his retirement to consulting in 1992. He served ten years as president and chief executive officer of Copper Range Company prior to Asamera employment. In 1981, he received the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the Colorado School of Mines. His wife, Lyn, serves on the Arthur LAKES Library External Visiting Committee and has been an advocate of the Library and Mines for years. The Archive houses historically significant monographs, maps, medals, silver diplomas, photographs, memorabilia and other cultural treasures. It is a center for scholarly pursuit, as well as proper maintenance, storage and preservation of materials and is certainly a source of pride for the institution. Besides the appointments for the room, ultra-violet protection from daylight and fluorescent lights was installed. The publicity surrounding the gift has brought increased interest in the history of the School and the area. There has been a rise of in-kind gifts to the Library with the Archive benefiting significantly. Fund-raising efforts to enhance the Wood gift are ongoing.

Items were removed from storage and general stacks for a more appropriate home in the new Archive. For instance, now residing in the RUSSELL L. and Lyn WOOD Mining History Archive are several editions of *De Re Metallica*. The Archive provides a more scholarly arena for the balance between preservation and use of these rare volumes. Three early editions of interest are:

- 1 AGRICOLA, Georg. 1494 - 1555. *De ortu & causis subterraneorum*, lib. V; *De natura eorum quae effluunt ex terra*, lib. III; *De natura fossilium*, lib. X; *De ueteribus & nouis metallis*, lib. II; *Bergmannus, siue De re metallica dialogus*, lib. I; Georgii AGRICOLA. *Interpretatio*

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- Germanica uocum rei metallica, addito duplici indice, altero rerum, altero locorum; omnia ab ipso auctore, cum haud poenitenda accessione, recens recognita. Basileae: [Per H. Probenivm et N. Episcopium], 1558.470, [39]p.; 32 cm. Vignette (printer's device) on t.p. and last page; initials. Imprint date also penciled on t.p. Book plate on front cover: Ernest RIDLEY Debenham. Strip 1 1/2-2 inches removed from bottom of t.p. Rebound.*
- 2 AGRICOLA, Georg, 1494 - 1555 Georgii AGRICOLAE *De re metallica: libri XII. quibus officia, instrumenta, machinae, ac omnia deni ad metallicam apectantia, non modo luculentissime describuntur, sed & per effigies, suis locis insertas, adiunctis latinis, germanicis appellationibus ita ob oculos ponuntur, ut clarius tradi non possint. Eiusdem De animantibus subterraneis liber, ab auctore recognitus: cum indicibus diuersis, quicquid in opere tractatum est, pulchre demonstrantibus.* Basileae: [Apud Hieron Probenivm et Nicolavm Episcopivm], 1556 [12], 538 (i.e. 502), [4] p.: woodcut ill. (part fold.); 32 cm. Vignette (printer's device) on t.p. and last page; initials. Duveen, p. 4; cf. Ferguson, I. 9-10.
  - 3 AGRICOLA, Georg, 1494-1555. Georgius AGRICOLA *De re metallica* / tr. from the 1st Latin ed. of 1556, with biographical introduction, annotations and appendices upon the development of mining methods, metallurgical processes, geology, mineralogy & mining law, from the earliest times to the 16th century, by Herbert Clark Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover. London: The Mining Magazine, 1912.2 p.l., xxxi, [1], 640 p., 1 l.; ill., fold pl.; 35 cm. With reproduction of original t.-p. "Bibliographical notes": p. 599 - 615. The Wood gift also includes several rare mining maps. Rare maps already held by the Library will be moved to the Archive to join the Wood gift and preservation needs will be assessed. Mining reports from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with hand-drawn maps have been microfilmed for general use and the originals have been moved to the Archive. Fragile maps are encapsulated. Medals awarded to the Colorado School of Mines in national and international expositions or competitions are also part of the Archive. These medals include
    - 4 International Exhibition, Philadelphia, 1876;
    - 5 World's Columbian Exposition In Commemoration of the Four-Hundredth Anniversary of the Landing of Columbus, 3 medals, To State School of Mines, C. E. Barber, 1892-1893;
    - 6 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, 1898;
    - 7 Universal Exposition, Saint Louis, Grand Prize, Gold Medal, 2 Silver Medals, 1904;
    - 8 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, 2 medals, 1905;
    - 9 Tenth International Dry-Farming Congress and International Soil Products Exposition, Blue Ribbon and Gold Medal, 1915;
    - 10 Man's Progress is Dependent on Minerals, Colorado School of Mines 1874-1949, Commemorating Seventy-Five Years of Service in Mineral-Engineering Education and Research, 3 medals, 1949;
    - 11 School of Mines State of Colorado Seals, 3 silver seals and 1 bronze seal, no date given; and
    - 12 To Philip ARGALL 1903 For Meritorious Achievement, Edmond C. Van DIEST Memorial Award Awarded By the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, 1903. Additionally, certain donated silver diplomas, which have been awarded to Colorado School of Mines graduates since 1934, are retained in the Archive. Metal items have ongoing preservation concerns regarding the treatment and prevention of oxidation.

The past three years have brought about a significant effort for the efficient retrieval of photographs. Personal Librarians search and retrieval software has been effective for this purpose. Records have been completed for about three-quarters of the loose photographs currently retained in the Archive. When that effort has been accomplished, photographs accompanying personal papers, photographs on linen, and the photograph albums will be treated in a similar manner. The database has made possible and also generated increased use of this portion of the collection. To date, the database only works as a finding tool and is not storing images for reproduction.

Over the years, a representative collection of lantern slides used as teaching aids in the classroom have been given to the Library, usually as parts of collections of former professors. Lantern slides consist of either a positive or negative image captured between two glass plates and sealed. They were used with lanterns lit by kerosene, carbon arc, and later by electricity. These tools for classroom instruction have retrospective educational value.

#### Cultural "Treasures" of Art

The Arthur LAKES Library of the Colorado School of Mines is not any different from libraries anywhere. The community retains certain expectations that the Library is not only a repository of knowledge but also a cultural repository. Questions are received from all over the world asking for mining information, photographs or memorabilia as well as more traditional information requests. The items described below are considered art "treasures" but are not necessarily housed in the RUSSELL L. and Lyn WOOD Mining History Archive even through the archivist has responsibility for their security and preservation.

#### Arthur LAKES Works of Art

Arthur LAKES, for whom in 1959 the Library was named, was the first geology professor of the School of Mines. He was born on December 21, 1844, at Martok, Somersetshire, England, receiving his education at Queen's College. He taught in Canada and immigrated to the United States in 1862. In 1869, he accepted a teaching position at Matthews Hall Collegiate School (the forerunner of the Colorado School of Mines, while he studied theology at nearby Jarvis Hall. He and an associate, Captain H. C. BECKWITH of the United States Navy, discovered a large thigh bone of a "whale lizard" and wrote to Othniel Charles MARSH of this find. LAKES also wrote to MARSH's rival, Edward DRINKER COPE of the University of Pennsylvania, as LAKES was unconvinced that either would answer. By this action, LAKES was the unwitting catalyst

for the "bone wars" of Colorado and Wyoming. Both Marsh and Cope sent field parties to the territory and shots were fired by both field parties in their zeal to collect and protect the dinosaur bones. LAKES worked for MARSH at the Morrison Quarry until 1880 when he assumed the position of Professor of Geology at the State School of Mines. He taught geology, drawing, and conducted week-end field trips. LAKES resigned in 1893 to become a mining engineering consultant. He is considered the "Father of Colorado geology" and died November 21, 1917 (JONES, 1989). The Library has a large oil painting, several pen and ink renditions, watercolors of dinosaurs as they were perceived in the early 1900's, and examples of his technical drawings enhanced by watercolors. These works of art hang in the Library entrance.

#### E. S. CURTIS Photogravures

Edward S. CURTIS spent thirty years photographing Native Americans. From this labor came a twenty volume work *North American Indian*; the first two volumes were published 1907. Bound with the twenty volumes of text were to be fifteen-hundred full-page photogravure illustrations, each volume to consist of quarto pages measuring 9 1/2 by 12 1/2 inches. The printing of the books was by University Press of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the photogravures in the books and folios by John ANDREW and Son of Boston, Massachusetts (ANDREWS, 1962). The Library has ten of the photogravures of the Assiniboine tribe. They were a gift to the School from the Atlantic Richfield Company.

#### Andrew G. Alpha Watercolors and Sketches

Andrew G. ALPHA was born May 11, 1912, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. He graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in geology. He worked in various positions with the U. S. Government until 1934 when he was hired by Mobil Oil to help find oil for the Second World War. In 1964, he began his consulting career in geothermal, environment, ground water, and oil and gas interests. Mr. ALPHA does simple line drawings, some enhanced by water color, and his work has been published in guidebooks, pamphlets and reports. The Arthur LAKES Library secured the collection of Andrew G. ALPHA sketches in 1992. In 1993 he received the *Arthur Gray Leonard Award* from the University of North Dakota, his alma mater, and some of his works were on display for that occasion. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists has also displayed his works. The collection has been indexed by the artist for easy retrieval.

#### RAPHAEL's Madonna of the Chair Mystery

In 1990 a crated oil painting on canvas mounted board was discovered in Library storage. It appeared to be a copy of RAPHAEL's *Madonna of the Chair*, including a copy of the frame. Records attribute this painting to Dr. BERTHOUD's niece as the donor. Dr. BERTHOUD was a civil

engineer who gained importance in the history of the West by finding a new pass through the Rocky Mountains; he was also a member of the School's Board of Trustees during its early history. In 1994, a very similar painting, including the distinctive ornate frame, was discovered at the Denver Law School, the former site of the Colorado Women's College. That painting was attributed to a couple unassociated with the BERTHOUDS and was believed to come from Peru. The two schools contracted with the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center for restoration work for the two nearly matching paintings. The Conservation Center hypothesized these 19<sup>th</sup> Century copies were made in workshops in Italy for an upscale tourist trade and indeed the frame of the Colorado School of Mines carried a label from Italy. Research is continuing and it is now believed that two more of these paintings exist in the Denver area.

#### Frank G. ALLISON Gold Collection

The Arthur LAKES Library houses the Frank ALLISON gold collection, acquired in 1937. Frank ALLISON was the manager of a news stand at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, an historically significant hotel. During his career he collected native gold, primarily from Colorado. Upon his death the heirs were going to melt and sell the gold, dividing the proceeds. Mr. Charles BOETTCHER purchased this collection for the school, believing the intrinsic value of native gold to be more than the refined value. The gold was not placed in the Museum but instead resides in the Library for the public to enjoy.

#### Plates and Prints

Several plates have been given to the School or the Library as gifts. These plates have been removed from books and have become an art form prior to being received by the Library. The Library is most appreciative of these several gifts but also is aware a work of knowledge has probably been destroyed so that the plates might be offered separately. One of the plates is "*Plate V Historie Naturelle*" from *Mineralogie*, 7<sup>me</sup> Collection Filons el travaux des Mines (no date indicated). Prints are also sometimes gifted to the school and several examples of prints are in the Archive.

#### Conclusion

The Arthur LAKES Library of the Colorado School of Mines dedicated the RUSSELL L. and Lyn WOOD Mining History Archive in April of 1995. The Archive now houses rare monographs, maps, medals, silver diplomas, lantern slides, plates from books (gifted to the Library), photographs, and other memorabilia. These collections are receiving increasing interest because of improved accessibility and also because there is an increasing number of individuals seeking information about mining history, the history of the American West and the place of the Colorado School of Mines in that history. The Archive

provides scholarly quarters for use and preservation of unique and rare materials, print and non-print.

The Library also acts as a cultural repository for much of the art that is gifted to the School. The Library is again responsible for the security and preservation of those items. The Arthur LAKES collection of technical and personal work are very significant to the institution where he was the first professor of geology. The E. S. CURTIS photographs record the life of the Assiniboine and provide a look at the historical context of that people. Andrew ALPHA's watercolors and sketches show a more contemporary view of geology, important to the overall study of the West. The copy of RAPHAEL's *Madonna of the Chair* is evidence of European culture brought to the area. The ALLISON gold collection retains not only its intrinsic value as native gold but serves also as a reminder of the gold rush and settlement of the area. The Arthur LAKES Library is pleased to have the responsibility of housing,

preserving and enjoying a part of the cultural 'treasure' of the region.

#### References

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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