TS-SIS Preservation Committee: 2nd Annual Worst Book Contest Entries

2013- Seattle

1-1: Hamilton County Law Library | Melissa Barney | Technical Services Librarian

Statutes of the Province of Quebec Passed in the Session Held in the Thirty-Second year of the Reign Her Majesty Queen Victoria 1869 is one many sad examples of what happens to books when you have lousy climate control, allowed smoking, and spend no money on preservation. In addition this one has also had water damage and the mold/mildew that comes with the exposure to so much moisture.
Enclosed is my personal entry, taken from various angles, including an insert with the history of the original owner. This is a book from our Firm’s collection (the oldest and dearest as a stand-alone volume for the Code of 1873). It could use some restoration. The book was originally owed by George Woodson Hansbrough, and is signed on the inside cover. I did some research on this esteemed gentleman many years ago and traced Mr. Hansbrough’s history – from UVA graduate to prewar teacher and attorney, re war Commonwealth Attorney, and to Lt. Col. Of the Confederacy in the Civil War, where he was shot in the leg. After the war, he was appointed to State Reporter, and Supreme Court of Appeals. This is an important book and the pride of our collection.

I hope that you find it as important and weathered as I do.
This volume has a very long title which begins “Politica para corregidores y señores de vassallos”, published in 1597. It’s about Spanish administrative law and ecclesiastical law. While it’s been particularly loved by little critters, the spine title must have been really delicious.
Here’s a picture of some of the worst volumes in our US Supreme Court Reports set, the one furthest left really takes de Decrepit Cake award! Luce Forward is a very old law firm (founded in 1873) and we have all the original reporters purchased by the founder, Moses Luce. Many were rebound through the years, but some – like the volumes pictured—were hidden in odd and unsuitable storage locations.
I'm also sending you this little item, because of its high-irony-factor! It is nothing like having a vehicle run over your CFR Highways title on its way to being delivered.
Description of submission: [Scrapbook – Newspaper clips] 150 p., 24 cm.

Covers libel cases, including Gustave R. Wahle vs. the Cincinnati Gazette Company (Mr. Wahle’s Libel Suit Against the Gazette Company) March 17, 1883

The item originally belonged to the Cincinnati Law Library Association. It is one of the few items survived the fire and destruction of the Hamilton County Courthouse and the Law Library caused by The Cincinnati Riots of 1884.

Humidity damage isn't usually a problem in the West, but flooded basements are not so unusual. This volume was in the bottom of a box stacked on a wet floor. It is the only damaged volume in a 158 volume set in otherwise excellent condition. Rumpole would not be amused.
This is a book I saw in my boss's office. It is an original transcript of the impeachment hearing of Judge Emery Speer of the Southern District of Georgia in 1913. The names handwritten on the inside were from Judge William Bootle, also a federal district judge in Georgia who was known for desegregating the University of Georgia in a single week. Some of the testimony included a pharmacist who filled Judge Speer's "hayfever" prescription with a drug that contained cocaine.
Here is the story behind the book: We purchased this book as a last (desperate!) measure for a faculty member even though it was in very bad shape. The faculty member reads Latin and needed the book for his research. The book was not available electronically and we could not find another version. Even though the book was in bad condition, it cost a pretty penny!
DE FICTIIONIBUS IVRIS,

[Text continues...]

TRACTATUS QVARTVS.

[Text begins...]

CAPIT IV.

[Text continues...]

INTER赦tyras descriptas, sed ab initio terminum terminus terminus terminus terminus terminus terminus terminus terminus...