

~~1977~~ 1980
PERSONAL ARCHIVES PROGRAM

De Grazia Fund
Princeton, N.J.

The PERSONAL ARCHIVES PROGRAM was established by the De Grazia Fund, a foundation organized for educational and scientific purposes. The PROGRAM seeks to fill a widespread and large-scale need in the cultural structure of American society for conserving and developing the work of scientists, scholars, artists, and civic leaders following upon their decease. By individual and group pre-arrangement, or by arrangement with executors of estate, the Fund assumes responsibility for acquiring, organizing, processing, distributing and publishing materials of enduring cultural and social value from the estates of creative citizens.

Following upon an agreement, professional and expert evaluation of a personal archive is undertaken. The archive is transferred to safe-keeping. It is divided according to the element that should receive wider distribution and that which should be simply preserved. The former element is promptly divided into categories for a) gifting to students and workers in the same field, b) limited publication in microform for interested libraries, other institutions and relevant creative workers, c) monographs and special products published and

distributed by the Fund, and d) general works for publication and distribution by industry under contract with the Fund.

In all cases, the Fund undertakes the necessary evaluation, ordering, copying, and editing, together with external arrangements for printing and distribution. It publishes accounts of the personal archives in process and of the material that it has made available to the cultural community.

The need for the aid and services of the Fund is much larger than can be directly satisfied. It is estimated that as many as ten thousand Personal Archives of considerable value pass into estates each year in the arts, sciences, humanities, and civic sphere. The sources are not only persons attached to institutions such as universities, corporations, and voluntary associations, but also include individuals such as writers, artists, military leaders, and politicians; in a few cases, the source may be highly individualistic and unusual, as with a collector of ordinary city maps, or an orchestrator of music.

Today, and for some time now, the loss of personal archives has been practically total. Each year a few dozen of more famous persons pass to third parties with interest in their use, funds for their use, and available skills to handle them. More typical are the estimated 95% that are effectively destroyed, whether by consignment to the inferno of good intentions or physically, as soon as a decent period of mourning is over. The rationalization, often heard, that old scientists, writers, professors, and artists have published all their useful work is quite in error. The Fund

is well-acquainted with and can supply many cases to the contrary. The problem is rendered more acute by the fashionable practice, engaged in by many foundations, including the powerful governmental ones, to help only young and upcoming scholars with the means of processing and displaying creativity. Nor is it true that the older creative workers of American society have achieved the prominence, contacts, and professional offices that put them in a position to develop and bring their work to the attention, whether by gift or publication, of those who have the heed and desire to know it.

The De Grazia Fund does not buy personal archives, but receives them only by gift of testament or from estates. Arrangements for the acquisition and development of culturally significant archives are made in several ways. A living cultural Benefactor can will his archive to the Fund, without provision for defraying the costs of its public utilization, or, if he can afford to do so, by paying to the Fund during his lifetime an annual premium or a lump sum for its posthumous management, or by providing funds in his will to be applied to managing his archive posthumously. A college or other association, which can expect a continuous attrition of its faculty or personnel, can enter into a group contract with the Fund, paying an annual premium and receiving the right in return to transfer the personal archives of covered persons upon their death to the Fund for development. The Fund also accepts gifts and bequests from

individuals, foundations, associations, and corporations, to be applied generally or to special categories of assistance, including named creative individuals; it is from such gifts that the Fund is enabled to help conserve and transmit to the culture the work of creative persons that otherwise will be lost.

Every Archive is unique, but the costs of archival utilization are generally known and containable. A "rich" Archive, containing thousands of notes and letters, photographs, unpublished articles, a monograph manuscript, and an unfinished book, plus sundry mementos, may cost from \$ 12,000 to 18,000 to utilize culturally. Some money may be returned if a commercial contract for publication ensues, but it is important to realize that this event is rare and ought not be a pretext for understating the need for cultural conservation. A "small" Archive may cost between \$ 2,000 and \$ 5,000 to transfer into the bloodstream of the culture.

If the total need for creative archival utilization for the country is estimated at 10,000 Personal Archives per year and an average utilization cost of \$ 8,000 is assigned, a figure of \$ 80 millions is arrived at. If 60% of the archives left in the prior five-year period remain available, a backlog of \$ 240 millions of developmental costs would be assumed. The sum in either case is considered to be small in proportion to the benefits; that is, the total cultural benefit to be arrived at by the rescue of Personal Archives is much greater than \$ 80 millions per year, and by the same reasoning much greater than the five-year sum. Waiving a discussion of the point here, it may simply be offered that the annual cost is about the same as maintaining 10,000 university students, or, for that matter, of maintaining

10,000 convicts in prison.

Nevertheless, whatever the serious nature of the problem of Personal Archives, it is so newly conceived and addressed that immediate full social and economic support is unlikely to be forthcoming. The De Grazia Fund therefore must seek to engage the most worthwhile cases, employing philanthropic support, and to arrange in all cases possible with colleges and other groups, and with individuals, to contract for their own Archival needs. The rescue and communication of the cultural and scientific values contained in even a single Archive is a worthy achievement. Doing the same with ten, then 100, and then 1,000 each year is the Fund's objective. Ultimately, by performance and example, the Fund may elevate the principle of Personal Archival development into a normal cultural necessity, reflected appropriately in the output schedules of the Gross National Product.

Charles Lee
Jay Hall
Rich. Cornuelle
Carl Stover
Ben Herring
S. def
Ballantine Banker
Insur.
Judge
A def

Final main presentation
of the Archives

Addendum: De Grazia Fund PERSONAL ARCHIVES PROGRAM

Heads of American universities and colleges have many demands on their time, one of which, and one which unfortunately they can do all too little about, is the hope of the families of deceased faculty and administration that they can help to handle the literary estates of members of the community. Often the persons involved were for many years dedicated to the community and worthy of the community's best efforts at perpetuating their names and preserving their inheritance.

Turning from the local creative community to the society as a whole, the Fund sees, too, the possibility, which some would maintain as a certainty, that the generation just passing, having gone through several critical phases of American and world history, including the twenties, the Great Depression, the several wars, and the coming of the nuclear age, may have more to say to the future than the present or other comparable generations. Hence there may be a present emergency in the need addressed by the Fund; more important archives may be passing into oblivion than was the case previously or may be the case in the future. If this is so, or in any case, the present heavy development of information collection, storage and retrieval system, involving high technology, computerized bibliography, microform systems for reproduction and distribution may be gathering and saving a larger proportion of the creative output of the society than has been the case for the years before 1971; this, too, then is a reason for acting to cope with the Personal Archives of persons lately or now deceasing.

~~Ref
Fund
Accounts~~

2 years

5,000	Binder		
15,000	press		
21,000	IBM computer	D. Steebine - 1 Office	1200
10,000	Word-processing		
15,000	All other machinery		
10,000	microcassette photoequipment		

\$76,000

4,000	Office (2 yrs) incl utilities
2,500	Storage (2000') (2 yrs) incl utilities
4,000	machine room space incl utilities
3,000	Telephone
3,000	Postage (20,000 pieces)
3,000	Advertising, P.R., brochure, informing
10,000	Materials & Stationery, paper
2,000	Travel

\$31,500

18,000

Pressman

~~18,000~~

Compositor and cameraman

18,000

Word-processor & typist

20,000

Contracting officer and bookkeeper

~~20,000~~

20,000

Office Mgr. & Director

~~20,000~~

~~Bookkeeping~~

20,000

Board of Directors, consultants

\$96,000

96

Total \$203,500

1981