



THE COVER

Myra Jo Moon (1931–1993) is remembered as a pioneer in the field of library preservation in Colorado. As preservation librarian at Colorado State University from 1982 until her death on 15 March 1993 she was the spearhead of Colorado's preservation efforts. A tireless workshop presenter and consultant on numerous preservation problems across the state, she was considered the preservation resource of Colorado. She was a founding member of the Colorado Center for the Book, the Colorado Preservation Alliance, and the Preservation Roundtable for the Colorado Library Association. At the national level she was a member of the American Library Association's Preservation of Library Materials Section, and served on the Library Binding Institute Planning Committee.

The formation of the Colorado Preservation Alliance (CPA) was particularly important to Myra Jo. The CPA is a nonprofit consortium of libraries, archives, museums, historical and genealogical societies, government agencies, and other interested organizations and individuals committed to preserving cultural and historical resources in the state of Colorado to insure their availability for present and future generations.

Bookplate courtesy of The Colorado Preservation Alliance, Denver.

In May 1989, over a hundred librarians, archivists, and interested individuals attended a meeting to express concern and to focus on the future of Colorado preservation. The Colorado Preservation Alliance was created as a result of that meeting. The purpose of the alliance is to coordinate preservation efforts on a statewide level and to develop a comprehensive statewide plan for the preservation of books, manuscripts, archival records, photographs, works of art on paper, audio-visual materials, and other media.

Since its inception the CPA has published a quarterly newsletter, the *Colorado Preservation Alert*, helped found a Preservation Roundtable in the Colorado Library Association, forged alliances with related organizations in the state, such as the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums, and the Colorado Genealogical Society, and held annual workshops on various preservation topics. In 1995 the CPA received a grant to create three preservation study kits, which are now available for rental to any institution in the state. The alliance has also begun work on developing a preservation component, an electronic "bulletin board" for the Access Colorado Library Information Network (ACLIN).

Part of the original CPA mandate was to produce a plan to coordinate and focus the many individual efforts in the state. In 1992 the CPA applied for and received a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant from the Colorado State Library to hire a consultant and produce a statewide plan for preservation. The members of the alliance board worked long hours, but none contributed more than Myra Jo Moon, who was serving as project director. She died after completing the plan but before she could see the finished product. The plan is dedicated to her memory. It was published in May 1993. At that time the CPA Annual Award for Preservation, honoring significant contributions to preservation in Colorado, was awarded posthumously to Moon.

Myra Jo Moon had made a tremendous personal investment in preservation and had amassed a large collection of reference material. This collection was donated to the Colorado Preservation Alliance in May 1993 by Rosemary Whitaker. The Myra Jo Moon Memorial Preservation Reference Collection contains over 150 books and videos that Myra Jo Moon had acquired during her years of leadership in preservation. In addition, there are SPEC Kits, periodicals, pamphlets, etc., that comprised Moon's personal preservation reference collection. The collection includes extensive information on the subjects of disaster planning, statewide planning, book repair, care and handling of specific media, etc. It includes both current and historical information. It is the most comprehensive collections preservation reference resource in the state.

The collection exists to serve the needs of the community as a source of information on the myriad aspects of preservation. This circulating

collection is housed at Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) in its professional collection. It may be accessed in the JCPL catalog under the subject heading "Myra Jo Moon Memorial Preservation Reference Collection." The entire collection can be accessed through the ACLIN system by picking "Jefferson County Public Library" and doing a subject search using "Myra Jo." All of the titles in the collection are available through interlibrary loan through the Jefferson County Public Library.

In the spring of 1994, the Colorado Preservation Alliance published an annotated bibliography to this collection. The bibliography is divided into sections on bookbinding, both traditional hand bookbinding and commercial binding; disaster planning and recovery; paper chemistry and deacidification; book repair; environment and storage; preservation administration; care and handling techniques for various media; and security. The bibliography was compiled and edited by Sharon Partridge, documents librarian, and Karen Jones, collections conservator at JCPL. Both are members of the CPA board. Along with the bibliography, the CPA commissioned a bookplate design for the collection. Jane Dahlymple-Hollo, an artist and book conservator living in Boulder, accepted the commission. As someone who knew and admired Myra Jo Moon's commitment to preservation, she was happy to be involved in this tribute. After visiting Moon's home and talking to her friend, Rosemary Whitaker, Jane designed several plates. The final design, measuring 3³/₄" wide by 5³/₄" high, synthesizes two of the most important aspects of Myra Jo Moon's life, as remembered by her friends and family. The cornet represents her love for classical music. She played the cornet through high school at Drumright, Oklahoma, and in the marching and concert bands at the University of Oklahoma, where she received a bachelor of science degree in 1954 and a master's of library science in 1965. All the arts nourished her life, but she remained an aficionado of classical brass ensembles and band music. The instrument also works to announce a "fanfare" to preservation (symbolized by the books), which reflects that lifelong commitment. The collection was dedicated at the CPA annual meeting in the spring of 1994.

We cannot express enough appreciation to Rosemary Whitaker for the generous donation of this collection and her encouragement to make it the core of a continuing memorial to Myra Jo Moon's dedication to preservation in Colorado. Donations to the Myra Jo Moon Memorial Preservation Reference Collection endowment can be sent to the CPA, c/o Colorado State Archives, 1313 Sherman, Denver, CO 80203.

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