

MARKINGS

YOUR ARCHIVES INTERCHANGE

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A REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS A.A. ARCHIVES

The experience gained in the planning and implementation of the Archives Project at G.S.O. has widened and deepened our original faith that one of the best ways to assure the future of the A.A. Fellowship is to nurture its past. Our *Primary Purpose* remains, of course, to carry the message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic. We can, however, within the context of the whole range of A.A. Services, renew our own sense of purpose by collecting and preserving the rich and meaningful heritage of our past. The main purpose of the Archives, consistent with A.A.'s primary purpose is to keep the record straight so that myth does not predominate over fact.

As we are part of A.A. as a whole we are collecting Archival Material about the whole fellowship. We would like more material on E. Mass. i.e., early group histories, oral history by early members, early clippings and magazine articles about A.A. etc.

Boston A.A. was founded by Paddy K. whom Marty M. had taken to Blythewood. The Boston Group provided us with a fresh wonder and a big heartbreak too. Its founder could never get sober himself and he finally died of alcoholism. Paddy K. was just too sick to make it. Slip followed slip, but he came back each time to carry A.A.'s message at which he was amazingly successful. Time after time the group nursed him back to life. Then came the last bender, and that was it. This very sick man left behind him a great group and a triple A rating for valor.

Ruth Hock and Bill W. gave Paddy and others a great amount of support, encouragement and information about A.A. when they were struggling to get a group started in the area. Paddy apparently held a meeting on Wednesday Nov. 13, 1940 but the first regular meeting of the Boston Group was on the first

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SERIALLY . . . THE ARCHIVAL HANDBOOK (PART III)

WHAT MACHINES NEEDED FOR ARCHIVES?

If microfilming is to be undertaken, then a microfilm reader will be needed. Also, a duplication machine is a good idea, if copies of material are to be provided from time to time. If an oral history project is started, a tape machine, either 7" reel (better for permanent storage) and/or a cassette recorder, as well as a Copycorder (brand name), which is a cassette recorder able to make a duplicate copy.

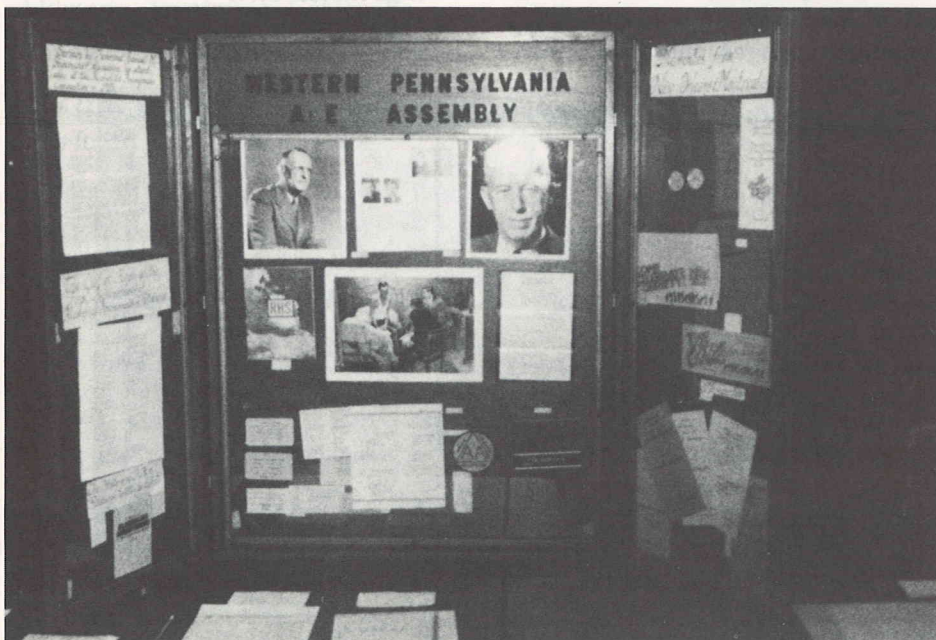
SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATIONS FOR HOLDINGS, PRIVACY LEVELS

The G.S.O. Archives recognizes three main classifications. Examples of each category are listed in this outline (pages 24-26). Because of our anonymity Tradition, the G.S.O. Archives cannot be as open or make data available without supervision as freely as would other archives. The archivist and the Archives Committee should work closely to decide how you can make your archives as available as possible to meet local needs, and consider questions of how much to share, with whom, and under what circumstances. These decisions should be consistent with both A.A. Traditions and generally accepted procedures of archival good taste and common sense.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Archives Committee chairperson in Northfield, Minnesota, reports: "(a) That we were archivists and could not manage our own file cabinet; (b) That no human power could organize our collected history; and (c) That God could and would if he were on the Committee."

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Archival display used at sharing sessions in Western Pennsylvania. Photograph courtesy of Big Jean M., Pittsburgh, PA

