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King's Library
Microphotography

Project II.

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Pch. 5
Microphotography

Proposals for microcopying materials in the King's Library at Windsor Castle.

The attention of the ACLS has been directed to the possibility, reported to the RF, of extensive microcopying of materials of extraordinary intrinsic value and of much interest to American scholars in the King's Library at Windsor Castle.

While these materials have thus far escaped damage the destructive air raids over Eton and the expectation of intensified aerial warfare this winter justify the belief that they will be exposed to very grave risks. Their loss to scholarly and cultural interests would be incalculable.

The King's Librarian, with whom a representative of the RF has discussed the matter, is personally eager to secure such protection of content as would be afforded by microcopying originals, and is of the opinion that the King would readily approve a project which would produce two copies of selected materials, of which one copy should belong to the King's Library, and the other should be placed in an American Library and made accessible to scholars, reserving certain materials, the use of which might be restricted.

The Librarian of Congress has expressed his willingness to receive the American copy, for the collections of the Library of Congress, in accordance with such conditions as might be agreed upon. The Librarian of Congress attaches such importance to the matter that he is prepared to allocate \$10,000 of the public appropriation of \$40,000 at his disposal for securing copies of valuable materials, to the project.

It is the opinion of the CMMR that approximately \$50,000 could actually be expended in a year in copying materials in the King's Library, according to the plan outlined above. The ACLS and the Library of Congress recommend that the sum of \$40,000 be earmarked by the RF, to supplement the sum of \$10,000 allocated from Library of Congress funds, for the purpose of executing such a plan of copying in the King's Library as it may be possible to work out between the Library of Congress and the King's Library, with the assistance of the ACLS and its CMMR.

It is impossible at this stage to know what effect the execution of Project II might have upon Project I, through the diversion of cameras, personnel, etc. It is hoped that there may be no such diversion, and it is possible that the project may be operated by the King's Librarian, independently of Project I. If the recommended amount should be earmarked for Project II, the necessary negotiations will be entered upon at once, and the details of the most satisfactory plan possible will be determined.

Respectfully submitted

(signed)

Waldo G. Leland
Director.