

Help save our Books!

Help preserve
the books for
the future

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
AND ADDRESSES
SESSION OF THE A.E. 1905
Held at
Panama, Panama, New York



Printed on acidic paper, these books have become so fragile that they simply disintegrate when touched. After 1850, demand for paper grew so quickly that manufacturers began using wood pulp treated with chemicals, rather than rags and cotton by-products. Over time the chemicals in the paper reacted with the environment to form acids, and the paper became brittle. As many as half a million brittle books just like these await preservation in the KU Library's collections.

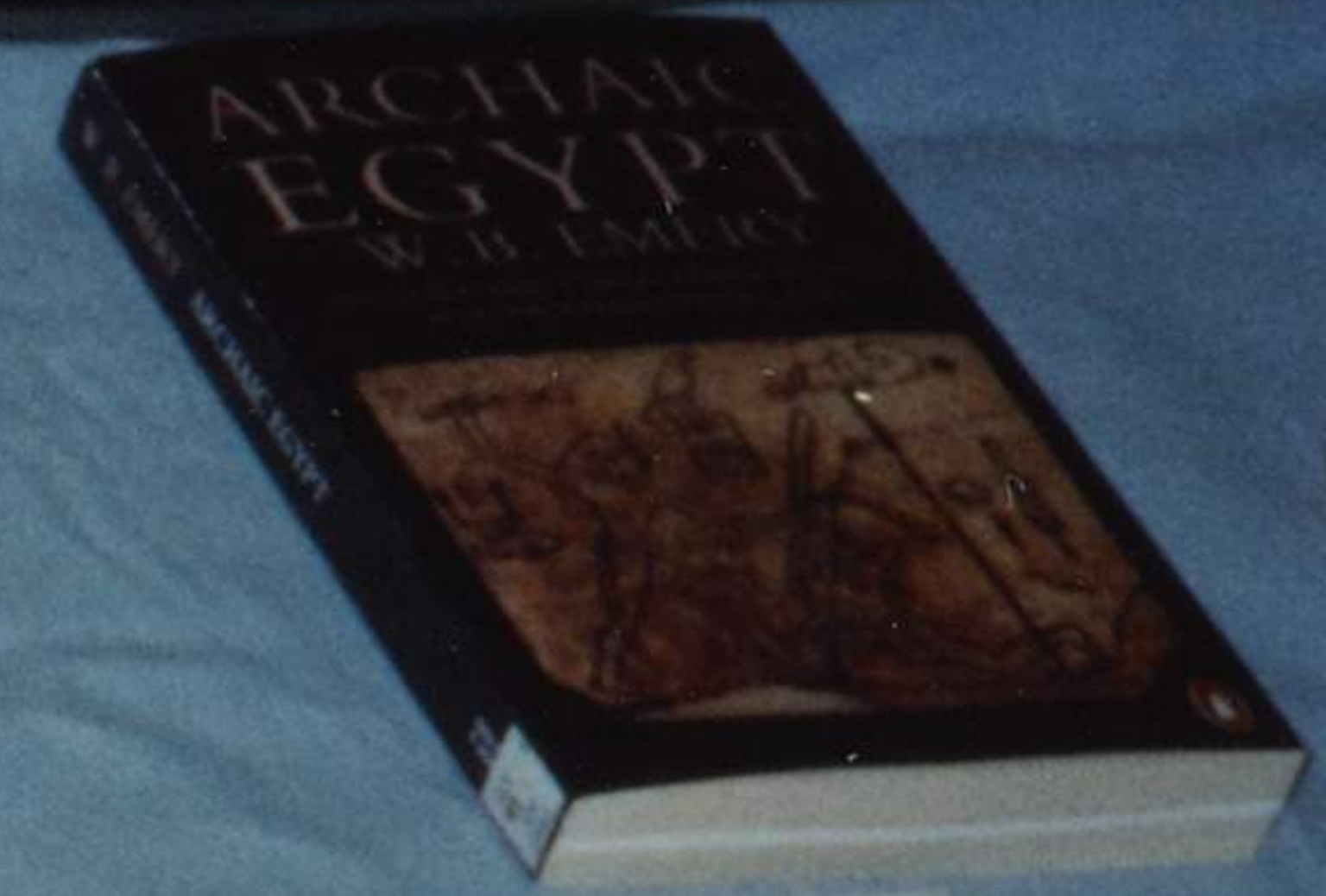
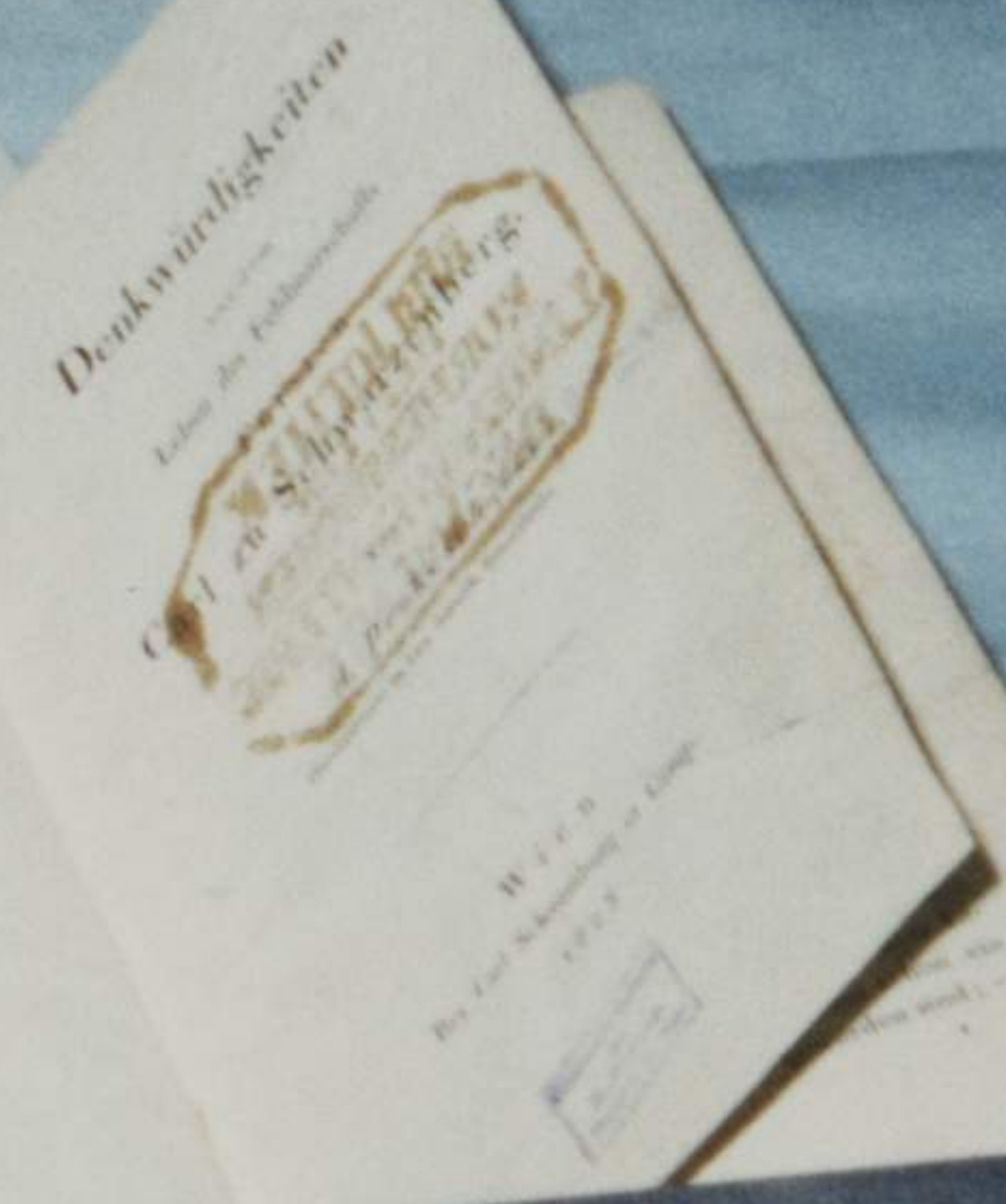
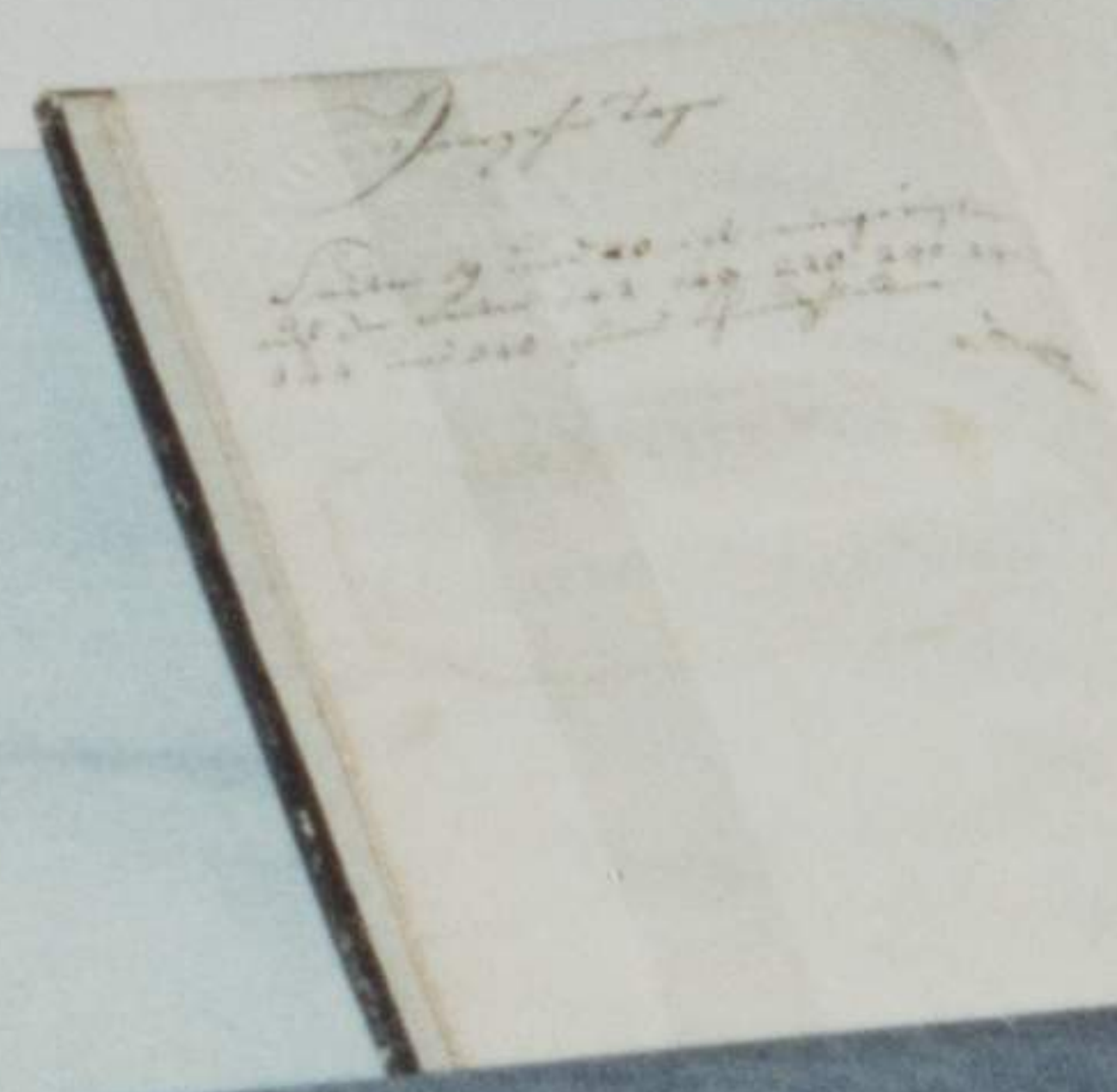
073444
A PENGUIN SPECIAL
MY FINNISH DIARY
BY
SIR WALTER CYRTINE, K.B.E.



The Abbey pH testing pen offers a convenient (but not exact) way to determine if paper is acidic or alkaline. The pH pen left an almost invisible yellowish mark on the paper on the left (a sheet of regular photocopy paper). This means the paper is acidic (pH below 7.0) and will become brittle in time. The paper on the right, with a lavender mark, is alkaline (pH above 7.0). This paper is used for photocopying replacement pages for damaged books.

To qualify for designation as "permanent," paper must have not only a pH higher than 7.0 but also an alkaline reserve of buffering chemicals to neutralize the acid that may accumulate in future because of air pollution or other contamination.

Case 2
PAPER: SHORT-LIVED OR
PERMANENT?



Many publishers in North America and western Europe use alkaline paper now, a major change from only a few years ago. Over 90% of hard cover books published in the US today are printed on alkaline paper.

But this is less likely to be true for paperback and books from other areas of the world. These two are often, for example, are printed on acidic paper. Left untreated, a few decades from now they will have become just as brittle as those to the left.

Many books printed on alkaline statement such as the following (back) of the title page:

The paper used in this publication is
acid-free and meets the
requirements of the
American National Standard for
acid-free paper, ANSI Z39.48-1990.
The paper is made from
100% recycled fibers, including
10% post consumer waste.
The book is printed on
acid-free paper.

Notice how acid from the
several pages and dam
p bled through

