



**CASE STUDY:**

**BOUND BOOK SCANNING**

*In 1947, we established the first microfiche imaging production facility in the United States, making the new imaging method widely available for the first time. Ever since, Northern Micrographics has specialized in developing new solutions for both preservation and access.*

*Applying our broad experience, we consult with clients and make thoughtful recommendations based on their priorities. We offer a wide range of preservation services and software including microfilming, digital archiving, metadata creation, search and distribution of images, text and audio.*



Chapter III: Mr. Hamilton's Excise

**A**n excise on spirituous liquors was by no means a new thing to Pennsylvanians. As early as 1684 such a tax had been imposed, and from that time on to 1791 Pennsylvania probably was never without an excise. During the colonial wars it was resorted to with the specific purpose of providing money to aid in fighting the French, and at other times bills of credit were issued against it and gradually retired as the money came in. The excise of 1756 was the occasion of a bitter quarrel between Governor Morris and the assembly because the former insisted, in accordance with his instructions, that the disposal of the money from the excise must remain with the proprietary representatives. From the foundation of the colony to the repeal of the last excise law in 1791, Pennsylvanians had at least nineteen laws laying taxes upon spirituous liquors, not to mention numerous acts regulating the sale of liquors or supplementing the main acts.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the Revolution, however, there appears to have been little taxation of liquors distilled from domestic products, although the laws applied to such liquors if sold at retail. Rum, in spite of the tax, was so cheap in Philadelphia that the farmers stopped distilling their grain and exchanged it for rum.

During the Revolution, because of the difficulty of import-

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### Historic Pittsburg

In 2002, the University Library System of the University of Pittsburgh won a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to create a single Web gateway to visual images of the Pittsburgh region. This grant project ended in 2005 after digitizing and mounting several thousand images.

Northern Micrographics was the imaging partner on this project, scanning and printing over 250,000 images, many from bound books.

### The Digitizing Process

Digitizing images from bound books involves a careful process of book handling and camera preparation. As always, metadata was entered into a production database as the books were prepared for scanning.

With disbound books, the pages are generally scanned face down, on flat bed scanners. But bound books are scanned face up, resting carefully in a special book cradle to insure minimal damage to the book itself, even while obtaining as much information as possible in the scan.

The Historic Pittsburg books contained photographs and etchings as well as text. To obtain the best image at the time, the pages were captured in grayscale and converted to bitone imagery using a custom sub-windowing procedure that allows the text to be treated differently than photos or etchings.

Additionally, other post-scanning processes were used, including deskewing and cleaning.



"Darling" in front of the mantelpiece Miss Minnie decorated with garlands of roses

maid, wore a pale yellow silk dress. My sister Edith wore a yellow silk dress and my dress was pale blue silk. Darling gave each of her attendants an exquisite breast pin. It was a four-leaf clover with a beautiful diamond in the center. Her initials and the date of the wedding were engraved on the back of it.

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## The Printing and Binding Process

Once the digitizing was completed, the images were printed on acid-free paper; QCRed, and then bound in Northern Micrographics' in-house bindery. The books were bound to the Library Binding Institute's (LBI) standard using stamping information from the University of Pittsburgh.

The bound books were then shipped to Pittsburgh to be shelved and circulated. The original books could then be placed in appropriate archival storage

## Historic Pittsburgh Online

The images captured during this project were later OCR'd by the University of Pittsburgh and placed online for searching and viewing. In subsequent years, additional images have been added to the collection. You may view and search the collection at

<http://digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/>.

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