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Zeppelins float behind locked library doors

By ALAN LASTER
Of the Emerald

Bullet-shaped, long and silver, they hang from the ceiling, seemingly aloft: detailed scale replicas of their full-sized counterparts.

One floats in a glass case, moored only by its nose to a tower. In background paintings, they are in majestic flight.

Locked inside the Burgess Room on the first floor of the library is a collection of zeppelin models, books, newspaper clip-

pings and other memorabilia.

The room is kept locked because, "There are other collections in the Burgess Room, and we can't expose any collections to theft," according to Martin Schmitt, Special Collections curator.

Schmitt says the collection is exhibited only once every one or two years in order to maintain interest.

Schmitt discussed the novelty of the collection, and smiled as he remembered the man who donated it, the late Hallet Cole.

"Hal was simply a zeppelin enthusiast," Schmitt said. "He would collect anything and everything having to do with zeppelins."

Little is known about Cole. "He never would tell me much," Schmitt recalled. "He would refer to things he had done, but when I questioned him, he would always turn the conversation to zeppelins."

His last job before retiring was as a public relations man in Hawaii, said Schmitt.

Several years ago, Wesley Hervey, a professor of speech pathology, came to the University from Hawaii, where he had known Cole. Knowing that Cole was coming to the mainland and was looking for a place to put his collection, Hervey talked to Schmitt about placing it at the University.

"I consented, provided there were no strings attached, and Cole agreed," Schmitt said. "He sent us the collection and then followed it to Eugene." Cole stayed, adding to and working on the collection.

Schmitt said Cole would do almost anything to acquire items related to zeppelins. "He had the names of all the crewmen of the zeppelins of the United States and Britain, and some from Canada," Schmitt said. "He would visit them and acquire things by talking the crewmen out of items, or, when necessary, buying the articles. He spent more than he could afford on this."

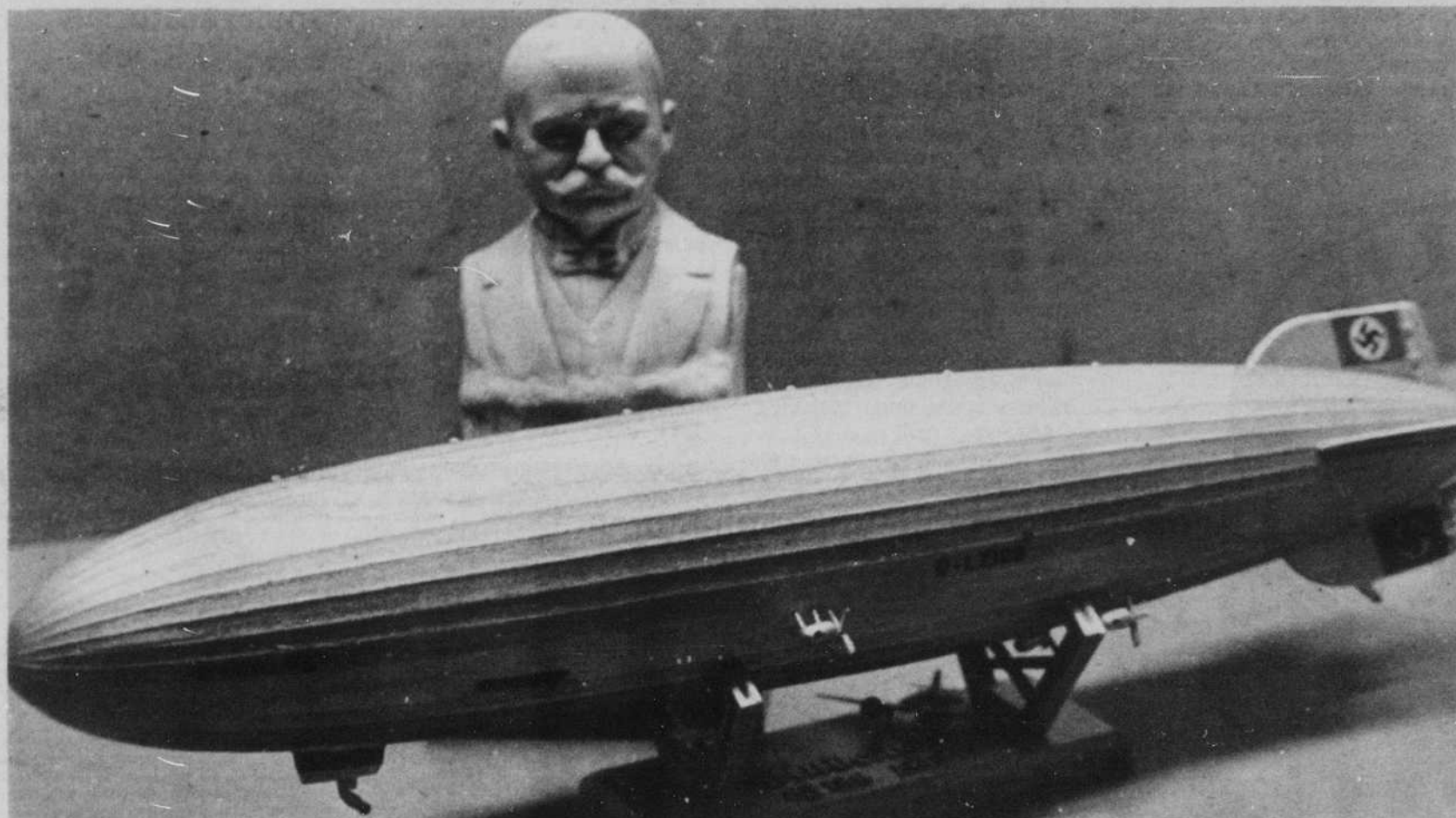
The collection was exhibited when it arrived in December, 1969. Groups of school children often came to see it. "Hal was in seventh heaven when groups came," the curator said. "He could talk zeppelins by the hour."

When Cole died in May, 1974, no one at the University had the knowledge or the desire to care for the collection, Schmitt explained. Then Walter Wentz, a journalism student, took it up, keeping the Burgess Room open on Friday afternoons. In the year since Wentz left, the collection has been stored in the Burgess Room.

Cole, however, had felt that zeppelins were too important to be locked up and forgotten, according to Schmitt. Cole was interested not only in collecting, but in spreading his enthusiasm to others. He also predicted the return of the zeppelin, Schmitt said.

"Hal felt the zeppelin was coming back as a viable method of transport, particularly of freight. It could carry a tremendous volume of cargo and could land anywhere," he said.

For all his passion for zeppelins, Cole had never flown in one. "Probably the greatest thrill of his life came two years before his death when he was given a ride on the Goodyear blimp on its visit to Eugene," Schmitt recalled.



Zeppelin models, books, newspaper clippings and other zeppelin memorabilia can be found in the Special Collections section of the

library. The collection was donated to the University by the late Hallet Cole.

Bogen still fighting student records law

By KEVIN RASMUSEN
Of the Emerald

James Buckley may be the only one who likes the recent amendment regarding students' privacy rights that bears his name.

Gerald Bogen, University vice-president for student affairs, is currently crusading for its repeal in hopes that a more general set of guidelines will replace it.

The Buckley Amendment was passed in 1974 empowering the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to develop the privacy rights of students and parents regarding a student's academic records, phone numbers and addresses.

Bogen will begin to formalize his proposal Thursday for repealing the Buckley Amendment, according to Steve Miller of the Office of Student Affairs. Miller said the Buckley Amendment tried to be specific and appears to be rigid, but is actually vague and ambiguous.

One example of this was highlighted by Chris Munoz, assistant registrar. The Buckley Amendment states it is legitimate to release the number of credit hours earned by a student. But

does this mean the total number of hours of the student's entire career, or just the total number of hours this year? Nobody really knows for sure.



Gerald Bogen

Add to this ambiguity the big problem that not complying to the regulation means a potential loss of federal funds allocated to state institutions. Munoz said that many institutions are therefore very "gun-shy" about implementing the amendment.

When there is a question

regarding interpretation of the Amendment, the final authority is Ed Branchfield, assistant attorney general. Branchfield agrees with Bogen that the Buckley Amendment should be repealed.

"It's a poorly drawn act," he said. "A tremendous amount of time has been spent by the University in dealing with the Buckley Amendment. It would be a far better thing to just set some standards because each institution is different."

"The act tried to sweep too broad a brush," he added. Oregon already had an exceptional students' records policy, and its philosophy of student privacy was not greatly affected by the amendment, according to Branchfield.

Munoz explained that the University had always assumed faculty committee members were not to discuss students' records outside of committee. Now, however, this provision is law. For reasons such as this, the Buckley Amendment could have possibly created a mountain of extra regulations to be waded through.

Munoz suggested that it was a hastily written act stemming from the Watergate consciousness.

The Buckley Amendment concerns education at all levels, not just higher education. Thus, it even potentially restricts teachers from reviewing students' records, Branchfield said. He added parents have a right to see their child's records until the child turns 18.

Branchfield said the most drastic effect on Oregon's student record policy was its definition of directory information. In other words, the amount of information such as addresses and telephone numbers publicly available without student consent was restricted. It is possible to be more restrictive than the Buckley Amendment, but not more lenient.

Miller commented he didn't like the idea of giving some bureaucrat in Washington the power to decide what an institution's privacy policy should be. In fact, he complimented Bogen for speaking out against the Buckley Amendment.

When Bogen proposes several guidelines to replace the amendment Thursday, then, compliance will not be in terms of a specific regulation, but rather in terms of conforming to the spirit of the guidelines, Miller said.