



The following papers

Burgess, Helen D., Duffy, Stephen and Tse, Season, "The Effect of Alkali on the Long-Term Stability of Cellulosic Fibres", *Archivaria*, 31 1990-1 pp. 218-219."

and

Burgess, Helen D. and Goltz, Douglas M., 'Effect of alkali on the long-term stability of cellulosic fibres containing lignin", *Archivaria* 37, 1994, pp. 182 - 202."

were the subject of a controversy in the 1990s.

This controversy was centered on the issue of whether it was safe to deacidify ligneous papers. Subsequent work has shown that deacidification is beneficial no matter what the fibre content of paper. The controversy and the response are to be found in the following three articles. Firstly, see page 120 of the December 1994 issue of *The Abbey Newsletter*, then note the article "What you should know before deciding to deacidify" by Margaret Hey in page 6 and 7 of *Paper Conservation News* Number 75, September 1995. Finally note the response by David Grattan ("What you should know before deciding to deacidify paper records - A response by scientists at the Canadian Conservation Institute" in *Paper Conservation News*, volume 82, June 1997 page 10) which sums up CCI's view of the issue.

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