



ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

EDITOR: FRANCIS RAINSFORD

EDITORIAL

HISTORIC UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING WOOL LABORATORY COMES TO THE END OF AN ERA

In 1907, John A. Hill founded the Wool Laboratory at the University of Wyoming (UW) with the aim of improving the quality of American western fleeces. The UW Wool Laboratory grew from a small pilot plant for scouring wool into a semi-commercial operation that eventually operated out of its own building from 1952. In addition to providing scouring and research services, the UW Wool Laboratory became a hub of research and information.

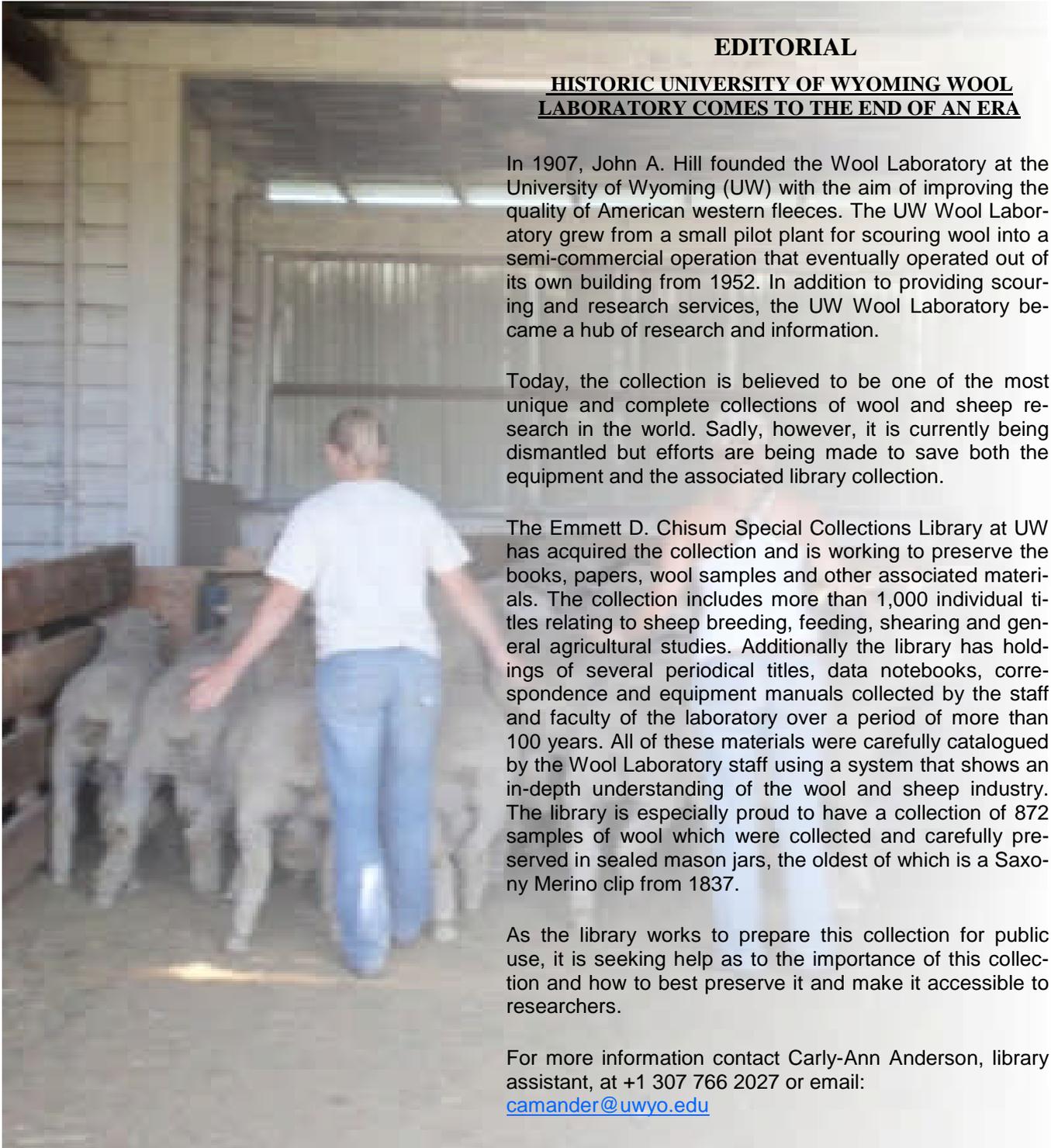
Today, the collection is believed to be one of the most unique and complete collections of wool and sheep research in the world. Sadly, however, it is currently being dismantled but efforts are being made to save both the equipment and the associated library collection.

The Emmett D. Chisum Special Collections Library at UW has acquired the collection and is working to preserve the books, papers, wool samples and other associated materials. The collection includes more than 1,000 individual titles relating to sheep breeding, feeding, shearing and general agricultural studies. Additionally the library has holdings of several periodical titles, data notebooks, correspondence and equipment manuals collected by the staff and faculty of the laboratory over a period of more than 100 years. All of these materials were carefully catalogued by the Wool Laboratory staff using a system that shows an in-depth understanding of the wool and sheep industry. The library is especially proud to have a collection of 872 samples of wool which were collected and carefully preserved in sealed mason jars, the oldest of which is a Saxony Merino clip from 1837.

As the library works to prepare this collection for public use, it is seeking help as to the importance of this collection and how to best preserve it and make it accessible to researchers.

For more information contact Carly-Ann Anderson, library assistant, at +1 307 766 2027 or email:

camander@uwyo.edu



CAMELID CLIPS

The Peruvian government's promotional body for commerce, PromPeru, is looking into ways of increasing world awareness of the country's alpaca and other camelid fibres.

One of the elements being considered is the development of a new symbol or logo that could be used in conjunction with a marketing campaign.

With this in mind two members of *Future Brand* - the Lima-based company that created the highly successful Peru logo:



arrived in Arequipa on 20th August for an alpaca fact finding tour.

Accompanied by representatives of PromPeru's Arequipa office, meetings were held with the International Alpaca Association (IAA), the Instituto Peruano de la



From left to right: Laura Alfano and Julia Viñas (Future Brand); Cesar Lutgens (IPAC); Marieta Chavez and Ignacio Rivera (PromPeru, Arequipa office) meeting in IPAC's offices.

Alpaca y Camelidos (IPAC) as well as factory visits to Michell & Cia., S.A., Inca Tops S.A., Incalpaca TPX, S.A., Art Atlas SRN and a group of small knitting workshops.

These meetings, which purport to be the first of many for the foreseeable future, were an opportunity for *Future Brand* to listen to a wide range of views and ask searching questions of their own.

On 31st August, the Peruvian government issued to nine of the country's central and southern regions a state of emergency to cope with unusually cold weather and heavy snowfall.

At least 33,000 people were affected by the cold spell with tens of thousands of animals having frozen to death.

President Ollanta Humala travelled to Apurimac, one of the worst-hit areas, to oversee the distribution of emergency aid. The state of emergency was in place until 20th September.

The heaviest snow fall to hit Peru in a decade killed tens of thousands of alpacas, llamas, sheep and cattle, and has left farmers destitute. The country's Minister of Agriculture, Milton Von Hesse, indicated that some 25,319 animals had perished of which around 10,000 were alpacas and llamas.

The cold front also hit Bolivia and Paraguay.



Central and southern regions of Peru have suffered the worst snowfall in a decade.



Peru's garment manufacturers are under attack from Chinese imports.

Peru's cotton garment manufacturers are questioning the benefits of the country's free trade agreement with China as they are witnessing a serious reduction

in their capacity to export their products.

In 2005, Peru's cotton textile manufacturers exported 41,000 kgs of garments worldwide but, in 2012, this figure had fallen to 38,000 kgs. Over the same time period it is estimated that some 14,000 garment manufacturers closed in Peru as a consequence of increased imports of cheaper garments coming from China - resulting in a loss of almost 30,000 jobs.

Jorge Garcia, President of the Small Business Exporters Association (Pymeadex), said, "The import of goods from China into Peru has grown by 30% whilst Peru's exports have fallen by a factor of 25%. The disparity in prices means that ready-made garments coming into the country at prices considerably lower than our manufacturers can match is sounding the death knell for our industry."

"This year alone 500 garment manufacturers have closed as a direct result of the increase in the quantity of garments 'Made in China' available to our consumers."



The Ubinas volcano in the Region of Moquegua has recently erupted again

On 2nd September, Peru's most active volcano, Ubinas, erupted and, to date, has continued to do so.

The volcano, with an altitude of 5,627 metres above sea level (18,460 feet), is situated in the Region of Moquegua on the border with the neighbouring Region of Arequipa, some 70 kilometres (44 miles) from the city of Arequipa. It has erupted 24 times during the past five centuries, the last time being in 2011.

Ashes and gases have been expelled up to 3 kilome-

tres (1.9 miles) in the air settling on alpaca grazing grounds and killing-off pastures and plants resulting in serious problems for farmers.

One such example is the small community of Salinas Huito in the Region of Arequipa where local leader, Julian Quispe, has headed-up efforts to obtain financial assistance from local authorities on behalf of its 650 inhabitants where, livestock concerns aside, residents are suffering from ocular and respiratory problems.

IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

Please submit to the Editor:
francisrainsford@yahoo.co.uk



Asociación Internacional de la Alpaca
International Alpaca Association
Campaña Paisajista 106, San Lazaro
Cercado, Arequipa Peru
Telefax +51 54 229344
<http://www.aia.org.pe>, www.thealpacamark.info
E- mail: aia@terra.com.pe