AECT Archives: Overhead Transparencies Used for Drafting Education

By Kimberly Taylor

Figure 1. Photograph of one frame with several overlays: close-up

Within the AECT Archives, located in the Blackwell Museum at Northern Illinois University, is a case of thirty-seven sets of 7"x8" overhead transparency overlays. Produced and distributed by the Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction (BAVI) at the State University of Iowa, the transparencies were available for a nominal fee to drafting instructors throughout the state. Each set includes directions for demonstrating the creation of a specific drawing, either pictorial (3D) or orthographic projection (2D).

I suggest that the transparencies were created between 1958 and 1962. Though cited in the Index to Overhead Transparencies (NICEM, 1969), they were not listed in the Catalog of Audio-Visual Materials, 1958-1960 (State University of Iowa, 1957). Yet a 16mm film entitled Teaching Draft-

ing with Transparencies (NICEM, 1977b) was distributed by BAVI in 1956, and the transparencies may have been created at approximately the same time. We know they were in circulation until at least 1980 but may have become less significant with the explosion of computer-assisted drafting (NICEM, 1980; Greene, 2010).

(Chance, 1960; Schultz, 1965). It appears that these overhead transparency overlays were an invaluable tool for drafting instructors.

References

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Figure 2. Photograph of instructions for use

Large-scale drawings are essential in drafting instruction (Schultz, 1965). Advantages to using overhead transparencies rather than chalkboard drawings include: drawing time saved before and during class, increased student participation, higher student grades and satisfaction