

FACSIMILE PRODUCTION AT CCAHA

Manager of Digital Imaging Andrew Pinkham explains the careful work of facsimile production step by step.



Digitally restored, exhibition-quality facsimile



Exhibition-quality facsimile



Reference facsimile

START

Check the copy stand—a flat, cloth-covered black surface that supports the object during photography—to make sure that it is level with the camera suspended above it. This will prevent distortion in the digital image.

Place the object and the color chart on the stand so that both are square with the camera.

Photograph, or “capture,” the object.

In Adobe Photoshop, make corrections to the resulting digital image for white balance by adjusting the on-screen object to the color chart. White balancing helps correct for lighting conditions during capture that can cause unavoidable variations in color between the object in the digital image and the original.

Print a first test of the image.

Collecting institutions and individuals can use this white-balanced print as a reference facsimile. Its colors will not exactly match those of the original, but they are similar.

END

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The reference facsimile is complete.

Under a viewing hood that provides ideal lighting conditions, compare the test print to the original object.

Use Photoshop retouching techniques to minimize the appearance of tears, losses, or stains; reverse fading; or enhance desired characteristics according to the owner's wishes.

Make additional color corrections to the digital image as needed through adjustment layers, such as levels, color balance, hue, and saturation, in Photoshop. Produce a small test print with each adjustment and compare it to the original.

After the color is completely corrected, create a full-size test print and make a final comparison to the original under the viewing hood for color accuracy and overall quality.

If the colors match and no more corrections are needed, print the final facsimile on water- and fade-resistant Premium Epson matte photo paper using durable pigmented inks.

END

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The digitally restored, exhibition-quality facsimile is complete.

END

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The exhibition-quality facsimile is complete.