



News Release

Historic site, library and rare archives protected by Makrolon Polycarbonate Sheet

Dateline, November 2, 2009 - To protect its unique collection of books dating to the 18th century and the old-world craftsmanship of its historic library, the German Society of Pennsylvania recently turned to modern-day materials.

Founded in 1764, the Society is the oldest organization of its kind in the United States. In 1888 it annexed the classic landmark Philadelphia townhouse which continues to serve as its home.

A highlight of the building is its Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library. Established in the original offices in 1783 with six volumes, the library now houses what is considered to be the largest private collection of German books outside Germany. With over 70,000 volumes, and many German-American newspapers published in Philadelphia and dating to the 18th and 19th century, it serves as a unique scholarly research facility. Its most prized possession is the Christopher Sauer Bible, the first Bible to be printed in a European language in the United States.

Given the significance of its collection and interior's craftsmanship, the German Society considered several measures to secure the building from potential damage and loss. One solution came in the form of Makrolon® polycarbonate sheet from Bayer MaterialScience LLC's Sheffield Plastics operation.

Clear Makrolon sheet serves as a protective glazing over the building's lower windows. The Society also replaced its front entrance glass door panels with Sheffield's Makrolon AR, an abrasion-resistant polycarbonate sheet.

With inherently high impact strength, the sheet carries a long term warranty against breakage. It has a proven history in protective applications replacing glass and as an over-glazing on existing windows in schools, churches, and financial and government

facilities. Its toughness also eliminates the need for metal screens often used to protect glass windows, thus preserving the exterior appearance of the classic building.

According to Ernest Weiler, Society President, “We greatly appreciate the support from Sheffield Plastics and their distributor, Northeast Plastics. The installation of Makrolon sheet allows us to protect our archives and our 120 year old building, and preserve its exterior appearance at the same time.”

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Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library
Staircase of the 70,000 Volume Reading
Room

Makrolon® polycarbonate sheet protects rare books

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