



In the Lazan Library, Professor Robert Plunkett, left, and Associate Professor Daniel D. Joseph look over the page proofs for the late Professor Benjamin J. Lazan's book, DAMPING OF MATERIALS AND MEMBERS IN STRUCTURAL MECHANICS, which will soon be published by Pergamon Press, Ltd.

Lazan Library Named for Founder

A collection of valuable technical books now bears the name of the late Dr. Benjamin J. Lazan, Professor and Head of the Department of Aeronautics and Engineering Mechanics.

The Benjamin J. Lazan Memorial Library contains about 1,500 volumes; many of these are from Professor Lazan's personal library. It is officially a collection of books located in 107 Aeronautical Engineering, a room which serves the dual purpose of library and faculty conference room. Intended primarily for use by the department, it is under the direction of Dr. Daniel D. Joseph, Associate Professor of Aeronautics and Engineering Mechanics.

The University recently dedicated the Library at an informal ceremony, which was attended by Mrs. Lazan, Acting Dean Frank Verbrugge of the Institute of Technology, faculty colleagues, and friends.

The inscription on the bronze plaque

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in the Library serves as a reminder of Dr. Lazan, the man who made its facilities a reality. A specialist on the properties of various materials, Professor Lazan received many honors for his research in the behavior of materials and structures under dynamic forces.

Under Professor Lazan's leadership, the department began to build the collection. Gradually it grew as books were purchased by department funds or contributed by individual staff members.

Professor Robert A. Plunkett of the Department of Aeronautics and Engineering Mechanics stated that one of the principal difficulties in building a useful technical library is that of choosing the most meaningful from the thousands of books available.

He observed, "The Lazan collection, which forms the nucleus of the Library, is particularly useful and valuable because it consists of those books which Professor Lazan chose for his own personal library."

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