

Fixing old yearbook scans for historical books

It always seems as if there is one school somewhere in my territory that is doing a historical book. Maybe it's a big anniversary like the 50th or the 100th.

One of the problems that these schools often have is they try to scan photos out of past yearbooks for use in the current yearbook. The biggest problem is with moire' patterns. Those are the patterns from the original printing, which in the past seemed to have huge amounts of grain. But there is a quick method to improve (not completely fix) this problem.

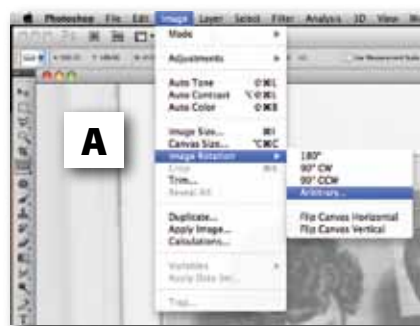
1. Scan photo at 150-200% output of what you would like to print in the current yearbook. So that means if you can scan at 450-600 ppi. My before pic is 600 ppi.
2. If (like this photo) your scan is crooked, you will need to straighten it. To do that, choose the ruler tool. (It's underneath the eyedropper tool.) Click on the top left corner of the photo itself and then holding down the mouse, drag to the top right corner of the photo.
3. Choose Image>Rotate Canvas>Arbitrary. (Figure A) If you used the ruler tool correctly, in the dialog box will be the exact amount you need to rotate the photo. Just click OK. (Figure B)
4. Now, to remove the moire pattern, go to Filter>Convert for Smart Filters
5. Go to Filter>Noise>Median
6. When the dialog box opens, use a radius of 1-3. 1 should work OK for old yearbooks but I used 2 on this one. Click OK.
7. Zoom to 100% magnification
8. Go to Filter>Sharpen>Unsharp mask.
9. Save the photo as a JPEG to upload to YTO or place in InDesign using Picture Placer in YearTech.

You may need to darken or lighten the photo a little.

If you do, try this.

1. Duplicate the background layer.
2. On the duplicated layer, change the blending mode at the top of the Layers Panel (it will probably say Normal there to start with) to Multiply if it needs to be darker and Screen if it needs to be lighter.
3. Choose Layers>Flatten Image after you have it as dark as you want.
4. Save as a JPEG.

Before



After

