

The Archival Spirit

June 2021

From the Chair

Dear ARCS Members,

We look forward to this year's annual section meeting held in connection with the SAA's 2021 annual meeting. For the second consecutive year, the ARCS section meeting will be held virtually.

Tim Binkley, Vice-Chair of our Steering Committee, has secured a seasoned group of panelists who should benefit all members that choose to participate in the virtual meeting. Our section meeting is planned for Monday, July 26. Panelists will provide perspectives on how the challenges of the past year have affected their workflow and responsibilities. This year, we plan on recording our meeting for on-demand access afterward.

In addition to our prepared program, we also hope to explore options to improve community and education for our members, and Mary Grace Kosta (Steering Committee Member-at-Large) has led an effort to resuscitate the Models and Resources Committee, in accordance with our governing documents. More information on that endeavor is forthcoming.

As always, the ARCS community on SAA Connect functions as our membership's primary hub for awareness and engagement through inquiry, information, and resource sharing. Make sure to subscribe to updates through your SAA profile and designated email at <https://mysaa.archivists.org/mygroups>.

Adam G. Winters, PhD
2020–2021 ARCS Chair
Archivist, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville, Kentucky

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Update: 2021 ACWR Conference

The 10th Triennial Conference of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious will hold its first-ever fully virtual meeting with sessions on Thursdays in September. Static video presentations will also be available concurrently on the ACWR website. Our theme for this conference is "Pioneers of the New Normal."



During this pandemic, the role of the archivist has changed and is continuing to change dramatically. More and more archivists are becoming involved in advising their respective leadership teams in making crucial decisions about the future of their collections at this critical juncture. While we all struggle with navigating this "new normal" on so many levels, we also acknowledge our roles as pioneers, both in sharing the unique legacy of our respective Communities while forging into a new frontier to preserve and document the charism and history of women religious into the future.

Registration and a full program schedule will be available this month. Stay tuned for more updates on the ACWR Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/acwrarchivists/>) and website (<https://www.archivistsacwr.org/>).

This update was kindly provided by Veronica Buchanan, ACWR Executive Secretary.

Brooklyn College Archives and Special Collections announces the launch of a new digital collection – The Sermons of the Rev. William A. Jones, Jr.

COLLEEN BRADLEY-SANDERS, M.A., M.L.I.S., College Archivist
Brooklyn College Archives
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Rev. Jones was the pastor at Brooklyn's Bethany Baptist Church for over 40 years, and was a well-known speaker who was invited to speak at churches and events around the world, from the First All-Asian Baptist Church Congress in India to the International Congress on Preaching in Edinburgh. Known as a strong advocate for social and economic justice, Jones led boycotts and protests in support of his community, including one of the local Atlantic and Pacific stores for not hiring African-Americans.

Jones was active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (1978-80), and was a founder of the National Black Pastors Conference. Ebony magazine named him one of the top fifteen black preachers in America in 1984.

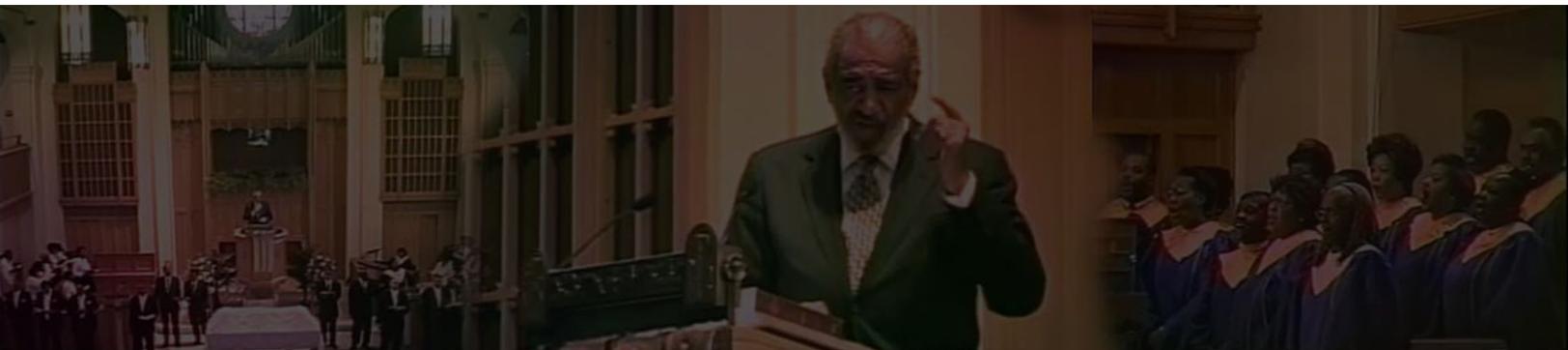
In the mid-1970's Jones was approached by a local radio station with a proposal to broadcast his regular Sunday sermons. The Bethany Hour was soon picked up and played in syndication across the country. The radio broadcasts later became televised replays of the weekly sermon.

In 2007, following the 2006 death of Rev. Jones, the Brooklyn College Archives and Special Collections acquired his papers, including over 700 audio and video recordings of The Bethany Hour. A 2019 CLIR Recordings-at-Risk grant has allowed the Archives to digitize all the recordings and make them freely available to the public. Although not part of the grant, the Archives is working to create transcriptions of the sermons, which will be uploaded and linked to the related sermon as they are completed.

The Archives web page on Rev. Jones contains links to the recordings, an example of a sermon with a transcript, and the finding aid to the collection (which also contains links to the individual recordings).

<https://libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/c.php?g=1135687>

Pictured: Dr. William R. Jones, at center. Image courtesy of the Brooklyn College Library.



Religious archives in the news

These stories involving religious collections or archivists in religious settings have been compiled by the editor.

- ⇒ Lisa Steacy, "B.C. First Nations leaders demand access to Sisters of St. Ann's archives," *CityNews* (Vancouver), 4 June 2021. <https://www.citynews1130.com/2021/06/04/bc-first-nations-leaders-access-catholic-records/>
- ⇒ "Archivist highlights rich collection of Archivo at Dominican webinar," *BusinessMirror*, 29 May 2021. <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/05/29/archivist-highlights-rich-collection-of-archivo-at-dominican-webinar/>
- ⇒ Sister Jean Moylan, CSJ, "International Awards for CSJ Archivist," Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, 19 May 2021. <https://www.csjcanada.org/blog/international-awards-for-csj-archivist>
- ⇒ "A fantasy narrative': Local ethnohistorian Jonathan Cordero bring truth of mission era forward," *VC Reporter* (Ventura County), 12 May 2021. <https://vcreporter.com/2021/05/a-fantasy-narrative-local-ethnohistorian-jonathan-cordero-bringing-truth-of-mission-era-forward/>
- ⇒ Barbara Gutierrez, "Student focuses research on Obeah, a religion used by Jamaican slaves," *News@TheU*, University of Miami, 4 May 2021. <https://news.miami.edu/stories/2021/05/student-focuses-research-on-obeah-a-religion-used-by-jamaican-slaves.html>
- ⇒ Andrew Whitehead, "Free high-quality religion and community data resources," *The Exchange* (*Christianity Today* blog), 14 April 2021. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2021/april/free-high-quality-religion-and-community-data-resources-for.html>
- ⇒ Chanel Hill, "New exhibit at Presbyterian Historical Society displays the work of CCP students," *Philadelphia Tribune*, 9 April 2021. https://www.phillytrib.com/lifestyle/new-exhibit-at-presbyterian-historical-society-displays-the-work-of-ccp-students/article_1002de14-896c-59bb-9701-1c6f029adb4c.html
- ⇒ Shannen Dee Williams, "Oblate Sister of Providence Mary Reginald Gerdes a memorable educator in African American Catholic community," *The Dialog* (Wilmington, DE), 5 January 2021. <https://thediolog.org/black-catholics/oblatesister-of-providence-mary-reginald-gerdes-a-memorable-educator-in-african-american-catholic-community/>
- ⇒ Justin Vellucci, "Archiving a pandemic: Preserving evidence of how Jewish Pittsburgh is coping," *Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle*, 13 October 2020. <https://jewishchronicle.timesofisrael.com/archiving-a-pandemic-preserving-evidence-of-how-jewish-pittsburgh-is-coping/>
- ⇒ Jessica Mack, "The Pandemic Religion digital collection: documenting religious practice during COVID-19," *History@Work* (National Council on Public History), 13 October 2020. <https://ncph.org/history-at-work/documenting-religious-practice-during-covid-19/>
- ⇒ Genelle Pugmire, "FamilySearch involved in 50 projects researching Black genealogies and history," *Daily Herald* (Provo, UT), 1 October 2020. https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/faith/familysearch-involved-in-50-projects-researching-black-genealogies-and-history/article_207256c4-ba56-5c27-bb8c-221e0e9a6864.html
- ⇒ Tobias Grey, "Islamic civilization reflected in writing," *Wall Street Journal*, 17 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/islamic-civilization-reflected-in-writing-11595008331>

Announcing the completion of the Hunt family collection, 1840-1992

ROBERT A. McINNES, MA, CA, MBA, MLIS

Archivist and Research Services Librarian
Montgomery Library
Westminster Theological Seminary
GLENSIDE, PENNSYLVANIA

A significant manuscript collection in the archives of Westminster Theological Seminary, just recently processed is the Hunt family collection, 1840-1992.

The Hunts were a family of Presbyterian missionaries who worked in Korea and Manchuria during most of the twentieth century. This collection of 22 cubic feet of materials (papers and photographs) contains mostly the records, writings and correspondence of Bruce Finlay Hunt (1903-1992), and to a lesser extent of his father William Brewster Hunt (1869-1953). A small amount of material was produced by earlier generations of the family.

The two series concerning William and Bruce Hunt provide a comprehensive picture of the work of missionaries in Korea and Manchuria in the twentieth century—including the good and not-so-good aspects of missionary work. It seems that these missionaries and their colleagues spent the majority of their time seated at their typewriters, pounding out sermons, letters, reports to the Committee on Foreign Missions, articles, book manuscripts, and much more—and the Hunt family collection contains all of it.

William B. Hunt was a life-long member of the Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA), and while son Bruce (한부선 in Korean) grew up in the PCUSA, he split from that branch of the denomination and joined the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the late 1930s. His mission was one that was supervised by the OPC Committee on Foreign Missions.

Among the noteworthy records contained in this collection are those that concern Bruce Hunt's arrest in late 1941 by the Japanese military authority during its occupation of Korea and Manchuria. Bruce was separated from his family for several months beginning in late 1941. During that time he was subjected to torture by the Japanese governors, who



Pictured: Rev. Bruce F. Hunt and his wife Katharine Blair Hunt, ca. 1945.

attempted to force him (as well as members of his flock and other missionaries) to submit to Shinto-sim and Shrine worship. Hunt successfully resisted these efforts. After extensive diplomatic efforts from the US State Department, the Hunts and other missionary families were able to leave the Far East and sailed to the Port of New York on a neutral Sweden ship in the summer of 1942. After his return states-side, Bruce wrote extensively about his time while incarcerated, and he also went on the lecture circuit to tell of his experience at the hands of the Japanese to members of the OPC. Following the war, Bruce and his family returned to Korea and worked there for many more years, though he was required to leave during the years of the Korean Conflict.

Fortunately for us, the Hunts saved just about every paper that they ever wrote or received. Additionally, they lived at a time before emails and text messages. During times of separation, the various members of the

Hunt family wrote to each other—and they wrote letters almost every day. This collection is a gold mine of information of all aspects of the lives and Christian work of the Hunts and their roles as missionaries.

The guide to the Hunt collection should be available at the WTS website later in 2021. Access to this collection is allowed by appointment.

How to prepare archives for the next pandemic

MARY GRACE KOSTA, M.A., M.L.I.S., Congregational Archivist
The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada Archives
LONDON, ONTARIO

How would you prepare your archive for the next pandemic? We found there were key areas that need preparation: training, planning, policy, budget, and remote outreach.

We need to prepare remote training materials for staff and volunteers, and we need to train them on the use of PPE and how to quarantine materials using the knowledge gained from the OCLC REALM Project. We also need to think about what we can crowdsource so that staff and volunteers can work remotely. Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections at York University has a good blog on this: <https://ctasc.blog.yorku.ca/2020/04/14/crowdsourcing-the-transcription-of-digitized-archival-records/>. What will you do to prepare for the next pandemic in terms of staff and volunteer training in your archive?

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Pictured: Sister Ruth Fleckser teaching chemistry at St. Joseph's Hospital Training School of Nursing, London, Ontario, ca. 1926-1933.
Photo credit: Arthur A. Gleason.



CHEMISTRY CLASS- ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OF NURSING,
LONDON, ONTARIO. between 1926-1933-
SISTER RUTH FLECKSER, INSTRUCTRESS.

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We found planning is critical. We need to stock up on supplies including PPE. We donated our N95 masks to the hospital during the first wave. We also need to stock up on emergency supplies - we had a flood during the second wave! We need to plan for remote work, quarantining material, dealing with emergencies, and checking our storage area for RH, temperature, and pests. We need to look at improvements to our workspaces to make them safer in advance of a pandemic. We also need to make a list of projects we can do remotely, like Wikipedia editing. What will you do in your archive to plan for the next pandemic?

We found policy matters! We need to determine in advance of the next pandemic what our criteria is for closing the archive. What are our policies for sick leave, working from home, PPE use, social distancing? In advance of the next pandemic, we need to have standards and procedures for cleaning offices, processing areas, and storage areas. We need a communication plan for the public. What kinds of policies will you develop for your archive to be prepared for the next pandemic?

This next topic is a little tricky, because so many archives are under-resourced and under-staffed. We have so many lone arrangers! But we need to budget for the next pandemic. It is a real shame to see archivists furloughed when history needs keeping. It is important most of all to budget to keep staff on through a pandemic. But we also need to budget for supplies we will need to work remotely like laptops and software including communications technology like Zoom. We also need to budget to purchase equipment we will need for outreach during a pandemic like a Zoom H2n recorder for oral history audio recordings or a Go Pro Hero camera and Matterport app for 3D photographs. Are you thinking about your archive budget and how you can respond better during the next pandemic?

The last topic is outreach because this is essential for our continued existence. What kinds of outreach did you do, and what can you prepare now to do during the next pandemic? Some archivists like those at Western University Archives and Special Collections collected pandemic stories from community members using a survey: <https://verne.lib.uwo.ca/s/covid19/page/welcome>. Some GLAM institutions were fabulously innovative, for example the Getty Museum art challenge: <https://mymodernmet.com/recreate-art-history-challenge/>. We want to make video and audio recordings in advance of the next pandemic, to share on our website. We are going to digitize more photos, motion picture film, and audiotapes so that we have a supply of accessible materials for repurposing. We got our collections policy and deed of gift completed so we can have a treasure hunt during the next lockdown! People can look for archival items in their homes, share photos of them, and learn how to donate to our archive. We got our web and social media archiving policy developed and chose tools we could afford so that we can archive our websites and social media now and during the next pandemic. We improved our web presence for the next pandemic by building a new archives website and starting an archive twitter account! Please visit us at <https://csjarchive.org> and follow us at on Twitter at @csjarchive. Other outreach ideas are to take 360-degree photos or panoramas that you can organize sequentially into virtual tours or build a walking tour on Historypin. One difficulty in working remotely was responding to reference inquiries which still involved trips into the archives. It would help to build a database for frequently asked questions to do remote reference. What ideas do you have to prepare for remote outreach during the next pandemic?



Pictured: Sister Carmelita Grier in operating room at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, Ontario. Photo credit: Victor Aziz.

Note from editor: Interested in contributing to a future issue of *Archival Spirit*? We want to hear from you! Contact Thomas McCullough, newsletter editor, at tom@moravianchurcharchives.org.