

The Archival Spirit

March 2022

From the Chair

A First Epistle from Timothy (Binkley)

Dear ARCS colleagues,

As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, the promise of spring is in the air. I am back to enjoying long outdoor walks. One of my hobbies every spring is to watch with eager anticipation for the first leaves of bulbs and perennials as I walk along. Already, I am not disappointed. New life is emerging from the ground. Surely a feast of colors and textures will follow in due time.

Both personally and professionally, we are coming through the slow, cold season of winter. We are also emerging from a much longer COVID-19-related hibernation. I moved to Berea College in March of 2020 just as our school was transitioning to all off-campus learning. Although students have returned to campus, we are still operating under pandemic safety measures today. It seems odd that I have worked here almost two years but I have no idea what “normal” is for the Special Collections and Archives department of Hutchins Library.

Instead of focusing on the past, I have been looking for signs of new life emerging, and I am not disappointed. In my co-workers I find passions for archival work, historical research, and public service that has not died somewhere along the way. From our respectfully-masked guests—students, faculty, staff, outside researchers—I sense a deep gratitude for assistance received, access granted, and insights discovered.

In ARCS, I feel new energy to network and learn together outside of the SAA Annual Meeting. (Please note the March 14 webinar, described on page 2 of this newsletter. All are welcome to attend.) Also, I am glad to see a committee forming to resource the needs of members. Creativity and collaboration are on the rise!

I don’t know what the old normal was at Berea College and I don’t really need to know. We are developing a new normal, new expectations, new ways of reaching out. In the process we are gaining new allies, collections, and skills. Perhaps best of all, we are directly influencing eight student workers who are, in turn, directly influencing us!

Things may not be as they used to be. That’s OK. I see so much new life and so many new possibilities here and now. Dwelling on comparisons with the past will not move us forward. Living into this moment and appreciating the unfolding of what is yet to come fills me with eager anticipation daily. It also fills me with gratitude for the privilege of serving where I am, when I am, and with the gifts I have been given.

Your ARCS Chair,

Rev. Timothy Binkley, C.A.
Head of Special Collections and Archives
Berea College, Berea, KY

Table of Contents

I

Letter from the Chair

2

Free webinar offered by ARCS on March 14!

ARCS Models and Resources
Committee returns

3

Case study examines archives-museum
collaboration for K-12 students

Religious archives in the news

4

Job openings in religious archives

Follow ARCS on Facebook!



Interested in contributing to the next issue of the Archival Spirit? Contact newsletter editor Tom McCullough at tom@moravianchurcharchives.org

Don't miss: Free webinar offered by ARCS on March 14!

The Archivists of Religious Collections Section is pleased to invite members and friends to attend a free Zoom webinar. Zoom link and more info here: <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/archivists-of-religious-collections-section/webinar-introduction-to-planning-for-digitization>.

Introduction to Planning for Digitization Projects Led by Beaudry Allen March 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM Eastern

There are many reasons why a repository would want to digitize their material and sometimes the hardest part moving forward with such a project is thinking about where to start or even think out what equipment and workflows are best for you. In this 60-minute webinar, participants will learn practical steps and concepts to consider to help establish a digitization project. The webinar will go over basic archival principles to consider, how to choose equipment, discuss how to design workflows for non-archivist employees or volunteers, and explore tools and services available to help along the way. The webinar is open to all, but focused on digitization for novices.

About the instructor: Beaudry Allen is the Preservation and Digital Archivist for Villanova University. She previously worked processing collections for the American Religions Collection and overseeing digitizing at University of California, Santa Barbara. She holds a Masters in Archival and Records Management from San Jose State University and a Masters in European History at Villanova University. Beaudry was elected Member-at-Large of the ARCS Steering Committee in July 2021.

ARCS Models and Resources Committee returns

Recently renewed as a committee of the Archivists of Religious Collections Section (ARCS), the *Models and Resources Committee* is seeking additional members. The time commitment will be no more than 6-12 hours per year, for a one year term, which can be renewed. All meetings will be held by Zoom.

We are especially seeking archivists for non-Christian collections to serve on the committee. We are reaching out now only to archivists for Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jewish, and other non-Christian faith groups in order to better represent the members of the ARCS. We have a good representation from Christian archives at present.

Purpose: The purpose of the Models and Resources Committee is to provide information to section members on all aspects of archival work relating to the administration of religious collections.

Objectives:

- ⇒ To recommend standards and guidelines to archivists of religious collections so that they may improve the quality of their collections.
- ⇒ To provide samples of policies, forms, publications, manuals, and finding aids for religious collections to section members.
- ⇒ To identify and provide information on resources pertinent to religious archives.

Description of Responsibilities:

- ⇒ Attend annual ARCS steering committee meeting.
- ⇒ Prepare and give report at annual ARCS general meeting.
- ⇒ Participate in general business matters of the steering committee, including discussions on meeting agendas and session proposals.
- ⇒ Develop models and resources on archival practice for membership reference to post on the website and share with ARCS members at annual meeting.
- ⇒ Periodically update Resources section of website with new resources and make sure links are still active.

Please contact Mary Grace Kosta at mkosta@csjcanada.org if you are willing to serve in this exciting new committee.

Case study examines archives-museum collaboration for K-12 students

A new case study, "[Incorporating Primary Source Literacy into Junior History Interpretation](#)," by [Scott Keefer](#), examines a year-long collaboration between the Daughters of Charity Archives and the Seton Shrine Museum to include archives education into the museum's Junior History Interpreter (JHI) program. The archives created an active learning session to expand the museum's user base into a K–12 audience for the first time. Since this was a year-long program that met monthly, JHI students were able to build skills honed in previous sessions. It also allowed both the archives and museum to better understand each other's goals and capabilities. By the end of the year, the museum had seen a noted improvement in the quality of the interpretation and the interest of the students who had gone through the sessions in the archives. [Keefer's case study](#) is the twenty-first one published in the prolific series [Case Studies on Teaching with Primary Sources](#), which is sponsored by SAA's Reference, Access, and Outreach Section



Religious archives in the news

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

- ⇒ Paul Vartan Sookasian, "Philly Church Sets Example by Preserving Archives," *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, 3 March 2022. <https://mirrorspectator.com/2022/03/03/philly-church-sets-example-by-preserving-archives/>
- ⇒ David Paulsen, "Centuries of Episcopal Church history on the move as Archives packs up collections for relocation," 22 April 2021. <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/04/22/centuries-of-episcopal-church-history-on-the-move-as-archives-packs-up-collections-for-relocation/>
- ⇒ Joseph Berger, "YIVO Institute Makes Archives of Yiddish Life Available Online," 5 January 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/05/arts/yivo-institute-archives-yiddish-life-online.html>
- ⇒ "The Marega documents a bridge with Japan," *L'Osservatore Romano*, 4 March 2022. <https://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/2022-03/ing-009/the-marega-documents-a-bridge-with-japan.html>
- ⇒ Glenn Rutherford, "Archivist invites archdiocese to share in the local church's 213 years of history," *The Record* (Louisville, KY), 27 September 2021. <https://therecordnewspaper.org/archdiocesan-archivist-keeps-track-of-213-years-of-local-church-history/>
- ⇒ Jonathan Gornall, "Arabic digital resources of National Library of Israel find audience regionwide," *Arab News*, 9 February 2022. <https://arab.news/67bsu>
- ⇒ Anais Anderson, "The Adventist Church Release a New Way to Capture, Commemorate, Understand and Celebrate our Adventist heritage," *Adventist News Network*, 4 October 2021. <https://adventist.news/news/the-adventist-church-release-a-new-way-to-capture-commemorate-understand-and-celebrate-our-adventist-heritage>
- ⇒ Vanessa Taylor, "A new archive is finally giving everyday Black women the reverence they deserve," *Mic*, 22 February 2022. <https://www.mic.com/impact/umis-archive-amina-amatul-haqq>



Explore additional job listings in the SAA Career Center at <https://careers.archivists.org/jobs/>.

Employment Opportunity: Director of the Archives

The **Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Peace**, Columbus, Ohio, is hiring a Director of the Archives. The Director of the Archives is responsible for developing and maintaining the Archives of the Congregation and its eight Founding Congregations. The Director will develop a system for the acquisition, preservation, arrangement, description, and access to records of historical and enduring value and conduct outreach activities to promote interest in the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The successful candidate will have a Masters' degree in Library or Information Science or History with a focus on archival studies, five years' experience in archival management and leadership, seven or more years' experience in archival work and demonstrated experience leading and managing complex projects, including integrating multiple archival collections.

For a full description of this position, please visit <https://oppeace.org/get-involved/job-openings/> or contact Mrs. Jennifer Dixon, Director of Human Resources, at jennifer.dixon@oppeace.org.

The Mission of the Dominican Sisters of Peace is to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus, making the world a place that is more accepting and less violent, more welcoming of others and less alienating, more respectful of our planet and less consuming of Earth's resources.



**Dominican
Sisters of Peace**
Sisters and Associates
in Mission

Employment Opportunity: Archivist

The **Moravian Church in America, Southern Province** (Winston-Salem, North Carolina) is seeking a new Archivist to direct its archives and records management.

The Archivist for the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province directs the archives and its records management in accordance with professional standards and practices for long-term preservation and accessibility to researchers. The collection, which dates back to 1753 when German Moravians first settled in Piedmont North Carolina, includes current and historic records of its churches, agencies and institutions. The Archivist works with the Archives Commission to ensure the financial viability of the Provincial Archives and reports directly to the President of the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC).



Moravian Church in America
Southern Province

To view the job description and apply please visit:
<https://www.moravian.org/southern/2022/02/archivist-position/>.