

The Archival Spirit

December, 2016

ARCS

Archivists of Religious
Collections Section, of the
Society of American Archivists

From the Chair

Hello everyone,

ARCS held an extremely successful session at SAA 2016 in August. The overarching topic was drawn from Terry Cook's 2012 description of a paradigm shift in which the archival *raison d'être* shifts from the preservation of evidence to the definition of community. ARCS presented a panel of community and religious archivists who ably considered the possible intersections of this topic and drew some impressive audience discussion.



Colleen McFarland Rademaker moderated a panel of four diverse specialists. Starting off was Malachy McCarthy (pictured at top-left) who discussed aspects of archiving a religious congregation's records. Following were Terry Baxter (pictured at top-right) with insights on community archives and Rebecca Hankins (pictured at bottom-left), who offered perspectives on the various cultural issues that face Muslim archivists.



Finally, Danielle Cooper (pictured at bottom-right), an analyst at Ithaka S+R in the Libraries and Scholarly Communication

program, described her work coordinating a qualitative study of religious studies scholars.

Because many archivists who were unable to attend the meeting in Atlanta expressed interest in the subject and the presenters, ARCS Secretary Russell Gasero volunteered to video the presentations. These videos are currently available on *Vimeo* at:

- Terry Baxter:
<https://vimeo.com/179240918>
- Danielle Cooper:
<https://vimeo.com/179211238>
- Rebecca Hankins:
<https://vimeo.com/178673854>
- Malachy McCarthy:
<https://vimeo.com/179371377>

ARCS plans to continue to develop and offer sessions that engage the general SAA community as well as current section members. We are most grateful to this year's presenters and to all who attended.

Best wishes,

Denise Gallo, Section Chair
Daughters of Charity Provincial Archives
Emmitsburg, MD

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Nominations Open for Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P. Memorial Award

The Society of American Archivists' Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. It is named in honor of Sister M. Claude Lane, the first professionally trained archivist at the Catholic Archives of Texas in Austin, who served there from 1960 until her death in 1974. The award is sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists, in conjunction with Society of American Archivists.

Criteria for nomination include:

- Involvement and work in the Archivists of Religious Collections Section (ARCS) of the Society of American Archivists.
- Contributions to archival literature that relates to religious archives.
- Participation and leadership in religious archives organizations.
- Evidence of leadership in specific religious archives.

Only individual archivists are eligible for nomination. The award finalist is recognized with a certificate from SAA and a \$300 cash prize provided by the Society of Southwest Archivists at the annual Society of American Archivists meeting.

Nomination forms and guidelines are available online, and can be submitted via email. To download the nomination form, please visit [this web address](#). This page also includes more information on the award and list of past winners.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **February 28, 2017**.

If you have any questions about the award or the nomination process, please contact:

Jillian Ewalt
Metadata Archivist
Japanese American Digitization Project
Special Collections and Archives
California State University, Sacramento
ewalt@csus.edu

Announcements

CALL FOR PAPERS NEHA Annual Conference June 20 – 23, 2017 New York City

The 2017 NEHA Annual Conference will be held June 20th through June 23rd, primarily on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City. Registration materials for the conference will be available by February.

Complex issues related to immigration have shaped American spiritual identity from the pre-colonial era to the present day: voluntary and forced migrations, demographic shifts and pressures, temporary and permanent ethnic group relocations and removals have all informed the Episcopal Church's constantly evolving mission, purpose and identity.

We are seeking paper and presentation proposals related to the conference theme **"Immigration, Going Out and Coming In: Ministries, Transitions and Change in the Episcopal Church."** A sample of topics might be, but are not limited to:

- immigration patterns in the Episcopal Church across eras (17th-20th centuries) and geographies: colonial; national; Westward expansion and territories
- effects of demographic shifts in dioceses, parishes, neighborhoods; in churches, chapels and missions; in Episcopal schools, seminaries and service organizations
- global connections, such as the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion or missionary societies
- contributions to the Episcopal Church of immigrants, migrants and migrant workers, refugees, mariners, military
- influence of immigration and demographic shifts on Episcopal identity: language, liturgy, ideas, customs, artifacts

Paper and presentation proposals related to archives and archival management are encouraged but are not limited to:

- basic preservation problems and protocols, from colonial manuscripts to contemporary digital media
- organization, cataloging and finding aids
- use of digitization in the archival process
- using archives to tell stories, write histories, develop congregational identity
- ethical issues: confidentiality, records retention policies, access, publication

Presenters are allocated 20 minutes with an expectation of 15 minutes of presentation with 5 minutes for questions. Presentations may be requested for publication. Proposals must include the following:

- paper or presentation title and a 150-200 word abstract
- an explanation of the need for additional time and total time needed if you anticipate the paper or presentation may need longer more than the 20 minutes allotted
- brief resume of the speaker that may also be used for promotion of the conference
- any expected media/audio-visual requirements

Proposals must be received at jbt75nyc@gmail.com no later than February 1, 2017 for consideration. Address questions and submit proposals to jbt75nyc@gmail.com.

From the Members

Reformed Church Missionary Introduces Japan to the Modern World

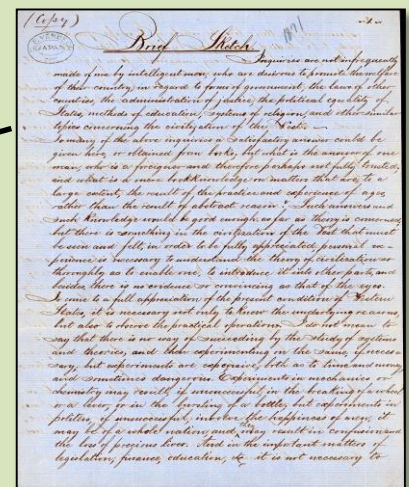
Many years ago, the Archivists of Religious Institutions had a meeting in which everyone was invited to bring something from their collection and share a story about it. It was one of the most enjoyable meetings that we had had. In that spirit, here is a document and the story behind it from the Archives of the Reformed Church in America.

Within three days of the opening of the Port of Yokohama to the western nations in 1859, the RCA had missionaries on the ground. Guido Verbeck, S.R. Brown, and Duane B. Simmons arrived ready to begin mission work in a country in which becoming a Christian was punishable by death. What these missionaries and their successors accomplished is one of the most outstanding stories of transformation we have.

Verbeck conducted the first Protestant baptism in modern Japan when he baptized a samurai warrior behind closed doors and shuttered windows. The death penalty was in force. The samurai had found a New Testament floating in the bay and he recovered and read it. He went to Verbeck for explanations and in the course of some time, accepted Christ and was baptized by Verbeck. This was the first of many and the establishment of the modern Protestant church.

Verbeck became a close confidant and advisor to the Japanese government as it opened itself to the western nations. His character and his witness made him a trusted advisor to the highest levels of leadership. They began to understand and respect the faith of Verbeck. He was so trusted that he wrote "A Brief Sketch" which was the plan for the Iwakura Embassy. This group, sent by the emperor, introduced Japan to the western world through a trip to Europe and the United States. Their entry to the modern global political arena was a result of Verbeck's plan and efforts (in a similar manner, the development of modern education in Japan has its roots with Verbeck but that is another story).

Russell L. Gasero, Archivist
Reformed Church in America
New Brunswick, NJ



Guido Verbeck's plan for the
Iwakura Embassy, 1871

[Image courtesy of the Archives of
the Reformed Church in America]

From the Members

Outreach at the United Methodist Archives and History Center

The United Methodist Archives and History Center is a collaboration between two institutions: Drew University Library and the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH), which houses the archive of the United Methodist Church. With the two collections combined, the Center holds one of the world's largest collections of global Methodism, as well as Drew University's non-Methodist special collections—many of which are religious in nature. Though much of the work of the Methodist Center focuses on helping students and researchers, the staff also works to interact with the local community in various ways. We have started several outreach programs that include—or target specifically—community members.

One of our most successful programs, Out of the Vault, has been running for almost three years now and has allowed for both scholars and community members to engage with the materials housed in the Methodist Center. Out of the Vault is a monthly program in which we bring materials into the reading room for people to see and touch. There is a short introduction (less than 15 minutes) to the collection or group of materials in order to put them into context for the attendees. Attendees are then encouraged to handle and interact with the materials and ask questions of the staff to learn more about the collections. Out of the Vault sessions have focused on both Methodist and non-Methodist materials, drawing from Special Collections, University Archives, and the Methodist Collections. In the Spring of 2017, we will be having a series of Out of the Vault events that focus on our collections geographically. This will allow us to integrate the Methodist and non-Methodist materials together to show the depth and breadth of the collections as a whole.

We also have a new program called Evening at the Archives, and while still in its infancy has proven to be successful. We open our doors after hours to local church groups who are welcome to bring their own dinner to enjoy in our classroom, followed by a tour and show and tell of materials. This has allowed us to engage with local church members, many of whom were unaware that their own denomination had an archive. We engage the attendees with the history of the church, teaching them through the show and tell of rare and interesting materials, including a letter from John Wesley, an artifact or two owned by Francis Asbury, books from the collection, and photographs of missionary work.

Through various collaborations with members of Drew's Theological School or local churches, we have partnered with Bible study groups for visits to the Methodist Center. Bible Study groups usually come in for either a show and tell session or a curatorial tour of an exhibit. Show and tell sessions for a Bible Study focus on the Bible Collection and feature early editions of the Bible with interesting elements such as illustration, design, or commentary. A curatorial tour allows the group to see the exhibit currently on display and includes a short talk to help them further engage with the display.

Without taking a toll on staff members, the outreach programs have a high impact on the community members who attend. They are able to engage with the materials and the history of the Methodist church in what the head of the Methodist Archives refers to as “the ministry of memory.”

*Cassie Brand, Archivist and Director
United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University, Madison, NJ*

From the Members

The Story of an Archival Record

The story began in 1927 with the establishment of the Catholic University of Peking by the American-Cassinese Congregation of the Benedictine Order. A 1936-37 catalog from the Catholic University of Peking reveals that, in 1933, it became necessary to transfer administration of the university to an order with more international relations and wider resources, such as the American province of the Society of the Divine Word. In 2011 while surveying the records of the East Troy, Wisconsin, community of the SVD, Archives Specialist Peter Gunther noted on the survey:

"EAST TROY VAULT (RECTORS OFFICE)

House Council meeting minutes in German, Fu-Jen University of Beijing, 1938-1948"

Last year, Peter suggested bringing the Fu Jen minutes to the archives. As an original document from the Fu Jen community of the Catholic University of Peking, China, it belonged in an archival collection. I contacted Divine Word Brother Jim Zabransky about the Fu Jen volume, and he delivered it to the archives in September 2015.

The volume is titled Community Affairs although it is actually the Fu Jen Community House Council meeting minutes from March 22, 1938 until Nov. 29, 1948. It was handwritten in German until Oct. 25, 1945. After October 1945, the new secretary wrote in English until November 29, 1948. The remaining pages of the bound volume are blank although tucked in the back were miscellaneous correspondence and several loose tissue sheets of the meeting minutes from Nov. 30, 1948 to Dec. 5, 1948. Since Divine Word Father Harold Rigney, who was appointed rector in 1946, was arrested by the Communists in 1951, the important years of 1949 to 1951 are not part of this record.

The condition of the volume was fair to good. Although the covers were cracked and broken, the pages were still solid and the ink legible. Still the whole volume needed conservation to preserve it. The archives contracted with book conservator Ann Repp to repair and preserve this valuable record of Fu Jen history. Scans of the handwritten portion of the minutes, extra typed minutes and letters that came with the volume were made to improve access. The Chicago Province will keep a copy of these scans and an English translation of the House Council minutes written in German from 1938 to 1945 in the Robert M. Myers Archives.

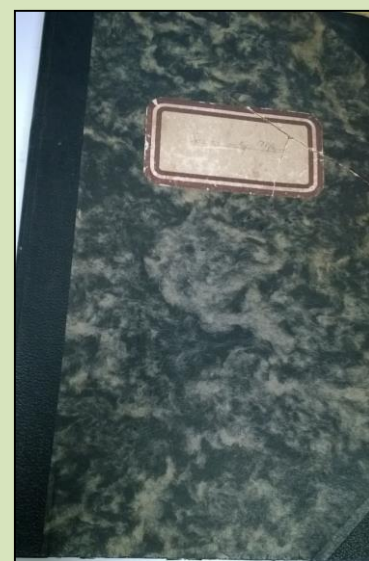
To determine the ledger's permanent location, I consulted with Divine Word Father Herbert Scholz at the Generalate Archives in Rome. Father Scholz said that the Generalate's SVD Historical Archives Division would welcome the Fu Jen House Council Minutes from 1938 through 1948.

We may never know how the Fu Jen Community Council Minutes arrived at the community of East Troy, Wisconsin, but we do know how the conserved volume returned to the Generalate Archives. The story of the ledger reached a happy ending thanks to Divine Word Father Roger Schroeder, who carried it to Steyl, Netherlands, on his way to meetings. Once Father Scholz knew Father Schroeder's schedule, he arranged with General Councilor and Divine Word Father José Antunes da Silva, who also was in Steyl, to receive the Fu Jen ledger and carry it back to the Generalate.

Father Scholz wrote, "This morning, July 27, Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva handed to me the Fu Jen document package which he brought from Steyl. Together we opened the wonderfully and expertly packed box and looked at the ledger and the additional folders. I was impressed by how carefully everything had been packed. Aside from assuring you of the safe arrival of the precious package I want to thank you most cordially."

Now that this historical volume has reached its final destination, I supplied Father Scholz with the electronic scans of the handwritten ledger, additional loose pages of typed minutes and correspondence for their access by future Society of the Divine Word researchers around the world.

*Marcia Stein, Archivist
Robert M. Myers Archives
Chicago Province*



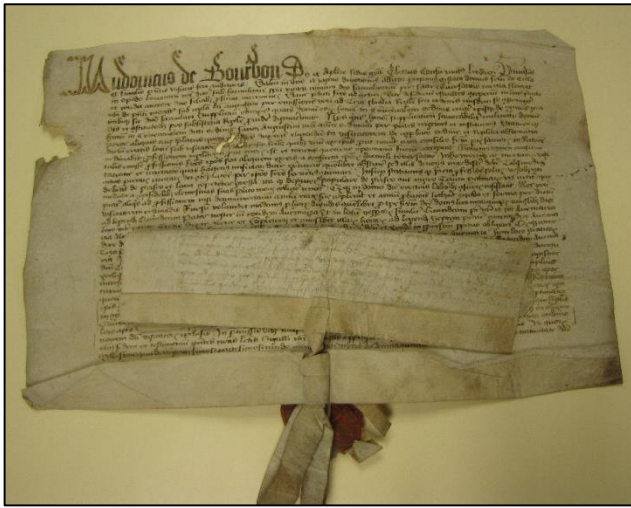
***Before-and-after conservation
photographs of the Fu-Jen
Community House Council
minutes, 1938-48***



[Images courtesy of the Robert M. Myers Archives, Chicago Province]

Alexian Brothers Provincial Archives Receives Early Documents of the Congregation

Alexian Brothers Provincial Archives recently took custody of early documents and books related to the history of the congregation. These include papal bulls, property records, account books, constitutions and statutes, and prayer books. The collection was transferred to the Archives of the Immaculate Conception Province in Arlington Heights, Illinois in early November to ensure its preservation into the future. The Provincial Archives is equipped with environmental controls that keep the temperature and humidity in the vault stable and within the optimal range to preserve paper and parchment. The collection is now protected against threats such as damage from fire and water, mold, air pollution, pests, and fading. Special water-resistant boxes have been purchased and each book or document is housed in an individual acid-free enclosure.



Decree issued by Louis de Bourbon, 1469

[Image courtesy of Alexian Brothers Provincial Archives]

The *Congregatio Fratrum Cellitarum Seu Alexianorum* (Congregation of the Cellites or Alexian Brothers) was elevated to a religious order by a 1472 decree from Pope Sixtus IV that confirmed the Cellite way of life and their adoption of the Rule of St. Augustine. Prior to that time, bishops and popes had issued decrees protecting and granting privileges to the Cellite communities in Europe. For example, in 1377, the Bull of Pope Gregory XI stated that the early Alexian Brothers “admit the poor and the sick, who desire it, into their houses and practice, as far as possible, also other works of mercy.” In this decree, he ordered the bishops of Alemannia and Brabant not to allow the Inquisition to trouble them. In another instance, on March 13, 1469, Louis de Bourbon, bishop of Liège, issued a decree that gave the Aachen community of Cellites permission to adopt the Rule of St. Augustine, proscribed daily prayers and a rite of profession, and gave permission for them to have their own chapel.

The earliest surviving book of statutes of the Alexian Brothers is from about 1545, hand written on paper with a parchment cover. The entire thirty-six pages were done by one writer, who embellished the paragraphs with red capital letters, some as large as four lines high. An early copy of the *Rule of St. Augustine and the Constitutions of the Alexian Brothers* dates from 1672 and is printed in Dutch. It was written as a book for everyday use and was probably read in the refectory at least once a week, and possibly every day, to remind the men of the commitment they made when they professed vows and promised to follow the Rule of St. Augustine and the statutes of the Alexian Brothers.

A book of great significance is the *Constitutions of the Alexian Brothers*, handwritten in 1870 with approval from the Vatican and the seal of Pope Pius IX. This book comprised the first major changes in the constitutions since the French Revolution. It was around this time that the Pontifical status of the congregation was restored. In 1878, this document was translated into English for the first time and printed in New York.

A very interesting and valuable item is book of accounts from 1621 to 1647. In it is recorded the particulars of the operations of the Alexian Brothers hospital in Mechelen, Belgium. The pages are paper, embellished with illustrations in the margins, and it is bound in parchment. It is extremely fragile.

Steps are being taken to digitize individual documents through scanning or photography. This will allow us to build a virtual exhibit that will share the history with a larger audience. Many of the books are too fragile for scanning, but photographs are taken of the cover and title page. Conservation by professionals is being considered for the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the worldwide Congregation of Alexian Brothers in this remarkable endeavor.

Donna Carl Dahl
Alexian Brothers Provincial Archives
Arlington Heights, Illinois

From the Members

Not a Separation between Church and State Kind of Collection: Newly acquired works from the Christian Identity movement

The concept of religion is not an independent moving engine throughout history. Beliefs and practices of any theology or philosophy are not mutually exclusive, but a cyclical relationship, to the changes and influences of society. As archivists, we know this through the documents we house and those who use them. Accordingly, we cannot ignore interconnectivity between religion and politics and how the 2016 election emitted an unprecedented amount of religious rhetoric to shape many people's political identity and ideology. For many it gave them hope and others a sudden blow; regardless, our work is to seize this moment to collect records of enduring value of and for our community which will serve as reliable memories of our past, and help future generations find resources and understand the current political atmosphere. In doing so, the UC Santa Barbara Special Research Collections—which is home to the American Religions Collection (ARC), that collects religious works of twentieth century splinter groups of larger religious bodies and nontraditional religions in North America—has acquired over 100 pamphlets, booklets, and books from 1910 to 2015 concerning Conservative Christian ideologies and political philosophies, mainly that of the Christian Identity movement. The collection is called Christian Identity and Far Right-Wing Politics collection (ARC Mss 83), and the material describes the tenets of Christian Identity and its relationship to the Right-Wing and Anti-Government movements. Many of the works detail Christian Identity's ideology rooted in the belief those of European descent, Anglo-Saxon, Germanic, and Nordic people, can be traced back to the "Lost Tribes of Israel" or the real "Israelites" descended of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – as opposed to those of the Jewish descent, who are believed to be impostors, as well as how the federal government and certain policies are an encroachment on ones inalienable rights. The aim of collecting this literature comes from not only addressing the interdependence of our social constructs and in turn of historic disciplines, but to have resources that address the momentum, changes, and influences of certain aspects to Christian ideologies.

Note from the editor: Please consider submitting an article for the February 2017 issue of *The Archival Spirit*, a forum for sharing news, ideas, and histories as they pertain to our respective institutions and to members of our section. Articles (400-600 words) may be submitted to the newsletter editor, Thomas J. McCullough, at tom@moravianchurcharchives.org.

*Beaudry Allen,
Special Research
Collections Archivist
UC Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA*

Janet Hauck, Chair-Elect of ARCS, is the University Archivist at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. She also serves on SAA's Loan Arrangers Section Executive Committee, and is a past president of the Northwest Archivists. Janet holds an MLIS from the University of Washington, and certification from the Academy of Certified Archivists. She curates the Pacific Northwest



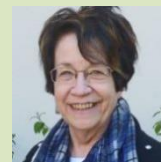
Protestantism Collection at Whitworth, along with the University Institutional Records Collection. Janet's publications include "Researchers at Work: Assessing Needs for Content and Presentation of Archival Materials," and she has administered grants from ALA, NEH, NHPRC, IMLS, and the Washington State Library.

Carole Prietto: "I am the Law Center Archivist at Georgetown Law. A native Californian, I received my M.A. in History (1987) from UCLA, and an M.L.I.S. (2013) from San Jose State. I've been a Certified Archivist since 1992. Previously, I've worked as an archivist at Washington University in St. Louis and for the Daughters of Charity. While at the



Daughters I had the opportunity to be part of a task force which oversaw the merging of four historical collections and the planning of a new archival facility. From 2013 to 2016 I was a consultant for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, advising them on issues concerning consolidation of collections and facility planning. I've presented at ACWR concerning digitization and the use of digitized materials in promotion and outreach efforts. My roles within ARCS have included establishing and managing the Section Facebook page and managing the Section's website."

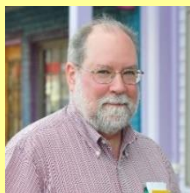
Dee Gallo is Provincial Archivist for the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise, in Emmitsburg, MD.



Prior to that, she was head of Acquisitions and Processing, the archival section of the Music Division at The Library of Congress, a position she took after leaving academia as the Co-Director of Music History at The Catholic University of America. In addition to serving as ARCS's Section Head, she is Vice President for the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious and has served as liaison for the Charity Federation Archivists. She was the 2016 winner of the Sr. M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award, given by SAA and the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Russell Gasero:

"I have been in the archival field since 1973 when I started at the United Nations Archives. In 1978, I had the privilege to start the Archives of the Reformed Church in America and have been here ever since. The records date back to the early 1600s and document the denomination's ministry, missions, and congregations. I have been a past chair of ARCS, a chair of Archivists of Religious Institutions, and co-founder and chair of the Lone Arrangers Roundtable. It just goes to show that you can do something with a philosophy major!"



Meet the Steering Committee



Archivists of Religious Collections Section, of the Society of American Archivists

Thomas J. McCullough: "I serve as assistant archivist of the Moravian Church in North America, Northern Province, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. I received my MA in Applied History from Shippensburg



University of Pennsylvania, during which I worked in the Carlisle area as the assistant archivist of Cumberland County and as a processing intern for the United States Army Heritage and Education Center. I am the editorial assistant of the *Journal of Moravian History*, and I am delighted to support the ARCS steering committee as newsletter editor of *The Archival Spirit!*"

Jillian Ewalt is a metadata archivist for Special Collections and University Archives at California State University, Sacramento.

She holds a Master of Library and Information Science with concentration in Archival Studies from San Jose State University and a Bachelor of Art from



California State University, Monterey Bay. She has published articles in *Archival Issues*, *Catholic Library World*, and *Art Documentation* and is an active member of the Society of American Archivists.

Melanie Maxwell is Records Analyst in the Office of Archives and Records at the Archdiocese of Atlanta. She has been working in the archives field for five years



and in a variety of capacities, mostly managing digital collections. Melanie will be completing her Master of Archival Studies at Clayton State University in May.

Wesley W. Wilson is Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind.



where he manages the records of the university and the United Methodist Church in Indiana. He has served on numerous boards and committees including presently the State Historic Records Advisory Board for Indiana. He is a member of SAA, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Society of Indiana Archivists serving twice as its president.