

THE NEXT PHASE IN RECORDS MANAGEMENT. REPORT FROM THE WRA ROUNDTABLE, PITTSBURGH, PA, By Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM



Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM



The WRA is a roundtable within the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The Women Religious Archivists (WRA) met at the 63rd annual meeting of the SAA, which was held at the Hilton Towers, in Pittsburgh, PA on August 26, 1999. The topic for the open forum was Records Management-Part II. It dealt with the many archival records that are non-confidential. Part I had been presented at the WRA roundtable in Orlando, FL in 1998.

Sister Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM, chairperson of a subcommittee of the ACWR conducted the open forum, which dealt with the storage, access, retention and disposition of archival records of religious congregations. After each record category presentation there were discussions, comments and suggestions. These will go back to the subcommittee for their final approval and the final copy will be presented at the ACWR Conference in Cleveland, OH in September 2000.

The Records Management Schedule is considered a guide as each Congregation has its own unique archival depository that reflects the charism of the Congregation.

Catherine Regina Donnelly, RSM is the archivist for Mercy Elderly Housing, Mercy Court and Mercy Community Hospital, in Merion, PA.

ACWR CLEVELAND CONFERENCE 2000

By Joann Kessler, OSU

The site for Conference 2000 will be Cleveland's Holiday Inn Independence, the same site chosen in 1997 to host a convocation attended by 500 Ursuline Sisters. The ballroom will be the center activities; two breakout rooms will serve smaller groups. The hotel is also providing a hospitality suite where refreshments will be available every evening.

Plans are underway to offer tours during one of the afternoon session. There will be a bus tour of the city on "Lolly the Trolley." Another option will be a tour of the newly renovated Cleveland Public Library in downtown Cleveland. A third choice will be a tour of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine motherhouse, including a visit to the archives and the Regina Health Care section. Lastly, there will be a tour of both the Sisters of St. Joseph and Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland motherhouses and archives. Some alternative activity will be planned for those not wishing to go on tours. Besides, there is an indoor swimming pool in the hotel.

Mark your calendar today: September 28 to October 1, 2000. The City of Cleveland is polishing its treasures in preparation for the upcoming ACWR conference.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS AT THE ACWR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



Kathryn Callahan, CSC of St. Mary, IN assumes her new position as Vice President as Past-President, Dolores Liptak, RSM and new President, Sabina Collins, OSF look on.

Dear Sisters,

What a wondrous year of preparation-prayer-and gratitude that we are experiencing as we walk toward the next century's celebrations. Our own Conference 2000 meeting is shaping up so beautifully, we know you are going to enjoy every minute of it.



Sabina Collins, OSF President

Past President, Sister Dolores Liptak, RSM continues her dedicated service to ACWR as editor of the newsletter. Mary Beth Fraser retains her post as executive secretary and publications editor. Her cooperative spirit and attention to every detail are terrific asset to our organization. Sister Patricia Hodge has accepted a three-year term on the ACWR Board. Her expertise and background will be a great addition to our board. Sisters Elvira Kelley and Marjorie Buttner have

As we look toward that special time we cannot help but look back to what has been done—by individuals who have given so much, and continue to serve. Coming to mind, just to mention a few:

agreed to co-chair the program committee for the Conference 2000. Their enthusiasm is far reaching. And you have noticed that Sister Kathryn Callahan has joined the board as Vice President, President Elect.

Thanks to Sister Rita King for her generous and expert contributions to our organization. Because of the fine leadership that has been integral to the ACWR since its beginning days, enthusiasm continues strong for the increased work that lies ahead. This past year as Vice President, President Elect, I have been so impressed with the team spirit and unity that dominates our board meetings. I am proud to be a board member and will do everything to foster our team efforts.

Last, I am also pleased to note our large ACWR membership, now comprising at least 307 members. This includes several new members! Isn't this great?

With our numbers and enthusiasm, this year of preparation should climax with a wonderful Conference 2000.

Sincerely,
Sister Sabina Collins, President, ACWR

Sister Sabina Collins is the archivist for the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls, MN.

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EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASK THE ARCHIVIST. To improve the service to the ACWR Membership, the ACWR News will be establishing a new question and answer column. The editors invite anyone with questions or comments to send them to the National Office, some will be featured in the Spring 2000 ACWR News. The deadline for all letters is March 1, 2000.

FEATURES ON INDIVIDUAL ARCHIVES. The editors wish to announce a call for articles that feature the work of individual archivists. If you have a specific project or procedure in your archives you wish to share with the membership, please contact the National Office with your ideas. We begin this spotlight on archival work in this issue. See the article written by Kathryn Callahan, CSC on page 4.

US CATHOLIC DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE PROJECT UPDATE. By Joseph Coen

Phase I of the U. S. Catholic Documentary Heritage Project, completed in September 1998, announced the creation of an Internet website containing a Directory for Catholic archival repositories. The number of participating repositories has grown to 291. The project website can be accessed from the Society's home page. The USCHS URL is www.usch.com. The Documentary Heritage Project's actual URL is www.catholic.org/uschs/usatholic/index.htm. Even though Phase I has officially closed, Catholic archives are still welcome to submit information and become part of the project website.

Phase II has begun. The \$35,000 grant from the Catholic Communications Campaign made this possible. Now, participating archives will have their own home pages within the US Catholic Documentary Project website. The main (or home) page for all repositories will have a consistent look with the project logo, name of the archives, information about it (directions, hours of service, phone numbers, pictures of the archives, etc.)

From the main page, sub-pages will contain more specific material submitted by the repositories. Catholic Online has set up a template for a main page and sub-pages based on the structure developed by the Archdiocese of Chicago, www.archdiocese-chgo.org/archives/home.html. The sub-pages may include an Archive Collections page with a list of holdings; a Virtual Museum; a Photo Gallery; and a Genealogy page. Archives wishing to become a part of the project may still create their own website directly online using the template, or may submit the material to Catholic Online which will place the material in the appropriate sub-pages. Individual archives will have complete control of what goes onto their websites and will be able to correct and update the content. As planned, Catholic Online will input and index any descriptive information about the documents or images submitted by the original archives. The descriptive information, once entered, will become a powerful tool enabling researchers to find documents and images they are seeking from a wide variety of Catholic repositories.

In the Spring of 1999, USCHS was awarded a grant for \$100,000 to embark on Phase III. This third Phase, which will continue the work established in the previous two phases, and will begin the cooperative work between archivists and historians to create online education packets. These education packets, directed at primary and secondary schools, will feature a wide range of topics of American Catholic History. To complete this phase, the USCHS will

hold meetings of for Catholic archivists and historians to determine the topics of the educational packets, develop curriculum outlines, and identify relevant materials. Once developed, these will be placed on the US Catholic Documentary Heritage Project website, where they will be available to download and used.

Joe Coen, while working on the US Catholic Documentary Project, also is the archivist for the Diocese of Brooklyn.

ACWR TREASURER PRESENTS LECTURE AT SAVING SACRED THINGS CONFERENCE, By Mary Beth Fraser

In July 1999, The Catholic University of America hosted a conference dedicated to the preservation of sacred religious objects. This conference, organized by Timothy J. Meagher, Director of the Archives of CUA, drew over 100 participants and presenters to this conference entitled "Saving Sacred Things."

Sister Joann Kessler, OSU, archivist for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland and ACWR treasurer, was one of the presenters for this conference. In her talk, "Community Heritage Room: What Is In It and Why?," she described the history of her own community's Heritage Room from its origins to today. Sr. Joann remarked on how treasures can be found in closets as was the case with the Cleveland Ursuline Sisters. After consulting with superiors, Sr. Joann gradually gained more space to display and preserve her community's history. Of particular importance is the space designated to the life and work of Dorothy Kazel, OSU who was one of the sisters murdered in El Salvador in 1980.



Sr. Joann also discussed some practicalities of creating a Heritage Room. For a Heritage room to be successful, it must be seen and revisited. Sr. Joann suggested that the room be located near the entrance of the building. She also suggested that the display have a clear theme that conveys information to the viewer. She stressed the importance of maintaining an inventory of historical objects. With secure knowledge of the objects, the archivist will be able to display and preserve the community's history for years to come.

CAROL COBURN AND MARTHA SMITH, *SPIRITED LIVES: HOW NUNS SHAPED CATHOLIC CULTURE AND AMERICAN LIFE, 1836-1920*. CHAPEL HILL: THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS, 1999. By Mary Beth Fraser

Carol Coburn and Martha Smith, in *Spirited Lives*, argue that nuns shaped American Catholic culture of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The authors examine the history of the Sisters of St. Joseph from their arrival in America in 1836 to 1920 and show how these sisters not only established schools, hospitals, and orphanages, but also formed the basis of American Catholic life. Coburn and Smith bring women religious to center stage of American history by showing how nuns affected Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Coburn and Smith begin their history of the Sisters of St. Joseph in France. From there, the authors illustrate how this French order became American. Out of necessity, the first CSJS adapted their rule to fit life in America. In doing so, the sisters made great strides to combat anti-Catholic sentiments. Before long, the CSJS attracted young women from various ethnic origins, including Irish- and German-Americans, as well as Mexicans. The authors show that the CSJS became a multiethnic and truly American order. Coburn and Smith provide a chronological history of the Sisters of St. Joseph, as they expanded from their early beginnings in Missouri to New York State, Pennsylvania, Colorado and parts of the Southwest. They also feature specific missions of the CSJS, which illustrate how the sisters shaped American Catholic culture. Coburn and Smith devote separate chapters of *Spirited Lives* to the CSJS efforts in teaching, nursing, with orphans and with Native Americans. An important part of this work is the incorporation of gender and faith into the analysis of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The authors rightly examine the sisters as women and as women religious. They show how the sisters stood in a unique position with American society. They confronted patriarchal authority and led public lives unknown to their female Protestant contemporaries. Yet, they did this within an accepted gender role for Catholic women. The authors make this point by showing how the rule of the Sisters of St. Joseph directed and influenced the sisters' lives.

Coburn and Smith successfully show how the Sisters of St. Joseph shaped American culture. This history brings American Catholic nuns in from the margins of American history.

Mary Beth Fraser is the Executive Secretary for the ACWR and a graduate student in history at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS. ARCHIVES OFFICIAL REPOSITORY FOR THE DOCUMENTS OF THE HOLY CROSS HISTORY ASSOCIATION. By Kathryn Callahan, CSC

Among the special collections in the Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives are the official documents of the Holy Cross History Association. These include papers delivered at the annual Holy Cross History Conference.



Sister M. Campion Kuhn, CSC

The Holy Cross History Conferences began in 1982. Sister M. Campion (Kuhn), CSC, Archivist for the Sisters of the Holy Cross and Rev. Jim Connelly, CSC, head of the Indiana Province Archives of the Holy Cross priests were enthusiastic historians and teachers, and both found a common bond in their enthusiasm for the history of the Holy Cross.

In 1981 Father Jim suggested a conference to consider the history of the Holy Cross congregation in the United States. Every house of the congregations was notified that the conference was open to "all interested parties." Members were invited to submit papers "treating of institutions, individuals, apostolates of events in the life and work of the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross in America." Religious from all parts of Holy Cross presented papers—two societies of Holy Cross men and three communities of Holy Cross women were represented among the speakers. It was an auspicious beginning!

Because of the success of the first two conferences, a small group of the Holy Cross representatives met after the 1983 conference to discuss the possibility of forming a Holy Cross History Association. At this meeting, it was decided that the association would publish a newsletter. A constitution and by-laws was adopted in 1984.

The purpose of the Association is "to promote and stimulate historical study of and research on those religious communities which trace their origins to the Rev. *Continued on page 6*

THE ACWR AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

By Sr. Thérèse Grégoire, O.Carm., Webmaster

Computers, the fax machine, the Internet—in the last few years, these have revolutionized communications. A Web "presence" is fast becoming an essential ingredient in any organization's effort at making itself known. It seems almost as necessary as a postal address as we stand at the brink of a new century.

The ACWR website is a reality. Typing the URL, www.homestead.com/acwr/ links a user to our home page. For those who have little or no experience with the amazing World Wide Web, let's begin with explaining a few terms. A web page is an electronic document written in a computer language called HTML and published on the Internet. Each web page has a unique address called a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) which identifies its location to the computer network.

The home page is the "doorway" to a website. Like a book's table of contents, it gives the user a quick overview of the website and offers connecting links to the different parts of the site. A website has one or more related web pages, linked together through a set of hyperlinks. Allowing the user to "jump" or "navigate" from one page to another in any order by simply clicking on a mouse button.

Web pages vary widely in both design and content, from simple magazine or newsletter style to the pages featuring the "cutting edge" of technology. But all have a common purpose: to communicate information to as large an audience as possible. The Web's key advantage is that it allows instant distribution of information to a limitless audience. There is no need to wait for the printer to set up a brochure, there is no expense to publish and distribute the print materials; there is no postage involved.

The ACWR web site is still very much in its infancy but visitors who go to our website can already find the purpose of the organization, as well as contact information and links to national groups. They have the convenience of an instantly available and printable membership application form.

In designing the ACWR site, I have tried to balance clear, readable print and a pleasant design, keeping the pages short and to the point, while staying away from graphic-intense content that demands long loading time. What's on the "burner" for the future? YOU need to let us know what you'd like to see.

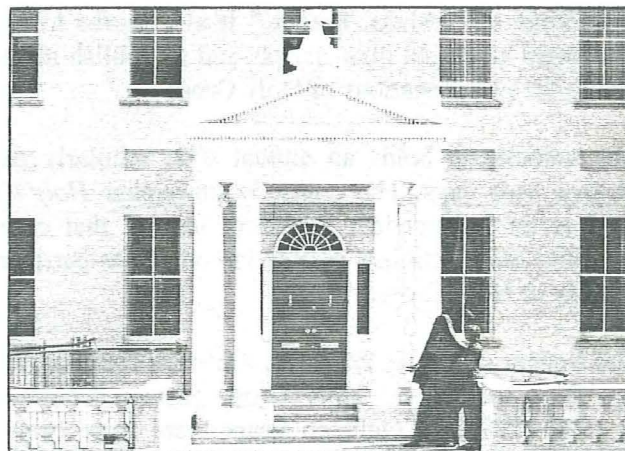
Thérèse Grégoire, O.Carm, is the Archivist, Webmaster, and Treasurer for the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Lacombe, LA.

ARCHIVISTS MAKE GREAT TOURISTS

By Dolores Liptak, RSM

We archivists have all grown close to the founding sisters of our congregations as we have reverently read their letters and studied documents they composed. WE have appreciated the privilege of meeting these amazing missionaries—even if only through such records of the past. Instinctively we know that there is a better way to become acquainted with those who came before us. If only we could **be there!**

My trip to Ireland this summer provided that creative opportunity. I was able to visit four of the convents closely related to our foundations in Connecticut. I sat in the very rooms where our farther-back sisters recreated; knelt in the chapels where they discerned their missionary call; and, best, talked with sisters who were well aware of the personal stories of these ancestors in the faith.



Mercy International Center, Dublin, Ireland

Visiting the Mercy International Center in Dublin was, of course, the highlight of the trip. Our foundress, Catherine McAuley, had opened the first House of Mercy there in 1827; her spirit still fills the place. Just staying there was joy enough. But the carefully-prepared tours, complete with film, graphics, displays, and artwork, brought special pleasures. The heritage tour, and time to visit the archives and museum, made the experience richer than anything that Dublin could produce.

Yet going to Carlow was really special for still another reason. Mother Frances Xavier Warde, the first superior of Carlow, was the sister who headed the first original contingent of Mercy Sisters in establishing a U.S. foundation. She began the Pittsburgh mission in 1843; only eight years later she had established a motherhouse in the Diocese of Hartford at Providence. Because of her influence, moreover, two of her cousins,

Sisters Cecilia and Pauline Maher, also became missionaries. While Sr. Cecilia founded the New Zealand Mercies in 1848, her sister, Jane came to the United States and entered the Mercy community in Providence. As Sr. Pauline, she was among the first Sisters to go to Hartford; in 1872 she became the first Reverend Mother of our Connecticut foundation. Thus, visiting Carlow meant that I retraced the steps of two amazing Mercy founders and Connecticut missionaries.

While it is true that touring abroad may be a thrilling experience for everyone, it is even more accurate to say that it is especially rewarding to anyone steeped in history. Archivists make great tourists.

Dolores Liptak, RSM is the archivist for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Connecticut Region and is currently serving as Past-President on the ACWR Board.

Continued from page 4

Basil Moreau of LeMans, France.” It also works to collect and maintain historical manuscripts and to publish materials related to the Congregations of Holy Cross.

The association holds an annual with scholarly papers given over two days. The quarterly newsletter *Holy Cross History* is an independent scholarly journal that receives submissions from scholars worldwide on topics pertinent to the history of Holy Cross.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross Archives contains all the papers from the annual Holy Cross History Conferences from 1982-1999. In eighteen years there have been 162 papers given. The topics of the papers and further information about Holy Cross History Association may be obtained by visiting the Conference web page: <http://www.stedwards.edu/hum/klawitter/new.html>.

Kathryn Callahan, CSC is the Director of the Congregational Archives and Records of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, IN and is currently serving as Vice-President of the ACWR.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Felicia Bertaina, MC

Consolata Missionary Sisters
Belmont, MI

Mary Jane Doherty, SND

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Stevenson, MD

Marjorie Hamilton, RGS

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
St. Paul, MN

Ronalda Hophan, FSPA

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
LaCrosse, WI

Esther MacCarthy, SNDdeN

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Rosalindale, MA

Kathleen McNulty, IHM

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, PA

Mary Louise Mutch, FSPA

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
LaCrosse, WI

Bro. Denis Sennett, SA

Friars of the Atonement
Garrison, NY

Noemi Tereszkievicz, CSFN

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
Pittsburgh, PA

Catherine Waymost

Daughters of Charity
Los Angeles, CA

Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

School Sisters of Notre Dame
St. Louis, MO

There will be an updated copy of the ACWR Directory available at the Conference 2000. Anyone wishing for current information on any member prior to that time, please contact the National Office.

VIEWS FROM THE WRA ROUNDTABLE, PITTSBURGH, PA



Elaine Wheeler, DC, Joann Kessler, OSU, Kathryn Callahan, CSC, and Sabina Collins, OSU



Jane Kenamore, (SAA Representative) Susan Nowalis, RSM, and Charlene I. Alipio, Chair of the WRA Roundtable

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Our new fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. This means that the fiscal year can be closed in July and an accurate financial report given at the Annual Meeting in August.

I am happy to report that our current fiscal year closed with a credit balance of \$209. Not a huge amount, it nevertheless means that we were able to overcome debit balances from previous years.

We wish to thank everyone who included a donation with the payment of their dues. Those small donations added up to \$615; they enabled us to realize a credit balance. Thank you so very much for your extra help.

The dues increase (\$30) will help us meet new costs. We are grateful for your understanding and your support.

Total income from dues & donations:	\$7,411
Interest income:	<u>\$1,275</u>
Total income:	\$8,686

Board expenses:	\$2,783
Office expenses:	\$1,378
Secretary Stipend:	\$4,000
Employer Taxes:	<u>\$ 306</u>
Total Expenses	\$8,467

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, UPDATES

The Avila Library continues to welcome your community histories. The collection of books kept at the ACWR National Office will now be sent to Avila Library to add to this already fine collection.

The editors of the ACWR News wish to continue to feature new books concerning the history of women religious. If you have a recently published history (published within the last five years) and wish to have it featured in an upcoming *ACWR News*, please send a copy to the National Office.

Catholic Online: The ACWR seeks a task force to investigate and explore the Catholic Online project conducted by the US Catholic Historical Association. The committee would be asked to study the uses of the internet and web pages for religious archivist. In addition, this investigation will also help explore the potential uses and directions for the ACWR's own web page. Members would also help promote the Catholic Online project among ACWR members and work with Joe Coen. Anyone interested in joining this task force should contact the National Office.

NEW BOOK ON HISTORY OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

Seeds of Hope, the history of the Sisters of Providence of Holyoke, Massachusetts, edited by Sister Dolores Liptak, RSM, and Grace Bennett, was published in September 1999. The book covers the history of the religious congregation from 1873 through 1999. The mission of the congregation has always been—and continues to be—the care of sick and elderly people and orphaned children. Their sponsored works of charity are well defined in this unique book. Contact Alice Walsh, c/o Sisters of Providence, 5 Gamelin Street, Holyoke, MA 01040-4080 for more information.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Stephanie Morris for the Ad Hoc Committee, Sr. Genevieve Shea, SLW and Lois Martin

ACWR Ad Hoc Education Committee received thirty-four responses to our survey on educational needs. Briefly, eight said no additional educational programs were necessary; twenty-one wanted to see something added; and five declined to give an opinion. While there is interest in small-group workshops and additional educational opportunities, there is no clear mandate for additional large-scale educational programs.

The committee therefore made recommendations to the ACWR national office. These included the suggestion that the office maintain a database of archival courses or workshops and encourage the members to host small-group workshops.

Several members did respond to the survey with an offer to host such a small-group workshops. It was suggested that the national office could assist in these endeavors.

Stephanie Morris has been the archivist for the Medical Mission Sisters, in Bensalem, PA; Genevieve Shea, SLW is archivist for the Sisters of the Living Word in Arlington Heights, IL; and Lois Martin is assistant archivist for the Daughters of Charity in Evansville, IN.

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Washington, DC 20017

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1999-2000, PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW BY USING THE FOLLOWING FORM. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO RENEWED SO QUICKLY.

Name: _____

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