



# Archival Connections

*Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group*

Volume 3, Number 1

**February 2006**

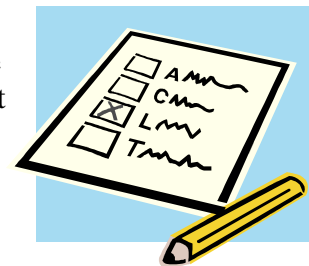
## **From the Chair – Gayle Desarmia, SP**



Here we are, already in the month of February. May 2006 hold many blessings for each and every one of you in your ministry as archivists.

During these winter months, members of the Catholic Archivist Group Executive, Planning Committee and Outreach Committee are busy at work. The Planning Committee is working on the preparations for our 2006 conference. Our keynote speaker at the conference is finalized. Committee members travelled to Ottawa at the end of January to check the conference site and to check the possibilities for an interesting conference tour. Details will be available in the spring. It will be an event you will not want to miss. Linda Wicks and Walter Farrell, FSC have been busy with membership renewals. Members of the Outreach Committee are assisting the Executive with their behind-the-scenes work.

This spring we will be holding elections for the executive position of Secretary of the Catholic Archivist Group. Please consider becoming more involved with the Catholic Archivist Group by allowing your name stand for the position. The work is rewarding and our group can function well only if members are willing to take a turn working on the executive or on the conference planning committee.



We are always looking for stories and news items for this newsletter. Do you have some item that may be of interest to the group? We would like to see all types of archives (diocesan, religious, educational and healthcare) represented in our newsletter. To have your news items appear in the newsletter, send them to Gayle Desarmia, SP, by April 15<sup>th</sup>. (archives@providence.ca)

## 2006 Conference in Ottawa



The next Catholic Archivist Group Conference will be held in Ottawa at the Maison Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence, from Monday, September 25 (afternoon registration) to Thursday, September 28, 2006. Located in Orleans, Maison Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence is about 20 minutes from both the Ottawa airport and downtown and about 15 minutes from the train station.

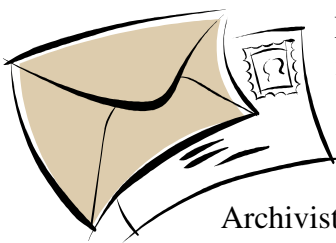
Please note that our keynote speaker this year will be Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

*"Canada is the first country to fully integrate all of the services and programs of its national library and national archives. Library and Archives Canada is a new type of knowledge institution designed to collect, preserve and provide Canadians with access to the documentary heritage of our nation. I have the great privilege of being the first Librarian and Archivist of Canada, and I invite all Canadians, no matter where they are located geographically, to visit and explore, in person or virtually, the richness of our documentary heritage."* Ian E. Wilson, 26 July 2004

Mr. Wilson has been involved with the Canadian archival and library communities for over 30 years. He had been appointed National Archivist of Canada in July 1999 and with the National Librarian Roch Carrier developed and led the process to create a new knowledge institution for Canada in the 21st century. In 2004, he was appointed Librarian and Archivist of Canada.

Mark your calendars and watch for more information from the 2006 Planning Committee.

## Memberships – Outreach Committee



By now you have received your 2006 membership renewal information from Linda Wicks. Thank you to all who have so promptly renewed their membership.

If you know of any other possible members for the Catholic Archivist Group, please send contact information to Linda.

The Outreach Committee is focussing on new members this year. We thank James Mason, CSsR, and Evelyn Collins who have volunteered to work on this committee.

## Jeanne Mance – Rodney Carter



This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Jeanne Mance, the co-founder of Montreal and the founder of Hotel Dieu Hospital in that city. She was the first lay nurse in North America and her legacy is felt in health care institutions across Canada to this day. The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph are celebrating this anniversary with events planned throughout the year.

A new children's book on the life of Jeanne Mance entitled "Caring for a Colony: The Story of Jeanne Mance" by Joanna Emery was recently released by Napoleon Publishing

(<http://www.transmedia95.com/NAPPages/NAP.Home.html>).

## Congratulations

Paul Banfield has been appointed Queen's University Archivist effective January 1, 2006 until June 30, 2011.

Paul Banfield was the Archivist for the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph at their regional house in Amherstview, Ontario from September 1984 to January 1988. Sister Loretta Gaffney notes that Paul was with them during the formative years of their archives program. To her knowledge he was the first archivist employed by a religious congregation in Canada. Paul was active in the CRC-O Archivist Group during his tenure with the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph. After he had moved to the Queen's University Archives, he proved to be a valuable resource to the group through his presentations at our annual conferences. Paul has always been active in the AAO and ACA. Sister Loretta Gaffney recalls that Paul was the first chairperson of the RASIS (The Religious Archives Special Interest Section of the ACA).

We congratulate Paul on his appointment!



## New Year's Disaster in Kingston Archives



It certainly was not the way to begin 2006!

When Tom McCarthy returned to work at the Archives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul on January 3, he was not expecting to deal with a mini-disaster. Over the holidays water from a faulty pipe on the second floor had found its way to the main Archives storage room and collected in the HVAC duct work. The slow drip had filled the canvas covering on the duct work with so much water that it had begun to bulge and was ready to break apart. Records directly under the bulge were damp but not soaked with the dripping water. Half of the ceiling was covered with water droplets, two fluorescent light fixtures were filled with water and the floor was soaked with a large puddle of water.



Tom quickly went into disaster recovery mode and alerted the maintenance staff at Providence Motherhouse. Within a short time all of the records were removed to our second storage area. The dampened records were successfully air-dried. Fortunately there was minimal damage to the records. The room itself suffered more damage. It took time before repair work to the lighting, ductwork, walls, ceiling and floor

were completed. The end result has been worth the wait. We have a better quality, low-maintenance finish on the floor and freshly painted walls and ceiling.

*Top – Sister Gayle Desarmia points to the damaged duct work*

*Bottom – Close-up of the damaged duct work*

## In Memoriam – Sister Mary Gertrude Harrington, GSIC



Sister Mary Gertrude Harrington (Sister St. Gertrude), a Grey Sister of the Immaculate Conception, Pembroke, Ontario, died in Pembroke, Ontario, on the ninth day of January in the 62<sup>nd</sup> year of her Religious Life. Left to mourn her loss are the members of her religious community, her sisters, Helen O'Brien (Basil), Eilee Clapin French, and Antoinette Prudhomme, her brother, Jerry (Mildred), as well as many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Timothy Harrington and Catherine Ryan, her brothers, Isaiah, Msgr. John Harrington and Rev. Dennis Harrington, her sister, Kathleen Monette and Mollie McCunn.

Sister Gertrude was born on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1921, in Killaloe, Ontario. She entered the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944, pronouncing her final vows on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1949. Prior to her entry, Sister Gertrude attended the Willis Business College in Ottawa, acquiring five years experience in Commercial and Office Management. Her ministry began at the Business Office in the General Hospital, Pembroke, later moving on to the Sault Ste. Marie General Hospital for a total of thirteen years. In 1959, Sister Gertrude was appointed Administrative Secretary at the Pembroke General Hospital, a post she held for the next seven years. New assignments led her to various works in which Sister Gertrude proved talented and capable, including, Assistant at the Pickering Retreat House, Teachers College for one year, Immaculate Conception School in Windsor, Ontario, as well as teaching commercial at Immaculata High School in Ottawa. Sister Gertrude also found time to set up and organize the Archives at the Motherhouse in Pembroke. In later years, she served as Coordinator of Pastoral Care in the Penetanguishene General, and in the General Hospital, Pembroke, Ontario for fifteen years. Moving to St. Patrick's Home, Ottawa, Sister Gertrude continued her ministry in Archives, as well as serving as Editor of the Community Newsletter, tasks she performed generously for many years. In 2003, due to failing health, Sister Gertrude transferred to Shalom, Marianhill Residence.

Liturgy of the Resurrection took place in the Motherhouse chapel on Wednesday, January 11, 2006.

*Sister Gertrude Harrington was a regular participant at our annual conferences from 1993 to 2002.*

## Patron Saints for Archivists

While you probably have many important dates marked in your 2006 calendar, here are a few others to consider entering for reference. These dates are for the feasts of the traditional patron saints of archivists and librarians and for one feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



*April 26 – Our Lady of Good Counsel* – Although not listed as a patron of archivists and librarians, I suggest Our Lady of Good Counsel as a worthy consideration. Devotion to Mary under this title dates back to 1467 when the icon appeared in the church in Genazzano, southeast of Rome. Under this title, Mary has been invoked for advice from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As archivists, we can always benefit from this virtue of ‘good counsel’.

*August 10 – St. Lawrence (died 258)* – This third-century archdeacon of Rome was distributor of alms and “keeper of the treasures of the church” in a time when Christianity was outlawed. His work to save the material wealth of the Church, including its documents, brought librarians and those in related fields to see him as a patron.

*September 30 – St. Jerome (c.342-4120)* – He was Secretary to Pope Damasus I who commissioned him to revise the Latin text of the Bible. He wrote translations of Origen, histories, biographies and much more. He is recognized as a Doctor of the Church and a Father of the Church. Since his own time, he has been associated in the popular mind with scrolls, writing, cataloguing, translating, etc. This led to those who work in such fields to take him as their patron.

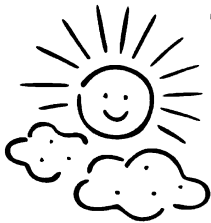
*November 25 – St. Catherine of Alexander (died 305)* – Reputed to be learned in science and oratory, Catherine was a convert to Christianity. When she was 18 years old, during the persecution of Maximus, she offered to debate the pagan philosophers. Her reputation for learning and wisdom led to her patronage of librarians, teachers, archivists and anyone associated with wisdom or teaching.

For more information check the Patron Saints Index at [www.catholic-forum.com/saints](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints). A search for ‘archivists’ brings the names of Lawrence, Jerome and Catherine and their biographical sketches.

## News from the RAR – Bertille Beaulieu, RHSJ

The RAR (Regroupement des archivistes religieux) has been very busy lately. Along with eight other associations and groups of archivists, it took part in the wording of a statement on archival heritage for Québec. A Conference on the matter was held on November 16, 2005 in Montreal, and representatives of each group were invited to speak. Sr. Marie Marchand, OSU, chairperson of the RAR gave a communication that was well received. Also, in mid-summer 2005, a general consultation on the religious heritage in Québec was organized by the Committee on Culture (Commission de la culture) answering to the Quebec Government. The RAR submitted a Report and was invited to a public hearing held in Québec city on January 25, 2006. Sr. Marchand, Sr. M. Aylwin, FDJ, Mrs. M. Boisvert and Father L. Tailleur were there to present the RAR's report and discuss their views with the members of the Committee. The report was based on the RAR's recommendations that came out of the 2000 research on the future of religious archives. Also, a very substantial text on the theological and canonical aspects of archives as Church goods was annexed to the report.

## Chuckle for the Day – Eloi de Grace



This afternoon, two volunteers of a parish came to see me for information. They are working on the parish archives project.

Yesterday, one said to the Pastor: "Tomorrow, we are going to see the Archivist." And the Pastor replied: "Oh? I haven't seen that new film yet!"

## Catholic Archivist Group

We are a group of archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Religious Institutes, Diocesan and Catholic Institutions in order to preserve the social heritage of all of its members

The main thrust of the Catholic Archivist Group is that of mutual encouragement and support and to keep before all relevant authorities and groups the importance, significance and relevance of our Archives.



We follow the terms of reference of professional archival guidelines in Canada, Canon Law, and the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, as well as pertinent government legislation.

### Publication Schedule

The newsletter will be published December 1 (Fall issue), February 1 (Winter issue) and May 1 (Spring issue).

Submit your news items, articles and photographs by November 15, January 15 and April 15.

The next deadline is April, 2006.

### Catholic Archivist Group Executive – Contact Information

<b>Chair</b> Gayle Desarmia, SP Box 427 Kingston ON K7L 4W4 Tel – (613) 544-4525 Fax – (613) 531-9805 <a href="mailto:archives@providence.ca">archives@providence.ca</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Linda Wicks 3377 Bayview Avenue Toronto ON M2M 3S4 Tel – (416) 222-1101 Fax – (416) 222-9816 <a href="mailto:lwicks@csj-to.ca">lwicks@csj-to.ca</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> Walter Farrell, FSC 131 Farnham Avenue Toronto ON M4V 1H7 Tel – (416) 929-7878 Fax – (416) 929-1277 <a href="mailto:wfarrell@rogers.com">wfarrell@rogers.com</a>
---	---	--