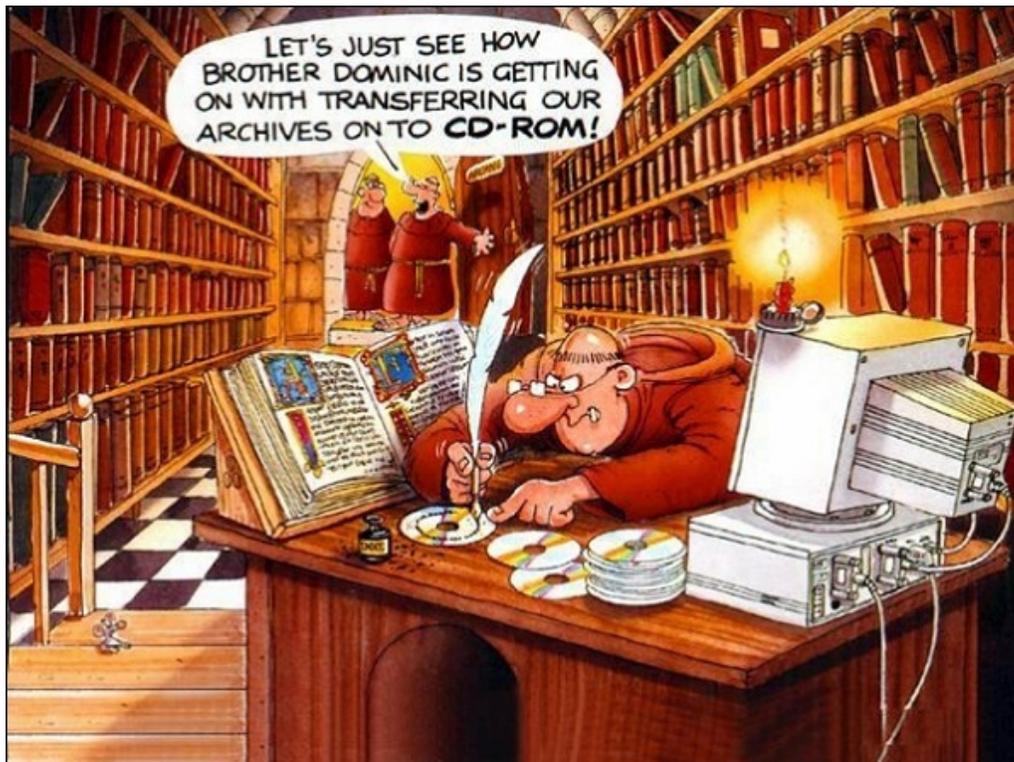


Archival Humour



From the editor – Danielle Hughes (Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul)

The new year is upon us and the CAG conference is just around the corner. I hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful holiday season and you are now gearing up for the coming year and all that it has to offer you.

As you will have noticed there are a few inserts included with this newsletter. Diane Lamoureux, CAG Secretary, has included the nomination form for the CAG chairperson position that is up for election at the end of April and the 2010 Conference Planning Committee has made available the information brochure and registration form for the CAG conference being held in London, Ontario in May.

If you happen to have some time on your hands please check out the Catholic Archivist Group's website www.catholicarchivist.ca where you can read current and past newsletters IN COLOUR and where you can download extra copies of forms you may require. A big thank you to Jo-Anne Allison for keeping our wonderful website current and up-to-date.

I would like to share with you a few words of wisdom I came across in the last little bit: Be nice to the archivist or she'll erase you from history. – Anonymous. Words to have posted near your reference desk to remind those who may try our patience now and then.

I hope to see all of you at the 2010 CAG conference!

From the Chair – Éloi DeGrâce (Archdiocese of Edmonton Archives)

“No one remembers what has happened in the past, and no one in days to come will remember what happens between now and then.”
Ecclesiastes, 1:11

Since computers and other electronic ways of communicating came into my working environment, the above quotation often came to mind.

I have two main challenges. The first one is finding the time to conserve, process, and describe for the researchers the documents that are already in our archives. The second one is difficult. I believe that one of my functions, as archivist of a Church organization, is to convince my co-workers that it is important to document our day-to-day activities that quickly constitute our recent past.

I want historians and scholars coming after me to be able to find a searchable collective memory (our archives) that will give them a good idea of who we are and what we do. Ideally, I want them to have enough good, reliable information to tell the story of the good stewards I live with.

To ensure that this happens, I try to convince my fellow workers to document well what they do for our Archdiocesan Church and the people in the pews. Our environment and institutions change all the time; my task is to engage our staff to keep track of the changes by saving documents for archives. I also decide which documents to keep among the thousands of documents for which the staff have no more daily use. In making a decision, I select not only what can be useful to me, but retain documents that researchers – all unknown to me – will be delighted to consult a hundred years from now. For them, I also leave in our collective memory souvenirs of confidential nature to us.

The next generation of researchers will be curious and have many questions for the archivists of their time. Will the documents that I have kept for them be the right ones? I wonder.

As an archivist I have taken up the challenge to find ways to gather documents on the stimulating time we live in. I do not want our generation to fall into oblivion. I want people coming after me to “remember what happens between now and then.”

From the Secretary – Diane Lamoureux (Missionary Oblates, Grandin Archives)

Greetings fellow CAG members!

As the new Secretary, I have a few reminders that I need to share with you concerning important deadlines.

- ✠ If you have not already done so, please complete your membership renewal and send the form and payment to the Treasurer (M.C. Havey) as soon as possible. If you need a copy of the form, please either print it off the CAG website or contact me directly at: secretary@catholicarchivist.ca and I will send you one.
 - In order to be eligible for the CAG Conference Travel Assistance, your 2010 membership must be in good standing as of February 28, 2010.
 - If there are any changes or corrections to your membership information that occur after you have renewed your membership, please forward it to me at: secretary@catholicarchivist.ca and I will update the directory and any mailing lists so you continue to get the newsletter and any other mailings from CAG.
- ✠ The form for nomination for the position of CAG Chairperson and the duties of the Chairperson are included in this newsletter. Éloi DeGrâce's 3 year term is coming to an end, and with our Conference being held early this year, we need to complete the election before the end of April.
- ✠ The form for CAG Conference Travel Assistance was sent to you last month, but if you need another copy, please let me know or download it from the CAG website. Again, it needs to be completed and returned to the Treasurer by March 30, 2010.

I hope to see most of you at the CAG 2010 Conference in London, Ontario, in May!

Diane Lamoureux

Chairperson Functions – Diane Lamoureux (Missionary Oblates, Grandin Archives)

The CAG Chairperson's duties are as follows:

- ▶ The chairperson is elected by members of CAG, by mail and email, at a spring election.
- ▶ The term of office is three years, renewable.
- ▶ Is a member of the Executive Committee.
- ▶ Presides at all meetings of the CAG.

- ▶ Is a member ex-officio of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.
- ▶ Prepares the agenda for meetings in consultation with members of the Executive Committee.
- ▶ Acts as a link between the CAG, the CRC and any other associations that the Executive Committee deems appropriate.

Please complete the Nomination Form if you are willing to let your name stand or if you are nominating another member for the position of Chairperson. The Nomination Forms are due back to Diane Lamoureux by March 31, 2010 at 12.00 pm (noon) via email, addressed to secretary@catholicarchivist.ca or by fax 780-459-2650.

It's time to register for the CAG 2010 Conference! – Conference Planning Committee (Debra Majer, Dominy Williams and Lori Perrie)

London has been experiencing quite a bit of snowfall over the last little while, but we anticipate much nicer weather for the 2010 CAG conference in May. As the conference is being held earlier this year, registration time is already upon us.

In your conference packages, you will find detailed information about the conference program and accommodations. Conference attendees will stay in the residences at King's University College, where we will also hold the opening reception and instructional sessions. We look forward to taking everyone on a tour of the new Sisters of St. Joseph of London residence and to the beautiful Windermere Manor for our banquet dinner.

We are honoured to have Bishop Ronald Fabbro as our keynote speaker at the banquet dinner, and Dr. Peter Meehan to open the conference. In addition, we are developing a session on RAD, and a "From the Stacks" segment, where we hope to learn about some of your facilities, and share publications to which you have contributed. As part of the registration package, please indicate whether or not you would like to be a participant in "From the Stacks."

In addition, we are planning a day trip to Stratford, Ontario, where you will have the opportunity to either attend the play *As You Like It* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, or tour the Stratford Festival Archives and Costume & Prop Warehouse.

We ask that potential conference attendees send a quick email to Lori at lperrie@csj.london.on.ca to indicate whether or not you might opt attend the play. It is okay if you change your mind at a later date, as we are only looking for a rough estimate to help with the conference planning.

We look forward to once again gathering with fellow archivists of Catholic institutions from across Canada.

Indian Residential Schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Archival Issues – Diane Lamoureux (Missionary Oblates, Grandin Archives)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has recently been in the news. New commissioners have been appointed and the first of the ‘hearings’ where former students and others will have a chance to tell their stories are being planned. There has also been some initial discussion about documents and their provision to the TRC. This will have varying degrees of impact on each of the 50+ Catholic entities that are signatories to the Settlement Agreement.

After many years of dealing with the Indian Residential School (IRS) issue, and more recently the TRC, I have some concerns that I would like to share with the rest of our group.

My first and main concern is that there has been little effort made to understand the ‘Catholic Church’. Because the ‘Catholic Church’ does not exist as a single corporate body in Canada, those involved in the process so far usually have difficulty with ‘who was responsible for what’ in the administration of the residential schools. The ‘Catholic’ picture is further complicated by the fact that in many cases, Dioceses that had some role in the administration of IRS had a Bishop who also happened to be an Oblate.

Over the years, I have had many requests from lawyers, former students, government researchers and others, about the records they think we hold on certain of these institutions. It has taken several years of research for me to gain an understanding of the ‘Catholic’ structure - I would hope that the TRC Commissioners and Researchers make some effort as well before they begin the actual research.

My second area of concern is the amount of material that may be requested and the impact it will have on small archives with few staff and little money. I want to bring up this issue in relation to two specific points listed in the Agreement.

According to the Catholic Settlement Agreement (Schedule E):

3. The Catholic Entities are **not required to give up possession of their original documents to the Commission.**
4. Each Catholic Entity shall bear the costs of the provision of documents. **If requested by the party providing the documents, the costs of copying, scanning, digitalizing, or otherwise reproducing the documents will be borne by the Commission.** (my emphasis added)

So it seems clear that the documents to be provided will be research copies, and ownership and copyright will NOT BE transferred. It is also clear that provision is made to cover the costs of providing the material should it be necessary.

The work of producing copies for the TRC will, in some cases, be very time-consuming and potentially very expensive. Based on my experience from disclosure for the litigation process, there may be a number of steps:

- Creating and verifying the copy
- Stamping or marking every document (and maybe every page) with the source archives and the material location information (accession, etc.), as well as a copyright stamp on many of the documents.

I assume that, as in the disclosure of documents for the litigation process, a list of documents will also have to be compiled and provided. Depending on the amount of material requested this whole process could take months, if not years to complete. In many Catholic archives, staffing is limited to one person, often part-time.

It is not yet clear if copies of all records relating to the IRS or only the most essential will be requested. It is also not clear if all the records disclosed will be housed in the proposed Research Centre. Instead of trying to create an unmanageable 'Research Collection', I believe it would be much easier to focus only on the most relevant, and for the rest, to create a common electronic finding aid, accessible through a web interface, that will point researchers to the appropriate facility for additional documentation. This would also help deal with my next concern.

That is the issue of access conditions as they may apply to the copies provided. This includes the issues of copyright and privacy on materials. While the indication is that Federal Privacy laws will be applied, this may not be enough. I believe it is only right that any and all access conditions we have on our records be applied to the copies in this 'Research Centre'. However, I am doubtful that staff at the proposed Research Centre will be able or willing to match these conditions.

Finally, there are some types of documents that I feel should not be provided to the TRC for the Research Centre – these include the following:

- Personnel files of members of the Congregation;
- Records created for the individual houses of the Congregation (which may be collocated with a school);
- Records covered by Canon Law – especially Sacramental Registers.

My main concern is with the idea of copies of them being provided to, and made publicly available in an outside Research Facility.

I hope that the various Catholic archivists involved with IRS and the TRC, can get together to discuss these and other issues and to develop a common approach to dealing with the upcoming challenges.

I welcome your comments and questions.

For those of you not familiar with the issue, the main website for the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement is located at: <http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca/English.html> .

As well, the text of the Settlement Agreement between the Queen and the Catholic Entities is located at: http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca/Schedule_O-3.pdf .

Sharing Scenes of Kingston’s Catholic Archives – Rodney Carter (St. Joseph Region Archives of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph)

Every month, the Kingston Historical Society gathers in the Kingston Frontenac Public Library to listen to professional and amateur historians present their research on people, places and events of notes from Kingston’s past. After the March 2009 meeting, the idea was put forward to use a future meeting to showcase the visual holdings from some of the area’s archives to build greater awareness of the rich resources available in the historians’ back yard. On November 18th, 2009, the event took place under the title “Scenes of Early Kingston and Area.”

Danielle Hughes, was invited to showcase the holdings of the Archives of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul in Kingston and I was asked to share some of photographs of interest from St. Joseph Region Archives of the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph. Also invited to participate in this even were archivists from the Queen’s University Archives and from the Lennox and Addington County Archives. Both Danielle and I were very pleased to have the opportunity to share a small sample of our holdings with the Historical Society who have been exposed to very little Catholic History in recent years. By introducing ourselves, our institutions, and our holdings, we hoped to spark some interest in rich history the RHSJs and Sisters of Providence have in the area.

With limited time, Danielle and I have the difficult task of selecting only a few items to discuss. Danielle focused on the evolution of the House of Providence and Heathfield properties, buildings which are highly recognizable to Kingston residents but not much is known about the history of these places. She also showcased photographs of Sisters of Providence working in the field of their large property, describing the important role the community’s farm has played.



HDHK-228 - Hotel Dieu Hospital Kingston - Operating Room, showing Sister St. Michael (Florence Morton) and anaesthesiologist Dr. JE Kane (192-?)

In my time allotted, I showed three photographs of the Kingston Hotel Dieu Hospital Community from around 1893, describing the different ranks of Religious depicted and remarking on the different habits worn by different members of the community. I also showed a series of architectural drawings and photographs of the “modern” surgical theatre added to the hospital in 1899.

The response to our presentation was positive and we enjoyed the opportunity to share a few images from our collection with local historians. Hopefully the evening fostered a greater interest in, and understanding of, local Catholic history.

Next Newsletter Printing – Danielle Hughes, editor

Hear ye Hear ye!! The printing of the May newsletter will be postponed until June 2010 in order to be able to incorporate the May conference. For those of you who are unable to make the CAG 2010 London conference or for those of you hoping to see your picture in print, keep an eye out for the May newsletter arriving in June. This postponement will also provide you with more time to submit a wonderful article to be published.

Publication Schedule

The newsletter is published three times a year:

- February** (*deadline January 15*)
- May** (*deadline April 15*)
- December** (*deadline November 15*)

Please email your news items, articles and photographs to Danielle Hughes at archives@providence.ca . Please keep text to less than 500 words if possible. All submissions will be subject to editing; however final approval from the author will be obtained whenever possible.

Catholic Archivist Group Executive – Contact Information

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