

100 Years of Charity: The Archives and Catholic Charities USA Collaborate on Centennial Celebration

By Maria Mazzenga

In 1910 the National Conference of Catholic Charities (NCCC) was founded on the campus of Catholic University to address the needs of the more than 16 million Catholics in the United States. Many of those individuals required a variety of social services that were provided by a vast unorganized network of about 800 Catholic charitable institutions, which provided care to the destitute, children, the sick, and the elderly, among others. Holding their first national meeting on the campus of CUA in September 1910, members of the fledgling conference affirmed the need to gather the charitable network into an organization that could coordinate activities.

Over the next 100 years the NCCC, renamed Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) in 1986, expanded into a network serving more than 9 million people of multiple faiths, advocating for poverty reduction, creating networking and partnership opportunities among members and other organizations committed to social justice, and training and supporting charitable workers. Catholic Charities USA is a thriving organization that has expanded far beyond the founders' vision. In commemoration of its centennial, more than 1,000 representatives from local Catholic Charities agencies, as well as partner organizations and other advocates for social justice, gathered in Washington, D.C., this past September.

As its records holder, the Archives worked with CCUSA staff on several projects aimed at recognizing the history of the organization on the occasion of the centennial. Education Archivist Maria Mazzenga and Student Assistant Joanna Lamb created two websites, one a general histor-

ical site titled "100 Years of Catholic Charity: An Illustrated History of the National Conference of Catholic Charity/Catholic Charities USA" and a second specifically themed educational site, "The National Conference of Catholic Charities and the Social Security Act of 1935." The educational site can be found at <http://archives.lib.cua.edu/education/ccusa/index.cfm>.

Mazzenga also created a photo display of CCUSA images reflecting key moments in the organization's history. The photos were exhibited at the conference gathering at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center on September 25. Drawing from records housed at the Archives, CCUSA published a collection of scholarly articles on the history of Catholic Charities, titled "Catholic Charities USA: 100 Years at the Intersection of Charity and Justice" and edited by Rev. J. Bryan Hehir. Finally, Mazzenga is editing the memoirs of Monsignor John O'Grady, the influential secretary of CCUSA from 1920 to 1961.

Photo: NCCC/CCUSA Collection, CUA Archives



First National Conference of Catholic Charities, McMahon Hall, CUA, 1910

Photo courtesy of NCCC/CCUSA



CCUSA Centennial Conference attendees, McMahon Hall, CUA, 2010

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A Note from the Archivist: Is Anyone Out There?

By Timothy Meagher, Ph.D.

We have an exceptional archives here at Catholic University. Little wonder — for years we have had an exceptionally dedicated, professional, and talented staff.

We have now 80 fully searchable detailed finding aids on our website for many of our most important collections. We have digitized hundreds of documents, ranging from American Catholic comic books from the 1950s aimed at the nation's millions of parochial school students to the letters of 19th-century Irish American conspirators planning the overthrow of British rule in Ireland. Uniquely for an archives our size, we have created an elaborate and extensive educational outreach website, "The American Catholic History Classroom," which provides school-teachers with digitized documents, lesson plans, bibliographies, and short histories on topics in American Catholic history ranging from the Catholic Church's response to the rise of Nazism in Germany to Catholic progressives and the concept of the living wage. Our photographic collections have never been more accessible; indeed, few archives anywhere of our size have made information on so much of their photo collection available online. And we offer a wide range of services to university offices seeking to retrieve their own records. All of this work has been done to the highest level of contemporary, professional archival standards.

Yet, as I returned from a year on sabbatical, I wondered whether

it was time to ask: To what end? How well is this all working? How well are we serving our users, and are there users we are not serving that we could and should be? And then, how do we serve them?

In our quest to answer those questions we have already instituted new recordkeeping policies to track more closely the use of our many collections. We have begun to plan a survey of our researchers and university users. We have started using Google Analytics to research users of our online resources. And we have begun compiling a database of Catholic high school and Catholic college and university teachers of American history as the first step in trying to find the teachers who use our educational websites and discover others who might be potential users of those sites. We hope to inform them on a regular basis about new additions, updates, and features on the site. Yet we also want to know what the users and potential users want on those sites.

Anticipating some of the results from all these activities, we have begun a close look at how we arrange and describe our collections online. We have also begun to explore new interactive techniques that might permit researchers to join in the description of those collections.

But this is just the beginning, and we look forward to the many changes and challenges ahead.

Photo: Amalraj Savari



Archives staff, from left: Robin C. Pike, Sarah Rice Scott, Maria Mazzenga, W. John Shepherd, Timothy Meagher, Jane Stoeffler, and Leslie Knoblauch

Manuscript Collection Update: A Banner Year for New Finding Aids

By W. John Shepherd

Photo: Bruce M. Mohler Papers, CUA Archives



Photo: Bruce M. Mohler Papers, CUA Archives



The Archives is pleased to announce the addition of 15 new online finding aids for manuscript collections at <http://archives.lib.cua.edu/findingaid/index.cfm>.

W. John Shepherd completed online finding aids for the papers of CUA history professors Leo Francis Stock, Charles H. McCarthy, and John K. Zeender, as well as for local pastor Thomas Sim Lee. In addition, he completed finding aids for the papers of church liturgist Frederick McManus and the records of Catholic Charities USA. Shepherd is currently working on finding aids for the records of Family and Child Services of Washington, D.C., as well as an update to the one for Catholic Charities USA records.

Shepherd supervised several student workers in their completion of finding aids. Mary Zito completed a finding aid for the papers of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen (<http://archives.lib.cua.edu/findingaid/sheen.cfm>) and Wes Bush completed a finding aid for the Autographes des cardinaux collection (<http://archives.lib.cua.edu/findingaid/cardinaux.cfm>). Lauren Kanne created finding aids for the papers of William J. Kerby and the William J. Kerby Foundation.

Outgoing Graduate Library Professional Eben Dennis completed a finding aid for the papers of National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC) immigration official Bruce Mohler and began work on one for the papers of CUA social work professor Dorothy Mohler. Bruce Mohler is most notably known as the director of the NCWC's Department of Immigration, a position

he held from the department's inception in 1920, as the Bureau of Immigration, until his appointment as director emeritus shortly before his death in 1967. His service for Catholic immigrants, both domestically and abroad with the War Relief Services, focused on handling thousands of cases pertaining to immigration, emigration, deportation, naturalization, and citizenship.

In addition to these finding aids, Shepherd also supervised 18 School of Library and Information Science practicum students in the creation of further inventories. They surveyed the papers of the Mohler Family, sociologist Dean Hoge, international Catholic activist Luis Dolan, theology professor Rev. Joseph Komonchak, and CUA administrator James Magner. They created finding aids for the collections of French World War I chaplain Leon Dubois, 1968 *Humanae Vitae* controversy priests Rev. Joseph Byron and Rev. Shane MacCarthy, the NCWC Health Affairs Department, the papers of labor activist Jules Weinberg, church historian Monsignor John Tracy Ellis, filmmaker John Villers Farrow, and the records of the Daughters of Isabella and the Leadership Council of Catholic Laity/American Catholic Lay Network. They also updated the existing finding aid for the records of the National Catholic Educational Association.

The photos above are from the Bruce M. Mohler Papers showing immigrant families and children arriving at Ellis Island.

Photo: Society of St. Vincent de Paul Collection, CUA Archives



St. Vincent de Paul entrusting found children to the Daughters of Charity.

New Collections

By W. John Shepherd

This past year was very active in terms of collecting, with more than a dozen new manuscript collections. Among the more significant was the acquisition of over 100 linear feet of records of the notable national Catholic charitable organization the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP), spanning 1853 to 2006. They consist of correspondence, alphabetical subject files, meeting minutes, financial records, printed material, photos, and other audiovisual material. The Archives also received more than 200 linear feet of material, both paper and audiovisual, from the now defunct Office of Film and Broadcasting (OFB), formerly the Legion of Decency, of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bulk of the OFB materials are alphabetical subject files regarding the broad spectrum of reviewed commercial films, dated from about 1962 to 2008. The audiovisual items span the 1960s to 1980s, and are in formats such as 16-mm films, VHS, and U-Matic videotapes of programs.

Other important newcomers were papers from nursing faculty Loretta Heidgerken, theology professor and Vatican II historian Rev. Joseph Komonchak, former university president Bishop David M. O'Connell, married priest and Episcopalian convert Rev. James Parker, canon law professor Rev. James Provost, and 1950s labor activist Jules Weinberg. In addition, there were the diaries of theologian Monsignor Joseph Fenton and audiovisual items from Tom Whelan, CUA alumnus from the class of 1933.

On the Web: CUA Archives New Web Page

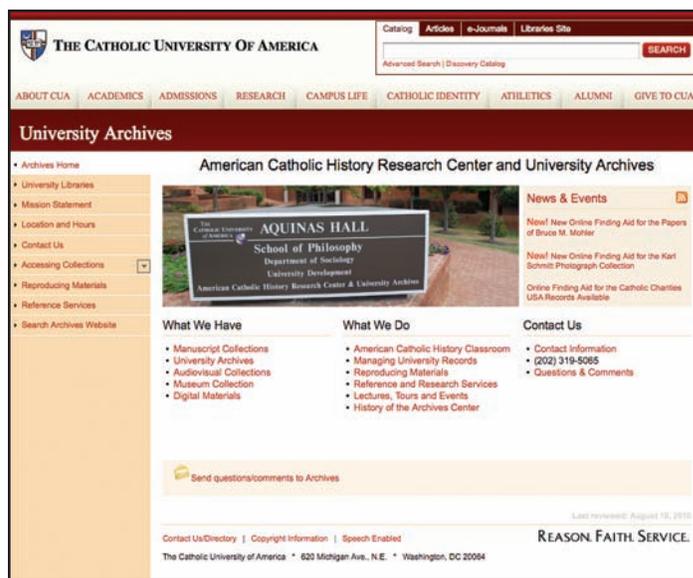
By Robin C. Pike

If you have visited the Archives website recently, you may have noticed quite a few changes. Over the last year, the entire university website was redesigned, which led to the redesign of the university libraries Web pages. Shanyun Zhang, head of electronic services, and Jonathan Smith, electronic services librarian, redesigned the Archives website, integrating it more fully into the university library's website, with a uniform header and various search tabs at the top. Within the Archives site, the content has remained largely unchanged, though the layout has been updated. The left side of each page contains navigation tabs that will take users to important service and contact information.

Our new Web address has changed to <http://archives.lib.cua.edu/default.cfm>.

With the update of the entire Archives website, a new section has been created relating to our audiovisual collections, <http://archives.lib.cua.edu/audiovisual/index.cfm>. These pages reflect the growing collections and series of audiovisual materials. The pages are divided into university materials, the largest of which are the CUA University Photographic Collection, the Athletics Audiovisual Series, and the Public Affairs Audiovisual Series; materials from manuscript collections; and alumni collections.

We plan to continue to create additional content in the upcoming year to better serve our university and external users, including new information about the management of university records, and expanding the American Catholic History Classroom.



New Archives home page

Behind the Scenes: Audiovisual Collections

By Robin C. Pike

In 2009 the Archives and the CUA Benjamin T. Rome School of Music librarians agreed to find and accession all school of music recordings located outside the Archives. As a result, in 2010, the Archives received from the school many photographs and thousands of audio recordings.

The School of Music recordings hold a rich aural history of the school — Aaron Copland conducting premieres of his works performed by CUA ensembles; Emerson Myers performing several recitals of his electronic music compositions; and most of the large student ensemble concerts from the 1950s to the 1990s. Most of the doctoral and some of the master's candidate recitals from that time span are also included in this large collection. The goal of the Archives is to promote and disseminate this collection.

Photo: Robin C. Pike



Audio reels ready to be digitized.

Once the materials were compiled in the Archives, the Audio Visual Archivist Robin C. Pike managed several graduate students from the School of Library and Information Science to catalog the materials. All of the records, nearly one third of the open reels, and some of the cassettes have been cataloged. For the thousands of unique recordings this cataloging process will take many additional semesters. Once completed, however, the information will be used to create the catalog for a future digital collection.

Photo: Leslie Knoblauch



Robin C. Pike digitizing an audio reel.

To disseminate this collection online the recordings must be digitized. Previously, all audio had to be digitized off-campus by vendors but in the summer of 2009, two new computers were acquired with new digitization software. In 2010, the audio visual archivist, with the help of the music librarians, cleaned, repaired, and acquired old audio equipment to help with the production of digital files. An additional large-format reel player was acquired from outside the university at no cost. Currently, the Archives can digitize vinyl records, 7-inch open audio reels, 10 ½-inch open audio reels, audio cassettes, and DAT cassettes. The set-up allows the digitization of one format at a time, and though we cannot provide mass digitization services for very large collections, we can provide digitization upon request.

Because of the notable progress of audio digitization in the CUA Archives, Pike was asked to give a presentation on audio preservation and digitization at the library consortium's preservation forum in April. The CUA Archives is one of the few universities in the Washington Research Library Consortium with the equipment and staff to perform in-house digitization on select audio formats. Currently, we are leading the consortium in audio digitization and standards. Pike is collaborating with the eight consortium libraries to create a digitization plan to create a cooperative digitization service.

A Busy Year for Exhibitions

By Leslie Knoblauch

This year, the Archives curated four exhibitions on CUA's campus.

The most prominent exhibition, "Fine Lines: Discovering Rembrandt and Other Old Masters at Catholic University," featured an original Rembrandt print found on campus and was managed by Leslie Knoblauch, records management archivist. The exhibition was installed in the May Gallery in Mullen Library from January to May 2010. Bishop David M. O'Connell showed the Rembrandt piece to Knoblauch in 2009. CUA doctoral student Paul Wesley Bush, a student worker in the Archives, came up with the idea to create an exhibition around the piece so that the CUA community could see it. Bush was interested in having students involved with the exhibition and proposed having students create their own artwork in response to the piece. Knoblauch coordinated with the Department of Art for the creation of a student art competition and response show, which was installed in Salve Regina Hall.

Prior to leaving his post as president of Catholic University, Bishop O'Connell influenced the creation of another exhibition with his idea for highlighting treasures from the CUA museum collection that had not been displayed before. Thus in June 2010 the Archives opened an exhibition titled "Treasures From Our Attic," installed in the lobby of Mullen Library from June to August 2010. The exhibit contained a range of items, including a CUA land deed signed by abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, as well as religious carvings and statues.

In September the Archives looked toward Homecoming festivities and installed an exhibition in Mullen Library titled "Portal to the Past: Reflections of Student Life." The exhibition displayed items such as dinks, pins, pennants, scrapbooks, and photographs from Catholic University alumni who attended the university between 1915 and 1959. Robin C. Pike, audio visual archivist, developed the idea for the exhibit while working with donors who were transferring CUA memorabilia to the Archives. This exhibit will remain on display through the end of January 2011.

Photo: Leslie Knoblauch



CUA beanie, photographs, and banner on display as part of alumni-themed exhibition.



Roman coin depicting Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.–14 A.D.).



Roman coins from the coin collection.

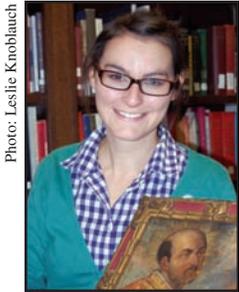
The CUA Coin Collection: A Teaching Tool

By W. John Shepherd

The CUA coin collection contains nearly 2,000 pieces primarily from ancient Greece, Rome, and Byzantium, but also medieval and modern specimens, including coins from western Europe, Persia, and China. It is made up of contributions from several donors, including Claudio Jannet (1844–1894), a professor of economics at Paris; Monsignor Henri Hyvernat; and Amelia Steinhauer.

A preliminary inventory to the collection was created in the mid 1970s by archivist George Hruneni. In 1991, library director Adele Chwalek arranged the transfer of the coins from acidic envelopes and boxes to polyethylene sleeves housed in a series of binders to facilitate their use as teaching tools for courses in classics and ancient and medieval history. During fall 2010 there were two university classes that used the coin collection. The first was a Numismatic Workshop (CLAS 321/521) organized by Professor William Klingshirn that met on several occasions in the Archives reading room. In addition, the students came in for hands-on work with coins that had been specially selected according to time periods such as late Roman Republic or early Roman Empire. The students examined and weighed the coins and consulted reference tools to refine or add to our current descriptions. In early November Professor Jennifer Davis of the Department of History and her class on The Carolingian Empire visited the Archives to view three Carolingian coins that may date from the 9th century. She and Professor Klingshirn are in agreement that one of these could be from the reign of Louis the Pius (814–840). Professor Davis believes the other two may date from the reign of Odo (888–898).

Introducing New Staff Member: Sarah Rice



This fall, the Archives welcomed Sarah Rice as our new graduate library pre-professional (GLP) student from the CUA School of Library and Information Science. She is from North Carolina where she grew up in the Charlotte area. She spent the last nine years in Raleigh, N.C. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in religion and a minor in French from North Carolina

State University. She has a master's degree in public history also from North Carolina State. Sarah Rice spent her freshman year of college at the American University of Paris studying art history before she transferred to North Carolina State University. She is a member of the Society of North Carolina Archives and served on the Archives Week Committee for three years. She served as the reference archivist at the North Carolina State Archives for two years, and prior to that she was a university library technician for two years at North Carolina State University Special Collections Research Center.

When asked what drew her to the archival field, Sarah Rice said that she has a profound interest in the issues surrounding what history is saved and by whom. She replied, "This is why I'm in this business, to preserve original documents so we don't forget." She says that one of her main goals for applying for the GLP program was to gain solid professional experience. She feels that the GLP experience "will really help me out in the future. I'm definitely interested in outreach and instruction, so hopefully I'll move in that direction."

As an undergraduate and graduate student she wanted to work in museums. Her interests turned to libraries when her first professional job out of graduate school was in a library. She feels that the degree from CUA's SLIS program will provide her with the necessary technical skills required to work as a professional in the library field. She also chose to come to the CUA SLIS program because it is in D.C. As she explained, "Before I got my first master's degree I was interested in D.C. It's like when I went to Paris to study art history and European cultural studies, to come here to study cultural heritage and archives — there's just so much opportunity here."

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We offer three ways for you to tell us how we're doing.

1. Visit us and take our in-house survey, or
2. Take our survey wherever you may be <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LKDV69Z>, or
3. Fill in the brief survey below, cut it out, and mail it to us at:

The Catholic University of America
The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives
Washington, DC 20064

How did you learn about our collections?

- Internet/Google Search
- Main library catalog
- Bibliographic Citation
- Word of Mouth
- Other (please specify) _____

If you have used our resources, what was the nature of your research? Please check all that apply.

- Ph.D./Dissertation work
- I am a faculty/staff member of CUA
- I am a CUA alum
- Genealogical research
- D.C./Brookland research
- Writing a book/article
- Research for a class
- Other (please specify) _____

What sort of information/specific collections would you like to see more of?

Please rate your level of satisfaction with your interaction with our staff and our level of service.

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent



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