

New Web Sites at the American Catholic History Classroom

By Maria Mazzenga, Education Archivist

University Archives' American Catholic History Classroom is a primary document Web site created at the archives featuring a range of materials related to topics on the American Catholic experience. Aimed at both educators and researchers, the classroom currently has nine Web sites on a range of topics that can be fit into existing curricula. The sites feature between 20 and 40 primary documents and photographs, with background information sections written by educators and historians, chronologies, bibliographies, and other resources that help educators and students make sense of the materials in historical context.

We are pleased to announce the posting of two new Web sites to the American Catholic History Classroom site this year.

"Catholics and Politics: Charles Coughlin, John Ryan, and the 1936 Presidential Campaign" features more than 50 documents as well as photos and audio from the archives and other collections related to the involvement of Father Coughlin and Father Ryan in the tumultuous Franklin Delano Roosevelt campaign of 1936. Father Coughlin, a former Roosevelt supporter who became an outspoken critic of the president during the 1936 campaign, actively crusaded against him in the months before the election. Roosevelt retained the vocal support of other prominent Catholics, such as Father Ryan, a CUA professor whose papers are housed at the archives. This Web site features previously unavailable audio and documents from our collections related to Coughlin, Ryan and the presidential campaign of 1936.

Continuing with the election theme, our second new site, "Pettigrew for President and the *Treasure Chest*," features the full run of the 10-issue *Treasure Chest* comic book series on the fictional attempt of Governor Tim Pettigrew to secure the nomination of his party in the 1976 election. Two things make the Pettigrew series historically exceptional: First, Tim Pettigrew was an African American running for president, and in fact, gained the nomination from a major political party. Second, it was set in 1964, a year when African Americans experienced intense discrimination at all societal levels. In addition to the digitized series, this site contains background information on the civil rights movement, *Treasure Chest* creators Berry Reece and Joe Sinnott, an interview with Reece, and other related materials.

Photo courtesy of CUA University Photographic Collection, ACUA



The Roosevelts visit CUA in 1933 where they met with Rev. James Hugh Ryan, rector of the university.

The sites can be found at:

Catholics and Politics

http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/politics/1936_wel.html

Pettigrew for President

http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/PFP/PFP_Intro.html

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A Note from the Archivist: Stability and Accomplishment

By W. John Shepherd, Associate Archivist

The past year has been one of stability and accomplishment. For the first time in several years, there were no staff departures, contributing to a more cohesive team spirit as we work to serve the university and our researchers. While it is true that University Archivist Timothy Meagher has been on sabbatical since last August, he is never far and we look forward to his return next August.

With the university now fully funding all but two of our staff positions, the archives reached a degree of financial stability last year, and outreach has been at a premium. Archivists Timothy Meagher and Maria Mazzenga gave presentations at various conferences nationally. Mazzenga also worked with staff members such as Leslie Knoblauch and Robin Pike to give presentations to CUA classes, and with me, John Shepherd, to conduct general tours and direct projects for practicum students. With help from

Eben Dennis and student workers, I produced several new online finding aids, and with Robin Pike was involved in the creation of two new digital collections. Mazzenga also produced new teaching Web sites. Staff assisted with print and Web news releases and articles, particularly in regard to CUA's 1938 anti-Nazi radio broadcast and the *Treasure Chest* comic book. Staff members were also involved in numerous physical or Web exhibits, most important of which was done by Leslie Knoblauch and Robin Pike on several versions of an exhibit honoring the 2008 papal visit to CUA. Jane Stoeffler was greatly supportive in all these efforts, especially in conducting the Religious Archives Institute this past summer. Finally, Meagher directed the staff in two grant-writing efforts, one of which was awarded while decision on the other is pending.

ACUA Staff



Photo: Amalaraj Savari

Archives staff, from left, back row: Robin Pike, Eben Dennis, Maria Mazzenga; front row: Jane Stoeffler, Leslie Knoblauch, and John Shepherd

Photo: Jordan Party



Timothy Meagher in the University Archives

Photo: Tony Fiorini



Timothy Meagher with Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M.

An Interview with the University Archivist

By Maria Mazzenga, Education Archivist

Timothy Meagher, Ph.D., university archivist, is on sabbatical this academic year. Here he discusses the work he'll be engaged in during that time.

How long will you be on sabbatical?

My sabbatical lasts from roughly Aug. 20, 2009, through Aug. 20, 2010.

What motivated you to take a sabbatical?

I have a contract from Yale University Press to write a general history of the Irish in America. It will be 320 pages in length. The history begins in the late 16th century, in the 1580s, when the first Irishmen came to the Americas, and concludes in this century with Ted Kennedy's recent passing. The book will have six illustrated chapters.

Will you be traveling during your sabbatical?

No, I'll be going to Georgetown University and George Washington University to use their sources, and I can walk to those places.

Are you looking forward to it?

I am looking forward to it. It's daunting but fun. Every day is a new adventure. Right now I'm working on the 1930s, so I've been thinking about Irish-American congressmen and the minimum wage bill of 1938; the anti-lynching bills of 1937; John Ford and

his 1930s films, such as *Stagecoach* and *Grapes of Wrath*; Irish-American religious life; and the Catholic Youth Organizations, which started in the 1930s.

What will this book offer that will make it different from books already published on the Irish in America?

The book will look more comprehensively at Irish Americans in the 20th century than other books on this subject. It will examine how the Irish adapted to U.S. democracy, and offer new perspectives on migration chains and networks. It will present unique viewpoints on the Irish-American experience as compared to the Irish-Canadian, Irish-British, Irish-Australian.

How many books have you written?

I've written four books, this will be my fifth.

From Paddy to Studs: Irish American Communities in the Turn of the Century Era, 1880 to 1920 (1986)

The New York Irish (1996), edited with Ronald Bayor

Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880 to 1928 (2001)

The Columbia Guide to Irish American History (2005)

Sojourn in the Stacks: Twenty Years in the Archives

By Leslie Knoblauch, Records Management Archivist

William John Shepherd, associate archivist, began his career at University Archives in December 1989. Shepherd grew up in Cherry Tree, Pa. He received a B.A. in history from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, with minors in German and International Studies, and an M.A. in European history. Shepherd moved to the D.C. area in 1988 and began working as a research intern at the Maryland State Archives, which led him to apply for a position at the Catholic University archives.

Shepherd's first position at University Archives was manuscripts processor. At that time, the archives had two locations: John K. Mullen of Denver Memorial Library and an annex in Theological College (TC). Shepherd was responsible for arranging and describing the archival collections stored in TC, specifically the National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC), Catholic Charities USA, and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

Shepherd's responsibilities have changed throughout his career at CUA. From December 1989 to August 1991 he was a part-time manuscripts processor, becoming a full-time manuscripts processor in September 1991. With the departure of University Archivist Anthony Zito, Shepherd was acting archivist from September 1994 to August 1995. When Timothy Meagher became university archivist in September 1995, Shepherd became assistant archivist. In 2002 Shepherd stepped into his current position of associate archivist. Contemplating his changing responsibilities Shepherd says, "My core function of being a processing archivist, which I still fill to some extent, expanded greatly over the years to include managerial functions such as writing annual reports, hiring and supervising staff and student workers, budget planning, collection building, maintaining the storage system, and editing our Web page for content. There has also been the addition of educational functions such as conducting tours, speaking to classes, and directing practicum students."

Reflecting on his favorite projects, Shepherd says, "Completing collection finding aids, originally in typescript but now online, is always satisfying, though successfully managing, along with Tim Meagher, the move and consolidation of the archives to Aquinas Hall in 2001 was my favorite project and perhaps greatest accomplishment." His goals for the archives include obtaining additional storage space, completing more finding aids, establishing an audio

Photo: Leslie Knoblauch



Shepherd at home in the stacks with a framed poster from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

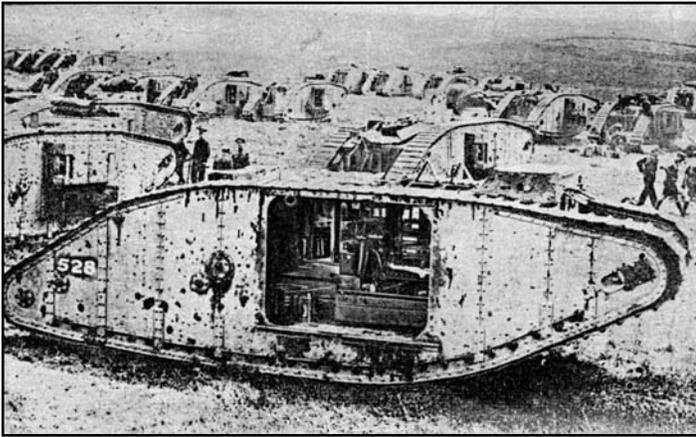
visual lab, having a records management plan for electronic records and funding new staff positions.

Shepherd's advice for aspiring archivists is, "Get double master's degrees, one in history and the other in library science. The former will help you to place collections in their proper historical context and the latter will build your technical skills."

Manuscript Collection Update

By W. John Shepherd, Associate Archivist

Photo courtesy of the Robert L. O'Connell Papers, ACUA



Postcard of American Tanks, 1918, O'Connell Papers

University Archives is very pleased to announce the addition of online finding aids for eight important manuscript collections, as well as notable progress toward completing finding aids for five other collections.

W. John Shepherd completed an online finding aid for the papers of United Mine Workers President John Mitchell at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/mitchell.html>.

A significant portion of the papers was microfilmed in the 1970s, and the photograph series had been digitized online more recently at <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/mitchell/mitchell.shtml> but there was no complete finding aid available until now. He

also posted an item-level finding aid for the papers of World War I soldier Robert L. O'Connell at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/oconnell.html> that includes individual links to the digital version of the collection at <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/oconnell/oconnell.shtml>.

Publication of an article about O'Connell's military service by Shepherd is pending by *Potomac Catholic Heritage* magazine.

Shepherd also supervised the completion of finding aids by staff and student workers for six other important collections, including the First Vatican Council photographs by A/V Archivist Robin Pike at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/vat1album.html>, which is also a digital collection at <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/vatican/vatican.shtml>; the papers of labor priest George Higgins and social activist John Cort by Graduate Library Pre-professional (GLP) Eben Dennis at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/higginsfa.html> and <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/cort.html>, respectively; the papers of priest historian Peter Guilday and the Second Vatican Council collection of James Norris by student worker Paul W. Bush at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/guilday.html> and <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/norris.html>, respectively; and the Second Vatican Council collection of Ernest Primeau by student worker Mary Zito at <http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/primeau.html>.

In addition, there are five finding aids nearing completion. These include Shepherd's work on the papers of CUA historians Leo F. Stock, Charles H. McCarthy and John K. Zeender, as well as students working on the Second Vatican Council collections of Luigi Ligutti and *The Cardinaux Italiens et Francais Autographes*.

University Archives Launches The Tower Archive Online Project

In an effort to preserve *The Tower*, our campus student newspaper, and make it easily accessible to researchers, alumni and the general public, University Archives has worked with Olive Software to digitize the microfilm versions of the newspaper and post them online. The Tower Archive Online is now available to researchers and the general public. The Tower Archive Online includes the very first edition of *The Tower* dated Oct. 27, 1922, and continues through the May 6, 2003, edition.

The Tower Archive Online project was initiated in December 2007 in a discussion between Leslie Knoblauch, the records management archivist, and Ryan Reilly and Ben Newell, previous editors of *The Tower*. In addition to Knoblauch, Reilly and Newell, the project involved Steve Connaghan, the director of library administration; Shanyun Zhang, the head of electronic services; Bill Kules, assistant professor in CUA's School of Library and Information Science; Betsy Homan, the former treasurer of the Student Association General Assembly; and Suzanne Picken from the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC).

To view The Tower Archive Online go to <http://tower.lib.cua.edu>.

Photo courtesy of The Tower Collection, ACUA

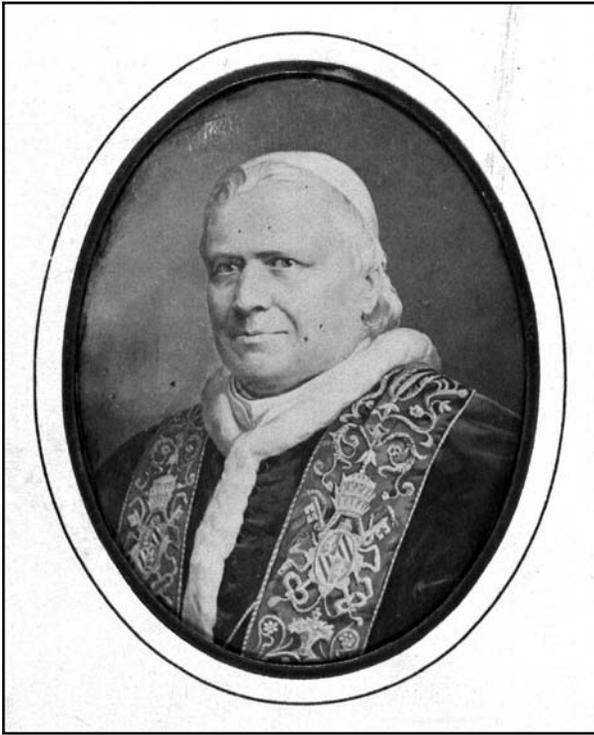


The header used in *The Tower* from an edition dated November 11, 1949.

The First Vatican Council Photograph Album Digital Collection

By Robin C. Pike, Audio Visual Archivist

Photos courtesy of The First Vatican Council Photograph Album Digital Collection, ACUA



Pope Pius IX



Attendee wearing a klobuk

St. Paul's College donated the First Vatican Council Photograph Album to University Archives in 2005. The album consists of 30 pages and contains 731 albumen prints of the attendees during the 1869–1870, nine-month sessions of the Vatican Council I. The prints feature Pope Pius IX, cardinals, patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, abbots and religious superior generals. Most of the prints were produced from live subjects; handwritten notes below each print identify the attendees. While albumen *carte de visite* prints were common during the 1860s and 1870s, producing a project at this scale was rare as the process was very expensive.

The album provides a unique photographic history of Catholic leaders in the late 19th century. It contains the only existent portrait of many attendees, especially those from the Eastern dioceses. The album also supplies important documentation of formal ecclesiastical dress of the century: some Catholic leaders in the Middle Eastern areas wear turbans, while Eastern-Rite bishops wear the kamilavka or klobuk.

The oversized album is in relatively good condition, though the front cover is detached. The leather binding is mostly intact, the gold leaf detailing and gilded page edges have retained much of their original luster, and most of the albumen prints have little

fading. A professional appraiser discovered it to be the only immediately known copy of the album in the world.

Based on the album's uniqueness, value and condition, University Archives decided to create a digital version. Robin Pike, audio visual archivist, created a finding aid for the album and sent the digital images and appropriate text to the Washington Research Library Consortium which produced the digital collection. The digital version became available online in May 2009.

Requests, including international requests, have increased dramatically since the digital album went online. To coincide with the 160th anniversary of the Vatican Council I sessions, University Archives hosted a lecture and reception for the First Vatican Council Photograph Album on Dec. 9, 2009. University Archives hopes the digital collection will prove useful to many researchers.

Finding Aid:

<http://libraries.cua.edu/achrcua/vat1album.html>

Digital Collection:

<http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/vatican/vatican.shtml>

The University Archives Partners with Catholic Charities USA

University Archives staff are involved in several projects to commemorate the Catholic Charities USA founding centennial, which falls in September 2010. Maria Mazzenga is at work constructing two Web sites drawing from the Catholic Charities USA records, which are housed at University Archives. One site will feature selected key documents from the collection illustrative of the charities' broader history. The other, envisioned as part of the American Catholic History Classroom Web site that targets high school and college level teachers and students, will more tightly focus on the work of Catholic Charities Secretary, Monsignor John O'Grady, and the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, an act that O'Grady publicly opposed. The archives is part of the Catholic Social Action Access Project: A Collaborative Project of Marquette University, The Catholic University of America, St. Catherine's University, and the Catholic Research Resources Alliance. The project has received a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in the amount of \$149,964. The archives will process the Catholic Charities, Washington, D.C., records as part of the project. Other projects include a photo display and the publication of Monsignor O'Grady's memoir of his years as head of Catholic Charities (1921-1960).

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"How May I Help You?"

By Jane Stoeffler, Administrative Assistant

When I was asked to write a piece to reflect on my five years of service at the Catholic University Archives, I found I could not believe that much time had passed already and what an incredible learning experience they have turned out to be. Of course, I have performed my day-to-day administrative office duties, but the largest and most rewarding part of my job has been assisting our researchers with their reference questions. While the contact methods vary, be it via the telephone, e-mail or letter, or in person, each inquiry not only allows me to assist our patrons, but provides a learning experience for me as well.

Photo: Leslie Knoblauch



Jane Stoeffler fielding an archives reference request.

Although a handful of patrons still contact us by letter or telephone, the bulk of our written requests arrive to me via e-mail. I am able to devote more individual attention to these requests, allowing me to provide a more comprehensive reply for them. Being able to thoroughly delve into and investigate as many of our resources as possible is personally enriching and makes me more familiar with our collections. This proves to be particularly

helpful if I receive similar requests in the future.

Local and architectural histories are both subjects of personal interest to me. As we function as a Catholic history research center, we also house the archives of The Catholic University of America. Those records pertain not only to the administrative nature of the university, but to its physical aspects as well. Due to CUA's location in our nation's capital and its wealth of diverse and architecturally appealing structures, inquiries about our campus buildings and our surrounding neighborhood of Brookland are among my favorites to field.

Fielding reference inquiries is not the only facet of my position, but it is certainly one of the most interesting and engaging aspects of it. Reference questions range from simple to those requiring hours of research, and the subject matter is always diverse. All share one common thread, though; as long as I am responsible for answering reference questions, no two days at the office will ever be alike.



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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

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The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives Is Asking For Your Support!

The archives is always seeking new collections, equipment donations and additional funds to continue our mission of collecting, organizing, preserving, making accessible, and promoting scholarly and public understanding of the records of The Catholic University of America and, more generally, the documentary and artifactual heritage of the American Catholic people. Please take a moment to fill out the form below or e-mail the information to archives@mail.lib.cua.edu. Thank you!

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and University Archives
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