

ON THE ARCHIVES SHELF

CHICAGO PROVINCE

ROBERT M. MYERS ARCHIVES & SVD RESOURCE CENTER



**Books written by SVD authors from 1975 – present
are located in the SVD Resource Center.**

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On the Cover:

SVD books and periodicals published prior to 1975 are housed in the archives. In addition, the second copies that the archives tries to keep of all SVD publications are also in the archives. The earliest publication date in the archives is 1874! One year before the Society's date of establishment. Check with the archives to find out which publication it is.

Photo credit: Elisa Redman, Midwest Art Conservation Center

On the Shelf the newsletter for the Robert M. Myers Archives of the Chicago Province is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. It is distributed electronically, but a paper copy will be mailed to anyone who prefers this method of communication.

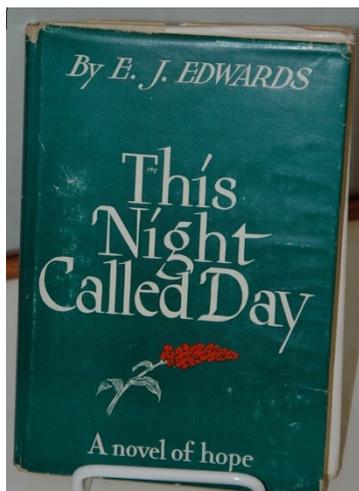
If you have questions or comments please contact either:

Marcia Stein, Archivist at (847) 753-7431 or mstein@uscsvd.org

or

Peter Gunther, Archives Specialist at (847) 753-7450 or pgunther@uscsvd.org

Society of the Divine Word Publications: Books and Periodicals



Father Edward J. Edwards

The life of Father Edward Edwards was described as “by cross and pen.” In spite of his years of illness, he was known as a confessor, spiritual director, and retreat director. Father Edwards wrote eleven novels, and many articles for SVD publications. In addition to the book jacket photo to the left, three other novels and an obituary are included in the reception area table exhibit in the Province Center. If you stop in to see the exhibit, please come down to the Robert M. Myers Archives. You will be able to check out any of Father Edwards books that interest you as well as see other publications some of which are described as follows.

Father Paul LaForge

Father LaForge was not only a writer, and translator but a collector of SVD and SSpS publications. Upon Father LaForge’s death in March of this year the archives received a large donation of books from his collection, which Peter Gunther is processing. Peter found among these books early SVD works in German, in very good condition, as well as articles by LaForge and other SVDs. In addition there was a translation by Father LaForge of an SSpS publication from German into English, “The Letters and Greetings of Blessed Mother Josepha (1852-1903) Cofoundress of the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit” by Sr. Ortrud Stegmaier.

Also found in the archives are publications of Society of the Divine word institutes, such as the **Melanesian Institute (MI)** in Goroka, Papua New Guinea. Father Vince Ohlinger, who was at the institute in December of 1969, reported that the institute held its first orientation course during which they celebrated their official opening. According to the MI website the focus of the Institute is “on ecumenical research, teaching and publishing. It is designed to help churches, government and other organizations speak more clearly to the needs of the people in Melanesia. The Melanesian Institute staff has experience of living in Melanesia as well as qualifications in areas like anthropology, sociology and theology. Its research focuses on topics of pastoral and social concern to people in Melanesia.”

The archives collects two MI publications, the *Catalyst Pastoral & Socio-Cultural Journal for Melanesia*, and the Point series. The most recent *Catalyst*, Volume, 45 No. 1, 2015, includes articles by SVDs Franco Zocca and Philip Gibbs, and a book review by Larry Nemer SVD of the *Centres of Formation and Evangelizing Ministry: Pastoral Institutes in Oceania and Africa* by Paul G. Steffen SVD. The title of Point No. 38, published in 2014 is *A Work in Progress: Inclusive Education in Papua New Guinea* edited by SVDs Nick Schwarz and Martin Tnines.

Also in this newsletter is an abstract of a book written using research from the archives, a review of a recent book by an SVD author and a list of recently received SVD publications, old and new. These are but a drop in the bucket of the SVD publications housed in the Robert M. Myers Archives, which are available for check out.

Please call archivist, Marcia Stein, 847 753-7431, or Peter Gunther, 847 753-7450 if you are interested in any of these or other SVD publications.

By Marcia Stein

Archival Principles and Practices: The Short Course Part II: Practices

Note: The word archives, although ending in “s” usually has a single meaning and therefore takes a single verb.

Acquisition

Acquisition is the process of acquiring records from any source by transfer, donation, or purchase, or the body of records so acquired.

Appraisal

Appraisal is the process of identifying materials offered to an archives that have sufficient value to be accessioned. The basis of appraisal decisions may include a number of factors, including the records' provenance and content, their authenticity and reliability, their order and completeness, their condition and costs to preserve them, and their intrinsic or historical value. Appraisal takes place within the context of an institutions mission statement and collecting policy and continues at various stages throughout the process. [Please see the Robert M. Myers Archives Mission Statement and Collection Policy at the end of this article.]

Accession

Accessioning is the process of taking legal and physical control of a group of records or other materials and formally documenting their receipt. It includes the initial steps of processing by establishing rudimentary physical and intellectual control over the materials by entering brief information about those materials in a register database, or other log of the repository's holdings.

Arrangement

Arrangement is the process of organizing materials with respect to their provenance and original order, to protect their context and to achieve physical or intellectual control over the materials.

Preservation

Preservation is the professional discipline of protecting materials by minimizing chemical and physical deterioration and damage, and to minimize the loss of information and to extend the

life of cultural property in all media. Preservation is distinguished from conservation, the latter describing treatments to repair damage.

Description

Description is the process of creating a finding aid or other access tools that allow individuals to understand the content of a collection by reviewing a surrogate of the collection. Description facilitates access and improves security by creating a record of the collection and by minimizing the amount of handling of the original materials.

Access

Access provides the ability to locate relevant information on a subject through the use of catalogs, indexes, finding aids, or other tools.

Definitions are from *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* by Richard Pearce-Moses, published by the Society of American Archivists, 2005

Archival Practices:

The archival principles described in part one are practiced through a series of processes as defined above and described in the following paragraphs. The paragraphs describing each term begin with the term in **bold type**. The forms the archives uses to carry out the processes are in [blue](#) type the first time each is included in the text.

Acquisition of new materials for an archives occurs through donations, record transfers and/or purchase. At the Robert M. Myers Archives we only obtain new materials from donations and record transfers. Donations come from SVDs and their families, and from non-SVDs who have had an association with the Society in the past. The records of archival value created in the course of business during the daily operations of the Province Center are transferred to the archives by means of a [Records Transfer](#) form.

The Records Transfer form, as described in Part I, contains information about the records being transferred as it is a list of the folder headings in each box. When the records are processed, the archivist assigns a shelf location to the box and returns the Records Transfer form to the department with this location number. If a department needs a document already sent to the archives, it can consult its copy of the form and request the document by its box location number. The Records Transfer form is now available as a Word template that can be completed, stored, and searched electronically.

For each donation and transfer of records the archives creates a [Deposit Receipt](#) form. The form includes the name and contact information for the person or department that sent the records to the archives, and a brief description of the donation or transfer. The Deposit Receipt is the first step in the process of gaining control. The copy returned to the donor acknowledges the archives receipt of the records.

The next step is **appraisal** during which the archives decides which of the records, personal papers or memorabilia to keep in the archives. Many small donations are part of a collection already in the archives and therefore will only be listed on an inventory before being added to a preexisting collection.

The **accession** process has two parts. First the donation is logged into the [Accession Register](#) to be assigned an accession number. For example, the papers of Edwin G. Daschbach have the accession number 2009-076 as it is the 76th donation received in 2009. Second, the archivist completes the [Accession Form](#), with a full description of the material including content, size, condition, the creator, donor, and use restrictions if there are any.

The archives then processes the donation which consists of **arrangement, preservation, description**, and continuing appraisal. These processes are interrelated and are often worked on together as determined by the content of the donation. When completed, the collection is in the order in which it was received or a logical order for the subject, moved to archival quality file folders and boxes if necessary to protect the documents, and described in [Description Contents Notes](#), which provide access to the material in the boxes.

Providing **access** to the collections in the archives is a very important and constantly evolving part of the practice of archival work. Without access, the archives is like a permanently locked vault, its holdings are saved, protected, but unavailable. The archives currently uses Records Transfer forms, Description Content Notes, and Access database inventories of books, periodicals, and record boxes to search in response to research requests. For the archives the future holds selection and implementation of archival content management system software that will enable the archives to post its finding aids on the Internet.

By Marcia Stein

ROBERT M. MYERS ARCHIVES, CHICAGO PROVINCE MISSION and COLLECTION POLICY STATEMENTS

Mission

The Robert M. Myers Archives of the Chicago Province, collects, preserves, and makes available the historical record of the Society of the Divine Word since its establishment in North America. The archives serves SVD members, provincial staff, and visiting researchers.

- For senior members of the community the archives provides a written and oral record of their accomplishments and the history of the Chicago Province as it developed within the worldwide missionary order.
- For younger members the archives provides knowledge of the community's heritage, an appreciation of the dedication and sacrifice of those who preceded them, and an incentive to keep the missionary spirit alive.
- For researchers the archives provides a way to study the rich religious, historical and cultural heritage of the work of the Society of the Divine Word missionaries in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean.

Collection Policy

The Robert M. Myers Archives of the Chicago Province, collects the canonical records of the Society of the Divine Word, and the official administrative records of the Province, which include papers from studies and committee work. Records of institutions owned, operated or sponsored by the order and records of individual members and of their communities are also included. To further enhance the understanding of the mission, culture, and history of the SVD in the Chicago Province the archives will also collect photos, films and videos, oral histories, and artifacts from its members.

Statements approved by the Chicago Province Council, September 14, 2001. Edited to update name and grammar 10/26/2009

Ivan Perez Corporate Work Study Intern for the Archives



Ivan Perez is a sophomore at Christo Rey St. Martin College Prep. He is returning to work in the archives as his assignment in the schools Corporate Work Study Program. Ivan's work schedule is four Thursdays a month plus one Friday. This equals five work days each month. The amount the Chicago Province pays the school for Ivan's work in the archives, is applied to Ivan's high school tuition. I welcomed Ivan back to work in the archives for this school year because he proved to be a careful, precise worker who asked good questions about the work we was doing. His questions showed that he was thinking about the task at hand.

Ivan comes from a family of four brothers and one sister, who all attended or are attending Learn Charter 6 in North Chicago. His sister Jasmine is in eighth grade and brother Nerick is in third grade. Jesus, his older brother, is working on a degree in Architectural Technology at Robert Morris University in Chicago.

Math is Ivan's favorite subject. As a sophomore he is taking the advanced Algebra/Geometry class, since he took Geometry in summer school. At the end of his freshman year, he achieved High Honor Roll status.

This summer Ivan also worked five to seven hours a week helping out at his elementary school. But nothing would make him too busy to play soccer. He is an avid player who plays the left or right midfield position on the schools soccer team this year.

By Marcia Stein

Harold Rigney and Beiping Fu-Jen University (1946-1950)

By Francisco Carin, Garcia CMF

In 2011, Father Carin conducted research in the Robert M. Myers Archives using the personal papers of Father Harold Rigney. The archives has a collection of records, photographs, and newspaper clippings from the different parts of Father Rigney's career. Father Carin used the photographs from the Fu Jen period.

Following is an abridged version of the Abstract of the doctorate dissertation he submitted for a PhD in Religious Sciences at Beijing Normal University in 2015.

On 1925, October 1, Fu-Jen University was founded in "Peiping" as the flagship of Catholic Higher Education in Modern China. It was a foundation of Propaganda Fide (Holy See) for the Chinese Catholic Church entrusted first to the American Cassinese Congregation of the Benedictine Order and then in 1933 to the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). Finally on 1945 with the unconditional surrender of Japan, it seemed that a bright future awaited this Catholic Institution. The research centers on the person and work of Fr. Harold W. Rigney, who was called to take the seat of Rector of the University and steer it to excellence through the peaceful times ahead. On July 20, 1946, less than two months since Harold Rigney's arrival to China to take his post at Furen, the hostilities between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party resumed and brought, once again, war to China and uneasy times for Furen. In 1949, with liberation of Beijing and later of the whole Mainland China, and the founding of the People's Republic of China, Fu Jen University as a Catholic institution and with Rigney at its helm would have to wade the new situation and look for a [way] to survive as a Catholic educational institution. In the end, [it did] not succeed. It was taken over by the Chinese Government on October 12, 1950. Harold W. Rigney was accused of being a spy and incarcerated in June 1951; he finally left China for good in September 1955. His case was among those settled in the armistice talks for the Korean War that took place in Geneva in 1954-1955. The research uses primarily materials left behind by Harold W. Rigney when he was rector of the university (1946-1950), such reports, letters, memorandums, translations of newspapers and bulletins, and his personal diaries tries to offer a vision of how the whole taking over of Fu-Jen by the Chinese government was experienced by the Chinese Catholic Church.

Addendum

Father Garcia further comments regarding his dissertation that "it is the first thorough research done on Father Harold Rigney SVD, and his tenure as Rector of Peiping Fu-Jen Catholic University. He was and still is a controversial figure in China due to the accusations on him being a spy, and consequent four years imprisonment. The topic and time is sensitive because he was serving as Rector of Peiping Fu-Jen University from August 1946 still under the Nationalist Government of the Republic of China, until the taking over of Fu-Jen University by the New Chinese Communist Government on October 1950. In the research we can appreciate the 'before

and after' situation of educational policies in the transition of the Chinese Communist Party to power, and the evolving attitudes and policies of the new Chinese government regarding religion, foreigners and educational institutions, as well as the commitment and effort of the Catholic Church and the Divine Word Society to find a morally acceptable way (that is, without compromising the Catholic ethos of the University) to keep Peiping Fu-Jen University up and running in the New People's Republic of China."

**The Great Age of Mission:
Some Historical Studies in Mission History**
(Studia Instituti Missiologici SVD, No. 100)
By Lawrence Nemer, S.V.D.

As reviewed by:
ANGELYN DRIES, O.S.F. Saint Louis University

It is appropriate that the first chapter in *The Great Age of Mission. Some Historical Studies in Mission History* by Lawrence Nemer, S.V.D., is "My Pilgrimage in Mission," his narrative of influential intellectual, spiritual, and personal factors that shaped his life through almost fifty years of teaching seminarians in the United States, England, Australia, and Asian countries. One significant factor in Nemer's approach to church history was his interaction with Protestant scholars, especially Leslie Newbigin, Max Warren, and R. Pierce Bieber. Past president of the Missionary Institute London, and most recently faculty member at Yarra Theological School in Melbourne, Nemer explores nineteenth- and twentieth-century Catholic missions in this collection of selected articles, most written after 2005. His teaching philosophy embodies his historical study of "big issues" through a study of "smaller issues" (p. 11), a plan observed in the book's overall organization (Western Scene, Asian/Oceanic Scene, African Scene). With a focus mainly on men's mission congregations, some chapters paint a wide geographic sweep, as in his study, "Catholic Missions in Oceania and the Pacific (1910–1920)." Other chapters analyse a detailed context and shorter time period such as "Australian Divine Word Missionaries Go to 'The Missions': The First Recruits." Nemer's goal in historical research and teaching is to have students develop a dialogue with church history, as, for example, noting mission concern for peoples and individuals, openness to circumstances, and emphasis on mission spirituality (p. 25). Without denying the often nationalist approach to mission and willingness to collaborate with colonial powers (although there were differences on the point among European countries), Nemer also indicates the expressions of mission stemming from the Second Vatican Council, such as the importance of Christian witness, the "seed of the Logos" within the world, dialogue, and affirmation of local culture (pp. 67–86). His focus on piquing students' interest in church history is noted in several ways, beginning with his first assignment at the Divine Word Seminary in the United States in 1962. His students were not concerned with what was "new" at the Second Vatican Council, even though Nemer's mentors were among those instrumental in the formation of the Council documents. They "were more interested in knowing what would be the implications and consequences of [the Vatican

documents] for missionary work” (p. 17). The impact of theology touched him poignantly when a student, who had studied liberation theology with him, was killed as he was negotiating between squatters and cattlemen in Brazil. “Our [mission] theology has consequences,” he states (p. 17).

His extensive research in the Archives of Propaganda Fide in Rome for eight months over several years provides a surprising insight: “The centralization of mission work in the Propaganda [between 1860 and 1914] was a gradual process and the mission congregations were somewhat to ‘blame’ for this process” (p. 169). This was due in part to mission congregations’ unwillingness to reach agreement among themselves on division of vicariates, for example, even though Propaganda sought their advice. By 1900, individual congregations appealed to Propaganda to make decisions, and fewer congregations sent reports on vicariate situations. By then, Propaganda was making decisions without consultation of the missionary groups (p. 170). *The Catholic Historical Review* Summer 2015 issue (vol. 101, no. 3)

Also in the SVD Resource Center collection:

Creating a Welcoming Space. Reflections on Church and Mission. Essays to Honour Larry Nemer, S.V.D. (Northcote, Australia, 2014). A companion Festschrift further illuminates Nemer’s work, suggests new historical sources, and draws out implied topics: Ross Fishburn, Michael Kelly, Christopher Monaghan, and Peter Price, editors.

New Titles

SVD Resource Center

Ao Largo by José d’Almanson (Jose Cardoso SVD), 2014. [Portuguese]

Arnold Janssen Kleines Lesebuch assembled by Joseph Alt SVD, unpublished.

Becoming a Trusted Digital Repository, Module 8 by Steve Marks, 2015. (Trends in Archives practice)

Business Ethics through Meditation: An Existential Approach by Paul LaForge SVD, n.d.

Claretians in America, a Pictorial History: 1902-2012 by Malachy R. McCarthy and Daniel E. Magner CMF, 2015.

Dejiny Filozofie Stredovek by František Sirovič SVD, 1995. [Slovakian]

Father Peter Michael, SVD by Stanley Plutz SVD, 2013.

God’s People on the Move: Biblical and Global Perspectives on Migration and Mission by vanThanh Nguyen SVD and John M. Prior, 2014.

Kaugu Gunan Ma Kaugu Pia My Village and My Land: The Theological Significance of Land in the New Guinea Islands of Papua New Guinea by William Kenny Longgar, 2008. (Point No. 32)

The Letters and Greetings of Blessed Mother Josepha (1852-1903) Cofoundress of the Congregation of Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit edited by Ortrud Stegmaier SSpS, English translation by Paul LaForge SVD, 1989.

St. Arnold: Father, Leader, Founder and St. Joseph Freinademetz, the Missionary by Stanley Plutz SVD, 2015.

Ordination: Techny, May 23, 2009, unknown cameraman. [DVD]

Passion and Glory in the Eucharist: the Visions of Bro. Kostka Wasel, SVD by Karl Friedrich SVD, translated by Peter H. Michael SVD, 2005.

Prayer of Intercession with St. Arnold Janssen (Novena), 2004.
Saint John Paul the Great: his Five Loves by Jason Evert, 2014.
La Spiritualità del Beato Arnold Janssen by Pietro Sessolo SVD, 1986.
“Culture Mechanisms in the Context of Community Language Learning” by Paul LaForge in
Topics in Culture Learning edited by Richard W. Brislin, Volume 4, 1976, pp. 35-43.

Archives

Anna Kath. Emmerich by John Janssen SCD, 1899.
Fourth Retreat at Karuizawa by Paul LaForge, SVD, n.d. **VF K4**
Glories of the Holy Ghost: A Series of Studies, a collection of Tributes, and Account of Certain Movements Bearing on the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity by William F. Stadelman CSSp, 1919.
Die kleine Blume von Steyl: Schwester Basildis by Anton Freitag, 1940.
The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1948.
The Spirituality of Blessed Mother Joseph by Paul LaForge, n.d. **VF K5**
Unter den Schwarzen by Matthias Dier SVD, 1901.