



Access

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AMERICAN CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

COLLECTION IN MEMORIAL LIBRARY RIVALS THE BEST

Within the past few years studies of American Catholic history have grown remarkably. Even in the great non-Catholic universities of America the interest in Catholic history has increased notably. Scholars are finding particular relevance in the American Catholic experience as illuminating the social history of the United States and shedding light on the development in the New World of various ethnic groups.

One of the important sources for these studies is the Catholic newspaper. Together with Catholic magazines or periodicals, parish and diocesan histories, and printed ephemera, Catholic newspapers form an important body of Catholic Americana of unique and precious relevance to American history.

These important materials are and have been the object of a special collection effort in the University Libraries at Notre Dame. One man especially contributed immeasurably to that effort: the late Francis Patrick Clark. As head of the Microfilm Department in the Memorial Library, Frank Clark worked indefatigably to assemble on microfilm what has become one of the best collections of Catholic newspapers in the country.

The importance of this effort can be seen in the light of a decision made a number of years ago in the Library of Congress. In beginning its newspaper preservation project, the Library of Congress defined newspapers so as to exclude two important groups of publications: newspapers published by religious bodies and those by labor organizations. It was

a decision much regretted by scholars, for it delayed the capture and preservation of two important sources of American history which were threatened by destruction.

Newspapers are printed on fragile material and their preservation requires microfilming, since the paper will disintegrate very quickly even without heavy use. The Library of Congress' intention was to preserve major, and even local, newspapers from such deterioration. Its failure to extend this effort to religious and labor union newspapers represents a great loss to American scholars.

It was a loss that Frank Clark was determined to make up for. Beginning in 1962, Frank traveled to chancery offices throughout the United States, often at his own expense, to persuade diocesan authorities to allow him to bring back to Notre Dame the precious file copies of diocesan newspapers. Here, he carefully collated the issues in the files and photographed them, returning a microfilm copy to the diocese and retaining both negative and positive copies for Notre Dame.

Interest in Catholic Americana at Notre Dame is in evidence from the foundation of the University in 1842. Frank's efforts to preserve an important part of that heritage was a factor in the decision to found the Center for the Study of American Catholicism (now known as the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism) in 1976. The Provost, Rev. James T. Burtchaell, C.S.C., and the Director of the Center, Professor Jay P. Dolan, were well aware

of the great value of the collection that had been assembled and provided substantial support, through the Center, to extend and broaden Frank Clark's work.

With his passing on October 1, 1979, Frank's collection was bequeathed to the University and an ongoing effort is underway in the Memorial Library to complete the cataloging of the more than 256 Catholic newspapers in the collection.

The collection is housed in the Microtext Reading Room in the Memorial Library. Although full cataloging of all the titles has not been completed, a shelf-list of all the titles is maintained in the Microtext Reading Room and those items fully cataloged can be found in the Public Catalog.

The work of preserving American Catholic newspapers has not stopped with Frank Clark's death. Efforts are still being made through the Center to acquire new titles for the collection and missing issues for the titles already on hand. There is an awakening interest in Catholic newspapers on the part of commercial microfilming firms, also, so that it is becoming easier to acquire titles not yet in the collection. These new titles are placed in the collection fully cataloged.

The collection of American Catholic newspapers at Notre Dame is a rich source for research in the social history of the United States. The University owes a great debt to the inspired vision of the inveterate collector who, by his persistent foraging, made it possible.

David E. Sparks

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has witnessed major efforts toward improving the University Libraries' collections and services. Perhaps the most visible accomplishment has been implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc College Library/Undergraduate Services Committee for the elimination of the separate College Library book collection and the realignment of the Libraries' collections throughout the Memorial Library building. In connection with this shift, space was made available on the 6th floor for offices for the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism and for a major expansion of storage space for the University Archives.

Less obvious to users but of greater long range importance to the development of the Libraries has been the year-long Collection Analysis Project. This program, which involved a large number of library faculty and staff working on an overall Study Team and five separate Task Forces on budget, collection evaluation, operating practices, preservation and resource sharing, identified major problems and made recommendations for improvements in each of these areas.

The Libraries continued to devote major attention to dealing with changes in the national cataloging rules. An earlier deci-

sion to close the main public catalog was reversed following additional study, and efforts were concentrated on integrating cataloging under the new rules within the existing catalog. Despite this change, an on-line catalog remains our ultimate goal. Changes in technology were also evidenced in the introduction of data base services in the Chemistry/Physics, Engineering and Memorial Libraries, the enhancement of the automated acquisitions system (ACQUIS) to permit on-line search of book orders, and other revisions in that system planned to provide a more useful union list of periodicals.

In an effort to be more responsive to user needs and to increase the efficiency of operations, the Libraries revised a number of circulation policies, eliminating per diem fines and lok-mobile and carrel loans, and changing the procedures in handling faculty renewals. Initial reaction to these changes has been positive.

In the area of organizational and administrative concerns, considerable improvements have been made in internal library communication channels, and a substantially revised Management-by-Objective-based annual performance appraisal system for library faculty was established.

Even more than in past years, the Libraries' collections have been enriched by the numerous gifts of materials from faculty, alumni and friends. The Libraries' financial situation has also substantially improved, thanks to the increasing number of contributions to various endowment and gift funds.

The Libraries are also indebted to the

extra efforts of the library faculty and staff who met their line responsibilities and also assisted in numerous special projects. That and the increasing support of the University Administration and faculty in many different ways have made these accomplishments of the past year possible, and bode well for the future.

Robert C. Miller

THOSE OTHER LIBRARIES

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES' SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN BRANCHES

The size and magnificence of the Memorial Library and its attraction as a student gathering place and focus of campus activity can make us lose sight of a larger dimension of library services at Notre Dame: the several local libraries.

The Law School, the College of Science, and the College of Engineering receive library support for study and research from these smaller library units. It is the nature of education in science and engineering to require a close working relationship between laboratory, classroom and library and the branch libraries in those colleges serve this need. The Law Library also carries out a unique educational function and stands apart from the rest of the library system at Notre Dame.

Each of the branch libraries at Notre Dame is a working collection of books and journals supported by a modest and often specialized collection of reference works and supervised by a member of the Library Faculty or by a senior-level library assistant. Because of the limitations of funds and the interdisciplinary relationships between fields of study, none of the branch libraries is self-sufficient; the Memorial Library provides the needed back-up in major reference services, in acquisitions and cataloging, and in storage space for older books and journals, this latter function being most important because of the limited space available in the branch library locations.

Local libraries have a long history at Notre Dame. The seed of the Kirsch-Weninger Life Sciences Library can be seen in

the Greene and Nieuwland collections which were housed and administered separately (on the second floor) in the old Lemmonier Library as early as 1931. By 1949 there were five branch libraries on campus: Architecture located in a "new" annex to what is now Crowley Hall; Biology, which included geology and the Greene and Nieuwland collections located in what is now Haggar Hall; the Science Library, located in the old Science building, now the LaFortune Center; Engineering, occupying its present premises in the Cushing Hall of Engineering; and Chemistry, in the chemistry library annex, "the odd-looking brickpile stuck on the north side of the old Chemistry building," according to a Scholastic article of the time.

Times change, and the "odd-looking brickpile" has disappeared into the Nieuwland Science Hall, with subsequent rearrangement, recombination and relocation of the various libraries and their parts. Such change is probably a natural part of the growth and change of the University itself. Here, then, is the situation of "those other libraries" as it obtains today.

Chemistry/Physics Library

Housed in Room 231 of Nieuwland Science Hall and occupying two levels, the library opened in 1951 with the consolidation of the old Science Library and the Chemistry Library. In 1962, the mathematics books were separated from Chemistry/Physics and relocated in the new Computer Center and Mathematics building.

As the name indicates, the collection serves the departments of Chemistry and Physics, but with the growth of interdepartmental study

programs the library also provides partial support to Biology, Microbiology and the College of Engineering. The principal strength of the library is its research journal collection whose files, because of the history and activity of the Chemistry Department over so many years, are complete from the mid-1850's.

Life Sciences Library

The Kirsch-Wenninger Library is located in Room 146 of the Galvin Life Sciences Building, dedicated in 1970. The library serves primarily the faculty and students of the departments of Biology and Microbiology. When the library was moved into its present location, the Nieuwland Collection was consolidated with the old Biology library and a very large part of the Nieuwland books was transferred to the Memorial Library. All journals before 1970 are housed in the Memorial Library. The collections reflect the research interests of the faculty and include all the major indexing and abstracting services in the life sciences.

The library holdings of Kirsch-Wenninger are very materially augmented by a supporting agreement with the South Bend Medical Foundation Library and by mutually cooperative arrangements with the pharmaceutical library of Miles Laboratories in Elkhart. Access is also provided to Indiana University's medical library in Indianapolis and to the Mid-West Medical Network Services (Chicago).

Mathematics Library

Located in Room 200 of the Computer Center building with some adjacent office space, the library opened its doors in 1962. Its collection was selected by a committee of faculty from the stock of the old Science Library after it had been consolidated with the Chemistry Library in Nieuwland Science Hall. In content, it is what might be called a library of "pure" mathematics, the works on applied mathematics having been left in Chemistry/Physics or distributed to Engineering or the Memorial Library. The collection now comprises over 25,000 volumes and is considered one of the best in the Midwest.

Radiation Library

The library in the Radiation Laboratory was established in 1963 with the completion of the building. The collection consists largely of Professor Milton Burton's bound

journal collection and his books. About twenty journal subscriptions have been maintained with a few specialized titles added in recent years. The monograph collection is small but has recently (in 1976) been increased by several hundred volumes purchased by the Laboratory and relocated from Bushy Run, Pennsylvania with the consolidation of that laboratory with the facility located at Notre Dame.

Engineering Library

Room 210 in Cushing Hall houses the Engineering Library. Originally occupying the smaller room with a beautiful limestone fireplace, the growth of literature and increased use forced the take-over of an adjoining classroom. Currently a new space is being planned in the new Fitzpatrick Hall of Engineering which will more than double the accommodation.

The engineering collections now exceed 52,000 volumes some of which are shelved in the Memorial Library. Over 700 journal titles are held, and the collection also includes technical reports and a small reference collection. Recently, data base services have been added. The library supports study and research in the following College departments: Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science.

Architecture Library

When the Memorial Library was occupied in 1963, the Lemmonier Library was given to the Department of Architecture and as part of that relocation the Architecture library was moved from Crowley Hall to the first floor of the Lemmonier building. The library supports the work of the students and faculty of the department.

The library's collections include over 15,000 volumes including about 100 journal titles, some rare out-of-print portfolios and folio volumes, and a set of over 25,000 slides, many in color, illustrating the history of architecture. A rapidly growing collection of materials on urban and environmental planning is also available.

David E. Sparks

THE COLLECTION ANALYSIS PROJECT

ACCESS PLANS ARTICLES TO AIR FINAL REPORT

The Final Report of the Collection Analysis Project is now complete in two parts. Chapter 1 of Part I is the Summary Report which contains the Study Team's 49 recommendations, distilled from the findings of the Task Forces on Budget Allocation, Operating Practices, Collection Assessment, Preservation and Resource Sharing. The remaining chapters in Part I come from the Interim Report and deal with the history of the collections, the environmental pressures which affect them and collection objectives. The second part of the Final Report is composed of the complete reports of each of the five Task Forces. The Final Report and two copies of the Summary Report will be placed on reserve in the Memorial Library. We invite faculty members to read it and comment on it to Maureen Gleason, Room 221, Memorial Library, chairperson of the Study Team. Should demand require it, we will make more copies of the Report available.

The Study Team tried to make its recommendations concrete and practical. Some can

be implemented immediately, e.g., a change in the reporting system on the status of allocated monograph funds in order to improve the accuracy and currency of the information available to selectors. Work will begin on other recommendations, e.g., formulation of a general collection development policy which will establish guidelines for subject oriented policies, and the appointment of a Preservation Committee to set up a program of collection preservation. Still others will extend over the next few years: namely, the addition of more full-time professional personnel to the Collection Development Division, or the completion of collection assessments that will eventually cover all segments of the collection.

This year, Access will feature articles describing in more detail the Task Force findings and their implications for the University Libraries' collections.

Maureen L. Gleason

NOTICE

AN APPEAL FOR EARLY RECEIPT OF NEW SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS

A limited amount of money for new subscriptions has been provided in the Libraries' 1981-82 materials budget. In order to ensure that the requests of students and faculty members in a variety of departments receive fair consideration, we ask that the Standing Committee on Serials receive all such requests by Monday, October 5th. Request forms which ask that the subscription be justified, not only in terms of its quality and importance in its field, but also because of its support for teaching and research at Notre Dame, are available from Department Library Coordinators

or Liaison Officers. Since the Committee's judgment will be based on the information provided by the requester, we ask that it be as full as possible. Your Departmental Liaison Officer can assist you in completing the form and will be responsible for presenting requests to the Committee. Consideration of all requests not received by October 5th will be postponed until next year. If you have any questions, please call the Collection Development Office at 6257.

Maureen L. Gleason