

HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Volume 1 Number 2 June 1988

NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCE

Plans are underway to hold a conference on the general subject of the history of women religious, to be held June 25-27, 1989, at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota. Details will be published in our next newsletter. Meanwhile, hold the dates and plan on coming! Dates for the conference have been set to anticipate by a year the 1990 bicentennial of the first foundation of women religious in the territory of what was then the United States: the Carmelites of Port Tobago (now Baltimore) Maryland, began there in 1790 and will be marking this important anniversary with a symposium and other special events in August, 1990.

NEWSLETTER

Response to HWR News and Notes has been enthusiastic. The newsletter clearly meets a real need by facilitating scholarly communication among interested persons, as evidenced by the doubling of our original mailing list with this issue which is going to 300 inquirers in the United States and Canada. If you find the newsletter helpful and desire to continue receiving it, we hope you will use the subscription form introduced with this issue.

NEWS

Mary S. Donovan (6920 Grandview Drive, Little Rock, AR 72207), a new subscriber, writes that she works on Episcopal church history, including sisterhoods. Her note comes on a photo-postcard put out by the Episcopal Women's History Project - 1982, depicting 23 deaconesses attending the "setting apart" of a new member by the Episcopal bishop of Portland, Oregon in 1922. The Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists (anyone else?) should get together at the 1989 Conference to explore their comparative histories so far as women religious are concerned. Does anyone have work of this sort underway?

The National Women's Studies Association announces publication of the NWSA Journal, an interdisciplinary, multicultural, feminist journal to be located in the Center for Women's Studies at The Ohio State University. The first issue is scheduled for Fall 1988; articles of interest to women's studies, researchers, teachers, and other feminist concerns are being solicited. For further information write MaryJo Wagner, Editor, NWSA Journal, Center for Women's Studies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

M. Hermenia Muldrey, RSM, has completed a biography of Mother Austin Carroll and is presently in search of a publisher. The life of this extraordinary woman, best known for her forty years in the deep South during the last half of the nineteenth century, deserves to be more widely known. Mary Ewens, OP, had the help of Muldrey's materials in preparing the section on Austin in her chapter for Catholic Women in the U.S.: Historical Explorations (see NOTES)

Judith Sutura, OSB, whose True Daughters: Monastic Identity and American Benedictine Women's History had just come off the press at the time of the October 1987 Colloquium (copies can be purchased for \$8.50 from the author, Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS 66002), will be teaching parts of a three-summer workshop entitled "Monastic Women and the Church." The series begins this summer with three short, topical workshops scheduled between July 11-22. For more information write Mary Ethel Busam, OSB, R.R. 3, Box 201, Ferdinand, IN, 47532, or phone (812)367-1411.

Catherine Ann Curry, PBVM, recently completed her thesis, "Shaping Young San Franciscans: Public and Catholic Schools in San Francisco 1851-1906" (Graduate Theological Union, 1987). Based on archival research in Ireland and the United States, the thesis compares values characteristic of public and parochial schools in San Francisco. Catherine is continuing her exploration of the subject (in addition to her data collection activities, see below) with particular focus on the financing of schools by the Presentation and Mercy congregations, both of which maintained free schools in the city.

George Stewart, Jr. notes that Catherine Curry has agreed to direct the collection of data concerning the nineteenth century membership of Roman Catholic congregations of women, as part of a larger work Stewart is developing. Inquiries and information concerning nineteenth century membership records should be directed to Catherine at 2340 Turk Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94118. Given the limitations of the Catholic Directory for this period (numerous errors in the identification of congregations; priests, brothers, children in parish schools, but not nuns listed in Directory data summaries until 1943!), and the elusiveness of accurate, complete data, Catherine can use all the help we can give her.

Missing address: does anyone know the current whereabouts of Judith Combes Taylor? She did a study of seventeenth-century French religious while at Arizona State, conducting part of her research at the Bibliotheque Nationale. We would very much like to include her in our newsletter network and ask your help in locating her.

Anne Hennessy, CSJ, recently completed her doctorate (Graduate Theological Union) in theology with an emphasis on Christian spirituality. She is presently negotiating for the publication of her thesis, "In Search of a Founder: the Life and Spiritual Setting of Jean-Pierre Medaille, S.J." Medaille worked with women in the Haute Loire region of France in the seventeenth century to found the Sisters of St. Joseph, one of the first modern congregations of women whose rule provided for an active apostolic rather than a cloistered way of life.

Mary Jo Maher, IHM, currently provincial for the IHM Overseas Missions, will be doing full-time research and writing next year on the history of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation. Beginning in the summer of 1989, she hopes to undertake a long-term project of writing the history of American Catholic missionaries with an emphasis on women.

Karen Kennelly, CSJ will be using a sabbatical next year to research "Changing Concepts of Mission and Evangelization Since Vatican II." A grouping of 12 women's congregations from Canada, the United States, and Europe which have stable missions in Peru will form the basis for her comparative study; she will be in Peru for three months this fall collecting data and experiencing missionary life there. Karen assumes responsibility for coordinating research for the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph when she leaves office as provincial this month. She would appreciate hearing from other congregations involved in cooperative research projects as members of federations, associations, or unions.

Angelyn Dries, OSF, a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Theological Union, is researching material for her dissertation on "The Missionary Impulse of the American Catholic Church, 1900-1920: The Variety of Its Manifestations." She is keenly interested in the topic of the "Americanization" of religious life as a function of the interaction of women religious with American culture during the period from 1872 to 1922.

Mary Murphy, Director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives in Butte, Montana, learned of our newsletter from Kitty Sklar at a recent OAH meeting. She writes "Butte had a

heavily Catholic population and a group of very influential nuns--by all accounts of the people who come here to do research and reminisce. I am working on building up our collection of women's history documents and encouraging students to take on topics in women's history for school projects." Archivists and teachers from K-12 and beyond should know of The Women's History Center. Located at 6300 Walker Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416, the Center maintains resources to help teachers integrate women's history and culture into the curriculum library and publishes a variety of curriculum materials in world area studies and global studies.

Michael Grace, a Jesuit Brother who is currently University Archivist at Loyola, Chicago, is a new subscriber to HWR who writes hoping doctoral candidates and others will turn their attention to biographical studies of women religious who were college presidents in the 1930s and 1940s. The contributions women like Madeleva Wolff, CSC; Antonia McHugh, CSJ; Mary Molloy, OSF; and others made to education were substantial and certainly merit the devoted work of a biographer. This is the place to note that Philip Gleason is progressing toward completion of his current research on the history of Catholic colleges, a comprehensive work which includes the colleges for women founded or headed for crucial periods of time by Wolff and others.

Regina Siegfried, ASC, now at the ASC Formation House, 3822 Botanical Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110, hopes to be teaching a course next year on the history of religious life in America and is interested in bibliographies and other course materials people may have developed in this area.

Anne M. Butler, Associate Professor of History at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. 20002, is continuing her research into the experiences of Sisters on the American frontier, 1865-1915. She is interested in communities established west of the Mississippi River, or those which opened missions in that region. She has completed research in the archives of fifteen such communities and will visit several more this summer. If anyone is aware of letters, diaries, or other archival materials documenting frontier life for women religious in the nineteenth century, Anne would welcome the information at the above address.

Grace Donovan, SUSC, now at Stonehill College, has as her primary research interest immigrant women religious in the New England area. She is presently refining an article based on two recent papers relating to that subject presented last year at the 1987 ACHA spring meeting and at the Berkshire Conference.

Susan K. Acker, a master of arts student at Kent State, is just beginning her thesis research on the experience of German immigrant nuns in nineteenth century America. She can be reached at the Department of History, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242-0001, with any material, information, or suggestions you may have.

Elizabeth W. McGahan, Ph.D., at the University of New Brunswick, is involved in researching the history of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, founded in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1854. Although this community is acknowledged as the first indigenous English-speaking congregation in Canada, its roots can be traced to the Sisters of Charity, Tarrytown, NY. We are pleased to have a Canadian correspondent concerned with the history of a congregation having roots in both the U.S. and Canada.

Janet Nolan, Assistant Professor of History at Loyola, Chicago, is preparing a manuscript on Irish female emigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

M. Patrice Noterman, SCC, now President of Mallinckrodt College, has completed her doctoral dissertation at Loyola, Chicago: "An Interpretive History of the Sister Formation Conference, 1954-1964." Publication options are under consideration; Loyola's manuscript service will make the dissertation available in the meantime. Patrice has been in contact with Mary Lea Schneider, OSF, Professor of Religion at Michigan State, who is also working on this important chapter in the history of United States women religious.

NOTES ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Pioneer Healers: The History of Women Religious in American Health Care edited by M. Ursula Stepsis, CSA, brings together a series of essays on the involvement of religious congregations in health care in the United States from 1800 to 1986. Crossroad press will publish this volume in late 1988.

The Church in Anguish: Has the Vatican Betrayed the Council? edited by Hans Kung and Leonard Swidler, contains an essay by Madonna Kolbenschlag which is of special relevance for the history of women religious: "John Paul II, U.S. Women Religious, and the Saturnian Complex." Harper and Row, 1988.

A Century of Christian Witness in America 1870-1970: A Short History of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ by M. Kathleen Washington, ASC, has been up-dated by its original author. For more information contact Kathleen at P.O.Box 82 Caldwell Hall, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064.

Nuns and the Education of American Catholic Women, 1860-1920 by Eileen Mary Brewer illuminates and challenges common perceptions of nuns as educators of women around the turn of the century. Loyola University Press, 1987.

Catholic Women in the United States: Historical Explorations edited by Karen Kennelly, CSJ, contains a chapter by Mary Ewens, OP, on "The Nun;" this and other chapters by Kennelly; Colleen McDannell; Mary Oates, CSJ; James Kennealy; Debra Campbell; and Rosemary Rader, OSB, place the role of women religious in United States Catholic history into the broader perspective of Catholic women in the home, in the labor force, in the arena of social reform, and in successive debates over women's rights. Macmillan, November, 1988.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Elizabeth Yakel, now with the Religious Archives Technical Assistance Project, writes "I am very interested in the question of documenting religious life. As an archivist, I am concerned about the state of religious archives in the United States and particularly those in Catholic religious orders and dioceses." Elizabeth, as editor of the Catholic Archives Newsletter is on an exchange basis with HWR News and Notes. We look forward to a mutually enriching exchange.

Maureen Whalen, BVM, announces the availability of a book containing the letters and notes of Mary Frances Clarke, BVM (1806-1887), foundress of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The publication honors Clarke on the centenary of her death, and were among the sources used by M. Jane Coogan for her valuable two-volume history of this congregation The Price of Our Heritage, Mount Carmel Press, 1975-78. A request accompanied by \$5.50 sent to Maureen at 1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001 will get you a copy of Clarke's papers.

Esther MacCarthy, SND, is organizing the archives of the Boston Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame in preparation for the writing of a history. She is also working up a new background piece for the founder of the SND's, Julie Billiart, seeking to place earlier biographical studies of Billiart into a women's history context. In her spare time Esther is pursuing an oral history project she calls "Cooks, Clotheskeepers and Portresses: The Infrastructure of the Congregation."

Jane Mowrer, OP, is oral historian for the Sinsinawa Dominicans and describes a particularly well organized collection:

"We have a tape library collection dealing with autobiographies of members of our congregation who have been outstanding teachers or administrators; and of others who have been or are currently artists, pastoral ministers, directors of human concerns relating to peace, justice, etc. The tapes have been indexed; some have been transcribed." Ann Thomasine Sampson, CSJ, has developed a similarly well organized oral history archive for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul Province, and was successful in getting her project funded by a local foundation. Their work challenges us to become more aggressive in oral history source work.

Mary Jane Trimble, CSJ, archivist for the Canadian Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, reports that members of

the Federation are currently engaged in basic research with a view to an eventual history of the work of CSJ's in health and education.

Charlotte Ames, bibliographer for Catholic Americana at the Theodore Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame, would welcome "any information regarding published books or other printed materials documenting the history of women religious in America. Information regarding author, title, publisher, date of publication, source for procurement--address of publisher or distributor--number of pages, and price would be very much appreciated. We are constantly striving to build up our research collections in Catholic Americana, and we will welcome information of this type as it becomes available."

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the October issue to the editor by September 1.

The editor wishes to thank the Sisters of St. Joseph for the services of their support staff and word processing equipment.

The HWR Newsletter
Published by the Conference on the
History of Women Religious
1884 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Ad hoc Conference Committee: Kay Ashe,
OP; Barbara Brumleve, SSND; Mary Ewens,
OP; Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Kitty Kish
Sklar; Barbara Misner, SCSC; Mary Oates,
CSJ; and Peg Thompson.

HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

NEWS AND NOTES

1884 Randolph Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

FIRST CLASS