
HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume 5 Number 3 October 1992

CONFERENCE

The second History of Women Religious Conference convened at Marymount College, Tarrytown June 28 to July 1, 1992. The theme, "Women Religious and the Social Fabric," attracted numerous papers on ways women religious addressed areas of social concern principally in North America in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Also shared were diverse approaches to researching and writing the history of women's congregations, and specialized aspects of archival work among congregations. Dialogue concerning publication and the question of a common designated archive for materials pertaining to the history of women's congregations was particularly lively.

General reaction to the Conference is expressed in participant comments "It was thoroughly engaging, conceptually well put together, and such a good exchange among so many active participants. . . . There's gold in our stories." "I found the topics . . . very stimulating." And, from a first-time participant, "This was the best constructed and best executed conference I have yet to attend. As a student of nineteenth-century sisters, I feel as if I were present at the continuing, if evolving, power of women living in community with women. It

was an awesome revelation." Just over 150 persons attended, including 7 from Canada, 2 from Australia, 1 from the Philippines, and the remainder from 26 states of the U.S.--the largest single number (31) from New York reflecting the conference location. Nearly one-fifth (28) were lay persons. Religious came from over 50 different orders or congregations including those of contemplative and monastic as well as apostolic traditions. About a third had also attended the 1989 conference.

The Distinguished Historian Award was bestowed on Marie Augusta Neal, SND de Namur, in recognition of a long and distinguished career in which she has used the disciplines of sociology and history to elucidate trends in the history of women religious.

Presenters have been asked to deposit a copy of their papers with Conference coordinator/News and Notes editor Karen Kennelly. Persons desiring a copy of papers are asked, however, to contact authors directly as the News and Notes collection is still incomplete. A copy of conference participant addresses is available upon request. Martha Mary McGaw, CSJ, co-editor of the SOONER CATHOLIC/P.O. Box 32180/ Oklahoma City, OK 03123/

covered the Conference in the July 19 edition of this archdiocesan newspaper. There are no plans to publish papers as a collection. Selected papers from Conference '89 have been published in U.S.CATHOLIC HISTORIAN 10:1&2 (subscription information: Fulfillment Center/U.S. Catholic Historical Society/# 3 Downing Drive/East Brunswick, NJ 08816).

A third conference is planned for 1995, probably at a midwestern United States site. Watch News and Notes for more information, and send your suggestions regarding site and theme to the editor.

A possibility some may want to explore in the interim between conferences comes from Martha Smith, CSJ, and Carol Coburn from Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri. They think "it might be worthwhile exploring the idea of scheduling some regional mini-meetings before the next general conference. Such gatherings might provide opportunities for exchange of ideas on methodology that could be helpful for researchers who want to present the story of their community's activities within a larger context such as women's history, history of education, social reform, health care, etc." Contact Martha and Carol if you are interested, or take initiative in your locality or region.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Conference '92 gave a number of doctoral candidates an

opportunity to share dissertation research. Along these same lines, Jacqueline Gresko, currently at Douglas College, British Columbia, writes that she will be on leave this year to pursue doctoral work in educational history at the University of British Columbia. She will be building on her masters thesis (Canadian Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, with special attention to early Catholic Indian schools in western Canada) to explore further the histories of women's religious communities, particularly teaching orders in the four western provinces of Canada and the states of the American Pacific Northwest. Persons who are aware of research relating to this subject are asked to contact Jacqueline at 5931 Sandpiper Court/Richmond, B.C./V7E 3P8/Canada/telephone 604-274-4383.

Deborah G. Hilzinger's dissertation subject in American History at Columbia University is late twentieth century American sisters. She can be reached at 807 Maple Glen Lane/Wayne, PA 19087 should you wish to find out more about her plans and share ideas.

Cynthia Glavic, OSU (News and Notes 4:2 June 1991) has completed her dissertation at Bowling Green, "A Biography of Dorothy Kazel, OSU, from the Perspective of Contemporary Women's Biographical Theory." She plans to publish an expanded version of this biography in book form over the next couple of years.

Regina Siegfried, ASC, will teach a course on the history of religious life in the U.S. in the spring of 1993 and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has taught such a course for suggestions on theology, bibliography, movements. She can be reached at Aquinas Institute/3642 Lindell Blvd./St. Louis, MO 63108.

Ann M. McGreery writes from the education department at Notre Dame College/Manchester, NH 03104, that she directs a masters program in curriculum/instruction and teaches courses in creativity and the creative process, her doctorate being in gifted/talented education. She is preparing a graduate course on "Women in Education" which will include lectures on women religious. She appreciates the networking made possible through News and Notes, and would welcome your suggestions relative to course content.

M. Georgia Costin, CSC, is researching and writing a history of the Sisters of the Holy Cross covering the years from 1843, when they came to America to work, through 1869, when they separated from the mother house in France.

Genevieve Schillo, CSJ, is engaged in a study of steps taken by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet to achieve papal approval of their Constitutions and to establish the general government stipulated for such approval. The research focuses on why the majority of the communities which stemmed from the

Carondelet 1836 foundation did not accept general government but remained diocesan. Special attention is given to the perspectives of bishops involved in the governance of these communities, and to the communities themselves. Genevieve can be contacted at 404 24th Ave. E #6/Superior, WI 54880/telephone 715-398-3002.

Alice Gallin, OSU, outgoing executive director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, will be attached to the history department at The Catholic University of America as a visiting research scholar, working on the history of Catholic higher education since 1960. She is being assisted by the Lilly Endowment as part of their large project on church-related higher education.

A wide variety of information is being generated by Rita King, SC, and Anne Courtney, SC, archivists for the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Charity service in New York City (1817-1992).

Irene Mahoney, OSU, reports that the Roman Union Ursulines, Eastern Province, are planning a history of the years 1900-1925 in celebration of the centennial of the formation of the Roman Union. An initial meeting held in Rome last year drew representatives of 25 provinces; an 8-year phase of document collection and analysis is planned as the next step with hopes for publication by the year 2000.

Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, reports that the Maple Mount Ursulines of Western Kentucky have completed a reflective video relating the history of the Order from 1874 to the present; another group has concentrated on the charisms of St. Angela Merici as lived by this Ursuline community, also for a video. Both productions make liberal use of archival materials and have a popular, vocations recruitment purpose.

Other perspectives on this Kentucky community appear in Sandra Jull's "Forgotten Pioneers--Nineteenth Century Nuns," a slide presentation. Sandra, recipient of a grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women (News and Notes 4:2 June 1991) intends to share her historical research on nineteenth century nuns in a forthcoming monograph; a few of the orders she will discuss are the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth; Sisters of Loretto; and the Ursulines of Louisville and Maple Mount, Kentucky.

PUBLICATIONS/TALKS

Ann Miriam Gallagher, RSM, delivered the Annual Catholic Daughters of America Lecture at The Catholic University of America in April. The title of her lecture was "Catherine Josephine Seton (1800-1891): Daughter of a Saint, First New York Sister of Mercy (Early Years)."

Madeleine Sophie Hebert, MSC, gave a paper in June at the

annual Conference on the History of the Congregation of Holy Cross at the University of Portland; subject: the ill-fated attempt to form a federation of the three congregations of Holy Cross Sisters spanning the years 1967-1976.

The symposium honoring Annabelle M. Melville, held in April under the joint sponsorship of the Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston and Bridgewater State College Department of History, included several papers touching on the interests of women religious, including those by HWR Conference members Dolores A. Liptak, RSM, on "Women Church Historians: First and Second Generation," and Grace Donovan, SUSC, on the question "Annabelle Melville: Retired?"

Mary P. Tarbox, RN, EdD, from Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is researching the leadership methods of the Sisters of Mercy as they conducted the work in their hospitals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Mary Paulita Schneller, SMSM, has completed a book, tentatively titled "A Half-Pint on Guadalcanal," in which she describes the very colorful career of a Sister of Social Service who spent over 52 years in the Solomon Islands. She was there when the Japanese arrived in World War II, and engineered the escape of

missionaries who were evacuated by the U.S. Navy. Anyone with publication advice should contact Mary Pauleta/62 Newton St./Waltham, MA 02154.

Carol Coburn, Assistant Professor of History at Avila College, Kansas City, MO, suggests that her forthcoming book, LIFE AT FOUR CORNERS: RELIGION, GENDER AND EDUCATION IN A GERMAN-LUTHERAN COMMUNITY, 1868-1945, uses a methodology which may be of interest to anyone approaching research on a religious community.

ARCHIVES

Rita Bergamini, SP, is handing on responsibility for the Sisters of Providence archives in Seattle to Loretta Zwolak Greene. Sister Rita brought the Providence archives to their present superb state over her twenty-year tenure, and has the distinction of being actively involved in the process of having Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Periseau), foundress of the Sisters of Providence in the Northwest, designated as Washington state's second representative in Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C., May 1, 1980.

CONFERENCES/EXHIBITS

Elizabeth McGahan announces a conference, "The Religious Mosaic of Atlantic Canada," October 2-4, 1992, at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John, N.B. Canada. Sponsored by the University to mark the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of

Saint John, the conference will include two sessions specifically on women religious: "Women Religious at the Turn of the Century: Presence and Influence" with papers on the Halifax Sisters of Charity and the Congregation of Notre Dame; and "Individuals in Community: Biographical Studies of Women Religious." For more information contact Elizabeth at the University of New Brunswick/P.O. Box 5050/ Saint John, N.B./Canada E2L 4L5 /telephone 506-648-5500.

MISSION MONTREAL: from Claude Auger comes the information that a major exhibition of this title, on the history of religious congregations, is currently taking place in Montreal. With photos and artefacts, it illustrates the contribution of religious men and women in the development of Montreal. Many of these congregations (more than sixty are presented) have worked in the rest of Canada and in the United States: Congregation of Notre-Dame (St. Marguerite Bourgeoys), Grey Nuns (St. Marguerite d'Youville), Sisters of Providence, Sisters of St. Ann, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Misericordia Sisters, to name a few. The exhibition closes October 12, 1992; it is being held in the David M. Stewart Museum/St. Helen Island/Montreal; information (514) 861-6701.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HWR News and Notes is bringing its book review list up to date. If you are interested in

reviewing, please send your name together with a brief resume to indicate your special interests and expertise to Mary Hayes, SNDdeNamur/Trinity College/Franklin & Michigan Avenue, N.E./Washington, D.C., 20017.

MISCELLANY

Mother Mary of the Cross (Mary McKillop) 1842-1909, foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Australia, was recently declared "venerable" as a first stage in the Roman Catholic canonization process. Biographical research promises to be especially interesting for McKillop, a daughter of Scottish immigrants who at age 23 banded together with two other women to teach children in the south Australian bush. Her modern teaching methods, and insistence on central government for her congregation throughout Australian colonies, led to her excommunication by the bishop of Adelaide and the disbanding of the congregation in 1866. The excommunication was lifted in 1872 and the Vatican later yielded on her principal point of central government (we are not told how the bishop of Adelaide felt about the papal concession). The congregation counted about 1,000 members as of McKillop's death; as of today, over 1,800, with education the chief work.

The Coordinating Committee on Women in the Historical Profession, The Conference Group on Women's History, and the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians announce the third annual competition for a \$500 Graduate Student Award. Applicants must be female

graduate student historians in U.S. institutions who have passed to ABD status by the time of application. Deadline for submissions is December 1, 1992. For applications and information contact: Elizabeth Colwill/Department of History/San Diego State University/San Diego, CA 92182-0380/phone (619) 594-2715.

POSITION OPENING: EARLY MODERN EUROPE, not Britain, France of Russia. Tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor, Fall 1993-94. Ph.D. preferred. Screening begins October 12, 1992, and will continue until the appointment is made. Please send vita, dossier, and substantial sample of written work to Professor Linda Kerber/SearchCommittee/History Department, University of Iowa/Iowa City/IA/52242-1409/FAX: (319) 335-2293. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University of Iowa is an AA/EOE.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have copy for the February issue to the editor by January 1, 1993.

THE HWR NEWSLETTER

Published by the Conference on History of Women Religious/12001 Chalon Road/Los Angeles, CA 90049. ISSN: 1054-545X Annual Subscription: \$5.00

Editor: Karen Kennelly, CSJ
Ad hoc Conference Committee:
Kaye Ashe, OP; Barbara Brumleve, SSND; Florence Deacon, OSF; Mary Ewens, OP; JoAnn McNamara; Mary J. Oates, CSJ; Judith Sutera, OSB; Peg Thompson