

Maryland Province Archives, Detailed Provenance

The Archives of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus (also referred to as the Maryland Province Archives, or MPA), has been on deposit at the Booth Family Center for Special Collections (BFCSC) at Georgetown University since 1977. The Maryland Province made two additional deposits to the BFCSC in 1992 and 2011. In 2018, the University and the Province signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which renewed the agreement placing the MPA on deposit and allowed the BFCSC to continue preserving these materials and making them available to researchers. The MOU also made provisions for additional, unspecified materials to be sent from the Province to the BFCSC. The Corporation of Roman Catholic Clergymen retains ownership of the collection.

Selection of Georgetown as Repository and Early Finding Aids

The selection of Georgetown University as the home of the MPA reflects the institution's historical role within the Province. In the early nineteenth century, Georgetown College served as the principal residence of the Provincials and Procurators. The Maryland Province also followed the customary practice of the Society of Jesus by depositing the records of their Houses at the "academy" geographically closest to them. Accordingly, Georgetown College was the logical repository for the records of the missions in Maryland and Pennsylvania and the plantations established to support the Province.

The MPA also includes papers of the Province that were initially collected by the Georgetown University Archives (GUA). There are some Provincial documents that were probably inadvertently retained by the GUA when the College's records were separated from the Province's records in the 1850s. More significantly, during the 1920s, Georgetown University Archivists Francis A. Barnum, S.J., and Edward Devitt, S.J., solicited papers and books from the Houses of Southern Maryland and incorporated them into GUA. GUA then transferred these records to Georgetown's Manuscripts collection to form the Maryland Province Collection (MPC), the American Catholic Sermon Collection, the Catholic Historical Manuscripts Collection, and several collections of individual priests' records. In addition, the Library of the Woodstock Theological Center (deposited by the Province at Georgetown in 1974) transferred some of its holdings, including manuscripts of individual priests and other organizational records, to the Maryland Province Archives.

The resulting collection was fragmented and complex, and BFCSC staff have worked to rectify these issues. In the early 1990s, the department received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create a computerized database. The database served as the foundation of a consolidated finding aid for all of the records of the Maryland Province. As part of this grant, archivists Thomas Taft Terry and Daniel Barbiero arranged and described the materials deposited in 1977. Though subsequent additions to the MPA were not fully integrated into the collection, they have been described and made available to researchers.

New Finding Aid and Digitization

In 2019, staff members began a project to fully reprocess the Archives of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, and to digitize and make available online all materials dating before

1900. The resulting finding aid reflects the integration of the Maryland Province Collection as well as a new series organization based on Jesuit hierarchical structure. The finding aid also describes materials related to Jesuit slaveholding and the Maryland Province's 1838 sale of 272 enslaved individuals. As per the MOU, all material dating 1940 and later is restricted from research use.

Descriptive Work of Joseph Zwingé, S.J

While working on these finding aids, BFCSC staff members have been sensitive to previous efforts to organize the MPA. Joseph Zwingé, S.J., Procurator of the Maryland Province from 1903 to 1921, selected, arranged, and described the records of the Provincial and Procurator series. His most visible contribution to the collection is a numbering system (affixed directly to the documents themselves) and descriptive card catalog reflecting the organization of the Province. Zwingé also created subject files that included deeds, financial records, and correspondence from the colonial period, with the goal of addressing financial questions facing the Province during his tenure.

Zwingé did not curate or catalog the records of the Provincial and Procurator dated after approximately 1890. In addition, Zwingé did not incorporate a substantial portion of the Procurator records into his subject files, including records of expenses related to the formation and care of members. As Procurator of the Province, Zwingé did implement a bookkeeping system required by the Procurator General in Rome that in turn led to monthly and annual financial reports from the Houses and colleges within the Province.

Records of the Houses and Papers of Individual Priests

The House records within the MPA, with the exception of those documenting the Jesuit community at Frederick, Maryland, are fragmentary. Before acquisition by the Province, these records were held at the Houses themselves, often in poor environmental conditions. In some situations, this meant that records did not survive. For example, throughout the *Woodstock Letters* (a journal published by the Province featuring articles on Province history), Jesuit authors referred in passing to several fires at the Houses and missions. The most notable of these - an 1872 fire at St. Inigoes Manor in St. Mary's County - destroyed the pastoral records of the oldest House in the Province.

Researchers should note that the MPA does not include records from the Houses, schools, and other organizations in New England and New York. These materials were transferred from the Maryland Province Archives upon the creation of the New England Province in 1926, and upon the separation of New York to form a discrete province in 1943. The MPA does, however, include some papers of individual members of the New England Province and the New York Province, as these materials were never separated into their own collections. The papers of John McElroy, S.J., Jose Lopéz, S.J., George Fenwick, S.J., and Adam Marshall, S.J. are now part of the MPA's Papers of Individual Priests series.

The Jesuits also consciously documented aspects of the Society's history that fell outside the scope of its organizational records. Materials collected by Jesuit documentarians are housed in several series, including the papers of the Maryland Mission, Suppression and Restoration, and

Catholic Family Papers (which contains frequently cited correspondence between John Carroll and Charles Plowden). The Jesuits also transcribed documents from European repositories such as the *Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu* (the Archives of the House of the Superior General in Rome, also referred to as ARSI) and the Archives of the British Province at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, England, as well as domestic repositories like the Maryland State Archives.

Finally, the Jesuits retained published and unpublished narrative histories, photographs, newsclippings, oral histories, artifacts, and biographies of members. These are primarily found within the series Province Documentation and Printed Works. Similar materials documenting specific Houses and churches are part of the series Records of the Houses.