



MISSOURI PROVINCE GENERAL HISTORY COLLECTION
1823-2010 [Bulk 1823-1923]

MIS.2.002

JESUIT ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER
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Collection Summary

Collection number: MIS.2.002

Repository Code: MoSIJA

Repository: Jesuit Archives & Research Center

Title: Missouri Province General History collection

Date [bulk]: 1823-1923

Date [inclusive]: 1823-2010

Extent: 8.25 linear feet (1 record carton, 3 document boxes, 3 glass slide boxes, 1 map drawer)

Creator: Jesuits. Missouri Province

Language of material: English and Latin

Abstract: The Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, established as a mission in 1823, was the second Jesuits province to be established in the United States. The Missouri Province General History collection contains narratives, memoirs, photographs, maps, and ephemera related to the History of the Missouri Mission, Vice-Province, and Province founded in 1823. This collection was compiled from various sources by Missouri Province Archives' staff.

Processing history: Originally processed by Missouri and Midwest Jesuit Archives staff, Nancy Mertz, Martin Bredeck, and David Miros. Additional processing and description completed by Alexandra M. Bisio in 2017.

Conditions governing access: This collection is open for research. Some items are restricted due to extreme fragility.

Conditions governing reproduction and use: The archival records in the Jesuit Archives & Research Center are the property of the Central and Southern, Midwest, Northeast, and West Provinces of the Society of Jesus, and the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Copies may not be duplicated or deposited elsewhere without the prior written consent of the archivist. Supplying a copy is not an authorization to publish or circulate. Written permission to publish any records in their entirety or a substantial portion thereof must be requested and approved prior to publication. The researcher has the sole legal responsibility for obtaining this written permission.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], [Box number], [Folder number]. Missouri Province General History collection, MIS.2.002. Jesuit Archives & Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri. [Date accessed].

Appraisal note: Several 20th century commercially available maps were formerly included in this collection. These maps have not been retained by the Jesuit Archives.

Historical note

In 1823, seven Belgian novices, two brothers, and two priests traveled down the Ohio River and across Illinois to establish a mission in, what had been until 1821, the Missouri Territory. The original Jesuit Missouri Mission extended from the Alleghenies to the high plains, with principle outposts in St. Louis and Florissant. Upon their arrival, the Jesuits began to minister to the Osage, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi tribes. In 1829, they assumed responsibility for Saint Louis College, the future Saint Louis University. The Missouri Mission became a vice-province in 1840 and a province in 1863.

The second province to be established in the United States, Missouri served as a home province for many missionaries and explorers of the American west, including Father Pierre-Jean De Smet who mapped much of the western United States, including the Oregon Territory. The Missouri Province also staffed several missions outside North America, including in Belize and Puerto Rico.

New Orleans became an independent mission in 1847 and later a province with Jesuit ministry in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. As the Church grew in the center of the country, three provinces developed out of the Missouri Province. In 1928, the Chicago Province was granted independent control of the governance of the Society in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. Likewise, in 1955 the Province of Wisconsin was formed to administrate the Society in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.

In 2014, reconfiguration of the American provinces led to the joining of Missouri and New Orleans into the Central and Southern Province.

Scope and content note

The Missouri Province General History collection contains narratives, memoirs, photographs, maps, and ephemera related to the History of the Missouri Mission, Vice-Province, and Province founded in 1823. This collection was compiled from various sources by Missouri Province Archives' staff.

The historical narratives and memoirs series contains historical accounts of the Missouri Mission, Vice-Province, and Province. These accounts primarily take the form of narratives, personal memoirs, and newspaper articles, though some correspondence discussing the history of Jesuits in the Missouri region is also included. The photographs and prints series includes photographs, glass slides, albums, and art prints documenting the members and the history of the Missouri Province. Most images in this series are portraits and group photos of members of the Missouri Province. The historical maps series contains large, antique maps of areas encompassed by the Missouri Province. Most of these maps were produced by large publishing houses and available commercially. The ephemera series contains images and writings related to the history of the Missouri Province. Materials in this series include prayer cards, maps, sermons, and programs.

Arrangement note

The Missouri Province General History collection is arranged in four series:

Series 1. Historical narratives and memoirs, circa 1820s-1940, undated

Series 2. Photographs and prints, 1884-2010, undated

Series 3. Historical maps, 1857-1923

Series 4. Ephemera, 1869-2009, undated

Collection Contents

Series 1. Historical narratives and memoirs, circa 1820s-1940, undated

Scope and content note

This series contains historical accounts of the Missouri Mission, Vice-Province, and Province. These accounts primarily take the form of narratives, personal memoirs, and newspaper articles, though some correspondence discussing the history of Jesuits in the Missouri region is also included. Of note in this series are several copies of Father Peter Verhaegen's History of the "Missouri Mission of the Society of Jesus," and Brother Peter De Meyer's "Reminiscences of Pioneer Life." Both Verhaegen and De Meyer were among the first Jesuits to arrive in the Missouri region in 1823.

Arrangement note

This series is arranged in chronological order by date of creation.

"De Primis S.J. ad Illineenses Excursionibus deque fundate ab ea illic Missionis Origine, Progressu, Incrementisque Epitome," hand sewn manuscript, circa 1820s-1830s Box 2.0013: Folder 1

Verhaegen, Peter. "Proemium in Historiam, S.J. Missourianae Missionis," hand sewn manuscript, circa 1820s-1830s Box 2.0021: Folder 16

Verhaegen, Peter. "Historia Missionis Missourianae Soc Jesu ab anno 1823," circa 1834 Box 2.0021: Folder 17

Scope and content: The first section of this document is written in Verhaegen's hand.

Verhaegen, Peter. "History of the Missouri Mission of the Society of Jesus," English translations, circa 1840s-1880s Box 2.0013: Folder 2

“Misiones Exteriores seu Indicae” and duplicate, 1847	Box 2.0021: Folder 18
Murphy, William S. “Notes on Church Property,” handwritten notes, 1862	Box 2.0013: Folder 3
De Meyer, Peter. “Reminiscences of Pioneer Life,” handwritten manuscript, 1868	Box 2.0021: Folder 19 Box 2.0013: Folder 4
Obituary and news clipping scrapbook, 1870	Box 2.0013: Vol. 1
Van Miert, L. to Gilbert Garraghan regarding Belgian Jesuits of the Missouri Mission, letter, 1921	Box 2.0013: Folder 5
<i>Scope and content note: This letter written to Garraghan contains biographical sketches of Belgian novices who helped establish the Missouri Mission in 1823, as well as transcriptions of historical letters regarding the Mission’s founding.</i>	
Jesuit Chronicle: 1823-1940, typescript, circa 1941	Box 2.0013: Folder 6
Pseudo-history of the Jesuits in early days on the River De Peres, letters, 1940	Box 2.0013: Folder 7
Early Missouri Mission letter extracts, undated	Box 2.0013: Folder 8
<i>Scope and content note: These extracts may have belonged originally to the collection of documents that form part of Father Theodore De Theux’s biography.</i>	

Series 2. Photographs and prints, 1884-2010, undated

Scope and content note

The photographs and prints series includes photographs, glass slides, albums, and art prints documenting the members and the history of the Missouri Province. Most images in this series are portraits and group photos of members of the Missouri Province. Glass slides in this series were used as part of a presentation celebrating the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Missouri Mission in 1823. The album included in this series contains group portraits of faculty at St. Xavier College in Cincinnati, Ohio and Saint Louis University. One autographed art print is included in this series.

Arrangement note

Materials in this series are arranged chronologically by date of creation.

Access note

Access to original glass plate slides and negatives is limited to special appointment because the images are fragile.

Province rectors and provincials, 1884	Box 803: Folder 5
Jesuit brothers, 1898-2001	Box 685: Folders 1-3
Missouri Province Jesuits, collage, circa 1900	Box 803: Folder 1-2
<i>Provenance note: Legacy documentation suggests these collages may have been part of a now unbound scrapbook.</i>	
<i>Physical condition note: These pages have broken into several pieces, which have been preserved.</i>	
“St. Xavier College, Cincinnati, Ohio,” album, circa 1907-1908	Box 780: Vol. 1
Centenary presentation glass slides, circa 1923	Drawers 868, 864: Box 2-4
Ordination photograph, 1923	Box 803: Folder 3
Group photo including Father Drummond and Father Val Roche, circa 1930s-1940s	Box 803: Folder 6
Jubilee groups, 1934-2010, undated	Box 685: Folder 4-37
Provincials and former provincials, 1945-2009	Box 685: Folder 38
Florissant and Milford Jubilee classes, 1976	Box 803: Folder 4
Ordinations, 1977-2008	Box 685.5: Folders 1-20
Novice Masters, circa 1990s	Box 685.5: Folder 21
Ignatian Year celebration, 1991	Box 685.5: Folder 22
Paxson, Edgar S. “Arrival of Father Ravalli at Fort Owen, Montana, 1845,” autographed print, undated	Drawer 6: Folder 5

[Series 3. Historical maps, 1857-1923](#)

Scope and content note

The historical maps series contains large, antique maps of areas encompassed by the Missouri Province. Most of these maps were produced by large publishing houses and available commercially. Of interest, however, is the centenary map of the Missouri Province, which was hand drawn in 1923 for the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Missouri Mission. These maps were most likely collected by members of the Missouri Province and donated to the Archives.

Arrangement note

Materials in this series are arranged chronologically by date of creation.

“Colton’s Kansas and Nebraska,” J.H. Colton, 1857	Drawer 6: Folder 4
“Map Showing the Progress of the Public Surveys in Kansas and Nebraska,” Surveyor General’s Office, 1862	Drawer 6: Folder 4
“Johnson’s Missouri and Kansas,” Johnson and Ward, circa 1864	Drawer 6: Folder 2
“Grand Rapids Street Guide,” R.L. Polk & Co’s, 1894	Drawer 6: Folder 3
<i>Physical condition note: This map is extremely fragile.</i>	
“General Topographical Map Sheet XXVI,” from <i>Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies 1861-1865</i> . New York: Julius Bien and Co., 1891	Drawer 6: Folder 4
“Rand, McNally, & Co.’s Kansas,” Rand, McNally, & Co. Map Publishers and Engravers, 1894	Drawer 6: Folder 4
“Map of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus,” centenary map, 1923	Drawer 6: Folder 1

Series 4. Ephemera, 1869-2009, undated

Scope and content note

This series contains images and writings related to the history of the Missouri Province. Materials in this series include prayer cards, maps, sermons, and programs. Several documents in this series are related to anniversaries and memorials celebrated in the Missouri Province.

Arrangement note

This series is arranged in chronological order by date of creation.

Angelo Maesseele sodality certificates, 1833	Box 800: Folder 5
St. Mary of Victories Church sodality certificate, 1838	Drawer 6: Folder 6
<i>Physical condition note: This certificate is extremely fragile and missing pieces.</i>	
Belgian novices’ prayer card, 1869	Box 2.0013: Folder 9
St. Aloysius Tercentenary, memorial sermon, circa 1870s	Box 2.0013: Folder 10

Missouri Province's Golden Jubilee, memorial broadsheets, 1873	Box 2.0013: Folder 11
Map of the Missouri Province, 1895	Box 2.0013: Folder 12
Walters, Q. to Weiland regarding the reformation of the Maryland Province, letter, 1921	Box 2.0013: Folder 13
Missouri Province centenary scrapbook, 1923	Box 835: Volume 2
Missouri Province centenary sermons, 1923	Box 2.0013: Folder 14
Immaculate Conception Golden Jubilee of Definition, memorial history and translation, undated	Box 2.0021: Folder 20
Reconciliation service program, 2009	Box 2.0013: Folder 15
Crests of Midwestern Jesuits colleges, embossed card, undated	Box 2.0013: Folder 16