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RG 11.1 Mission Offices Records Description

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Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus
c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

Record Group: 11: Foreign Missions

Name of Collection: Missions Offices Records:
Mission Procurators
Mission Treasurers
Mission Directors
International Apostolates / Ministries
Jesuit Seminary Guild
Jesuit Seminary Guild and Mission Bureau

Record Group Number: 11.1

Dates of Collection: 1920s-2011

Size of Collection: approximately 80 linear feet

Historical Background:

The New England Province took over the staffing needs of the established mission in Jamaica from the Maryland Province in 1927 and fund-raising for this mission was shared by the Province Treasurer and Fathers in various parishes and schools. When the Province began a new mission to Baghdad, Iraq in the early 1930s, fund-raising for the growing mission work required more supervision. Two new offices were created to meet these needs: Director of the Jesuit Seminary Guild and Mission Procurator. The Jesuit Seminary Guild raised funds for the training and education of Jesuits in formation. In 1987, The Jesuit Seminary Guild and the Missions Bureau were merged.

The office of Mission Procurator, would also be known as Mission Treasurer, Mission Director, Director of International Apostolates, Director of International Ministries, Provincial Assistant for International Apostolates and Refugee Services, and Province Liaison for International Ministries. In addition to fund-raising, the duties of the Mission Procurator, and its successor offices, included acting as aide to the New England Provincial; acting as aide to the Superiors, Vice Provincials, or Provincials of mission areas assigned to the New England Province; representing the Province missions at meetings; producing communications material, such as magazines and newsletters; providing services to missionaries; processing and shipping of supplies and equipment; and, acting as liaison between the missions and the home province. In 2002, this position was consolidated with others creating the Assistant for International, Pastoral and Social Ministries.

The foreign missions assigned to the New England Province were the Jamaica Mission and the Iraq Mission. The New England Province also assisted in mission areas assigned to the New York Province: the Philippines and the Caroline and Marshall Islands, including the island of Yap, now referred to as Micronesia. In the late 1940s, the New England Province also sent some men to Japan to assist at Sophia University, a Jesuit University in Tokyo. In the mid-1960s, the New England Province

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began a “twinning” relationship with the Vice Province of Bahia in Brazil, sending several men to this apostolate. New England Jesuits have also been active in the Alaska and African missions. In 1968 and 1969, the American Jesuits were expelled from Iraq, effectively ending the Iraq Mission. Other endeavors in the Mid-East, in the countries of Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, have been pursued.

Scope and Content:

The Missions Offices collection contains correspondence, reports, personnel records, subject files, fundraising and financial records, committee material and minutes, office diaries, editors’ files, and newspaper clippings held by the Boston offices. The majority of the material is arranged chronologically or alphabetically.

The collection contains material dated from the 1920s to 2011. There is little material from the 1920s until the 1950s, when the volume of records began to increase. The bulk of the material is from the mid-1950s through the 1970s. Not all directors have files in this collection, although some files may be found under the more general subject files series (Jamaica, Iraq, Finances, etc.). In other words, each director kept some of his own subject files, but generally, subject files were also kept in a common filing area. The directors’ records here are those which were clearly identified as one person’s file and are not part of a subject files series. The broad subject files, housed in separate series, were those files clearly kept by many and are maintained in that order in an ongoing fashion. Originally they were grouped as: Jamaica, Iraq, Finance, Meetings, and Fundraising which are filed chronologically by group. The general structure of the files has been maintained by the archives but a decision was made to rearrange some files to keep the subject series from becoming too fragmented, assist in research, and decrease duplication. Some series have been renamed to more accurately describe their contents, specifically, the Meeting series was renamed Assistancy-wide Organizations, and Finances has been consolidated with Fund-raising.

The Missions Offices Records consist of the following series:

- Assistancy-wide Organizations / Boards (formerly Meetings series),
- Director’s Files,
- Finances (a consolidation of Finances and Fund-raising),
- New England Jesuit Foreign Missions (NEJFM)—Iraq,
- New England Jesuit Foreign Missions—Jamaica,
- Other Missions with New England Jesuit Staff (Brazil; Caroline & Marshall Islands, including Yap; Japan; Mid-East,
- Other Office Files (Audiovisual, Province Planning, and International Ministries)
- Personnel Records and
- Publications Files.

More detailed information can be found in each Series Description.

There is little material from the Jesuit Seminary Guild with the exception of the Finances Series which contains records of Burses and Wills.

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Also see:

- RG 12 / RG 11 Audiovisual for photographs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, slides, films, video tapes and sound recordings.
- RG 11.2 Iraq Mission and RG 11.2 Jamaica Mission / Region which contain records generated and held by the Mission itself rather than the Boston Office.
- MSS Collections for material from individuals who served on the missions.
- RG 1: Records of the Provincial, Series 9: Missions.
- RG 7: Education Apostolate for information on the educational institutions in mission territories.
- RG 14: Publications for serial publications, esp. *Jesuit Seminary News*, *Jesuit Missions* and *The Jesuit*.
- RG 11.2 Iraq Mission for issues of *Al Baghdadi*.
- RG 8: Social Apostolate for International Ministries records after 2002.

Related material:

- Transjordan material, 1940s, see MS Collection of Rev. Francis W. Anderson, S.J.
- Pontifical Mission to Palestine, 1980s, see MS Collection of Rev. Joseph L. Ryan, S.J.
- CEMAM and The Jesuit Center, Amman, Jordan, see RG 1: Records of the Provincial, Series 9: Missions

Cite As: RG 11.1, Missions Offices Records, followed by the Series Name
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.