



section for archives of churches and religious denominations
international council on archives

section des archives des églises et des communautés confessionnelles
conseil international des archives

Newsletter | August 2012

SKR sets out to meet the challenges of a changing world

Faith traditions around the world in the twenty first century will have to coexist and interact with local communities and nations facing increasing levels of instability and social, technological, economic and political change. The archives of faith communities will inevitably reflect these changes. With a view to assisting archives and archivists of these communities around the world to cope with change and new challenges, the Section of Archives Churches and Religious Denominations (SKR) has begun the process of refreshing and re-shaping itself with the aim of re-engaging with faith groups globally.

The Steering Committee met in March 2012 in Edinburgh, Scotland, to begin the exciting task of building on the desire for change to tackle the challenges of a fast moving world that first emerged at the SKR meeting held in Rome in November 2009. On 14 March 2012, at the Scottish Catholic Archives situated amongst the Georgian cobbled streets and historic town houses of Edinburgh's New Town area, the Steering Committee set out an agenda for SKR. The minutes of the meeting are available from the Newsletter editor or through the SKR pages on the ICA website.

The key actions from the meeting were as follows:

A new name – from SKR to SAFT

The Section was given the title 'Section for Archives of Churches and Religious Denominations' when it was established in 1995 at its first ever meeting in Prague. As this title is now seventeen years old, the Steering Committee decided the time was right to change the name of the Section to better reflect a more inclusive approach to the diversity of faith traditions in the world. The new title Section for Archives of Faith

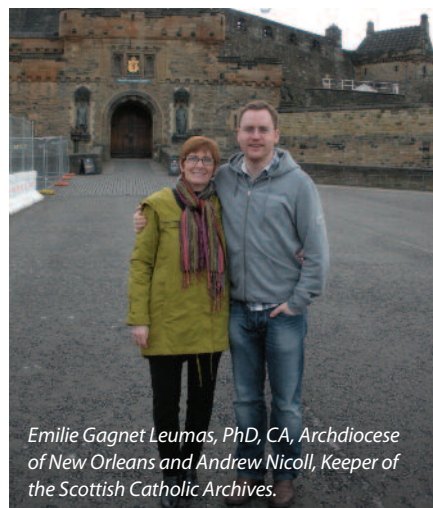
Traditions (SAFT) has been proposed for ratification at the ICA Congress in Brisbane in August. The new title will allow the Section to extend its global reach to encompass faith groups in all their many forms – from the major faith traditions Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, through to less well known ones, such as Baha'i, Jainism, the Rastafari movement and Shintoism.

SAFT Bookmark

If the new name is approved in Brisbane, there are plans for the Section to design and distribute a bookmark in time for the 2013 ICA annual meeting. The bookmark will ask people to translate the new title into their language by asking, "How would you say?" and will include the following titles:

- Section for Archives of Faith Traditions (English)
- Section des archives des traditions de foi (French)
- La seccion de archivos de tradiciones de fe (Spanish)

Translations in other languages are welcome; please send them to the Newsletter editor. ■



Emilie Gagnet Leumas, PhD, CA, Archdiocese of New Orleans and Andrew Nicoll, Keeper of the Scottish Catholic Archives.

What we want to achieve 2012-2016

The Steering Committee considered a new overall mission statement for the Section was required, together with fresh goals and objectives.

The following broad mission statement was developed:

Advocate for archival management based on professional practices and standards, including access and protection of cultural resources critical to our understanding of archives of faith traditions.

The Section's goals were considered in depth and revised to cover the following areas, reflecting the general objectives of ICA as set out in article III of the constitution:

- **promoting** professional and scholarly co-operation and communication between the archives of faith traditions in order to preserve heritage and promote access;
- **assisting** in the basic and continuing professional training of staff in charge of the archives of faith traditions;
- **developing** and disseminating standards and ethics for the preservation, arrangement and description of the archival heritage of faith traditions.



What we want to achieve 2012-2016 (continued)

The Section's objectives were defined as:

- increase and diversify membership of the Section amongst faith traditions;
- enhance communication and exchange information between archivists of faith traditions through face to face meetings and conferences, print and social media;
- encourage the establishment of sustainable archives of faith traditions around the world;
- facilitate knowledge of guidelines for the management of archival holdings;
- encourage access to collections around the world and support the study of faith traditions in the spirit of mutual tolerance;
- represent the views and interests of archivists of faith traditions, especially in the programmes of the ICA.

These goals and objectives reflect the ambitions of the 2009 SKR Committee meeting in Rome where advocacy was seen as a major component of the Section's work, an approach that the meeting in Edinburgh was keen to support, promote and strengthen. ■

SKR (SAFT) at the Brisbane Congress



The Congress in August 2012 will be the springboard for the Section to launch its new ambitions, goals and ways of working. This will be an exciting time, so all SKR members are encouraged to support the work of the Section at the Congress.

Equally, if members cannot be in Australia for this event, every effort will be made to provide information afterwards about decisions and activities, as well as provide ways to engage people in discussions and participate in the work of the Section.

Your views are important and we need to hear about your perspectives and professional needs. You can help fashion the work of SKR during the period 2012-2016, so please comment and get involved. ■



John (Jac) Treanor, Vice Chancellor, Archives & Records, Archdiocese of Chicago and Ian Wakeling, at offices of the Scottish Catholic Archives, Edinburgh.

Fast Forward – SKR Committee Involvement

SKR members can help shape the work of SKR by participating in the Business meeting at the ICA Congress in Brisbane. So, come along to the Brisbane Convention Centre on Friday 24 August and help galvanise the work of the Section.

A new Steering Committee will be elected at the meeting, so if you would like to be part of SKR's future during the period 2012-2016, this is a great opportunity to be involved by serving on the Committee.

At the Edinburgh Steering Committee meeting, the following members of the Steering Committee were nominated for agreement in Brisbane:

- Emilie Leumas, Archivist, Archdiocese of New Orleans, chair
- Ian Wakeling, The Children's Society (Church of England Children's Society), vice-chair

There will be a meeting of the new Steering Committee following its election on the 24th August.



SKR event on 20 August 2012 – tour of the Mercy Heritage Centre, Brisbane

All people interested in faith-based collections and SKR are warmly invited to take part in this tour, which will start at 14:30 (2:30pm) on Monday 20 August.

The Mercy Heritage Centre is a social history museum dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane through interactive and educational exhibitions, demonstrations and guided tours as well as research projects and publications. The Centre is situated at 547 Ann Street in Brisbane, within the historic All Hallows' Convent that overlooks the Brisbane River and Story Bridge. We will meet at the Ann Street entrance to the Centre; further details can be found on the map of the All Hallows School and Convent or the Centre's website: <http://www.mercyheritage.com/>



The tour will be free of charge and offers a fascinating venue to start making links and discussing the future of faith-based archives.

At the Rome meeting in 2009 the following SKR Steering Committee Officers and Members were elected for the period to 2012:

Chair & Webmaster Kim Eberhard - Archivist, Franciscan Province of the Holy Spirit (Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, New Zealand); also Archivist and Historian

Vice Chair William J Bissenden - Archivist, Diocese of Bridgeport

Secretary Emilie Gagnet Leumas - Archivist, Archdiocese of New Orleans

Newsletter Editor Ian Wakeling - Records, Archive and Data Protection Manager, The Children's Society (Church of England Children's Society)

Committee Members

Hadassah Assouline – Director, The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

Michael Fliri – Archivist, Diocese of Voralberg

Erzsébeth Horváth – Archivist, University of Hungary

Hans-Günther Kessler – Archivist, Landeskirche, Eisenach

Godfried Kwanten - KADOC

Andrew R Nicoll – Keeper, Scottish Catholic Archives

Ellen D Pierce – Director, Maryknoll Mission Archives

John Treanor – Archivist, Archdiocese of Chicago

Jonathan Morgan – Archivist, retired.

A new Steering Committee for the period 2012-2016 will be elected on Friday 24th August at a meeting held in Brisbane at the ICA Congress. ■

The Newsletter – share your ideas and knowledge

Our aim is to make the SKR Newsletter a regular feature, perhaps twice a year. Members of the SKR Section are invited to provide news and features for future editions – are there issues affecting faith-based archives that you would like SKR to comment on or advocate? What do you think are the main issues that SKR should be addressing in the global faith-based archival community? Is there information about archival issues or events in your country or faith that you could share to assist others? Can other people learn from you? It's your Section.

Please send your articles, news and comments to Ian Wakeling: ian.wakeling@childrenssociety.org.uk

