Note from the Archives Manager

Hello Mount Community,

I hope you have been having a wonderful summer! The summer is often our busiest time for researchers. This summer, researchers have included students, faculty, administrators, scholars, and genealogists. We have even had researchers visit from as far as Arizona and Michigan! I love being able to export the goodness of the Mount and our rich history to individuals across the country!

In addition to research, we have also been planning many exciting events for the Fall semester. For a listing of events in August through September, please see page 3.

This Fall, we also welcome two new interns to the archives. Senior Tom Baker is a triple major in French, History, and Theology and will be translating and transcribing the papers of our founder, Fr. John DuBois. Additionally, Ronnie Georgieff is a senior history major and will assisting with processing collections.

Jessica Whitmore
The Olwell Medieval Homily

While many know that the Mount was founded in 1808, few realize how far back many of our archival treasures actually date. One such example is a medieval homily that is about 700 years old from southern Scotland. Seen at right, the manuscript, which is dated circa 1320, is written in Latin and is twenty pages in length.

The manuscript had belonged to Henry Eggleso Olwell. Hailing from New York City, Olwell began his studies at Mount St. Mary's Prep on September 15, 1854. Despite a year of absence during the 1857/1858 school year, he graduated from MSM Prep on June 29, 1859. Olwell then attended MSM College for one year from September 1859 to March 15, 1860. The manuscript was donated to the Mount by his sister after his death, along with numerous other books and manuscripts.

While not much is known about Henry, who died at the age 40, his father was a successful businessman. James Olwell, was born in 1807 in County Cavan, Ireland. After immigrating to the United States, James and his brother Matthew founded the very successful Manhattan grocery firm J. and M. Olwell, which they operated for forty-seven years. James Olwell was also very involved with Catholic charities. He was an original trustee and briefly president of the New York Catholic Protectory, a reformatory of juvenile delinquents. The institution was founded in 1863 by Archbishop John Hughes, who graduated from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in 1826.¹

This manuscript is just one example of how the unique treasures of the archives help preserve our Catholic heritage and Mount spirit for future generations.

Reference

Upcoming Events

We’re kicking off the Fall semester with many exciting events in the Mount Archives! Mark our August/September event dates on your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you!

2nd Annual Library Tailgate Party – Sept. 4

During this fun event, students will have the opportunity learn about library staff and services, while promoting school spirit!

Make sure to stop by the Archives Station to check out the Mount Athletics exhibit and learn about student opportunities in the archives!

Founding Fathers Exhibit – Sept. 18

Join us in celebrating Constitution Day with our Founding Fathers Exhibit! Come learn about the Mount’s connections to America’s founding fathers in Patriot Hall from 10:00 – 2:00!
Digital Curation Conference – Sept. 23

We are partnering with the Society of American Archivists to present a day-long workshop titled “Digital Curation: Fundamentals for Success.” The deadline for early-bird registration is August 23. If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact Jessica Whitmore for more information.

Mount Scavenger Hunt – Sept. 30

We are teaming up with the Intramurals Office to host the 2nd Annual Mount Scavenger Hunt! Working in teams, students will learn the history of the Mount while exploring campus in a fun and engaging scavenger hunt. Stay tuned for more information!