

St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

Records, 1872- (bulk 1963-)

SJU Archival Collection 31

10.4 cubic ft. (26 archive boxes)

Update: June 5, 2020

ABSTRACT: Records of Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. Former names include Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Project (MMMP) and Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Library (MMML). In 1975, the name became Hill Monastic Manuscript Library (HMML) to acknowledge the early support of the Hill Family Foundation. The current name was adopted in 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection includes correspondence, minutes, reports, news releases and news clippings, brochures, newsletters, photographs, and other materials related to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, its history and programs. The collection also contains materials related to the Weyerhaeuser family, including photocopies of pre-1910 correspondence held by the Minnesota Historical Society, and original documents (genealogy, minutes, correspondence) from 1935 to 1969. Other than the Weyerhaeuser materials, the bulk of the collection dates from 1963 or later.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY: In the fall of 1963, Colman Barry, OSB, secretary of the American Benedictine Academy, began putting out feelers for an idea he had of a project to microfilm the manuscript collections of European Benedictine monasteries. This would both preserve the unique documents and give scholars wider opportunity to study them. The following autumn, with a grant from the Louis W. and Maud Hill Family Foundation for a one-year pilot project, Oliver Kapsner, OSB, a cataloging librarian, was dispatched to Europe to visit monasteries and begin the program. The first agreement, with Kremsmünster Abbey in Austria, opened many doors, and filming began in April 1965. A curator, Julian Plante, was named in 1966 to coordinate the microfilm project on the St. John's campus.

From the beginning, this microfilm collection was anticipated as a component of the new library designed for St. John's. A grant from the Bush Foundation in 1974 made possible the construction of a two-story addition to Alcuin Library to accommodate the growing needs of the microfilm library.

After the start in Kremsmünster, the scope of the program began expanding almost immediately, with microfilming of manuscripts held by religious orders other than Benedictines. Besides medieval Continental monastic manuscripts, HMML also has significant collections in Malta studies and in Ethiopian manuscripts. It partnered with Lutheran Brotherhood to microfilm Reformation documents. More recently, HMML has been at work in the Middle East, south Asia, and Africa. Microfilming has given way to digitization as a means of safeguarding manuscripts.

Directors have been:

Oliver Kapsner, OSB	Director	1964-1972
Julian Plante	Curator	1966-1972
Julian Plante	Director	1972-1992
Carmela Vircillo Franklin	Interim Director	1992-1993
Eric Hollas, OSB	Director	1993-2002
Katherine Gill		2002-2003
Columba Stewart, OSB		2003-

ARRANGEMENT: The files are organized alphabetically.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: There are no access restrictions on the materials, and the collection is open to all members of the public.

COLLECTION CITATION: This collection should be cited as:

St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. Records, 1872- . SJU Archival Collection 31. St. John's University Archives, Collegeville, Minnesota.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: See also **AC 13**, Library Director, for additional materials related to Oliver Kapsner's work in microfilming European manuscripts.

ACQUISITION: Accession 367 was transferred to the Archives on February 18, 1985. Accession 2005-006 was transferred to the Archives on June 15, 2005 and August 23, 2005. Accession 2018-006 was transferred to the Archives on June 21, 2018.

SUBJECT TERMS:

- Hill Museum & Manuscript Library.

- Hill Monastic Manuscript Library.
- St. John's University (Collegeville, Minn.). Monastic Manuscript Microfilm Library.
- Weyerhaeuser Foundation.

INVENTORY: For contents, search for "HMML" in the Inventory List (<http://apps.csbsju.edu/sjuarchives/Inventory.aspx>).
