

They comprise annual reports, journals, minutes of standing committees, correspondence, candidates papers, clipping books and photographs.

Finding aids

There is a comprehensive ninety page inventory supplied by the AJCP and a full description of the collection appears in the *AJCP Handbook, Part 8*, second edition, p. 88. The *Guide to Manuscripts in the British Isles Relating to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific*, by P. Mander-Jones (Canberra: ANU Press, 1972), pp. 351-55 is useful for description as well.

Research value

The records include material on the changing status of the colonial church, its relationship with the state and problems associated with government financial aid, together with local reports on missionary activity.

OCEANIA MARIST PACIFIC ARCHIVES Micro MS Coll 21

Catholic Church. Diocese of Tonga. Archives, [ca. 1842]-1951. (OMPA 1-25).

Catholic Church. Diocese of Samoa and Tokelau. Archives, [ca. 1845]-1962. (OMPA 26-74).

Marist Fathers. Papers relating to the Marist Mission in the Pacific, 1836-1935. (OMPA 80-100).

Catholic Church. Diocese of Wallis and Futuna. Archives, 1838-1973. (OMPA 101-126).

Catholic Church. Diocese of Port Vila (Vanuatu). Archives, 1837-1939. (OMPA 127-178).

Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Noumea, New Caledonia. Archives, 1842-1976. (OMPA 179-360).

Catholic Church. Oceania Marist Province. Archives, 1893-1971. (OMPA 361-400). 394 reels.

Provenance

The records were microfilmed under a project carried out by Father Theo B. Cook SM while serving as archivist of the Oceania Marist Province Archives in Fiji. The Pacific Manuscripts Bureau later took over the project, distributing the film and compiling the inventories from Father Cook's notes.

Contents

The Marist Order (Society of Mary) was created in April 1836 after the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith had sought means of evangelising the Western Pacific and the first Marists were sent, under Bishop Pompallier, in December 1836. In 1842, the Vicariate of Central Oceania was created and New Zealand became the separate Vicariate of Western Oceania.

This collection contains the records of the dioceses and archdioceses that once formed the Vicariate of Central Oceania but which later became separate administrative units in their own right.

Most of the material is in French.

Finding aids

Each of these seven groups of records has been catalogued separately.

The inventories originally supplied with each group of microfilm have been consolidated into one volume and published as : *The Catholic Church in the Western Pacific: a guide to records on microfilm*, edited by Robert Langdon (Canberra: ANU, 1985). There is a good general introduction to the whole collection together with commentaries preceding each of the inventories which give the full contents of each reel.

Research value

The result of the dedicated work of one theologian, this collection provides a valuable resource relating to the activities of the Marist order in the Pacific.