

Fall 1989

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The Joint Archives Quarterly

Fall 1989

Volume 1 Number 3



PHOTOGRAPHS!! Come and see!

Nothing is more important in documenting the history of Holland than photographs. The old saying that a picture is worth a thousand words is really true at the Joint Archives. As Holland's main repository for historical, paper based materials (as distinct from objects such as china or paintings which belong in the museum) the Archives maintains thousands of historical photographs which tell stories like the semi-centennial bash held in Holland in 1897, the first College Pull or the building of the Seminary's complex.

On this page is a sampling of some of the photographs that are used in making brochures, printed to accompany stories in the newspaper or to help illustrate a book. Each of the three collections, Holland Historical Trust (Netherlands Museum), Hope College and Western Seminary, have their

own unique photographic collection.

This summer and fall the archives is reorganizing the photo collections in order to make them more accessible to the public and easier to locate for the archives staff.

You have probably seen a sampling of our photographs before. Several local historians such as Donald van Reken and Larry Massie have utilized the wealth of images to help them illustrate their stories and historical facts. The local news media call on the Archives to locate historical scenes.



Hope College Basketball team, c1913

Everyone is free to see and use our photos. Anyone can come to the Archives and look through particular photos or groups of photos that may have special interest to you. We can even make quick photostatic copies for your reference. You may also choose to have a photographic duplicate made for yourself which the Archives can do for

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Archivist
- Seminary Papers Come to Light
- Up From the Mines
- Tulip Time in the Archives
- Presidents unveil new *Guide*.

you through a local photographer.

Finally, if you would like to use our photographs in a publication we have just a few rules to protect the collection for the benefit of all. Any non-profit group or news agency may use any photograph free of charge as long as a photo credit appears with the image. Those who use our photographs in a for-profit publication must share a minimal amount of their profit with the Archives in the form of a reproduction fee. This helps defray a part of the cost in maintaining the Archive's collections.

We encourage you to come in and see some of our pictures and the many stories they contain. We have set up three displays in the archives which feature our photographic collection. Please come and see!

From the Archivist

Recently we were able to host the Holland Genealogical Society and I enjoyed sharing with them the variety of our collections. The Archives serves a wide variety of people who do historical research and through their visits we have been learning how better to serve our patrons.

Summer was a busy time for the archives staff as we finished, published and distributed our new *Guide*. With exceptional sales to date it is quickly becoming one of the most successful projects the Joint Archives has had.

As we turn to fall and the beginning of our second year it is important to say "thank you" for your support as the Joint Archives went from being an idea to a reality. Over the past year we have serviced over 500 patrons - up to ten times more patrons than other repositories our size. What this indicates is just how rich and important the historical documents are that are housed here.

In the coming months we will be extending an opportunity to you to participate in the growth and activities of the Joint Archives. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Larry J. Wagenaar



L-R Archivist Larry Wagenaar, Hope College President John Jacobson, Western Seminary President Marvin Hoff, Holland Historical Trust President Clay Stauffer and Joint Archives Council Chairman Elton J. Bruins.

Although distribution of the new *Guide to the Collections* began in mid-July, the official announcement had to wait until later in the month of August when we could schedule the presidents of each member institution of the Joint Archives of Holland.

Holding the newly published work for the cameras, each president commented on the landmark work that was incorporated in the *Guide*. By giving a detailed description of the papers, documents and other historical documentation held here the Joint Archives has become an example for other repositories to follow.

It was also noted how well the cooperative program has worked in its first year of operation. Never before have three separate institutions, especially with differing private and public ties, cooperated to make their

historical materials available to the public.

It was also announced that initial sales of the *Guide* have been brisk with many area libraries making it available as part of their reference collections. Even repositories outside the western Michigan area have obtained copies including Lansing, Ann Arbor and Iowa.

The *Guide to the Collections* is dedicated to Elton J. Bruins, a well known leader in local history circles. Bruins, who is acting provost of the College and professor of religion, was instrumental in bringing the archival program in Holland to fruition. Bruins guided it through two previous attempts in 1976 and 1980.

Copies of the *Guide* are available for \$15.95 plus tax at the Archives and several local bookstores. It can be ordered by mail for an additional \$3.00 shipping charge.

Collections

Up from the Mines...

The Joint Archives of Holland recently received over 230 rolls of microfilm which were previously stored in a converted gypsum mine in Grand Rapids.

The microfilm contains official documents of the College such as student transcripts, financial records and other documents critical to the operation of the institution.

The movement of these records is an acknowledgement of the superb storage conditions of the Joint Archives of Holland. The Joint Archives maintains a constant temperature and humidity level and all material is protected by an inert gas fire suppressant system rather than sprinklers.

Seminary Papers Come to Light

Archives staff member Amy Nagel has been working on cataloging a collection of student papers dealing with the history of Holland, the Dutch in United States and the Reformed Church in America which will prove to be a good source of information for future researchers.

The papers were written between 1961 and 1980.

Tulip Time in the Archives

The recent addition of the Lida Rogers and Lavina Cappon collections to the Joint Archives have rounded out the Tulip Time holdings of the Joint Archives.

The Archives already holds early Tulip Time programs and numerous photos. However, the addition of the new materials documents the contributions of two of Tulip Time's early proponents.

Lida Rogers is usually credited as the founder of Tulip Time since she first proposed that the City of Holland plant Tulip bulbs in 1927. (Although an item in the recent donation suggests that some doubted this distinction!)

Lida Rogers' papers include correspondence,

scrapbooks and a photo album relating to Tulip Time. The photo album is of special interest since it covers the earliest years of the Festival, 1930-1939.

The papers of Lavina Cappon, daughter of Isaac Cappon, Holland's first mayor, are presently being processed and should be ready for public access in early 1990. From 1931 until 1959 Lavina was the chief authority of all Klompen dancer costumes for Tulip Time. In 1974 she was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Tulip Time parade.

Lavina Cappon's papers include her notes regarding the coordination of the costumes, clippings and scrapbooks on Tulip Time.

The papers of these two women promise to be a valuable resource for those interested in the history of Tulip Time.



An early Tulip Time brochure

COME AND SEE!!

ON DISPLAY

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GUIDE TO THE COLLECTIONS

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Hope College
Western Theological Seminary

The Joint Archives of Holland Guide to the Collections

Order Form

Please send _____ copies of the *Guide to the Collections*
of the *Joint Archives of Holland* \$15.95 ea. _____

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Institutions may be billed, however, prepayment is recommended.

Return to: The Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College Campus, Holland, MI 49423

Pick up your copy at the Joint Archives and avoid the shipping charge!