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Minutes from the meeting of May 19, 1976

New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY CATHOLIC HISTORICAL
RECORDS COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1976.

The meeting came to order at 2:10 p.m. Present: Bishop Dougherty, Frs. Hinrichsen, Sullivan, Wister, Messrs. Bush, Mahoney, Prince, Reilly. Fr. Joseph Slinger represented Prof. Mitchell.

Bishop Dougherty reported that the state Knights of Columbus had pledged \$10,000.00 to the Commission, to be given in two increments, the first probably in September. No response has been received yet from the Catholic Daughters of America.

Bishop Dougherty delivered to the director the history of the Church of St. John the Baptist, New Brunswick, the first response to Bishop Ahr's letter of April 2, 1976. Bishop Dougherty has already asked the other ordinaries of the province of New Jersey to contact their pastors for the same purpose. Prof. Mahoney will draft the letter to the pastors advising them how to send the materials.

Fr. Sullivan reported that the diocesan archives contain some twenty file drawers of materials collected by the late Msgr. Joseph Brady.

Prof. Mahoney reported that work is in progress on drafting a logo in color and in monochrome, and that Professor Mitchell has been in contact with Mr. John Cole on the matter of space.

The director was reminded to insure that the ordinaries of the Province of New Jersey receive the minutes of the Commission's meetings.

Extensive discussion of the proposed honorary/advisory board then ensued. Prof. Mahoney asked whether one board should be created for all functions, or two boards with specialized functions. Prof. Prince, on the basis of his experience with the Livingston Papers project, suggested that one board works very well. Prof. Reilly, Mr. Bush and others then suggested as potential board members: Msgr. John T. Ellis, Rev. Robert Trisco, Prof. Richard P. McCormick, Prof. David O'Brien, Rev. Colman Barry, O.S.B., Bishop-elect Spong, Prince Taylor, Robert Beck, president of the New Jersey Historical Society and of the Prudential Insurance Co., Robert Wussler, president of CBS and a Seton Hall alumnus, the presidents of N.J. Bell Telephone Co. and of Drew University, John T. Cunningham, Prof. James M. Banner, Jr., John C. Bennett, Prof. Rudolph J. Vecoli, Mr. William Wright, Prof. Arthur S. Link, Donald Sinclair and, in general, leading members of the business community, the foundations, and Catholic institutions in New Jersey. Further discussion and decision was held over until the next meeting.

The group next discussed the best mode of obtaining publicity. Prof. Prince suggested that a total public relations plan should be devised, both to maximize the impact of the Commission and to draw forth materials which might remain unknown. It was agreed that all public relations efforts should process through the director, and that further discussion be postponed until the next meeting.

Prof. Prince then raised the question of grant applications. With the pledge from the Knights of Columbus, he argued, the Commission is now in an excellent position to seek further monies, but he also noted the near approach of deadlines for proposals. Mr. Bush added that our work clearly qualifies for funding under a new NHPRC program (as yet unfunded by the Congress) and further announced that the research grants of the New Jersey Historical Commission will be reinstituted at a modest level. He also suggested approaching the New Jersey Bicentennial Celebration Commission for support.

Almost spontaneously the question of sub-committee organization arose. After some discussion, the members agreed that sub-committees on grants, technical services, space and facilities, acquisitions policy, and public relations were initially needed. Members present agreed to serve as follows: (Names in parentheses were suggested as appropriate members of a committee, but those persons were not present to defend themselves.)

<u>Acquisitions Policy</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Technical Services</u>	<u>Space and Facilities</u>
Fr. Hinrichsen	Mr. Bush	(Msgr. Field)	(Msgr. Field)
Prof. Reilly	Prof. Prince	Prof. Mahoney	Prof. Reilly
Fr. Sullivan	(Lee Burke)		

Publicity


Prof. Mahoney

The group also agreed to suggest to Bishop Dougherty, who had departed for another meeting, that he write to the Knights of Columbus to express the Commission's gratitude and to advise them that the Commission would like to use the occasion of their grant as a key element in a publicity campaign in the autumn.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 1976 in the conference room, President's Hall, Seton Hall University at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph F. Mahoney