

Department of History & Archives

Outreach Highlights

“Pages from Our Past”

in
The Orthodox Church

The OCA Archives is the official repository for the inactive records of the Orthodox Church in America dating back to the Alaskan mission in 1794. Among the other collections preserved in the OCA Archives are some 90 collections of personal and institutional archives of hierarchs, clergy, lay leaders, and church-related entities, as well as photographs, films and videos, computer discs and other media, periodicals, church directories, and special anniversary and historical publications and artifacts from throughout the world.

In addition to collecting, organizing, cataloging and preserving these collections, the Department of History and Archives provides the Church's historical vision through research and documentary support to the Holy Synod of Bishops, chancery administrators and staff, and other administrative bodies of the Church. The department provides historical and archival resources for research to scholars, as well as dioceses, parishes and institutions interested in studying the history and life of Orthodox Christianity in North America.

The department provides various consultant services to parishes and institutions in conjunction with the preservation of their own historical records. The department produces occasional books and publishes regular articles on historical topics in OCA periodicals and a variety of other publications. Department members are available to deliver lectures and other presentations.



Left: The OCA Archivist was the banquet speaker at Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Cathedral (ROCOR) in Mayfield, PA for the celebration of the centennial of the First All-American Sobor in October 2007.



Above: During his first visit to the OCA Chancery in October 2008, Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, was given a tour of the OCA Archives.



Right: Every year, participants in the Saint Vladimir's Seminary Youth Institute visit the OCA Chancery for a tour of the building and the Archives. Here, they are shown a hundred year old bottle used to bring Holy Chrism from Russia for the North American Diocese a century ago.



Right: Archimandrite Cherbunin came from Mount Athos in February 2006 to conduct research in the OCA Archives for his dissertation on Saint Herman of Alaska.



Right: The OCA Archivist meets at the New York Public Library in June 2006 with American and Russian archivists and librarians to discuss matters of mutual interest and possible cooperation.



Left: The American Orthodox Church history class at Saint Vladimir's Seminary, taught by Fr. John Erickson, makes a group visit in March 2007 to become familiar with the rich historical resources of the OCA Archives. Students also visit individually for more extensive research.



Above: A film crew from Kazan (Tatarstan), Russia visited the OCA Archives in March 2006 to film material for a documentary on the Kazan icon of the Mother of God, which was returned to Russia from the Vatican in 2004. In the 1960s, this icon was in the US for several years under the care of Archbishop John (Shahovskoy) of San Francisco of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America (now OCA). Previous research in the OCA Archives by historian Dmitri Khafizov (left) had contributed to the compilation of extensive archival documentation that facilitated the sacred icon's return to the Russian Orthodox Church.



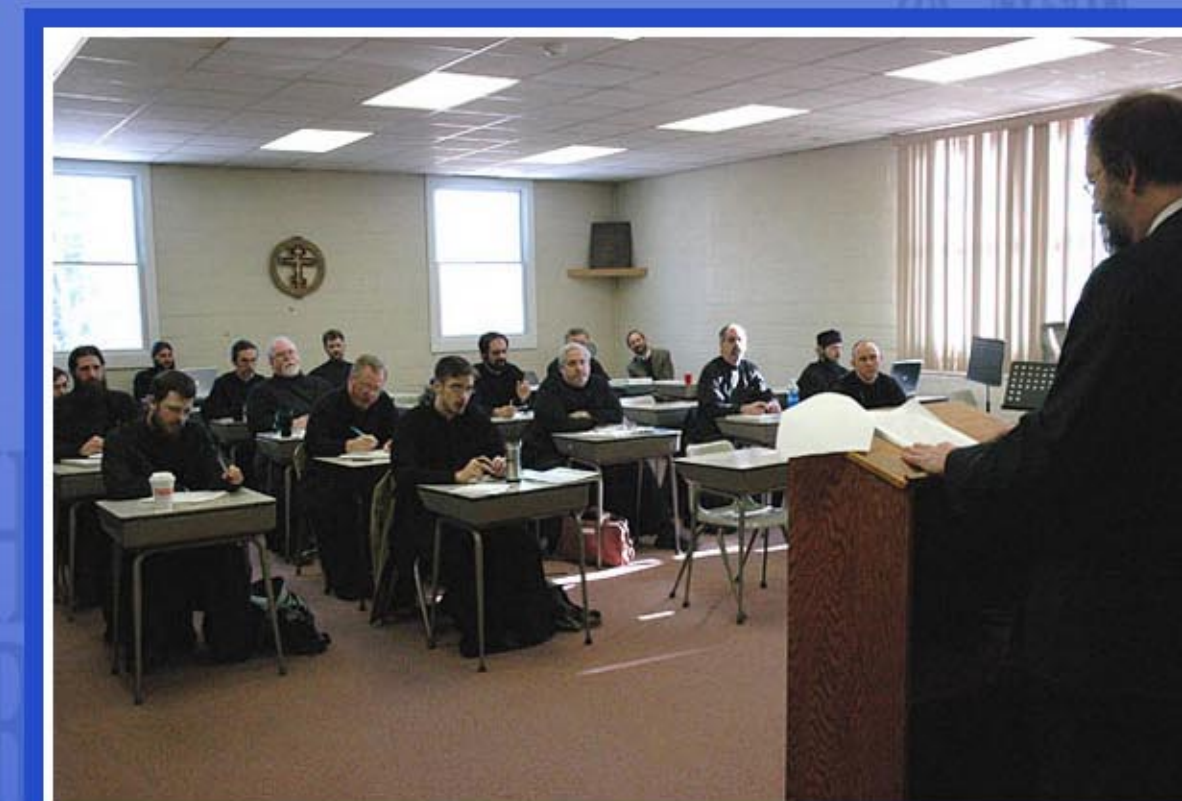
Left: Many people visit the OCA Chancery every year. All are afforded the opportunity to see the unique treasures of the OCA Archives. Here, a member of the delegation of the OCA Romanian Episcopate, invited to a session of the Holy Synod in May 2008, tours the OCA Archives.



The OCA Archives contains a wealth of archival documentation on parish history. Among parish history researchers in 2006 and 2007 were clergy and faithful from Montreal, QC, Canada (left) and South River, NJ (right).



Right: The OCA Archivist makes annual visits to St. Tikhon's Seminary to deliver a historical lecture and to familiarize the students with the Church's priceless archival collections.



Department Members & Resource People

Very Rev. John Erickson
Chairman

Alexis Liberovsky
Archivist / Director

Nikolaj Kostur
Archives Intern

Members
V. Rev. Alexander Golubov
Sergei Arhipov
Dr. Nikolas Gvosdev
Minadora Jacobs
Eleanna Silk

Orthodox Encyclopedia Task Force

Alexis Liberovsky
Task Force Coordinator

Members
V. Rev. Alexander Golubov
V. Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky
V. Rev. Dennis Rhodes
Dr. Nikolas Gvosdev
Dr. Paul Meyendorff
George Soldatow

Diocesan Consultants

Alaska
Minadora Jacobs

Albanian
Professor Gregory Pano
Professor Nicholas Pano
Neka Doko

Canada
Kathryn Szalasznyj

Mexico
Emmanuel Cruz Reyes

New England
V. Rev. Dennis Rhodes

Romanian
Rev. Remus Grama
Alexandru Nemoianu

South
V. Rev. Basil Zebrun
Rev. Seraphim Hipsh

Washington and New York
Dr. Juretta Jordan Heckscher

Western PA
John Rusinko

CONTACT INFO:

PO BOX 675
SVOSSET, NY 11791

PHONE: 516-922-0550, EXT. 121

FAX: 516-922-0954

EMAIL: alex@oca.org

history@oca.org