

CONFERENCE NOTES - TRUSTEES OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
ats. SLATER & GORDON CLAIMANTS

Date: 11 April 1994
10.00a.m. - 12 noon

Present: Brother Dominic Obbins,
Colin McGee, Solicitor from Carroll & O'Dea,
C.A. Rimmer
B.J. Gross Q.C.

Discussed Index to documents in the archives at Haberfield. Generalate correspondence - 00001 - 00039 - was the correspondence between the Superior General (Dublin) and the Brother Provincial. This included correspondence going both ways. There is an Index for correspondence for 1950 and also 1956. Generally the documents in these groups deal with general correspondence concerning such things as purchases. The correspondence is fairly frequent e.g. five letters in February 1950. Brother Dominic is currently working on the Index for 1945.

Index of Council Meeting Minute Books - Provincial Council in Strathfield. First record is 1935. Brother Dominic is not sure where the records are, possibly in Roman Archives. Early minutes give a sketchy outline and get fuller later on. These are amenable to key word call up on the data base.

Visitation reports - collected by community. Only hold visitation reports for the New South Wales community and Papua New Guinea. Other States are independent provinces and hold their own visitation reports. The likely source of complaints/disciplinary action/investigation in Provincial Councils - for all of Australia. Not much correspondence from Headmasters or Superiors to Provincial Council.

Provincial correspondence - to Brother Provincial from various Superiors. This has not yet been indexed. Concerns years 1955 on. In 1953/54 there was a split with W.A. Query where is there Provincial correspondence. From 1953 Melbourne became the southern centre and responsible for W.A. records. Later in about 1967 W.A. became its own centre. Brother Consulters are members of the Provincial Council. These documents appear to be progress reports as they travel around. This appears to be a formal recording of matters or letters written at time of visitation. These are not visitation reports. Records started to be collected and put into archives in 1979.

006/63 W.A. Holy Spirit Province. This is inter-provincial correspondence. Brother Dominic thinks this is not much

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interest.

The next documents concern list of schools in alphabetical order from Albury to Waverley 00148-00187. These are only New South Wales Schools. The Apostolic delegate would be an alternative to the Provincial for such matters as dispensations. It should be note that the index of these documents reflects the chronological gathering of the material or handling of material, not when events occurred.

Sydney Archdiocese - 00199-00204 - concerns correspondence from representatives of the Archdiocese. This would mainly be the Apostolic delegate and mail received from the Provincial. There is not much in the files of replies. Copies of outgoing correspondence did not seem to be kept. There were many oral decisions and no carbons of letters which were then hand written. There were no secretaries at Strathfield until about 20 years ago.

Documents 00267-269 - Provincial conferences - minutes in recent years of meetings. CEB - Catholic Education Board - these documents concern mainly funding and decisions on individual schools and staffing by the Brothers. This would mainly include schools run by the Catholic Education Office i.e. not run by the Brothers but which are staffed by the Brothers.

The Juvenate - 00294-00296 - records concern students coming in at school level and were started in the early 1920's and finish in 1976. The students came in at the age of 13 or 14 years in 1920's. There are old indexes to the system including Western Australia and references can be indexed on the new system e.g. 146 concerned training of poor boys which is indexed at 1347 in these documents.

00297 - Postulator - Recruitment Office.

22098-00300 - Scholasticate - teacher training stage after noviate.

Visits home - 00308-00309 concern visits by Brothers to their own homes.

316 on - miscellaneous correspondence and documents including legal correspondence. The firm dealing with those matters were Shaw & McDonald and mainly concerned property dealings.

Visitation reports - no Western Australian records here.

Provincial Circulars - mainly exhaltations i.e. Shape Up, Some News. Not sure how frequently sent.

CEO refers to Catholic Education Office

00447 - Generalate - style manual

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00450 - Conference talks - retreats

00471-480 - Provincial Meetings - Minute Books. The gap for 1934 - 1966 - those records have already been sorted by Brother Dominic and summarised in Index of Council Meetings.

Provincial Chapters 00508-00546 - Assembly of Delegates elected by Members of the Province. 1967 on - St. Mary's Province.

00507 - 1930 General Chapter - an International meeting following a round of Provincial Chapter meetings which then culminate in a general meeting every six years. Gap between 1947 and 1960 - not a lot of material on it. Also large book of minutes of earlier Chapter Assemblies.

00548 - General Chapters - World wide body. Minutes of those meetings held in Dublin. After 1970's Minutes held in Rome. Constitutions - additions to these.

00709 - Conferences

CEC - Catholic Education Commission (CEO deals with administration of schools and CEC is financial arm of this).

00796 - Brothers correspondence - individual Brothers writing in, no replies recorded e.g. application for permission to travel etc and request for transfers.

00801 on - Brothers correspondence consultors - probably consultors writing in

00891 - Circulars 1953-1955. These may be Provincial circulars or could be circulars from Superior General.

008900 - Legal. Covers period 1933-1977. Brother Dominic could make up a list of topics.

00919-00947 - Consultors' school visitation reports - New South Wales schools only.

00948-956 - Empty. Doesn't know why these are empty. Possibly folders not used/never a package inside them.

Scrutiny books - 00987. Covers period 1916-1927. Minutes of Scrutiny Committee. This reviews applications by Brothers to renew vows/make final vows at the end of each year. Brothers in a community are asked to write about younger members of the community and the committee decides on the basis of this. Summaries only - no real details.

00987 - Scrutiny Minute Books

00990 - Permissions - eg. permission to smoke, drink hard liquor. Covers exemptions from general practice of the order.

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01046 - Brothers correspondence. These are collections taken from rooms probably after the Brothers died. These are correspondence from various Strathfield personalities.

01004 - Tabulation/list of who went where - transfers.

(In over-size collection there is a separate index. The over-size collection includes material that will not fit into the boxes)

01060-66 - Files of Shaw & McDonald, Solicitors

01089 - Miscellaneous Provincial correspondence. Brother Dominic does not know what is in this

01098 On - Council meetings. These are not minutes but separate notes. Brother Hill Consultor on Council, Assistant to General in Rome.

01146-01148 - Congregational calendars from 1945-1979. These are liturgical calendars.

01162-01164 - Acts of Chapter. These cover the period 1960-1978. Provincial Chapter would make its regulations from Strathfield.

01181 - Notebooks of Brothers - 01185. Brother Dominic does not know if this is a diary or a lesson register.

01200 - Fairly modern documents. There was an annual accession i.e. material stored from year to year.

01250-01291 - Restricted material. This is in the filing cabinet of Brother McDonald's office. It concerns dispensations correspondence from Brothers. Brother Dominic does not know how far back it goes and has not seen any of this material. It was packed already by the time the archives were started in 1978 and 1979. Brother Dominic thinks that some of it dates from 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. From the late 1970's on dispensations were dealt with and filed each year.

01314-01342 - Our Studies - Journal of the Province. Articles of educational and spiritual significance in this. Now it has been named School Studies and is more of an educational and academic journal i.e. it is not any longer written by Brothers for Brothers consumption.

01533 - Postulators notebook - recruiting officer. Could contain names etc.

01690 - Provincial circulars received by Sydney Commission from Provincial Strathfield.