

The Archivist's Report to the 228th Convention

We continue the process of assessing our vast collection, contained in some five separate rooms. Once we're substantially finished with that work, we'll develop a taxonomy for diocesan archival holdings, based on that recommended by the national Episcopal Archives. We'll then prepare guides and finding aids for the diocesan archives, which will be accessible on the web by scholars, genealogists, historians, and students of Episcopal history and open the important resources of our history to a far greater constituency.

We continue to determine what materials are in critical need of conservation and developing an on-going schedule of maintenance and conservation.

We commissioned the conservation and restoration of the episcopal vestments of the Right Reverend John Croes, first bishop of New Jersey, which include his rochet, chimere, and scarf and which date from about 1815. The work is being undertaken by a well-known textile conservator in the Washington DC metropolitan area, who has worked with Smithsonian Institution on the conservation of the gowns of the First Ladies of the United States.

In September 2011, I completed a lengthy negotiation with the New York State Archives in Albany to formally transfer documents and records of the second Bishop of New Jersey, the Right Reverend George Washington Doane, from that archives to the custody of Diocese of New Jersey. That negotiation had begun under Bishop Mellick Belshaw in 1990, but the communication had lapsed. This repatriates to the Diocese of New Jersey critical records from an important period in the life of this diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Cynthia McFarland

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