

KADOC

The Catholic Documentation and Research Center, in short KADOC (Katholiek Documentatie- en Onderzoekscentrum), was founded in 1976 as an interfaculty centre of the K.U. Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven) in accord with the Belgian bishops and the most important Catholic social organizations. The creators' aspiration was twofold. On the one hand they wanted to compile and make accessible a collection of archives and documentation on Catholic life in Flanders as complete as possible, from a historical (since 1794) and contemporary point of view. On the other hand they wanted to encourage research on the basis of the compiled materials.

The collection shows Catholic life in Flanders in all its aspects : religious, cultural, social, political, economical etc. The research fields include: the Church, piety and Catholic action; charity, hospitals and medical insurance societies; missionary work and third world; youth and education; arts, mass media and sociological training; the labour and agricultural movement, the middle classes, the employers movement; political parties. The collection is subdivided into three departments: the archives, the library and the audiovisual documentation.

THE ARCHIVES

The archives department keeps archives of private persons and small ephemeral organizations as well as of important organizations with national and international bearing. The compiled material is quite diverse. There are traditional account and cash books and confidential handwritten correspondence as well as statistics and many modern communication media. The Center is also working at the extension of an oral history archives.

The archives are made accessible in a professional way; they can be consulted after the owner has given his consent.

THE LIBRARY

In the library the material is similarly manifold. Amongst all the periodicals, books, brochures, series, yearbooks etc., the interested reader will find popular historical, religious or educational works, youth literature and catechistic materials together with technical or more informative works, as well as ecclesiastical directives and propaganda publications.

The KADOC library may be consulted freely. It is connected to Libis, an automated database which offers quite sophisticated research possibilities besides access to collections of national and international universities.

AUDIOVISUAL DOCUMENTATION

This department is remarkable for its variety. One can literally recreate an excellent image of Catholic Flanders through the hundreds of thousands of pictures, prayer and devotion images, posters, films, video and audiotapes, CD's, slides, flags, medals etc. which are kept here.

Each category has its own access-system and can generally be consulted freely. The pictures and posters are also integrated in the Libis system.

RESEARCH

KADOC's activities are aimed at stimulating scientific research at different levels. Therefore the first priority is to make all the saved materials accessible to researchers as quickly and efficiently as possible. Besides this, KADOC hands over research subjects every year and carries out contract research by order of third parties. Naturally, KADOC also initiates scientific interdisciplinary research projects itself. The results are then published in the series *KADOC-Studies*.

KADOC cooperates regularly on radio broadcasts, television programs and articles in newspapers and periodicals. KADOC also organizes

exhibitions, whether or not in cooperation with or by order of other parties.

ACCOMMODATION

KADOC is housed in the former friar monastery in the Vlamingenstraat, Leuven. This monastery was built around 1870, joined to the late-baroque church of O.L. Vrouw ter Koorts. In 1987, these buildings were bought by the K.U. Leuven and placed at KADOC's disposal after the necessary restorations and adaptations.

Enquiries may be directed to:

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NEWS AND NOTES

- To be published soon : CORT, i.e. *Collections of Religion and Theology in Australia and New Zealand*, compiled by Coralie Jenkin.
- Members who read *Incite* may have noted in the issue of 6 May 1991 (v12 no 6) the tribute to Joan Brewer, librarian in the Gleeson Library at the St Francis Xavier Seminary, Rostrevor, SA. With the establishment of the University of South Australia at the beginning of this year, a major extension of the library at Underdale campus was undertaken. March 27th was the occasion of the opening of the extension and its dedication as the Joan Brewer Library. We congratulate Joan on this most fitting recognition of her outstanding contributions to "library education, teacher-librarianship and women's interests."