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Guide to the Collection of Relics and Reliquaries

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Guide to the Collection of relics and reliquaries, 1795-2011 CSC.001

Finding aid prepared by Colleen Mahoney

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 28, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library
Creator	Congregation of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Springfield, Ill.)
Title	Collection of relics and reliquaries
Date [inclusive]	1795-2011
Extent	15.0 Linear feet (11 boxes of relics, 1 box of papers; additional relics are on display in the US Catholic reading room)
Location:	U.S. Catholic Special Collections, 302 Roesch Library
Language	Multiple languages
Language of Materials	Documents in this collection are in Latin and English.
Abstract:	Collection of reliquaries and relics of various Catholic saints, and the accompanying documentation.

Preferred Citation

[Item title], Collection of relics and reliquaries, 1795-1999. U.S. Catholic Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

History of Relics

In common terminology, there are three kinds of relics of saints. First-class relics are the physical remains of a saint, usually bone. Second-class relics are items worn or used by a saint, such as clothing or books. Third-class relics are items which have been applied to a higher-class relic, such as a piece of cloth pressed against the bones of a saint. "Reliquary" is the term used for the container that houses the relics, usually an ornate metal case with a glass window. When a relic is enclosed in a reliquary, an accompanying document is signed and sealed by a priest authenticating the relic.

Scope and Contents

This collection is made up of reliquaries containing relics of a variety of saints. These include first-class relics, second-class relics, and third-class relics. The reliquaries are made of a variety of metals, wood, and fabric, and many are ornate in design. Many of the reliquaries are decorated with fabric, jewels, and paper ornamentation. Most of the relics have been sealed into the reliquary with a wax seal, denoting the priest that authenticated the relic. This collection also includes documentation for many of the relics. These documents authenticate the relics as being genuine, identify the saints, give physical descriptions of the reliquaries to assist in identification, and forbid the sale of the relics. This collection includes documentation that does not match any of the relics in the collection. Some of the relics in this collection do not have accompanying documentation, or insufficient description was given to provide certain correlation between the documents and the relics.

The reliquaries have been authenticated and matched to their documentation by Professor Joseph Jacobs in the Religious Studies Department at the University of Dayton.

Statement of Arrangement

The arrangement of the documentation reflects the location of the corresponding reliquaries. Documentation that did not correspond to any reliquaries in the collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library, 2011

Revision Description

Revised to correct provenance. 1/20/2012

Restrictions on Access

Open for research. Handling of items is limited due to their fragile and valuable nature. Reliquaries and documentation may not be removed from the reading room.

Copyright Notice

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Acquisition Information

Collected for the U.S. Catholic Special Collection from various sources, including a large donations from the Congregation of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Springfield, Illinois.

Processing Information

Processed by Colleen Mahoney, March 15, 2011.

Search Terms

Genre(s)

- Reliquaries

Personal Name(s)

- Agatha, Saint, d. ca. 250
- Agnes, of Montepulciano, Saint, ca. 1268-1317
- Alacoque, Marguerite Marie, Saint, 1647-1690
- Albertus, Magnus, Saint, 1193?-1280
- Anacletus, Pope
- Anne (Mother of the Virgin Mary), Saint
- Anthony, of Egypt, Saint, ca. 250-355 or 6
- Anthony, of Padua, Saint, 1195-1231
- Antoninus, Saint, Archbishop of Florence, 1389-1459
- Augustine, Saint, Archbishop of Canterbury, d. 604?
- Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo
- Bailon, Pascual, Saint, 1540-1592
- Berchmans, John, Saint, 1599-1621
- Bernard, of Clairvaux, Saint, 1090 or 91-1153
- Bertran, Luis, Saint, 1526-1581
- Besette, Andre, Saint, 1845-1937
- Cabrini, Frances Xavier, Saint, 1850-1917
- Camillus, de Lellis, Saint, 1550-1614
- Caterina de' Ricci, Saint, 1522-1589
- Catherine, of Alexandria, Saint
- Catherine, of Siena, Saint, 1347-1380
- Cecilia, Saint
- Clare, of Assisi, Saint, 1194-1253
- Claret y Clara, Antonio Maria, Saint, 1807-1870
- Columba, Saint, 521-597
- De Sanctis, Michael
- Dominic, Saint, 1170-1221
- Dorothy, Saint, d. 311
- Edmund, of Abingdon, Saint, Archbishop of Canterbury, ca. 1170-1240
- Elizabeth, of Hungary, Saint, 1207-1231
- F. de Chantal (Frances de Chantal), b. 1875
- Felicity, Saint, d. 203
- Florentina, Saint, d. 633
- Francis, de Sales, Saint, 1567-1622
- Francis, of Assisi, Saint, 1182-1226
- Frigidian, Saint, d. 588
- Gerard, of Csanad, Saint, ca. 980-1046
- Giulia, Saint, 5th cent.
- Goretti, Maria, Saint, 1890-1902
- Hyacinth, Saint, ca. 1185-1257
- Ignatius, of Loyola, Saint, 1491-1556
- Isabel, Queen, consort of Dinis, King of Portugal, 1271-1336

- James, the Greater, Saint
- John of the Cross, Saint, 1542-1591
- John, the Apostle, Saint
- John, the Baptist, Saint
- Joseph, Saint
- Jude, Saint
- Labouré, Catherine, Saint, 1806-1876
- Lambertini, Imelda, 1321-1333
- Laurence, Saint, of Rome, d. 258
- Liguori, Alfonso Maria de', Saint, 1696-1787
- Louise de Marillac, Saint, 1591-1660
- Mark, Saint
- Martin, de Porres, Saint, 1579-1639
- Mary, Blessed Virgin, Saint
- Neri, Filippo, Saint, 1515-1595
- Nicholas, Saint, Bp. of Myra
- Paschal I, Pope, d. 824
- Patrick, Saint, 373?-463?
- Paul, the Apostle, Saint
- Peter Martyr, Saint, ca. 1205-1252
- Peter, the Apostle, Saint
- Philomena
- Pius V, Pope, 1504-1572
- Pius X, Pope, 1835-1914
- Raymond, of Penafort, Saint, 1175?-1275
- Rita, of Cascia, Saint, 1381?-1457
- Rochus, Saint, ca. 1350-ca. 1380
- Rose, of Lima, Saint, 1586-1617
- Rose, of Viterbo, Saint, ca. 1234-ca. 1252
- Seton, Elizabeth Ann, Saint, 1774-1821
- Simon Stock, Saint, 1165?-1265
- Simon, the Apostle, Saint
- Stephen, Saint, d. ca. 36
- Tekakwitha, Kateri, 1656-1680
- Teresa, of Avila, Saint, 1515-1582
- Therese, de Lisieux, Saint, 1873-1897
- Thomas, Apostle, Saint, 1st cent.
- Thomas, Aquinas, Saint, 1225?-1274
- Veronica Giuliani, Saint, 1660-1727
- Vianney, Jean-Baptiste-Marie, Saint, 1786-1859
- Vincent de Paul, Saint, 1581-1660
- Vincent Ferrer, Saint, ca. 1350-1419

Subject(s)

- Christian saints
- Jesus Christ--Nativity
- Martyrs--Netherlands--Gorinchem
- Massacre of the Holy Innocents
- Relics
- Reliquary crosses
- Scourging of Christ, Devotion to

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Reliquaries, 1828-1988

Subseries 3: Stored in boxes, 1828-1988, n.d.

Box	Object	
1	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anne, 1966
1	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Antoninus of Florence, 1926
1	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anthony of Padua, 1954
1	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anthony the Great, 1828
1	5	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Catherine de Ricci, 1926
1	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Catherine of Siena, 1956
1	7	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Fridianus, Saint Columba, Saint Augustine, Saint Paul the Apostle, the cloak of Saint Joseph, Saint Peter the Apostle, and the veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1829
1	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dorothy, 1956
1	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Hyacinth, 1926
1	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Hyacinth, 1926
1	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Imelda Lambertini, 1926
1	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Imelda Lambertini, 1950
1	13	Reliquary containing relics of Saint James the Greater, Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Dominic, and Pope Saint Paschal I, 1914
1	14	Reliquary containing a relic of the Mantle of John the Baptist, 1869
1	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Louis Bertrand, 1926
2	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, 1955
2	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, 1933
2	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1953
2	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1940
2	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1958
2	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1963
2	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Maria Goretti, 1950
2	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Paul the Apostle, 1924
2	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Peter Martyr, 1926
2	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Philomena, 1957
2	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Philomena, 1928

2	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Rocco, 1955
2	13	Reliquary containing a relic of the Blessed Virgin Mary's veil, 1959
2	14	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marillac, and Saint Catherine Laboure, 1948
2	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Vincent Ferrer, 1845
3	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Simon Stock, 1954
3	2	Reliquary containing an unidentified relic, possibly Saint Elizabeth of Aragon or Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, 1960
3	3	Reliquary containing a relic of the Martyrs of Gorcom, 1926
3	4	Reliquary containing relics of the Martyrs of Gorcom, Saint Catherine of Ricci, Saint Vincent Ferrer, Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Thomas the Apostle, and an unidentified Saint Anthony, n.d.
3	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Therese of Lisieux, 1954
3	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Therese of Lisieux, 1954
3	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, 1959
3	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, 1961
3	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Camillus de Lellis, 1937
3	10	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Saint Agnes of Montepulciano, Saint Therese of Lisieux, and Saint Agatha, 1938
3	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Joseph, 1954
3	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1961
3	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1954
3	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Felicity, 1937
3	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint John Berchmans, 1960
4	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint John of the Cross, 1988
4	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint John the Apostle, 1966
4	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Jude, 1965
4	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Lawrence of Rome, 1937
4	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Maria Goretti, 1952
4	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1952
4	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Michael of the Saints, 1959
4	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Paschal Baylon, 1957
4	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Peter Martyr, 1956
4	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1959
4	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1960
4	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Simon the Apostle, 1960
4	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Therese of Lisieux, 1952
4	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1957
4	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1958

5	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1958
5	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1963
5	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1966
5	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
5	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
5	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1961
5	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1955
5	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1954
5	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1920
5	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1926
5	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1927-1959
5	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1927-1959
5	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1932
5	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
5	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, n.d.
6	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1958
6	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1958
6	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1958
6	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1958
6	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
6	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
6	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
6	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
6	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
6	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.

7	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, n.d.
7	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1959-1965
7	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1959-1965
7	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1959-1965
7	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1959-1965
7	15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Thomas Aquinas, n.d.
8	1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Jude, 1961
8	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Jude, 1961
8	3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Stephen, 1907
8	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anne, n.d.
8	5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Clare of Assisi, n.d.
8	6	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Dominic, Saint Raymond of Penafort, Saint Hyacinth, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Agnes of Montepulciano, and Pope Saint Pius V, n.d.
8	7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Francis of Assisi, n.d.
8	8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Mother Francis Cabrini, n.d.
8	9	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Mother Francis Cabrini, n.d.
8	10	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Maria Goretti, n.d.
8	11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, n.d.
8	12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Peter Martyr, n.d.
8	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Thomas Aquinas, n.d.
8	14	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Elizabeth of Aragon, n.d.
8	15	Crucifix reliquary containing wood from the tree of Saint Dominic and earth from the tombs of Saint Peter the Apostle, Saint Paul the Apostle, and Saint Cecilia, n.d.
9	1	Reliquary containing earth from the grave of Saint Martin de Porres and earth from the house of Saint Rose of Lima, n.d.
9	2	Reliquary containing earth from the house of the Blessed Virgin Mary, n.d.
9	3	Reliquary containing a relic of an unknown saint, n.d.
9	4	Envelope containing roses from the garden of Saint Martin de Porres that have been pressed to reliquary of his skull, n.d.
9	5	Envelope containing wood from the olive garden of Saint Martin de Porres, n.d.
9	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Agnes of Montepulciano, 1926
9	7	Envelope containing wood from the bed where Saint Martin de Porres died, n.d.
9	8	Third class relic of Kateri Tekakwith, n.d.
9	9	Third class relic of Saint Brother Andre Bessette, n.d.
9	10	Envelope containing earth from the birthplace of Saint John the Baptist, n.d.
9	11	Envelope containing earth from the place of the Scourging of Christ, n.d.
9	12	Envelope containing earth from the site of the Nativity, n.d.

9	13	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Maria Goretti, n.d.
9	14	Third class relic of Saint Florentina, n.d.
10	1	Cap reportedly belonging to Saint Rose of Viterbo, n.d.
10	2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anne, 1960
10	3	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Catherine of Siena, Saint Dominic, and Saint Albertus Magnus, n.d.
10	4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Thomas Aquinas, n.d.
10	5	Reliquary containing relics of Saint Anne, Saint Gerard of Csanad, Saint Therese of Lisieux, and Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, n.d.
10	6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Camillus de Lellis, 1934
10	7	Wooden crucifix reliquary containing fourteen unidentified relics, n.d.
11	1	Reliquary containing ashes of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, remnant of clothing of Saint Francis de Sales, and remnant of clothing of Saint Frances de Chantal, 1875

Subseries 1: Displayed in reading room, 1926-1975

Object

1	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anthony Mary Claret, 1956
2	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint John Vianney, 1958
3	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Clare of Assisi, 1960
4	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Rita of Cascia, 1954
5	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Catherine of Ricci, 1926
6	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Edmund of Abingdon, 1955
7	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Agnes of Montepulciano, 1956
8	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Patrick, 1937
9	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Cletus, 1959
10	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius V, 1926
11	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Jude, 1929
12	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Rose of Lima, 1932
13	Reliquary casket containing a piece of cloth soaked in the blood of Saint Philip Neri, and relics of Saint Julia of Corsica, the Holy Innocents, Saint Anthony of Padua, and an unidentified saint, 1927
14	Reliquary casket containing a remnant of a clothing of Saint Catherine of Ricci, a remnant of the habit of Saint Veronica Giuliani, and relics of Saint Nicholas of Myra, Saint Domitilla, and an unidentified individual, 1927
15	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Mark the Evangelist, 1958
16	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Thomas Aquinas, 1958
17	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Dominic, 1964
18	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Catherine Labouré, 1952
19	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Anthony of Padua, 1963

20	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 1975
21	Reliquary containing a relic of Pope Saint Pius X, 1968
22	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Vincent Ferrer, 1956
23	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Therese of Lisieux, 1950
24	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Francis of Assisi, 1950
25	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, 1958
26	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Maria Goretti, 1951
27	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint Martin de Porres, 1962
28	Reliquary containing a relic of Saint John the Apostle, 1964

Series 2: Documentation, 1795-2011

	Folder	
12	1	Papers from donors, n.d.
12	2	Inventory prepared by Professor Joseph Jacobs, 2011
12	3	Documentation for relics housed in Box 1, 1828-1966
12	4	Documentation for relics housed in Box 2, 1845-1963
12	5	Documentation for relics housed in Box 3, 1926-1961
12	6	Documentation for relics housed in Box 4, 1937-1988
12	7	Documentation for relics housed in Box 5 and related correspondence, 1920-1999
12	8	Documentation for relics housed in Box 6, 1958
12	9	Documentation for relics housed in Box 7, 1959-1965
12	10	Documentation for relics housed in Box 8, 1907-1961
12	11	Documentation for relics housed in Box 9, 1926
12	12	Documentation for relics housed in Box 10, 1795-1960
12	13	Documentation for relics housed in Box 11, 1875
12	14	Documentation for reliquaries displayed on shelf, 1926-1960
12	15	Documentation for reliquaries displayed in case, 1950-1975
12	16	Documentation for reliquary caskets, 1927
12	17	Unmatched documentation for Thomas Aquinas relics, 1920-1964
12	18	Unmatched documentation for Pius X relics, 1952-1957
12	19	Documentation with no corresponding relics, 1851-1965
12	20	Invalid documentation, 1936