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Guide to the Helen Borntrager Buschen Church Postcard Collection

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Guide to the Helen Borntrager Buschen church postcard collection, 1949-1981 CSC.006

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library
Creator - Collector	Buschen, Helen Borntrager
Title	Helen Borntrager Buschen church postcard collection
Date [inclusive]	1949-1981
Extent	1.75 Linear feet (2 boxes)
Location:	U.S. Catholic Special Collections, 302 Roesch Library
Language	English
Abstract:	Postcards of Roman Catholic churches around the United States and the world collected by Helen Borntrager Buschen, a lay Catholic woman.

Preferred Citation

[Item title], Helen Borntrager Buschen church postcard collection, 1949-1981. U.S. Catholic Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

Biography of Helen Borntrager Buschen

Helen Borntrager Buschen was born in 1908, and passed away in 2006 at the age of 97 years old. She was the mother of three children, and had six grandchildren. She was involved in the women's clubs at her parish, St. Benedict in Chicago. Buschen began collecting postcards in 1949, and continued to grow her collection for much of her life.

Scope and Contents

Buschen stored her collection of church postcards in two binders. The binders were originally used to display greeting card samples; Buschen removed the samples, and pasted or taped her postcards onto the original pages that the samples were attached to. Buschen arranged her collection geographically. The United States collection is divided by state, and the international collection is divided by country. Buschen added inscriptions to identify churches that were not self-identified on the recto of the postcard. Many of her international postcards were sent to her by her nephew, Father Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M. She copied the inscriptions that he wrote on the versos of these cards onto typed or handwritten captions that were pasted into the scrapbook alongside the postcards. This postcard collection includes real photo postcards, photographic postcards, and postcards with artistic images of the churches. The churches depicted in these postcards are Roman Catholic churches, shrines, convents, seminaries, and other religious buildings of note. The majority of cards in the international collection depict European churches, though there are also Mexican, Canadian, Asian, and African church postcards in the collection. There are approximately 371 postcards in the international collection, and approximately 252 postcards in the United States collection.

Statement of Arrangement

Loose papers from both albums have been separated. The remainder of each scrapbook was removed from the plastic binders and put in archival folders. These sheets remain in the order that Mrs. Buschen arranged them.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

U.S. Catholic Special Collection, Roesch Library, 2012

Restrictions on Access

This collection is open and available to the public for research in the U.S. Catholic Special Collections reading room. The materials are non-circulating.

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Acquisition Information

Donated to the U.S. Catholic Special Collection by Helen Buschen's nephew, Father Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M.

Search Terms

Genre(s)

- Postcards
- Real photo postcards
- Scrapbooks

Subject(s)

- Catholic Church buildings

Collection Inventory

Scrapbook 1: United States postcards, 1949-1981

Box	Folder	
1	1	Index of postcards in US collection, 1981
1	2	Loose papers from US collection, 1981, n.d.
1	3	Alabama through Maryland, 1949-1981
1	4	Massachusetts through Vermont, 1949-1981
1	5	Wisconsin through Wyoming, District of Columbia, 1949-1981

Scrapbook 2: International postcards, 1949-1981

Box	Folder	
2	1	Index of postcards in international collection, 1981
2	2	Italy, 1949-1981
2	3	France, 1949-1981
2	4	Other European countries, 1949-1981
2	5	Other countries, 1949-1981