Francis Norbert Blanchet Papers, 1842-1883

Overview of the Collection

**Creator** Blanchet, Francis Norbert, 1795-1883.

**Title** Francis Norbert Blanchet Papers

**Dates** 1842-1883 (inclusive)

1842
1883
1844-1848 (bulk)
1844
1848

**Quantity** .6 cubic foot (1 document case)

**Collection Number** Mss 322

**Summary** The collection consists of letters of Catholic missionary F.N. Blanchet to L'Abbé Auger at Paris during a European trip by Blanchet, in addition to other letters to Auger about Blanchet, fund-raising and recruitment for the Oregon mission.

**Repository** Oregon Historical Society Research Library

1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR
97205
Telephone: 503-306-5240
Fax: 503-219-2040
libreference@ohs.org

**Access Restrictions** Collection is open for research.

**Languages** French, English

**Sponsor** Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

François Norbert Blanchet, pioneer priest of the Pacific Northwest, was born in 1795 in St. Pierre, Quebec. He was ordained in 1819. In 1838 Blanchet and Rev. Modeste Demers were sent as missionaries to Fort Vancouver. Blanchet designed the Catholic Ladder as a teaching aid for his missionary priests. The original was hand-drawn on an upright wood slab; later versions were printed. Blanchet, after traveling to Rome, was named Archbishop of Oregon City in 1846, the same year his brother, Augustin, became Bishop of Walla Walla. In later years he traveled extensively, going to South America and Canada on behalf of his diocese. He moved to Portland in 1862 and established a cathedral there. He traveled to Rome in 1869 for the Vatican Council. He retired in 1881, and died two years later.

Content Description

Included are 20 letters of F.N. Blanchet to L’Abbé Auger at Paris during Blanchet’s European trip, in addition to other letters to Auger about Blanchet, fund-raising and recruitment for the Oregon mission. Two of the latter are from J.B. Pretor and one from A.M.A. Blanchet. There is also a letter from Sister
Loyola at St. Paul du Wallamet to F.N. Blanchet. Included also is contemporary printed matter, along with typed transcriptions (in French) of the letters.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Available on microfilm at the Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Francis Norbert Blanchet Papers, Mss 322, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Administrative Information

Processing Note

Collection previously included an 1859 Catholic ladder that was transferred to Coll 51, the Catholic ladders collection, in July 2021.

Acquisition Information

Origin of the collection is unknown.

Detailed Description of the Collection

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<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Letters to F. N. Blanchet</td>
<td>1845-1847</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Letters to l'Abbé Auger</td>
<td>1846-1848</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td>Typescripts of letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Carbon copies of typescripts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>Printed materials</td>
<td>1842-1883</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
Catholic Church -- Missions.

**Personal Names:**
- Auger, Abbé, fl. 1845-1847 -- Correspondence.
- Blanchet, Francis Norbert, 1795-1883.
- Loyola, Sister -- Correspondence.
- Pretot, J. B. -- Correspondence.

**Corporate Names:**
- Catholic Church -- Bishops.
- Catholic Church. Archdiocese of Oregon City (Or.)

**Form or Genre Terms:**
- Correspondence
- Letters -- 19th century.

Collection processed by Geoff Wexler and Mikki Tint, 2004-2005
2006

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