



**Guide to Catholic-Related Records outside the U.S. about Native Americans**  
[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

*Archdiocese of Vienna*  
AUSTRIA, VIENNA

*new 2004*

**Archdiocese of Vienna Archives**

**AT-2**

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Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:30-1:00, 2:00-4:00; and Friday,  
8:30-12:00

Access: Some restrictions apply

Copying facilities: Yes

History of the Leopoldine Society

- 1827 Bishop Edward D. Fenwick, O.P. of Cincinnati, Ohio sent Reverend John Frédéric Résé to Europe to recruit German-speaking priests and financial assistance for the Cincinnati Diocese; Reverend Samuel Mazzuchelli, O.P. (1806-1864) was among those recruited
- 1829 In response, the Leopoldine Society (Leopoldinen Stetiftung) was established in Vienna with headquarters at the Augustinian monastery; it solicited German-speaking priests and financial assistance from the dioceses of the Austrian Empire for needy dioceses in the United States, some of which had American Indian missions
- 1830-1910 The Leopoldine Society donated about \$680,500 (3,402,000 kronen) to U.S. dioceses; those with Indian missions that received notable funding included Boise, Cincinnati, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Green Bay, Lead (later renamed Rapid City), Marquette, Nesqually (later renamed Seattle), Oregon (later renamed Portland in Oregon), and Tucson
- Before 1850 Due to efforts by the Leopoldine Society, several priests from the Austrian Empire emigrated to the United States; those who became missionaries to American Indians include Reverend Frederic I. Baraga (first bishop of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan), Reverend Joseph F. Buh, Reverend Ignatius Mrak (second bishop of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan), Reverend Francis Pierz, and Reverend Otto Skolla, O.F.M. who evangelized the Ojibwa and Ottawa of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and adjacent areas of Ontario, Canada
- 1917 The Leopoldine Society ceased with the demise of the

Austrian Empire

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: 1829-1917

Volume: Approximately 5% of 9 cubic feet

Description: The Leopoldine Society records are found in two sub-groups, which were microfilmed at least twice prior to their current arrangement; see entry number M-11 and entry number M-49 for descriptions of the microfilm versions.

/1 Archive Sub-group T 7: Leopoldinenstiftung, 1832-1914

/2 Archive Sub-group: Religious Societies, Leopoldine Society Central Files

- A. Volume 1-4: Registers, 1829-1854
- B. Volume 5-10: Accounts, 1829-1868
- C. Administrative Records, 1829-1917, 12 boxes, approximately 5 cubic feet
- B. Correspondence with dioceses and missionaries in the United States, 1829-1917, 3 boxes, approximately 1.5 cubic feet, diocesan folders alphabetically arranged by diocese; the following pertain to dioceses with Indian missions (diocesan totals are comprehensive and include letters not pertaining to Indian missions)
  - Box 13, Bundle 6: Diocese of Boise, 1885-1904, 19 letters
  - Box 13, Bundle 12: Diocese of Cincinnati, 1831-1885, 101 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 5: Diocese of Crookston, 1910, 3 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 1: Diocese of Detroit, 1829-1852, 1881, 1884, 284 letters; notable correspondents include Reverend Frederic Baraga, 1834-1849, 53 letters; and Reverend Francis Pierz, 1835-1849, 55 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 5: Diocese of Fargo, 1889-1908, 20 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 8: Diocese of Grand Rapids, 1841, 1883-1891, 22 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 9: Diocese of Green Bay, 1877-1911, 97 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 14: Diocese of Lead, 1903-1909, 7 letters
  - Box 14, Bundle 19: Diocese of Marquette, 1881-1898, 14 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 1: Diocese of Nesqually, 1847-1856, 1885-1903, 70 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 7: Diocese of Oregon, 1848, 1884-1914, 120 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 12: Diocese of Sacramento, 1883-1889, 7 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 15: Diocese of St. Cloud, 1867, 1877, 1882-1895, 29 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 16: Diocese of St. Louis, 1830-1853, 1858, 1865-1868, 1881, 1896, 1912, 119 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 17: Diocese of St. Paul, 1852, 1880-1888, 21 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 18: Diocese of Santa Fe, 1893, 1911-1912, 9 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 20: Diocese of Sioux Falls, 1895-1897, 29 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 21: Diocese of Superior, 1907-1909, 9 letters
  - Box 15, Bundle 22: Diocese of Tucson 1908-1914, 12 letters