

## Gerry Segger Heritage Collection Archives Policy

### **Vision**

The Gerry Segger Heritage Collection is a research centre that collects historical materials related to the Dutch-Canadian experience as well as materials associated with the traditions of Reformed Christianity in Canada (including German Reformed).

### **Mission**

The Heritage Collection will serve the public by **acquiring, preserving, and sharing** its materials with present and future generations.

### **Background**

While The King's University College is a non-denominational faith-based institution, the majority of support for its creation came from Western Canadian congregations of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). The CRC in Canada is comprised primarily of Dutch immigrants, the majority of whom arrived in Canada after the Second World War, and their descendants. The University College represents the fruition of the dreams and plans of this community that began in the late 1950's. In recent decades the CRC has become more ethnically diverse, but nonetheless Dutch culture remains important to the identity of the University. Many of the Dutch CRC postwar arrivals had been deeply influenced by the ideas of Dutch politician and Reformed theologian Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920), who argued that Christians should engage society by creating faith-based organizations of all kinds—churches, schools, universities, labour unions, farmer's associations, and the like. King's is a direct outgrowth of that impulse.

The vision for a Dutch-Canadian research collection is therefore in part an expression of gratitude to our founders. Every year King's receives inquiries from Dutch immigrants or their families about the University College's interest in donations of books, personal papers, and other archival materials. The establishment of the Heritage Collection will enable us to develop and preserve materials for community interest and scholarly research. Currently there is no Canadian research archives devoted to the subject of Dutch experience in Canada or to the traditions of Reformed Christianity in this country.

### **Scope of Holdings**

The Gerry Segger Heritage Collection will be a substantial collection of published materials, personal papers, and other archival materials that bear witness primarily to the Dutch-Canadian experience and the Reformed tradition in Canada. King's has secured a major gift to fund the creation of this Heritage Collection.

The archive will seek to acquire materials such as:

- Archival materials (personal papers, letters, diaries, photographs, business records, etc.) pertaining to the Dutch-Canadian experience broadly understood.
- Archival materials related to the traditions of Reformed Christianity in Canada (churches, community groups, cultural organizations, etc.).
- Oral histories from members of these communities.
- Books, journals, periodicals, documentary films, and other secondary materials relating to the collection parameters.

- Rare or out-of-print Dutch-language or German-language books relating to the collection parameters.

### **Limitation of scope**

When considering possible acquisitions, the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Relationship to the acquisition focus of the Heritage Collection.
- The availability of appropriate storage facilities and resources required to make the material available for research purposes.
- The physical condition of the materials and any costs associated with ensuring their physical stability and security over time.
- The nature and extent of any restrictions or conditions on access to or use of the archives.
- The authorized mandates of other archival institutions, in order to avoid conflict of interest or overlap in acquisitions.

### **Ownership of records**

Records donated, bequeathed or otherwise deposited are the property of The King's University College. The King's University College will develop and implement regulations concerning the use and daily operations of the Gerry Segger Heritage Collection.

### **Outreach**

The Gerry Segger Heritage Collection will be a public resource for the King's community and for individuals and groups interested in the Dutch-Canadian experience and will share its work by

- Welcoming scholars, students, genealogists, and community members who wish to consult the collections in a comfortable reading room;
- Creating a network of interested scholars and other researchers and collectors across North America;
- Hosting regular lectures, book readings, and colloquia on topics related to the collection;
- Actively soliciting the donation of archival materials from Dutch Canadian and Reformed communities;
- Pursuing funding and donations to grow the collection, develop programs, and support research and publication;
- Creating and maintaining rotating exhibits of materials and artifacts from its collections;
- Creating a robust digital presence (on-line exhibits, digitizing archival materials, podcasting oral histories, etc.);
- Sharing research findings through a regular newsletter and through writing and publishing articles in periodicals and scholarly journals;
- Developing course modules and curricula for students at King's to pursue original historical research for the GSHC.

### **Associated policies**

To be developed.