

Records of the American Friends of the College Cevenol

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Congregational Library

Boston, MA

by
Sandra A. Sudak

Records of the American Friends of the College Cevenol

College Cevenol is a private French secondary school in the Huguenot region of Cevennes, founded in 1938 by two Protestant pastors, Andre Trocme and Edouard Theis. Though non-denominational, it works closely with the Eglise Reforme (Reformed Church) of Le Chambon. Begun as an "international center for peace", the school grew during World War II as it received refugees from other parts of Europe. Students and faculty who fled Nazi occupied territories met in church rooms and houses in the village.

Andre Trocme had denounced the Vichy government and assisted in the underground work at Le Chambon to assist Jews to safety in Switzerland. In 1943 he was imprisoned for 2 months, and later spent 10 months in hiding from the Gestapo.

Edouard Theis, a classmate of Andre Trocme's at Union Theological Seminary, agreed to help start the school in 1938. He had spent time with the West African Mission of the Presbyterian Church and had taught French at the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

At the end of World War II, several Americans became interested in the College Cevenol. Among them were Carl and Florence Sangree who had met with Andre Trocme. In 1946 the possibility was considered of founding an American Committee of College Cevenol to channel assistance. This interest and help continued, and in 1948 the American Friends of the College Cevenol was founded. The Sangrees continued to generate interest in the United States for the college as its representatives.

Meanwhile, there were several other avenues of relief to post-war Europe. Correspondence will show the concerns of these groups in sending supplies and financial support: Joseph Howell and the Congregational Christian Service Committee, Burns Chalmers and the American Friends Service Committee, Margarte Blenker and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Armstrong Hunter and the Congregational Christian Churches, and the Congregational Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction.

The American Board for Foreign Missions sent Howard and Elsie Schomer to Chambon in 1946 as representatives of the Congregational Christian Churches. Rev. Schomer served on the faculty, administration, and as a pastor at Chambon. Later, in the United States he served on the Board of Directors.

With the help of American friends, a farm was purchased one mile from the village to serve as the campus for the school shortly after the war. Prefabricated dormitories were set up, and later classroom buildings and a gymnasium were constructed on the 21 acres of land owned by the school. Students came to the college from the United States and other countries for the academic year, a summer session, or an ecumenical summer workcamp experience. Ranging in ages 14-20, the students studied the 7 year secondary course that would prepare for the national examination required to enter a French university.

Because of the close working connection between the AFCC and the College Cevenol, the records contain not only documents of the AFCC but also those of the college. These include minutes and reports of the college administration (Series II) and the financial accounts (Series VII). Correspondence from the mid 40's - 80's will indicate the connection between the interested parties in the United States and the college in France. The Sangrees, as representatives in the United States, produced voluminous letters and received as many concerning every aspect of the college. Many of these are grouped with the correspondents of the Sangrees and are noted as such on the finding aid. The letters of Andre Trocme and Edouard Theis are interfiled and not separated, since much of their correspondence was joint.

Container List

Box 1
Folder #

Series I - AFCC as Corporate Body

Board of Directors, Executive Committee,
Annual Meeting Minutes.
Student admission lists (1966-1970;
1979; 1981-1983; 1986-1987)

1	1946-1947	"
2	1948-1949	"
3	1950-1951	"
4	1952-1953	"
5	1954-1955	"
6	1956-1957	"
7	1958-1959	"
8	1960-1961	"
9	1962-1963	"
10	1964-1965	"
11	1966-1967	"
12	1968-1969	"
13	1970-1971	"
14	1972-1973	"
15	1974-1975	"
16	1976-1977	"
17	1978-1979	"
18	1980-1981	"
19	1982-1983	"
20	1984-1985	"
21	1986-1987	"
21A	1988-1990	
22		Memos to Board of Directors: Sep. 1965; Nov. 1965; Feb. 1966; 1970
23		Certificate of Incorporation (copies)
24		By-laws
25		Lists of Directors' Names: 1955-1960; 1964; 1966-1982; 1987
26		Lists of names of Persons interested in College Cevenol; scattered 1948-1973
27		Reports on State of College Cevenol: 1960; 1963-1964; 1973

Series II - College Cevenol as Corporate Body

Minutes of Meetings: Conseil d'Administration;
Societe Civile Immobiliere; L'Assemblee
Generale; Association des Anciens; Commission
Permanente

28	1946-1953	"
29	1954-1956	"
30	1957-1958	"
31	1959	"
32	1960	"
33	1961 Jan-June	"
34	1961 Sep-Dec	"
35	1962 Jan-Jun	"

Box 1 (cont.)Series II (cont.)

Folder #

College Cevenol - Minutes of Meetings

36	1962	Oct-Nov	"
37	1963	Jan-Jun	"
38	1963	Oct-Dec	"
39	1964	Jan-May	"
40	1964	Jul-Dec	"
41	1965		"
42	1966		"
43	1967		"
44	1968		"
45	1969		"
46	1970		"
47	1971		"
48	1972		"
49	1973		"
50	1974		"
51	1975	Oct-Nov	"
52	1976	Jan, Oct-Nov	"
53	1977	Report of Director	"
54	1978		"
55	1980	Jan	"
56	1983		"
57	1984		"
58	1985		"
59	1986		"
60	1987-1990,	gaps	"
61		By-laws	
62		Maps, plans of college, no dates	

Series III - Correspondence, AFCC, Topical

63	1950	Correspondence, tax status	
64	1952		"
65	1953		"
66	1954		"
67	1956, 1961-62, 1964, 1985		"
68	1951	Correspondence, Ford Foundation Study	
69	1952		"
70	1946	May-Jun	Correspondence, Swedish buildings
71	1946	July	"
72	1948-49		"

Series IV - Correspondence, Personal

1	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission 1948, 1950	Margaret R. Blemker, Secretary ABCFM Armstrong Hunter, Mission Council of Congregational Christian Churches Carl and Florence Sangree American representatives of College Cevenol
2	1952	"
3	1953	"
4	1954-Jan 1955	"
5	Baker, Rev. and Mrs. Kendrick, Jr. 1956-1958	Representatives of Congregational Christian Churches at Le Chambon
6	Burgess, Abby 1946-47	To and from Sangrees
7	Chalmers, Burns 1948	American Friends Service Committee much to Sangrees
8	1949-Jan 1950 1963-64, 1967	"
9	Clark, Alden H. and Tracy Strong, Jr. 1942-1946	European Student Relief Fund
10	Edmonds, Mary 1948-1951	American representative at CC Statement of expenses
11	1950 Oct-Dec	Letters to Sangrees, reports on college
12	1951 Jan-May	"
13	Elmer, Jean undated 1947-48	Secretary, AFCC Many to Sangrees
14	Gilchrist, Marie 1948	Reader's Digest, Florence Sangree
15	Goddin, Myrtle Nov. 1946 - Aug 1948	Many to Sangrees
16	Hammel, Genevieve 1947-49, 1951	French student to States on scholarship letters concerning Genevieve Hammel Many of Sangrees
17	Hancox, H.F. Aug 1945 - Dec 1946	Treasurer, College Cevenol Fund
18	1947	
19	1948 Jan-May	

Box 2 (cont.)Series IV (cont.)Folder #

20	Howell, Joseph Nov 1945-46	Congregational Christian Service Committee much Sangree, concerning supplies
21	1947	"
22	1948	"
23	1949	"
24	1950	"
25	1951, 1952-55 scattered 1963	"
26	Howell, Joseph 1948	Letters concerning donations "
27	1949	"
28	1950	"
29	1951 Jan-Apr	"
30	1951 May-Dec	"
31	1952	"
32	1953-Mar 1954	"
33	Lavondes, Antoinette 1957, 1965-66	Directrice, College Cevenol
34	Leenhardt, Roland 1964-66	Director, College Cevenol Sangrees and Unsworth
35	Le Vu, Georges 1947-49, 1951-52, 1954	Administrator, Societe Civile Immobiliere much to Sangrees
36	Lung, Louis 1949-1950	From France to U.S. mostly Sangree
37	de Maleprade, Guy 1952-54	Concerning finances mostly Sangree
38	Meletopoulos, Panayotis 1962-1963	Administrator concerning Terrain Gast purchase
39	Petrequin, Daniel 1966-67, 1970	President, Conseil d'Administration mostly Sangrees and Unsworth
40	Russier, Rene 1984-86	President, Conseil d'Administration letters to & from Howard Schomer
41	Russier, Rene 1983-1985	Letters to & from Raymond Green
42	Saltsman, Natalie 1948-50	Letters mostly to Sangrees

Box 2 (cont.)Series IV (cont.)Folder #

43	Sangree, Carl and Florence	American representatives of Colleg Cevenol
	undated	
	Nov 1954- Apr 1946	
44	May 1946-Dec 1946	"
45	1947	"
46	1948	"
47	1949	"
48	1950-51	"
49	1952-53	"
50	1954-56	"
51	1960-61, 1963-65, 1967-69 (scattered)	"
52	Schomer, Howard and Elsie	Representatives of Congregational Christian
	1945-46, 1948	Churches at Le Chambon, AFCC Board
53	1949	"
54	1950-51	"
55	1952-55, 1958, 1963, 1965	"
56	1979-80, 1982-83,	"
57	1984-85	"
58	1986	"
58A	1988-1990	
59	Theis, Jeanne	Letters to Sangrees
	1947	
60	1948	"
61	Theis, Edouard and Trocme, Andre & Magda	U.S. trip
	1945	
62	1946	Individual and joint letters
63	1947	"
64	1948	"
65	1951-52, 1955-58, 1962-67, 1970 1976 (scattered)	"
66	Trocme, Jacques	
	1986	
67	Unsworth, Richard	Board, President AFCC
	Dec 1956-1961	
68	1962	"
69	1963	"
70	1964	"
71	1965-67	"
72	1968-70	"
73	1975-76	"
74	1978-79	"
75	1982-84	"

Box 3
Folder #

Series IV (cont.)

1	Wilson, Hawley Jun-Aug 1946	Executive Secretary, Congregational Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction letters mostly with Sangrees
2	Sep-Dec 1946, May-June 1947	"
3	World Council of Churches 1946 1946, 1049-50	Department of Reconstruction Policies Correspondence, Sangrees, Charles W. Arbuthnot, Jr.
4	Miscellaneous Correspondence 1945-46	
5	1955-62	
6	1963-65, 1967, 1969-70, 1975	
7	1983-86	

Series V - Educational Programs, Activities

8	1945-48	College Cevenol: Course descriptions, Student and faculty lists
9	1951-53, 1957	"
10	1962-1970	"
11	1971-72, 1975-77, 1979-81, 1984-85 (Many gaps)	"
12	1946-1950	Summer work camp
13	1955-57	"
14	1961-63, 1965, 1967-68	"
15	1970, 1976, 1978-79	"
16	1961, 1973	Conference of Internationally-minded Schools
17	1976	Loomis-Chaffee School Term Abroad
18	1957	Huguenot Tour, Maude J. Whittier correspondence
19	1960-61, 1961-62	Mission of Fellowship to Europe Annual Reports
20	1951	U.S. Tour of Andre Trocme
21	1955	"
22	1956	U.S. Tour of Magda Trocme

Box 3 (cont.)

Series V (cont.)

Folder #

23	1959, 1979 1978 1950 1974 1985 1971	20th & 40th Anniversaries of College Cevenol Memorial program, Carl Sangree Birthday Program, A.J. Muste Memorial tribute, Mildred Theis Memorial tribute, Edouard Theis Memorial tribute, Joseph Howell
	1983	Roger E. Joseph Prize to People of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute
24	undated	Evaluative reports of College Cevenol
25	1948, 1952, 1955-56, 1973, 1978	"
26	undated 1946-50	Miscellaneous addresses, essays
27	1951-58	"
28	1964-1986 1991	" Address by Howard Schomer re C. Malik & UN Human Rights
29	Oct 1960-Mar 1961	Diary of Marianne Green from College Cevenol
30	1947	Chambon Seminar on Peace
31	1947	"
32	1948-49	"
33	1953	1st International University Meeting

Series VI - Financial Records, AFCC

B.V.	1945-48	
34	1946-47	Financial reports, including some correspondence
35	1948	"
36	1949	"
37	1950	"
38	1951	"
39	1952	"
40	1953-54	"
41	1955-56	"
42	1957-58	"
43	1959-60	"
44	1961-62	"
45	1963-64	"
46	1965-68	" (gaps in the following years)
47	1969-72	"
48	1973-79	"
49	1980-86	"

Auditor's Reports

50	1952-54, 1956-59	"
51	1960-63	"
52	1965-69	"
53	1975-76, 1979	"

Box 3 (cont.)Series VI (cont.)

Folder

54	1946-51	Transfers via Guaranty Trust to College Cevenol
55	1952-59	Tranfers via Hentsch & Cie to College Cevenol
56	1960-67	"
57	1962	Correspondence on Corporate Certificate Checking Account
58	1958-1972	Gift forms, with gaps
59	1953-1964	Tuition
60	1946-1949	Scholarships
61	1949-1960	"
62	1949-1954	Baird Fund Scholarships

Box 4Series VII - Financial Records, College Cevenol

1	1945-46	Financial Reports
2	1946-47	"
3	1947-48	"
4	1948-49	"
5	1949-50	"
6	1950-51	"
7	1951-52	"
8	1952-53	"
9	1953-54	"
10	1954-55	"
11	1955-56	"
12	1956-57	"
13	1957-58	"
14	1958-59	"
15	1959-60	"
16	1960-61	"
17	1961-62 (pt.1)	"
18	1961-62 (pt.2)	"
19	1962-63	"
20	1963-64	"
21	1964-65, 1965-66	"
22	1966-67, 1967-68 1969-70, 1971-72, 1973-74 (gaps)	"
23	1975-76, 1978-79 1983-1987	"
24	1950	Amortization, correspondence concerning
25	1949-52	Finance Committee, Reports
26	1953-56	"

Box 4 (cont.)Series VIII - Printed Materials
and PublicationsFolder #

27	Undated	Brochures
28	1946-52	(gaps) Fund Appeals
29	1953-76	" "
30	1946-86	Published articles
31	1950-80	Newspaper clippings
32	1946-50	Life at College Cevenol, profiles of CC
33	1951-67	" "
34	1946-47	Congregatioanl Christian Service Committee Minutes, newsletter concerning College Cevenol
35	undated 1952-53	Photographs and postcards - Le Chambon and College Cevenol: college, buildings, students and faculty
Hollinger container		"CFD" - 1958-63; other CC publications
36	1983-1989	Sauvage, Pierre [film maker]. Correspondence, newsclips, reports concerning his film "Weapons of the Spirit" - growing up in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon during WWII.