

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



## FROM *the* DIRECTOR

I love footnotes.

All that tiny print at the bottom of a page might strike fear in some hearts, but to me it's an art form. That little superscript number, placed in the just the right spot, explaining exactly what you were just beginning to wonder about—I call it a thing of beauty.

Footnotes do a lot of heavy lifting for historians. They “show our work,” reassuring readers that we’ve done enough research to know what we’re talking about. They keep a story from getting bogged down in too much detail.

All that citing and confirming and clarifying can look like a morass of unnecessary information—and sometimes it is—but when they’re done right, footnotes make everything simpler. To me those little superscripts are reinforcement troops, helping me to tell my own story, clearly, honestly, and forcefully.

That reality has come home to us at the Congregational Library & Archives this past year, in important partnerships that have sharpened our sense of mission. The collaboration has come in all forms—co-hosting public events with our neighbors, the Boston African American Historical Site and the Boston Athenaeum, and forging alliances with other historical societies and churches, cooperation that has resulted in major grants for New England’s Hidden Histories, our church records digitizing program.

Partnerships bring students to our doors, the library interns from Simmons College and the researchers we help support through the New England Regional Fellowships Consortium. And then there was the class of third-graders from a small town in Kansas, who, with the expert help of our archival staff, got excited about American history when they discovered the wonderful old documents on our website.

These relationships succeed only because of our donors, who help us to be an effective and willing partner for others, whether they are third graders or ancient New England historical societies.

All of our partnerships are immensely valuable. They bring funding, resources, and visibility we would never achieve on our own. And in the end they help us to be who we are, the curators of a priceless historical legacy who are committed to keeping the past alive and relevant to twentieth-century people. There is beauty in that task too, especially when the work is compelling, challenging, and carried out in the company of friends.

## ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016

### INCOME

Rental Income	1,450,837
Donations	401,903
CCHS Trust	12,936
Library Operating Income	15,226
Investment Income	(138,664)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>1,742,238</b>

### EXPENSE

#### Facilities

Maintenance	161,389
Utilities	131,793
Real Estate Taxes & Insurances	126,623
Depreciation	186,005
<b>TOTAL FACILITIES</b>	<b>605,810</b>

Compensation and Benefits	652,522
Building Management and Staff	387,435
Professional Services	162,823
Programs, Support and Development	141,059
Supplies, Communications and Postage	38,996
Interest Expense	9,650
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,998,295</b>

(256,057)

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I came to the Congregational Library on the trail of a horrific family murder-suicide of the American Revolution. The Library’s printed sermons certainly showed me how the clergy interpreted this kind of tragedy. But it sometimes made for gloomy reading, which is why the staff’s joyful, personal attention meant so much to me. The archivists shared laughs with me over some intriguing collection titles—“Sermons on murders, dueling, etc.” comes to mind—and passed on daily suggestions for enjoying Boston’s North End once my work was done. That camaraderie made for two weeks of great fun in a truly pleasant place to study history.

DAVID THOMAS  
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP CONSORTIUM FELLOW  
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The Congregational Library & Archives is home to a vast collection of artifacts and documents - historical gems, really, just waiting to be mined. I was impressed not only by its holdings but also by its exceptional staff and stunning location. The Library is a vibrant center for intellectual life and exchange in the heart of historic Boston.

HEATH CARTER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

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Too often student research for primary sources hits a brick wall when it comes to obtaining permission for usage. This is not the case, however, when it comes to working with the Congregational Library & Archives. The CLA not only assisted my students in obtaining permission for the photographs, in their possession, but also helped them in finding additional materials related to their project. Their assistance was invaluable.

NATHAN MCALISTER, HISTORY TEACHER  
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