

**UNCOMMON BONDS: LABRADOR INUIT AND MORAVIAN MISSIONARIES
PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING BRIEF**

MEETING #4: SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2021

1. WELCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

1.A – ATTENDANCE

Joan Andersen, Member, Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador

Janet Bangma, Associate Dean of Libraries, Memorial University

Deirdre Elliott, Heritage Program Coordinator, Nunatsiavut Government

Caitlin Horall, Secretary for National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) and employee of Library & Archives Canada (observing member)

Corey Hutchings, Assistant Archaeologist, Nunatsiavut Government

Sarah Jensen, Chair, Moravian Church in Newfoundland & Labrador

Tom McCullough, Assistant Archivist, Moravian Archives Bethlehem

Lena Onalik, Archaeologist, Nunatsiavut Government

Paul Peucker, Archivist, Moravian Archives Bethlehem

Mark David Turner, Manager of Audio-Visual Archives & Media Literacy, OKâlaKatiget Society and Nunatsiavut Government

Special Guest

John Deveraux, Creative Director, Perfect Day Canada

Regrets

Anita Kora, Librarian-Archivist, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

2. PERFECT DAY PRESENTATION ON UNCOMMONBONDS.ORG RE-DESIGN

The major idea behind the re-design was to make a diverse array of content accessible. Accordingly, the idea is for users to be able to drill down to specific types of media *and* genres of records (e.g. church books, station reports, etc.) with later refinement functions to be added later.

The backbone of the system is WordPress. The front-end is based on a bookshelf visualization with emphasis on *media* rather than *genres* to begin with.

One of the other major objectives of the re-design is to make sure that we are reaching a larger, non-specialist audience, especially in Labrador.

The site itself is not meant to really host material as much as it is to curate records that exist on other sites like Memorial's Digital Archives Initiative.

There are three existing points of reference we are using for the re-deign:

1. [the project inventory of Marco Builders of Atlantic Canada](#)
2. [Archives.design](#)
3. [Quality of Care NL](#).

Discussion about the issue of subject areas and objects that have multiple subjects embedded within them as well as where the subject headings are coming from. There is still an issue with curating subject headings at a high level. Ultimately there is a limit to the degree of granularity we can provide.

Janet poses the question as to whether we might be interested in using some metadata resources at Memorial Libraries. Mark suggests that might be a later phase project, after we have feedback on the current design. Janet suggests that there is an opportunity here to use the work of metadata librarians on Indigenous descriptions. Those categories can be added in WordPress a later date. Janet suggests the idea of bringing Stacey Penney on board as well. The idea is to make sure people can get what they need with a few clicks.

Suggestion that colour-coded content to allude to media type but there are difficulties in that we cannot control the third-party media.

3. OCR PILOT PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

CLIR has approved all our proposed project changes which means there will officially be no meeting of the Advisory Committee in Bethlehem. We have still reserved funding for three people from northern Labrador to visit the MAB. Funding is being directed towards website re-development and the OCR pilot project. Memorial Libraries is assisting in the latter. The MAB is developing a contract for Kayla Cavanaugh to do the work as a Transcription Manager in a 300-hour contract. We have 5,000 credits to use in Transkribus software.

There will likely be more funding for the OCR work than there will be funding available to proof what has been OCR'd. Discussion about which documents to OCR: detailed suggestions were given by Drs. Martha MacDonald and Hans Rollmann.

Joan flags additional material in HV-GB and Makkovik for digitization and Makkovik for digitization and OCR. Lena, Deirdre and Corey suggest it might be more appropriate to focus on Martha MacDonald's suggestions (reproduced below) as they are more broadly

representative and stand to generate interest in the collection. No objections to this suggestion.

4. DIGITIZATION AND DISSEMINATION REPORT, PRESENTED BY THOMAS MCCULLOUGH

Using social media platforms to promote the digitized content via Twitter and Facebook and good engagement with specific items like Noah Nochasak's blog post on kajait and with Mark's virtual lecture via the MAB.

All 50,000+ images are on FindBuch now, but we are still prepping them for transfer to the DAI. One of the hold-ups with the transfer has been the OCR pilot project as we cannot easily change/edit non-OCR'd content posted on the DAI.

Tom is also going to write a blog post on firearms for the site.

Some discussion on English- and German-language type-written materials. We have not committed to this as for many items the script changes from hand- to type-written, or, vice versa. Something to be discussed in detail later.

We are also going to upload to NGs Omeka system last, after everything has been OCR'd that will be OCR'd.

Noah's blog post has been the most popular blog post with 130 views in 30 days. Discussion about soliciting more community engagement with blog posts: e.g. Lena write a post, Joan Dicker be interviewed for one, and Joan Andersen interviewed for one.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Janet asks about transferring the funds for the OCR pilot project. Tom will follow up with Transkirbus to inquire about payment process. Important for Memorial Libraries it is paid by the end of the fiscal year.

6. ADJOURNMENT

PRIORITIES IN OCR PILOT PROJECT FROM MARTHA MACDONALD

I went through Whiteley's original list (can't remember why) and found all kinds of things that would be great for translation! I have no idea of how long it would take and how much can be done, and my selection is only based on my own interests so I am not sure how useful it will be. For the purposes of the Inuit who will use it, it seems that accounts that relate to people's families will be sought-after, so birth, baptism, marriage and death records all come to mind. There are many folders of correspondence that would most likely be of great interest.

I found that I was writing down almost everything in the categories of diaries and reports, so beyond those, I will just mention a few things that jumped out at me while reading.

10984-11152: Letters to Bourquin, language problems with Inuttitut

13156-13631: Accounts of Journeys of Missionaries 1770-1903

13699-13795: Mission oversight

15338-15371: Conversion, baptisms

15312-15318: list of books translated

15372-15397: article by Freitag

Several groups of conference minutes

Letters to Hopedale-anything recounting daily life in the communities would be interesting for present-day Inuit and to folklorists!

Mission diaries

38662-38683: Nominal list of people in outside communities 1834-1896

38749: family names, Hopedale 1894

36948: "Dealing with the Inuit"!!

38554-38587: Freitag 1865, instructions for making various commodities

38649: notes about Inuttitut words

51232-51397: handbook on medicine and surgery

51398-51450: domestic economy

51493-51502: syllabus for school grades, Bishop Martin (Hans did translate some of this for me)

55824-55912: "Catalogue of Eskimos"-baptisms, marriages etc

Same for Ramah

Killinek correspondence