

Statement of Significance

The Archives are a unique historical collection that enshrines the collective memory of the British Province, its members and works, and reflects the continuing development of the Jesuit charism. They are an invaluable resource, both providing insight into the Jesuits in Britain as a particular religious order, and contributing to the historical study of Christianity in Britain in its cultural and global context.

Remember the former things of old; for ... I am God, and there is no one like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done. (Isa 46:9-10a NRSV)

He should keep all documents diligently. He will place letters which are not addressed confidentially to the General alone, and which he does not need to hand, in an archive. He will write on the back of those documents which will seem in his judgment to be worth preserving for the purposes of the General's government the letter "S" (servandum); and the letter "Æ"(aedificatio) for what concerns the building up and the history of the Society. (Rules for the Secretary of the Society of Jesus, 1608)

Archives are a unique and irreplaceable heritage passed from one generation to another...They play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory... (Universal Declaration on Archives, 2011)