

**Finlandia University**  
**Finnish American Heritage Center**  
**Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum**

**Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS)**  
**May 19, 2007**

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## **I. Mission Statement and Statement of Significance**

**Mission Statement:** Finlandia University's Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum (FAHAM) will foster and promote an ethic of heritage ethos by offering patrons and visitors a place to discover, learn and research Finnish America, Finland and its constituent components. The Historical Archive and Museum will link patrons and visitors to Finnish America by encouraging participation in the discovery of relevant themes in Finnish American and Finnish heritage, history and culture through collection, preservation, interpretation and services offered to the public.

**Statement of Significance:** The Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum is the oldest and largest repository of Finnish North American materials in the entire world. The repository began collecting materials in 1932 and with the generosity of its donors, has assembled a unique and vast collection of archival, library and museum materials. Dr. Armas Holmio was an essential early component in getting the Archive on its feet. His work laid the foundation for future collecting and preservation efforts.

The repository contains a broad spectrum of materials that represent the complexity of Finnish North America. The repository's collections include materials about Finnish North Americans involved in cooperative movements, the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva, socialist parties, Laestadian movements, Evangelical Lutheran churches in America, communist movements, the Industrial Workers of the World and many other groups. Within the repository there are vibrant contextual histories of Finnish America. Often at odds with each other, the drama, happiness, joy and sorrow of Finnish America is administered, preserved and secured in the humidity and temperature controlled stacks of the repository's storage area.

Academic and scholarly researchers, family historians and the general public use the repository to discover, learn and research the eclectic history of Finnish America. As a non-profit organization, we are not able to place a monetary value on the materials in our collections, but to our many researchers the information contained within the Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum is invaluable.

## **II. Introduction**

This Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) serves to define the scope of past (for culling procedures), present and future repository holdings of Finlandia University's Finnish American Historical Archive and Museum (FAHAM) that contribute directly to the understanding of the culture, heritage and history of Finnish America and Finland. It is designed to ensure that all repository materials are clearly relevant to the FAHAM.

The FAHAM was established in 1932. Since this time the Archive and Museum has been actively collecting materials relating to Finnish North America, Finland and other culturally and historically related individuals and groups. After occupying several places on the campus of Suomi College, in 1990, the Archive and Museum moved into its current home in the Finnish American Heritage Center on the campus of Finlandia

University in Hancock, Michigan. Unlike previous storage locations, this building, a renovated Catholic Church, had specifically designed facilities for archive and museum storage.

### **III. Types of Collections**

#### **Audio-visual Collection**

This collection contains a large assemblage of classical and folk music including selections by Finnish national composer Jean Sibelius and former Suomi College music director Martti Nisonen. The collection also contains film and video productions. The media formats contained within the collection range from phonograph records, reel-to-reels, cassette tapes, compact discs, film, VHS, Beta and digital video discs (DVD). Equipment for some formats is on site.

#### **Genealogical Collection**

A very broad collection that includes microfilmed Finnish church records dating back to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, Finnish American church records, local cemetery and funeral home records, historic photographs, church and temperance calendars, family histories, books, newspapers, obituary clippings and on-line subscription resources such as the Institute of Migration's web site that has access to Finnish passenger and passport records.

This collection also includes non-Finnish American resources including hard copies of the *Daily Mining Gazette*, *the Evening Copper Journal*, Crawford Funeral Home records and a Library Edition of Ancestry.com, which is open for public use on the Family History Computer.

#### **Historic Photograph/ Vertical File Collection**

This resource is divided into a unique organizational structure that suits the needs of a single-ethnic collection. Categories include Individual Donors, Family-Genealogy, Immigration-Folk Ways, Landscapes, and Organizational Culture. The vertical files are a hodgepodge of historical and current materials relating to Finnish and Finnish American culture, heritage and history. This collection contains such resources as historical ephemera, newspaper clippings, photo reproductions, advertising, announcements and copied articles.

#### **Library-Monographs Collection**

This collection of library materials is organized using a modified version of the Dewey Decimal System that fits the specific needs of an ethnic history collection. Topics in this collection include, but are not limited to national, regional and local histories, folkways, Finnish design, Australian and Canadian Finns, Sámi sociological studies and the Finnish Winter War.

#### **Manuscripts Collection**

A host of unique resources exists within this collection. The manuscripts portion contains minutes, financial ledgers and other unique, original and one of a kind

material from various organizational groups and individuals associated with Finnish North America. A portion of the collection includes personal and family papers related to the Finnish North American experience.

### **Museum Objects (Artifacts) Collection**

Artifacts and associated material culture are stored in the archival and museum space. An exhibition area contains interpretive displays that feature elements of Finnish and Finnish North American culture, heritage and history. A companion guide to the museum exhibits is available in both English and Finnish.

An independent entity within the Museum Collection is the **Finnish American Art Collection**. This collection is regarded as the largest collection of Finnish American artwork in the entire world.

### **Newspapers and Periodicals Collection**

The newspapers and periodicals represent the vast cross-section of organizational culture that existed within Finnish America, including publications from the cooperative movement, the labor and political movements, religious institutions and temperance movement. The Archive also has a number of current newsletters, newspapers and periodicals pertaining to Finnish North America.

### **Oral History Collection**

This collection contains a valuable resource, the 1970s Oral History Project. An alphabetical index organized by interviewee exists for this project. Many of these interviews have been transcribed and include oral histories with immigrant and first generation "Finns." This collection also contains first hand accounts of the Italian Hall Disaster and non-Finnish interviews with influential Copper Country residents such as William Parsons Todd and former Calumet Police Chief John Sullivan.

### **Finlandia University Repository**

The Finnish American Historical Archive is the officially designated repository of Finlandia University's documented historical record. Materials in this collection are subject to standards and stipulations presented in the *Records Management* document.

## **IV. Acquisition**

The Archive and Museum acquires materials for its collections by donation, exchange, transfer, field collection, loan and in special circumstances, purchase. Acquisition of materials is limited to materials of Finnish North American organizations, individual Finnish North Americans, publications relating to Finnish North America, Swede-Finn North Americans and Finnish immigrants. The Archive also collects historic materials from Finland, Sweden, Russia, Ingria, Karelia, northern Norway and Lapland dated prior to 1951, in an attempt to maintain the contextual history of Finnish immigration. In addition to more conventional archival materials, such as manuscript materials and

periodicals, the Finnish American Historical Archive collects genealogical material from families and individuals.

The Archive and Museum's acquisition policies are outlined further in *The Formal Archive and Museum Policies (FAMP)* document.

## **V. Use of the Collections**

Prioritized use of the collection will be given to academic, genealogical and scholarly researchers. The first priority of the Archive and Museum is to ensure the preservation and security of its materials. All efforts will be made to ensure access to materials by the public. To this end, no person shall be prevented from using archival or museum materials unless it is determined that the materials will be adversely impacted by use, physically abused or used in a libelous or illegal manner.

Materials from the Archive and Museum may be loaned to other institutions or organizations only under the following circumstances. First, written authorization is obtained from the President of Finlandia University, the department supervising the Archive and Museum, the Director of the Heritage Center and the Archivist/Curator. Second, the borrower ensures adequate care and handling of the material on loan. Third, if at any time the Archive and Museum determines the material on loan is not being cared for adequately, the Archivist or Curator may cancel the loan and call for the immediate return of the material. Lastly, exceptions are items considered as Heritage Artifacts, which can be loaned for events that promote Finnish American culture and heritage by approval of the Director of Finnish American Heritage Center and Archivist/Curator.

## **VI. Restrictions**

Restrictions may be placed on the publication of images or manuscripts in the Archive and Museum Collections if the materials are subject to copyright or if the use of the materials will magnify the impact of agents of deterioration. Individual materials also may have restrictions placed on them by donors, as per Deed of Gift stipulations. These restrictions will be honored by the Archive and Museum until the expiration of the donor(s) and/or the restriction is lifted by the donating party/parties.

## **VII. Management Actions**

This Scope of Collections Statement (SOCS) should be reviewed as needed. When necessary, the SOCS should be revised to remain supportive of and consistent with any additions, changes or modifications of the Archive and Museum's mission. The President of Finlandia University and the Chairperson of Finlandia University's Board of Directors-Finnish Heritage Committee will approve the SOCS and the Director of the Heritage Center will concur. If comments and/or questions are not covered in the SOCS, refer to the *Formal Archive and Museum Policies (FAMP)* document or the *Records Management* document for clarification.