



# ARCHIVES JÉSUITES DE FRANCE

AFSI

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## HEAD ARCHIVIST

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Barbara Baudry

## OBLIGATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACCESS AND CONSULTATION

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Only by appointment.

## HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

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In 1987-1989, in Vanves, a suburb of Paris, the archives were brought together from 4 separate repositories corresponding to the 4 former Jesuit provinces of France (Paris, Lyon, Champagne and Toulouse). Later, collections from the provinces of unified France and French-speaking Western Europe were added.

## FONDS DESCRIPTION

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The Province of France, also known as the Province of Paris, was created in 1819 and kept its archives in Chantilly, after a long stay in Jersey. The Lyon Province, founded in 1836, had its archives in Paray-le-Monial, then in Francheville (La Chauderaie) on the outskirts of Lyon. The archives of the Province of Toulouse, created in 1852, were kept in Toulouse, rue des Fleurs, while those of the Province of Champagne, instituted in 1863, travelled from Enghien (Belgium) to Lille and from Lille to Cormontreuil (a suburb of Reims). In 1961, a new division of provinces, in force until 1976, complicated the task of archiving. The Province of Paris was reduced to the Paris region. Most of its territory then joined that of the Province of Toulouse to form the Province of France Atlantique. The Province of Lyon was increased by the eastern part of Languedoc, taken from the Province of Toulouse, and renamed the Province de France Méditerranée. The Province of Champagne, with the addition of Normandy, became the Province de France Nord. Records of houses that changed Province in 1961 remain in the archives of their former Province. On the other hand, the personal files of Jesuits, with some exceptions, are to be found in the archives of the province to which they belonged at the time of their death. Of the four archive collections, only those of the Provinces of Toulouse and Champagne had been inventoried. Paris and Lyon have been progressively classified and inventoried since 1991. As a result, there are major disparities in the classification and inventories of these 4 fonds.

## HISTORY OF THE FONDS

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Each fonds is a coherent and independent whole, with its own classification plan and quotation system (we have retained the one in place prior to their arrival in Vanves). The classification and quotation of older fonds do not always comply with international archival standards, and are regularly and progressively updated. At Vanves, we hold almost 3 linear kilometers of documents in 6 different fonds: the fonds of the Province of Paris, Champagne, Lyon, Toulouse, Unified France (1976 - 07/31/2017) and French-speaking Western Europe (08/01/2017-...). Their rich content reflects the activities of the Jesuits in the above-mentioned provinces. They include documents from the 16th century to the present day, covering a wide range of fields (Jesuit government, administration, formation, houses and schools, missions, personal files, works and activities). Documents from the "old Society" (16th-18th centuries) The suppression of the Society of Jesus in France in 1762, as well as the French Revolution, deprived it of a large part of its Ancien Régime archives. Many of these can be found in various public archives (Archives nationales de France, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, etc.). However, in the last century, following donations or purchases, a number of documents have been recovered and reintegrated.

## GUIDES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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See our Website : [https://archives.jesuites.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/guide\\_des\\_fonds\\_2022.pdf](https://archives.jesuites.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/guide_des_fonds_2022.pdf)

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