List of Austrian Missionary Archives with Relevance for Historians of Science

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I Men’s Orders / Männerorden – Overview

The orders listed in bold indicate which archives of the orders are described in this guide.

I. 1 Society of Jesus – Archive located in Vienna

I. 2 Divine Word Missionaries – Archive of Mission House St. Gabriel located in Mödling, Lower Austria

I. 4 Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – Archive located in Salzburg-Liefering, Salzburg
I. 5 Tyrolean Franciscans – Archive located in Hall, Tirol
I. 6 Order of Friars Minor Capuchin – Archive located in Innsbruck
I. 7 St. Joseph’s Missionary Society of Mill Hill
I. 8 Priestly Fraternity of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo
I. 9 Mariannhillers
I. 10 Missionarii a Sancta Familia (Missionare von der Heiligen Familie)
I. 11 Missionaries of the Precious Blood
I. 12 Mekhitarists

II Women’s Order / Frauenorden – Overview

II. 1 Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Maria Hilf
II. 2 Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
II. 3 Missionarinnen Christi Region
II. 4 Missionaries of Charity
II. 5 Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Apostles
II. 6 Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver – Archive and Museum located in Bergheim, Salzburg
II. 7 Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood
II. 8 Missionary Sisters of Divine Word Missionaries
III Museums Based on Collections Made by Missionaries

III. 1 Overview of Missionary Collections in Austrian, German and Swiss Museums

The following tables of Rebecca Loder-Neuhold’s publication *Crocodiles, Masks and Madonnas: Catholic Mission Museums in German-Speaking Europe* (2019) provide the reader an insight into all (former) mission museums located in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. The tables listed below describe the location of the museums as well as the orders that founded the museums. Additionally, one can find information about whether the museum was founded by a men's or a women's order and whether the museums are still open or closed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the museum</th>
<th>German name of the museum</th>
<th>Congregation</th>
<th>open</th>
<th>closed</th>
<th>GER</th>
<th>AUT</th>
<th>CH</th>
<th>Address and website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiltpirog MSC</td>
<td>Missionsschule Hiltpirog</td>
<td>MSC – Sacred Heart Missionaries</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Am Klosterwald 40, 48165 Münster <a href="http://www.hiltpirog-missioneare.de">www.hiltpirog-missioneare.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Sorg SSPC</td>
<td>Missionsschule Maria Sorge</td>
<td>SSPC – Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>AUT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maria-Sorg-Straße 6, 5101 Bergeim bei Salzburg <a href="http://www.mariasorg.at">www.mariasorg.at</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salzburg SSPC</td>
<td>Missionsschule Salzburg</td>
<td>SSPC – Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>AUT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dreifaltigkeitsgasse (Pueri), Salzburg (no website)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieferspach MSC</td>
<td>Missionsschule Lieferspach</td>
<td>MSC – Sacred Heart Missionaries</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>AUT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schönleitenstraße 1, 5020 Salzburg <a href="http://www.bondeko.org">www.bondeko.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zug SSPC</td>
<td>Missionsschule Zug</td>
<td>SSPC – Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Oswald-Gasse 17, 6300 Zug <a href="http://www.afrikamuseumszug.ch">www.afrikamuseumszug.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunsfeld OMI</td>
<td>Missionsschule Hunsfeld</td>
<td>OMI – Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>GES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Klosterstraße 5, 36088 Hunsfeld <a href="http://www.bonifatiuskloster.de">www.bonifatiuskloster.de</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| St. Ottilien OSB    | Missionsschule St. Ottilien | OSB – Missionary Benedictines | 1922 | - | GES |     |    | Erzabtei 1, 86941 St. Ottilien www.missionsschule.de | 319 |
| St. Xaver SVD       | Missionsschule St. Xaver | SVD – Divine Word Missionaries | 1923 | 2018 |     |     |    | Dringenbergerstraße 32, 33014 Bad Driburg (no website) | 336 |
| Bardeh OFM          | Missionsschule Bardeh | OFM – Franciscans | 1926 | - | GES |     |    | Klosterstraße 11, 64543 Bad Bentheim www.bardeh.de | 310 |
| Münster-schwarzach OSB | Missionsschule Münster-schwarzach | OSB – Missionary Benedictines | 1927 | 2012 |     |     |    | Schweinfurter Straße 40, 97359 Schwarzach am Main www.abtei-muensterschwarzach.de | 325 |
| Limburg SAC         | Missionsschule Limburg | SAC – Pallotines | 1927 | 2012 |     |     |    | Wiesbadener Straße 1, 65549 Limburg an der Lahn www.pallotiner-limburg.de | 365 |
| Innsbruck OFM Cap  | Missionsschule Innsbruck | OFM Cap – Capuchins | 1928 | 1940 | AUT |     |    | Kaiserjägerstraße 6, 6020 Innsbruck www.kapuziner.at | 314 |
| Dachberg OSFS       | Missionsschule Dachberg | OSFS – Oblates of St. Francis de Sales | 1929 | 1999 |     |     |    | Dachberg 1, 4731 Prambachkirchen www.dachberg.at | 348 |
| Würzburg CMM        | Missionsschule Würzburg | CMM – Mariannhill Missionaries | 1930s | - | GES |     |    | Mariannhillstraße 1, 97074 Würzburg www.mariannhill.de | 350 |
Missionary Collections in Austrian Museums:

III. 1 SVD (Divine Word Missionaries) Missions-Ethnographisches Museum St. Gabriel, closed 2005 as a result of issues surrounding the storage of the historic objects. Address: Gabrielerstraße 171, 2340 Maria Enzersdorf

III. 2 SSPC (Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver) Missionsmuseum, open to public. Address: Maria-Sorg-Straße 6, 5101 Bergheim bei Salzburg (www.mariasorg.at)

III. 3 SSPC (Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver) Afrikamuseum in Salzburg, closed 1938 because of confiscation of National Socialists.

III. 4 MSC (Sacred Heart Missionaries) Missionsmuseum, open to public. Address: Schönleitenstraße 1, 5020 Salzburg (www.bondeko.org)

III. 5 OFM Cap (Capuchins) Missionsmuseum, closed 1940 because of threat of confiscation of the property of the Franciscans including the monastery and the museum. Address: Stadtgraben 7, 6060 Hall in Tirol, (www.franziskaner.at)
III. 8 OSB (Benedictines) Fiecht Missionsmuseum, closed 2016 because of the abandonment of the 
abbey Fiecht due to the decrease of members. The Benedictines moved to St. Georgenberg, Austria. 
Address: Fiecht 4, 6134 Vomp, (www.st-georgenberg.at)

III. 9 CMM (Mariannhill Missionaries) Afrikamuseum, open to public. Address: Schloss Riedegg, 
Riedegg 1, 4210 Gallneukirchen (www.schloss-riedegg.at)

Source: Loder-Neuhold, Rebecca (2019) Crocodiles, Masks and Madonnas: Catholic Mission 
Museums in German-Speaking Europe. Doctor of Philosophy Dissertation, Upsala University, Upsala, p. 68 -70.

IV Important Links to Related to Austrian Online Archives

**Monasterium:** This online portal gives access to more than 500,000 medieval and early modern 
charters provided by 60 institutions from 10 European countries. *Monasterium* collects historical 
documents about Europe’s political, economic and cultural processes from the Middle Ages onward. 
This website provides a free access to various digital copies of those documents. One can also access 
a selection of historical documents from Austrian and German monastery archives. An English 
Version of the Website is available. However, the German website provides more information. 
https://www.monasterium.net/mom/fonds

**Klosterportal (Monastery Portal):** The website of the Ordensgemeinschaften Österreich (Religious 
Orders Austria) provides a bibliographic database and is intended to function as a “starting point” for 
learning more about the individual religious communities in Austria. One can find short descriptions 
of various orders in Austria, short historical overviews of those orders, visualisations of the holdings 
of various institutions (archives, libraries and treasury chambers) as well as links to websites, 
telephone numbers and addresses. Only available in German. 
Overview: https://www.ordensgemeinschaften.at/kultur/liste
Male Orders: https://www.ordensgemeinschaften.at/kultur/maennerorden
Women Orders: https://www.ordensgemeinschaften.at/kultur/frauenorden

For biographical information you can consult https://www.biographie-portal.eu/

This website comprises the national Biography Österreichisches Biographisches Lexikon 1815–1950 
http://www.biographien.ac.at/ as well as Deutsche Biographie (ADB / NDB) https://www.deutsche-
biographie.de/

The joint Austrian Library Catalogue provides a specialized search for personal papers 
https://search.obvsg.at/primo-explore/search?vid=OBV&mode=advanced

The German Kalliope Union Catalog may be of help in identifying additional holdings 
https://kalliope-verbund.info/ as may the new portal for archival holdings related to German 
colonialism https://archivuehrer-kolonialzeit.de/index.php/?sf_culture=en

The website Scientific Collections in Universities is a good place to start with regard to object 
collections outside the various museums https://portal.wissenschaftliche-sammlungen.de/
1. **Archivum Provinciae Austriae Societatis Iesu (AASI)**
(Alexander Silaen)

The archive of the Austrian Province of the Society of Jesus was re-established with the re-admission of the Society of Jesus to Austria in 1829. Holdings of the archive previous to 1773 – at which point the order was abolished - were largely destroyed. Remnants of the former archive can be found at the Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek), the Austrian State Archive (Österreichisches Staatsarchiv), the Court Chamber Archives (Hofkammerarchiv), the University Library of Vienna (Universitätsbibliothek Wien) and in the Austrian provincial archives (Österreichische Landesarchive).

**Relevant holdings/materials:**

The estate archive (Nachlassarchiv), which primarily focuses on the 20th century, includes personal collections of around 350 Austrian Jesuits dating back to as early as 1829.

The photo archive documents different Jesuits communities in Austria. This archive contains portraits of Austrian Jesuits and documents their religious activities.

The archive also holds special collections of relevance to the history of the Austrian Province of the Society of Jesuits: Postcards depicting different branches in the former and present provincial area, art objects, paintings, congregational diplomas, relics, medals, maps and blueprints, photographic glass plates, film reels, photo slides, and VHS, MC, CD and DVD collections. The archive contains an inventory of historical books and a collection of manuscripts from the 16th to 18th century (religious history, theology and asceticism, history, geography, and ethnology).


**Missionary holdings:**

The archive contains documents and materials from the Austrian Australia Mission (1848-1901), the China Mission (est. 1881), and documents of the former missionary archive in Jingxian:

- Mission to Australia (1849-1900): Correspondence, files and other materials (*Historia Missionis, Litterae Annuae, Rationes Missionis*), and mission reports (diary-like records)
- Archive of the *Missio Kinghsien* (1924-1951): materials detailing the structure and management of the mission (files), seminar and study (*Historia Seminarii Regionalis*), correspondence (files, *Litterae P. Generalis*), correspondence and mission reports, files of Fr. Burckhardt (correspondence collections) and financial records.

The archive and its holdings are accessible to all who can demonstrate legitimate interest. Researchers are advised to contact the archive in advance via email with questions regarding the collections or in order to arrange a research visit. For further information see: [https://www.jesuiten.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder/OEsterreich/2021-05-01_Benutzungsordnung_Archiv_EN.pdf](https://www.jesuiten.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder/OEsterreich/2021-05-01_Benutzungsordnung_Archiv_EN.pdf)
2. Mission House St. Gabriel (Missionshaus St. Gabriel)  
(Alexander Silaen)

St. Gabriel was founded in Maria Enzersdorf near Vienna in 1889 as the second formation house of the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD). The first mission house was St. Michael in Steyl, NL. This is the reason why, in German speaking countries, this religious congregation is commonly called “Steyler Missionare”. Initially, the mission house functioned as a training place for missionaries. Since 1889 there have been more than 2000 missionaries who studied at St. Gabriel who have been sent all around the world. St. Gabriel became a building complex with a church, different workshops (e.g. joinery, book-printing and bookbinder’s workshops) and an agricultural infrastructure. St. Gabriel has been a centre for scientific research in the fields of ethnology, philosophy, theology, and missiology since 1914.

It is worth mentioning that many priests who studied and gave lectures in St. Gabriel were not only missionaries but also professional anthropologists. One central figure who studied and taught at the mission house was Fr. Wilhelm Schmidt, who had a significant impact on the development of the field of anthropology at the University of Vienna. In 1906, Schmidt also founded *Anthropos* the international journal of anthropology and linguistics. Another important figure who was active in the field of ethnology was Fr. Martin Gusinde. During the first half of the 20th century, Gusinde’s anthropological studies of the native peoples of Tierra del Fuego (Fireland) brought him to Chile. Also worth mention is Fr. Paul Schebesta, a missionary, ethnologist, linguist and physical anthropologist who published works on the Semang, an ethnic group of the Malay Peninsula, and also studied Bantu dialects (Bantu speakers can be found within several hundred indigenous ethnic groups in Africa). All of these individuals spent a significant time at St. Gabriel, where they worked in the field of anthropology, ethnology and missionary education. One can find materials related to the works of Fr. Wilhelm Schmidt, Fr. Martin Gusinde, and Fr. Paul Schebesta and other members of this religious congregation in the archives of St. Gabriel.

Relevant holdings:

The archives (house archive, provincial archive and the magazine) of the Divine Word Missionaries in St. Gabriel have few resources to organize and develop the archive.

The archives contain photos dating back to the founding of St. Gabriel that document the life of the missionaries, as well as correspondence between St. Gabriel and several missions in, for example, China, Philippines, Oceania, Australia and New Guinea. The archive also contains flyers from missionary exhibitions, souvenir booklets, photo albums, film reels, photographic glass plates, filmed
lectures by Father Schmidt, newspaper articles and monthly reports/magazines (*Missionsbote* and *Stadt-Gottes*).

Researchers are advised to contact the rector of the St. Gabriel Mission House in advance via email with questions regarding the collections or to arrange a research visit.

**Ethnographic Museum of the Mission House**

Between 1900 when the first items originating from China and Oceania were brought to St. Gabriel, and in 1910 a mission museum began to be established as part of the mission house. The Mission Ethnographic Museum was organized regionally according to the missionaries’ areas of interest. As a result of their work, various items from China, Japan, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, several countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America were brought to St. Gabriel. In combination with the *Anthropos* Journal, the *Missions-Ethnographisches Museum* was part of the anthropological infrastructure of the Formation House. In the beginning, the objects were used for teaching purposes. This collection became the basis for an ethnological museum of its own. The so called “Anthropos Patres” – a group of fathers active in anthropology and missiology, had a distinct influence on the shape of the museum’s collection. In contrast to other missionary museums that didn’t gather objects for scientific inquiries/reasons (most of them gathered objects for reasons of display and education), the Ethnographic Museum of the Mission House was strictly established for scientific reasons. The museum closed in 2005, largely as a result of issues surrounding the storage of the historic objects. Objects which had been on display at the former Mission Ethnographic Museum are currently stored in the of St. Gabriel depot. The collection ranges from everyday objects, jewellery, statues, masks, vases, music instruments, and carvings to weapons. Catalog cards were created for each item, each item was also given an accession number and documented in photographic form. The origins of the objects are from the above-described regions.

**Website:** [https://www.steyler.eu/svd/niederlassungen/st-gabriel/](https://www.steyler.eu/svd/niederlassungen/st-gabriel/)

**Address:** Gabrielerstraße 171/1, 2340 Maria Enzersdorf

**Email:** helm@steyler.eu

**Contact:** P. Franz Helm SVD (Rector)

**Telephone Number:** 02236/ 803 213

3. **Central Provincial Archive of the Capuchins, Innsbruck (Zentrales Provinzarchiv der Kapuziner, Innsbruck)**
   (Alexander Silaen)

The Capuchins of the Austrian and South Tyrolean provinces have their provincialate in Innsbruck, the capital of Tyrol. The Capuchin Order is divided into provinces. Over the course of the last 20 years, the declining number of brothers has led to numerous changes within the structure of the provincial archives. As a result the Central Provincial Archive of the Capuchins in Innsbruck manages and maintains a range of holdings from the former provincial archives in, among others, Vienna and Brixen. This archive also contains various archival material relating to the former Tyrolean, North Tyrolean and Austrian Capuchin provinces.

The former Capuchin Province of Tyrol / North Tyrol was entrusted with the following missions from ca. 1880 onwards: Bettiah-Nepal / India, Madagascar/ Nepal / China, Jiamsui/ Plovdiv / Bulgaria, St. Stefano / Yeşilköy / Turkey, Georgia, Dorf Tirol / Brazil. The Tyrolean province was also involved in
missions in Europe, among others in Engadin, Switzerland and Lungau, Austria. The former Provincial Archive in Brixen moreover contains a range of materials relating to the Capuchin missions in Bulgaria and Indonesia.

**Relevant holdings:**

In general, archival holdings range from correspondence, annual reports, newspaper articles and photos to different objects dating to the 19th – 20th centuries. With regard to annual reports, the archives contains 19th and 20th century documents relating to the missions in Bettiah / Nepal, Manchuria and Madagascar, including:


Between 1918 – 2007, the missionaries regularly published articles in the provincial magazine entitled “*Bote der Tiroler Kapuziner.*” It is also worth noting that the archive contains a range of documents from the mission institute of the order in Budja, near Smyrna, Turkey:

1) *Theologische und Philosophische Studien*, Philippopol (1882)
   (Theological and Philosophical Studies, Philippopol)
2) *Seraphisches Knabenseminar*, St. Stefano (1883)
   (Seraphic Boys’ Seminar, St. Stefano)
3) *Noviziat, philosophische Studien und Sofia*: ab 1892/93 Noviziat
   (Novitiate, Philosophical Studies and Sofia, 1892/93)

The archive and its holdings are accessible to all who can demonstrate legitimate interest. Researchers are advised to contact the archive in advance via email with questions regarding the collections or in order to arrange a research visit.

**Missionary Museum**

The history of Missionary Museum of the Capuchins dates to before the First World War, and it remains a significant location for the missionary history of the Capuchins. The mission museum contains a range of objects (from weapons, clothes, jewellery, taxidermied animals to quotidian items) which were divided into ethnographic, natural history, geological, and numismatic collections. These objects, which originated from, India, Nepal, China, and Japan, document the work of the order and its missionary activity.

**Website:** https://www.kapuziner.at/kapuziner/verwaltung/provinzarchiv/

**Address:** Kaiserjägerstraße 6, A-6020 Innsbruck

**Email:** provinzarchiv@kapuziner.at
4. Missionary Archive of the Tyrolean Franciscan Province, Hall in Tyrol (Missionsarchiv der Tiroler Franziskanerprovinz)

(Alexander Silaen)

The archive of the monastery in Hall holds various testimonies and documents relating to the history of the former Tyrolean Franciscan Province, founded in 1580. Up until 1785, most of these were administered and archived by the court monastery in Innsbruck. Thereafter, the provincial archives of the Tyrolean Franciscan were moved from the court monastery to the monastery in Hall and the archive continued to collect documents and historical materials from that point on.

Relevant holdings:

The archive’s primary holdings comprise codices (more than 1000 that offer insight into the life of Franciscan monks) and other records (more than 17,000 documents, primarily correspondence between monasteries and provincial leadership). These collections also include correspondence relating to the mission territories of the Tyrolean Franciscans in the USA (Cincinnati), China (South Hunan) and Bolivia, and extends to encompass holdings of the Mission Archives in Hall. The latter contain a wealth of documents (correspondence and annual reports), artefacts and photographs documenting the mission activities. The majority of the documents relate to the missions in China (late 19th/early 20th century) and Bolivia (20th century).

The archive furthermore maintains a large collection of photographic glass plates from the former Mission Museum in Hall (1935-1940) and a small collection of ethnographica (ethnographic objects).

In addition, the historical materials that document the Tyrolean Franciscan Mission, one can also find documents from the dioceses of Constance and Basel (accessible on the Monasterium website), theological manuscripts and various personal collections, including those of Fr. Reinhold (Oswald) Messner OFM, Fr. Vigil Greiderer OFM, Fr. Florentin Nothegger ofm, Fr. Zyrill Fischer OFM, and Cordula Wöhler, in addition to a photo archive, copperplate engravings and lithographs.

Missionary Museum:

The mission museum in Hall, Tirol was officially opened on 11. August.1935 and was open to the public for just five years before being closed by the National Socialists in 1940. The museum never opened again. Objects in the collection first began being sent to Austria in 1909, and the collection grew throughout the 1920s, during which time different fathers discussed the possibility of building a museum. The primary aim therewith was mission propaganda, with the intention of interesting future missionaries and potential patrons in missionary activities. The network that brought the objects to the mission museum was composed of fathers, researchers, museums, and the private “collectors” with whom they maintained a lively exchange. The majority of ethnographic objects were collected from Bolivia, China and Palestine, and visitors to the museum could encounter taxidermied animals, plants, weapons, and everyday objects used by different indigenous groups. The highlight of the museum was considered a Chinese shrine. The present archive of the Tyrolean Franciscan Province contains a range of objects of the former Mission Museum.
5. Archive of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (Archiv der Herz-Jesu-Missionare)

(Alexander Silaen)

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart were founded by Julius Chevalier in Issodun in 1854, and the first Austrian branch was established in 1888 in Salzburg-Liefering. This is the oldest missionary house in Austria. Since that time, various missionaries were sent from Liefering to Papua New Guinea (1890 onward), Congo (1955 onward), Brazil (1966 onward) and China (1926 onward). In 1925, Salzburg became the motherhouse of the Southern German-Austrian Province. Maria Kirchental is the second branch of the Sacred Heart Missionaries in Austria. Other branches in Bregenz (2015) and Innsbruck (2020) have been dissolved respectively.

Relevant holdings:

The Salzburg archives contain various documents relating to the missions in China, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, and Congo. The archive has an internal finding aid that covers the history of the works of the missionaries and four mission areas.

Address: Schönleitenstraße 1, A-5020 Salzburg-Liefering

Contact: P. Josef Höcherl; jhmsc@t-online.de

Website: http://www.herz-jesu-missionare.at

Missionary Museum:

The founding date of the missionary museum in Liefering is unknown (likely dating to around 1904 with a collection of objects from Oceania), but we do know that the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart congregation had been bringing objects (masks, copper objects, weapons, textiles, jewellery, and everyday objects) to Liefering since around the 1880s. In addition, the missionaries also documented their activity through photography. Selected photos are currently on exhibit at the museum. In the early 2000s Dr. Alexandra Wessel and P. Anton Ringeisen MSc restructured the museum. According one pamphlet, the goal of the current museum is to “inform visitors about the work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Papua New Guinea, China, Africa and Brazil from the beginning of missionary work to the present” (Herz-Jesu-Missionare Salzburg-Liefering: “Missionsmuseum der Herz-Jesu-Missionare”, p.4). The museum is open by appointment only and admission is free of charge.

Website: https://www.bondeko.org/angebote/missionsmuseum/
VI Collection Details Women’s Orders / Frauenorden

6. Archive and Museum of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver

(Alexander Silaen)

The congregation was founded in 1894 by Countess Maria Theresa Ledóchowska (1863-1922), daughter of Polish and Swiss aristocrats, and named after the Jesuit missionary Peter Claver (1580–1654) who became the patron saint of slaves as a result of his work in Latin America. Ledóchowska was committed to the abolition of slavery in Africa, and worked actively toward this end. She acquired the estate in Maria Sorg (close to Salzburg), where a small community of the missionary sisters of St. Peter Claver still live today, in 1897. Ledóchowska also founded the magazine *Echo aus Afrika* (a publication which circulated information between missionaries abroad and the public “at home”). This became an independent journal in 1891, and is still published today.

The second Austrian branch was based in Walpersdorf from 1934 to 2012. The Walpersdorf archive, which was confiscated under the Nazi regime, can be consulted at the Court and State Archives (Haus-, Hof und Staatsarchive).

**Relevant holdings/materials:**

The archive contains none of the correspondence between Maria Theresa Ledóchowska and the hundreds of missionaries from different missionary congregations with whom she maintained contact. All of these documents are currently stored at the Central Archive of the General Council of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in Rome (Via dell’Olmata, 16, www.missionarieclaveriane.org).

The archive in Maria Sorg contains German-language missionary magazines (e.g. *Echo aus Afrika*) published from 1896 and onwards. These were produced in the printing workshop of Maria Sorg, and one can also find various pamphlets and books in a range of African languages which were likewise printed in the workshop. Another portion of the archive is dedicated to the history of the house and the community of sisters in Maria Sorg.

**Missionary Museum:**

The museum was opened in 1900, showcased an Africa exhibition, and was therefore named the Africa Museum. Ledóchowska considered the collection of different items, objects, and photographs of regions where missionary work was carried out of upmost importance. The purpose of her collections was to gather information about the life and customs of different African societies, in an effort to convince visitors of the importance of evangelization on the African continent. During the second half of the 20th century, the mission expanded to other countries, including Uruguay and India, thus necessitating a change of name to the Mission Museum. Objects from Africa, Latin America, the Philippines, India, and Oceania are on display in the current museum. The majority of
objects are technological artefacts, carvings of local deities, and objects of everyday use and adornment.

In addition to the ethnological collection visitors will also encounter different machines used in the missionary printing workshop, a collection of printed works and photographic glass plates.

The museum can only be visited by appointment and admission is free of charge.

**Website:** [http://www.mariasorg.at](http://www.mariasorg.at)

**Address:** Maria-Sorg-Straße 6 – Lengfelden, A-5101 Bergheim bei Salzburg

**E-Mail:** mission@mariasorg.at

**Telephone number:** +43 662 452097