

**Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Records
St. Julie Billiart Collection**

Finding Aid

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Collection Summary

Title: St. Julie Billiart Collection

Accession Number: 2013.91

Dates: 1840-2003

Bulk Dates: 1880-1970

Location: Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Boston/Ipswich/Connecticut [BIC] Archives.

Physical Description: 7 boxes, 2 photograph albums, 1 oversized folder, 108 volumes, 118 pamphlets, 1 16 mm film, 1 short filmstrip, 1 audio reel, 1 audiocassette, 4 DVDs and 2 CDs.

Abstract: St. Julie Billiart, along with Francoise Blin de Bourdon, was the founder of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The Julie Billiart Collection contains the biographies, reflections, papers and recordings describing the life, work and legacy of St. Julie Billiart. Julie Billiart was beatified on May 13, 1906 and canonized on June 22, 1969.

Search Terms:

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - History

Religious life - History

Women's Religious Orders - History

Billiart, Julie, 1751-1816

Provenance: Collected and written by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Processing: The collection was processed and arranged in 2013.

Conservation Work: Staples removed, some papers unfolded.

Restrictions: The collection is available for research only in the BIC Archives

Biographical Information: Marie Rose Julie Billiart was born on July 12, 1751 in Cuvilly, France, the daughter of Jean Francoise and Marie Louise Antoinette (Debraine) Billiart. Of their nine children, only three lived to adulthood. The Billiarts were like many people in the village at that time, one of the working poor. Julie's father owned a small fabric shop and some land in Cuvilly.

By the time she was eight, Julie was teaching catechism to the children in the village. Her devotion caught the interest of Fr. Dangicourt and he allowed her to receive First Communion at the age of nine, something that was very unusual at the time. When Julie was sixteen, thieves robbed her father's store and the family was left struggling. To help her parents, Julie began to work in the fields. During this time, she spoke to the other farm laborers of God. In 1774, her father's shop was attacked while she was in it. Though no one was hurt, the trauma brought on a slow paralysis which worsened during the next eight years. In 1782, doctors bled Julie so much that she remained bedridden for the next twenty-two years.

When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, those linked to the Catholic Church were viewed as privileged and forced into hiding. In 1791, Fr. Dangicourt refused to take the oath of allegiance and despite the danger, Julie Billiart and the people of Cuvilly remain loyal to him. The following year, Julie and her niece, Felicity, had to flee to Compiègne. The terror weakened Julie even more and she lost the ability to speak. During those next two years, they remained in hiding, continually changing lodgings to escape notice. In 1794, she and her niece were befriended by Countess Baudoin, who urged them to join her in Amiens. It was there that Julie met Francoise Blin de Bourdon, who had suffered imprisonment because of her privileged upbringing. A deep friendship formed between the women. When the terror of the Revolution was renewed in 1797, Julie, Francoise and Felicity escaped to Bettencourt. While there, Julie regained the ability to speak and she and Francoise began to evangelize the town. At last in 1803, they were able to return to Amiens where they began their first work as religious by caring for local orphans.

On Feb. 3, 1804, Julie, Francoise and another friend, Catherine Duchatel, took vows of chastity and the Order was named the Sisters of Notre Dame. The following June, Julie made a novena and was cured of her paralysis. In 1806, Julie had a vision of her Congregation and saw her Sisters crossing oceans in their ministry, which would focus on the education of girls. When a local bishop disagreed with Julie and Francoise over the governing of the Congregation, the Sisters left France in 1809 and settled in Namur, Belgium. Because of Julie's continued travel and labors, she was able to found thirteen houses across Belgium for the Congregation before her death.

Julie Billiart died on April 8, 1816 in Namur, Belgium.

Scope and Content Note: The Julie Billiard Collection contains the published and unpublished biographies and devotions written by the Sisters of Notre Dame and others, as well as petitions for the beatification and canonization of Julie Billiard.

The papers filed in Box 1 are devoted to the many years the Sisters of Notre Dame worked to urge the Vatican to beatify their founder. These include serialized biographies and affidavits written by supporters petitioning the Church to honor their wish. Also included are the programs and papers collected by the Sisters of the beatification ceremony in 1906, sermons given in honor of the beatification, odes and hymns written to praise their founder, the triduum papers for the one year anniversary celebration of the beatification and any programs for later anniversary celebrations.

Also included here are two photograph albums from the 1922 anniversary celebration held in Namur, Belgium of Julie Billiard's beatification. The albums depict the tableaux created by the Sisters of Julie's life, as well as the parade in the city to honor the anniversary.

Photo Box 1 contains other photographs of the 1922 celebration, the parade and printed images of Julie Billiard. The Oversize Folder holds any larger photographs of the Namur parade.

Many of the books and pamphlets, both published and unpublished, produced before 1907 were written to promote the cause of Julie Billiard's beatification. These are stored with the collection on the Julie Billiard shelves.

Box 2 contains the papers documenting the Sisters of Notre Dame efforts to have their founder canonized. These include biographies, correspondence devoted to their work to have Julie Billiard canonized and papers collected at the canonization. Also filed here are the mandate, sermons celebrating the canonization, programs from the ceremony, tickets for those invited to the Mass, memorabilia created to celebrate the canonization, reflections and meditations on Julie Billiard's spirituality and any papers collected for anniversary celebrations. The film recorded at the canonization Mass is also stored here and has been digitized. A DVD of the recording is filed in CD Box 1 and a copy has been uploaded to sadbostonipswich.wordpress.com. The recording of the 1969 concert given by the students of Seishin University in Japan to celebrate the canonization is also filed here and has been digitized. A copy of the recording is stored in CD Box 1.

Also included here is the work of Sisters Mary Rosanna Mellert, Eileen Marie Quinlan, Mary Kathleen Lyons and Mary Patrica Rickard entitled, *Julie--Her Radical Response of Love*. The film strip stored in Slide Box 2 and the audio cassette stored in Audio Box 1

Books and pamphlets published after the canonization generally focused on Julie's spirituality, her relevance in the modern world and education material to increase awareness of her contributions.

Artifacts, relics and any other memorabilia devoted to St. Julie Billiart are stored in Artifact Boxes 1 and 2.

Organization and Content List

Box 1

Folder 1	Biographies, 1881
Folder 2	Relic Affidavits, 1887.
Folder 3	Articles, 1890.
Folder 4	Mandate, 1906.
Folder 5	Beatification Ceremony, 1906.
Folder 6	Beatification Sermons, 1906.
Folder 7	Beatification publications, 1906.
Folder 8	Beatification Odes to Julie Billiart, 1906.
Folder 9	Triduum papers, 1907.
Folder 10	Triduum papers, 1907.
Folder 11	The Cause for Canonization, 1907.
Folder 12	Anniversary of Beatification celebrations, 1947.

Julie Billiart Shelves

Beatification Celebration Photograph Album, 1922
 Beatification Celebration Album, 1922

Box 2

Folder 1	Correspondence Extracts, 1950
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1969.
Folder 3	Notes Regarding Canonization, 1969.
Folder 4	Travel and Itinerary Information, 1969.
Folder 5	Canonization Papers, 1969
Folder 6	Canonization History, 1969
Folder 7	Hymns and Odes to Julie Billiart, 1969.
Folder 8	Canonization celebration programs, 1969.
Folder 9	Canonization brochures and articles, 1969.
Folder 10	Charism of Mere Julie, 1969.
Folder 11	Certificate of Authenticity of Julie Relic, 1969.
Folder 12	Canonization News Clippings, 1969.

Folder 13	Anniversary Celebration of Canonization, 1994.
Folder 14	Images of Julie Billiart, n.d.
Folder 15	Memorabilia, 1940-1981.
Folder 16	Brochures, 1940-1981.
Folder 17	Prayercards, 1940-1981.
Folder 18	Bookmarks, 1970-1990.
Folder 19	Julie Billiart Play, 1981.
Folder 20	Articles, 1962, 1975.
Folder 21	Narratives, 1985-1987.
Folder 22	Retreats based on the Spirituality of Julie Billiart, 1969-1976
Box 3	
In box	Canonization Programs, 1969.
Julie Billiart Shelves	Canonization Film, 16 mm, 1969. Seishin University Concert, 1969.
Photograph Box 1	39 Photographs of 1922 Anniversary Celebration of Beatification.
Oversize Folder	5 oversized photographs of the 1922 Namur celebration.
Photograph Box 2	120 Photographs of Canonization and Miscellaneous images of Julie Billiart.
Artifact Box 1 & 2	Artifacts and relics of St. Julie Billiart.
CD Box 1	Digital Images of Julie Billiart Worldwide, c. 2005. DVD, Canonization film, 1969 CD – Canonization Celebration, Seishin University, Japan, 1969.
Slide Box 1	<i>Julie--Her Radical Response of Love</i> . Filmstrip.
Audio Box 1	<i>Julie--Her Radical Response of Love</i> . Narrative of presentation.
Julie Billiart Shelves	<i>A Saint for Our Time: The Life of St. Julie Billiart, 1751-1816, Foundress, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur</i> . 2003. DVD. 2 copies. <i>Characteristics of Notre Dame Mission Spirituality</i> . DVD.

Julie Billiard Shelves

Books

Vie de la Reverende Mere Julie Billiard, Fondatrice de l'Institute des Soeures de Notre-Dame, de Namur par la Reverende Mere St. Joseph Blin de Bourdon, 1751-1816. [1840-1880]

Vie de la Reverende Mere Julie Billiard, Fondatrice de l'Institute des Soeures de Notre-Dame. [c. 1850]

Testimonies of the Contemporaries of Rev. Mother Julia Billiard, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame. [c. 1880]

Vie de la Reverende Mere Julie. 1862.

Life of Reverend Mother Julia, Foundress and First Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur. Translated from the French. Within the History of the Order in the United States. 1871.

Testimonies to the Virtues of Blessed Mother Julia. 1879.

Beatificationis Et Canonizationis Servae Dei Juliae Billiard. 1889.

Life of Mother Julia. c. 1890.

Testimony of Sister Superior Julia In The Cause of Venerable Mere Julie. 1891.

Testimonies Concerning the Heroic Faith of Mere Julie. 1891.

La Venerable Mere Julie Billiard, Fondatrice et Premiere Superieure Generale de L'Institut Des Soeurs De Notre-Dame A Namur Par Le P. Ch. Clair, S.J. 1895.

Life of the Venerable Servant of God, Julie Billiard, Foundress and First Superior General of the Institute of Sisters of Notre-Dame by a Member of the Same Congregation. Edited by Father Clare, S.J. 1898.

Deposition Par Le Chanoine Odon. 1900.

Depositions Juridiques Faites Sous la Foi du Serment Dans Le Proces Apostolique Sue La Vie, Les Virtus et Les Miracles De Notre Venerable Mere Julie. 1900.

Juridical Evidence Made Under Oath in the Apostolic Process Upon the Life, the Virtues and the Miracles of Our Venerable Mother Julia. 1900. [Abridged]

The Venerable Julie Billiart. 1900.

To Rome for the Beatification. 1906.

Stories of the Celebration of Mere Julie's Beatification. 1906.

Some Writings Relative to the Beatification of Our Blessed Foundress. 1907.

The Life of the Blessed Julie Billiart, Foundress of the Institute of Sisters of Notre Dame (Of Namur). Beatified May 13, 1906. 1907.

Mass and Office of Blessed Julie Billiart, Virgin. 1907.

Messe et Office de la Bienheureuse Julie Billiart, Vierge. 1907.

Life of Blessed Mother Julia by Rev. Bernard Arens, S.J. 1908.

Life of Blessed Julie Billiart, Foundress of the Institute of Sisters of Notre-Dame by a Member of the Same Congregation. Edited by the late Father James Clare, S.J. 1909.

Les Idees Pedagogiques de la Bienheureuse Mere Julie Billiart. 1910.

La Bienheureuse Julie Billiart (1751-1816) par Dom Thierry Rejalot, O.S.B. de l'abbaye de Maredsous. 1922.

A Daily Thought from Blessed Julie Billiart. 1925.

The Story of Blessed Julie by Sr. Fidelis. 1927.

The Story of Blessed Julie by Philothea [Sr. Fidelis] and Sr. Mary Paula. 1932.

Thoughts of Blessed Julie Billiart: Selected and Arranged for Every Day in the Year by a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. 1934.

Julie Billiart and Her Institute by Sister F. De Chantal, S.N.D. With Illustrations. 1938.

The Principles of Religious Guidance According to Blessed Julie Billiart. 1948.

The Charred Wood ; The Story of Blessed Julie Billiart, Foundress of the Congregation of Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur. 1950.

Letters of Mere Julie to Soeur St. Jean, 1809-1816. 1952.

As Gold in the Furnace: The Life of Blessed Julie Billiard by Sr. M. Fidelis McNamara. 1959.

The Story of Blessed Julie Billiard: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1961.

In the Light of the Trinity: The Spirituality of Blessed Julie Billiard, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1964.

L'Appel de la Route: Julie Billiard, Fondatrice des soeurs de Notre-Dame de Namur by Agnes Richomme. 1968.

Canonizationis Beatae Juliae Billiard. Novissima Positio Super Maraculis. 1968.

Canonizationis Beatae Juliae Billiard, Positio Super Maraculis. 1968.

The Saint With a Smile: Marie Rose Julie Billiard, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur by Sr. Angela Dolores Goldbeck. 1969.

Mere Julie Billiard: Stichteress van de Zusters van Onze-Lieve-Vrouw te Namen by Paul Haimon. 1969.

Saint Julie Billiard: Foundress of the Institute of the Sisters of Notre-Dame of Namur. 1969.

Quant'e buono il Signore! 1969. (2 copies)

The Letters of Saint Julie Billiard, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1974.

Vie de Julie Billiard par sa Premiere Compagne Fancoise Blin de Bourdon Ou Les Memoires de Mere Saint-Joseph. 1978.

Vie de Julie Billiard our Les Memoires de Mere Saint-Joseph. 1978.

Marie Rose Julie of Picardy. 1980.

Gleanings. Extracts from the Writings of St. Julie Billiard. c. 1980.

To Heaven on Foot and Other Essays by Sr. Mary Linscott. 1980.

The Story of Saint Julie by Judith Wessels. 1981.

Julie Billiard: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur by Sr. Julie Kilderry. 1982.

How Good God Is! A Perpetual Calendar, with Thoughts from St. Julie. 1984.

St. Julie and the Joy of Hope by Sr. Mary Linscott. 1987.

To Heaven on Foot and Other Essays by Sr. Mary Linscott. 1988.

Julie Renewal Programme, Namur, Belgium. 1989.

The Way of the Cross with Writings from St. Julie Billiard. 1990.

Rhymes and Times with Saint Julie by Sisters Mary Anderson and Patricia Anne O'Rourke. 1990.

A People Remembers: St. Julie Billiard and Her Oratory, St. Hubert, Belgium. 1995.

Julie Billiard: Woman of Courage. 1995.

Dialogue Letters Between Julie Billiard and Françoise Blin de Bourdon, August 10, 1807-February 26, 1809. 1996.

The Goodness of God in Our Time: A Meditation on the Goodness of God on the 150th Anniversary of the Sisters of Notre Dame in New England. 2000.

In Her Own Words: 18th Century Wisdom for 21st Century People. 2000.

Pathways to God's Goodness: The Spirituality of Saint Julie Billiard by Sr. Magdalen Lawler. 2001.

Prayer, Power, Protest: The Spirit of Julie Billiard Today by Sr. Myra Poole. 2001.

In Spite of Fog: Journeying with St. Julie Billiard by Sr. Janet Hughes. 2002.

Published Pamphlets

Notice Biographique Sur La Servante de Dieu Julie Billiard. 1883.

Une Servante de Dieu Picarde, La Reverende Mere Julie Billiard. 1883.

Life of Venerable Mother Julie Billiard. 1895.

Sketch of the Life of Venerable Julie Billiart. 1897.

Vie Illustree de la Venerable Mere Julie Billiart . 1900.

Themes Or Extracts from Instructions Given by The Servant of God, Julia Billiart To the Members of the Institute She Had Founded, The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1905.

Illustrated Life of the Blessed Julie Billiart. 1916.

Educational Ideals of Blessed Julie Billiart. 1922.

Congregation des Soeurs de Notre Dame de Namur. 1923.

The Story of Blessed Julie. 1927.

Devotions to Blessed Julie Billiart. 1930.

Meditations on Blessed Julia Billiart. 1930.

The Story of Blessed Julie Billiart. 1933.

Blessed Mother Julia. 1933.

Blessed Mother Julia: Foundress of the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1933.

Thoughts of Blessed Julie Billiart, Selected and Arranged for every Day in the Year by a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. 1934.

Little Treatise of Pefection for the Use of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Extracts from the Writings of Our Holy Foundresses Followed by the Directory. 1934.

Counsels of Perfection for the Use of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Excerpts from the Writings of Our Holy Foundresses and the Directory. 1935.

Marie Rose Julie Billiart. 1936.

With Mere Julie. 1936.

Julie: Exponent of Catholic Action by Vincent Edward Smith. 1938.

Blessed Mere Julie. c. 1939.

La Bienheureuse Julie Billiart, Sa Vaillance by M. Dropsy. 1940.

Triduum of Holy Communion in Preparation for the Feast of Blessed Julia Billiart, April 8. 1940.

Stories of Blessed Julie. c. 1940.

Bienaventurada Julia Billiart; Blessed Julie Billiart; Saint Julie Billiart. 1940-1970.

Rose of Picardy. 1946.

Julie: Litany Composed by Mere St. Joseph. c. 1950.

Profile of Blessed Julie Billiart: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 1751-1951. 1951.

Vie de la Bienheureuse Mere Julie Billiart. 1953.

Blessed Julie Billiart. 1953.

Short Novenas in Honor of Blessed Julie Billiart. 1953.

Life of the Blessed Julie Billiart. 1956.

Saint Julie Billiart. 1960.

The Story of Blessed Julie Billiart: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1961.

Saint of the Aggiornamento. c. 1963.

Blessed Julie's Philosophy of Education at High School Level Today. 1966.

The Making of a Saint by Sr. Marie Pierre Hester. 1969.

Saint Julie Billiart. 1969.

Life of St. Julie Billiart: As She Might Tell Her Story from Heaven. 1970.

Saint Julie Billiart pamphlet of prayers. 1970.

See Our Friend--St. Julie. c. 1975.

Julie Billiart and Liberation by Sr. Janet Eisner. 1979.

Blessed Julie Billiart by Paul J. Moriarty and Saint Julie Billiart. [c. 1980]

The Life of St. Julie Billiart: A Game Book. 1981.

In Willem Gottes: Worte der heiligen Julie Billiart. 1981.

Julie: A Story for Young Children. 1981.

Julie Billiart. 1982.

Julie Billiart: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1982.

Saint Julie Coloring Book. c. 1983.

La Mensajera de la Bondad de Dios, Santa Julia Billiart. 1983.

Julie Billiart, Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. 1984.

The Making of a Saint: Imagined Depositions in a Court of Inquiry into the Life and Virtues of Marie Rose Julie Billiart. c. 1995.

Julie Billiart, Fundadora de las Hermanas de Notre Dame de Namur. 2000.

St. Julie Billiart, A Saint for Our Times, 2000.

Saint Julie Coloring Book. 2002.

Hymns to Mere Julie. n.d.

Through Days of Terror. n.d.

Rhymes and Times with Saint Julie. n.d.

Pamphlets: Meditations on Saint Julie. n.d.

The Story of Blessed Julie Billiart: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. n.d.

Without A Vision the People Perish: A People Remembers. n.d.

Julie Billiard: Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur;
Saint Julie Coloring Book. n.d.

Handwritten Pamphlets

Suite des Conferences de Notre Chere Mere Julie. c. 1870.

Conferences et Lettres de Notre Chere Mere Julie. c. 1870.

Maxims and Customs of M. Julia. c. 1879.

Maxims and Usages of Our Dear Mother Julia. 1880.

Directoire des Soeurs de Notre Dame de Namur Par La Reverende Mere Saint Joseph.
1887.

Souvenirs of our Venerable Mere Julie. 1900.

Conferences of Our Venerable Mere Julie. c. 1900.

Extracts from Conferences of Venerable Mere Julie. 1900.

Themes. Resumant Les Instructions De Notre Bienheureuse Mere Julie. c. 1900.

Themes Written by Our First Sisters on the Instructions Given by the Foundress,
Blessed Julia Billiard. c. 1900.

Conferences of Blessed Mere Julie. 1910.

Themes. Origin of the Exercises on the Instructions of Our Blessed Foundress. c. 1910.

Directoire des Soeurs de Notre Dame de Namur; Occupation Interieure pour Les Jours
de Recollection; Meditations Sur La Mort. 1929.

Julie Billiard Prayers, 1930-1980.

Cantata in Honor of Blessed Julie Written by the Novices. 1937.

Meditation for the Feast of Blessed Mother Julia. c. 1940.

Meditations on Blessed Mother Julia. 1940.

The Voice of Blessed Julie, Or, The Notre Dame Calendar. c. 1940.

Through Days of Terror; Come and See--Remember; Voices from the Past, Saint Julie Remembered. c. 1950.

Saint Julie Billiard. 1969.

St. Julie Billiard--A Saint For Our Time. 2000.

Letters of Mere Julie, 1795-1806.

Letters of Mere Julie, 1807-March 1808.

Letters of Mere Julie, March 1808-February 1809.

Letters of Mere Julie, February-September 1809.

Letters of Mere Julie, 1809-1816.

Letters of Mere Julie, Part 2; Mother St. Joseph, 1816-1838.