Interface Theology



InterfaceTheology:
Volume 5, Number 2, 2019

Editorial Board
Revd Dr John Capper, University of Divinity, Melbourne
Dr Philip Kariatlis, St Andrews Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney

Editorial Manager
Mr Hilary Regan, Publisher, ATF Theology, PO Box 504 Hindmarsh. SA 5007, Australia. Fax +61 8 82235643.

International Reference Group
Rev Dr Vicky Balabanksi, Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, Adelaide
Rev Dr Ted Peters, Pacific Lutheran Theological School, Berkley
Rev Dr Murray Rae, University of Otago, Dunedin

Subscription rates
Print: Local: Individual Aus $55, Institutions Aus $65.
Overseas: Individuals US $60, Institutions US $65.

Interface Theology is a biannual refereed journal of theology published in print, epub and open access by ATF Press in Australia.
The journal is a scholarly ecumenical and interdisciplinary publication, aiming to serve the church and its mission, promoting a broad based interpretation of Christian theology within a trinitarian context, encouraging dialogue between Christianity and other faiths, and exploring the interface between faith and culture. It is published in English for an international audience.

ISSN 2203-465X
Cover design by Astrid Sengkey. Text Minion Pro Size 11

ISBN: 978-1-925679-60-1 soft
978-1-925679-61-8 hard
978-1-925679-62-5 epub
978-1-925679-63-2 pdf

An imprint of ATF Theology part of the ATF Press Publishing Group.
ATF (Australia) Ltd.
PO Box 234
Brompton, SA, 5007
Australia
www.atfpress.com
Making a lasting impact

Interface Theology

Table of Contents

1. From Samoa to Somes and Back: The Internment of Father Albert Merten and Brother Joseph (Julius) Krieger During World War II 1
Alois Greiler SM and Elizabeth Charlton

2. Introduction to Strangeness: Reflections on the Recent Exhibition of Icons in the Art Gallery of Ballarat 57
Duncan Reid

3. The Art of Interpretation in Depicting (the Idea of) God 71
Paul C Martin

Authors 107

InterfaceTheology 5/2 2019

From Samoa to Somes and Back: The Internment of Father Albert Merten and Brother Joseph (Julius) Krieger During World War II

Alois Greiler (text)[1] *and Elizabeth Charlton (research)*[2]

The Society of Mary (Marist Fathers), a male Catholic religious congregation, received papal approval in 1836. This included a mandate to send out missionaries with Bishop Pompallier, first vicar apostolic (missionary title that here equals a bishop) of the newly created vicariate of Western Oceania, to the South Pacific. The first Marists landed on Wallis and Futuna in November 1837 and reached New Zealand in January 1838. In 1841 The Society of Mary (Marist Fathers), a male Catholic religious congregation, received papal approval in 1836. This included a mandate to send out missionaries with Bishop Pompallier, first vicar apostolic (missionary title that here equals a bishop) of

1. Alois Greiler, Marist priest from Germany, at present in pastoral work in Dublin, Ireland. He holds a doctorate from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) with publications on the history of the Second Vatican Council. His main research interest and publications concerns Marist history and spirituality. With ATF Press he has published as editor *Beginnings in Oceania. Marist Missionary Perspectives*, 2009 and Mervyn Duffy/Alois Greiler, *Verguet's Sketchbook. A Marist Missionary Artist in 1840s Oceania*, 2017 (2014). He is also the editor of the Marist Series with ATF Press. A number of articles appeared in the journal of the congregation, *Forum Novum*.
2. Elizabeth Charlton, Wellington, New Zealand: Recordkeeping is Elizabeth's second career after seventeen years of teaching in France, England, Australia and New Zealand, in addition to academic and practical experience in the French legal system. After studies in records and information management, she was appointed Province Archivist for the Society of Mary in New Zealand in 2015, a sole archivist position, in which she uses French most days. Elizabeth was the 2014 recipient of the Ian McLean Wards Scholarship to research digital preservation practices for very small archives. She served on the Council of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand for three years, two of them as vice president.

the newly created vicariate of Western Oceania, to the South Pacific. The first Marists landed on Wallis and Futuna in November 1837 and reached New Zealand in January 1838. In 1841, Peter Chanel died as martyr on Futuna. In 1845, the first Marists reached Samoa. During the leadership of the founder, Jean-Claude Colin (1790–1875), the vast ecclesial unit of Oceania was eventually divided into smaller units, which became dioceses in the 1960s. In 1948, the Society had a total of 1637 members, among those seventy-seven in Germany. Samoa had one bishop, a Marist, 21 priests, mainly Marists, and two lay brothers.[3]

The internment of Father Albert Merten (1905–1991) and Brother Joseph Krieger (1900–1972) during World War II (1939–1945)[4] serves as a case study of the complex web of war stories of the German Marists in the Pacific, of missionaries in the times of war. After first safety measures in Samoa they were transferred to Somes Island,[5]

3. The Latin abbreviation for the Marists is 'SM' = Societas Mariae or Society of Mary; members were either ordained to the priesthood or stayed brothers as lay religious. Brothers at the time received a religious name in place of their baptismal name. The leader of a unit was the provincial.
4. For a first narrative: Bronwyn Chapman, *German Marist Experiences in New Zealand and Samoa*, thesis, University of Auckland, 2013, on Merten and Krieger, and Fathers Peter and Louis Schwehr. For Merten and Krieger, she quotes from their letters to Bishop Darnand about life in the two camps.: can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/eld3vngg3znj9ji/Chapman.pdf?dl=0> (accessed 30 October 2017).
5. The Society of Mary (Marist Fathers), a male Catholic religious congregation, received papal approval in 1836. This included a mandate to send out missionaries with Bishop Pompallier, first vicar apostolic (missionary title that here equals a bishop) of the newly created vicariate of Western Oceania, to the South Pacific. The first Marists landed on Wallis and Futuna in November 1837 and reached New Zealand in January 1838. In 1841, Peter Chanel died as martyr on Futuna. In 1845, the first Marists reached Samoa. During the generalate of the founder, Jean-Claude Colin (1790–1875), the vast unit of Oceania was eventually divided into smaller units, which became dioceses in the 1960s. In 1948, the Society had a total of 1637 members, among those seventy-seven in Germany. Samoa had one bishop, a Marist, twenty-one priests, mainly Marists, and two lay brothers.

   The internment of Father Albert Merten (1905–1991) and Brother Joseph Krieger (1900–1972) during World War II (1939–1945) serves as a case study of the complex web of war stories of the German Marists in the Pacific, of missionaries in the times of war. After first safety measures in Samoa they were transferred to Somes Island, New Zealand. This article tries to reconstruct the events based on new archival material, in part used with special permission. New Zealand authorities had to protect their country and its mandate territory

New Zealand. This article tries to reconstruct the events based on new archival material, in part used with special permission.[6] New Zealand authorities had to protect their country and its mandate territory of Samoa in a time of war. How to deal with 'enemy aliens', of which clergy was a special case?

Peter Chanel died as martyr on Futuna. In 1845, the first Marists reached Samoa. During the generalate of the founder, Jean-Claude Colin (1790–1875), the vast unit of Oceania was eventually divided into smaller units, which became dioceses in the 1960s. In 1948, the Society had a total of 1637 members, among those seventy-seven in Germany. Samoa had one bishop, a Marist, twenty-one priests, mainly Marists, and two lay brothers.[7]

The internment of Father Albert Merten (1905–1991) and Brother Joseph Krieger (1900–1972) during World War II (1939–1945)[8] serves as a case study of the complex web of war stories of the German Marists in the Pacific, of missionaries in the times of war. After first safety measures in Samoa they were transferred to Somes Island,[9]

---

of Samoa in a time of war. How to deal with 'enemy aliens', of which clergy was a special case? he island's indigenous and English-language name is Matiu/Somes Island. I follow the historical documents which use 'Somes Island' only. Already during World War I an internment camp was on the island. In 1947, the World War II camp was torn down. Chronology on the camps based on David McGill, David, *Island of Secrets. Matiu/Somes Island in Wellington Harbour* (Wellington, Steele Roberts, 2001), 89: can be found at <www.oocities.org/somesprisonersnz/chronologyww.2.html> (accessed on 29 October 2017).

6. See the appendix for the references to archival material and the use of IMG in the footnotes.
7. The Latin abbreviation for the Marists is 'SM' = Societas Mariae or Society of Mary; members were either ordained to the priesthood or stayed brothers as lay religious. The leader of a unit was the provincial.
8. For a first narrative: Bronwyn Chapman, *German Marist Experiences in New Zealand and Samoa*, thesis, University of Auckland, 2013, on Merten and Krieger, and Fathers Peter and Louis Schwehr. For Merten and Krieger, she quotes from their letters to Bishop Darnand about life in the two camps: can be foiund at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/eld3vngg3znj9ji/Chapman.pdf?dl=0> (accessed 30 October 2017).
9. The island's indigenous and English-language name is Matiu/Somes Island. I follow the historical documents which use 'Somes Island' only. Already during World War I an internment camp was on the island. In 1947, the World War II camp was torn down. Chronology on the camps based on David McGill, David, *Island of Secrets. Matiu/Somes Island in Wellington Harbour* (Wellington: Steele Roberts, 2001), 89: can be found at <www.oocities.org/somesprisonersnz/chronologyww.2.html> (accessed online on 29 October 2017).

New Zealand. This article tries to reconstruct the events based on new archival material, in part used with special permission.[10] New Zealand authorities had to protect their country and its mandate territory of Samoa in a time of war. How to deal with 'enemy aliens', of which clergy was a special case?

The Many Different State and Church InstitutionsIOnvolved

The story of Merten and Krieger leads through different countries, continents, and various political and ecclesiastical institutions creating a complexity of documents the authorities had to deal with regarding internment of so-called enemy aliens.[11]

Merten and Krieger were Catholic missionaries on Western Samoa. The New Zealand Acting Administrator, Alfred Clarke Turnbull, ordered internment. He had consulted his colleagues on American Samoa. Bishop Joseph Darnand (1879–1962), a French Marist, Apostolic Vicar (status of a bishop in a missionary territory), intervened on behalf of his men with the Marist leader in New Zealand and Thomas O'Shea (1870–1954), archbishop of Wellington, also a Marist. The Samoan chiefs are not mentioned in the files. To refer to the Marist mission we use 'Samoa' only.

Many New Zealand departments had to collect information, prepare and make decisions during those war years. The prime minister was approached by the Marists twice. Michael Joseph Savage (1872–1940) had been prime minister when the New Zealand government declared war on the axis powers together with Great Britain. His successor was Peter Fraser (1884–1950), in office from 27 March 1940 until 13 December 1949.[12] Staff of his office, AG Osborne, undersecretary, and Foss Shanahan, secretary to the war cabinet answered

10. See the appendix for the references to archival material and the use of IMG in the footnotes.
11. Some background information from Nancy M Taylor, *The Home Front*, Volume II, Wellington, Historical Publications Branch, 1986 (The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939–1945), accessed online on 30 September 2017, chapter 18 'Aliens'. *Cf* chapter 19, 'Censorship'. My small contribution cannot cover the context of Samoa, New Zealand, Somes Island, and so on.
12. Wikipedia, accessed 11 August 2017. Fraser was partly also involved in his other roles as minister for external affairs and for Island Territories.