

Pacific Yearly Meeting  
**Historian and Archivists' Reports**  
Report to Representative Committee (RepCom) 2024

The historian uses the resources of digital and physical archives to provide the Yearly Meeting with information on our past activities and practices as they relate to our current activities and concerns. The historian:

- Answers questions from committees and individuals who require information that can be found in the archives. This year, I have researched material for both Finance Committee and Nominating Committee and have answered some questions from individuals.
- Assists the Archivist in their duties as needed: I have worked with George Mills as he completed the digital versions of all our minutes and documented what exactly is in the archives. We plan to spend a week working on a more detailed plan of its contents, filing new materials in the archives, and digitizing some of our archived materials to add to our digital records.
- Serves ex-officio on the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, assisting to find areas where Faith and Practice needs revision based on what has changed in the Yearly Meeting since the last edition.
- Serves ex-officio on the Communications Committee, researching and advising on areas relevant to the work of the committee.

Jan Tappan, Historian

These are the highlights of what the Archivist has been up to over the past year:

- The Stratton C. Jaquette Collection of PacYM minutes for 1969-2023 was placed into archival storage on September 6, 2023, at the San Francisco meeting house. These are the paper minutes that underlie the 1969-2003 portion of the digitized collection that is on the PacYM website.
- A more complete and systematic inventory of the PacYM physical archive at Whittier College Library will be undertaken (or at least begun) the week of Feb 5-9, 2024. The most recent prior inventory was conducted in 2014.
- The Archivist continues to work with the Clerk, Recording Clerks and Administrative Assistant to ensure that recent minutes are posted as archival PDFs on the website at <https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/pym-minutes/> and that paper archival copies are also produced. The digitized archive as of June 2023 contained 185 files, totaling 6,839 pages, occupying 352 megabytes of storage.
- We are looking to improve OCR (optical character recognition) of our digitized collection to improve searching capability. OCR tools have recently improved noticeably, I believe due to advances in AI language models.
- An online "Archivists Roundtable" discussion we organized, hosted by Western Friend in March 2023, attracted 28 participants (or wished-to-be-participants) from the three western U.S. yearly meetings: PacYM, NPYM and IMYM. Plans to meet regularly have faltered, as other projects siphoned off energy.

George Mills, PacYM co-Historian/Archivist, serving primarily as Archivist.

