



Department of Special Collections and University Archives

**Charles S. Lusk (Dec. 22, 1851-1928)**

Charles Stoner Lusk was born in Pennsylvania on December 22, 1851. He served as Secretary to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions from its establishment in 1874 (then known as the Office of the Catholic Commissioner for Indian Missions) until his death. In so doing, he served under two Commissioners – General Charles B. Ewing and Captain John Mullan – and four Directors – Reverend John B. A. Brouillet, Monsignor Joseph A. Stephan, Monsignor William A. Ketcham, and Monsignor William M. Hughes. By contemporary standards, his service would be described as that of an Administrative Assistant, since he maintained day-to-day operations and made essential administrative decisions when the director was away and not available to make decisions requiring immediate action.

In 1894, after 21 years of service, Lusk converted to Catholicism, and in 1927, Pope Pius XI honored him with an honorary appointment as “Chamberlain of the Sword and Cape of His Holiness.” During the next year, Lusk became critically ill and was hospitalized and passed soon after.

A portrait of Lusk is available online in the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions Digital Image Collection, image no. 01611b.