An unusual case study
A Designated Official Record

by Alan D. Ridge and Elizabeth M. McCrum

"Oh that my words were now written!
Oh that they were printed in a book."
Job 19:23

The Anglican Diocese of Athabasca in northern Alberta was formed in 1874 and, for conducting its affairs, synods were held in 1876 and 1881 at St. David's Mission, Fort Simpson. Manuscript records of the business transacted at these synods, together with copies of resolutions and the constitution of the diocese, survive in the Diocesan Archives deposited in the Provincial Archives of Alberta. The text of the Bishop's address in 1876 is given on pages 182-187 of an as yet unidentified published historical account of the religious development of the north; loose leaves are in the archives. In 1888 the diocese held at St. Luke's, Fort Vermilion the first of its triennial synods. The manuscript archival record comprises the report, constitution of the synod, a pro forma for statistics, a record of induction of four ministers, the text of a petition, and a missionary prayer. The report, with the text of the Bishop's address, was printed by the Call Printing Company of Winnipeg. In 1891 the Synod met at St. Peter's, Lesser Slave Lake; a manuscript report is in the archives. This report, with the text of the Bishop's address, was printed by the Rupert's Land Indian Industrial School Press at Middle Church, Manitoba. In 1894 the Synod again met at Lesser Slave Lake but in lieu of a manuscript record, a printed booklet was inserted in the book of manuscript reports. The booklet which comprises the report and the Bishop's address, was printed by the Bryant Press of 20 Bay Street, Toronto. The archival significance of this printed record is indicated by the minute noted at the following synod that the minutes as printed [our italics] be adopted.

The fourth triennial synod was held in 1900 and the manuscript record comprises the report, lists of members and delegates, notices of motions, the Bishop's address and the collect for the synod. In addition there are rough drafts of some motions between Nos. 3 and 25; the wording is not always the same as in the "master" manuscript, but this is hardly surprising. The printed text is remarkable both for the divergences from the main manuscript text and for the amount of annotation. The identity of the

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1 A "Synodical Meeting" held for a limited purpose at St. Paul's, Fort Chipewyan in 1883 was not rated as a full synod.
2 Provincial Archives of Alberta, Class A.220
3 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.220/3
4 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.220/3
5 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.220/8d

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person responsible for the annotations has not yet been established. Because no other printed texts for earlier synods or for the next two⁶ are so profusely annotated, there seems to be some justification for making a bibliographical examination. Moreover, a special archival significance attaches to the printed copy because at the 1903 synod it was minuted that the minutes as printed and corrected [our italics] be adopted. The manuscript record therefore may almost be regarded less as the prime record of the proceedings than as a draft for printing.

The documentary evidence shows that texts for printing were sent from the diocese to Winnipeg but by whom is not known. On 22 September 1900, Bishop Young wrote to the Archbishop of Rupert's Land⁷ that "The Minutes and Report of Proceedings [of Synod] were sent out to my Commissary, Rev. W.A. Burman to be printed. I have not yet received copies." Copies of Bishop Young's letters to Mr. Burman in the next few months make no reference to the Synod Report or its printing, yet as the following extract indicates there must have been an interchange of proofs and comments. On 21 December 1900, Mr. Burman wrote to Bishop Young:⁸

I got your corrected Report as did the printer. The fault cannot justly be placed on him. There are a few printer's errors—but all the bad mistakes were really in the copy, which I found very hard to make out. The error as to the amt due C.M.S. was one of these and was printed as written. The $1115.91. had the first figure either under or over another figure and looked as though it had been purposely obliterated, so that $115.91. was naturally printed. The written minutes of the Synod were in a confused shape, and had to be re-arranged and even the grammar corrected. That part was written and your address I think altogether typewritten. I am very sorry the mistakes occurred but must ask you not to blame the printer. Had I had more time some mistakes might have been deleted by me, but I was just going away and had to hurry through what was at best rather a difficult work.

The Report of the Fourth Triennial Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca held at Lesser Slave Lake, Athabasca, Friday, June 22nd, 1900, Together with the Bishop's Address was printed in Winnipeg by the Judd-Moore Printing Company of 219-221 McDermot Avenue. This report consists of 28 pages wrapped in grey papers, measuring $8\frac{19}{32}\" \times 5\frac{3}{4}\", with the title and full nature of its contents printed on the cover. The printed version is organized as follows:

- page [1] is the title page, identical with the cover except that a frame of printers' ornaments is missing

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6 The report on the 1903 Synod with the Bishop's Address was printed by William C. Allister of 229 County Road, Liverpool, England. The 1907 report and address were printed by the Monetary Times Printing Company of Toronto. Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.220/9a-c and 10a,b.

7 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.280/3

8 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.281/46
In sum then, we have a manuscript record which is not the designated official record, and we have printed copies of a hand-annotated text which frequently deviates from the original manuscript, and which is not specifically authenticated. The poor result stemmed from bad drafting, remote control shared between Athabasca Landing and Winnipeg, and a printer who was not familiar with the requirements. There is nothing wrong or reprehensible in designating as an official archive a publication which has been printed or otherwise reproduced, provided that the copy’s uniqueness is guaranteed and properly authenticated. It would be well for custodians to be alert to this kind of problem which may arise when they

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9 Provincial Archives of Alberta, A.220/8a-c
10 British Library, 4745.K.32
seek to identify the master set or archival series of an organization’s minutes, agenda, periodic reports, accounts and circulars which may have been issued in multiple copies. Caveat custos!

TABLE TO INDICATE COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED TEXTS
BL - Copy in the British Library
LP - Copy in the Lambeth Palace Library
T - Copies in the Anglican Church of Canada Archives, Toronto

DIOCESAN COPIES — PRINTED

MANUSCRIPT TEXT

Cover of report “Corrected Copy. See especially Page 15.”; in red ink. “Bishop Young”; in black ink. Handwritten. (no ink ref. to Bishop Young on copy 2).

List of clergy & officials

Page [3]

L.23. “1” in Ashington Rectory deleted (On copy 2 L.9 “Christ Church, Smoky River” deleted and “St. John’s Peace River” inserted in black ink.)

Page [5]

Rubber stamp deletes motions with words “see page 20.”

Copy 2 lists the ten pages with red ink annotations

Page [7]

L.6 a triennial synod
L.8 mutual council
L.14 “Word” deleted: “work” inserted
L.19 and 23. Mrs. E.J. Lawrence

Page 8

L.1 labourers and I am sure we
L.7-9 assistance readily and generously granted, we must not forget to thank the Committee of Canadian Church Missionary Association of Canada

Page 11


PRINTED VARIATIONS

No annotation. T. BL and LP resemble Copy 2.

List of clergy given but not of the Executive Committee, Commissaries or Trustees.

Ashington

No annotation. T.

No listing. BL, LP, T.

No annotation. T.

No annotation. T.

Rev. A.S. White was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Qu’Appelle Sept. 1899 and is now in charge of St. Luke’s Mission of Rev. M. Scott

Rev. A.S. White is now in charge of St. Luke’s Mission

Labourers. I am sure we assistance both readily and generously granted we must not forget to thank the Com. of Can. Ch. Missy. Association of Canada

“to thank” deleted: “the” inserted before “Canadian”. BL.

1.17 of the Rev. M. Scott
1.18 but also to us all. We lose
1.22 school teacher
1.24 work in 1899
1.27 January of 1899

January 1899

We loose schoolmaster work in 1898
§28 recognize
§29 to the Athabasca Landing
§33 a point when

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIOCESAN COPIES — PRINTED</th>
<th>MANUSCRIPT TEXT</th>
<th>PRINTED VARIATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.28 recognize</td>
<td>recognise</td>
<td>“the” deleted. BL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.29 to the Athabasca Landing</td>
<td>to the Landing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.33 a point when</td>
<td>a point where</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 9

l.6 Miss Durntall
l.9 During
l.10 Mr. Richard Cox
l.11-12 who before coming to us was a teacher in the Reserve School

l.17 the Woman’s Auxiliary
l.23 the Indian Boarding School at Wapus-caw. (Copy 2 has the same addition as the B.L. text)

l.24 the Diocese
l.25 gauged

l.29-30 “to be exercised” deleted; “can be effectually maintained” inserted after “Dio-

Page 10

§5 of Rev. Henry Robinson
§7 We have added
§7-8 since we last met—that at Wapus-caw—Under
§12 Commissioner Laird of a grant towards teacher’s salary
§14 question of school
§19-20 the number of adults and also young persons
§20 cause of thankfulness
§26-28 and when the first unsettlement has subsided, it certainly, should be beneficial as a pledge that provision will be made
§29 infrequently

Page 11

l.6-7 in the Memorandum a representation from us as a Synod to Ottawa [period omitted]

l.9 and to do what we can
l.20 the Rev. A.E. Cowley
l.20 amounts
l.21 at which bank; I trust this
l.27 position towards any of you

l.29 me giving you half yearly statements as I used to in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 12</th>
<th>Manuscript Text</th>
<th>Printed Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3 balance will be for or against</td>
<td>balance may be for or against</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 credit balances are brought</td>
<td>credit balance are brought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 case of any mistakes</td>
<td>case of any mistake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.19 regulations</td>
<td>regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.20-21 Diocese of Rupert’s Land</td>
<td>the Rupert’s Land Diocese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.23 of his Mission</td>
<td>in his Mission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.30 “This is” deleted in part: “ese are” inserted: text now reads “These are on the increase”</td>
<td>This in on the increase</td>
<td>No annotation. T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.33-34 as well as the Missionaries</td>
<td>as well as the Missionary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 13</th>
<th>Manuscript Text</th>
<th>Printed Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Some of the brethren</td>
<td>Some of our brethren</td>
<td>No annotation. T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 “these” inserted at end of line after “either”</td>
<td>either these</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 donor</td>
<td>donors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.12-13 If funds are remitted as in the past to his Commissary, outsiders would be satisfied to know</td>
<td>Outsiders would (if they are remitted in the past instance to his Commissary) be satisfied to know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.18 been possible hitherto</td>
<td>hitherto been possible</td>
<td>No annotation. BL,LP,T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.25 procedure</td>
<td>Missionary-in-charge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.28-29 “d” at end of “charged” deleted: text now reads “Missionary in charge”</td>
<td>danger of losing the cheque</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.29-30 danger of losing the cheque occurs.</td>
<td>sent to me to the Landing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.30 sent to me at the Landing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<th>Page 14</th>
<th>Manuscript Text</th>
<th>Printed Variations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.7 entered on the filed copy</td>
<td>entered on the copy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.17 no actual losses</td>
<td>no actual loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.27 Mr. Mathewson</td>
<td>Mr. Matthewson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.28-29 who has had to retire</td>
<td>who had to retire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.30 lose</td>
<td>loose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 15</th>
<th>Manuscript Text</th>
<th>Printed Variations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II.1-2 toward</td>
<td>towards</td>
<td>No annotation. BL,T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.4 “it” deleted: text now reads “This to be paid”</td>
<td>This to be paid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.5 “s” deleted at end of “amounts”: text now reads “amount . . . is”</td>
<td>amounts . . . is</td>
<td>No annotation. BL,T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.9 averaging</td>
<td>averaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.11 demands: final “s” is typographically misplaced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.14 showed</td>
<td>shewed</td>
<td>No annotation. T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.16 “$100” underlined: “$1000” written in margin</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.18 “$115.91” underlined: $1115.91 written in margin</td>
<td>$1115.91</td>
<td>No annotation. T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.24 Missions where in existence</td>
<td>Missions were in existence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.28-29 Domestic and Foreign Missions. A form for</td>
<td>Domestic and Foreign Missions — (See Report on Indian Missions pp. 18 and 15). A form for</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


A CASE STUDY

Page 16

1.3 charged children
1.8 is representation
1.15 Superannuation
1.16 vide Provincial Synod Report, Appendix F.
1.21 subscriptions
1.22 after subscribing
1.26 a canon, passed
11.27-28 with regard to the Clergy Superannuation Fund

Page 17

1.1 printed in syllabics
1.4 "Wood" Cree
11.8-9 Bryan Publishing Co.
1.11 a hand press, and all necessary outfit
1.13 In the meanwhile
11.16-17 a book of instructions, prayers and hymns. Also the Creed
11.18-19 "a" inserted at end of line: text now reads "This has gone into a second edition."
11.22-23 a second edition of the whole Bible
11.29-30 a revised edition of the who Bible
11.33-34 Six years of change, trial, discouragements, as well as, thank God, encouragements have passed away.

Page 18

1.4 realize
1.4 "h" inserted in "sphere" to read "sphere"
11.5-6 He will not leave or forsake us
1.10 constant prayer be

Page [19]

1.8 by Revd. Hy. Robinson
11.13-14 During the service the Bishop delivered part of his address dealing with other than financial matters.
11.16 by the Revd. M. Scott
11.18 Albert Tait
11.20 by Revd. M. Scott

Page 20

[Notices of motion: these omit ten notices of motions of thanks to corporate bodies & societies]

1.11 adjourned
1.12 On again meeting
1.13 referred to financial matters, and referred

[Lists 13 notices of motions which were later minuted in detail with six other resolutions of which advance notice was not given].

ajourned
On meeting again
referred to the financial matters, and referred
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page 20-21</th>
<th>Final &quot;I&quot; of &quot;fill&quot; deleted and &quot;ful&quot; inserted at beginning: text now reads &quot;to fulfil his duties&quot;</th>
<th>but before appointment to fill his duties</th>
<th>No annotation, T.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 21</td>
<td>Omission of Motion number &quot;3&quot; before the words &quot;that this Synod&quot;</td>
<td>[in margin] that this Synod</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 22</td>
<td>Compliance of request</td>
<td>&quot;the&quot; inserted before &quot;request&quot;. BL.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 22</td>
<td>Request &quot;such&quot; inserted above &quot;as&quot; at end of line: text now reads &quot;such as&quot;</td>
<td>such as</td>
<td>No annotation. BL, T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 22</td>
<td>Omission of date and names of signatories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 23</td>
<td>Synod here adjourned</td>
<td>Synod then adjourned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 23</td>
<td>On meeting again it</td>
<td>On meeting again after Tea It</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 23</td>
<td>loose the labourers</td>
<td>Mr. Wm. Whitford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 23</td>
<td>Printed also the proceedings</td>
<td>Colonial and Continental Church Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 24</td>
<td>Further help from it</td>
<td>— The members accorded</td>
<td>No annotation, LP, T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 25</td>
<td>express their sincere thanks</td>
<td>S.P.C.K.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 25</td>
<td>as most strength and opportunities</td>
<td>No annotation, LP, T.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DIOCESAN COPIES — PRINTED

1.21 The Synod desire

1.26 unable

Page 26

1.8 British & Foreign Bible Society

1.15-16 British & Foreign Bible Society

1.29 "recognzie" amended to "recognise"

1.33 "be" deleted: text now reads "it should, consistent with durability"

### MANUSCRIPT TEXT

The Synod of this Diocese desires not able

Brit. and Foreign Bible Society

Brit. and For. Bible Society recognise it should consistent with durability

### PRINTED VARIATIONS

No annotation. T.

No annotation. T.

Page 27

I.1 comma inserted: text now reads "and clearness of type, be as"

I.9 translations

I.15 "their" amended to "there": text now reads "is there either a probability or advisability"

I.18 seems to be

I.19 "be" inserted: text now reads "to read and be appreciated"

I.19 [names of 4 signatories omitted]

I.27 Hudson's Bay Co.

I.29-30 time to time, for the consideration shewn to them in many ways

I.33 preparing

Page 28

II.2,6,11 Rev. G. Holmes

I.8 for the general and Provincial Synod

II.9-10 R.D. Richardson Esq. and Thomas Gill Esq.

I.14 he discharged

II.16-17 The Bishop then declared the Acts of the Synod and closed the Session by pronouncing the Benediction

With these changes, the text reads:

The Synod desire not able

The British and Foreign Bible Society desire not able

The British and Foreign Bible Society recognise it should, consistent with durability

and clearness of type, be as

is there either a probability or advisability

seem to be

to read and be appreciated

(Signed) M. Scott, G. Holmes, D. Curry, C.D. White, H.B. Co.

time to time in many ways for the consideration shown to them in many ways providing

Rev. Geo. Holmes for the ensuing General and Provincial Synods

R.D. Richardson Esq. Thomas Gill esq.

he has discharged

The Bishop then declared the Acts of the Synods and closed the Session with the Benediction

### Pages 27-28

extra leaf inserted: no handwritten annotations (Copy 2 has no extra leaf)

No extra leaves. BL,LP,T.