

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 320

Title: New Vrindaban Community Collection

Extent: 10 Folders, 4 Media Items

Span Dates: 1970's – 2010's

Language: English

Geographic Location: West Virginia

Abstract: This collection consists of pamphlets, event announcements, articles and newsletters about the community from 1978 to 2012.

Historical Notes: The first and best-known of the dozens of rural communal settlements related to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), New Vrindaban was built in the hills of West Virginia. Keith Ham, who had taken the spiritual name Kirtanananda, led a small group of devotees to the isolated property in 1968 and began developing farm buildings, and a temple. A few years later the New Vrindaban residents decided to build a house for their spiritual master, A. C. Bhakivedanta Swami (known honorifically as Prabhupada) and that simple dwelling became a magnificent Indian palace before it was finished (although Bhakivedanta died before he could occupy it). In the late 1970's, and thereafter ISKCON endured a series of scandals, some of which involved felonious activity at New Vrindaban, and Kirtanananda was eventually imprisoned. The problems later subsided, however, the New Vrindaban had since continued a farm community, and, with its palace, a tourist destination. Its population was reported at 377 adults in 1977 but had declined to about 50 by 2004.

- **Sources:** Miller, Timothy. *The Encyclopedic guide to American intentional communities*. Clinton, New York: Richard W. Couper Press, 2013. pg. 312.

Selected Search Terms

Keywords: Communal Living; Collective Settlements; Cooperative Housing; Intentional Communities; Collective Farms; Commune

Related Materials: Communal Studies; History; People and Communities; Publications; Related Materials -- 1951-2000; Related Materials -- 2001-2050; Related Materials -- n.d.; Religion and Spirituality; Special Collections

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Location
Pamphlets and Booklets	1978-2000	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Clippings	1979-1998	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Correspondence	1980-1991	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Conferences and Meetings; Publications and Products	1990-2004	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-B
General Information	1986-2000	Folder 2	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Rosenthal, Robert. "Communal Self-Images and the World." Louisville: Annual Convention of Popular Culture Association, March 18-21, 1992	1992	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Swami, Murti. "The Interfaith City of God in New Vrindaban, West Virginia Communalism with God at the Center." Winston-Salem: National Historic Communal Societies Association Conference, October 1988	1988	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Das, Sankirtana (Andy Fraenkel). "New Vrindaban Time Line." October 1998	1998	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>New Vrindaban Land of Krishna</i> . Moundsville: New Vrindaban Community. Vol. 2: no. 6 (February 1986)	1986	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>The Religious Freedom Fighter</i> . New Vrindaban: New Vrindaban Community. Vol. 1: no. 1 (1987)	1987	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>Sacred Voices: A Newsletter of the Sacred Traditions</i> . Moundsville: Sacred Voices (Fall 1991) – (Winter 1992), (Summer/Fall 1993) – (Spring 1994), (Fall/Winter 1994)	1991-1994	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>New Vrindaban World</i> . Moundsville: New Vrindaban World. no. 1 (December 24, 1990) – no. 16 (September 15, 1991), no. 18 (October 15, 1991) – no. 20 (December 1, 1991), Special Issue (1991), Vol. 2: no. 1 (August 1992) – Vol. 2: no. 3 (November 1992)	1990-1992	Folder 3	Filing Cabinet 14-B
International Appeal Letter and Packet	1987	Folder 4	Filing Cabinet 14-B
General Information, Notes (1987, 1990)	1987-1990	Folder 5	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Maps and Drawings	n.d.	Folder 6	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>Brijabasi Spirit: Journal of the New Vrindaban Community</i> . Vol. 7, no. 1 (April 1981), (September 1981), Vol. 2, no. 1 (January 1982) – Vol. 2, no. 2 (1981), Vol. 10, no. 5 (1983), (April 1984), (September 1994), (May 1994), (1995), no. 9 (April 2006)	1981-2006	Folder 6	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Booklets about Krishna Movement	n.d.	Folder 7	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Art Calendars. (1985, 1997, 2007, 2009-2012)	1985-2012	Folder 7	Filing Cabinet 14-B
"Religion in the Year 2000: Biographical Sketches of Participants", June 10-12, 1988	1988	Folder 7	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Conferences	1988-1994	Folder 8	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Theater Productions	n.d.	Folder 9	Filing Cabinet 14-B
Advertising and Brochures	n.d.	Folder 10	Filing Cabinet 14-B
<i>New Vrindaban Mellows: An Exciting Video Journey into a Spiritual Realm</i> . (VHS)	1999	CM 065	Media Cabinet
<i>Religion in the Year 2000: Experiments in Interfaith Living</i> . (VHS)	1989	CM 066	Media Cabinet

Contents	Date	Container	Location
<i>Sri Siksastakam: The Teaching of Lord Chaitanya.</i> (CD)	1999	CM 067	Media Cabinet
<i>Vaisnavas Songs.</i> (CD)	1995	CM 068	Media Cabinet