**Susan Lovell Collection**

Collection Number: 0023

Inclusive Dates: 1974 – 2018

Donor: Susan Lovell (through AQ Foundation)

Processed by: Mitchell Mulroy

Size: 2 linear feet, 4 boxes

Abstract

This collection focuses the research conducted on Peter Wege by Susan Lovell for her book "A History of the Wege Foundation", which is both a biography of Peter Wege and a history of his charity foundation.

Biography

Susan Lovell first met Peter Wege in 1989 when she was brought on to edit his book "Economicology" published in 1998. She later worked with him on "Economicology II", published in 2010. Lovell was inspired by Wege's activism and began taking notes and interviewing members of the Wege foundation years in advance before publishing the history of the foundation in April 2018. Her research details the start of Wege's father's furniture company, Metal Office Furniture, later renamed Steelcase, the start of Wege’s foundation in 1968, what causes and projects Wege supported, and his death in 2014.

Scope and Content

This small collection contains research materials Susan Lovell generated for her book as well as a signed copy of the finished publication. The folders marked "Lovell Files" are intact as Susan Lovell arranged them, with occasional loose materials added to them. The folders marked "General Files" are were composed from loose materials and folders found in the original donation.

Arrangement Note

When the collection first arrived, some material was organized into folders and some was loose. Not everything in the files was consistent and some rearranging was done. The folders marked "Lovell Files" are original files Susan Lovell composed, with occasional loose materials added to them. The folders marked "General Files" are ones that were composed from loose materials and folders which didn't have a common element

Contents

Box Folder Description

/ / **"A History of the Wege Foundation" by Susan Lovell**

Lovell Files

1 1 **Catherine's Health Center**

(Information about the health center, what services they provide, its history)

1 2 **Dwelling Place**

(Advertisements, programs, historical information)

1 3-6 **Economicology**

(Correspondence, articles, presentation materials, programs)

1 7 **Pollution Center/Center for Sustainable Systems**

 (Draft of story of Peter Wege accepting job as first chairman of the External Advisory Board of the National Pollution Prevention Center, overview of Center for sustainable systems)

1 8 **Wealthy Theatre**

(Magazine articles, newspaper articles, notes)

1 9-10 **Wege Biographical Information**

(Research material about Wege's life collected by Lovell, includes magazine articles, correspondence, notes, programs)

2 1-5 **Wege Biographical Information**

2 6 **Clare Jarecki**

 (Two pamphlets produced by the Grand Valley State University for Health Possessions, and a pamphlet by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and a guest list for his 90th birthday party)

2 7 **Marvin Stahl**

 (Obituaries, reflections, articles, pamphlets, correspondence)

2 8 **Blandford**

(Several articles and a newspaper highlighting the Wege Foundation's contributions to Blandford Nature Center and School)

General Files

3 1-2 **Donors/Grants**

(A substantial amount of records of financial donations to and from the Wege foundation)

3 3 **Environmental Activism**

(Several articles and pamphlets highlighting the Wege Foundation's contributions to environmental issues)

3 4 **Grand Rapids Ballet**

3 5 **Grand Rapids Art Museum**

 (Several pamphlets and magazines highlighting the Wege Foundation's contributions to the Grand Rapids Art Museum)

3 6 **Improvement Association**

 (Materials relating to Lovell's involvement in the "Improvement Club" a recreational group of wealthy seniors. Research for Susan Lovell's history of the Improvement Club)

3 7 **Lovell Family**

(Pamphlets for a Lovell family member's birthday party, 2013 Christmas Card)

3 8 **Saint Mary’s Health Center**

3 9 **Reference Materials**

 (Substantial amount of materials not directly connected to the Wege foundation that Lovell used for research.)

4 1-2 **Reference Materials**

4 3 **Photos**

4 4 **Planning Binder**

 (A folder containing graphs, an Itinerary for October 2003, files on Edward Wilson, biographical information on numerous people related to Peter Wege or Susan Lovell in some way)

Digital Materials

4 5 4 Items

(Economicology logo, Wege Foundation and Steelcase documentaries, Improvement Club Cassette tape)

North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Collection