**Norbert J. Hruby Collection**

Abstract

A small collection containing biographical information, plays, and dissertations written by former Aquinas College President, Norbert Hruby. Also included within this collection are items related to awards, degrees, and other honors.

Collection #:15

Donor: Unknown

Span dates: 1947-2006

Size: 1 cubic foot

Processed by: Laura Kennedy

Biography

Born February 4, 1918 to a small family in the suburbs of Chicago, Norbert Joseph Hruby grew up in the rich traditions of a Czech immigrant family with parents who both understood the importance of education. As such, he became the first of his family to ever attend college and in 1939 earned his bachelor’s degree from Loyola University in Chicago in English, with minors in economics, philosophy and speech. He would go on to earn a master’s degree in 1941 from Loyola in English, and after a brief hiatus to serve as a captain in the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army during WWII returned to finish his doctorate in English in 1951. He also spent a year at Yale University doing graduate study in the department of drama at Yale University.

Hruby came to Aquinas from Mundelein College in Chicago in 1969, taking the presidential reigns from Monsignor Arthur Bukowski. He took on the responsibility of rejuvenating the small college, which was fading in the shadows of larger universities. He came with a dream to bring the small liberal arts school back to the forefront of higher education, and has been credited with saving not only Aquinas, but many other small colleges through his methods. Even his retirement in 1986 failed to end his influence and presence on campus. Frequent walks with his dog, Guy, would bring Hruby across the street from his house and through campus, keeping him in close contact with the students, faculty and staff, which so benefited from his leadership.

Mr. Hruby and his wife Delores had three children: Michael Hruby, Monica Rice, and Patricia Powell. He passed away in May of 2010. (from Aquinas College website)

Scope and Content

A small collection containing a series of plays written by Mr. Hruby, including three donated by Albert Flogge upon his death, and a set of information regarding the Circle Theatre’s October 2001 production of *Beyond a Treasonable Doubt: The Whole Truth about Benedict and Peggy Arnold*. Also included are biographical information, academic records, degrees, including his honorary degree from Aquinas College, and other items and recognitions from Aquinas College.

Contents

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| Box | Folder | Description |
| 1 | 1 | **Biographical Information** |
|  |  | (Includes Curriculum Vitae, articles, and obituaries) |
| 1 | 2 | **Photographs** |
|  |  | (includes photo of 1997 farewell dinner for Paul Nelson and one 8” x 10” photo of Mr. Hruby) |
| 1 | 3 | **Commemoration Items** |
|  |  | (draft copy of the Emeritus Format Matter, n.d. and Aquinas College Emeritus College Historical Briefs, June 1, 1978) |
| 1 | 4 | **Aquinas College Commemoration Items** |
|  |  | (includes newspaper article re: “Three to be honored by Aquinas”, n.d.; information regarding 1986 Hruby Recognition Day at Aquinas; Michigan Legislature Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 793, May 27, 1986; honorary PhD and speech given by Jean Milhaupt, O.P., May 9, 1998) |
| 1 | 5 | (two memos regarding the 1982 Aquinas College Personal Use of Aquinas’ Telephones policy) |
| 1 |  | **Plays** |
|  | 1 | (includes information related to Circle Theatre’s October 2001 production of *Beyond a Treasonable Doubt: The Whole Truth about Benedict and Peggy Arnold*, a benefit for the new Aquinas Circle Theatre) |
|  | 2 | (includes letter to Albert Flogge regarding three plays delivered to Mr. Flogge May 12, 1989; Post-It note from Greg Meyer stating the plays were returned to Aquinas upon Mr. Flogge’s death, September 1, 2015; list of plays Mr. Hruby bequeathed to Aquinas, September 27, 2006) |
|  | 3 | (includes the plays *Dearest D*, *The Kriz Boys*, *Truth Party*, and *Valance*, all written by Norbert Hruby) |
| 2 |  | **Degrees and Dissertations** |
| 2 | 1 | (includes *Expressionism in the Twentieth Centruy American Drama*, A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Loyola University, June, 1941) |
|  | x | *Successful American Plays, 1919 to 1929: Patterns and Their Implications*, A Dissertation Submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, June 1951 |
|  | 2 | (includes official transcript from Loyola University Graduate School, January 3, 1947) |
|  | x | (includes Magistrates in Artibus, 1941, and Doctor of Philosophy, June 13, 1951) |