



Behind-The Times

A Newsletter of Loyola University of Chicago Archives

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Last year's Archives Committee recommended that the University Archives publish an occasional newsletter to educate and alert the University community about one of its treasures, the University Archives.

Behold this newsletter! It will describe what is in the Archives, what the Archives needs, and what the Archives can do for the University community.

The title, **BEHIND-THE TIMES**, was suggested by a Jesuit colleague several months ago. We hope that you like the title and will find it easy to remember.

This academic year the Archives staff consists of three part-time student assistants, Terence Joyce, William Lum, and Margaret McShane, together with Bro. Michael Grace, S.J., University Archivist, and Valerie Gerrard Browne, Assistant University Archivist.

Why a University Archives?

The University Archives serves as the intellectual memory of the University. In 1983, with the assistance of the Archives Committee and the endorsement of the Senior Vice President and Dean of Faculties, the Statement of Purpose of the Archives was adopted and published. In summary, this Statement of Purpose charges the University Archives with collecting, arranging, preserving, and making available for reference and research purposes official

University records and ancillary records of permanent historical or legal value.

"Official University records" are any documentation created or received by a University employee in the course of doing the institution's business. Until a records management program is in place, the Archives staff works with the generating office in deciding what records warrant permanent preservation.

The University Archives promotes knowledge and understanding of the origins, aims, goals, and programs of the University, and the development of these aims, programs, and goals. Vital to this function is the provision of reference and research services to patrons in the Archives and by telephone and mail within the University and to the world. A glance at past numbers in the Archives Annual Report will bring the above statements to life. To be of further service outside the University community, the staff also shares its expertise with newly established archives in the city and beyond.

Confidentiality. Honoring the confidentiality of sensitive records is an important aspect of our work. A generating office can restrict a file or files for a period of time, and that request is heeded by the Archives staff. We are always available to advise you on the

appropriate handling of such records. If, however, a file can never be viewed under supervision, it should not be sent to the Archives.

Examples of records unsuitable for the Archives are: letters of recommendation, supporting documents for or against a person gaining tenure or promotion, student records, and personnel files. For the proper disposition of such records, please consult the appropriate office.

Special Archival

Collections. The final paragraph of the Statement of Purpose addresses special archival and manuscript collections preserved in the Archives, such as the Samuel Insull Papers, Catholic Church Extension Society Records, Leon T. Walkowicz Papers, the theatre collections, and the Eleanor Dolan Collection. These collections are available to researchers and have frequent use. Most of them arrived before the Archives took its present form.

If I were asked in what areas outside the University Archives future collecting should concentrate, I would choose (1) to enhance what is already here and (2) to document the Chicago Catholic experience in areas not collected by other repositories. This statement is, of necessity, very general, because decisions must be made on a collection by collection basis.

TO BE CONTINUED.

--Bro. Michael Grace, S.J.
University Archivist

ARCHIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Loyola's history comes alive through the records preserved in the University Archives. For instance . . .

Did you know that every March between 1924 and 1941 national attention focused on a Loyola-sponsored event unique in the annals of sports history: the **National Catholic Interscholastic Basketball Tournament (NCIBT)**! This invitational meet brought together 32 of the nation's top Catholic high school basketball teams to compete for the national Catholic championship and the highly prized winner's trophy, the Cardinal's Cup, named in honor of George Cardinal Mundelein.

The records of this notable tournament are preserved in the Archives. Not only is there correspondence with individual high schools and affiliate tournaments concerning team selection, player eligibility, and local athletic situations, but there are team data sheets, scorebooks, reports, menus, scrapbooks, and programs documenting each team's performance, both on and off the floor.

The records show the careful planning, promotion, followup, and behind-the-scenes politicking necessary to the success of each tournament. Revealed are relations with the National Interscholastic Basketball Tournament (NIBT) at the University of Chicago which folded in 1930, relations between Catholic high schools and state athletic associations, the increasing

pressure against interstate competition for high school teams, and the effects of the Depression of the 1930s on local businesses on whom NCIBT officials depended for financial support.

Credited with originating the NCIBT is the Rev. Joseph Thorning, a Jesuit scholastic at the time and Loyola Academy's Director of Athletics. Fr. Thorning wanted Catholic high school teams to have the chance to compete nationally which other high schools enjoyed. In the newly constructed, top-of-the art Alumni Gymnasium on the Lake Shore Campus he saw just the arena. Not only could national attention focus on the high quality of Catholic athletics but on Loyola University as well!

The Tournament was a rousing success, drawing national attention, excellent teams, and large crowds of enthusiastic supporters. Each team accepting an invitation to play in the NCIBT had to provide its own transportation to and from Chicago; but once in town, all expenses were paid for the duration of the Tournament, whether they won or lost. For many young men this was their first opportunity to visit both a big city and a college campus. Competition to play in the NCIBT was understandably keen!

Each competing team represented a state or section of the United States. The special favorites of the crowds were the extraordinary Sioux Indian teams from St. Francis Mission, South

Dakota. Spectators thrilled to their accurate long distance shooting, outstanding passing, and colorful cheerleading.

A number of Tournament players were very talented athletes who went on to become well known sports figures. For example, the NCIBT's Most Valuable Player in 1932, George Ireland of Campion Academy, played basketball at Notre Dame University before becoming the celebrated coach of the Loyola basketball team which won the men's NCAA championship in 1963. Ray Meyer, a guard and high scorer for the 1932 championship team, St. Patrick's of Chicago, became the legendary basketball coach of DePaul University.

The NCIBT survived the Depression of the 1930s; but as state athletic associations began to allow Catholic high schools to affiliate, those who joined were often not permitted to compete in tournaments outside their own states. As a result, the selection of outstanding teams representing the nation as a whole became increasingly more challenging to NCIBT officials. Eventually, the North Central Association forbade its members to compete in national tournaments of any kind. Coupled with World War II, this decision led to the final demise of the NCIBT following the 1941 Tournament.

--Valerie Gerrard Browne
Assistant University
Archivist