

UA1985.07

James J. Mertz, S.J., Papers

Dates: 1900-1979

Creator: Mertz, James J. (1882-1979)

Extent: 15.0 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: John W. Perozzi, Michael Grace, S.J., October 1985; updated by K. Young, February 13, 2008

Administration Information

Access Conditions: Some restrictions apply. Consult repository for information.

Usage (Reproduction) Conditions: Consult the repository for information.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago Archives & Special Collections. James J. Mertz, S.J., Papers, 1900-1979. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Gift of the Loyola University Chicago Jesuit Community, February 1, 1979.

Separations: Unknown

See Also: Samuel Knox Wilson, S.J., records.

Biographical Sketch

The eldest of nine children, James Joseph Mertz, S.J., was born in Toledo, OH, on May 24, 1882, to August and Catherine (Homer). He entered the Society of Jesus as a novitiate at Parma, near Cleveland, in 1900. From 1904 to 1906 he attended the Sacred Heart College in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. After leaving, he taught at St. John's High School in Toledo until 1911. In 1915 he was ordained into the Society of Jesus, after completing three years in the study of philosophy and three more in theology. He was awarded an AB degree from St. Louis University in 1916, with a MA in theology following in 1918, after completing his tertianship, or third year of probation for the Society of Jesus. After World War I, Fr. Mertz took a teaching post at St. Ignatius High School, Chicago, from 1918-1922, the last year of which he became an instructor of Latin and Greek. In 1922 Fr. Mertz became one of the first faculty members for the new College of Arts and Sciences of Loyola University Chicago at the new Rogers Park campus. He was made the chairman of the Department of Classical Languages in 1930, a position he held until 1960. In recognition of his scholarship and inspirational teaching, Fr. Mertz was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Loyola University Chicago in 1957. He had extensive experience in various clubs and organizations during his lifetime, including the Illinois Classical Conference, the Chicago Classics Club, and the American Classical Association. He retired from teaching in 1972, at the age of 90, after fifty years of continuous teaching. He returned to teaching once more in April 1974, for a short six-week mini-course entitled, "The Fathers of the Church."

Among his many accomplishments, Fr. Mertz was largely responsible for the construction of Madonna Della Strada chapel. He worked to raise \$750,000 over 15 years (1924-1939) to pay for construction costs. The chapel opened in 1943, 19 years after Fr. Mertz began fund raising.

James J. Mertz, S.J., passed away on January 29, 1979, at Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit residence.

Scope and Content

The James J. Mertz, S.J., papers span the years 1900 to 1979 and are divided into seven series. The papers consist of course notes, lectures, correspondence, diaries, fundraising items, architectural drawings, and retreat notes.

Series

Series 1: Class Notes, Boxes 1-5

Includes notes, topics, bibliographies, correspondence, and translations. Subjects include poetry, racism, Jews, Latin and Greek classes, Virgil, Jesuit poets, and Horace. Student grades are restricted.

Series 2: Personal, Boxes 5-7

Includes correspondence, diaries, programs, family information, photographs, poems, and booklets. Subjects include the Mertz family, Golden Jubilee (1950), Diamond Jubilee (1960), Jesuit Latin poets, former students, and Cardinal Stritch. Some correspondence is restricted.

Series 3: Madonna della Strada Chapel, Boxes 7-14B

Includes correspondence, lists of gifts, fundraising items, lectures, notes, early architectural drawings, invoices, payments, blueprints, and newsletters. Subjects include Madonna Della Strada construction, fundraising, Joan of Arc, Women Saints, coat of arms, cornerstone dedication, chapel appointments, and “book of the dead”.

Series 4: Retreat Sermons and Notes, Boxes 14-16

Consists of notes, resolutions, sermons, lectures, schedules, and clippings. Subjects include Buffalo Mission of the Society of Jesus, Thomae Mori Constantia, and Sunday sermons.

Series 5: Personal Books and Images, Box 17

Consists of published books, songs and music book, pictures, date books, and diaries. Subjects include St. Ignatius, Jesuit order, and Madonna Della Strada.

Series 6: Photograph Albums, Boxes 18-19

Consists of two albums – one highlighting Mertz’s 60th anniversary as a priest and 75th anniversary as a Jesuit, and the other highlighting the construction of Madonna Della Strada chapel.

Series 7: Zincs and Halftones, Box 20

Consists of various types and sizes of zincs and halftones.

Addendum

Addendum #1: UA2005.05

James J. Mertz, S.J., Collection, 1933-1979, n.d., Bulk 1960-1975

The James J. Mertz, S.J., Collection consists of .5 linear foot spanning from 1933 to 1979, being predominantly from 1960 to 1975. The collection consists of materials about Fr. Mertz including press releases, biographical materials, news clippings, a short interview, and photographs compiled by the Public Relations department. Subjects include Mertz's jubilee celebration, the construction of Madonna Della Strada, and his funeral.

Series 1: General, 1933-1979, n.d. Box 1

Contains press releases, bio materials, news clippings, and interview notes.

Series 2: Photographs, 1930-1979, n.d.

Consists of photographs of Fr. Mertz and Madonna Della Strada, including one of Fr. Mertz's famed "Jesuit Poets of the 17th Century" lecture and approximately 20 photographs of his funeral. Photographs have been removed to the University Portraits Collection, James J. Mertz, S.J., file.

Subjects:

Mertz, James J.
Madonna della Strada chapel
Loyola University Chicago
Latin Poetry
Jesuit Latin Poets
Jesuit Poets
Horace
Golden Jubilee
Diamond Jubilee
Sermons
Retreats
Lectures
Teaching

Accession No.: UA1985.07**Creator: Mertz, James J. (1882-1979)**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<i>Series 1: Class Notes</i>			
1	1	Latin Notes	
1	2	Latin Library of books and references	
1	3	Latin Poetry "Jesus Playing in the Field"	
1	4	Theses (topics) at Loyola University	
1	5	Bibliography (Sociology) – Racism, Jews	
1	6	Goodwin Beach Latin Correspondence	
1	7	Oral Examinations	
1	8	Student Grades Restricted	
1	9	Honor Studies	
1	10	Chicago Classical Club – special letters & events	
1	11	Intercollegiate Latin contest Results	1886-1970
1	12	Lacunae – copies of intercollegiate Latin Contest	1907-1961
1	13	Illinois Classical Conference, 30 th year	
1	14	Latin Placement test report	1936
1	15	Clare Rooney translations	
1	16	Medieval Latin Translations by Rooney	
2	1	Wm. H. Trentmann, S.J., Greek class notes	
2	2	Jesuit Latin Poets	
2	3	Western Patristic Thought – Classical Studies 316	
2	4	Western Patristic Thought – Classical Studies 316	
2	5	Western Patristic Thought	
2	6	Western Patristic Thought – Classics (Theol.) 316	
2	7	Fathers of the Church	
2	8	Saint Jerome	
2	9	Sidronius de Hossche – Elegies	
2	10	Jesuit Latin Poets	
2	11	Vergil – a working syllabus	
2	12	Jesuits in early classes	
3	1	Jesuit Poets. 1 st ed.	1929
3	2	<i>Jesuitarum Poetarum... Carmina Selecta</i>	
3	3	Jesuit Latin Poet Sarbiewski with correspondence from L. Braceland, S.J.	
3	4	Text of Sequences Ascribed to Adam of Victor	
3	5	L. U. Home Studies Div. Latin 141 – Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i> Books VII-XII	
3	6	Horace <i>De Arte Poetica</i>	
3	7	Horace	
3	8	Horace Bibliographies	
3	9	Horace, various clippings and poems	
3	10	Juvenal: <u>The Satirist</u> by Highet 1954 & Kaiser '57	
3	11	Medieval Latin	

3	12	Medieval Poetry
3	13	Prudentius: Early Christian Poetry
3	14	Quintilian
4	1	Tertullian
4	2	Selection from Tibullus
4	3	History – Rome
4	4	<u>Time</u> - Roman
4	5	Tacitus' <u>Agricola Germania</u> (Latin 435)
4	6	<u>Tusculana</u>
4	7	Caesar & Tusculan disputations
4	8	Outline of Virgil by Megalonakis, John
4	9	Jesuit Latin Poets Notes
4	10	Jesuit Latin Poets Notes II
4	11	Jesuit Latin Poets Avancini
4	12	Jesuit Latin Poets Balde
4	13	Jesuit Latin Poets DeHossche
4	14	Jesuit Latin Poets Guinizzi, Bauhousis, Lubranus, Bernardi, Pulcharelli
4	15	Jesuit Latin Poets Notes Part II: The Introduction, The Muses
4	16	Jesuit Latin Poets Kreihing
4	17	Jesuit Latin Poets Malapert
5	1	Jesuit Latin Poets Sarbiewski & Balde
5	2	Jesuit Latin Poets Sarbiewski & Sanadon
5	3	Jesuit Latin Poets Sanadon
5	11	Jesuit Latin Poets Sanadon

Series 2: Personal

5	4	Personal/Family correspondence	1931-1979
5	5	Diaries	1976-1978
5	6	Special letters	
5	7	Dedication of J. J. Mertz Hall	1969
5	8	Golden Jubilee Letters	
5	9	Diamond Jubilee as a Jesuit	
5	10	Diamond Jubilee as a Jesuit	
6	1	Seventy years as a Jesuit	
6	2	Jubilees, 1975 & early materials	
6	3	Family and Personal reflections	
6	4	Family tree	
6	5	John Frank J. Elble's death (nephew of Mertz)	
6	6	Joseph Peter Mertz – vital information	
6	7	Senior Citizen Hall of Fame	
6	8	Former students L.U. & St. John's High School, Toledo, OH	
6	9	"Old" St. John's High School – list of students entering Society of Jesus	
6	10	Pi Alpha Lambda	1940-1945
6	11	Alpha Sigma Nu Honorary Membership	1974
6	12	Assorted materials kept by Mertz in folders	
6	13	Cardinal Stritch, correspondence & photographs	1958

6	14	Mater Domenica Fehringer – artist clippings, letter & booklet	
6	15	Poems, slogans, etc.	
7	1	Christmas cards from Lucille & George Carroll	
7	2	Correspondence with Anne Manning, a spiritual counselee restricted	
7	3	Correspondence with Eleanor Duckett	1955-1972
7	4	Correspondence with M. Fairman & R. Seagraves	1972-1978, 1974-1978
7	5	Correspondence with Daniel Hahne	1977-1978
7	6	Correspondence with Russell Kirk	1969-1972
7	7	Correspondence with Michael Maher	1975-1977
7	8	General Correspondence	1928-1959
7	9	General Correspondence	1960-1970
7	10	General Correspondence	1971-1976
7	11	General Correspondence	1976-1979
7	12	General Correspondence	n. d.
7	13	Correspondence & poetry with Irene Abel	1973

Series 3: Madonna Della Strada

7	14	Correspondence on the occasion of publication <u>Apostolate of Love</u>	
7	15	Letters to Sr. Ann Ida Gannon, BVM	
8	1	Gifts	
8	2	Fundraising	
8	3	Fundraising: Aragon Party	1928
8	4	Fundraising: Aragon Party	1928
8	5	Fundraising: Agnes Marner Parties	1935, 1938
8	6	Fundraising: Football Games	
8	7	Fundraising: Illustrated Lecture, Holy Eucharist	1926
8	8	Fundraising: John McCormack Concert	
8	9	Fundraising: Pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine, Midland, Ont.	
8	10	Fundraising: Rogers Park Athletic Club Membership List	
8	11	Fundraising: Saint Ignatius Lecture	
8	12	Fundraising: Salvador L.U. Choral Society Concerts	
8	13	Newspaper Clippings	
8	14	Women's Club fundraising clippings	
9	1	Fundraising special letters – particular gifts and promotion	
9	2	Fundraising	
9	3	Lecture notes "Joan of Arc"	
9	4	Lecture notes "Cecilia"	
9	5	Lecture notes "Life of the Blessed Virgin"	
9	6	Lectures notes "Little Flower"	
9	7	Lecture notes "Ourdes"	
9	8	Lecture notes "Marquette"	
9	9	Lecture notes "St. Margaret Mary"	

9	10	Lecture notes "Maryland: Land of Sanctuary"	
9	11	Lecture notes "North American Martyrs"	
9	12	Lecture notes "St. Ignatius"	
9	13	Lecture notes "Tarcisius"	
9	14	Lecture notes "Women Saints"	
10	1	Talks: Sarbiewski & Balde. Poems in <u>Della Strada Magazine</u>	
10	2	Booster Club lists	
10	3	Correspondence with Samuel K. Wilson, S.J.	
10	4	Fundraising: wills	
11	1	Correspondence folder I	1927-1947
11	2	Correspondence folder II	1948-1958, n.d.
11	3	Early architectural drawings	
11	4	Study of the coat of arms	
11	5	Cornerstone laying	1938
11	6	Carillon music	
11	7	Christmas Cards	
11	8	Chapel construction correspondence	1937-1940
11	9	Letters regarding the doors, etc.	
11	10	Iconography	
11	11	The Mosler Safe Co.	
11	12	Poems	
12	1	Bremner Organ	
12	2	Schulmerich Carillons Inc., "Basilican Bells"	
12	3	Windows	
12	4	Shrine chapels and basement chapels	
12	5	Chapel work finished –paid	
12	6	Public Relations, promotions, etc.	
12	7	Mailing lists, folder 1	
12	8	Mailing lists, folder 2	
12	9	Contributors lists folder 1	1948-1977
12	10	Contributors lists folder 2	1953-1957
12	11	Contributors lists folder 3	1958-1964
12	12	Contributors lists folder 4	1965-1977
12	13	Six blueprints and artist John Stephan's rendering of a Mosaic Tympanum (map drawer 12, folder 1)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prie'Dieu and chair • Bronze light fixture • Vestment case and cope and alb case • Confessional • Detail and bronze frame and grille, NW entrance • Nartex, E entrance • Mosaic tympanum, over inside face of E entrance doors 	
13		Della Strada, Bulletin of Our Lady of the Wayside Chapel	1926-1940
14	1	Chapel appointments chalices folder 1	

14	2	Chapel appointments chalices folder 2	
14	3	Chapel appointments chalices folder 3 (D'Orval chalice)	
14	4	<u>The Book of the Dead</u>	1939
14A		Madonna List of the Living	
14B		Madonna List of Dead or Lost Addresses	

Series 4: Retreat Sermons and Notes

14	5	Buffalo Mission of Society of Jesus	
14	6	Retreat notes & resolutions	
14	7	Personal retreat notes & list of annual retreat times and place	
14	8	Preached retreat guide at Florissant, MO & Milford, OH	
14	9	Triduum & Sermon notes 1	
14	10	Triduum & Sermon notes 2	
15	1	Personal retreat notes and “specials” after and during eight day retreat	1977
15	2	Graphology	
15	3	“Thomae Mori Constantia” by James Balde, S.J.	
15	4	<u>Tre Ore</u> – outline	
15	5	Lectures folder 1	
15	6	Lectures folder 2	
15	7	Lectures folder 3	
15	8	Lectures folder 4	
15	9	Clergy retreats notes and locations	
15	10	Retreat schedules and lay retreat notes	
16	1	Retreat notes & Sunday sermons	
16	2	Retreat notes for Eight Day retreat	
16	3	Academic retirement	1972
16	4	Academic retirement – clippings	1972

Series 5: Personal Books and Images

17	1	<u>Henry the Fifth, A Historical Play in Five Acts</u> by William Shakespeare, ed. Charles E. Newton	
17	2	<u>Jesuit Ordo</u>	1978
17	3	<u>The Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius</u> by Louis J. Puhl, S.J.	1951
17	4	<u>The Vision of Sir Launfal</u> no. 252 by James Russell Lowell	1910
17	5	Personal song and music book	
17	6	Picture of Madonna Della Strada and Our Lady of the Way	
17	7	<u>Madonna Della Strada Chapel, An Apostolate of Love</u> , by James J. Mertz, S.J.	1975
17	8	Diary	1961, 1964, 1968, 1973, 1975
17	9	Perpetual Date Book	

Series 6: Photograph Albums

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|----|---|--|------|
| 18 | 1 | 60 th Anniversary as a priest; 75 th Anniversary as a Jesuit | 1975 |
| 19 | 1 | The Construction Story of Madonna Della Strada Chapel | 1941 |

Series 7: Zincs and Halftones

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|----|--|-------------------------|--|
| 20 | | Various types and sizes | |
|----|--|-------------------------|--|

Addendum 1: James J. Mertz, S.J., collection**UA2005.05**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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Series 1: General, 1933-1979, n.d.

1	1	Miscellaneous	n.d.
1	2	"Della Strada" Newsletter	1933
1	3	Newspaper Clippings	1950-1975
1	4	Press Releases	1950-1976
1	5	Biography	1958-1972
1	6	60 th Anniversary	1960
1	7	Speech	1963
1	8	Golden Jubilee	1965
1	9	Scrapbook Pages	1972
1	10	Correspondence	1972-1975
1	11	Interview	1975
1	12	Jesuit Poets of the 17 th Century	1975
1	13	Pentecost	1975
1	14	Funeral	1979

Series 2: Photographs, 1930-1979, n.d.

1	Blue Key Award	1953
2	LSC: Aerial View	n.d.
3	Funeral	1979
4	Golden Jubilee Mass	1965
5	Madonna Della Strada	n.d.
6	Mary Merry Field Meeting	n.d.
7	Pentecost	1975
8	Portrait	n.d.
9	Portrait at/near Madonna Della Strada	n.d.
10	Portrait with Students	n.d.
11	Portrait Teaching	n.d.
12	Photograph of "Jesuit Poets" Lecture Notes	1968
13	Television (Images of)	n.d.
14	With Students	1960
15	Youth/Youthful	n.d.