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Joseph P. Merrick, SJ Papers and Special Collection

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Joseph P. Merrick SJ

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Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus



Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus
c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

Record Group: MSS

Name of Collection: Rev. Joseph P. Merrick, SJ (1895-1989) Papers and Special Collection

Record Group Number: MS MERRICK, JP

Size of Collection: 5 boxes, 2.1 linear feet

Dates of Collection: 1920-1987, bulk; 1914-1993, inclusive

Historical Background:

Joseph Patrick Merrick was born on August 13, 1895 in Arlington, Massachusetts. He graduated from Boston College High School in 1913 and entered into the Society of Jesus on August 14, 1914 at St. Andrew-on-Hudson, New York where he spent his novitiate. He then began study in Philosophy in 1918 at Woodstock, Maryland and in 1921, began his regency in Vigan, Philippines. In 1924 he returned to Woodstock to begin studies in Theology. He transferred to Weston College, Weston, MA to complete his theological study in 1927 where he also was ordained on June 23, 1927. Upon completion of studies, he taught physics at the College of the Holy Cross from 1928 until 1933, returning, though, for a year, 1930-1931, to St. Andrew-on-Hudson for his tertianship. He was then assigned to Baghdad College, Baghdad, Iraq where he remained from 1933 until 1969, interrupted by two years as a U.S. Military Army Chaplain in Abadan, Iran from 1943 until 1945. In 1969, Father returned to Boston where he did pastoral work at St. Cecilia and at the Church of the Immaculate Conception until 1982. Then, he retired to Campion Center, formerly Weston College, Weston, MA and lived until he died on May 9, 1989. He is buried in the Jesuit Cemetery at Campion Center. During his life, Father wrote many poems and short stories which are in the collection. Also in the papers is a novel titled *The First Catholic Muslim*, based on his time in Iraq. None of his work was ever published.

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Scope and Content:

The collection consists of unpublished manuscripts and poems, retreats and sermons, correspondence, notes, and personal items. Subject material and transcriptions of some correspondence and other writings is also included in this collection. This material was developed by Fr. David J. Suwalsky, S.J. while taking a course "Holiness and hagiography" at Weston School of Theology in March of 1993. This material includes responses to a survey questionnaire and 1993 a paper entitled "*Yours by the Mercy of God*".

See:

RG 12: Audiovisual, Photographs, for 1 folder of MS Photographs and Jesuit Mission Photographs. There are also images of Fr. Merrick in the RG 12: Audiovisual, Photograph, Personnel Photographs, Jesuit Mission Photographs and Iraq Slides collection.

RG 12: Audiovisual, Audiocassettes contains 3 audiocassettes of subject material: 2 tapes of Fr. Suwalsky's oral presentation and 1 micro audiocassette of an interview with Fr. John L. Mahoney, S.J. about Fr. Merrick. There is a transcription of the micro audiocassette.

Access / Restrictions: This collection is open to researchers.

Cite As: Rev. Joseph L. Merrick, SJ Manuscript Collection
MS MERRICK, JL
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Manuscript Collection: Rev. Joseph P. Merrick, S.J. (1895 - 1989)

MS MERRICK, JP

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
Retreat Notes	1914	1	1-3
Diplomas	1920-1963	1	4
[Articles of Interest]	c. 1930-1965	1	5
Baghdad Memorabilia [correspondence]	1933	1	6
Military Experience Iran-Basra	1943-1983	1	7
War Years	1943-1945	1	8
Autobiographical Material	1948-1985	1	10-11
Autobiographical Miscellaneous	1947-1988	1	12
[unpublished] Poetry	1950-1980	2	1-2
[unpublished] Poems	1951-1981	2	3-4
Sodality/Exhortations	1953-1958	2	5
[Theological Articles]	1953	2	6
[Correspondence]	1959-1988	2	7
[Miscellaneous Notes]	1965-1982	2	8
Travel Documents	1967	2	9
Poems [Miscellaneous Papers]	1968-1982	2	10
[Unpublished MSS] – “Nouria”	nd	2	11
[Unpublished MSS] – “Nejla”	nd	2	12
Addresses	1969-1980	3	1-2
Retreats and Sermons	1970-1982	3	3
[Religious Studies]	1974	3	4
[Miscellaneous Papers]	1974	3	5
[Mathematics]	1979	3	6
<i>An Exegesis of Galatians 5.13-24</i> [student paper]	1980	3	7
Personal Correspondence	1984-1987	3	8
Mathematics Final Papers	1988	3	9
<i>Rev. David J. Suwalski, S.J. Survey, Paper and other materials</i>			
Biographical Material	c.1990	3	10
Survey/Interview Responses [About]	1993	3	11
“Yours By the Mercy of God” [paper re: Fr. Merrick]	c. 1993	3	12

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Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
[unpublished MSS] Iranian Islamic "Munir, Nouria, Irene"	1977	4	1-4
[unpublished MSS] Iranian Islamic	1977	4	5-7
[unpublished MSS] ["Kamal"]	nd	4	8
[unpublished MSS] ["Proper Bostonians']	nd	4	9
[unpublished MSS] Part of "Kerrigan"	nd	4	10
[Unpublished MSS] Oliver and Amanda	nd	4	11
[unpublished] [Poems]	nd	4	12
The Eucharist – Sacrifice	nd	4	13
[Anecdotes]	nd	5	1
[Religious Writings and Issues]	1947-1980	5	2-3
[Miscellaneous Writings]	nd	5	4-5
["The First Catholic Muslim" Unfinished Notes and Scraps]	nd	5	6-7
[Unpublished Novel "Latif"]	nd	5	8
[unpublished MSS] – Ellen	nd	5	9