

UA1987.13

J. Donald Roll, S.J. Papers

Dates: 1912-1985

Creator: Roll, J. Donald, S.J. (1912-1986)

Extent: 2.0 linear ft

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Chris Barbuschak, May 20, 2011

Administration Information

Restrictions: None

Copyright: Consult the repository for information.

Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Archives and Special Collections. J. Donald Roll, S.J. Papers. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: The J. Donald Roll, S.J., Papers were donated to the University Archives on January 5, 1987.

Separations: .5 linear feet of extraneous material was removed and disposed of.

See Also: Loyola University Department of Physics, Loyola University Archives File – Reference – Seismological Station.

Biographical Sketch

John Donald Roll was born on June 25, 1912 in Newport, Kentucky to William and Agatha Roll. He attended St. Mary's High School in St. Marys, Kansas from 1926-1930. On January 6, 1931 Roll entered the Society of Jesus. He attended Xavier University from 1931-1934 for undergraduate studies. During his senior year, he transferred to Loyola University Chicago graduating in 1935 with a major in English. He received his Masters in Physics in 1939 at St. Louis University. Throughout the next year, Roll was a full time instructor at John Carroll University and also taught at Xavier University.

He continued to study theological studies at West Baden College from 1940-1944. Roll was ordained a priest on June 16, 1943 and offered his first mass on June 20 at St. Mary's Church in Hyde Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1944-1945, Roll undertook his Jesuit Tertianship at St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Beginning in 1946, Roll attended Fordham University for his post graduate studies. While at Fordham, Roll studied under Nobel laureate physicist Victor F. Hess, the discoverer of cosmic rays. The two later published a couple articles in *The Physical Review*. Roll graduated with a Ph.D. in Physics in 1949 after writing his dissertation "A Study of the Natural and Induced Radioactivity of Rocks."

After graduating, Roll was appointed to Loyola University Chicago as a faculty member in the Physics Department in September 1949 and in 1952 became its chairman. Starting in 1954, Roll became the director of the seismological station, which was built in 1912 in the basement of Cudahy Science Hall. The station had recently closed in 1953 and Roll had little background on seismology when it was put into his control. Due to the persuasion and donation of equipment from J. Joseph Lynch, S.J. of Fordham University, Roll re-opened the seismological station. As director of the station, Roll oversaw the

equipment pick up earthquakes from around the world several times a week. During his first day as director, Roll picked up a violent earthquake in Chile. After picking up this first recording, Roll became hooked with seismology and continued to maintain the station until his death.

In 1957, in commemoration of the International Geophysical Year, Roll undertook renovating and redesigning the station. The Loyola station was one of several stations across the United States that comprised of the Jesuit Seismological Association founded in 1925 to provide statistics and service to the government in the study of seismology. Roll served as the association's secretary for 20 years beginning in 1961.

During this time, Roll went on a number of Research Fellowships. In the summer of 1952, Roll was a guest associate physicist with the Brookhaven National Laboratory. He was also a research associate with the Argonne National Laboratory from 1953-1966. In the summer of 1958, Roll received a visiting Research Fellowship at the California Institute of Technology with the intent of learning more about seismology. It was here that he studied under Dr. Charles Richter, the creator of the Richter scale which measures the severity of earthquakes. Richter taught Roll how to interpret records and adjust seismological equipment which he later used at the Loyola station. From 1957-1961, Roll was also a consultant for the Armour Research Foundation.

Aside from teaching, Roll had many duties ranging from adviser for pre-dental students to being the moderator of several student organizations including acting as President for the Loyola Chapter of Sigma XI from 1960-1961. In 1979 he became a Professor Emeritus.

Roll also had many professional affiliations outside of teaching. He was President of the Chicago Technical Societies Council from 1958-1960 in which he supervised all Civic Relations committees including the Annual Career Conference, lectures, and television activities. He continued to play a role in the society until his death. In 1960, he received the Merit Award from CTSC in recognition of his outstanding achievements. Roll was also the President of the Physics Club of Chicago from 1954-1955 and 1972-1973. Other affiliations included the American Physical Society, American Association of Physics Teachers, Seismological Society of America, Academy of the Chicago Association of Technological Societies, and American Geophysical Union.

When not involved with Jesuit activities, Roll indulged in his favorite hobby of boating. Starting in 1952, Roll was the Chaplain for the Chicago Power Squadron of District 20 until 1980. He also was the National Chaplain for the United States Power Squadrons from 1966-1972 and the Associate National Chaplain from 1972-1980. From 1956-1959, Roll was the President of the Marine Navigation and Training Association. It was with this association that Roll was the chaplain on various cruises aboard the MANATRA I, a former sub-chaser used in World War II. Furthermore, he was a training officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Roll even owned his own boat, the M.S. Piccolina, for a short time in the early 1970s.

Roll died at age 74, Tuesday evening on November 18, 1986 in the Jesuit Residence after 38 years of service at Loyola's Department of Physics.

Scope and Content

The J. Donald Roll, S.J., Papers consists of 2.0 linear feet spanning the years 1912-1985. The collection consists of curriculum vitae, notes, correspondence, photos, diplomas, awards, certificate of live birth, medical forms, newsletters, news articles, dissertations, report cards, programs, newspaper clippings, greeting card, manuals, pamphlets, directories, and reports. The main subjects included are Loyola University Chicago Department of Physics, the Seismograph Station, MANTRA, Chicago Association of Technological Societies, and material concerning Roll's Jesuit activities. The collection is organized by subject.

Series

Series 1: Biographical, 1958-1980, Box 1

This series consists of curriculum vitae; correspondence; diplomas; awards; photographs; certificate of live birth; medical forms; newsletters; and news articles. Subjects include Roll's personal background and family relations including WWII correspondence and photos of William F. Roll, Jr.

Series 2: Education, 1933-1983, Box 1

This series consists of class notes; dissertations; report cards; photos; and newsletters. Subjects include material from Roll's education years at Loyola Chicago, St. Louis University, and Fordham University. Class notes and publications with Victor F. Hess are also included.

Series 3: Jesuit Activities, 1938-1985, Boxes 1-2

This series consists of notes; photos; articles; programs; correspondence; newspaper clippings; correspondence; and a greeting card. Subjects include material relating to Roll's Jesuit activities such as religious ceremonies, prayers, invocations, and sermons.

Series 4: Scientific Work, 1958-1984, Boxes 2-3

This series consists of notes; news clippings; and correspondence. Subjects include material relating to Roll's scientific work in physics including correspondence with Dave Skelskey, S.J and his *Chicago Sun-Times* book review on "The San Francisco Earthquake."

Sub Series 4-1: Lectures, 1951-1976, Box 3

This series contains notes; programs; correspondence; newspaper clippings; articles; and newsletters. Subjects include material relating to scientific lectures given by Roll.

Series 5: Recreational Boating, 1951-1980, Boxes 3-4

This series contains newsletters; correspondence; photos; manuals; and articles. Subjects include material relating to Roll's hobby of boating which include the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Power Squadrons, MANATRA, and his own boat the M.S. Piccolina.

Series 6: Associations, 1946-1985, Box 4

This series contains photos; notes; newsletters; correspondence; programs; directories; awards; pamphlets; reports; and notes. Subjects include material relating to associations Roll belonged to such as the Advanced Isotope Technology Institute, Chicago Technical Societies, Chicago Association of Technical Societies, Knights of Columbus, Sigma XI.

Subjects:

Chicago Association of Technological Societies
Chicago Technical Societies Council
Fordham University
Knights of Columbus
Loyola University Chicago Physics Department
Loyola University Chicago Seismograph Station
MANTRA Marine Navigation of Training Association, Inc.
Sigma XI Loyola Chapter
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Power Squadrons
Victor F. Hess

Accession No.: UA1987.13

Creator: Roll, Donald J., S.J., (1912-1986)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<i>Series 1: Biographical, 1912-1982</i>			
1	1	J. Donald Roll Biographical Records	1912-1978
1	2	J. Donald Roll Diplomas and Awards	1956-1982
1	3	Uniformed Portraits + Navigational Trophy	N.D.
1	4	J. Donald Roll Family Correspondence	1941-1957
1	5	J. Donald Roll's Family Legal Correspondence and Documents	1956-1962
<i>Series 2: Education, 1933-1983</i>			
1	6	J. Donald Roll's Personal Education Documents	1937-1966
1	7	"Ripples" December 1933 ed. By J.D. Roll	1933
1	8	"Milford Matters" Vol. 1, No. 1,2,& 6	1933-1934
1	9	J. Donald Roll Term Paper for Ph 171 "A Decade of Progress in Cathode-Ray Oscillography"	1939
1	10	Thermodynamics/Kinetic Theory – Class Notes	N.D.
1	11	Fordham University – Radioactivity Class, Dr. Hess	1945
1	12	Fordham University – Cosmic Rays + Hydrodynamics	1947
1	13	Radioactivity	1940-1957
1	14	J. Donald Roll's Doctoral Dissertation "A Study of the Natural and Induced Radioactivity of Rocks"	1949
1	15	J. Donald Roll's Doctoral Dissertation "A Study of the Natural and Induced Radioactivity of Rocks"	N.D.
1	16	Fordham University Club of Illinois	1957-1966
1	17	Correspondence with Gerhard Huemer Concerning V.F. Hess	1983
<i>Series 3: Jesuit Activities, 1938-1985</i>			
1	18	Canon Law	1945-1953
2	1	40 Hours Devotion	1945
2	2	Baptism Ceremony Notes	1973-1983
2	3	Funeral Services	1972-1978
2	4	Loretta Ferri Funeral and Solimena "The Redeemer"	1981
2	5	Invocation Prayers	1953-1985
2	6	Commencement Invocations and Baccalaureate Address	1950-1975

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2	7	DeVry Commencement	1972
2	8	Loyola Founder's Day Convocation 1982	1982
2	9	Non-Denominational Services	1970-1976
2	10	Sermons	1938-1953
2	11	Christmas Sermons	N.D.
2	12	An Ecumenical Bible Service for Christian Unity	N.D.
2	13	Klopp Wedding Mass	1972
2	14	Wedding Masses	1971-1981
2	15	Birth Control	1981
2	16	Racism and Christianity	1962-1964
2	17	Catholic Universities	1966
2	18	Loyola Group Insurance	1975
2	19	J.D. Roll "An Analytic Study of the Ideal Bartender"	1976
2	20	St. Patrick's Day Greeting Card	N.D.
 Series 4: Scientific Work, 1958-1984			
2	21	J. Donald Roll's Book Review "The San Francisco Earthquake"	1971
3	1	Physics Notes	1958
3	2	Physics Graduate Programs	1963-1966
3	3	Correspondence with Dave Skelskey, S.J.	1980-1984
 Sub Series 4-1: Lectures, 1951-1976			
3	4	J. Donald Roll's Talks	1951-1964
3	5	Admissions – Malloy Talk	1965-1966
3	6	Astronomy Talk	1972-1976
3	7	West Suburban Industrial Management Club Speaking Engagement	1961-1963
 Series 5: Recreational Boating, 1951-1980			
3	8	Chicago Yacht Club 49 th Annual Mackinac Race	1956
3	9	Federal Register Sept. 29, 1960	1960
3	10	Illinois Boating Council	1967-1974
3	11	M.S. Piccolina	1968-1972
3	12	MANATRA	1955-1957
3	13	MANATRA	1951-1960
3	14	MANATRA	1957-1980
3	15	MANATRA – Photos	N.D.
3	16	Marine Navigation of Training Association, Inc.	1957-1958
3	17	United States Power Squadrons	1965-1970
4	1	U.S. Coast Guard Membership	1975-1977
 Series 6: Associations, 1946-1985			
4	2	Advanced Isotope Technology Institute	1966
4	3	Chicago Area Career Conference	1961-1962
4	4	Chicago Association of Technological Societies	1970-1985

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4	5	Chicago Association of Technological Societies Directory	1981-1982
4	6	Chicago Technical Societies Council Annual Report	1956-1957
4	7	Chicago Technical Societies Council Award	1948-1976
4	8	Chicago Technical Societies Council Award Recipients	1970-1975
4	9	Chicago Technical Societies Council By-Laws	1958-1975
4	10	Chicago Technical Societies Council – Clancy Publishing Company	1958-1960
4	11	Chicago Technical Societies Council History	1946-1976
4	12	Chicago Technical Societies Council Officers	1975-1976
4	13	Chicago Technical Societies Council Past Presidents	1963-1964
4	14	Chicago Technical Societies Council TV Program	1955-1959
4	15	Chicago Technical Societies Council – Western Society of Engineers	1959-1960
4	16	Knights of Columbus	1964-1969
4	17	Knights of Columbus - Photo	N.D.
4	18	Sigma XI: Loyola Chapter	1955-1962