

Loyola University Physics Department Collection

**Special Collections & Archives
Loyola University Library**

Collection 38

Loyola University Physics Department Collection

Reference Code

Collection 38

Name and Location of Repository

Special Collections and Archives, J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans

Title

Loyola University Physics Department Collection

Date

Circa 1800-1959, bulk 1955-1959

Extent

2 Boxes

Name of Creator

Loyola University Physics Department; Benedetto, Frank A., S.J.; Hess, Victor Francis

Biographical History

Dr. Victor Hess was an Austrian physicist who received the 1936 Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of cosmic radiation. He taught at numerous prestigious universities, both in Austria and in the United States after he and his wife immigrated during WWII. Dr. Hess died in 1964.

Father Frank A. Benedetto, S.J. came to Loyola in 1947 with a Ph.D. in Physics from Fordham where he had studied under Dr. Hess. He was chair of Loyola University's Physics Department from 1954 through 1966. In 1966, Benedetto assumed the role of Vice President of Communications by being the faculty moderator of WWL.

Loyola University has included physics in the curriculum since its inception. Originally the Department of Physics and Mathematics, the departments split in 1957. One major component of the Physics Department was Loyola's seismograph station, which was built in 1910. It was under the direction of Father Benedetto that Dr. Hess was asked to speak at an event sponsored by Loyola's Physics Department for the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of correspondence between Father F.A. Benedetto, S.J. and the world-renowned physicist Dr. Victor Hess. Hess came to Loyola University in the spring of 1959 to be the guest speaker for and to be given an honorary membership in the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society. Additional paperwork in the collection includes biographical information on Dr. Hess as well as press releases related to Dr. Hess's visit to the university.

The collection also consists of several historical documents, pamphlets, and artifacts related to Loyola University's Physics Department.

System of Arrangement

The letters between Fr. Benedetto and Dr. Hess have been arranged chronologically. The remainder of the collection is grouped by item type.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Physical rights are retained by the J. Edgar and Louis S. Monroe Library, Loyola University New Orleans. Copyright is retained in accordance with U.S. Copyright Laws.

Language and Scripts of the Material

Collection is in English

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Katherine Kuhl & Trish Nugent, 2013

Container List

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	<p>CC of letter dated 2 December 1955 [Presumably Benedetto] to Hess Letter, dated 11 February 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto CC of letter dated 23 February 1959. [Presumably Benedetto] to Hess Letter, dated 26 February 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto Letter, dated 6 March 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto CC of letter dated 10 March 1959. Benedetto to Hess Letter, dated 17 March 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto Letter, dated 2 April 1959. Marsh White to Hess [cc Benedetto] Letter, dated 5 April 1959. Hess to Marsh White [cc Benedetto] Letter, dated 3 May 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto Telegram, dated 9 May 1959. Sigma Pi Sigma re: Hess visit Letter, dated 13 May 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto Letter, dated 1 June 1959. Hess to Fr. Benedetto</p>
	2	<p>Public Relation materials from Hess visit, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics Department bio of Hess, [No date] • Physics Department announcement of Hess speech, [No date] • Clipping of New York Times Obituary of Hess, 17 December 1964 <p>Biographical information on Dr. Hess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: "Explorer in the Cosmos" from Fordham Life, January 1959 • Photocopied sheet with several articles from the New York Post and the New York Times, 1958 • Biographical information write-up, [No date]
	3	<p>Loyola University Physics Department Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Brief in behalf of WWL Development Company Inc. and Loyola University...", [No date] • "A Loose-Leaf Manual of Experiments in College Physics," [No date] • Ceremonial announcement of gift from Research Corporation to Loyola University, 27 May 1957 • 3 blank radiogram forms
	4	<p>Photographs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5" x 5" photograph of Father Benedetto & Dr. Hess • 3.5" x 5" photograph of Dr. Hess & his wife • 3.5" x 5" photograph of Dr. Hess • Three copies of a black and white image of Dr. Hess in a hot air balloon • One unidentified image of two men working in a laboratory with large pieces of equipment

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Three-dimensional objects

- Bausch & Lomb Microscope, ca.1920 (2012.05.01)
- J. H. Bunnel Telegraph Key & Receiver, ca.1880s (2012.05.02)
- Lewis Telegraph Key, ca.1870s (2012.05.03)
- Wireless Receiving Station with Decoherer, ca.1900 (2012.05.04)
- Leslie Thermoscope, ca.1840 (2012.05.05)