

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Archives and Special Collections

Richard Schmelzer (1906-1984) Papers, 1932-1984.

Accession #: MC 69

Quantity: 1 linear ft.

Access: Open

Biographical Note:

Richard W. Schmelzer was born in Brookline, MA in 1906. He received an A.B. from Dartmouth College in 1928 and an M.A. from Harvard University in 1929. He was an Instructor then Associate Professor of English at Rensselaer from 1929 to 1945. From 1945 until his retirement in 1971 he held a number of administrative positions at the Institute including Director of Public Relations (1945-52), Director of Development (1952-57), General Secretary (1957-60), Special Assistant to the President (1960-66), Secretary of the Institute (1966-71), and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees (1966-71). In addition to his teaching and administrative responsibilities, he was Director of the RPI Players (1929-44), Coach of Soccer (1931-48), and Coach of Tennis (1931-48). He was active in both Troy and Rensselaer County community organizations and his poetry was published in the Christian Science Monitor, Boston Globe, Hawk and Whippoorwill, and Gorgon. He died in Troy, NY in 1984.

Scope Note:

The Schmelzer Papers contain correspondence relating to Schmelzer's personal, civic and sports interests; photographs of Rensselaer campus scenes and sports teams; and published and manuscript copies of his writings, including *Legacy*, *Poetry by R.W. Schmelzer* collected by his daughter Sally Schmelzer Hauck in 1984.

Box Folder

Series I: Correspondence and Miscellaneous

| | | | |
|---|----|--|---------|
| 1 | 1 | Correspondence, A-Z | 1957-81 |
| | 2 | Correspondence, Palmer Ricketts | 1932-33 |
| | 3 | Correspondence, Rotary Club | 1953-55 |
| | 4 | Correspondence, Soccer Coaches Association | 1948-65 |
| | 5 | Correspondence, Soccer Guide | 1948-72 |
| | 6 | Correspondence Soccer Intercollegiate League | 1950-60 |
| | 7 | Correspondence, C. J. Thomsen | 1975-76 |
| | 8 | Citations | 1957-71 |
| | 9 | Demers Medal | 1972 |
| | 10 | Retirement | 1971 |
| | 11 | WHAZ Interview Transcript | 1939 |
| | 12 | Photographs: Class of '36, Campus Scenes, Soccer Teams | |

Series II: Publications

| | | | |
|---|----|--|---------|
| 2 | 1 | <i>Legacy, Poetry by R.W. Schmelzer</i> | 1984 |
| | 2 | Palmer C. Ricketts Anecdotes | 1929-76 |
| | 3 | Report, <i>Institutional Cooperation in Doctoral Programs</i> | 1962 |
| | 4 | Article, <i>Design for learning</i> | 1972 |
| | 5 | Article, <i>Governance</i> | n.d. |
| | 6 | Article, <i>Images that Are Alive</i> | 1960 |
| | 7 | Articles for Journal of Technical Writing and Communication | 1974-78 |
| | 8 | Article, <i>Samuel B. Morse and Eben Horsford, Photographers</i> | 1973 |
| | 9 | Articles, Miscellaneous Newspaper | 1980's |
| | 10 | Isadore Fixman Eulogy | 1969 |
| | 11 | Article Draft, <i>Education For Enlightenment</i> | 1976-77 |
| | 12 | Article Draft, <i>Is Scholarship Enough?</i> | 1970 |
| | 13 | Article Draft, <i>Our Colleges Can Balance Their Books</i> | 1972 |
| | 14 | Article Draft, <i>Touchstone</i> | 1960 |
| | 15 | Article Draft, Miscellaneous | 1960-70 |