**Dr. John A. Poje Collection**

**Abstract:**

This is a small collection of material which documents the career of Dr. John A. Poje, a former Chemistry Professor whose career at Aquinas spanned from 1950-1986. There is also a collection of materials relating to Dr. Poje’s education, including undergraduate and graduate studies, at the University of Kansas.

Collection #: 2

Donor: Beth Jensen, July 2013 Processed by: Alex Ruhlman, Jennifer Morrison

Span Dates: 1937-2002

Size: 1 cubic foot

**Biography:**

Dr. John A. Poje was born in Kansas City, Kansas on June 6, 1915 and graduated from the University of Kansas ’37 with a B.A. From 1937 to 1938 he served in the U.S Army, until going back to the University of Kansas in 1938 to begin his graduate studies. In 1940, he earned his Master’s Degree in Chemistry, but before he could continue to earn his Ph.D. he was once again called into military service and served with the Chemical Warfare Service for the duration of the war, including time in the Philippines. After being discharged in 1946, he was finally able to go back to the University of Kansas and by 1950 he had finally earned his Ph.D., spending each year of graduate school as an Assistant Chemistry Instructor. In 1950 he was hired and joined the faculty of Aquinas College, where he remained for the duration of his career. During this time he also served as consultant for the Allied Research Corporation. He retired in 1986, and passed away on March 14, 1989 in his hometown of Kansas City, Kansas. Since then, the Dr. John Poje Scholarship has been established to recognize the achievements of outstanding science students, as well as the addition of an annual science department banquet named the Poje Banquet.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection includes a variety of materials from Dr. Poje’s career, starting with his undergraduate studies at the University of Kansas. This includes his hand-written lecture notes from his undergraduate studies and his research lab work for his graduate studies. Also, the collection documents his career at Aquinas through photographs, class records, newspaper articles, faculty handbooks, as well as letters of recommendation for Dr. Poje to attend a summer faculty program provided by the Dow Chemical Company. In addition, there are parts of the collection that showcase Dr.Pojes “extra-curricular” involvement with Aquinas College including scripts for theater projects and patent filings.

The collection does lack material documenting his childhood and early life in Kansas. Although there is a general overview of his military service, the collection does not feature a large amount of this material. Overall, this collection contains a nice variety of material that covers most aspects of Dr. Poje’s adult life. However, while this is large in variety it lacks in volume in many areas.

**Contents:**

**Box Folder Description**

**Student Notes**

1 1 Undergraduate (University of Kansas) ca. ’33-‘37

1 2&3 Graduate (University of Kansas) ca. ’38-’40; ’46-‘50

**Articles**

1 4 Poje & Ray Q. Brewster. “Reduction of Diazonium Salts to Hydrocarbons with

Alkaline Formaldehyde” from Journal of the American Chemical Society, 1939

1 5 (Academic, on chemistry, by other authors) 1944-1983

1 6 **Photographs** 1949-1986 (Pulled from clipping file)

2 **Class Records** 1950-1983

1 7&8 **Patents** 1951-1961

1 9 **DOW Chemical Co. Summer Faculty Program** 1959-1960

1 10&11 **Faculty Handbooks** 1960-1974

2 1 **Faculty Documents** 1964-1974

2 2 **Theater/Religious Studies Involvement** n.d.

2 3 **Student Lab Report**  1979

Report by Joseph Salisz, cover decorated with doodle of Poje

2 4 **Biographical Material** 1970-2002