

Nicholas Patricca Papers ***1960-2011, undated***

Creator: Nicholas Patricca (1941-)

Extent: 7 linear feet (11 boxes)

Language: English, Spanish

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Nicholas Patricca retains copyright.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Nicholas Patricca Papers, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: All materials were donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Dr. Patricca in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2004. (WLA1999.19, 2000.12, 2001.17, 2004.27, 2004.57). Nicholas Patricca donated his materials to the Women and Leadership Archives on September 20, 2011 and April 9, 2012 (WLA2011.63 and WLA2012.20).

Processor: Jeanelle Bergen, BVM. Updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, 2007. Updated by Maria L. Wagner, 2011. Beth Loch, May 2012

Processing Information: Addendum incorporated and finding aid updated by Laura Berfield, April 2025.

Separations: A duplicate copy of "Story Praxix", *Mundelein Now* (Feb. 1981), and two duplicate Peggy Roach timelines.

See Also: Mundelein College Records; Irma Corcoran, BVM, Papers; and Peggy Roach Papers at the Women and Leadership Archives. Nicholas Patricca Collection at the Chicago Cultural Center, Michigan Ave., Chicago, and the Nicholas Patricca Collection at the Chicago Public Library [Harold Washington Library].

Biographical History

Nicholas (Nick) Patricca was born June 14, 1941 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Patricca ultimately earned five academic degrees. The first was an Associate of Arts in 1961 from St. Charles College in Catonsville, MD, where he focused on the Classics. The second, earned in 1963 from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA., was a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Philosophy. His third degree earned also came from St. Vincent College and was a Master of Arts in Medieval Theology completed in 1966. Patricca then earned a second Master of Arts at the University of Chicago only three years later in Christiani Theology. In 1972, he finished his Doctorate Degree in Philosophical Theology, also from the University of Chicago.

Patricca began his professional career as an Instructor at Mundelein College in 1966 and joined the Theology Department at Loyola University two years later. By 1973 he attained the rank of Associate Professor and was awarded Loyola's Blue Key for excellence in teaching. In this same year he became a member of the Religious Studies Department of Mundelein College. Within three years he received Mundelein's Distinguished Faculty Award for scholarly achievement and teaching excellence. He continued at Mundelein until the College's affiliation with Loyola University in 1991. Subsequently, Dr. Patricca found an outlet for his interest in theatre as a member of Loyola University's Theatre Faculty where he specialized in playwriting.

Patricca found his theatre roots in the 1970s outside of academia. While residing in a monastery during a period of formative vocation, he experienced his first taste of theatre. During an in-house amateur production of Samuel Beckett's *WAITING FOR GODOT*, a whole new world and form of communication opened before him. He later recalled, "That play...told an extremely powerful story of people waiting for meaning."

Over the course of his prolific playwriting work, Nicholas Patricca published and produced seven full-length plays, two books of poetry, and over forty poems in more than fifteen journals. He also received numerous awards, fellowships and grants including the Illinois Arts Council Fellowship (1984-1987) and the National Endowment of the Arts Artists Fellowship (1983). His presence in the Chicago theatre scene was strong as Patricca held several prominent positions at many local theaters including Literary Manager of the Commons Theatre, Dramaturg at the Victory Gardens Theatre, and Director at the Lionheart Theatre. He was also a founding member of the Chicago Alliance for Playwrights and Artistic Director of Chicago New Plays, where he concentrated on assisting other playwrights.

Scope and Content

The papers of the Nicolas Patricca collection span the years 1960-2011 with the bulk of materials dating from 1982-1989. The collection also includes a significant amount of undated material. The papers are arranged into four series and consist mainly of Patricca's plays, poetry, and material related to playwriting and promotion. Other materials include limited biographic material, personal correspondence, and a series of audiotapes of Patricca's lectures both in the United States and abroad. Additionally, the collection includes Patricca's article and information pertaining to his visit to Nicaragua, his interest in the Central American Crises of the 1980s and manuscript drafts and correspondence relating to the publishing of Irma Corcoran, BVM's books *The ABC Zoo* and *Spin-Offs* in which Patricca was actively involved. Other material includes play advertising, magazines discussing South America and diskettes containing *Spin-Offs* manuscripts. The collection is organized alphabetically by subject within each series.

Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1973-2011, undated, Box 1

This series consists of a curriculum vitae and professional survey created by Patricca, a list of his plays to date, and an article written about the Catholic Church in Nicaragua along with supporting material. It also includes professional correspondence relating to the theatre collection at the Chicago Public Library, Patricca's faculty appointments at Mundelein College, correspondence regarding a 2009 exhibit on Nuclear Arms presented at Loyola, and Tony Awards for Patricca and Victory Gardens Theatre.

This series also includes travel documentation in regard to Patricca's trip to Nicaragua in 1983, collected letters, speeches and other documents regarding Pope John Paul's II visit to Nicaragua, letters to the Pope and documents critiquing his visit. Various documents, including translations, relating to the crisis in Nicaragua and other Central American countries and newspaper and magazine articles in American and Spanish publications detailing the crises in Nicaragua and Central America are also included.

Series 2: Plays and Poetry, 1976-2010, undated, Boxes 2-4

Contains material related almost entirely to Patricca's published plays (including unpublished drafts), symposia about drama, reviews of performances, and professional development. Items of special note include "Declaration of Three," a statement written by Russian Poet, Eugenio Yevtuchenko, American Poet Allen Ginsberg and Nicaraguan Poet, Ernesto Cardenal.

Series 3: Irma Corcoran, BVM Documents, 1991-2001, undated, Box 5

Contains material relating to the publication of Irma Corcoran's books *The ABC Zoo* and *Spin-Offs*. Included is biographical information, a manuscript of *The ABC Zoo* and multiple manuscript drafts of *Spin-Offs*. Also included are legal and copyright documents and miscellaneous correspondence and documents pertaining to *The ABC ZOO* and *Spin-Offs*.

Series 4: Audiovisual, 1979-2010, undated, Box 5-8

Includes photographs of Irma Corcoran, Patricca (alone and with others), Patricca's trips to Central America, and his plays. Also included are VHS tapes and audiocassettes of lectures and rehearsals, four ¼" audio open reel films of Patricca's lectures on biomedical ethics, interviews and performances of Patricca's plays, and play posters and announcements. Lastly, there is an audiocassette collection of lectures given by Patricca, many of which are undated. Materials are organized into subseries format and/or topic.

Subseries 4.1: Photographs

Subseries 4.2: Video

Subseries 4.3: Audio Open Reels

Subseries 4.4: Computer Disks

Subseries 4.5: Central America: Nicaragua Study Trip

Subseries 4.6: Lectures

Series 5: Oversize Items, 1980-1997, undated, Box 9

Includes photo album, two *New York Times Magazines* from the mid-1980s, programs, flyers, posters, publications, and materials

Series 6: Addendum 1, 1979-2012, undated, Boxes 10-11

This series contains Addendum 1, an accrual of materials that were processed but not incorporated with the series above. Similar and/or related materials listed above may also be found here. Materials feature Nicholas Patricca's work as a playwright and as a Peggy Roach biographer. This series also holds audiovisual materials including audiocassette tapes, a compact disc, and floppy disks of Peggy Roach research and theater materials. The contents of the series are listed alphabetically within each subseries.

**Subseries 6.1: “Peggy Roach: One Woman’s Journey, A Nation’s Progress”
Manuscript, 1979-2012, undated, Box 10**

The largest series in the addendum, it contains records relating Nicholas Patricca’s work on a Margaret (Peggy) Roach biography entitled, “Peggy Roach: One Woman’s Journey, A Nation’s Progress.” Materials include correspondence; manuscript drafts and edits; funding records; notes; Peggy Roach timelines and research materials; Gannon Center presentation materials; and press.

Subseries 6.2: Theater Work, 2012, Box 10

Includes materials from Nicholas Patricca’s work as a playwright. There are programs from his play “The Fifth Sun” and flyers from “An Uncertain Hour.”

Subseries 6.3: Audiovisual Materials, 2003-2011, undated, Box 11

This series consists of audiovisual materials related to his work on the Peggy Roach manuscript and his play “The Radiance of a Thousand Suns.” Materials include five cassette tapes of interviews and research for the Peggy Roach biography. A compact disc holds an audio recording of his play and features an interview of Patricca. Twelve floppy disks are in this series holding research documents related to Peggy Roach and drafts of Patricca’s manuscript.

Subjects:

The ABC Zoo
Biographers United States Biography
Biomedical Ethics
Ernesto Cardenal
Catholic Church in Nicaragua
Central America
Irma Corcoran, BVM (1905-2000)
Guatemala
Allen Ginsberg
Honduras
Margaret (Peggy) Roach (1927-2006)
Mundelein College
Nicaragua
Nicholas Patricca (1941-)
Playwriting
Pope John Paul II
Spin-Offs
Witness for Peace in Nicaragua
Eugenio Yevtuchenko

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Nicholas Patricca Papers, 1960-2011, undated</i>	

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

Series 1: Biographical and Professional, 1973-2011, undated			
1	1	Central America: Article: "A Church Divided: The Catholic Church in Nicaragua"	1983
1	2	Central America: Nicaraguan Study Tour	1983
1	3	Central America: Nicaraguan Study Tour: Mary DeCock's Diary	1983
1	4	Central America: Source Materials: Guatemala	1981
1	5	Central America: Source Materials: Nicaragua/Central America	1982-1985, undated
1	6	Central America: Source Materials: Pope John Paul II and Nicaragua	1983
1	7	Chicago Network for Justice and Peace: General Gallardo	2000
1	8	Chicago Network for Justice and Peace: Report	2000
1	9	Chicago Public Library Chicago Theatre Collection: Correspondence and Announcements	1986-1990, undated
1	10	"Christianity and the Arts" donations	1998, 2001
1	11	Curriculum Vitae	undated
1	12	Dramatic Art Symposium at Loyola: Booklet (4 copies)	1994
1	13	Mundelein College: Application for Tenure	1982
1	14	Mundelein College: Faculty Correspondence	1983-2000, undated
1	15	National Conference of Christians and Jews: 1979 Report on Biomedical Ethics	1979
1	16	National Conference of Christians and Jews: Correspondence	1979, undated
1	17	P.E.N. International Festival	1991
1	18	Personal Correspondence	1983-2000, 2011
1	19	Publicity and Announcements	1973-1988, undated
1	20	<i>The Contemporary Nuclear Arms Crisis</i> Exhibit at Loyola University Museum of Art: Correspondence	2008-2009, undated
1	21	The Silencing of Women: Latin America: Note regarding cassette tape. (See Box 8 for tape.)	1993
1	22	Tony Award	1987, 2001, undated
Series 2: Plays and Poetry, 1976-2010, undated			
2	1	<i>An Uncertain Hour</i> : Correspondence and Playbill	1994, undated
2	2	<i>An Uncertain Hour</i> : Manuscript (3 copies)	1995
2	3	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Book and bound copy	undated
2	4	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Contract	1989
2	5	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Great Chicago Playwrights Exposition	1986-1988
2	6	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Manuscript copy 1	1986
2	7	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Manuscript copy 2	1989

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

2	8	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Manuscript copy 3	1989
2	9	<i>Gardinia's 'n' Blum</i> : Reviews and Announcements	1987, 1990, undated
2	10	<i>In the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project</i> : Correspondence	2009, undated
2	11	<i>In the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project</i> : Book and Playbill	1995
2	12	<i>In the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project</i> : Manuscript	1995
2	13	<i>In the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project</i> : Reviews	1995, undated
2	14	<i>In the Radiance of a Thousand Suns: The Hiroshima Project</i> : Unused music	undated
3	1	Poetry: Announcements and Presentations	1979-1993, undated
3	2	Poetry: <i>Where Shadows Fall</i> (2 copies)	1994
3	3	<i>The Defiant Muse: The Story of the Life and Times of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz</i> : Manuscript	2001
3	4	<i>The Examen</i> : Correspondence	1980, undated
3	5	<i>The Examen</i> : Manuscript copy for Victory Gardens season	1979-1980, undated
3	6	<i>The Examen</i> : Manuscript copy 2	1978
3	7	<i>The Examen</i> : Manuscript copy 3	1979
3	8	<i>The Examen</i> : Manuscript copy 4	undated
3	9	<i>The Examen</i> : Reviews	1976-1980, undated
3	10	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Book (6 copies)	1986, 1992
3	11	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Correspondence and Announcements	1983-1988, undated
3	12	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Costume Renderings	1987, undated
4	1	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Dramaturgical Material	undated
4	2	<i>The Fifth Sun: El Quinto Sol</i> : Book	1996
4	3	<i>The Fifth Sun: El Quinto Sol</i> : Information on Romero	2010, undated
4	4	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Manuscript	1989
4	5	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Playbills	1984, undated
4	6	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Reviews	1984 - 1988, undated
4	7	<i>The Idea of Chaos at Key West</i> : Announcement	1991
4	8	<i>The Idea of Chaos at Key West</i> : Manuscript	1991
		Series 3: Irma Corcoran, BVM Documents, 1991-2001, undated	
5	1	Biographical: Irma Corcoran, BVM	2000
5	2	Correspondence: <i>The ABC Zoo</i> and <i>Spin-Offs</i>	1997-2001
5	3	Correspondence: Invoices and Estimate for <i>Spin-Offs</i>	2000

Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago

5	4	Correspondence: Legal documents for <i>The ABC Zoo</i> and <i>Spin-Offs</i>	1991-2001, undated
5	5	Manuscript: <i>The ABC Zoo</i>	undated
5	6	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i>	2000, undated
5	7	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i> , Printed from a 3.5 x 3.75 Floppy Disk.	2000
5	8	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i> , Converted into Microsoft Word Document and printed from a disk	2000
5	9	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i> , Two PDF Files Printed from a disk	undated
5	10	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i>	2000
5	11	Manuscript Draft: <i>Spin-Offs</i> , Nick's Copy and Master	2000
5	12	Miscellaneous: <i>Spin-Offs</i> , Book Cover, Newsletter, Working Outline	undated
Series 4: Audiovisual, 1979-2010, undated			
Subseries 4.1: Photographs			
5	13	Central America: Cuba [photographs]	2000
5	14	Central America: Nicaragua (1 of 2) [photographs]	undated
5	15	Central America: Nicaragua (2 of 2) [photographs]	undated
6	1	Central America: Nicaragua (from Deborah Fumagalli) [photographs]	undated
6	2	Chicago Network for Justice and Peace: General Gallardo [photographs]	2002
6	3	Dramatic Art Symposium at Loyola: Berrigan [photographs]	1994
6	4	Irma Corcoran, BVM [photographs]	undated
6	5	Nick Patricca alone and with others [photographs]	1982, 1993, 1998, undated
6	6	Pastorela [photographs]	undated
6	7	P.E.N. International Festival [photographs]	1997
6	8	Philippines [photographs]	1998
6	9	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> [photographs]	undated
6	10	<i>The Fifth Sun: El Quinto Sol</i> [photographs]	2010
Subseries 4.2: Video			
7	1	La Historia a Fondo Chiapas Entrevistas [VHS]	undated
7	2	Nick Patricca interviewed by Steve Benson [VHS]	undated
7	3	Entrevista Completa Comandante Marcos [VHS]	undated
7	4	Nick Patricca: Mundelein College Playwriting Workshop [VHS]	undated
7	5	Student Plays Dress Rehearsal [VHS]	1999
Subseries 4.3: Audio Open Reels			
7	6	Biomedical Ethics and Human Values Orientation [1/4" audio open reel]	undated

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

7	7	Biomedical Ethics and Human Values Orientation [¼" audio open reel]	undated
7	8	Biomedical Ethics and Human Values Orientation [¼" audio open reel]	undated
7	9	Biomedical Ethics and Human Values Orientation [¼" audio open reel]	undated
Subseries 4.4: Computer Disks			
7	10	<i>Spin Offs</i> : Section 1 and Section 2, Mac formatted [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
7	11	<i>Spin Offs</i> : Irma Corcoran BVM, Pagemaker 6.5 version Mac [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
7	12	<i>Spin Offs</i> : Irma Corcoran BVM, Pagemaker 6.5 version Mac Backup [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
7	13	<i>Spin Offs</i> : Irma Corcoran BVM, Parts 1 and 2 pdf [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
7	14	PDF Acrobat Files, PC Format, Nick Patricca (includes notes) [3.5" floppy disk]	undated
7	15	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Original Artwork [4" zip disk]	1999, 2000
7	16	Corcoran Layout Pagemaker 6.5 Mac – Photos [4" zip disk]	undated
Subseries 4.5: Central America: Nicaragua Study Trip			
8	1-2	Bravo Tape I: Estelí (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	3-4	Bravo Tape II: Estelí (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	5-6	Rodofo and Chepita Rodríguez (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	7-9	Base Communities – Estelí (3 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	10-11	Kaimowitz on Economics (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	12-13	Liebl “Los Miskitos” (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	14-15	Tomás Borge, Minister of the Interior, Tape I (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	16-17	Tomás Borge, Minister of the Interior, Tape II (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
8	18-19	Argüello on Liberation Theology (2 copies) [audiocassette]	1983
Subseries 4.6: Lectures			
8	20	WACH [audiocassette]	undated
8	21	William James [audiocassette]	undated
8	22	Kitagawa [audiocassette]	undated
8	23	Feuerbach [audiocassette]	undated
8	24	Malinkowski [audiocassette]	undated
8	25	December 4 Reading [audiocassette]	undated
8	26	Women Religion & Public Policy [audiocassette]	undated
8	27	Gerardus van der Leeuw/An Innocent View [audiocassette]	undated
8	28	Luther [audiocassette]	undated
8	29	Katz [audiocassette]	undated

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

8	30	Phenomenology (Side 1 and 2) [audiocassette]	undated
8	31	Phenomenology - Natanson [audiocassette]	undated
8	32	American Catholics from Several Sociological Points of View (Dr. William McCready) (Tape 1) [audiocassette]	1986
8	33	American Catholics from Several Sociological Points of View (Dr. William McCready) (Tape 2) [audiocassette]	1986
8	34	The Idea of the Holy: Rudolph Otto [audiocassette]	undated
8	35	Eliade I [audiocassette]	undated
8	36	Eliade II [audiocassette]	undated
8	37	Piper Hall Prayer [audiocassette]	undated
8	38	The Silencing of Women: Latin America [audiocassette]	1993
		Series 5: Oversize Items, 1980-1997, undated	
9	1	<i>The Examen</i> : Album (including folder of items taped inside album)	1980, undated
9	2	<i>The Examen</i> : Victory Gardens Announcement	1980
9	3	<i>The Fifth Sun</i> : Show Poster for Spalding University Theatre	undated
9	4	<i>New York Times Magazine</i>	1984, 1985
9	5	P.E.N. International Festival Programs [fragile]	1983, 1985, 1997
9	6	Play Expo Flyer [2 copies]	undated
9	7	Summer Shorts Festival Flyer	undated
		Series 6: Addendum 1 1979-2012, undated	
		Subseries 6.1: "Peggy Roach: One Woman's Journey, A Nation's Progress" Manuscript, 1979-2012, undated	
10	1	Articles and Bibliographies	undated
10	2	Correspondence	2002-2003
10	3	Correspondence	2004
10	4	Correspondence	2005-2010
10	5	Correspondence	2011-2012
10	6	Correspondence	undated
10	7	Drafts of "Peggy Roach: One Woman's Journey, A Nation's Progress"	2004, 2010
10	8	Drafts of "Peggy Roach: One Woman's Journey, A Nation's Progress"	2011
10	9	Drafts of "Peggy Roach: One Woman's Journey, A Nation's Progress"	undated
10	10	Faculty Research Funding Materials	undated
10	11	Gannon Center Presentation	2011
10	12	Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies	undated
10	13	Press	1980
10	14	Research: Catholic Leaders and Influences	2011, undated
10	15	Research: Journal Articles	1979-2011
10	16	Timelines and Notes (Peggy Roach)	2003, undated

*Women and Leadership Archives
Loyola University Chicago*

10	17	“Washington Years Chapter”	2004, undated
		Subseries 6.2: Theater Work, 2012	
10	18	“An Uncertain Hour” Flyer	2005
10	19	“The Fifth Sun” Programs	2012
		Subseries 6.3: Audiovisual Materials, 2003-2011, undated	
11	1	Audiocassette: Lucy Nevels Interview	2003
11	2	Audiocassette: “March on Washington,” National Public Radio	2003
11	3	Audiocassette: Peggy Roach and Dolores Coleman Interviews	2003
11	4	Audiocassette: Peggy Roach Interview	April 2003
11	5	Audiocassette: Peggy Roach Interview	June 2003
11	6	CDs: “Actors Scene Unseen,” “The Radiance of a Thousand Suns” [2 CDs]	2004-2005
11	7	3.5” Floppy Disks: Peggy Roach Research Files [6 disks]	2004
11	8	3.5” Floppy Disks: Peggy Roach Research Files [3 disks]	2010, undated
11	9	3.5” Floppy Disks: Manuscript and Chapter Drafts [3 disks]	2004, 2011