

The Darwin Centennial Celebration at University of Chicago Collection

MSS #33

**Collection Date(s):** 1959

**Language:** English

**Extent:** .21 linear feet

1 Box

**Title:** Darwin Centennial Celebration at University of Chicago Collection

**Finding Aid Date:** 2023-10-23; final edits 2023-12-18.

**Supervising Archivist:** Christine Jankowski (2020-)

**Processing Archivist:** Christine Jankowski (2023)

**Processing Note:** Organized in original order received.

**Description Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard (2019)

**Language of Description:** English

**Related Accessions:** n/a

**Abstract:** The Darwin Centennial Celebration was celebrated in 1959 as a global effort to recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Darwin, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his voyage on the second survey expedition of the HMS *Beagle*, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his landmark book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or, The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (or more commonly known as *On the Origin of Species*.) The University of Chicago was one of the leading organizers of the celebration and hosted a five-day event from November 24 through November 28, 1959. Contains flyers, newspaper clippings, a prop newspaper, and publicity photographs.

**Arrangement:** The collection consists of 1 box.

**Provenance:** These materials were donated by Dr. Gene Kritsky to the Lloyd Library on August 6, 2023. They belonged to his mentor, Robert L. Ashenhurst (1929-2009) who was professor emeritus of applied mathematics at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Ashenhurst participated in the Darwin Centennial as the piano player for the musical "Time Will Tell."

**Access Restrictions:** None.

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## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

**Biographical History:** The Darwin Centennial Celebration was celebrated in 1959 as a global effort to recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Charles Darwin, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his voyage on the second survey expedition of the HMS *Beagle*, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his landmark book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or, The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (or more commonly known as *On the Origin of Species*.) The University of Chicago was one of the leading organizers of the celebration and hosted a five-day event from November 24 through November 28, 1959. Events included panel discussions, conferences, and a musical based on Darwin's life called "Time Will Tell" which was staged every night of the celebration.

More information on the event can be found at the University of Chicago Library:

<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/view.php?eadid=ICU.SPCL.DARWIN100>

Robert L. Ashenhurst (1929-2009) was professor emeritus of applied mathematics at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. He joined the faculty in 1957 and was the committee chair of the Committee on Information Systems, a predecessor for the Department of Computer Sciences, from 1965 until 1972 when the committee joined the Department of Mathematics. He was a cofounder of the University of Chicago's Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company and in 1959, he participated in the Darwin Centennial as the piano player for the musical "Time Will Tell."

Ashenhurst wrote songs for the annual Quadrangle Club Revels Show, where students and faculty would perform together, and worked for the University Theater. He retired in 2000 after 43 years of working at the university. Beforehand, Ashenhurst was a graduate of Harvard University, earning an undergraduate degree in physics (1950), a master's in applied mathematics (1954) and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics (1956). He was also the former editor-in-chief of the Association for Computing Machinery's publication *Communications of the ACM*. Ashenhurst died on October 21, 2009, in Chicago.

**Scope and Content:** This collection consists of a pamphlet, flyer, newspaper clippings, a prop newspaper, and photographs, all of which focus on the musical "Time Will Tell" performed at the University of Chicago in November 1959.

**System of Arrangement:** Collection is arranged in original order from donation.

**Acquisition Information:** This collection was donated by Dr. Gene Kritsky on 2023-08-06.

**Preferred Citation:** Title and date of item, Collection Name, Lloyd Library & Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio.

CONTAINER LISTING

Box #	Folder #	Folder Name
1	1	Program – “Time Will Tell,” 1959
1	2	Prop Newspaper for “Time Will Tell,” c.1959
1	3	Newspaper Clippings for “Time Will Tell,” c.1959
1	4	Publicity Photographs for “Time Will Tell,” c.1959