

Percy-Romagosa Collection

1 box, .25 linear feet

**Special Collections & Archives
Loyola University Library**

Collection 16

Percy-Romagosa Collection

Reference Code

Collection 16

Name and Location of Repository

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

Title

Percy-Romagosa Collection

Date

1972-1993

Extent

1 box, .25 linear feet

Name of Creator

Walker Percy, Elmo L. Romagosa, Mary Bernice (Bunt) Percy, Robert Coles, Shelby Foote, and Jay Tolson

Biographical History

This collection centers on the relationship between Walker Percy and Elmo L. Romagosa. Percy was a noted novelist and needs no introduction. Although Romagosa was himself a prominent priest in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, a brief biographical sketch may be useful.

Romagosa was born in Thibodaux, Louisiana in 1924. He attended St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, Louisiana and Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Following ordination in 1947, he served in various archdiocesan parishes and offices in south Louisiana, mainly in the New Orleans area. In 1963 he helped found the new archdiocesan newspaper, The Clarion Herald, and served as its editor for twelve years. He subsequently held various positions, including Director of the Stella Maris Maritime Center, Chaplain of the Port of New Orleans, and National Secretary of the Catholic Broadcasters Association. In 1980 he was designated a monsignor. He was also an accomplished photographer, receiving several Catholic Press Awards for his photographs. He died in an automobile accident on August 1, 1999.

This collection documents the relationship between novelist and priest. It consists mainly of brief letters. Eighteen of these were from Percy to Romagosa—the first was written in 1972; the others were written between 1982 and 1989. The collection's remaining eighteen letters also derive from the Percy-Romagosa relationship. Correspondents include **Robert Coles**, the psychiatrist and writer; **Shelby Foote**, the historian and novelist who was Percy's lifelong friend; and **Jay Tolson**, a Percy biographer.

Scope and Content

This collection contains mainly hand written letters and concludes with two folders: one containing twenty-nine negatives and six prints of Percy, his friends, and his family taken by Romagosa, apparently in the late 1980s; the other containing miscellaneous items.

System of Arrangement

The letters are arranged in chronological order.

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 Arthur Carpenter, revised by Katherine Kuhl Rivet, 2013.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description
1		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percy to Romagosa, 11 June 1972 2. Percy to Romagosa, 12 October 1982 3. Percy to Romagosa, 2 December 1982 4. Percy to Romagosa, 18 January 1984 5. Percy to Romagosa, 17 March 1984 6. Percy to Romagosa, 7 December 1984 7. Percy to Romagosa, 20 December 1984 8. Percy to Romagosa, ca 1984 9. Percy to Romagosa, 18 May 1985 10. Percy to Romagosa, 3 December 1985 11. Purcell to Romagosa, 20 February 1986 12. Romagosa to Godfrey, 15 February 1987 13. Garabedian and Co. to Romagosa, 26 February 1987 14. Romagosa to the Percys and Warings, 18 March 1987 15. Waring to Romagosa, 10 April 1987 16. The Percys to Romagosa, 8 May 1987 17. Percy to Romagosa, 3 August 1987 18. Percy to Romagosa, 21 October 1987 19. Percy to Romagosa, 8 November 1987 20. Percy to Romagosa, 31 January 1988 21. Percy to Romagosa, 21 June 1988 22. Percy to Romagosa, 8 November 1988 23. Percy to Romagosa, 23 December 1988 24. Percy to Romagosa, 20 January 1989 25. Percy to Romagosa, 31 March 1989 26. Mary Bernice (Bunt) Percy to Romagosa, 26 May 1990

27. Mary Bernice (Bunt) Percy to Romagosa, 30 September 1991
28. Coles to Romagosa, 18 December 1991
29. Romagosa to Moltke-Hansen, 27 January 1992
30. Romagosa to Foote, 27 January 1992
31. Mary Bernice (Bunt) Percy to Romagosa, 2 February 1992
32. West to Romagosa, 3 February 1992
33. Foote to Romagosa, 12 February 1992
34. Romagosa to Coles, 2 August 1992
35. Murphy to Romagosa, 20 November 1992
36. Romagosa to Tolson, 25 May 1993
37. Tolson to Romagosa, 5 July 1993
38. Photographic Material
39. Miscellaneous