



Father Grollig Legacy Collections Project

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Abstract

Loyola's Anthropology Department was founded in 1959 by Father Grollig who traveled the world collecting artifacts and promoting a Jesuit education. Despite amassing a rich inventory, his collection is not well documented, nor are much of his career efforts and personal life. To address these issues, we will discuss our legacy collections project, which involves archival research and artificial intelligence to learn more about Father Grollig in an effort to provide greater context information for his collection and the foundational role played by Father Grollig in the Loyola community. Our research also emphasizes the importance of doing legacy and collections based research, which is an often neglected aspect of archaeology.

Objectives

- Understand the process of documenting artifacts in archaeology collections
- Trace historical records of Father Grollig to contextualize his research and the collection Loyola inherited
- Enrich Loyola's heritage by gaining information of Father Grollig's efforts to the anthropology community and to the university

Methods

- Catalog over 36 boxes of artifacts and characterize physical features, and trace places of origin.
- Searching for people that may have known Father Grollig and his research efforts.
- Visiting the University Archives and Special Collections and scanning hundreds of original documents belonging to Father Grollig.
- Extensive literature review of legacy collections in archaeology and the management of artifact collections.



**Francis X. Grollig,
S.J., Ph.D.**

Photo and caption taken from a Yearbook titled: *The Loyolan 1973*



Findings

- Father Grollig completed his dissertation at Indiana University in 1959, became a Jesuit in 1940, and was ordained Priest in 1953.
- He completed ethnological fieldwork for one year in Guatemala in 1958 as a grantee under the Buenos Aires Convention and for six months in Peru in 1961 under a Fulbright Research grant.
- Many artifacts in his collection are from Guatemala and Peru, but a portion are from other world regions, such as Egypt.
- The most valuable piece of equipment he had with him during his travels in Guatemala was a portable tape recorder consisting of 600 ft tapes, but more than half of the film was ruined by a photo lab. The only evidence we have is the artifacts, with a majority lacking context information.