



Archdiocese of Saint Louis Archives and Records

Msgr. William L. Ebert Personal Papers, 1897-1933

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Ebert, William L.

Abstract: The personal effects of

Extent: 6 linear feet (5 boxes)

Language of Materials: English, German

Record Group Number: RG 03 E 15.26

Access

Open to the public. Please make an appointment to research at the archives. See our website at <http://archstl.org/archives>.

Biographical Note

William Ebert was born October 19, 1889 in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents, William Ferdinand Ebert and Margaret Mary Holterman Ebert, had him baptized in St. Liborius parish the following day. Ebert studied in the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 1913. His first appointment was at St. Peter's Church in Kirkwood where he served as assistant to the pastor until 1918 until he left to serve as a chaplain in the army for the Eighth Trench Mortar Battalion. He was initially sent to Key West, Florida with the Coast Defenses, then was awaiting sailing orders at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina when the war ended. Upon his return in 1919, he was assigned assistant pastor to Holy Family Church in St. Louis, MO. In 1926, Ebert was appointed pastor at St. Francis Xavier Church in Taos, Missouri. His last appointment was at St. Boniface in St. Louis, which he began June 28, 1943. He was elevated to Domestic Prelate, or Monsignor, in 1960. Ebert passed away on February 28, 1963.

Scope and Content

Many items in the collection, such as the trunk, boots, mirror, spoon, and black soap box most likely stem from Ebert's time in the military. Hygiene was important in the military, as was being clean shaven. Gas masks fit better on shaved faces, which is why a mirror was necessary. Spoons were also essential due to their many uses—in addition to eating, they were often used to scrape boots. The canteen-shaped brass item may be an example of trench art. It was confirmed with the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO that the item is not ordnance.

It is clear that family played a large role in Ebert's life. Many of the photographs in this collection are presumed to be of his family. The pillow, which features German script, wishes luck, prosperity, and blessings to a Ms. Recker. The Reckers were cousins of Ebert, and there is a confirmation noted at St. Liborius for the same date.

The plays in this collection reflect Ebert's strong interest in the theater. Ebert headed theater productions at St. Francis Xavier Church and St. Boniface Church, as well as being a committed member in their Drama Clubs.

Administrative Information

Processing Note: Processed by Claire Bowe, November 2017.

Provenance: This collection was donated to the archives sometime between 2003 and 2013. It is assumed that it came from the family of Msgr. Ebert. Unfortunately, no records or donation contract can be located.