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H15-1894. van Voorst, L. Bruce (1932-2013).
Papers, 1954-2015. 0.75 linear ft.



Abstract

L. Bruce van Voorst was born and raised in Holland, Michigan. He attended and graduated from Hope College in 1954. van Voorst worked as a journalist for both *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines and covered a wide spectrum of international issues, spending some twenty-two years overseas on assignments from Bonn, Germany, to Beirut, Lebanon, Brussels, Belgium to Buenos Aires, Brazil. He reported on the Gulf War, various Mideast wars, the Cyprus fighting, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Polish revolution, among many others.

In 1979, van Voorst was aboard the aircraft returning Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran from Paris, and reported on scene the violent revolution and later hostage-taking. A week after interviewing Khomeini for *Time*'s Man of the Year cover, he was expelled from Iran on charges of being with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He served both as a diplomatic correspondent for *Newsweek* (which included traveling full time for three years with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger) and senior correspondent for National Security at *Time*, the latter assignment including the Pentagon and State Department as well as the CIA. He met or interviewed many of the leading world figures of our time, from Germany's Willy Brandt to China's Chou En Lai. In the early 1990s, he made frequent appearances on PBS' *MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour*.

In his retirement, van Voorst became an accomplished watercolorist, selling a number of his paintings. He also undertook intense and diverse intellectual pursuits, from an in-depth study of the Book of Job to current scientific developments in nanotechnology and robotics. He also traveled extensively with his wife, Barbara.

The Bruce van Voorst collection is comprised of his biographical information, correspondence with Dr. Paul Fried, Dr. Elton Bruins, and Dr. John Knapp, articles, book reviews, movie reviews, speeches written and given by van Voorst, including the 2004 address to his classmates at their 50th reunion at Hope College (audiotape, digital), and travel writings he created while traveling many countries with his wife, Barbara van Voorst, whose writing is also included.

Accession No: H15-1894
Provenance: Bruce van Voorst
Donor: Barbara van Voorst
Processed by: Geoffrey Reynolds, July 2015

Biography

Lavern Bruce Van Voorst was born September 1, 1932, in Holland, Michigan. He attended Holland Public Schools and graduated in 1950. He attended Hope College and graduated in 1954. While at Hope College, he wrote for the Hope College *Anchor* and *Holland Sentinel* newspapers. Both experiences influenced van Voorst to become a journalist, a career that would last thirty-five years.

After graduation from Hope College, van Voorst worked as a journalist for both *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines and covered a wide spectrum of international issues, spending some twenty-two years overseas on assignments from Bonn, Germany, to Beirut, Lebanon, Brussels, Belgium to Buenos Aires, Brazil. He reported on the Gulf War, various Mideast wars, the Cyprus fighting, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Polish revolution, among many others. In 1979, he was aboard the aircraft returning Ayatollah Khomeini to Iran from Paris, and reported on scene the violent revolution and later hostage-taking. A week after interviewing Khomeini for *Time's* Man of the Year cover, he was expelled from Iran on charges of being with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

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In his retirement, van Voorst became an accomplished watercolorist, selling a number of his paintings. He also undertook intense and diverse intellectual pursuits, from an in-depth study of the Book of Job to current scientific developments in nanotechnology and robotics. He also traveled extensively with his wife, Barbara.

L. Bruce van Voorst passed away on December 9, 2013, in Arlington, Virginia.*

*Much of this information was taken from the December 15, 2013, issue of *The Grand Rapids Press*.

Scope and Content

The Bruce van Voorst collection is comprised of his biographical information, correspondence with Dr. Paul Fried and Dr. Elton Bruins, articles, book reviews, movie reviews, speeches written by van Voorst, and travel writings he created while traveling many countries with his wife. The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each folder.

Container List

Box 1

Biographical, 1954-2013

Articles

“Historical Map: The Yom Kippur War,” 2003

“Hope Alumni Request Opportunity to Present Case in Person,” 2010

“Joe College Looks at Joe McCarthy: Emphasis on Conformity Seen as Greatest Menace,” 1954

“Leviticus: An Iconoclastic Reading,” n.d.

“My Take-Christians, Let's Get Our Priorities Straight,” 2001

“Press Lord Axel Springer Is a German Problem,” 1968

“The Church & Nuclear Deterrence,” 1983

Time Magazine List of Articles, n.d.
"Washington Merry-Go-Round," 1964

Book Reviews

"Can Hope Endure?," n.d.
"Circle of Treason," n.d.
"Fortress Israel," 2013
"Higgs Force: Cosmic Symmetry Shattered," n.d.
"Race Against the Machine," n.d.
"Spies Against Armageddon: Inside Israel's Secret Wars," n.d.
"Young Philby: A Novel," 2012

Correspondence

Bruins, Elton, 2004-2013
Fried, Paul, 1975
Knapp, John, 2015

Movie Reviews

"Amour," n.d.
"Argo," n.d.

Box 2

Speeches

Hope College Commencement Address, "The Road Less Traveled," 1991
"One Classmate's Odessey," 2004 (audiotape, digital)
"The Waning of America's Global Influence," for Hope College HASP,
03/04/2003
"Why Journalists Get Killed? It's the Job Stupid," n.d.

Travel Writings

"Come with Me to the Kasbah" (Morocco), n.d.
"Follow Me... Watch Your Step" (China), 2002
"France," n.d.
"Guinness Country" (Ireland), n.d.
"On the Road: Scotland, Wales and England Castles, Churches, Kings, People,
Sheep," n.d.
"Pearls of Dalmatia: Sights, Sounds, Reflections" (Balkans, Italy), n.d.
"Spain and Portugal: The Rise, Fall and Rise," 2009
"Treasures of Peru: Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and the Amazon Rain Forest,"
2013
"Tuscany," n.d.

Travel Writing by Barbara van Voorst, 2015