

# Millikin University Archives: Staley Library

## Jere and Virginia Mickel Collection

**Collection Number:** 5.03td.110

**Inclusive Dates:** 1953 – 1970

**Bulk Dates:** 1960s

**Quantity:** 4 folders containing ~85 Millikin theatre production programs.

**Acquisition Information:** Originally donated by Virginia Mickel to the Sangamon Valley Collection March 4, 1986. Given by Sangamon Valley Collection to Decatur Public Library Local History collections, who then donated to Millikin University Archives due to subject matter in December 2019.

**Access Restrictions:** This collection is open for research

**Copyright:** Millikin University

**Photographs:** No, though images from productions are included in a few of the programs.

**Condition Notes:** Majority of collection is in excellent condition. Some programs have tears and water stains.

**Processed by:** Amanda Pippitt, January 2020.

### Biographical Note:

Dr. Jere Mickel (B.A. Nebraska State Teachers College, M.A. University of Nebraska, Ph.D. University of Denver, graduate Goodman School of the Theatre) served as a professor in the Millikin University Speech Department from 1953 to 1970, when he retired. During that time, he was responsible for 53 dramatic productions at the school. In the faculty resolution honoring him upon his retirement in 1970, it was noted that his guidelines for selecting a dramatic production were that they “be educational and that a portrayal of other lands and cultures as well as the American be included in them.” The resolution also praised him “for his interests and communication to the needs and problems of our black students and black community.” He and his wife, Virginia (Horton Rogers) Mickel were prominent in both the Millikin and Decatur community. Mickel was head of the Speech (and later Speech and Drama) Department of Millikin University.

### Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes Millikin University play programs collected by Jere and Virginia Mickel for theatrical productions of (mostly) the Town and Gown group. Dr. Jere Mickel

was the director of many of the productions represented in the collection, and also acted in several.

**Series Notes**

*Series 1: Play Programs*

4 folders

4 folders of Millikin University theatrical production programs, arranged in chronological order.

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Folder/Item Title</b>	<b>Container #</b>	<b>Folder/Item #</b>	<b>Description</b>
Play Programs 1950s	A-0166	1	Play programs for Town and Gown and Prairie Players theatre productions from 1953-1959
Play Programs 1960-1964	A-0166	2	Play programs for Town and Gown theatre productions from the early 1960s
Play Programs 1965-1969	A-0166	3	Play programs for Town and Gown theatre productions from the late 1960s
Play Programs 1970s	A-0166	4	Town and Gown “Hedda Gabler” program