

**A GUIDE TO THE
EDMUND F. BALL PAPERS**

National Public Broadcasting Archives
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Karen E. Eglinton, February 1992
Revised by: Karen E. King, March 1997
4.25 lin. ft.

BIOGRAPHY

Edmund F. (Ferdinand) Ball, the son of Edmund Burke Ball and Bertha Crosley Ball, was born in Muncie, Indiana on January 8, 1905. After attending the Muncie grade school, he attended Asheville School for Boys, Asheville, North Carolina from 1920 to 1923, and then Wabash College of Indiana from 1923 to 1925. His degrees include a Bachelor of Philosophy (Ph.B.) from Yale University in 1928, honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degrees from Ball State University, DePauw University and Indiana University as well as H.H.D. degrees from Keuka College and Wabash College. On January 11, 1936, Ball married Isabel Urban with whom he had three children: Frank Edmund Ball, Mrs. Marilyn Bertha Heaton, and Frederick Crosley Ball. Isabel Urban Ball died in March of 1949. Three years later, on June 28, 1952, Edmund F. Ball married Virginia Beall Stewart, with whom he had two children: Robert Burke Ball and Mrs. Nancy Ball Teed.

From 1941 to 1945, Ball served with various Air and Ground Force installations, advancing to the rank of Major, and also served in the War Department, Washington, D.C. As a staff officer with the Fifth Army, he saw combat in the European-Mediterranean theater, and was awarded the Bronze Star. During part of his time in the Fifth Army, he aided General Mark W. Clark, and later published a book, Staff Officer, recalling his experiences.

Edmund F. Ball has had a distinguished career in business and in public broadcasting. In 1928, he began at the family-owned Ball Corporation, which later became Ball Brothers in 1969. After various manufacturing assignments, he became glass factories manager in 1936. He held that post until 1940 when he became the vice-president of glass operations. Meanwhile, in 1931, he served as assistant secretary. His other positions have been: director and executive vice-president in 1945, president from 1948 to 1956 and 1967 to 1970, chairman of the board from 1956 to 1969, and finally chairman of the executive committee from 1970 to about 1978. As the Ball Corporation was well-known for satellite and aerospace equipment design, Ball's primary interest was communication systems. Indeed, much of the Ball Corporation's research in satellite design has contributed to the making of television devices which have been helpful to educational broadcasting.

Edmund F. Ball's career in public broadcasting began with his membership in the National Council of the Humanities, after which he served as a board member of the Eastern Indiana Educational Television Board. From 1970 to 1973, he served as a public member of the Executive Board of the National Association of Educational Broadcasters (NAEB). On July 27, 1973, Ball was designated lay representative to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) for WIPB-TV, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. That first year, his PBS duties consisted of serving as the third Vice-Chairman on the Board of Governors, and as a member of the Executive Committee, the CPB-PBS Partnership Review Committee, the Long-Range Finance Committee, and the Coordinating Committee. From 1974 to 1975, he was re-elected to the Partnership Review Committee. In 1976, Ball was elected to be a member of the Development and Public Information Committee. He served on both the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors until he left PBS in 1978.

During his business career, Ball also served as President of the Ball Brothers Foundation, the Minnetrista Corporation and Muncie Airport, Incorporated, and as the Honorary Director of the American National Bank and Trust Company in Muncie, Indiana and of the Merchants National Bank of Muncie, Indiana. In 1975, he also served as director of both the Indiana Bell Telephone Company and the Borg-Warner Corporation of Chicago. Finally, Ball belonged to the Glass Container Manufacturers, and was its past president and trustee.

Ball's civic involvement involved being a trustee of Wabash College and the Muncie YMCA as well as an honorary trustee of the Asheville (N.C.) School. He was a council member of The Citadel of the University of Chicago School of Business and of the S.W. Research Institute. In addition, he chaired the Board of Directors of the Ball Memorial Hospital, served on the Honorary Board of Directors of the Association of Colleges, Indiana, and on the Advisory Council of both Wilmers Institute and the Johns Hopkins University.

As of 1984, Ball belonged to Phi Gamma Delta, the Yale Club, the Explorers Club of New York City, the Adventurers Club of Chicago and the Columbia Club of Indianapolis. One of his favorite pastimes has been scuba diving, particularly in the South Pacific and off the United States west coast. Indeed, he wrote two articles on diving and the tropics for the Saturday Evening Post: "Great Australian Air Race," Saturday Evening Post vol. 249 (May 1977), and "Treasure Hunt in the South Seas," Saturday Evening Post vol. 251 (April 1979). He currently lives in Muncie, Indiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Edmund F. Ball Papers cover the years 1969 to 1983, with the bulk of the collection from 1970 to 1979. The collection documents Ball's involvement in the National Association of Educational Broadcasters (NAEB) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Types of documents in the collection include memoranda, correspondence, reports, newsletters, minutes, news clippings, and working papers.

The collection consists of two series:

Series 1: National Association of Educational Broadcasters

Series 2: Public Broadcasting Service

PROVENANCE

The Edmund F. Ball Papers were donated to the National Public Broadcasting Archives, University of Maryland Libraries by Edmund F. Ball in May of 1991.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series 1: National Association of Educational Broadcasters, 1967-1977 (0.50 lin. ft.)

This series documents Edmund F. Ball's involvement in the National Association of Educational Broadcasters from 1971 to 1973. Topics covered include federal financing of public education, programming goals, and satellite communication systems. Notable correspondents include former NAEB president William G. Harley, PBS chair Ralph Rogers, and NAEB secretary James Fellows. The materials were arranged in first alphabetical, and then chronological order and consists of correspondence, minutes and reports.

Series 2: Public Broadcasting Service, 1969-1979, 1982-1983 (3.75 lin. ft.)

This series documents Edmund F. Ball's involvement in the Public Broadcasting Service from 1972 to 1978. Topics covered include the 1973 CPB-PBS partnership agreement, community service grants and federal financing of public broadcasting. Notable correspondents include PBS president Lawrence K. Grossman and PBS chair Newton N. Minow. The materials were arranged in chronological order and contain materials such as minutes and reports which supplement the correspondence.

BOX INVENTORY

SERIES 1: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTERS

Box	Folder
	National Association of Educational Broadcasters
1	1 Annual Business Meeting - Minutes - November 1972
	2 [Board of Directors - Memoranda - Harley/Fellows 1973]
	3 Correspondence 1970-1977
	Executive Board of Directors
	4 Members & Staff Lists 1969-1974
	5 Memorandum - Treasurer's Report January 1973
	Minutes & Related Materials
	6 May 1970
	7 October 17-20 [1970] 47th Annual Convention
	8 November 1970
	9 October 1972
	10 April 1973
	11 September 1973
	12 November 1973 - 49th Annual Convention
	13 [Facts About Educational Radio/Facts About NAEB]
	14 [National Endowment for the Humanities Press Release December 1977]

SERIES 2: PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

Box	Folder	
		Corporate Information Book (1969-1979)
1	15	Transmittal Sheets, Nos. 3-7; May-December 1979
	16	Cover letter, Table of Contents; Amended pages PBS
	17	Definition; Organization Structure
	18	Board of Directors: October 1978-July 1979
	19	Board Committees: October 1978-April 1979
	20	Comittee Charges
	21	Board/Committee Meeting Calendar: 1978-July 1979
	22	Composition of PBS Membership and Board
2	1	Lay Representatives: October 1978
	2	Professional Representatives: November 1978-July 1979
	3	Staff: 1978-1979
	4	Board Composition and Membership
	5	A White Paper [November 1975]
	6	Articles of Incorporation [11/3/69]; By-Laws
	7	Report on Governance [10/22/76]
	8	Advisory Committees: October 1978-April 1979
		CPB
	9	Mission & Goals
	10	Board of Directors: September 1978-March 1979
	11	Board Committees
	12	Board/Committee Meeting Calendar: October 1978; May 1979
	13	CPB/PBS Partnership Agreement
	14	Role & Responsibilities of CPB and PBS PBS
	15	Fact Sheets
	16	Acronyms, Initialisms, Organizations Dictionary
		Annual Meetings, Reports, Papers
	17	Board/Committee Members [nd]
	18	Public Broadcasting Act of 1967; Long-Range Financing of Public Broadcasting (1969)
	19	Board of Governors re: Ascertainment of Community Needs [1971-1973]
	20	Long-Range Financing Task Force Meeting, February 16, 1973
	21	CPB Radio-Television Allocations [1973-1974]
	22	Station Program Cooperative-Policies and Procedures Manual, April 1974
	23	Public Television Laymen's Meeting, June 13-14, 1974
	24	Development Committee Meeting, June 21, 1974

SERIES 2: PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

Box	Folder	
3	1	Board of Governors and Managers, June 21-22, 1974
	2	Joint Meeting: CPB and PBS Boards, December 16, 1974
	3	Board of Governors-Board of Managers, January 12, 1975
	4	Boards of Governors and Managers, June 19, 1975
	5	System Finances, May 9, 1977
	6	Annual Membership Meeting, June 25-27, 1978
	7	1972
	8	January 1973
	9-15	March-June 1973 (7f)
	4	1-7
8		January-February 1974
9-13		March-July 1974 (4f)
5	1-2	August 1974 (2f)
	3-4	September-October 1974 (2f)
	5	November-December 1974
	6	January-February 1975
	7-8	March-April 1975 (2f)
	9-10	May 1975 (2f)
	11-12	June 1975 (2f)
	13	July 1975
	14	August-September 1975
	6	1-3
4-7		January-April 1976 (4f)
8-9		May 1976 (2f)
10		June-July 1976
11		August-September 1976
7	1	October-December 1976
	2-6	January-May 1977 (4f)
	7-8	June 1977 (2f)
	9	July 1977
	10	August-September 1977
	11	October-November 1977
	12-13	January-February 1978
	14	March-April 1978
	15-16	May 1978 (2f)
	17-18	June 1978 (2f)

SERIES 2: PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

Box	Folder	
		Correspondence (cont'd)
8	1	July-August 1978
	2	September-November 1978
	3	January-April 1979
	4-5	May 1979 (2f)
	6	Project Paper #10 Appendices D-F (May 23-25, 1979)
	7	May 26-31, 1979
	8-9	June 1979 (2f)
	10-11	July-August 1979 (2f)
	12	September-October 1979
	13	November-December 1979
	14	1982-1983
		Partnership Review Committee
9	1	1972; January, March-April 1973
	2-3	May-July 1973 (2f)
	4	August-September, November 1973
	5	December 1973-January 1974
	6	February, September-October, December 1974