



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 3113

**Giordano J. Scopinich**

**Memoirs**

**1978-2008**

**1 box, 0.4 lin. feet**

**Contact:** The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: (215) 732-6200 FAX: (215) 732-2680  
<http://www.hsp.org>

**Processed by:** Cary Majewicz  
**Processing Completed:** March 2009  
**Restrictions:** None

---

## **Giordano J. Scopinich**

**Memoirs, 1978-2008**

**1 box, 0.4 lin. feet**

**Collection 3113**

---

### **Abstract**

Giordano Joseph Scopinich was born in Philadelphia on September 14, 1924 to John and Domenica Scopinich. A few months after graduating from Northeast High School in Philadelphia, Scopinich enlisted in the Army. He moved to Camp Hood in Texas for basic training, and then to Fort Meade, Maryland, where he married Elizabeth Irene Marie Hetzer, a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, on April 8, 1944. By June 1944, he was serving on a troopship in the North Atlantic that was headed for England. Scopinich was honorably discharged in late October 1945. After the war, Scopinich entered drafting school under the G. I. Bill, and worked primarily as a draftsman for most of his life. Active members of the Roman Catholic Church, he and his wife had three children: Gordon (b. 1944), Elizabeth Rose (b. 1946), and Christina (b. 1951).

The Giordano J. Scopinich memoirs consist almost entirely of photocopies of Scopinich's handwritten remembrances of his life and family. The first group of writings date from 1978 and are broken down into several chapters. The beginning chapters are devoted to his and his wife's genealogies, their courtship, shared activities, friends, and their children. In later chapters, Scopinich discussed his schooling; career; and life in the army, in which he detailed his military activities in and perceptions of England and Europe. In the final chapter, entitled "My Favorite Things," Scopinich wrote extensively about the Mummerys, Mummery, music compositions, and his participation in several string bands, including the Polish-American String Band. Among other materials, researcher will find copies of vital documents, diplomas, certificates, as well as a compilation of original photographs that Scopinich labeled.

The second group of remembrances, entitled "Me-2003," has been divided into two folders. The first contains further reflections Giordano apparently wrote for his great-grandchildren. There are also copies of his religious writings, poems, music lyrics, and two of Scopinich's "Letters to the Editor." The second folder houses a freeform journal, circa 2000, which was kept by Scopinich while he was undergoing cancer therapy. (It is called "39" in reference to the number of treatments he was due.) Days are referred to by number, i.e. "Days 1 & 2," and in each entry Scopinich discusses everything from his history and health to the weather and religion.

The final folder in this collection holds a group of verses Scopinich wrote in honor of his wife. He titled them “You made me love you” after the couple’s favorite song. The verses contain kind and heartfelt words about Elizabeth and offer glimpses into their courtship, marriage, children, and social activities.

## **Separation report**

None.

## **Subjects**

Autobiography  
Family histories  
Scopinich family – Philadelphia – Pennsylvania

Scopinich, Christina, b. 1951  
Scopinich, Elizabeth (Hetzer), b. 1925  
Scopinich, Elizabeth Rose, b. 1946  
Scopinich, Giordano J., b. 1924  
Scopinich, Gordon, b. 1944

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

Due to the personal nature of the memoirs, a use restriction has been placed on this collection for a period of 50 years. When citing or quoting from these materials, researchers may not use the names of involved individuals. This restriction will be lifted on January 1, 2053.

### **Acquisition information**

Gift of Giordano J. Scopinich, 1994, 2003, 2008

Accession numbers: 1994.573, 2003.111, 2009.020

### **Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item here], Giordano J. Scopinich memoirs (Collection 3113), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Box and folder listing

Folder title	Date	Box	Folder(s)
"Me" – family history and remembrances	1978, 1993, 1994	1	1-5
"Me-2003" remembrances and writings	2003	1	6
"Me-2003" – freeform journal	2003	1	7
"You made me love you" – verses in honor of his wife	2008	1	8