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**Rev. Paul John Rich III Collection,
1894-2008 (Bulk 1963-1978)
(MSS-015)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Volume: 6 linear feet (9 document boxes, 1 oversized folder)

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Rev. Paul John Rich III Collection Biographical Sketch

Paul John Rich III was a minister at the First Parish Unitarian Church in East Bridgewater, MA. He began at the church while still a student at Harvard Divinity School in 1961 and was ordained by the Church and installed as its minister in 1962. He resigned from the Church on June 28, 1978 after a number of lawsuits and complaints were filed against him.

He began projects to renovate the Church soon after his start. He later began to purchase other properties for the Church around East Bridgewater with plans to build additions and renovate new buildings. His intent was to create a communal environment that would increase attendance at worship services and other events at the Church, as well as offer residents of the town a place to gather and explore the history of New England. He created several museums and rental apartments in the buildings purchased, commissioned outdoor art pieces, had grounds landscaped, created a robust environment for local boy scouts, and encouraged use of the properties to people throughout the New England area.

He was born December 10, 1938 in Buffalo, NY to Paul John Rich Jr. and Doris (Miller) Rich. The family is known for the Rich Products Corporation, based in Buffalo, NY.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of documents, photographs and other ephemera from and about Rev. Paul John Rich and the East Bridgewater First Parish Unitarian Church (referred to as “Church” in Box and Folder list) from roughly 1894-2008, some Church-specific materials are prior to Rev. Rich’s tenure, but the bulk of materials date from 1963-1978.

Related collections include: [First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Bridgewater](#).

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Paul John Rich personal and East Bridgewater Unitarian Church Papers, 1894-1981 (Bulk 1955-1981)

Archival records – personal history, correspondence, published works, Church newsletters and directory, event announcements, newspaper clippings involving the Church.

Series 2: Photographs and Media, 1962-1978

Photographs of East Bridgewater First Parish Unitarian Church and Standish Museums. Audio recordings of Edward P. Kirby and Rev. Paul J. Rich III (restricted). Arrangement note: due to space constraints a bound personal calendar of Rich’s is physically located in Series 2, while the other similar bound volumes of Church records are located in Series 1, Box 3, Folders 2-5.

Series 3: Legal Files involving Rev. Paul John Rich III, 1958-2008 (Bulk 1960-1980)

Files kept by lawyer Edward P. Kirby for legal proceedings with Rev. Paul John Rich III and the East Bridgewater First Parish Unitarian Church. Arrangement note: the files and folders in Series 3 have been kept in the original order that Kirby had filed them in.

Series 4: Oversized, 1968-1975

Oversized blueprints for proposed additions and buildings at East Bridgewater First Parish Unitarian Church.

**Rev. Paul John Rich III Collection
Box and Folder List**

Series 1: Paul John Rich personal and East Bridgewater Unitarian Church Papers, 1894-1981 (Bulk 1955-1981)

Box 1

Folder

1. Waiver of personal and intellectual property rights of Paul John Rich III on material left with his attorney, Edward P. Kirby, Sept. 1978
2. Photocopies of Paul John Rich III (PJR) important correspondence (originals in Series 3), 1973, 1977-1978
3. Photocopy of Edward P. Kirby's account of PJR and the Church (original in Series 3), 2008
4. Education, employment and licenses of PJR, 1955-1978
5. Letters from PRJ's mother, Doris Miller Rich, 1973, undated
6. Edward P. Kirby notes, research and correspondence, 1973-1978
7. Letters from PRJ to Edward "Ned" Kirby, 1980-1981
8. Letters from Paul Richards to PRJ and others, 1972-1976
9. General correspondence involving PJR and others, 1972-1978
10. Published sermons by PRJ, undated
 - The Unitarians and Music
 - The Soul Let Loose
 - Prayers
 - The Next and Last War
 - Life's Durable Satisfactions
 - Lyndon Johnson's Ugly War
11. "The Man Who Never Cried", a chapter from the biography of Charles William Eliot of Harvard by PRJ, undated
12. Church newsletters, 1965-1975
13. Drafts of Church newsletters by PRJ, 1970
14. News clippings involving the Church (includes photo of PRJ), 1968-1973
15. Parish/Church directory and other items, 1970
16. Church events/services, 1968-1973

Box 2

Folder

1. Documents on the buildings and the proposed buildings owned by the Church, 1970-1973

2. Material on South Eastern Academy/New England Academy, 1975-1977
3. Information and correspondence about Church-sponsored trips, 1971-1976
4. Material on the Church and boy scouts, 1972-1973
5. Finances, Church binder, 1968-1969
6. Finances, mostly Church-related, 1970-1977
7. Legal material, research used by Ned Kirby, including Church trust fund annual reports and wills (photocopies), 1963-1978

Box 3

Folder

1. Pre-1962, Church material including annual reports from ministers, mostly 1950's, 1894-1961
2. Bound - East Bridgewater Unitarian papers, 1943-1963
3. Bound - East Bridgewater Unitarian papers, 1964
4. Bound - East Bridgewater Unitarian records, 1958-1965
5. Bound - East Bridgewater sermons and letters (represents 1958, 1962, 1965-1967), 1967
6. "An Examination of the Change at the First Parish Church, Unitarian, East Bridgewater", by Patricia King, 1973

Series 2: Photographs and Media, 1962-1978

Box 4

Folder

1. Paul John Rich III, c. 1968-1973
2. "Anti-war wall", c. 1968-1973
3. Church steeple with "Impeach Now" sign, c. 1968-1973
4. Hot air balloon display in Church, c. 1970
5. Standish Museum buildings, c. 1968-1973
6. Church steeple being replaced, c. 1968
7. Photographs with notes used for Church newsletters, c. 1968-1973
8. Rev. Paul John Rich III reading New York Times at Sunday sermon, c. 1970
9. East Bridgewater Church events, interior and exterior, c. 1968-1973
10. Miscellaneous East Bridgewater Church photos, c.1968-1973
11. Aerial views of East Bridgewater and Church, c. 1970
12. East Bridgewater village green, c. 1968-1973
13. Photographs by Brockton photographer Stanley Bauman, 1938, c. 1975
14. East Bridgewater church negatives including railway car, c. 1968-1973
15. Negatives, undated
16. Slides, c. 1968-1973
17. Proofs, c. 1968-1973
18. Identified locations, not East Bridgewater Church, c. 1968-1973
19. Unidentified locations, not East Bridgewater Church, c. 1968-1973

Box 5

Folder

1. Identified people, not pertaining to East Bridgewater Church, c. 1968-1973

2. Unidentified people, not pertaining to East Bridgewater Church, c. 1968-1973, undated
3. Boy Scout related images, 1934, c. 1968-1973
4. Photographs (7) from the 19th century relating to East Boston Unitarian Church and Rev. W. H. Cudworth, undated
5. Exhibit examples, mostly gourds, c. 1968-1973

Box 6a**Folder**

1. Oversized photographs, c. 1973
2. Photographs by Linda Deignan, including interior of railway car, c. 1975
3. Bound - Paul John Rich III's personal calendar, part of Series 1, 1961

Box 6b

(restricted)

- Film, 1 Reel, May 12, 1973
- Cassette tapes of Paul John Rich recordings, c. 1977-1978

Series 3: Legal Files involving Rev. Paul John Rich III, 1958-2008 (Bulk 1960-1980)**Box 7****Folder**

1. Internal Revenue status of churches and fellowships, 1969
2. Incorporation of the Standish Museums, 1974
3. Copies of letters and cancelled checks used for case exhibits, 1960-1978
4. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738-3 – Receivership, court-filed documents, Master's communications, 1977-1979
5. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738-3 – Receivership (second folder), Attorney & Court communications, 1966, 1973, 1977-1978
6. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738-6 – Brockton Federation of Musicians versus, court communications, 1978
7. Deposition, pre-trial documentation, 1958, 1961, 1969-1971, 1973, 1975, 1977-1978
8. Church documents, communications, articles, pre-litigation, 1968-1971, 1978
9. Trial Exhibits copies from Whittier & Paradis (Master), 1962, 1966, 1968-1970, 1977-1978
10. Applications recommending students to New England Academy, Kirby case #2738, 1977-1978
11. Case exhibit copies, Church annual reports, 1968-1970
12. Case exhibit copies, banks, 1966-1977
13. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738-6, Rich/Kirby correspondence, 1977-1988
14. PJR III, Claims US Personally, personal liability, 1977-1978
15. Student applications to be returned, New England Academy, 1977
16. Rich, Paul J. III, #1157, Brockton District Court, arrest, 1967-1968, 1972, 1978-1979
17. Rich, Paul J. III, #1157, Brockton District Court, leaving jurisdiction, employment, correspondence to Kirby, 1965-1970, 1976-1979
18. Edward P. Kirby from Hale and Dorr, New England Academy, 1977-1979
19. Edward Kirby from Boston, Motion to Dismiss, criminal charges, 1979
20. Edward Kirby from Boston, correspondence & transcripts from PJR, 1978-1979

Box 8**Folder**

1. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738, financial exchanges, 1973, 1977-1979
2. Rich, Paul John III, Thomas Kundrouf et al vs. (Thomas J. Kundrouf & O. Burt Kelly vs. Paul J. Rich & Michael Kennedy; wrongful detainment for “stolen” watch), Kirby case #2738-5, 1977-1980
3. Folder Rich, Paul John III, (Bachman as Attorney), Kirby case #2738-2, (was in folder #2738-5), sale of firearms and gifts from GSA, 1961-1975, 1977-1978
4. Paul John Rich – 1998, (was in folder #2738-5), later recollections, 1997-1999, 2008
5. Receivership Pleadings, Kirby case #2738-3, filings, motions, questions & answers in case CA77-5920 (Perkins/Kidwell v. Rich), 1978
6. Deposition Material (folder 1), 77-5920, 1960, 1969-1978
7. Deposition Material (folder 2 – all copies unless otherwise noted), 77-5920 (Adams), 1963-1971, 1973-1978
8. Claims of current and accepted students and Attorney General against [New England Academy] school and PJR, #77-5831, 1977-1978
9. Rich, Paul John III, Kirby case #2738-1, re: student claims – New England Academy, Documents from South Eastern Academy, 1973, 1976-1978
10. Rich, Paul John III, Charter Flights, Kirby case #2738-4, 1972-1973, 1977-1978
11. PJRIII Trial, EPKirby notes (folder 1), 1978
12. PJRIII Trial, EPKirby notes (folder 2), copies of documents used as exhibits in #77-5920, 1961-1978

Series 4: Oversized, 1968-1975**Folder**

1. Blueprints, 1968, 1970, 1975
 - Preliminary study for senior citizens housing for First Parish Unitarian Church Community Fund, 1968
 - Preliminary site plan, No. 2, low rental housing center, South Shore Unitarian Holding Corporation, East Bridgewater, 1970
 - South Eastern Academy located at First Parish Unitarian Church in East Bridgewater, 1975