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Bro. George Ruppel Dies at Age 67

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 2, 1976 -- Brother George J. Ruppel, S.M., a retired history professor at the University of Dayton and an author and lecturer on local history, was found dead in his sleep at UD's alumni hall Thursday morning. Brother Ruppel, 67, died sometime Wednesday after a brief illness.

He was described on the occasion of his retirement in 1975 as a "historian's historian who, for almost 20 years at UD--cigar usually in hand--has been constantly teaching, counseling, writing and breathing history."

Brother Ruppel was one of nine historians serving on the Ohio Academy of History's Bicentennial of American Revolution Committee. He also has served as official research adviser to the Ohio Archival Center and the Ohio Historical Society. In 1968, he received the Alumni Award, given to those who've distinguished themselves and brought recognition to the University.

His historical writing has appeared in local publications. One of his latest efforts was "The Story of the 6560 Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory," written under a contract with the Air Force. He also is the author of "The Marianist Story," a history of the Society of Mary.

As a part of his interest in local history, Brother Ruppel has given guided tours to survey the region's Indian artifacts. In the past several years he has extended his interests to regional transportation and given testimony before commissions holding hearings on Amtrack and Conrail.

Brother Ruppel holds membership in the leading historical societies and is listed in major national and international biographies, including "Who's Who in the Midwest," "Who's Who in American Education," and "American Catholic Who's Who."

Born Nov. 19, 1909 in Brooklyn, N.Y., he is survived by a sister, Mrs. Agnes Reagen of Richmond Hill, N.Y. He joined the Society of Mary in 1928.

Holding bachelor's degrees in English and history from UD, Brother Ruppel taught high school in Michigan, Pennsylvania, California and New York between 1933 and 1952. He also holds a master of arts degree in history from Catholic University of America and a doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1962 to 1965 he was assistant dean in the college of arts and sciences.

The Mass of Christian burial will be said at 10 a.m. Monday in Immaculate Conception Chapel on the UD campus. Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M. will be celebrant. The eulogy will be delivered by the Reverend George B. Barrett. There will be no visiting hours. Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery at the Bergamo Conference Center.