The Matthew Fitzsimons Endowed Library Collection in History was established by Michael Hayes ('57). It is one of three endowments Mike created to honor the men he says expanded his view of the world, his history professors at Notre Dame: Matthew Fitzsimons, Aaron Abell, and Rev. Thomas T. McAvoy, C.S.C. The Abell and McAvoy endowments benefit fellowships and an Endowment for Excellence in history, respectively.

A member of the University’s faculty since 1932, Matthew Fitzsimons was among Notre Dame’s most influential and affectionately regarded teachers. He specialized in 19th- and 20th-century British history, American foreign policy, and the philosophy of history. In 1955, he became the editor of the prestigious Review of Politics, serving in that position until 1974. Fitzsimons remained a regular contributor to the quarterly until his death in 1992.

A native of Madison, Wisconsin, Mike Hayes enjoyed a successful career with Johnson & Johnson for nearly four decades. He was an active member of the Notre Dame Club of Vero Beach, Florida, before he passed away in September 2001. He and his wife, Phyllis, who preceded him in death, had three sons: John, Charles, and Hugh.

Together, Mike’s complementary endowments immeasurably strengthen the Hesburgh Libraries and the Department of History. Specifically, the Fitzsimons Endowment considerably expands library resources in the history of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.