

## Who was Rex B. Grey?

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The following information is based mainly on input received in 2009 from:

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### **The Rex B. Grey Professorship:**

The Rex. B. Grey professorship at Texas A&M University was established in 1980 through a gift from the Brown Foundation of Houston, Texas. The professorship is designed to promote scholarly activity related to the free market system. The professorship is administered by the Private Enterprise Research Center (PERC). Mr. Grey served as the first chairman of PERC's board of directors.

### **Biography:**

Mr. Grey graduated from Texas A&M University in 1941 with a degree in mechanical engineering. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, he received a master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Houston and an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School.

After a successful tenure as an employee of the General Electric Company, he started his own business in Houston, Texas in 1954. In 1960, Mr. Grey was hired by the International Telephone and Telegraph Company and in 1965 was made president of ITT-Africa and Middle East. Although Mr. Grey demonstrated extraordinary ability as a top executive, he was first and foremost an entrepreneur. He left ITT in 1975 to pursue business interests including industrial tools, ranching, oil and gas production, banking and telephone systems.

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### **Additional information from archives of Gallery 101**

In addition to being a director of innumerable companies around the world, Rex B. Grey was also director of Gallery 101, Johannesburg, during the early to mid-1970s – further information to be seen on [http://www.pelmama.org/Johannesburg\\_artscene\\_Gallery101\\_history.htm](http://www.pelmama.org/Johannesburg_artscene_Gallery101_history.htm)

He owned large farm properties in Rhodesia and Texas.

We occasionally visited him in his ITT flat in Killarney, Johannesburg and later, during 1974, we were entertained by him and his wife Nancy at their large apartment in London where many art works from South Africa could be seen, besides traditional African art and other collector's items.

In 2001, a number of works from Rex B. Grey's Estate were put on auction in Dallas TX by his son named Rex Grey, jnr., through Sotheby's Associates Sands of Times Antiquities and Galleries, Houston TX.

The newsletter announcing the auction stated inter alia:

*The Rex Grey Family Collection dominates much of this special auction focusing in particular on the art of Black Africa. The owners' interest in African Art, both cultural and contemporary, comes from many years of close association with Black Africa. Care was taken in assembling the collection to reflect the culture of the peoples, representing their dignity and the directness of expression of a people that have succeeded in maintaining orderly society for centuries. It can communicate to the young, honor the dead and perform ceremonies of daily living and war with the profound impact of mysticism. Many of the pieces within the collection were published and exhibited at the Texas A & M University, September-October 9, 1976. Highlights of the collection include a fine Baule (Yaure) Mask (3,000-5,000), a Bambara Antelope Dance Mask (2,000-3,000) together with pieces from contemporary artists such as Jan Dingeman and Lucas Sithole - the first black artist in South Africa to have a retrospective show in a public museum and a university gallery (in South Africa).*

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Further links:

<http://libraryasp.tamu.edu/cushing/onlinex/africa/index.html>

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**Rex B Grey – tribute – downloaded in 2012**

Tribute Wall – distinguished alumni – downloaded 2012 from

<http://www.aggienetwork.com/building/tribute.aspx>



### **Rex B. Grey '41**

**Year Awarded:** 1971

Grey studied Mechanical Engineering while at A&M College of Texas and received a bachelor's degree in Engineering at the University of Houston. He became owner and President of Texas Apparatus Co. in 1955. He later joined International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., and served as President in the Africa and Middle East Headquarters. There, he initiated coordinating functions of 30 to 40 ITT companies in Africa and the Middle East from one London headquarters and these activities tripled in size under his management.

Grey gave extensive guidance and advice to the planners of SCONA XV, Black Africa: The Challenge of Development. African leaders and students were suggested for invitations and much money was provided to support these invitations. Grey also has contributed a \$25,000 President's endowed Scholarship to Texas A&M.

*"The honor you bring to Texas A&M University is a source of great pride to all of us."*

*-Dr. Jack K. Williams, Past President, Texas A&M University*

Return to: [http://www.pelmama.org/Johannesburg\\_artscene\\_Gallery101\\_history.htm](http://www.pelmama.org/Johannesburg_artscene_Gallery101_history.htm)