

Hanks, historical society bond over ... typewriters



Typewriter fan Tom Hanks AP file photo

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Academy-Award winning actor Tom Hanks has over 250 typewriters, and now he can add a piece of Syracuse history to that collection.

In the early 1900s, Syracuse was known as the "Typewriter Capital of the World." The city once manufactured over half of all the typewriters produced in the U.S., and the Onondaga Historical Association keeps an extensive collection of over 200

of these relics. When the organization discovered that Tom Hanks collects typewriters himself, it couldn't resist sharing a couple of its own vintage pieces with him.

The Onondaga Historical Association's Executive Director Gregg Tripoli read an article last month about Tom Hanks deciding to publish a collection of short stories in October 2017, each story centering around a character's relationship with a different typewriter. Tripoli decided to send Hanks a gift that

would tell him about the typewriter industry in Syracuse.

"We love vintage typewriters, too," Tripoli said.

In addition to its collection of historical local typewriters, the organization also keeps a number of donated, old machines that are not in working condition, Tripoli said. The organization uses these vintage typewriters to make one-of-a-kind typewriter jewelry that it sells online.

Tripoli got in contact with Hanks' publicist and sent Hanks

a tie clip and a pair of earrings for his wife, both made of typewriter keys, and a brief note about Syracuse's legacy as "The Typewriter City."

A few weeks later, the Onondaga Historical Association received a thank you from Hanks in the mail. The note even includes the "Hanx" logo in the bottom left-hand corner, a reference to Hanks' very own iPad application that recreates the look, feel, and sounds of typing on a typewriter. The society shared the note on Facebook.