Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Title: San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy
creator: Melendy, H. Brett (Howard Brett)
source: San José State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives
Identifier/Call Number: MSS-2009-05-01
Physical Description: 55.0 boxes (24.1 linear feet)
Date (inclusive): 1928-2003
Date (bulk): bulk
Abstract: The San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, 1928-1985 (bulk 1955-1985), consists of materials created and collected by H. Brett Melendy while serving as the University Archivist (1983-1987). The records consist of academic journals, newspaper clippings, photographs and typed and handwritten papers.
Access Restrictions
Specific folders in boxes 3, 27, 28, 42, 46, 47, & 50 are restricted.
Publication Rights
Copyright is assigned to the San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Special Collections & Archives as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader. Copyright restrictions also apply to digital reproductions of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.
Preferred Citation
San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, MSS-2009-05-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.
Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.
Processing Information
Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by Jane Gilvin. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen. Three boxes of accruals related to Melendy’s research and publications were processed and added to the collection (Series VI) by Fiona DuBrock in February 2019.
Organizational History
In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns’ Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns’ Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor’s and master’s degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.
Born in Eureka, California, H. Brett Melendy (1924-2008) spent most of his life in California and Hawaii. He received his Master of Arts in Education in 1948 and his Doctorate in History in 1952 from Stanford University. During this time, he also taught high school in Fresno, California. Melendy began his university academic career as a history professor at SJSU in 1955. He served in several positions while at San José State University including: Academic Council Faculty Chair; Associate Academic Vice President; Dean of Undergraduate Studies; History Department Chair; History Professor; Interim Academic Vice President; and University Archivist. Melendy also spent some of his academic career as an administrator and history professor in the Hawaiian University system in the 1970s. His written work includes the books Chinese and Japanese Americans; Asians in America: Filipinos, Koreans, and East Indians; co-author of The Governors of California: Peter H. Burnett to Edmund G. Brown, as well as numerous scholarly articles.
In addition, Melendy conducted oral history interviews of select San José State University administrators and faculty from 1983 to 1988. Melendy served as the University Archivist from 1983-1987 on a half-time basis, while also maintaining half-time responsibilities as the Director of the Engineering Institute in the Engineering Department. In 1987 the University Archivist position was eliminated by Academic Vice President Arlene Okerlund. From 1987 to 1994, Melendy continued to work in the History and Engineering Departments, and in 1993 he was awarded Professor Emeritus status.

**Related Material**


**Scope and Content**

The San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, 1928-2003 (bulk 1955-1985), document Melendy’s long-term tenure at San José State University and specifically his work as the University Archivist from 1983-1987. The records consist of academic journals, newspaper clippings, photographs, typed and handwritten papers, statistical reports and audits. In addition to papers gathered from other staff and faculty, Melendy’s personal papers and research are also included. The collection also documents several lawsuits filed against the university by faculty, as well as the business of the faculty union, the United Professors of California.

**Arrangement**


**University Archives Collection**

Record Group: 6.5.1

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

San José State University -- History
San José State University -- Faculty
College administrators -- California -- San José.
Universities and colleges -- Faculty -- Labor unions
United Professors of California
Melendy, H. Brett (Howard Brett)
San José State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives
Academic Departments SERIES I: 1957-1983

Physical Description: 2.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series documents the Art, Nursing, Psychology and Science Education Departments. Of special note is a brief history of the Art Department covering the years 1911-1957, written by faculty member Warren Faus for the 1957 San José State University Centennial Celebration. Faus went on to chair the Art Department from 1960-1967, and then served as Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts until his retirement in 1974.
Arrangement
This series is arranged by department.

Art & Psychology Departments Box 1 1957, 1970-1976

Nursing & Science Education Departments Box 2 1976-1983

Academic Senate & the Economics Department SERIES II: 1970-1978

Physical Description: 5.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series documents the Academic Senate investigation into the 1974 disenfranchisement of the Economics Department by SJSU President John Bunzel (1970-1978). The series includes a copy of the 1975 lawsuit brought against the university by members of the department. This event is also documented in the San José State University Academic Senate Records. Materials related to a 1974 Academic Senate retreat and a 1977-78 evaluation of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies are also included in this series.
Arrangement
This series is arranged by subject.
Access Note
Folder "Review Committee for Dean of Undergraduate Studies 1977-1978" in Box 3 is restricted.

Academic Senate Retreat & Dean Review Box 3 1974-1978

Senate Response to Economics Department Disenfranchisement Boxes 4-7 1970-1976

Business Affairs SERIES III: 1931-1979

Physical Description: 6.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series documents independent audits conducted on specific campus organizations, including Spartan Shops, Inc., the San José State College Foundation and the Associated Students. State budget process position justification letters and other correspondence related to the budget from 1953-1960 are also included in this series.
Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically.

Audit Reports Boxes 8-10 1931-1979
Organizational Structure Box 12 1945-1958, 1968-1973

Audit Reports Box 13 1955-1979

California State Departments of Controller, Auditor, Education and Finance SERIES IV: 1929-1973

Physical Description: 4.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series documents the activities of the California State Departments of Controller, Auditor, Education and Finance. The records from the State Department of Education concern the entire California State College system, and contain records of enrollment by geographical area for the years 1933-1955. Reports on the employment status of 1933-1935 graduates with a teaching credential for the state are also included. The State Controller, Auditor and Finance records included here offer data specific to the San José State University campus documenting the years 1929-1973.
Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by department, and then chronologically within each folder.

State Audits of San José State College Box 14 1948-1963

Annual Reports for California State Colleges Box 15 1935-1955

State Teaching Schools Statistical Data Box 16 1938-1957

State Audit of Campus Organizations Box 17 1929-1973

California Pioneer Essay Contest & History Department Student Papers SERIES V: 1958-1975

Physical Description: 1.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series includes student essays submitted to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County Historical Essay Contest, as well as papers written for history courses taught by Dr. Benjamin Gilbert. Gilbert and Melendy co-authored *The Governors of California: Peter H. Burnett to Edmund G. Brown*. Gilbert also wrote *Pioneers for One Hundred Years: San José State College, 1857-1957*. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara Essay Contest is held yearly.
Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by student surname.

Pioneer Essays & History Department Student Papers Box 18 1958-1975
Faculty Papers SERIES VI: 1928-1985

Physical Description: 21.0 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series consists of the administrative, personal and research records of H. Brett Melendy, as well as the papers of Math Professor Dr. Marjorie Pickering Filling; Dean of the Business School Dr. Milburn D. Wright; and other retired faculty and staff.
Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by professor surname, and then chronologically within each box.
Access Note
Folders "Consultants," "Budgets & Expenses," "In Kind Contribution Completed," "Expenditures Monthly" and "Research Association Correspondence" in Boxes 27 and 28 are restricted.


Melendy Academic & Personal Papers Box 21 1973-1988

American Historical Association Newsletter Boxes 22-23 1974-1988

Articles, Inscribed Box 24 1959-1978


Hawaiian Periodicals Box 29 1967-1988

Melendy Professional & Personal Incoming Correspondence Box 30 1966-1988

Melendy Professional Outgoing Correspondence Box 31 1967-1988

Melendy Research Correspondence Boxes 32-33 1964-1988


Wright Papers Box 36 1933-1981
Staff & Faculty Papers Boxes 37-39 1928-1985

Melendy Research and Manuscript: Hawaii, America's Sugar Territory 1898-1959 Boxes 53 & 54

Melendy Publications Box 55

Miscellaneous University Materials SERIES VII: 1971-1984

Physical Description: 1.0 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary
The material in this series documents the Black Masque Honor Society for female undergraduate juniors and seniors, as well as the Presidential Committee for the Future of Education formed by San José State University President John Bunzel (1970-1978) in 1971.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by format, and then chronologically within each folder.

Black Masque & Presidential Committee on the Future of Education Box 40 1971-1984

Ombudsman SERIES VIII: 1967-1970

Physical Description: 1.0 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary
The San José State University Ombudsman is an impartial party appointed to receive complaints, give information or facilitate communication between students and members of the university community. The position was created by San José State President Robert D. Clark (1964-1969) in the late 1960s in response to student Civil Rights protests. This series documents a particularly controversial time for the university and for the nation, and includes correspondence, press releases and newspaper articles chronicling such events as the Survival Faire, student unrest, and the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics. Held on campus, the Survival Faire started as a class project, but became a larger community event to promote environmental awareness, capped by the burial of a car on Earth Day. Also during this time, Dr. William Shockley, well known eugenicist and supporter of sterilization, participated in the program entitled "Black is Becoming." A Nobel Prize winner in 1958, and co-inventor of the transistor and leader in the semi-conductor industry, Shockley spent the last years of his life studying intelligence, race, and eugenics, and believed that science could solve human problems. Needless to say, his views on race and intelligence during the height of the Civil Rights movement created some campus conflict.

This series also contains information documenting the 1968 Olympics, specifically the incident involving Tommie Smith and John Carlos, two participating San José State College athletes. Smith and Carlos raised their arms in a Black Power salute while standing on the winners podium. The act was widely publicized and both men received death threats afterwards. Public response to these and other events that occurred on the San José State University campus during the late 1960s and early 1970s are well-documented in this series.

Arrangement
This series is arranged chronologically.

Ombudsman Correspondence Box 41 1967-1970
United Professors of California SERIES IX: 1971-1982

Physical Description: 11.0 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

The material in this series documents the United Professors of California Union on the San José State University campus. It covers collective bargaining, local union business, membership, payroll deductions, state meetings and political actions.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject.

Access Note


United Professors of California Files Box 42 1971-1977

Collective Bargaining Boxes 43-44 1974-1982

Economics Department & Faculty Conditions Box 45 1973-1981

Personnel Files Boxes 46-47 1973-1982

Local Union Files Box 48 1972-1981

Local Union Membership Box 49 1974-1981

Nomination, Payroll Deductions & Political Actions Box 50 1973-1980

United Professors of California Statewide Meetings & Fliers Box 51 1974-1981

United Professors of California Newspapers & Fliers Box 52 1973-1982