
Orrin Edgar Klapp Papers MS-0341

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Title: Orrin Edgar Klapp Papers

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Date (inclusive): 1942-1997

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Scope and Contents

The *Orrin Edgar Klapp Papers* documents the sociologist's career as a professor, naval officer, and professor at San Diego State College from 1949 to 1969. The collection is comprised of information pertaining to the history of the Hydrographic Office during WWII, correspondence to and from Klapp, newspaper clippings, and a handwritten manuscript of his work, *A Materialist Metaphysics*. Other highlights include manuscripts from *Scuttle Butte*, a weekly humor magazine edited by Klapp, and the John Simon Gugenheim Fellowship Application form.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

Evelyn Klapp

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, folder title, box number, Orrin Edgar Klapp Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, San Diego State University Library.

Biographical Note

Born in 1915, Orrin Edgar Klapp was one of San Diego State College's top sociological researchers and professors. A Chicago native, Klapp received his bachelors, masters, and Doctorate from the University of Chicago in Sociology. At the outbreak of World War II, he left his doctoral program and became a Lieutenant in the US Navy. As a Lieutenant, he worked in the hydrographic office making maps for airplanes and ships.

During his time in the service Klapp started publishing written work. He was the editor of *Scuttlebutt*, a humor magazine intended to be distributed throughout Klapp's fleet. The publication was discontinued after the humorous albeit irreverent material started to offend other officers.

After his time in the military, Klapp finished his doctoral degree and began teaching Sociology at San Diego State College in 1949. In his twenty years in San Diego, he published several works exploring sociological interaction in San Diego. His first book, *Ritual and Cult*, was published in 1956. In 1962, he authored his best known work, *Heroes, Villains, and Fools*, a scholarly investigation about the changing American culture in the 1960's.

Klapp left SDSC in 1969 to pursue another teaching career at the University of Western Ontario. He taught there for an additional 14 years and continued his sociological research during that time. After a struggle with Alzheimer's, Klapp died in 1997.

Accruals

2002-039

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Personal Papers

Photographs

Sociologists--California--San Diego--Biography--Sources

Klapp, Orrin Edgar, 1915--Archives

San Diego State University--Faculty--Biography--Sources

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