Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Orrin Edgar Klapp Papers
Dates: 1942-1997
Identification: MS-0341
Creator: Klapp, Orrin Edgar, 1915-1997
Physical Description: 0.21 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Biographical Information:
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 bachelor's, master's, 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 Scuttle Butte, 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, Heresies, 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.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:
San Diego State University -- Faculty -- Biography -- Sources

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Photographs
Publications

Personal Name:
Klapp, Orrin Edgar, 1915-- Archives

Topical Term:
Sociologists -- California -- San Diego -- Biography -- Sources

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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 Guggenheim Fellowship Application form.

Box 1, Folder 1 Photographs of Orrin Klapp 1944
Box 1, Folder 2 History of the Hydrographic Office During the Second World War 1939 - 44
Box 1, Folder 3 Correspondence to and from Orrin Klapp 1942 - 45
Box 1, Folder 4 Manuscripts of Scuttlebutt a weekly magazine edited by Orrin E. Klapp 1944 - 45
Box 1, Folder 5 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Application Form 1945
Box 1, Folder 6 Memorandum to Orrin E. Klapp from OIC, Division of Air Navigation 1945
Box 1, Folder 7 Newspaper Clippings - Orrin Klapp 1960 - 97
Box 1, Folder 8 Commentary on "Orrin’s Trilogy" 1998
Box 1, Folder 9 Sheet Music to Orrin’s Blues
Box 1, Folder 10 Manuscript of A Materialistic Metaphysics
Box 1, Folder 11 Quick Reference to Orrin Klapp’s Published Works