Guide to the James Freeman collection on Southeast Asian refugees
MS.SEA.033

Processed by Julia Stringfellow; machine-readable finding aid created by Audrey Pearson; updated by Julia Huynh in 2019.
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**Guide to the James Freeman collection on Southeast Asian refugees MS.SEA.033**

**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

**Title:** James Freeman collection on Southeast Asian refugees

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.SEA.033

**Physical Description:** 3.6 Linear Feet (7 boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1978-2003

**Abstract:** This collection is comprised of materials collected by James Freeman, a professor of anthropology at San Jose State University. Correspondence and reports of organizations and individuals involved in refugee issues and reports from refugee camps are included, as are handwritten notes and cassette tapes of interviews with Vietnamese Americans who settled in the United States after the Vietnam War that were conducted for Freeman's book *Hearts of sorrow: Vietnamese-American lives*. The collection also contains slide images of Vietnamese refugees and children at refugee camps in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand as well as images from detention centers in Hong Kong.

**Access**

Interview tapes and transcripts are restricted until 2039-01-01. Restrictions are noted at the file level. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**


For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

**Acquisition Information**


**Processing History**

Processed by Julia Stringfellow, 2005. Processing was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant. Additions and finding aid updates made by Julia Huynh, 2019.

**Historical Background**

James M. Freeman is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at San Jose State University in San Jose, California. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Northwestern University in 1958, a Master of Arts in Social Relations from Harvard University in 1964, and a PhD in Social Relations from Harvard University in 1968. His area of research since 1992 has included work, identity, and community in high-tech regions, involving in depth interviews in high-tech companies on the connections between work, family, and cultural identity. He has also collected the life stories of people living in India, of Vietnamese refugees, and of the people in the Silicon Valley Cultures Project over the past 25 years. Freeman hoped to capture the spirit of these people through their narratives and to convey this to a wide reading public, such as through the publication of his book *Hearts of sorrow: Vietnamese-American lives* in 1989.

For further information on James Freeman, see the [The Silicon Valley Cultures Project Website](#).

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection is comprised of materials collected by James Freeman, a professor of anthropology at San Jose State University. Correspondence and reports of organizations and individuals involved in refugee issues and reports from refugee camps are included, as are handwritten notes and cassette tapes of interviews with Vietnamese Americans who settled in the United States after the Vietnam War that were conducted for Freeman's book *Hearts of sorrow: Vietnamese-American lives*. The collection also contains slide images of Vietnamese refugees and children at refugee camps in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand as well as images from detention centers in Hong Kong.

**Collection Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in 3 series.

- **Series 1. Topical files, 1978-2003.** 1.4 linear feet
- **Series 2. Interview notes and audio cassette recordings, 1983-1999.** 1.8 linear feet
Series 3. Slides of refugee camps and detention centers, circa 1990s, 0.4 linear feet
Original order of slides in series 3 are retained.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Interviews -- 20th century.
Refugees -- United States -- Archives.
Audiocassettes -- 20th century.
Letters -- 20th century.
Refugees -- Vietnam -- Archives
Reports -- 20th century.
Vietnamese Americans -- Archives
Refugees -- Services for -- United States -- Archives.
Vietnamese Americans -- Interviews.
Slides -- 20th century.
Refugee camps -- Southeast Asia -- Photographs.
Freeman, James M. -- Archives

**Topical files** Series 1. 1978-2003

Physical Description: 1.4 Linear Feet
General Physical Description note: no content
Scope and Contents note
This series is comprised of items regarding Southeast Asian refugee issues. Materials include reports from refugee camps, organizational reports and correspondence, and publications of individuals.
Arrangement note
The series is arranged topically.

Aid to Refugee Children Without Parents, correspondence and organizational materials 1982-1999
General Physical Description note: 2 folders.

box-folder 1 : 3 Cards and invitations 1997
box-folder 1 : 5 Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CSDPT), Handbook, Refugee Services in Thailand 1982
box-folder 1 : 6 Congressional Research Service (CRS) brief, "Refugee Admissions and Resettlement Policy" 1993
box-folder 1 : 7 Dong Rek articles, sources for articles, correspondence and notes 1988-1994
box-folder 1 : 8-9 Freeman, James, and Nguyen, Huu Dinh, publications 1985-1998

General Physical Description note: 2 folders.

box-folder 1 : 10 Friends of Hue Foundation, newsletters and organizational materials 2000-2003
box-folder 1 : 11 Hong Kong refugee camps, correspondence and reports 1989-1996
box-folder 1 : 12 Indonesia refugee camps, reports and correspondence 1991-1993
box-folder 1 : 15 International Social Service Hong Kong Branch, reports and newsletters 1992-1997
box-folder 1 : 16 Laos and Thailand refugee camps, reports 1989-1999
box-folder 1 : 17 Malaysia refugee camps, correspondence and reports 1991-1999
box-folder 1 : 18-20 Newspaper clippings 1982-2000

General Physical Description note: 3 folders.
Guide to the James Freeman collection on Southeast Asian refugees MS.SEA.033

Topical files Series 1.1978-2003

- Box-folder 1: 21 Hieu, Nguyen, correspondence 1982-1984
- Box-folder 1: 22 Non-governmental organizations (NGO), correspondence and organizational materials 1991-1999
- Box-folder 1: 23 Nordic Assistance to Repatriated Vietnamese (NARV), correspondence and organizational materials 1991-1994
- Box-folder 1: 24-25 Palawan, Philippines, refugee camps, correspondence and reports 1991-1999
  General Physical Description note: 2 folders.
- Box-folder 1: 26-27 Refugee Concern Hong Kong, correspondence and reports 1991-1996
  General Physical Description note: 2 folders.
- Box-folder 2: 2-4 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
  - Box-folder 2: 3-4 Reports and program materials 1985-1995
  General Physical Description note: 2 folders.
- Box-folder 2: 5 United States State Department materials 1991
- Box-folder 2: 6 Vietnamese refugees, reports and publications 1978-2000
- Box-folder 2: 7 Vietnamese refugees living in Japan, reports 1990
- Box-folder 2: 8 Vietnamese refugees living in the United States, reports 1978-1993

Interview notes and audio cassette recordings Series 2. 1983-1999

- Physical Description: 1.6 Linear Feet
- General Physical Description note: Four letter size document boxes (Boxes 3-6)
- Scope and Contents note
  This series is comprised of handwritten interview notes and interview transcripts from interviews James Freeman conducted with Vietnamese refugees for his book, *Hearts of sorrow: Vietnamese-American lives*. Audio cassette tapes are also included that contain the interviews.
- Conditions Governing Access note
  Access to this entire series, which contains information concerning the personal situation of Vietnamese refugees in the refugee camps, is restricted until 2039-01-01.

Slides of refugee camps and detention centers Series 3 circa 1990s

- Physical Description: 0.4 Linear Feet (1 letter document box)
- Scope and Contents
  This addition to the collection contains slide images of Vietnamese refugees and children at refugee camps in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand as well as images from detention centers in Hong Kong. Also included are 2 USB sticks of digitized slides, 1 article copy of "Terror At Dong Rek" by James M. Freeman and Nguyen Dinh Huu and 1 January 2005 publication of Nha magazine.
- Access
  This addition to the collection has been processed and is open for research.

- Box 7, Folder 1-2 Digitized slides on USB sticks 1991-92
- Box 7, Folder 3 "Terror at Dong Rek" article copy 1995
- Box 7, Folder 4 Nha Magazine 2005
- Box 7, Folder 5 Teaching slides circa 1990s
  Physical Description: Contains 80 Kodachrome 35mm slides.
Slides of refugee camps / detention centers circa 1990s

Physical Description: 4 folders containing 768 Kodachrome 35mm slides and 1 8x10 color photographic print.