
Guide to the San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy

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Collection number: MSS-2009-05-01



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Processed by:

Jane Gilvin

Date Completed:

2009

Encoded by:

Jane Gilvin

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy

Dates: 1928-1985

Bulk Dates: 1955-1985

Collection number: MSS-2009-05-01

Collector: Melendy, H. Brett, 1924-2008

Collection Size: 52 boxes(21.68 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, 1928-1985 (bulk 1955-1985), consists of materials 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. This collection is arranged into nine series: Series I. Academic Departments, 1957, 1970-1983; Series II. Academic Senate & the Economics Department, 1970-1978; Series III. Business Affairs, 1931-1979; Series IV. California Departments of Controller, Auditor, Education & Finance, 1929-1973; Series V. California Pioneer Contest & History Department Student Papers, 1958-1975; Series VI. Faculty Papers, 1928-1985; Series VII. Miscellaneous University Groups, 1971-1984; Series VIII. Ombudsman, 1967-1970; and Series IX. United Professors of California, 1971-1982.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access Restrictions

Specific folders in boxes 3, 27, 28, 42, 46, 47, & 50 are restricted.

Publication Rights

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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.

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.

Bibliography

Gilbert, Benjamin F., and Burdick, Charles. *Washington Square, 1857-1979: The History of San José State University*. San José, California: San José State University, 1980.

San José State University. *About SJSU*. http://www.sjsu.edu/about_sjsu/

Walsh, James P. *San José State University: An Interpretive History, 1950-2000*. San José, California: San José State University, 2003.

Related Material

Bunzel, John. *John H. Bunzel, President 1970-1978, San José State University: An Oral History*. San José, California: San José, 1987.

Gilbert, Benjamin F. and Melendy, H. Brett. *The Governors of California: Peter H. Burnett to Edmund G. Brown*. Georgetown, California: Talisman Press, 1965.

Guide to the San José State College Presidential Office Administrative Records 1899-1970 (bulk 1950-1970), Collection No. MSS-2009-04-01. San José State University Archives Collection. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt8t1nf3qh/>

Guide to the San José State University Academic Senate Records 1952-2002 (bulk 1970-1999), Collection No. MSS-2009-03-07. San José State University Archives Collection. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt5k4034vh/>

Guide to the San José State University President's Office, Gail Fullerton Records 1950-1994 (bulk 1978-1991), Collection No. MSS-2009-04-03. San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt096nd8b1/>

Guide to the San José State University President's Office, John Bunzel Records 1963-1984 (bulk 1970-1978), Collection No. MSS-2009-06-01. San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt6x0nf447/>

Melendy, H. Brett. *Howard Brett Melendy, Professor of History and Past Chairman of the History Department, Academic Council Faculty Chairman, Interim Academic Vice President, Associate Academic Vice President, and University Archivist, San José State University, 1955-1970; 1979-Present: An Oral History*. San José, California: San José, 1988. Oral history interviews of the San José State University Oral History Project, 2005-2006, Collection No. MSS-2006-04-01. San José State University Archives Collection.

Wright, Milburn. *Milburn D. Wright, Dean of the School of Business 1956-1974, Professor of Business 1939-1956, San José State University: An Oral History*. San José, California: San José, 1984.

Scope and Content

The San José State University Faculty Papers of H. Brett Melendy, 1928-1985 (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 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

This collection is arranged into nine series: Series I. Academic Departments, 1957, 1970-1983; Series II. Academic Senate & the Economics Department, 1970-1978; Series III. Business Affairs, 1931-1979; Series IV. California Departments of Controller, Auditor Education & Finance, 1929-1973; Series V. California Pioneer Contest & History Department Student Papers, 1958-1975; Series VI. Faculty Papers, 1928-1985; Series VII. Miscellaneous University Groups, 1971-1984; Series VIII. Ombudsman, 1967-1970; and Series IX. United Professors of California, 1971-1982.

Subject Headings

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Melendy, H. Brett (Howard Brett)

San José State University -- University Archivist -- History

San José State Teachers College -- History

San José State College -- History

California State University, San José -- History

San José State University -- History

Education, Higher -- California -- San José

SERIES I: Academic Departments 1957-1983

Physical Description: 2 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.

Box 1 Art & Psychology Departments 1957, 1970-1976

Box 2 Nursing & Science Education Departments 1976-1983

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

Physical Description: 5 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.

Box 3 Academic Senate Retreat & Dean Review 1974-1978

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

SERIES III: Business Affairs 1931-1979

Physical Description: 6 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.

Boxes 8-10 Audit Reports 1931-1979

Box 12 **Organizational Structure 1945-1958, 1968-1973**

Box 13 **Audit Reports 1955-1979**

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

Physical Description: 4 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.

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

Box 15 **Annual Reports for California State Colleges 1935-1955**

Box 16 **State Teaching Schools Statistical Data 1938-1957**

Box 17 **State Audit of Campus Organizations 1929-1973**

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

Physical Description: 1 box

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.

Box 18 **Pioneer Essays & History Department Student Papers 1958-1975**

SERIES VI: Faculty Papers 1928-1985

Physical Description: 21 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.

Boxes 19-20 **Melendy Academic & Administrative Papers 1964-1988**

Box 21 **Melendy Academic & Personal Papers 1973-1988**

Boxes 22-23 **American Historical Association Newsletter 1974-1988**

Box 24 **Articles, Inscribed 1959-1978**

Box 25 **Bulletin of Chinese Historical Society of America 1969-1980**

Boxes 26-28 **National Endowment for Humanities Grants 1973-1983**

Box 29 **Hawaiian Periodicals 1967-1988**

Box 30 **Melendy Professional & Personal Incoming Correspondence 1966-1988**

Box 31 **Melendy Professional Outgoing Correspondence 1967-1988**

Boxes 32-33 **Melendy Research Correspondence 1964-1988**

Boxes 34-35 **Pickering Filling Papers 1968-1982**

Box 36 **Wright Papers 1933-1981**

Boxes 37-39 **Staff & Faculty Papers 1928-1985**

SERIES VII: **Miscellaneous University Materials 1971-1984**

Physical Description: 1 box

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.

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

SERIES VIII: **Ombudsman 1967-1970**

Physical Description: 1 box

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.

Box 41 **Ombudsman Correspondence 1967-1970**

SERIES IX: United Professors of California 1971-1982

Physical Description: 11 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

Folders "Bank Statements & Checks 1971-1976 (1)," "Bank Statements & Checks 1971-1976 (2)," and "Grievances: Academic Freedom Committee, 1973-1975" in Boxes 42 and 50 and all of Boxes 46-47 are restricted.

Box 42 United Professors of California Files 1971-1977

Boxes 43-44 Collective Bargaining 1974-1982

Box 45 Economics Department & Faculty Conditions 1973-1981

Boxes 46-47 Personnel Files 1973-1982

Box 48 Local Union Files 1972-1981

Box 49 Local Union Membership 1974-1981

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

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

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