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## **Ernest O. Melby Papers UA.17.70**

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Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Ernest O. Melby papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA.17.70
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1936-1974
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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## Biographical Note

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Born and raised in Minnesota, Ernest Oscar Melby attended St. Olaf College, receiving his B.A. in 1913. From 1913 to 1915 he taught school in rural Minnesota, later becoming School Superintendent in, successively, the cities of Brewster, Blackduck and Long Prairie, Minnesota, 1915-1926. Melby earned his M.A. in 1926 from the University of Minnesota, where he received his Ph.D. in Education and Administration two years later.

In 1928, Melby joined the faculty of Northwestern University's School of Education, becoming Dean of the School of Education in 1934. In 1941 he was appointed President of Montana State University. During his tenure at Montana State University, Melby initiated the "Montana Study", an experimental research program designed to enrich life in small rural communities through continuing education. The study was completed in 1945.

Melby resigned his position in Montana in 1945 to become Dean of the School of Education at New York University. Melby, who had been greatly influenced by the teachings of John Dewey and had applied Dewey's methods of progressive education, found himself the target of criticism during the 1950s because of these views. In the era of McCarthyism and the Cold War, Melby was investigated by the

House Un-American Activities Committee and other groups who questioned his patriotism as well as his teaching methods.

Melby retired from New York University in 1956, and in the same year, came to Michigan State University as Distinguished Professor of Education. While at MSU, Melby became a major force in the development of the Mott Institute for Community Improvement (MICI). Largely based on a concept Melby developed for the Montana Study, the goal of the Mott Program was to open the entire community to education and the benefits of educational services. Melby was one of the first coordinators of the Mott Intern Program in which Masters and Doctoral candidates worked for a year on the administrative level in the school system of Flint, Michigan, under the auspices of the Mott program and their respective universities. The program was discontinued in 1974.

During the late 1960s, Melby divided his time between MSU and Florida Atlantic University where he taught and helped to establish a program similar to the Mott program.

For most of his career, Melby was a member of the Cleveland Conference, an annual meeting of educators from all parts of the nation. This conference served as a forum for discussing educational problems and exchanging ideas and ideals.

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## Scope and Contents

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The papers of Ernest O. Melby document his career as an educator, and are arranged into five series: Northwestern University (1934-1941), Montana State University (1941-1945), New York University (1945-1956), Michigan State University (1956-1973), Florida Atlantic University (1956-1971), and the Cleveland Conference sub series under these headings include correspondence, class materials, articles, and talks, and newspaper clippings. Two special sub series were created: one, in the NYU series entitled "Attacks on Education," is a detailed file of correspondence and articles (1948-1954), dealing with attacks on progressive education, and Melby's defense of his theories. The other special sub series appears in the MSU series, and relates to the formation of the Mott Program for Community Improvement (1957-1971).

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall  
943 Conrad Road, Room 101  
East Lansing , MI 48824  
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## Conditions Governing Access

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Progressive education
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Course materials
- Letters (correspondence)
- Manuscripts
- Continuing education
- Photographs
- Anti-communist movements
- Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.). School of Education. Office of the Dean
- Florida Atlantic University
- Michigan State University
- New York University. School of Education
- Montana State College
- Cleveland Conference
- Mott Institute for Community Improvement
- Northwestern University (Evanston, Ill.). School of Education

## Collection Inventory

### Northwestern University

#### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
1936	box 784	folder 1
1937	box 784	folder 2
1938	box 784	folder 3
1939	box 784	folder 4
February-March 1941	box 784	folder 5

#### Articles and Talks

Title/Description	Instances	
1938-1940	box 784	folder 6
n.d.	box 784	folder 7

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### Montana State University

#### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
September 1-20, 1941	box 784	folder 8
September 22, 1941	box 784	folder 9
September 23-25, 1941	box 784	folder 10
September 26-30, 1941	box 784	folder 11
October 1-5, 1941	box 784	folder 12
October 6-7, 1941	box 784	folder 13
October 8-12, 1941	box 784	folder 14
October 13-19, 1941	box 784	folder 15
November 1941	box 784	folder 16
December 1941	box 784	folder 17

January - February 1942	box 784	folder 18
March - December 1942	box 784	folder 19
January - April 1943	box 784	folder 20
May - December 1943	box 784	folder 21
January - February 1944	box 784	folder 22
March 1944	box 784	folder 23
April 1944	box 784	folder 24
May - November 1944	box 784	folder 25
February - March 1945	box 784	folder 26
April - May 1945	box 784	folder 27
June 3-8, 1945	box 784	folder 28
June 11-18, 1945	box 784	folder 29
June 21, 1945	box 784	folder 30
June 11-30, 1945	box 784	folder 31
July 1945	box 784	folder 32
August 1945	box 784	folder 33
September 1945	box 784	folder 34

## Articles and Talks

Title/Description	Instances	
1942	box 784	folder 35
1943	box 784	folder 36
1944	box 784	folder 37
1945	box 784	folder 38
n.d.	box 784	folder 39

## Montana Study

Title/Description	Instances	
1944	box 784	folder 40
1945	box 784	folder 41
Newspaper Clippings, 1945	box 784	folder 42

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## New York University

### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
October - December 1945	box 784	folder 43
January - April 1946	box 784	folder 44
May 1946	box 784	folder 45
June - December 1946	box 784	folder 46
January - June 1947	box 784	folder 47
September - December 1947	box 784	folder 48
1948	box 784	folder 49
January 1949	box 784	folder 50
April - May 1949	box 784	folder 51
July 1949	box 784	folder 52
July - December 1949	box 784	folder 53
1950	box 784	folder 54
January - April 1951	box 784	folder 55
May - December 1951	box 784	folder 56
1952	box 784	folder 57
January - June 1953	box 784	folder 58
August - December 1953	box 784	folder 59
January - May 1954	box 784	folder 60
August - December 1954	box 784	folder 61
January - May 1955	box 784	folder 62
July - September 1955	box 784	folder 63
September - October 1955	box 784	folder 64
November 1955	box 784	folder 65
December 1955	box 784	folder 66
January - February 1956	box 784	folder 67
March - April 1956	box 784	folder 68
May 4-7, 1956	box 784	folder 69
May 8-10, 1956	box 784	folder 70



May 11-28, 1956	box 784	folder 71
June 1956	box 785	folder 1
n.d.	box 785	folder 2

## Class Material

Title/Description	Instances	
1950	box 785	folder 3
1952	box 785	folder 4
1956	box 785	folder 5
n.d.	box 785	folder 6
Articles and Talks - Professional Diary, 1950-1956	box 785	folder 7
Articles and Talks - Professional Diary, 1956	box 785	folder 8

## Articles and Talks

Title/Description	Instances	
1945	box 785	folder 9
1946	box 785	folder 10
1947	box 785	folder 11
1948	box 785	folder 12
1950	box 785	folder 13
1951	box 785	folder 14
1952	box 785	folder 15-16
1953	box 785	folder 17-20
1954	box 785	folder 21-22
1955	box 785	folder 23-25
1956	box 785	folder 26-27
n.d.	box 785	folder 28-37

## "Attacks on Education"

Title/Description	Instances	
1928-1950	box 785	folder 38
1951	box 785	folder 39-43
1952	box 785	folder 44
1953	box 785	folder 45-47

1954	box 785	folder 48
n.d.	box 785	folder 49
Newspaper Clippings, 1949-1956	box 785	folder 50

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## Michigan State University

### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
July - August 1956	box 785	folder 51
September 1956	box 785	folder 52
October 1956	box 785	folder 53
November 1956	box 785	folder 54
December 3-18, 1956	box 785	folder 55
December 19-31, 1956	box 785	folder 56
January 1-15, 1957	box 785	folder 57
January 16-31, 1957	box 785	folder 58
February 1957	box 785	folder 59
March 1957	box 785	folder 60
April 1957	box 785	folder 61
May 12, 1957	box 786	folder 1
May 13-27, 1957	box 786	folder 2
June 1957	box 786	folder 3
July 1957	box 786	folder 4
August 1957	box 786	folder 5
September 1957	box 786	folder 6
October 1957	box 786	folder 7
November 1957	box 786	folder 8
December 1957	box 786	folder 9
January 1958	box 786	folder 10
February - March 1958	box 786	folder 11
May - June 1958	box 786	folder 12

July 1958	box 786	folder 13
August 1958	box 786	folder 14
September 1958	box 786	folder 15
October 1958	box 786	folder 16
November 1958	box 786	folder 17
December 1958	box 786	folder 18
January 1959	box 786	folder 19
February 1959	box 786	folder 20
March 1959	box 786	folder 21
April 1959	box 786	folder 22
May 1959	box 786	folder 23
July 1959	box 786	folder 24
August 1959	box 786	folder 25
September - October 1959	box 786	folder 26
January - June 1960	box 786	folder 27
July - October 1960	box 786	folder 28
November - December 1960	box 786	folder 29
January - March 1961	box 786	folder 30
April - June 1961	box 786	folder 31
July - December 1961	box 786	folder 32
January - March 1962	box 786	folder 33
April - May 1962	box 786	folder 34
June - July 1962	box 786	folder 35
August - October 1962	box 786	folder 36
November - December 1962	box 786	folder 37
January - May 1963	box 786	folder 38
June - December 1963	box 786	folder 39
January - March 1964	box 786	folder 40
April - May 1964	box 786	folder 41
June - September 1964	box 786	folder 42
October - December 1964	box 786	folder 43
January - February 1965	box 786	folder 44

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March 1965	box 786	folder 45
April - June 1965	box 786	folder 46
July 1965	box 786	folder 47
August 1965	box 786	folder 48
September 1965	box 786	folder 49
October 1965	box 786	folder 50
November 1965	box 786	folder 51
December 1965	box 786	folder 52
January 1966	box 786	folder 53
February 1966	box 786	folder 54
March 1966	box 786	folder 55
April 1966	box 786	folder 56
May 1-4, 1966	box 786	folder 57
May 16-31, 1966	box 786	folder 58
June 1966	box 786	folder 59
July 1966	box 786	folder 60
August 1966	box 786	folder 61
September 1-15, 1966	box 786	folder 62
September 16-30, 1966	box 786	folder 63
October 3-14, 1966	box 786	folder 64
October 17-31, 1966	box 786	folder 65
November 1-8, 1966	box 786	folder 66
November 10-29, 1966	box 786	folder 67
December 1966	box 786	folder 68
January 1967	box 786	folder 69
February 1967	box 786	folder 70
March 2-7, 1967	box 786	folder 71
March 8-31, 1967	box 786	folder 72
April 1967	box 786	folder 73
May 1-9, 1967	box 786	folder 74
May 11-26, 1967	box 786	folder 75
June 1967	box 787	folder 1

## Ernest O. Melby Papers UA.17.70

July 1967	box 787	folder 2
August 1967	box 787	folder 3
September 1-8, 1967	box 787	folder 4
September 12-19, 1967	box 787	folder 5
September 20-30, 1967	box 787	folder 6
October 4-17, 1967	box 787	folder 7
October 18-30, 1967	box 787	folder 8
November 1967	box 787	folder 9
December 1-19, 1967	box 787	folder 10
December 22-26, 1967	box 787	folder 11
January 1968	box 787	folder 12
February 1968	box 787	folder 13
March 1968	box 787	folder 14
April 1968	box 787	folder 15
May 1968	box 787	folder 16
June 1968	box 787	folder 17
July 1968	box 787	folder 18
August 1968	box 787	folder 19
September 1968	box 787	folder 20
October 1968	box 787	folder 21
November 1968	box 787	folder 22
December 1968	box 787	folder 23
January 1969	box 787	folder 24
February 1969	box 787	folder 25
March 1969	box 787	folder 26
April 1969	box 787	folder 27
May 1969	box 787	folder 28
June 1969	box 787	folder 29
August 1969	box 787	folder 30
September 1969	box 787	folder 31
October 2-20, 1969	box 787	folder 32
October 21-31, 1969	box 787	folder 33

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November 1969	box 787	folder 34
December 1969	box 787	folder 35
January 1970	box 787	folder 36
February 1-16, 1970	box 787	folder 37
February 17-27, 1970	box 787	folder 38
March 2-17, 1970	box 787	folder 39
March 18-31, 1970	box 787	folder 40
April 1970	box 787	folder 41
May 1970	box 787	folder 42
June 1970	box 787	folder 43
July 1970	box 787	folder 44
August 1970	box 787	folder 45
September 1970	box 787	folder 46
October 1970	box 787	folder 47
November 3, 1970	box 787	folder 48
November 10-23, 1970	box 787	folder 49
December 1970	box 787	folder 50
January 1971	box 787	folder 51
February 1971	box 787	folder 52
March 1971	box 787	folder 53
April 2-19, 1971	box 787	folder 54
April 20-30, 1971	box 787	folder 55
May 1971	box 787	folder 56
June 1-7, 1971	box 787	folder 57
June 8-29, 1971	box 787	folder 58
July 1971	box 787	folder 59
August 1971	box 787	folder 60
September 1971	box 787	folder 61
October 1971	box 787	folder 62
November 1-18, 1971	box 787	folder 63
November 19-30, 1971	box 787	folder 64
December 1-5, 1971	box 787	folder 65

December 6-20, 1971	box 787	folder 66
January 1972	box 787	folder 67
February 1972	box 787	folder 68
March 1972	box 787	folder 69
May 1972	box 787	folder 70
June 1971	box 787	folder 71
August - September 1972	box 787	folder 72
February 1973	box 787	folder 73
April 1973	box 787	folder 74
May 1973	box 787	folder 75
June 1973	box 787	folder 76
July 1973	box 787	folder 77
August 1973	box 787	folder 78
September 1973	box 787	folder 79
October 1973	box 787	folder 80
November 1973	box 787	folder 81
December 1973	box 787	folder 82
January 1974	box 787	folder 83
February 1974	box 787	folder 84
March 1974	box 787	folder 85
April 1974	box 787	folder 86
May 1974	box 787	folder 87
June 1974	box 787	folder 88
July 1974	box 787	folder 89
n.d.	box 787	folder 90-96

## Class Materials

Title/Description	Instances	
1957	box 788	folder 1
1965	box 788	folder 2-3
1966	box 788	folder 4
1969	box 788	folder 5
1971	box 788	folder 6

1972	box 788	folder 7-8
1973	box 788	folder 9-14
n.d.	box 788	folder 15-22

## Articles and Talks

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
1956	box 788	folder 23
1957	box 788	folder 24
1958	box 788	folder 25
1959	box 788	folder 26-27
1960	box 788	folder 28-29
1961	box 788	folder 30
1962	box 788	folder 31
1963	box 788	folder 32
1964	box 788	folder 33
1965	box 788	folder 34
1966	box 788	folder 35
1967	box 788	folder 36
1968	box 788	folder 37
1969	box 788	folder 38
1970	box 788	folder 39
1972	box 788	folder 40
1973	box 788	folder 41
n.d.	box 788	folder 42-61

## Mott Institute for Community Development

### Correspondence

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
1961	box 788	folder 62
1963	box 788	folder 63
1965	box 788	folder 64
January 24 - April 7, 1966	box 788	folder 65
May 1966	box 788	folder 66



June - July 1966	box 788	folder 67
1967	box 788	folder 68
February - April 1968	box 788	folder 69
May - June 1968	box 788	folder 70
1969	box 788	folder 71
1970	box 788	folder 72
1971	box 788	folder 73

## Intern Program

Title/Description	Instances	
1957	box 789	folder 1
1959	box 789	folder 2
1960	box 789	folder 3
1963-1964	box 789	folder 4
1965	box 789	folder 5-10
1966	box 789	folder 11-15
1967	box 789	folder 16-18
1968	box 789	folder 19-21
1969	box 789	folder 22-25
1970	box 789	folder 26-30
1971	box 789	folder 31-32
n.d.	box 789	folder 33-37

## Publications

Title/Description	Instances	
1965	box 789	folder 38
1967	box 789	folder 39
1968	box 789	folder 40
1969	box 789	folder 41
1970	box 789	folder 42
n.d.	box 789	folder 43-44

## Newspapers

Title/Description	Instances	
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1964	box 789	folder 45
1965	box 789	folder 46
1966	box 789	folder 47
1968-1969	box 789	folder 48
1970-1971	box 789	folder 49
n.d.	box 789	folder 50

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## Florida Atlantic University

### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
1965	box 789	folder 51
1966	box 789	folder 52
1967	box 789	folder 53
1971	box 789	folder 54

### Class Materials

Title/Description	Instances	
1967	box 789	folder 55
1968	box 789	folder 56

### Articles and Talks

Title/Description	Instances	
1968	box 789	folder 57
1971	box 789	folder 58
n.d.	box 789	folder 59

### Cleveland Conference

Title/Description	Instances	
History	box 789	folder 60

### Agendas and Rosters

Title/Description	Instances	
1951	box 789	folder 61

1952	box 789	folder 62
1955	box 789	folder 63
1956	box 789	folder 64
1957	box 789	folder 65
1959	box 789	folder 66
1960	box 789	folder 67
1961	box 789	folder 68
1962	box 789	folder 69
1963	box 789	folder 70
1964	box 789	folder 71
1965	box 789	folder 72
1966	box 789	folder 73
n.d.	box 789	folder 74

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### Manuscript of book for which Melby wrote the Forward, n.d.

Title/Description	Instances	
School and Home: Focus on Reading by Mildred Smith	box 789	carton 1

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### Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Cleveland Conference. Participants, 1965, 1968-1969	box UA	Photo 68

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