

The Vietnam Project

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

Compiled by Portia Vescio



Michigan State University Archives
101 Conrad Hall
East Lansing, MI
(517) 355 - 2330
archives.msu.edu

Updated October 2015
Revised January 2020, November 2022

The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available resources related to the Vietnam Project and the Michigan State University Advisory Group (MSUG). Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs. Online versions of the finding aids for the collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

Online Resources

MSU Vietnam Group Archive

1. The MSU Vietnam Group Archive includes roughly 80,000 pages of digitized documents, maps, and images. Most of these materials date from 1955 to 1962, when Michigan State University led a range of US-funded technical assistance programs in South Vietnam for the purpose of producing a stable non-Communist ally in Southeast Asia.

Collections

Vietnam Project Records

UA 2.9.5.5

- 75 cubic feet
- 159 Volumes
- The Vietnam Project records document the administration of contracts between MSU and U.S. Foreign Operations Administration, and between MSU and the Government of Vietnam, to provide instruction and training in government and police administration. Included are correspondence, bookkeeping, and personnel files; news clippings, publications, speeches, conference records, and scrapbooks.

Wesley Fishel Papers

UA 17.95

- 83.5 cubic feet
- This is a collection of the personal papers of Wesley R. Fishel (1919-1977) and focuses primarily on materials generated during his professional life at Michigan State University. The papers reflect his work as chief advisor to the Michigan State University Advisory Group in Vietnam; his work as a professor of political science, and advisor to student activities such as the "Winds of Change" Program. The collection contains a great deal of correspondence, reports, memoranda, and publications. Of interest are the correspondence Fishel kept during the Vietnam project, with close friend Ngo Dinh Diem, and U.S. officials concerning the political climate of Vietnam. This collection is arranged into 29 series: Biographical Files; Correspondence; Research Projects; Conferences and Seminars; Speeches; Publications; Organizations; Vietnam Project/MSU Advisory Group (MSUG); Vietnam Collection; Vietnam Collection - Subject Files; Vietnam Collection - Vietnam War; Vietnam Collection - Publications; Vietnam Collection - News clippings; U.S. State Department; U.S. Operations Mission (USOM); Subject Files - General; Subject Files - News clippings; Foreign Affairs; Japanese Reparations; Geographical Subject Files; Maps, Charts, Posters, Newspapers; Subject Files - People; Foreign Language Files; Subject Files - Student Papers

(Restricted); Academic Papers; Ephemera/Miscellaneous; Oversize Materials; Audio-Visual Materials.

Ralph H. Smuckler Papers

UA 17.234

- 5 folders.
- Ralph Smuckler came to Michigan State in 1951 as a professor in the political science department. In 1955 he went to Vietnam as the research coordinator for the MSU Vietnam Project. In 1956, he returned to MSU and became assistant dean of International Programs. In 1958, he returned to Vietnam as the head of the Vietnam Project. He was acting dean of international programs from 1966 to 1967. Smuckler's papers consist of chronological correspondence, memos, articles, and reports related to his involvement in the MSU Vietnam Project. Smuckler's book "A University Turns to the World" is also available. His book is an autobiographical account of his career at MSU.

Ralph F. Turner Papers

UA 17.149

- 6 cubic feet
- This is a collection of the personal and professional papers of Ralph F. Turner (1917-1994), a professor of criminalistics who served the Michigan State University from 1947 through 1981. The collection reflects his work with the Criminal Justice School at MSU, and his duties as Chief Police Advisor to the Police and Security Services of South Vietnam under the auspices of the MSU Advisory Group. Materials in Series 8: Vietnam Project reflect the formal workings of the MSUG, and consequently consist largely of reports, publications, articles, briefing information, case studies, meeting minutes, notes, drafts of formal materials, and some correspondence. Also of interest is the series of correspondence for the time period Turner spent in Vietnam as Chief Police Advisor to the Police and Security Service of South Vietnam as part of the MSUG.

Richard W. Lindholm Lectures

UA 17.233

- 0.25 cubic feet
- This collection consists of a lecture series of Richard W. Lindholm entitled "General Considerations in the Formulation of Economic Policy." The series was given in nine parts spanning November 1956 to January 1957 at the National Institute of Administration in Saigon, Vietnam. The lectures consist of two subject types "Lectures in the Economics of Finance" and "Lectures in Money and Banking." The lectures are in English as well as Vietnamese. There are also some pages of statistics in French. Other lecturers include Bui-Van-Thinh of the National Bank of Vietnam and Pham-Kim-Ngoc of Bank Credit Commercial of Vietnam. The National Institute of Administration was a part of the MSU Vietnam Project. Vietnamese civil servants were trained in modern administration techniques. The goal was to have the trainees apply their learning in order to continue the work of the project in the reorganization of the civil agencies of the government after the project ended.

John Merlin Hunter Papers

UA 17.169

- 5 cubic feet
- The materials in the collection are primarily from Hunter's experiences working with universities in foreign countries for either MSU or the Ford Foundation. Series V:

Vietnam Project contains several newsletters and informational items from the group American Friends of Vietnam. The items are mostly publications giving updates on the situation in Vietnam along with terminology sheets.

Gilbert Jonas Papers

00166

- 20.5 cubic feet
- The Gilbert Jonas Collection covers the years 1852-1972, with the bulk of the materials, which consist of administrative working papers and newspaper clippings, dating 1955-1969. From 1956 to 1959, Jonas held various positions in organizations concentrating on international affairs, particularly Vietnam. In 1958, Jonas became Executive Secretary of the American Friends of Vietnam (AFV), which publicly supported American relations with the Vietnamese government and sought to educate America about Vietnam. He was also deeply involved with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Roger Baldwin Foundation, and the Peace Corps. The collection is divided into five series: 1) International Rescue Committee (1955-1969); 2) American Friends of Vietnam (1957-1967); 3) American Civil Liberties Union (1962-1972); 4) Vietnam Source Material File (1959-1966); and 5) Source Materials (1852-1969).

John A. Hannah Papers

UA 2.1.12

- 0.25 cubic feet
- John A. Hannah was the twelfth president of Michigan State University. He served in this capacity from July 1, 1941 to April 1969. During the course of his tenure he also served the U.S. Government as Assistant Secretary of Defense, 1953-1954; and Chairperson of the Commission on Civil Rights, 1957-1964. The content of his collection reflects much of what was happening at the University during his time as president. While not a major portion of his papers, there are several folders of materials, including photos, related to the Vietnam Project. There are also folders relating to the article published in *Ramparts* and Hannah's reaction to that.

Stanley Andrews Papers

UA 17.268

- 1 folder.
- Stanley Andrews came to MSU in 1953 to be the director of the National Project in Agricultural Communications, a project partially funded by the Kellogg Foundation. He held that position until 1960 when he was named consultant to international programs at MSU. Included is a U.S. International Cooperation Administration report entitled, "Comments on Certain Parts of the Programs of the International Cooperation Administration and the Government of South Vietnam."

Harry H. Kimber Papers

UA 17.27

- 9 folders.
- Harry Kimber came to Michigan State University in 1932 as an instructor, then became professor and head of the Department of Civilization in 1944. He became head of the Social Science Division in 1945. From 1964 until 1970, he served as professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Religion Department. This collection contains materials relate to MSU and Vietnam. There are notes, memoranda, and printed materials relating to the May 1957 visit of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of the Republic of Vietnam. The Vietnam

materials also contain a copy of the controversial April 1966 issue of *Ramparts*, featuring Madame Nhu on the cover in an MSU sweater. There are also newspaper clippings about the *Ramparts* article.

Walter Adams Papers, 1969.

UA 2.1.13

- 2 folders.
- Walter Adams was Michigan State University's 13th president. Prior to his acceptance of the post, Adams was a professor of economics at MSU. Adams was asked to succeed President John A. Hannah. Adams assumed presidency on April 1, 1969 and vacated the office on January 1, 1970. Adams' papers relate to his involvement in the Vietnam Moratorium that took place on October 15, 1969. Included are memos, policy statements, and the speech that Adams gave at the Moratorium.