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Guide to the San José State University English Department Folklore Collection

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Processed by:
Silke Higgins
Date Completed:
2009
Encoded by:
Mary Ellen Petrich

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University English Department Folklore Collection

Dates: 1978

Collection number: MSS-2009-08-06

Creator: San José State University. English Dept.

Collection Size: 2 boxes(2.5 linear feet)

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University English Department Folklore Collection (1978) is comprised of written accounts of folklore from 83 countries, produced by San José State University students as a fieldwork project for the 3 unit course English 82, *Introduction to Folklore*. The focus of the course centered on a survey of the major genres of folklore (folktale, folksong, proverb, and riddle) with additional attention given to custom, superstition, magic, folk medicine, folk art, and folk architecture. Special emphasis was placed upon relationships among folklore, culture, and living conditions of the past and present. The instructor, Dr. Arthur Regan, envisioned the class project to be turned into a resource for researchers interested in folklore and mythology. The collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Folklore (1978).

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

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

San José State University English Department Folklore Collection, MSS-2009-08-06, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Silke Higgins. Finding aid EAD encoded by Mary Ellen Petrich. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

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.

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.

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.

Scope and Content of Collection

The San José State University English Department Folklore Collection (1978) is comprised of written accounts of folklore from 83 countries, produced by San José State University students as a fieldwork project for the 3 unit course English 82, *Introduction to Folklore*. The focus of the course centered on a survey of the major genres of folklore (folktale, folksong, proverb, and riddle) with additional attention given to custom, superstition, magic, folk medicine, folk art, and folk architecture. Special emphasis was placed upon relationships among folklore, culture, and living conditions of the past and present. The instructor, Dr. Arthur Regan, envisioned the class project to be turned into a resource for researchers interested in folklore and mythology.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Folklore (1978).

Indexing Terms

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

San José State University. English Dept. -- History.

San José State University -- History.

Education, Higher -- California -- San José.

Folklore.

Manners and customs.

Mythology.

Series I: **Folklore (1978)**

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

Researchers interested in international folklore, mythology, and superstition will find this collection very useful, as it consists of the accounts of persons who remember, were taught, and/or learned folktales and customs spanning many countries and centuries. The individual accounts include descriptions about the collector as well as notes on the informant, making each reading a personal experience.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by country, and then alphabetically by genre within each country. Genres include anecdote; custom; family narrative; folk belief; folktale; food; holidays; immigration; joke; legend; memorate; myth; proverb; poetry; superstition; and tradition.

Box 1	**Folklore: Africa - Thailand (1978)**
Folder 1	**Introduction to Folklore Collection**
Folder 2	**Miscellaneous**
Folder 3-5	**Africa**
Folder 6	**Albania**
Folder 7	**Algeria**
Folder 8	**Argentina**
Folder 9-15	**Australia**
Folder 16	**Brazil**
Folder 17-18	**British Honduras**
Folder 19-23	**Cameroon**
Folder 24-26	**Canada**
Folder 27-28	**Chile**
Folder 29-41	**China**
Folder 42	**Columbia**
Folder 43-44	**Costa Rica**
Folder 45-46	**Cuba**
Folder 47-48	**Czechoslovakia**
Folder 49-51	**Egypt**
Folder 52	**El Salvador**
Folder 53-64	**England**
Folder 65-66	**Ethiopia**
Folder 67	**Finland**
Folder 68-77	**France**
Folder 78-91	**Germany**
Folder 92-95	**Ghana**
Folder 96-106	**Greece**
Folder 107-109	**Guam**
Folder 110	**Guatemala**
Folder 111-114	**Holland (Netherlands)**
Folder 115-116	**Hungary**
Folder 117-118	**Iceland**
Folder 119	**Inca (South America)**
Folder 120-128	**India**
Folder 129-131	**Indonesia**
Folder 132-138	**Iran**
Folder 139	**Iraq**
Folder 140-151	**Ireland**
Folder 152-154	**Israel**
Folder 155-164	**Italy**
Folder 165	**Jamaica**
Folder 166-183	**Japan**
Folder 184-187	**Jerusalem (Israel)**

Folder 188-191	**Kenya**
Folder 192-196	**Korea**
Folder 197	**Kuwait**
Folder 198	**Latvia**
Folder 199-201	**Lebanon**
Folder 202	**Maya (Central America)**
Folder 203-214	**Mexico**
Folder 215	**Micronesia**
Folder 216	**Netherlands (Holland)**
Folder 217	**New Zealand**
Folder 218	**Nicaragua**
Folder 219-225	**Nigeria**
Folder 226-230	**Norway**
Folder 231-232	**Palestine**
Folder 233-236	**Panama**
Folder 237-239	**Peru**
Folder 240-249	**Philippines**
Folder 250-255	**Poland**
Folder 256-263	**Portugal**
Folder 264-267	**Portugal/Azores**
Folder 268-270	**Puerto Rico**
Folder 271-277	**Russia**
Folder 278-279	**Samoa**
Folder 280-284	**Saudi Arabia**
Folder 285	**Scandinavia**
Folder 286-291	**Scotland**
Folder 292	**Somalia**
Folder 293-296	**South Africa**
Folder 297-304	**Spain**
Folder 305-308	**Sweden**
Folder 309-314	**Switzerland**
Folder 315	**Syria**
Folder 316-319	**Taiwan**
Folder 320-324	**Thailand**

Box 2	**Folklore: Thailand - Yugoslavia (1978)**
Folder 325-330	**Thailand (con't)**
Folder 331-334	**Tonga**
Folder 335-337	**Tunisia**
Folder 338-339	**Turkey**
Folder 340-448	**United States**
Folder 449	**Venezuela**
Folder 450-460	**Vietnam**
Folder 461-465	**West Indies (Caribbean)**
Folder 466-468	**Yugoslavia**