

# **Guide to the H. Merrill Jackson Papers**

## **WSP000760**

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## Summary Information

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| <b>Repository:</b>               | Walter P. Reuther Library   |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Jackson, H. Merrill   |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | H. Merrill Jackson Papers   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | WSP000760   |
| <b>Date:</b>                     | 1947  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1953-1998   |
| <b>Date [bulk]:</b>              | 1961-1979   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 6 Linear Feet (6 SB)  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | Material largely in English, some materials in Vietnamese.  |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | H. Merrill Jackson was a social scientist who had an academic career from the 1950s through the 1990s. In 1953 Jackson conducted research on Vietnamese and African communities while abroad in Paris and Vietnam. From 1969-1970 he performed fieldwork in West Africa and the Caribbean and was a research fellow at the University of Ghana. Jackson joined the faculty at Wayne State in 1970 and taught at Monteith College in the Science of Society Division and with the School of Social Work. This collection contains Jackson's research on relational theory, social change, folk and urban society, and peasant society. Also well represented is Jackson's interest in marginalized groups, Black Power, and race relations. The collection also contains fieldwork from his time in Vietnam, France, the Caribbean, and West Africa and documents his pedagogy at Wayne State University's Monteith College. The collection includes articles and working papers by Jackson; scholarly articles by his contemporaries; manuscript chapters on relational theory and related interviews with Robert Thomas; and course syllabi and lecture notes. |

### Citation Style

"H. Merrill Jackson Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## History

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H. Merrill Jackson was a social scientist who had an academic career from the 1950s through the 1990s. Jackson was born on October 30, 1924, in Can Tho, Vietnam where he lived until he was 19 when he moved to the United States. Jackson received his BA from Houghton College, his MA in Linguistics from Cornell University, and in 1963, his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan. He also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, and was fluent in English, French, and Vietnamese.

In 1953 Jackson conducted research on Vietnamese and African communities while abroad in Paris and Vietnam. In the 1960s, Jackson was a lecturer at Harvard University. From 1969-1970 he performed fieldwork in West Africa and the Caribbean and was a research fellow at the University of Ghana. Jackson joined the faculty at Wayne State in 1970 and taught at Monteith College in the Science of Society Division and with the School of Social Work. He continued to teach at Wayne State University until his retirement.

Jackson's research interests included social conflict and social change, ethnic groups in the United States, race relations in the United States, and peasant society in Vietnam. Jackson authored numerous papers on social change, social structure, and social theory. He had a lifelong research interest in Vietnam; in the 1960s and 1970s, he wrote about the Vietnamese language and society. In the late 1970s, he wrote about the Vietnam War, and in the 1980s he discussed Vietnam as a post-conflict society. Jackson also had an interest in the Black Power movement, and much of his work focused on the topic. Towards the end of his life, Jackson worked on a manuscript on the topic of relational theory. He also authored papers on linguistics, religion, and conducted comparative studies on values and cultural identity. For the last five years of his life, he lived in Hutchinson, Kansas, and passed away on July 16, 1998.

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## Scope and Content

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This collection contains H. Merrill Jackson's research as a social scientist on topics including relational theory, social change, folk and urban society, and peasant society. Also well represented is Jackson's interest in marginalized groups, Black Power, and race relations. The collection also contains fieldwork from his time in Vietnam, France, the Caribbean, and West Africa and documents his pedagogy at Wayne State University's Monteith College.

The collection includes articles and working papers by Jackson; scholarly articles by his contemporaries, including Thomas Merton, Julius Lester, Grace Lee Boggs, and Thu Van; manuscript chapters on relational theory and related interviews with Robert Thomas, including interview transcripts and recordings on cassette; correspondence with Judith Gardner and other colleagues; bibliographies related to sociological research; course syllabi and lecture notes; grant and sabbatical applications; and curriculum vitae.

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## Arrangement

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Acquisition

The H. Merrill Jackson Papers were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library on August 29, 2001 by Judith Gardner.

### Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Daniel J. Kelly on December 15, 2022.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Wayne State University Monteith College Records and James and Grace Lee Boggs Papers

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Cultural relativism
- Social sciences
- Social change
- Black power
- Vietnam -- History

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## Collection Inventory

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