

Daniel and Joyce Stokes Papers

1984-1996

3 boxes (1.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 661



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From 1987 through early 1988, Daniel and Joyce Stokes published *Into the Night*, "a newsletter for freedom for political prisoners held in the United States." Based in Brooklyn, N.Y., this simply-produced publication offered updates and commentary on Americans imprisoned for politically-motivated acts. Reflecting both the legacy of 1960s radicalism and the resurgent activism associated with U.S. imperialism in Central America, *Into the Night* offered news on the Ohio 7 sedition trial, the MOVE organization, and the fate of Plowshares war resisters.

philosophy and the conditions of imprisonment. Drawn from groups including the MOVE organization, the United Freedom Front, Black Liberation Army, and Plowshares, the correspondents include Ramona Africa, Alberto Aranda, Philip Berrigan, Marilyn Buck, Carl Kabat, Ray Luc Levasseur, Ruchell Cinque Magee, and Carol Manning. The collection also includes copies of other radical publications and a complete run of *Into the Night* itself.

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Peace
Political activism
Prison issues
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Background on Daniel and Joyce Stokes

A poet and writer, Daniel M. J. Stokes was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Dec. 27, 1950, the son of Ervin William and Elizabeth (Ray) Stokes. A former editor of the *East River Review*, Stokes has contributed work to a number of magazines and published several books of poetry, beginning with *Wired/LSD: Poems* (New York: Culture Review Press, 1974) and including *The World and Other Places* (Cambridge, Mass: Chthon Press., 1975), *Poems from Mexico* (Mexico City: s.n., 1987), and *Poems on the Run, 1984-1988* (Mexico City: In Exile Press, 1995).

From 1987 through early 1988, he and his wife, Joyce, published *Into the Night*, "a newsletter for freedom for political prisoners held in the United States." Based in Brooklyn, N.Y., this simply-produced publication offered updates and commentary on Americans imprisoned for politically-motivated acts. Reflecting both the legacy of 1960s radicalism and the resurgent activism associated with U.S. imperialism in Central America, *Into the Night* offered news on the Ohio 7 sedition trial, the MOVE organization, and the fate of Plowshares war resisters.

Sent free of charge, the newsletter reached an audience of prisoners convicted of draft resistance, antinuclear protest, and anti-racist and anti-imperialist revolutionary activity, and it was read by others who had become radicalized during their imprisonment. From the outset, *Into the Night* generated significant resistance from prison authorities, and for unclear reasons, it appears to have ceased publication after its fifth number in March 1988.

Scope of collection

Centered around the newsletter *Into the Night*, the Stokes Papers contains correspondence from a range of self-identified political prisoners, accompanied by an interesting, but ultimately miscellaneous suite of publications from the radical press. As small and tightly focused as it is, the collection provides a valuable window into the radical edge of the late 1980s political spectrum, and particularly the conjunction of antiracist and anti-imperialist groups within the prison system.

Although some of the correspondence is at best mundane -- mostly requests for subscriptions -- several prisoners provide compelling analyses of their political views and the conditions of imprisonment. Most correspondents are represented by only one or two letters, however the Ohio 7 "seditious" (Ray Luc Levasseur and Carol Manning), the MOVE organization (Ramona Africa and William Phillips Africa), and members of the Black Liberation Army are somewhat better represented.

Among other noteworthy items in the collection are letters from Chicano revolutionaries Alberto Aranda and Alvaro Hernandez, including protests filed with the Texas Department of Corrections regarding the decision to deny Aranda access to *Into the Night*, and two lengthy letters from Aranda discussing political prisoners. Marilyn Buck's letters provide a sharp analysis of the need for political ideology along with a copy of court proceedings filed by her and Mutulu Shakur (see also the folder relating to the Resistance Conspiracy Case). Several African American revolutionaries discuss their political motives and life in prison, including Ramona Africa (filed under MOVE), John Albury (Born Allah), Anthony Bottom (Jalil Muntaqim), Eric Clemons-Bey, Kenneth Akbar Muhammad Jenkins, Ruchell Cinque Magee, and Richard Williams.

Finally, the collection includes a small number of radical antiwar and antinuclear resisters, most notably Philip Berrigan, Carl Kabat, George Ostensen, and Gilliam Kerley.

While editing *Into the Night*, the Stokes kept copies of other radical publications, many intended for political prisoners or fellow revolutionaries, the more uncommon of which have been retained within the collection, which also includes an apparently complete run of *Into the Night*, including paste-ups of four of the five extant issues.

Inventory

Albury, John (a.k.a Born Allah)

1987-1988

3 items

Box 1: 1

On Black consciousness, becoming a revolutionary

Anarchist Black Cross

1988

Box 1: 2

Arafat, David

1988

Box 1: 3

Aranda, Alberto

1987-1988

Box 1: 4

On political prisoners, politicization behind bars, Alvaro Hernandez.

Barnes, Bill

1996

Box 1: 5

Berrigan, Philip

1987

Box 1: 6

Information flyers on Plowshares.

Bibliography and notes

1988

Box 1: 7

Bottom, Anthony L.

1987

Box 1: 8

On the definition of political prisoner.

Breakthrough: Political Journal of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, no. 14, 1

1990 Winter

Box 1: 9

Includes an article on victory in the Ohio 7 sedition trial.

Brock, Melvin

1988

Box 1: 10

Buck, Marilyn

1988

Box 1: 11

On ideology and sustaining a revolutionary consciousness; brief filed with Mutulu Shakur on status of political prisoners.

Clemons, Darryl

1987

Box 1: 12

Clemons-Bey, Eric D.

1988

Box 1: 13

Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran Act Deportations

1987

Box 1: 14

Includes issue no. 1 of *Call for Justice*, the Committee's newsletter.

Community Church of New York. Social Action Committee: We Want Peace: People of Nicaragua

1986

2 items

Box 1: 15

1987-1989

Box 1: 16

Dandar, George

1987

Box 1: 17

Dysentery: Red Balloon Magazine, no. 23

1992

Box 1: 18

Ebner, Jerry

1987

Box 1: 19

Fellner, Gene: John Brown and the Issue of Terrorism, *GLF Occasional*, no. 2

1987 Summer

Box 1: 20

Gaye, David

1987

Box 1: 21

Gelabert, Ana Lucia

1987-1988

Box 1: 22

On her near disappearance as a prisoner; willingness to be exchanged to Cuba.

Gilbert, David

1987-1988

3 items

Box 1: 23

On his political history and involvement in the "Brinks case."

Guerre, Brian

1987

Box 1: 24

Harden, Donald Sanga

1987

2 items

Box 1: 25

On attempting to be classified as a POW

Hernandez, Alvaro L.

1987

10 items

Box 1: 26

On Prisoners United for Revolutionary Education; copy of *Arm the Spirit*, vol. 1:1 (newsletter of PURE); "The Prisoners Defense Committee report on brutality and torture in Texas Department of Corrections;" background to becoming a political prisoner while imprisoned

Into the Night, no. 1

1987 Sept. 24

5 copies

Box 1: 27

Articles: "United States at war with innocent Palestinians," Palestine, captive Iranian sailors, Philip Berrigan and Plowshares, Soviet Union and human rights, Alvaro Hernandez.

Into the Night, no. 1: paste-up

1987 Sept.

Box 1: 28

Into the Night, no. 2

1987 Oct. 24

6 copies

Box 1: 29

Articles: Escape of Assata Shakur; MOVE, Brian Wilson, Ramona Africa on "Long live John Africa! Long live John Africa's revolution!"

Into the Night, no. 3

1987 Dec. 14

4 copies

Box 1: 30

Articles: updates on MOVE and other political prisoners, "The Government calls it conspiracy -- we call it resistance" (on the Ohio 7), Ray Luc Levasseur on "VVAW article," "Kazi Toure: Community threat?"

Into the Night, no. 3: paste-up

1987 Dec.

Box 1: 31

Into the Night, no. 4

1988 Jan. 29

11 copies

Box 1: 32

Articles: "The crime is treason the punishment" (on Felipe Noguera's testimony regarding the Ohio 7 Sedition trial), Gillam Kerley on "Political oppression and the struggle against the draft."

Into the Night, no. 4: paste-up

1988 Jan.

Box 1: 33

Into the Night, no. 5

1988 Mar.

6 copies

Box 2: 1

Articles: "For freedom, nothing less," on the spirit of Malcolm X and John Brown and Mutulu Shakur and Marilyn Buck, "State of California trying to silence Ruchell Cinque Magee," on censorship of *Into the Night*, Ray Luc Levasseur's "Memere" (poem), Ray Luc Levasseur on "Free the Ohio 7."

Into the Night, no. 5: paste-up

1988 Mar.

Box 2: 2

Into the Night: Miscellaneous

ca.1987-1988

Box 2: 3

Into the Night: subscription requests

1987-1988

Box 2: 4

Jenkins, Kenneth Akbar Muhammad

1987 Sept. 8

Box 2: 5

On unjust conviction, racial disparities in prison system, revolution.

Jonah House

1987

Box 2: 6

Jones, Ted

1988 Oct. 9

Box 2: 7

Kabat, Carl

1988-1989

Box 2: 8

Circular letters on political prisoners.

Kerley, Gillam

1987

Box 2: 9

Committee Against Registration and the Draft

Kirklin, Andrew

1988
Box 2: 10
Krueger, Jack
1988
Box 2: 11
Levasseur, Ray Luc
1987-1988
Box 2: 12
On Ohio 7 sedition trial; Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

Libertad: Official Organ of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, vol. 9:3
1988 Mar.
Box 2: 13
Magee, Ruchell Cinque
1987-1988
Box 2: 14
Copies of three legal briefs, letters, "Black August," Kazi Toure.

Manning, Carol Saucier
1989
Box 2: 15
Miscellaneous
ca.1987-1988
Box 2: 16
Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund
1987
Box 2: 17
MOVE
1987-1989
Box 2: 18
News releases from Ramona Africa and William Philips Africa.

Nuclear Resister
1987 Sept.
Box 2: 19
Ogun, Iyapo Olugbala
1990
Box 2: 20
Ohio 7
1987-1988
Box 2: 21
Transcript of testimony of Felipe Noguera, Sedition Committee updates, posters and publicity

Oluyomi, Geoffrey
1987
Box 2: 22
On Gogol Boulevard, vo. 1:1-2
1987
Box 2: 23
Ostensen, George
1987
Box 2: 24
Palestine Focus, no. 22
1987
Box 3: 1
Palestine Solidarity Committee
1988
Box 3: 2
Peltier, Leonard
1989-1991
Box 3: 3

Perotti, John

1988

Box 3: 4

Appeal for help from "IWW union organizer and jailhouse lawyer."

Plowshares-Disarmament Actions, September 1980-November 1986

1986

Box 3: 5

Plowshares Newsletter, vol. 4:4, 5:1, 5:2, 5:4

1987-1988

Box 3: 6

Vol. 5:2 enclosed in letter filed with Gillam Kerley.

Prison News Service, no. 21, 22

1989

Box 3: 7

Progressive Periodical Directory

1987

Box 3: 8

Resistance Conspiracy Case

1989

Box 3: 9

Rosenthal, Harold

1987

Box 3: 10

Struggle: A Magazine of Proletarian Revolutionary Literature, vol. 6:1-2

1989-1990

Box 3: 11

Taylor, Brent

1987-1988

Box 3: 12

Member of the Squamish Five; includes two poems.

Thomas, Martha

1993

Box 3: 13

Thompson, Harold H.

1988

Box 3: 14

Turning the Tide: LA Anti-Racism Newsletter

1989

Box 3: 15

Williams, Richard

1988

Box 3: 16

Includes update on Ohio 7 Sedition trial and information on Kazi Toure.

Woodson, Helen

1987

Box 3: 17

World Socialist, no. 1

1984

Box 3: 18

Year One

1987

Box 3: 19

Zeller, Barbara

1988

Box 3: 20

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Robinson Street Books, 2010.

Processing Information

Processed by Dex Haven, July 2010.

Related Material

A number of collections in SCUA contain materials on political prisoners and political trials in the United States, including:

Ray Luc Levasseur Trial Transcript Collection, 1989 (MS 334)

Christina Ryan Collection, 1978-1995 (MS 523)

Tiyo Attalah Salah-El Papers, 1890-2006 (MS 590)

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

African American prisoners.

African American radicals.

Anti-imperialist movements.

Communists.

Into the Night.

MOVE (Group).

Ohio 7.

Plowshares.

Political prisoners.

Prisoners.

Radicals.

Revolutionaries.

United Freedom Front.

Contributors

Stokes, Daniel. [main entry]

Stokes, Joyce.

Africa, Ramona.

Aranda, Alberto.

Berrigan, Philip.

Buck Marilyn.

Gelabert, Ana Lucia.

Hernandez, Alvaro L.

Kabat, Carl.

Levasseur, Ray Luc.

Magee, Ruchell Cinque.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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Antinuclear

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Civil rights

Communism and Socialism

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