

# Guide to the Victor W. Von Hagen Papers

MS 1183



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ..... 3  
Requesting Instructions ..... 3  
Administrative Information ..... 3  
    Immediate Source of Acquisition ..... 3  
    Conditions Governing Access ..... 4  
    Conditions Governing Use ..... 4  
    Preferred Citation ..... 4  
Biographical / Historical ..... 4  
Scope and Contents ..... 4  
Collection Contents ..... 5  
Selected Search Terms ..... 7

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1183

**CREATOR:** Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang, 1908-1985

**TITLE:** Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen papers

**DATES:** 1932-1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5.5 linear feet (4 boxes, 2 folios)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, research materials, typescripts, and galley proofs for ten books written by Von Hagen relating to Central and South American history.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1183>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1183>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Victor W. Von Hagen in 1955.

---

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

## Preferred Citation

Victor Wolfgang Von Hagen Papers (MS 1183). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Author, explorer; expeditions to Mexico, 1931-1933; Ecuador, Upper Amazon, Galapagos Islands, 1934-1936; Honduras, Mosquito Coast, Guatemala, 1937-1938; Northern Panama, 1940; Colombia, Amazon, Peru, 1947-1948; West Indies, 1949-1950; Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, 1953; director Inca Highway Expedition for American Geographic Society, 1953-1955; dir. Roman roads expedition, North Africa, Jordania, Italy, 1962-1965; author of 48 books.

---

## Scope and Contents

The main concern of these papers is the writings of Victor W. Von Hagen on South and Central America. The approximately 150 letters (1932-1949) from individuals and institutions deal almost entirely with questions of research and publication of Von Hagen's articles and books. Notable among the correspondents are Sir Charles G. Darwin and Leonard Darwin, relatives of the famous naturalist, Aldous Huxley, Samuel Eliot Morison, and Lewis Mumford. The letters from Mumford, Charles R. Anderson, and Raymond Weaver are of particular interest for the information about Herman Melville which they provide.

Aside from a few financial papers, the remainder of the collection consists of typescripts for six of Von Hagen's books, galley sheets for a seventh, and research materials such as off-prints of articles, transcriptions and photocopies of early letters and other documents from South America, photographs, and notes for various publications. Perhaps most intriguing are the materials relating to *The Aztec and Maya Papermakers* (published in 1943) which include not only a transcript, galley sheets, extensive research materials, and photographs, but also a large number of samples of paper made from the bark of different types of trees.

Correspondence has been arranged alphabetically by author, writings chronologically by date of publication. A portion of *The Aztec and Maya Papermakers* materials are located in an oversize box; cross-references are provided in the list of contents on the following page.

These papers were donated to Yale University by Victor W. Von Hagen in 1955.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 10	Correspondence, A-W	
	Writings	
b. 1, f. 11	Introduction to <i>The Encantadas</i> by Herman Melville: notes and research materials	[1940]
	<i>The Aztec and Maya Papermakers</i>	[1943]
b. 1, f. 12	Galley sheets	
	Proofs of title page and introduction See: Inventory Folder 49 <a href="#">ref47</a>	
b. 1, f. 13 - 14	Incomplete typescript	
b. 1, f. 15	Typescript draft	
	Samples of bark papers See: Inventory Folder 50 - 52 <a href="#">ref48</a>	
b. 1, f. 16 - 17	Research materials See also: Inventory Folder 53 <a href="#">ref49</a>	
b. 2, f. 18	Research materials (photographs) See also: Inventory Folder 54 <a href="#">ref50</a>	
b. 2, f. 19	Promotional material and review	
	<i>The Jicaque Indians of Honduras</i>	[1943]
b. 2, f. 20	Typescript	
b. 2, f. 21 - 23	Research materials	
b. 2, f. 24	<i>Misikito Boy</i> : research materials English	[1943]
b. 2, f. 25	<i>South America Called Them</i> : research materials	[1943]
	<i>Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands</i>	[1949]
b. 2, f. 26 - 28	Research materials	
b. 2, f. 29	Research materials (photographs)	
b. 3	<i>Frederick Catherwood, Architect</i>	[1950]
b. 3, f. 30-32	Typescript	
b. 3, f. 33	Research materials	
b. 3, f. 34	Research materials (photographs)	
	<i>The Four Seasons of Manuela</i>	[1952]

The Four Seasons of Manuela (continued)

b. 3, f. 35-39	Typescript	
b. 4, f. 40 - 42	Research materials	
b. 4, f. 43	<i>Maya Explorer</i> : research materials English	[1954]
b. 4, f. 44 - 45	<i>Death on the Galapagos</i> : typescript English	undated
b. 4, f. 46	<i>Smugglers to the South</i> : typescript	undated
b. 4, f. 47	Miscellaneous notes and research materials	1933-38, undated
b. 4, f. 48	Financial papers	1950-51
b. 5, f. 49	Oversize materials	
b. 5, f. 50 - 52	Oversize materials	
b. 5, f. 53	Oversize materials	
b. 5, f. 54	Oversize materials	
b. 6	<i>The Aztec and Maya Papermakers</i>	1943

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Aztecs  
Indians of North America  
Jicaque Indians  
Mayas  
Miskito Indians

### **Geographic Names**

Central America -- History  
Galapagos Islands  
Latin America -- History

### **Occupations**

Authors

### **Names**

Von Hagen, Victor Wolfgang, 1908-1985