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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the James C. Scott Papers

GEN MSS 2166



by Elise Riley

April 2026

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2166

CREATOR: Scott, James C., author

TITLE: James C. Scott papers

DATES: 1972-1995

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.17 linear feet (8 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Contains field notes and research created by, or related to, James C. Scott.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jamesscott>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mia Scott, 2025.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The James C. Scott papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

James C. Scott papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Yale Archival Processing Manual.

James C. Scott

James Campbell Scott (1936-2024) PhD '67 was a political scientist, anthropologist, and author. His areas of research included political economics, comparative agrarian societies, theories of resistance, peasant politics, the Southeast Asia region, and anarchism.

Born in Mount Molly, New Jersey, Scott earned a bachelor's degree from Williams College in 1958 and a PhD in political science from Yale University in 1967. He earned a Rotary International Fellowship after graduating from Williams and studied in Myanmar where he became involved in local student politics.

Scott was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to write reports about the students' anti-communist activities and later took a post in the Paris office of the National Student Association. He returned to the United States and started his academic career focusing on the politics of peasants, resistance, and anarchism.

He taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and then moved to Yale University in 1976 where he eventually received tenure. He became the Sterling Professor of Anthropology, emeritus professor of anthropology, and co-founded the Agrarian Studies Program.

Scott died in 2024.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains research and field notes related to James C. Scott's professional work as a political scientist and anthropologist. The materials include subject files related to Southeast Asia from the 1970s and 1980s, which contain clippings, notes, course materials, and annotated bibliographies used in Scott's research process.

Also included in this collection are forty notebooks from Scott's fieldwork in Kedah, Malaysia that span from 1978 to 1980, which resulted in one of his best-known books, "Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance," published in 1985.

Arrangement

This collection maintains the order found at time of acquisition.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Thailand notes	undated
b. 1, f. 2	SEA [Southeast Asia] notes	1972
b. 1, f. 3	Philippines notes	1972
b. 1, f. 4-6	Vietnam notes	undated
b. 1, f. 7-8b. 2, f. 1-2	Burma Settlement reports	circa 1977
b. 2, f. 3	Bandits, clippings	1989-1992
b. 2, f. 4-5	Bandits, course material	1975-1981
b. 2, f. 6	Anarchism - ideas, clippings	1984-1988
b. 2, f. 7	Anarchism, bibliography	1987-1992
b. 3, f. 1	Anarchism	1992
b. 3, f. 2-3	Old notes [annotated bibliographies and notes] A-D	circa 1980s
b. 3, f. 4-5	Anarchism, articles, and bibliographies	1982-1988
b. 3, f. 6	Anarchism, miscellaneous	1983
b. 4, f. 1	Anarchism articles	1991-1993
b. 4, f. 2-3	Annotated bibliographies and notes E-G	circa 1980s
b. 4, f. 4	Annotated bibliographies and notes H-J	circa 1980s
b. 4, f. 5	Annotated bibliographies and notes K-L	circa 1980s
b. 4, f. 6-7	Annotated bibliographies and notes M-Q	circa 1980s
b. 5, f. 1	Annotated bibliographies and notes R-S	circa 1980s
b. 5, f. 2	Annotated bibliographies and notes T-Z	circa 1980s
b. 5, f. 3	Malaysia research	circa 1980
b. 5, f. 4-7b. 6, f. 1-6b. 7, f. 1-6	Malaysia fieldnotes	1978-1985
b. 8, f. 1	Malaysia fieldnotes	1981-1985

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

Anthropology -- Malaysia
Anthropology -- Research
Political science
Yale University. Alumni
Yale University -- Faculty

Genres / Formats

Field notebooks

Geographic Names

Southeast Asia -- Social conditions
Southeast Asia -- Study and teaching

Acquired From

Scott, Mia , donor