

# Rohrlich, George F.; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	6

## Summary Information

<b>Repository:</b>	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
<b>Title:</b>	George F. Rohrlich Papers
<b>ID:</b>	ger008
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1943-1984
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 cubic ft.
<b>Physical Location:</b>	The materials are located onsite in the department.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Mixed Materials [Collection]:</b>	X
<b>Abstract:</b>	George Rohrlich served in the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, 1943-1945, in the Public Health and Welfare Section of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, Japan, 1947-1951, and the International Labour Office (ILO), Geneva, 1959-1964. He was a professor of economics at the University of Chicago, 1964-1967, and at Temple University, 1967-1981. This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts of unpublished papers, lecture notes, and novellas.

### Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows: Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, George F. Rohrlich Papers, 1943-1984. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Rohrlich Papers).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical / Historical

Social economist Georg Rorhlich was born into a middle-class Jewish family in Vienna, Austria, on January 6, 1914. He attended a modern Gymnasium (1924-1932) and earned a doctorate in jurisprudence at the University of Vienna (1937). He served his probationary period as a criminal court clerk [Assessor] in Vienna, but soon grew dissatisfied with the law. He later asserted that his experiences taught him that

the law was powerless to help the chronically impoverished and unemployed and that only broad social security programs could resolve the problems that drove people to embrace Nazism or Communism.

Rohrlich emigrated to the United States in September 1938, Americanized his given name, and worked as an enameler of costume jewelry in New York City. In autumn 1939, he was accepted into Harvard University's newly-established scholarship program for refugees. He earned a doctorate in political economy and government in 1943. Between 1940 and 1944 worked as a researcher for the Social Science Research Council in New York City and for the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. and as a professor of government and economics at Sweet Briar College in Virginia. He became an American citizen in June 1944, and between September 1944 and 1947 he worked first for the Office of Strategic Services (the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency) and for the Department of State.

Rohrlich's career as a social welfare administrator began in 1947, when he served as a civilian economist attached to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Tokyo and helped to re-establish Japan's social security system. After his return to the United States, he worked for the Social Security Administration (1950-53) and for the Department of Labor (1953-59). He then took a post with the International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations, and administered a training program for social security officials from underdeveloped nations (1959-1964).

Rohrlich re-entered the academic world in 1964. After three years at the University of Chicago's School of Social Science Administration (1964-1967), he moved to Temple University's School of Business Administration, where he remained until his retirement in 1981.

Rohrlich firmly believed that the study of economics had to move beyond the analysis of "objective" market forces. He was a lifelong defender of the social welfare measures instituted during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a staunch supporter of the Democratic Party.

Rohrlich was also committed to teaching young people about Judaism and papal efforts to facilitate reconciliation between Roman Catholics and Jews. His religious convictions led him to support papal efforts to facilitate reconciliation between Austrian Roman Catholics and Jews and fed into his deep concern about the massive build-up of nuclear weapons that took place during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Rohrlich expressed his views about nuclear arms to numerous politicians and participated in a summer 1983 anti-nuclear pilgrimage to Japan.

He died of pneumonia on August 21, 1995 at the Homestead Nursing Center, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains correspondence with William Haber, Friedrich J. Hacker, Eric Vgelin, and others. There is also correspondence concerning the Association for Social Economics and the

International Institute for Social Economics, manuscripts of unpublished papers, lecture notes, and novellas.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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The collection is unprocessed and is likely disorganized. Individual items may be difficult to find.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

### Revision Description

Collection level finding aid created by Sheri Sarnoff 2020

### Processing Information

Processed by unprocessed.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Initial items in this collection were donated by George F. Rohrlich on December 5, 1988. Additional materials were donated by Laura Ticho (Mrs. George F.) Rohrlich on January 29, 1997 and March 31, 1998.

### Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection is restricted because it is unprocessed. Portions of the collection may contain recent administrative records and/or personally identifiable information. While it is likely that portions of the collection may be viewed, access must be managed by an archivist.

### Conditions Governing Use

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide

information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Rohrlich, George F. (George Friedrich), 1914-1995
- Correspondence
- Manuscripts
- Lecture notes
- Novels