INTRODUCTION
The papers of Huynh Quang Nhuong, a Vietnamese author who lived in Columbia, Missouri, consist mainly of Huynh’s writings and include drafts of plays, novels, short stories, poetry, and screenplays. The collection also includes photographs, newspaper clippings, book reviews, and correspondence with publishers, as well as fan letters from children regarding his book, *The Land I Lost*.

DONOR INFORMATION
The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Connie Hendren on 10 June 2004, on behalf of Huynh Quang Nhuong’s sisters: Huynh Kim Phung, Huynh Thi Bach Van, Huynh Nguyet Minh, Huynh Thi Ngoc Suong, Huynh Thi Xuan Lan, and Huynh Thi Bach Yen (Accession No. 6042).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Huynh Quang Nhuong was born in 1936 in My Tho, Vietnam to Huynh Kiem Thi (Dang) and Miu Van. He received his degree in Chemistry from Saigon University in 1962 before being drafted into the South Vietnamese Army. During the war, Huynh was hit by a bullet that left him permanently paralyzed. In 1969, he came to the United States for physical therapy. He stayed in the U.S. and studied at Long Island University where he earned an M.A. in Comparative Literature in 1971. In 1973, he earned a second M.A. in French from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Huynh remained in Columbia and began to focus on writing. Harper & Row published his first collection of children’s stories, *The Land I Lost*, in 1982. Based on Huynh’s childhood experiences in Vietnam, the book won several awards, including the William Allen White Children’s Book Award, the Friends of American Writers Award, and the Blue Cobra Award. The book was translated into German, French, Spanish, and Catalan.

During the 1990s, Huynh also gained recognition as a playwright, winning several awards. His plays were produced by such varied theatres as the Black Theatre Group in Berkeley, California; the Organic Theater Group in Chicago; the Northside Theater Company out of San Jose, California; and Stephens College in Columbia. In 1990, he received a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The Huynh Quang Nhuong Papers consist mainly of Huynh’s writings which include drafts of plays, novels, short stories, poetry, and screenplays. The papers are arranged into five series: *Correspondence, Plays, Prose, Other Writings*, and
Miscellaneous. Some of the drafts are only fragments. Many of the prose and poetry drafts have been converted into plays and screenplays.

The Correspondence series has been arranged by class of correspondent and then chronologically and contains letters from children, educators, family, and friends, as well as professional correspondence from publishers, literary agents, and theatre groups. The children’s letters include drawings based on The Land I Lost. The correspondence from family members has been written in Vietnamese, as have a couple of the letters from children. The professional correspondence includes a letter with a detailed evaluation of Huynh’s unpublished novels “Broken Crutches” and “Silent Footsteps.” Some of the professional correspondence is in French.

Arranged alphabetically, the Plays series contains drafts of plays written by Huynh, including “Rain in the Mountains and Lightning at Sea,” “The Lonely Road Through the Jungle,” and “Dance of the Wandering Souls.” Many plays have been renamed over the course of drafts. “The White Dove with the Green Tail” was previously titled “Tam/Cam,” “The Lonely Road Through the Jungle” was previously “Moonlit Inn,” and “Pourquoi?” was previously “Two-Way Street.”

The plays “Arbor House” and “The First Lady” combined to become “Why Don’t You Stay a While Longer.” “Neighing of a Stallion” was previously named “Shannon,” “Variations of Blue,” “Variations,” and “Broken Crutches.” The first draft of another play, “Two Generations One Injustice,” was previously titled “South African Mother;” its entirely revamped second draft eventually became “Vietnamese Mother.”

A number of the plays have also been collaborations with various friends and students from Stephens College, including “The Skateboard,” “The White Dove with the Green Tail,” “Out of the Darkness,” and “A Prime Minister Must Never Take Off His Clothes in Front of His Queen.”

The Prose series has also been arranged alphabetically and contains short stories, folktales and novels written by Huynh. The series also contains German, Spanish, and French translations of The Land I Lost, as well as the English version. The unpublished novel “Sounds of a Distant Train” was previously entitled “Broken Crutches.”

The Other Writings series contains Huynh’s poetry and screenplays arranged alphabetically.

The Miscellaneous series has been arranged alphabetically and consists of book reviews of The Land I Lost, newspaper clippings, photographs, awards, Vietnamese sheet music, and college essays, along with guidelines for playwriting contests and newsletters from various theatre groups. Also included in the series are diplomas, grade reports, and materials documenting the immigration process of Huynh and his family. The immigration records include translations of Vietnamese birth certificates. The college essays are mostly written in French. The newspaper clippings contain editorials written by Huynh on apartheid.

The series also contains the acceptance speech for the William Allen White Children’s Book Award given in Huynh’s stead by Vo-Dinh Mai, the illustrator of The Land I Lost. The miscellaneous folder contains Huynh’s resume, lists of stories, a brief biographical sketch, miscellaneous Vietnamese documents, and a poem written by Lou Jobst for Huynh entitled “Finding Lost Lands.”

For more information regarding his experiences during the Vietnam War and his literary influences, please consult the American Audio Prose Library (C3851), which
contains an interview with Huynh along with a selection of readings from his works read by Sam Stowers and Bob Thompson.
FOLDER LIST

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f. 74 "Moonlit Inn," n.d.
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f. 121 "Two Generations One Injustice," first draft, n.d.
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f. 124 "Understand," 1992
f. 125-127 "Variations," 1992
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f. 130 "Vietnamese Mother," 1995
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