

The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Cathrine Curtis Papers
Papers 1918-1955

Surveyed by Genna Rae McNeil June 1982
Evaluated by Valerie Wingfield March 2000

Main Entry

Title: Cathrine Curtis Papers, 1918-1953 (bulk dates 1930-1953)

Size: 11 cartons

Source: Gift of Ms. magazine in 1973.

Restrictions: None.

Condition: The collection has a very strong smell of insecticide from fumigation. As a result processing has been suspended. The collection does need complete processing. There is a preliminary order to the collection.

Biographical Sketch: Cathrine Curtis was the daughter of George M. and Flora (Beach Taylor. Curtis was educated in Albany, NY and later at New York University. Curtis had a variety of careers, having at one time before 1930 owned and operated a ranch in Arizona, produced motion pictures, and appeared in the movie *Shepherd of the Hills*. During the 1930's through 1950's, Curtis served as National Director and Board Chairperson of Women's Investors in America, Inc.; National Chairperson of Women's National Committee to Keep U.S. Out of War, and President of the organization Women Investors Research Institute, Inc. At various times, Curtis lobbied for improved legal status of women with regard to property-ownership, tax obligations, business and investments. Noteworthy was Curtis appearance as a radio commentator on *Women and Money* over the American Broadcast System (ABC) during the 1930's.

Description: The bulk of the collection focuses on organizations that Curtis was involved with from the 1930's through the 1960's (mainly 1940's). The organizations represented are the Women's National Committee to Keep the U.S. Out of War (later Women's National Committee), the Women Investors Research Institute, Women Investors in America (WIIA). There are proceedings of the 1st Financial Congress of Women, held under the auspices of the WIIA. The remaining papers are personal papers of Curtis along with printed matter.

Sketches of Organizational Histories

The following are brief histories of organizations to be found in the collection:

Women's National Committee (formerly known as The Women's national Committee to keep the United States out of War).

This organization was headquartered in Washington, D.C. Cathrine Curtis served as the National Chairman. The objective of the organization was "*to cooperate in the organized effort of women to keep the U.S. out of foreign wars, by means of educational, factual and protective activities so imperative, if our Republic is to be preserved.*"

Catherine Curtis Papers

- Box 1 Women's National Committee to Keep the US Out of War 1939-1941
Women Investors Research Institute Office Files 1937-1941
- 2 Women Investors Research Institute, 1930-1950. Correspondence, clippings and near-printed material.
- 3 Women Investors Research Institute c1938-1941.
Women Investors in America (WIIA). c1938-1941.
Women's National Committee, c1938-1951.
- 4 Women's Investor Research Institute. Office files (partially alphabetical), Women's Investors in America (WIIA).
- 5 Catherine Curtis personal papers include financial, printed matter. radio talks, c1935-1950.
- 6 Women Investor Research Institute files regarding Congressional committees, legislation and property matters c1940-1950.
- Catherine Curtis personal papers, c 1918.
- 7 First Finance Congress of Women (held under auspices of WIIA), 1936. WIIA organizational records including files on Congressional hearings, financial matters, c1940-1950.
- 8 Women Investors Research Institute c1930. Printed and near printed material.
- 9 Women Investors Research Institute. Subject files (partially alphabetically) and other records.
- 10 Women Investors Research Institute intermingled with Women Investors in America.
- 11 Women Investors Research Institute. Typescripts proposals, clippings and printed matter.