

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

**International Committee for Political Prisoners Records
1918-1942
MssCol 1515**

**Claudia Funke
April 1988**

This version produced September 2004

Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Related materials note	iv
Historical note	v
Scope and content note	vi
Arrangement note	vi
Series descriptions and container list	1
SERIES I. ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS, 1924-1942	1
SERIES II. COUNTRY/GEOGRAPHIC FILES, 1918-1942	1
SERIES III. PRINTED MATERIAL	6

Summary

- Main entry:** International Committee for Political Prisoners
- Title:** International Committee for Political Prisoners Records, 1918-1942
- Size:** 7.25 linear feet (8 boxes)
- Source:** Gift of the International Committee for Political Prisoners, 1942
- Abstract:** The International Committee for Political Prisoners was founded in 1924 to agitate for the release and raise funds for the relief of political prisoners throughout the world. The ICPP dissolved in 1942 once the advent of World War II made assistance to political prisoners nearly impossible.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Microfilm must be used in lieu of original manuscripts.
- Preferred citation:** International Committee for Political Prisoners Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
- Special formats** Photographs.
- Alternate formats:** Entire collection available on microfilm, *ZL-281.

Related materials note

International League for Human Rights Records. Manuscripts and Archives Division
The New York Public Library.

Historical note

The International Committee for Political Prisoners (I.C.P.P.) was established in 1924 to agitate for the release and raise funds for the relief of political prisoners throughout the world. Its chairman and the moving force behind the committee was Roger Nash Baldwin, founder of the American Civil Liberties Union. Among the first committee members were Henry G. Alsberg, Felix Frankfurter, Louis Gannett, Arthur Garfield Hays, Paul Kellog, Freda Kirchwey, and Oswald Garrison Villard.

An impetus to the committee's formation was the imprisonment of Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries, Maximalists, Anarchists, and other dissenters in the U.S.S.R. Consequently, the committee's first major effort was the publication of *Letters from Russian Prisons* in 1925. This book profiled imprisoned revolutionaries, and its criticism of the Soviet government generated controversy in leftist circles.

The committee did, however, form expressly to address oppression of opinion all over the world and rapidly extended its fact-gathering missions to other parts of Europe, particularly Italy and Poland. Two other I.C.P.P. publications resulted from this activity: *The Fascist Dictatorship in Italy* (1926) and *Political Prisoners in Poland* (1927). The committee also fought against dictatorship in Latin America and for the cases of nationalists in India. Its work of appeal letters and relief funds eventually stretched to 40 some nations. Noted liberals and reformers - such as Clarence Darrow, John Dewey, and Waldo Frank - aided the committee in these matters throughout its years.

As the world situation worsened in the 1930s, the number of political prisoners increased dramatically, and the I.C.P.P.'s ability to provide relief was thwarted. With the advent of World War II, its work became even more difficult, and the committee chose to dissolve in 1942.

Scope and content note

The records of the International Committee for Political Prisoners (I.C.C.P.) span the years 1918 to 1942, with the bulk of the material dating from the period of 1924 to 1938.

The records consist of typewritten and handwritten correspondence - mainly between chairman Roger Baldwin and other individuals and organizations - memoranda, telegrams, minutes, typescripts, financial statements, and supporting printed matter, such as press releases, newsletters, clippings, pamphlets, periodicals and a few photographs.

Arrangement note

The International Committee for Political Prisoners Records are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Administrative Records, 1924-1942
- Series II. Country/Geographic Files, 1918-1942
- Series III. Printed material

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Administrative Records, 1924-1942

The administrative records include minutes of executive meetings, membership lists, financial statements, reports and memoranda.

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1	Founding papers Proposed by-laws, 1924; organizational correspondence and papers, 1924-1928; membership lists, 1925
		2	Minutes of executive meetings, 1924-1941; n.d.
		3	Reports and memoranda, 1924-1941; n.d.
		4	Town Hall protest meeting correspondence and papers, 1925
		5	Form letters of appeal, 1925-1942; n.d.
		6	Establishment of International Press Bureau, 1929-1931
		7	Press Releases and clippings, 1925-1937
		8	Financial statements and memoranda, 1925-1937

Series II. Country/Geographic Files, 1918-1942

The Country/Geographic Files, 1918-1942, make up the bulk of the collection and are arranged by country name. Some printed matter is interfiled with correspondence, as was the I.C.C.P.'s practice.

The largest country file, the U.S.S.R., contains substantial correspondence from liberals and leftists in the United States including Henry G. Alsberg and Harry F. Ward. It also includes a large number of case files on individual prisoners and refugees, notably the cases of Leon Trotsky, Serge Trotsky and Zensl Muhsam. Canada, Germany, Hungary and Italy also include a large number of case files. Certain country files are particularly rich in information about the political situations in their respective nations. Ireland contains many letters from the Irish nationalist Maud Gonne MacBride, and the files for India document the independence movement in correspondence with Jawaharlal Nehru and case files for M.N. Roy and Chaman Lal. Other notable files are those of Agnes Smedley (China), Alexander Berkman (France and the U.S.S.R), Jacques Romain (Haiti) and Gaetano Salvemini and Giacomo Matteotti (Italy).

	1	9	Africa, 1938-39
		10	Argentina, 1928-1930; 1936-1937; 1939 Includes case of Elias Castelnuovo, 1936 Jun - 1937 Jan
		11	Australia, 1938 (newsletters)
		12	Austria, 1926-1940 Cases of Otto Reisel; Dr. Joseph Simon; Dr. Marie Lazarsfeld-Jahoda
		13	Balkans, 1926-1927; 1930 (see also: Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia)
		14	Belgium, 1932; 1940 (includes case of Franz Meyer, 1940 Jan - Apr)
		15	Bolivia, 1930; 1940
			Brazil
		16	1930-1936
2		17	1937
		18	Cases of Arthur Erwert and Louis Carlos Prestes , 1937 Mar - 1940 Oct
		19	Pamphlets, newsletters, 1935-1936
			Bulgaria
		20	1925-1927
		21	1928-1931; 1934-1935
		22	1936-1937
		23	1938; n.d.

International Committee for Political Prisoners records
Series descriptions and box list

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
			Printed material
		24	1918-1930
			Canada
		26	1931-1932
		27	1933-1941
		28	Case of Doukhobors (religious sect), 1929 Nov - 1933 Mar
		28	Case of J. Louis Engdahl and Bella Gordon, 1931 Feb - May
		29	Case of Joseph Drovin and Francis Xavier Lessard, 1939 Jun - 1940 Oct
		29	Case of Arthur Bortolotti and Marco Joachim, 1939 Oct - 1940 May
		29	Case of Frank Watson, 1939 Dec - 1940 Apr
		29	Case of MacPherson, 1940 Feb - May
		29	Case of Wilfred Ravenor, 1940 Oct - 1941 Mar
		30	Chile, 1928-1929 (pamphlets)
			China
	2	1	1929-1935
			Case of Paul and Gertrude Ruegg
3		2	1931
		3	1932
		4	Case of Agnes Smedley, 1931 Nov - 1932 Dec
		4	Case of Harold Isaacs, 1932 Jul - Oct
		4	Case of Chen Du-Hsiu, 1932 Oct - 1933 Dec
		4	Case of Professor Tsai Yung-Chun, 1936 Nov - 1939 Apr
		5	Colombia, 1940; n.d.
		6	Costa Rica
			Includes case of Joaquin Garcia Monge, 1937 Apr - May
			Cuba
		7	1929-1931
		8	1931
		9	1932-1935
		10	1935
		11	1936-1941
		12-13	Press releases and clippings, 1930-1931
		14	Newsletters and pamphlets, 1929-1941
			Czechoslovakia
		15	1927-1937
		16	1938-1940 (includes Kurt Grossman, Josef Stark)
		16	Case of Peter Forster, 1938 Jul - Aug
4		17	Dominican Republic, 1932-1935
		18	Ecuador, 1941 (Case of Wilhelm Rodenberg, 1941 May - Sep)
		19	Ethiopia, 1940
			Finland
		20	Case of Arvid Jacobson, 1935 Jun - Jul
		20	Clippings, 1930-1931
			France
		21	1928-1930 (includes Cameroon, French Guyana)
		22	1932-1940
		23	1940-1942 (includes Spanish refugees; see also SPAIN)
		24	Case of Prof. Berneri, 1929 Feb - 1931 Apr
		25	Case of Alexander Berkman, 1930 Dec -1932 May (see also USSR)
			Federation Internationale des Ligues Contre l'Antisemitisme
		26-27	1935-1936
		28-30	1937
		31	1938-1949

Reel	Box	Folder	
			German Refugees
	3	1	1935-1937
		2	1938-1940
			Germany
		3	1932-1940 (see Czechoslovakia for Kurt Grossman)
		4	Case of Ernst Thaelmann and Ernst Torgler, 1934 May - 1936 Apr
		4	Case of Isabel Steele, 1934 Oct - 1935 Feb
		4	Case of Rudolf Kuslermeier, 1934 Dec
		5	Case of Theodore Neubauer, 1935 Feb - May
		5	Case of Edgar Andre, 1936 July-Aug
		5	Case of Carl von Ossietzky, 1936 Nov.-Dec.
		5	Case of Lieselotte Hermann, 1937 Sep - 1938 Mar
		6	Case of Ernst Samuel Piplack and Johann Beckschaefer, 1937 Nov - 1940 Feb
5		7	Press releases newsletters, clippings, 1937-1938
		8	Pamphlets, 1933
		9	Great Britain, 1935-1941
		10	Greece, 1924-1939 (includes the Dodecanese)
			Haiti
		11	1934-1935
		12	1935-1937 (includes case of Jacques Romain)
		13	1937-1941 (case of Jacques Romain and Haitian massacre)
			Hungary
		14	1924-1938
		15	Case of Mathias Rakosi, 1925 Oct - 1936 Feb
		15	Case of Sallai and Fuerst, 1932 July - Nov
		15	Case of Frederick Karikas, 1932 Aug - Dec
		16	Case of Dr. Madzsar, 1932 Oct - Nov
		16	Case of Dr. Bela Gador, 1934 Sep - Dec
		16	Case of Father John Hock , 1934 Dec - 1935 Apr
		17	Case of Sigismund Kis, 1936 Mar - 1937 Apr
		17	Case of Alfred Reinhold, 1936 Dec - 1937 Jan
		17	Case of Bela Kis, 1937 Apr - May
		17	Case of George Pikler, 1937 Oct - 1938 Jun
			India
			Indian independence (Meerut trial)
		18	1927-1929
		19-21	1929
		22-23	1930
		24	1931-1935
		25	1936
		26	1937
6		27	1938-1941
	4	1-2	Case of M.N. Roy, 1931 Aug - 1937 Jan
		3	Case of Chaman Lal, 1938 Jun - 1939 Feb
		4	Newsletters and pamphlets, 1930-1938
		5	Indochina, 1927-1930 (clippings)
		6	Iraq, n.d. (press releases)
			Ireland
		7	1925-1930
		8	1930-1931
		9	1931
		10	1932-1933
		11-12	1935
		13	1936

International Committee for Political Prisoners records
Series descriptions and box list

Reel	Box	Folder	
		14	1936 Correspondence with Maud Gonne MacBride;-see also other Ireland correspondence
		15	1938-1940
		15	Case of Frank Ryan, 1938 May - 1940 Apr
		15	Press releases and clippings
		16	1923-1930
7		17	1931-1932
		18	1936
		19	Pamphlets and periodicals, 1925; 1928; 1931-1932
			Italy
		20	1925-1927 (I.C.P.P. book on fascist dictatorship)
		21	1927-1931
		22	1932-1938 (Women prisoners' conditions; detention of "Jews")
		23	Case of Gaetano Salvemini, 1925 Dec - 1928 Nov
		23	Case of Renzo Rendi, 1931 May - Jun
		23	Case of Dr. G. Germani, 1931 Dec - 1932 Jun
		24	University educators oath of loyalty to fascist regime, 1932 Jan - May
		24	Case of Giacomo Matteotti , 1932 Aug -1933 Feb
		24	Case of J.G. Trincal, 1937 Dec - 1938 Apr
		24	Case of Francesco Nitti , 1939 Jun - Jul
			Press releases, newsletters, clippings
		25	1924-1928
	5	1	1928
		2	1929-1930
		3	1931-1935
		4	Pamphlets and periodicals, 1926-1932
			Japan
8		5	1929-1939
		6	Clippings and pamphlets, 1929-1939
		7	Latin America (Conference on Pan-American Democracy, 1938)
			Lithuania
		8	1929-1930
		9	Press releases and clippings, 1929-1931
			Macedonia (see also the Balkans, Greece)
		10	1928-1934
		11	1935-1939
		12	n.d.
		13-14	Clippings, 1924-1933
		15-16	Pamphlets and periodicals, 1924-1934; n.d.
		17	Mexico
			Netherlands
		18	1928-1932 (Indonesian oppression, war resisters)
		19	1937; 1939 (refugees, political asylum)
9		20	Nicaragua, 1930-1931
		21	Norway, 1930; 1936 (see also U.S.S.R.- case of Leon Trotsky)
		22	Palestine, 1940
			Peru
		23	1935-1936
		24	1937-1940
		24	Case of Victor Haya de la Torre, 1932 May - 1933 Aug
		25	1932
		26	1933
		26	Clippings, 1930-1931

Reel	Box	Folder
		Poland
	6	1 1924-1925
		2 1925-1926
		3 1926
		4 1927-1929
		5 1930-1933
		6 1935
		7 1937-1938
		8-9 Press releases, newsletters, typescripts, 1924?-1926
		Portugal
		10 1931; 1935
		11 1935-1936
		Romania (see also the Balkans)
		12 1926-1931; 1933 Press releases, newsletters, clippings
		13 1924-1925
		14 1924; 1929-1930; 1932
10		15 Pamphlets and photographs, 1926; n.d.
		16 Saar, 1935
		17 Serbia and Croatia, 1929-1930; 1932; 1936
		Spain
		18 1925; 1933-1936
		19 1937 (includes case of Heinz Kraschutzki)
		20 1940-1941 includes Spanish refugees in French territory; see also France
		21 Printed material, 1936-1937
		22 Sweden, 1941
		23 Syria, 1926
		Switzerland
		24 1932-1933; 1936-1938
		24 Case of Arthur Schweitzer, 1937 Oct - 1938 Sep
		25 Printed material, 1929-1932
		26 Turkey, 1926
		USSR
		27 1923-1925 (appeal to Soviet government and I.C.P.P. book)
		28 1925 (I.C.P.P. book)
		29 1926 (I.C.P.P. book)
		30 Correspondence with Henry G. Alsberg, 1923-1925
	7	1 Correspondence with Alexander Berkman, 1924 (see also FRANCE -case of Alexander Berkman)
		2 Correspondence with Harry F. Ward, 1924
		3 1926-1932
		4 Correspondence with Mme. Peschkova, 1926-1932 (see also U.S.S.R.-cases of Kaczor and Krynine)
		5 1933-1936
11		6 Case of Ossip Lourie, 1927 Dec - 1928 Feb
		6 Case of Sarah and Fanny Donskaya (Danskya), 1928 Mar
		6 Case of Francesco Ghezzi, 1929 Jul - 1931 Mar
		6 Case of Mrs. Paretzkaya (Parry), 1931 Mar - Aug
		7 Case of Alexander Kaczor, 1932 Feb - 1933 Jan
		7 Case of Raisa Krynine, 1933 Jan - Mar
		7 Case of Serge Trotsky, 1935 Dec - 1936 Feb
		7 Case of Tarov, 1935 Dec - 1936 Aug
		8 Case of Zensl Muhsam, 1936 Jun - 1940 Feb
		9-10 Case of Leon Trotsky, 1936 Aug - 1938 Apr (see also Norway)

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		11	Case of A. deWit , 1937 Oct - 1938 Aug (see also U.S.S.R.-case of Zensl Muhsam)
		12	Case of Styopa Diebetz, 1938 Jan - Feb
		13	Case of Julius Simon, 1938 Apr - Oct
		14-15	Printed material, 1924-1932
		16	Uruguay, 1930 Venezuela
		17	1925-1931
		18	1932-1937
		19-20	Case of James Welch and child, 1930 Jun - 1932 Feb
		21	Press releases, 1930; n.d.
		22	Clippings, 1930-1931
		23	El Peligro de la Intervencion by P.J. Delgado, 1930
		24	Yugoslavia, 1929-1932
		25	West Indies, 1941-1942 (case of W.A. Domingo {1941 Jul - 1942 Mar)
12	8	--	Series III. Printed material