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Summary

Main entry: People's Institute (New York, N.Y.)

Title: People's Institute Records, 1883-1933

Size: 38 linear feet (80 boxes, 35 volumes, 1 map folder)

Source: Gift of the People's Institute, 1934.

Abstract: The People's Institute was founded in 1897 by Charles Sprague Smith to teach the theory and practice of government and social philosophy to workers and recent immigrants in New York City. The People's Institute records consist of minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports, photographs, programs, fliers, pamphlets, legal documents, financial records, clippings, class rosters, press releases, and printed matter that document the founding and operations of the Institute.

Access: Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.

Glass negatives and lantern slides (boxes 93-96) are restricted from use. Paper and postcard copies of the glass plates are available for consultation. Photographic prints are available of most of the lantern slides. Originals are available only with Curator's permission.

Half tone printing blocks are also restricted.

Preferred citation: People's Institute Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Special formats Photographs, lantern slides, printing blocks, glass negatives.

Related materials note

National Board of Review of Motion Pictures Records.

Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library.
The NBRMP was originally part of the People's Institute.
Historical note

The People's Institute was founded in 1897 by Charles Sprague Smith to teach the theory and practice of government and social philosophy to workers and recent immigrants in New York City. It sponsored lectures, classes, concerts, and other community activities at Cooper Union and throughout New York City, though principally on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The Institute ceased operations in 1934.

The People's Institute is recognized most often for its contribution as a community educational center for working class adults and immigrants. It sponsored lectures, craft guilds, art and music leagues, a training school for community workers, and adult education classes in history, social science, literature, as well as nutrition and health. Specific programs implemented by the Institute included the People's Forums, community centers in Public School 63 and Public School 89, the Wage Earner's Theatre League, the People's Institute Harlem Branch at 125th Street, and the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures. The latter organization eventually broke away and developed into its own formidable organization. (Its records are also held by the Manuscripts and Archives Division).

The People's Institute was organized in the latter half of the nineteenth century during the Progressive Movement that swept across the United States. Progressivism was a response to the social changes that occurred after the Civil War. Foremost among these changes were the rapid industrialization and population growth in urban cities. The population explosion was a result of two factors: masses of people moving from rural to urban areas and the arrival of immigrants from Europe. Most of this population crowded into large urban areas such as New York City and Chicago.

Reformers attempted to attack the problems that made life in the city undesirable, such as the corruption of city government, child exploitation, poor sanitary conditions, health problems, and the lack of social services. Some of the best known reformers were Jacob A. Riis (1849-1914), an innovative photographer and author of How the Other Half Lives whose photographs exposed the underbelly of city life; Jane Addams (1860-1935), social reformer and pacifist, and founder of Hull House in Chicago, one of the first social settlements in the United States; and Lillian D. Wald (1867-1940), nurse and social worker who founded the Henry Street Settlement House in New York City in 1893. Other organizations with similar reform ideas to those of the People's Institute included the City Club and the Citizens Union.


The constitution of the People's Institute states that "the purpose of the Institute is first, to furnish to the people continuous and ordered education in Social Science, History, Literature and such other subjects as time and the demand shall determine. Second, to afford opportunities for the interchange of thought upon topics of general interest between people of different occupations in order thereby to assist in the solution of present problems. To accomplish these purposes the Institute may conduct lectures, discussions and classes, encourage the formation of branch associations, and undertake such other work as shall promote its aims."

The Institute's attempt to involve the immigrants of lower Manhattan in the sensibilities and politics of reform began with free weekly lectures and discussions on politics and current events at Cooper Union. By 1902, the Institute was holding nightly events in schools and community centers throughout the city. Cooper Union was a center of many of the Institute's activities, but the Institute had no headquarters as such. It utilized schools after hours, not only to make its activities more accessible,
but also to widen its presence and influence in the community. By the 1920s, the Institute was less of an engine of reform; it emphasized cultural and social education in an attempt to integrate immigrants who were its main constituency into mainstream American culture.

The People’s Institute operated for thirty-six years, longer than many social, educational, and reform agencies. When the Institute ceased operations in 1934, R. Fulton Cutting, President of Cooper Union established a Department of Social Philosophy at Cooper Union. Dr. Everett Dean Martin, the last Director of the Institute, was appointed head of the new department.

The Directors

Charles Sprague Smith was Director of the People’s Institute from 1897 until his death in 1910. He was succeeded by Frederic Clemson Howe (1910-1916), Edward F. Sanderson (1916-1922), and Everett Dean Martin (1922-1934).

Charles Sprague Smith (1853-1910) was born in Andover, Massachusetts, the son of Charles and Caroline Louisa (Sprague) Smith. A gifted child and the son of middle class parents, Smith graduated from Phillips Academy at fifteen and graduated from Amherst College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1874. Smith’s early adulthood was spent abroad in Berlin studying languages and literature in Berlin and at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Returning to the United States in 1880, Smith embarked upon a career as an educator. After teaching at Columbia University, Harvard Universitym and elsewhere, Smith turned his focus on the inadequacies of the American education system. As a result of his concerns, Smith founded the Comparative Literature Society in 1895. This Society, a precursor to the People’s Institute, aimed to integrate immigrants into American society.

In Smith’s book *Working with the People* (New York: A. Wessels, 1904, p. 2), he defines the People’s Institute as “[a] new institution, upon whose board of control all sections should have representation, and whose platform, free from class or partisan influence, should become a forum for the untrammeled discussion of all subjects affecting the people’s interest…”

After Smith’s death in 1910, Frederic Clemson Howe (1868-1940) became Managing Director of the Institute. Prior to accepting the directorship, Howe had practiced law in Ohio. Known as an aggressive champion of the average man, Howe advocated labor reforms, fought municipal graft, and promoted cooperative government. During Howe’s tenure at the Institute, he founded the People’s Music League and the Drama League of America. Howe’s published works include the monograph *The City; the Hope of Democracy* (1935).

Howe resigned the directorship of the Institute in 1914. His successor was Edward F. Sanderson who held the position from 1916 to 1922. Sanderson was a Congregational clergyman and the former pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn. Sanderson, unlike his predecessors and his successor, preferred to maintain a low profile.

The last Director of the People’s Institute was Everett Dean Martin (1880-1941). Martin was a social psychologist and adult educator born in Jacksonville, Illinois. After receiving a diploma in theology, Martin embarked upon a career in the ministry serving as pastor at several churches. In 1917, Martin received his first appointment at the People’s Institute as a lecturer in social philosophy at the Cooper Union Forum. Over the next several years, Martin received several appointments including Director of the Cooper Union Forum and Assistant Director of the Institute in 1917. From 1919 to 1922, Martin was Chairman of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures.
Scope and content note

The People's Institute records, 1883-1933, consist of minutes, correspondence, memoranda, reports, photographs, programs, fliers, pamphlets, legal documents, financial records, clippings, class rosters, press releases, and printed matter that document the founding and operations of the Institute. The records of the Board of Trustees include the Institute's constitution, minutes, correspondence, and reports. The Director's Office files consist mostly of the correspondence of the four Directors of the Institute: Charles Sprague Smith, Frederic C. Howe, Edward F. Sanderson, and Everett Dean Martin. Correspondence, programs, memoranda, circular letters, and other material document the activities organized by the Institute at Cooper Union, its adult education classes, the community-centered work of several committees, the efforts of the drama, music, and literature departments to promote appreciation of the arts among immigrants and the working-class, and the activities of some affiliated organizations. The Printed Material consists of Institute publications, brochures, pamphlets, and fliers, as well as material on topics relevant to the Institute's interests. Photographs, in the form of prints and lantern slides, mainly depict the lectures, concerts, and other events organized by the Institute in poor, immigrant Manhattan and Bronx neighborhoods. The records also include 60 glass plate negatives and the postcard reproductions of the plates, which were taken by Sidney Ateller of immigrant children's pageants and other activities in Chicago in 1914-1915.

Arrangement note

The People's Institute Records are organized in the following series:

Series I. Board of Trustees, 1897 - 1921
Series II. Director's Office, 1883 - 1932
Series III. Cooper Union Activities, 1897-1926
Series IV. Adult Education Classes, 1919 - 1930
Series V. Community Art League, 1915 - 1918
Series VI. Community Center Work (CCW), 1913 - 1921
Series VII. Community Work, 1899 - 1926
Series VIII. Drama Department, 1905 - 1918
Series IX. Music League, 1900 - 1927
Series X. Comparative Literature Society, 1896 - 1899
Series XI. Affiliated Organizations, 1901 - 1921
Series XII. Writings and Miscellany, 1899 - 1917
Series XIII. Printed Material, 1898 - 1934
Series XIV. Financial records, 1898 - 1933
Series XV. Half Tone Printing Blocks
Series XVI. Photographs, 1908 - 1921
Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Board of Trustees, 1897 - 1921
2 boxes, 3 volumes

This series consists of the administrative records of the Board of Trustees; it contains the constitution of the People's Institute, minutes, and reports. Minutes document the founding of the People's Institute, the crucial early meetings, and program development. The reports are to the Board of Trustees from various departments and affiliates of the Institute, such as the People's Music League and the National Board of Censorship. Some reports include financial statements.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Vol</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>1A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>Constitution of the People's Institute</td>
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<td>1914 - 1916 Apr</td>
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<td>1916 May - 1921</td>
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Series II. Director's Office, 1883 - 1932

6 boxes

This series contains the records of the four Directors of the Institute: Charles Sprague Smith (1897-1910), Frederic C. Howe (1910-1916), Edward F. Sanderson (1916-1922), and Everett Dean Martin (1922-1934). It consists mainly of correspondence files for each Director alphabetically arranged. Charles Sprague Smith's files contain incoming letters from many well known individuals, including Lyman Abbott, Felix Adler, Robert Fulton Cutting, William E. Dodge, Richard Watson Gilder, Samuel Gompers, Abram Stevens Hewitt, Henry Demarest Lloyd, and Lillian Wald. Sprague's material also includes organizations' endorsements of the People's Institute protest of the subway franchise of 1899. Frederic C. Howe is the second most represented Director in the series. His correspondence also contains noted correspondents, including Jane Addams, Louis Brandeis, and Hamlin Garland.

Other material in this series includes the 1917 correspondence of Louis R. deCravioti, the Assistant Director of the Institute; acceptances and regrets to invitations to Everett Dean Martin's speech “The Psychology of the Mind,” given on April 23, 1925 in Adolph Lewisohn's ballroom. General files include crank letters, Institute stationary, circular letters, drafts of the constitution and amendments, election proxies, lists of officers and members, and miscellaneous reports.

Charles Sprague Smith

3 1-20
   A - L

4 1-17
   M - Z
   Unidentified Correspondents

5 1-15
   Frederic C. Howe
   Edward F. Sanderson

6 1-6
   H - Y, unidentified

7 1-7
   Everett Dean Martin
   deCravioti, Louise R. (Assistant Director), 1917

8 1-13
   Invitations to the Address of Everett Dean Martin, 1925
   Acceptances
   Regrets

7 1-7
   I - Z, unidentified

8 1
   Circular Letters

2-4
   Drafts of the Constitution/By-Laws

5
   Election Proxies, 1898 - 1909

6
   Lists of Officers and Members

7-10
   Reports: Assorted
Series III.  Cooper Union Activities, 1897-1926

1 box

The Institute regularly engaged the Great Hall of Cooper Union for various events and programs. The Lecture Program of the Institute utilized the Great Hall for regular meetings to raise public consciousness, advocate change, and work towards social progress. Topics covered by the lectures included home rule for NYC, rapid transportation in NYC, the effects of WWI, and democracy. Lists, circular letters, ads, and programs document these lectures.

In 1916, the Institute invited Dr. Werner Hegemann, Secretary for the Architectural Development of Greater Berlin and General Secretary of the City Planning Exhibitions of Berlin and Dusseldorf, 1909, to speak throughout the United States as a recognized expert in city planning. The Lecture Bureau correspondence (alphabetically arranged by city) concerns requests from various organizations to the Institute to schedule Dr. Hegemann as a speaker.

The Labor Forum (Carl Beck, Managing Director) correspondence with John Collier, Director of the Training School for Community Workers, documents a bitter dispute that broke out between Beck and Collier in December 1917. Beck questioned the sincerity of some statements Collier had made about the Fusion reformers in newspaper interviews.

The Cooper Union Sunday Evening Programs were non-denominational programs on the religious and philosophical issues of the day. The topics are documented by circular letters, programs, and printed matter.

Lecture Program

9 1 Circular letters and course syllabi
2-4 Lectures, 1897 - 1926
5 Handbills and Ads, 1900 - 1922
6 Resolution, 1899
7 Programs, platform tickets, and miscellany
8-10 Lecture Bureau - Correspondence re: Dr. Werner Hegemann’s City Planning Lectures (Alphabetically arranged by city)

Labor Forum

11 Correspondence with John Collier, 1917
12-13 General Correspondence, 1916 - 1917

Cooper Union Sunday Evening Programs

14 Circular Letters
15-16 People’s Church Programs, 1915 - 1916
17 Printed Matter, 1905 - 1926
Series IV. Adult Education Classes, 1919 - 1930
2 boxes

The Institute's Adult Education Classes were modeled on reading courses offered at Oxford University and Columbia University. This series contains general correspondence, reports, leader's class reports and salary vouchers, information on experimental classes, attendance records, bulletins, and various reports focusing on the years 1926 through 1930.

10 1  General Correspondence, 1926 - 1927
2  Information on Staff, Groups and Courses
3-4 Leader's Class Reports and Salary Vouchers, 1926 - 1927
5  Reader's Round Table, 1929 - 1930
6-15 Experimental Classes
   A - J
11 1-4 M - Z
5  Attendance Records, 1925 - 1927
6  Bulletins Nos. 1 - 3, 1926 - 1927
7  Lectures, 1919 - 1925
8  Assorted Reports and Proposals
9  Vouchers Reports, 1926 - 1927

Series V. Community Art League, 1915 - 1918
3 folders

The Community Art League records contain correspondence, reports and printed matter that document the League's work promoting the arts to the public.

11 10  General Correspondence, 1915 - 1918
11  Reports, n.d.
12  Printed Matter, 1916 - 1917
Series VI. Community Center Work (CCW), 1913 - 1921
2 boxes

This series contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, and printed matter. The Committee on Recreation files highlight one of the People's Institute greatest accomplishments, the Festival and Pageant of Nations (June 1916). Hundreds of people celebrated the heritage of the immigrant communities -Irish, Slavic, Jewish, and Italian- living on the Lower East Side of New York City.

In 1915, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City appointed a committee on recreation. The objective of this committee was to improve the recreation and playground facilities of New York City. The People's Institute, through its Committee of Leisure, contributed to the city's efforts.

In 1918, the Institute organized the Summer Health School at P.S. 40. This was an experimental program that was meant to improve the health of undernourished children through the education of their parents.

Correspondence, programs, reports, financial papers, legal papers, and printed matter reflect the work of the Training School for Community Center Workers, 1913-1919. The School, located at 70 Fifth Avenue, was affiliated with the People's Institute. John Collier was its Staff Director for the period covered by the records in this series. A report to the Trustees of the Training School by John Collier (November 14, 1918) states the Training School's two objectives: to recruit and train leaders for community work and to popularize and develop the community movement itself. The Training School offered a one-year course in professional work in Community Centers, Social Settlements, Public Employment, and Child Welfare Services. Its reports reflect the People's Institute's focus on the Americanization of immigrants.

11 13 Committee on Recreation - general correspondence, 1913 - 1917
14 Committee on Leisure
15 Reports, n.d.
16 Printed Matter, c1921
17 General Correspondence, 1917
18 Drayton, Mrs. J. - correspondence
19 1915
20
12 1 1914 - 1918
3 Reports, c1916
4 Reports, Memos, c1916-1919
5 Summer School Health Program at P.S. 40
6 General Correspondence, 1918
7 Plans and Programs, n.d.
8 Reports, 1918 - 1919
9 Budget Supplies; Printed Matter
10 Training School for Community Center Workers
11 General Correspondence, 1918 - 1919
12 Course Information, 1919
13 Lecture Programs, 1918 - 1919
14 Legal Reports, n.d.
15 Reports, n.d.
16 Financial Papers, 1917 - 1920
Series VII. Community Work, 1899 - 1926

1 box

This series contain material related to the work of three organizations and committees: the Committee on Unadjusted Children, the Needlecraft Guild, and the People's Club A.

The Committee on Unadjusted Children's first objective was to co-ordinate the work of existing agencies (i.e. Department of Education, Police Corrections Department, and the Child Welfare Department) for the care and rehabilitation of children with emotional and mental problems. The committee was established in 1916; E.F. Sanderson was its Chairman while serving in the position of Director of the People’s Institute. John Collier (Staff Director of the New York Training School for Community Center Workers) acted as one of its consultants. The second objective of the Committee was to establish a social clinic for studying and diagnosing individuals.

The Needlecraft Guild correspondence and reports for the years 1916 through 1919 focus on the Ukrainian Needlework Guild, which worked in co-operation with the Art Alliance of America and the People’s Institute.

The People’s Club A was a branch of the People’s Institute. The club sponsored lectures, programs, and social gatherings.

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<th>Committee on Unadjusted Children</th>
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<td>14 General Correspondence, 1906 - 1910</td>
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<td>15 Epstein, Herman and Pierson, Mary.</td>
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<td>16 Circular Letters</td>
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<td>17 Leaflet on organization; letters to</td>
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<td>18 Programs, 1899 - 1908</td>
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</table>
Series VIII. Drama Department, 1905 - 1918

This series contains minutes, correspondence, plans, handbills, circulars, programs, discount theater tickets, membership cards, vouchers, and stationary. The Department of Drama sought to encourage public appreciation of the arts by offering discounted theater tickets. Handbills informed the public that the Institute offered half price tickets to nearly every theater in New York City.

14 1 Minutes, 1906 - 1910
2-3 General Correspondence, 1905 - 1911
4 Correspondence and Plans for Theatre Building, 1919 (Includes Sketches)
5 Plans for Civic Theatre building, 1919
6-8 Handbills, 1907-1910
9 Circulars; Notes
10 Programs, 1905 - 1918
11-12 Discount Tickets for the Theater
13 Membership Cards; Advertisements
14 Vouchers
15 Stationary
Series IX. Music League, 1900 - 1927
6 boxes

Like the Drama Department, the Music League's objective was to broaden the general public's interest in the arts. The general correspondence (alphabetically arranged by correspondent) documents the Music Department's recruiting musicians to play at concerts, rehearsals, and ethnic music showcases; arranging concerts in New York City schools, hospitals, and other locations; and fundraising. This series also includes circular letters, invitations, stationary, subscriptions, reports, and applications. Concert programs and a complete list of programs (boxes 19-20) provide a comprehensive overview of all the concerts, recitals, and other performances that the Music League arranged.

15 1 Minutes, 1914 - 1921
General Correspondence
2-10 A - F
11 Frothingham, John, 1914 - 1917
12-14 G - Hirsch
15 Hirsdansky, Simon, 1914 - 1917
16 Hulbert, Katherine, 1915 - 1917
17 Hodge - Hyde

16 1-3 I - Lee
4 Lefkowitch, H., 1914 - 1919; n.d.
5-17 Leg - Simmons

17 1-5 Smith - Z
6 Circular letters, 1907 - 1920
7 Invitations
8 Stationary
9 Subscriptions
10 Tickets
11-12 Reports, 1912 - 1917, 1920 - 1921
13 Reports: The measure of New York's musical appreciation; Folk song
14 Lists of staff, artists and members
15 Application for use of school building, 1914

18 1 Applications (1915 - 1917)
2 Evaluation of music selection by audience appreciation, n.d.
3-4 Financial Information, 1916 - 1921
5 Programs of Groups
6-7 Programs of Individual Artists
8 Miscellaneous Programs
9-10 Publicity
11 Notes, 1918 - 1919
12 Miscellany

19 1-8 Concert Programs, 1899 - 1927

20 Complete List of Programs, 1915 - 1918
Series X. Comparative Literature Society, 1896 - 1899
1 box

The Comparative Literature Society was founded in 1896 by Charles Sprague Smith. The purpose of the Society was to promote the understanding of literature and stimulate literary production through conferences, lectures, readings, discussion, and classes. This series does not comprise the complete records of the Comparative Literature Society. The general correspondence (alphabetically arranged) contains predominately incoming letters to Charles Sprague Smith in his capacity as Director of the Society and regards lecture schedules, participants, and topics. The series also contains an unbound scrapbook of fliers, applications for membership, and newspaper clippings. The scrapbook gives the most comprehensive overview of the Society.

21 1 Constitution and Bylaws, 1896
2 Minutes, 1899
3-4 General Correspondence A - M
5-6 Scrapbook, 1897 - 1899
7 Tickets; Poster
8 Programs
9 Miscellaneous
### Series XI. Affiliated Organizations, 1901 - 1921

2 boxes

This series consists of the Institute's files on its peer institutions and organizations. The files include minutes, letters, reports, and printed matter.

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<td>Minutes and Reports, 1919, n.d.</td>
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<td>Financial Statements, 1918 - 1919</td>
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<td>Child Health Organizations, 1919</td>
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<td>Committees on Immigrations, 1915 - 1921</td>
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<td>Community Clearing House, 1917</td>
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<td>Community Music Movement in Baltimore and the NY Community Chorus, 1916 - 1917</td>
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<td>A. Lyle DeJannette, Executive Secretary. Correspondence, 1917</td>
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<td>General Correspondence, 1917 - 1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cooperative League of America, 1918 - 1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Federation for Child Study, 1918 - 1919</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Gramercy Boys Club Minutes, 1919 - 1921</td>
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<td>Correspondence and Reports, 1919 - 1921</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Harlem Branch of the People's Institute, 1901 - 1902</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>National Conference Community Centers, 1914 - 1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>People's Institute of Brooklyn Minutes, 1918 - 1919</td>
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<td>General Correspondence, 1916 - 1920</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence between Seymour Barnard and Edward Sanderson, 1916 - 1920</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Reports, 1917</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Assorted Affiliated Organization Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Printed Matter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series XII. Writings and Miscellany, 1899 - 1917

2 boxes

24 1  Address of Andrew Carnegie, 1904
    2  Collier, John. The crisis of democracy; Which would you rather have?
    3  Collier, Lucy Wood. The two women at Locust Point and the things a school
        principle can do, n.d.
    4  Holt, L. Emmet. A community plan for health and medical service, n.d.
    5  Markham, Edwin. Conference trusts, 1900
    6  Martin, Everett Dean. The philosophy of adult education, n.d.
    7  Memorial for Charles Sprague Smith, n.d.
    8  Quick, Herbert. The Brown House, n.d.
    9  Smith, Charles Sprague. Assorted writings.
   10  Thorpe, Dr. F. The American concept, 1899
   14  Dance Hall report, 1912
   15  Articles on community centers
   16  Articles on rural schools.
   17  Various authors writings on the People's Institute.
   18  Articles: Americanization - Recreation
   19  Miscellany
   20  Notes: Business for women
   21-23 Notes

Miscellany

25 1  Smith, Charles Sprague. Miscellaneous Correspondence
    2  Miscellaneous Correspondence; Notes
    3  Chart of the People's Institute; Ink sketch
    4-5 Legal Documents
    6  Underwriting Account, 1917
    7  People's Institute League. Minutes, 1906 - 1908
    8  Miscellaneous Minutes
    9  Unidentified Plan
Series XIII. Printed Material, 1898 - 1934
15 boxes

This series consists of annual reports, brochures, broadsides, programs, pamphlets, and bulletins published by the Institute. It also includes pamphlets and periodicals issued by peer organizations. The newspaper clippings and related materials (boxes 30-40, 1898-1922) are disbound scrapbooks and make up the bulk of the series. Arranged chronologically, these scrapbooks include programs, pamphlets and other ephemera, in addition to clippings. The scrapbooks provide an overview of the Institute's activities, work, and affiliates.

The clippings regarding the Stadium Symphony Concerts document concerts held during the summers of 1919 through 1921 at Lewisohn Stadium at the City College of New York. The concerts were sponsored by the Music League of the Institute. A small fee of admission was charged to concert-goers with the proceeds going to the Institute.

Annual Reports
26 1-9 1899 - 1908, 1911 - 1921, 1926 - 1930
10 19th Year Book, 1917
11 20th Year Book and 30th year Book, 1918, 1927
12 Financial Statements, 1917 - 1919
13 Reports of the Assistant Director, 1914 - 1915

Miscellany
14 The city where crimes play, 1914
15 The Music League: Annual Report, 1919
16-17 The NY Training School for Community Workers, 1915 - 1918

27 1 Broadsides, 1916, n.d.
2 Brochures, 1898 - 1909
3 Brochure: Reader's Round Table. The People's Institute and the public libraries, 1929 - 1930
4 The Civic Journal, 1909 - 1910
5 Bulletins (assorted), 1908 - 1919; n.d.
6-7 Cooper Union, Great Hall. Programs, 1899 - 1907, 1915 - 1925
8 Adult Education lectures, 1928 - 1934
9 Program of courses, 1899
10 Information pamphlets on the People's Institute
11 Social Center Committee, 1915
12 People's Symphony Concerts, c1904 - 1905
13 Collier, John. Assorted articles, c1912 - 1914
14 Martin, Everett Dean. Article, 1923
15 Smith, Charles Sprague. Articles/Addresses, 1903 - 1905; n.d.
16 People's Institute in Roxbury. Reports, 1896; 1898
17 Miscellaneous Printed Matter

Pamphlets
28 1 American Recreation League. The menace of motion picture censorship, n.d.
2 Childs, Clinton. A year's experiment in social center organization (re: P.S. 63 in Manhattan)
3 Committee of Fourteen in NYC, 1915 - 1916
4 Committee for Immigrants in America. Professional course for services among immigrants, n.d.
5 Dept of Public Institution. Bureau of Commercial Economics, 1916
6 Griffith, Eleanor G. Cho - Cho and the health fairy, 1919
7 Health Services, NYC. Watch New York children grow, n.d.
**Box** | **Fol** | **Description**  
--- | --- | ---  
28 | 8 | Pamphlets (continued)  
| | | House, Frederick B. The application of the law of disorderly conduct..., c1914  
| | | Martin, Everett Dean. The mob mind vs civil liberty, 1920  
| | | Mencken, Alice P. Hints for meeting problems of maladjusted youth, 1922  
| | | Public baths under the supervision of the President of the Borough of Manhattan, 1914  
| | | Report of Special Committee on the parole problem, 1930  
| | | University Extension Lectures, 1899 - 1901  
| | | Pamphlets on immigrants  
29 | 1 | Periodicals  
| | | America Vol. 1 # 4, 1916  
| | | The Children, 1914  
| | | The Community Center Bulletin, 1917 - 1918  
| | | The Community Forum, 1917  
| | | London Quarterly, 1957  
| | | Tomahawk, 1925  
| | | Unity, 1917  
| | | Miscellaneous brochures, bulletins, pamphlets, and printed matter  
30 | 1-5 | Newspaper Clippings and Related Materials (formerly scrapbooks)  
| | | 1898 - 1903  
31 | 1-5 | 1903 - 1905  
32 | 1-7 | 1906 - 1908  
34 | 1-6 | 1908 - 1909  
35 | | 1909  
36 | | 1911 - 1915 (flat box)  
37 | 1-5 | 1914 - 1917  
38 | 1-3 | 1917 - 1922  
| | | Stadium Symphony Concerts  
| | | 1919  
38 | 4-6 | 1919 - 1921  
39 | 1-5 | 1921  
40 | | 1921  
| | | Court of Special Sessions, 1927 - 1928  
| | | Re: A.D. Juillard's Bequest, 1919  
| | | Ukrainian Arts and Crafts, c1922  
| | | Reprinted Articles
### Series XIV. Financial records, 1898 - 1933
21 boxes, 26 volumes

#### A. Correspondence, 1898 - 1925

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#### B. Contributions, 1918 - 1922

Record of contributions

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<td>1920 - 1925</td>
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#### C. Account books, 1907 - 1932

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<td>1907 - 1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1910 - 1913 (Cash book)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1910 - 1913 (Purchasing journal)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1914 - 1915</td>
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<td>1917 - 1919</td>
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<td>1919 - 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1921 - 1923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People's Institute records
Series descriptions and box list

10  1924 - 1928
11  1928 - 1932
15  Journal of accounts, 1900 - 1909
16  Journal of monthly bills, 1914 - 1922

D. Ledgers, 1900 - 1922
12  1907 - 1908
13  1910 - 1914
14  1915 - 1922

E. Statement of Balances, 1914 - 1921
48  3-9  1914 - 1917
49  1-12 1918 - 1921

F. Specific Accounts, 1916 - 1930
50  1 Adult Education Programs. Financial Statements, 1923 - 1930
   2 Children's Chorus, 1916
   Community Work
   3 Juvenile Delinquency Investigation, 1913
   4 P.S. 40 Vacation Health School, 1917 - 1918
   5 Liberty Festival, 1918
   6 Nutrition Festival, 1918
   7 Cooper Union Activities, 1919 - 1920
   8 Recreation Fund & Gramercy Boys, 1919 - 1921
   9-10 Music League, 1912 - 1921
   11 National Association of Credit Men, 1917
   Needlecraft & Bobbin Guild
   12-14 1920 - 1921
51  1-3 Miscellaneous Receipts, 1920-1921
   4 Negro Toy Industry, 1919 - 1920

Vol
New York Training School for Community Workers
   Account books
   17  1915 - 1917
   18  1917 - 1919

Box  Fol
51  5-6 Correspondence,
    7-8 Bills, 1915 - 1916
    9-10 Financial Statements, 1915 - 1916

Stadium Concerts
52  1-2 Accounts
    3-4 Auditor's Statements, 1919 - 1921

Vol
22  Accounts, 1919 - 1921

19  School of People's Institute, 1919-1925
20  Experimental Courses accounts, 1926 - 1927
21  Committee for Promotion of Community Centers, 1915 - 1916
G. Subscribers, 1912 - 1927

52  5-8  1912 - 1921
53  1-7  1921 - 1927, n.d.

H. Miscellaneous Financial Documents, 1912 - 1925

54  1  Budget for the Fiscal Year, 1912 - 1913
    2-4  Miscellaneous Contributions
    5-6  Estimate Receipts for the Fiscal Year, 1914 - 1915
    7  Estimate Expenditures and Receipts, 1916 - 1920
    8-9  Salaries and Income Tax Forms, 1917 - 1922
    10  Summary of Accounts, 1922
    11  Assorted Accounts, 1920 - 1921

55  1-2  Auditors Statements, General Funds, 1915 - 1925
    3  Drafts of letters; Notes to Contributors
    4-11  Assorted Financial Documents

I. Bills, 1916 - 1932

56  1-9  1916 - 1933
57  Bank Vouchers, 1926-1932

Series XV. Half Tone Printing Blocks

59-63

The half tone printing blocks were used for various Institute publications. These blocks are not available for consultation.
Series XVI. Photographs, 1908 - 1921

A. Photographic prints
8 boxes

Jessie Tarbox Beals and her husband and business partner Alfred Tennyson Beals were the principal photographers hired by the People's Institute to document its programs and activities. This series also includes several photographs taken by Lewis Hine. Most of the photographs were taken on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. A large portion of the photographs are devoted to children engaged in various activities.

The photographs of the Health School at P.S. 40 (1918) document the Institute's efforts to improve the health of European immigrant children living on the Lower East Side. The images include children being weighed and measured, scenes of mostly boys eating food, immigrant mothers with their children, and young girls dancing and playing on the roof of P.S. 40.

1. Cooper Union, c1919 - 1921
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals or the Beals Studio.

64 1 Great Hall. People's Institute Sunday evening free concert
2 Exterior view, one half hour before a People's Institute free Sunday Night concert
3 Audience watching group on stage dressed in European costumes
4 Exterior view
5-6 Exterior of two sides of building
7 Great Hall

2. Stadium Symphony Concerts, c1919 - 1921
All pictures credited to A. Tennyson Beals.

64 8-9 People waiting in line to enter the Lewisohn Stadium at City College

3. Boys engaged in physical activities and workshops, 1919-1920
All pictures credited to A. Tennyson Beals, except #19 by unidentified photographer.

64 10-11 Boys boxing in Gramercy Park Boys Club
12 Boys playing indoor basketball
13 Boys exercising before going into pool
14 Boys in typewriting and shorthand class
15-17 Manual training group of Gramercy Boys Club
18 Gramercy Boys Club and the Madison Square Boys club at Christmas party
19 Boys playing

4. P.S. 42, Bronx, NYC., June 13-17, c1920
All pictures credited to Beals Studio.

64 20 Basketball game
21 Baseball game
22 Handball game
23 Start of basketball game
24 Broad jump and high jump
25 Shot put
5. Other activities arranged by the People's Institute or Affiliates, c1919-1921
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals, except #29 credited to Underwood and Underwood.

64 26 Boys in blackface
27 Boys and girls cleaning school yard
28 Boys engaged in construction work activities
29 Girls dancing in East Side playground

6. Street scenes with children, c1908;1915-1921
Credits in parentheses when available.

64 30 Children playing in street (Published in The Sun)
31 Child playing with go cart (J.H. Hare, Colliers Weekly)
32 Girls playing hopscotch
33 East Harlem Street Festival, c1915 (Krohn & Kollatz, photographers)
34 Kick the can for which many children are arrested. Scene: boys playing in alleyway
35 Typical gang of street urchins. Hells Kitchen
37 Children playing in street under adult supervision (Krohn & Kollatz, photographers)
38 May Pole Dance (M.P. World)
39 Girls in bathing suits standing in water
40 Boys in bathing suits standing in water
41 Boys in playground
42 Little Mothers at Hartford. Scene: Immigrant girls holding babies that are being bathed
43 Little Childrens Village, Hartford, CT
44 Concession stand
45 Boys in camp jumping over high rope
46 Boys waiting on line
47 Boys bent over water bowl. Outdoor scene
48 Boys at labor
49 Boys outdoors (Beals)
50 Child sleeping on stairs on top of newspapers (Lewis Hine for National Child Labor Committee)

7. Theatrical performances, c1907, 1919-1921
Credits in parentheses when available.

65 51-52 Bohemian Folk Dance (Lewis Hine)
53 Scene from The Coming of Mary. Actors from The People's Art League Marionette Theatre
54 Bufano and Sisti (Paul Thompson)
55 Duel between Roland and the giant (Paul Thompson)
56 The Magician summons the Devil (Paul Thompson)
57 Two figures dressed in medieval armour (Paul Thompson?)
58 Cast of unidentified play at Public School No. 63
59 Two cast members of same unidentified play at Public School No. 63
60 Man dressed in costume playing flute on stage (Miskin, NY)
61 Three women posing with harp (Signature Ariel Boughton)
62 Dance. Pandora's Box. West Side playground
63 Group image of men and women dressed in European native costumes
64-68 Rehearsal of Industrial dances for the Pageant of Labor (Jessie Tarbox Beals)
7. Theatrical performances (continued)
   Oedipus the King. Greek Theatre, NYC (Glessner, Morse & Geary, Inc.
   Kodak Dealers)

8. Musicians and Social Scenes, c1919 - 1921
   Credits in parentheses when available.
   Pleasure Club Band (Jessie Tarbox Beals?)
   Men's orchestra rehearsing at P.S. 63 (Edward W. Stitt)
   Henry Lefkowitz leading the Beethoven Orchestra (Jessie Tarbox Beals.)
   Day School orchestra under the direction of Mr. Jeffrey Harris (Jessie
   Tarbox Beals)
   Adult Dance indoors (Jessie Tarbox Beals)
   The Bankside Theater
   Outdoor stage at night. W.W. I military seated on stage. Background:
   NYC? (A. Tennyson Beals)
   Night time audience at unidentified event (A. Tennyson Beals)
   Girls in uniforms seated in theatre. Tier above adults (A. Tennyson Beals)
   Night dance for adults held in school court yard (A. Tennyson Beals)
   Audience attending music concert in Prospect Park, Brooklyn (Evening
   Post)

9. Buildings, c1920
   Capital at Albany, NY
   Capital in the District of Columbia
   Painting of exterior of Wisconsin Players Playhouse

10. Health School at P.S. 40, 1918
    All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals.
    Young girl in sailor's dress on scale
    Theodore Roosevelt weighs food scouts
    Nude child being weighed while doctor looks on
    Boy's respiratory system being checked by physician
    Boys lined up against wall being checked for weight gain
    Three girls lined up against the wall
    Mothers learn to eat the lunch the food scouts have been taught to like
    Close up of boy eating
    Boys eating
    Dr. Stark and a group of adults watch boys eat
    Mothers learning to cook nourishing food for their children
    Group, mainly girls, preparing to serve food
    Watching moving pictures of the war on outdoor screen in the school yard
    Chart stimulates the children's interest in gaining weight. Actual view:
        Blank sheets of paper with a child's name on top
    Playtime. Actual view: Girls in uniform dancing barefoot on roof of P.S. 40
    These children played in the fresh air and sunshine all summer. Actual
    view: Children playing in school yard
    Under nourished children need quiet occupation to get up to normal weight.
    Actual view: girls weaving rattan chairs
    Three o'clock in the Health School. No danger of these boys being sent to
    juvenile court. Actual scene: Boys repairing shoes
    Boys working in woodshop
    Food Scouts, P.S. 40
11. Food Conservation Work, 1918
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals.

66 119 Food saving demonstration in the Gramercy District
120 Another food conservation demonstration?

12. Health Work of People's Institute, c1918
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals.

66 121 Building: Dept. of Health
122 In conference with health consultant
123 Interior of Dept. of Health
124 Mothers, babies and toddlers

13. Red Cross, c1918
All pictures credited to Beals Studio.

66 125 A Red Cross workroom in Wingate Community Center
126 Red Cross workers

67 127-130

14. Troop 486, Manhattan

15. Immigration Center

67 131 Exterior view of Immigration Center in Manhattan
132 People, seated waiting for assistance

16. Lincoln House. Toy and Needle Industry

67 133 Several African-American sewing
134 African-American woman seated in front of completed items on display
135 Several African-American women sewing and cutting children clothes

17. Night School
All pictures credited to A. Tennyson Beals.

67 136-137 Men engaged in exercise
138 Men engaged in gymnastics

18. Training School and The School of Philosophy
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals.

67 139 Students (women) at the Training School
140 Casting ballots at P.S. 41
141 The Game Room
142 Saturday night with the School of Philosophy
143 Emergency Corps. Social Center 63

19. Miscellany
All pictures credited to Jesse Tarbox Beals except where noted.

67 144 Exterior view of The Gramercy Community Clearing House
145 Ukranian Club. Men engaged in shooting pool (A. Tennyson Beals)
146 Governing Board of the Woodside (Queens) Community Council
   (unidentified photographer)
147 Unidentified meeting
148 Empty room with chairs facing blackboard
149 Skyscraper view of NYC
150 Block of The Committee on Unadjusted Children, 217 E. 22nd St., NYC
151 Barber Shop polling place (unidentified photographer)
152 Sign above store: Stanton Extra Beer (Hine Photo Co.)
153 Parade. Flower covered car (unidentified photographer)
## 19. Miscellany (continued)

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Children playing on equipment</td>
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<tr>
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<td>155</td>
<td>Tenament apartment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>156</td>
<td>Group of children standing on wagon</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>Man and children seated facing camera (unidentified photographer)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>158</td>
<td>Roma (gypsies) (unidentified photographer. postcard)</td>
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## 20. Pageant of Nations, June 6, 1914

Credits in parentheses when available.

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<td>159</td>
<td>Bohemians</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Hungarian Dance (International News Service)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Germans in native costumes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>162</td>
<td>Group of Swiss peasants (International News Service)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Maypole Dance (International News Service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>164</td>
<td>Group of Bohemian children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>165</td>
<td>Group of women dressed in costumes representing various themes (International News Service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>166</td>
<td>Crowds of people watching dancing from tenaments (Underwood &amp; Underwood)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>167</td>
<td>Indian Braves marching (Europeans dressed in pseudo native costumes) (Underwood &amp; Underwood)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>168-169</td>
<td>Two different photoprints of the full pageant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>170-171</td>
<td>Yorkville Social Center. June walk, 1915</td>
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<td>172</td>
<td>People dancing in the street at night. Pageant? (Jessie Tarbox Beals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>Girls marching down the street with Maypole (Underwood &amp; Underwood)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Girls marching three and four abreast in native costumes (Underwood &amp; Underwood)</td>
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<td>175</td>
<td>Asembly of the Pageant</td>
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<td>176-178</td>
<td>Male dancers taking to the field</td>
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<td></td>
<td>179</td>
<td>Children dressed as Indian braves</td>
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<td>180-181</td>
<td>Pageant viewed from distance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Large group of spectators watching dancers</td>
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<td>183-184</td>
<td>Pageant participants lined up around field</td>
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<td>185-186</td>
<td>Girls with maypole dancing on field</td>
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## 21. Individuals

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<td>Dubeota, Gerard. Baritone</td>
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<td>Torpadie, Greta. Soprano</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Photoprints of unidentified men and women</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Unidentified boy (Jessie Tarbox Beals)</td>
</tr>
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</table>
22. Miscellaneous Photoprints, c1920

Several photoprints of Ukrainian arts & crafts
A street in Lower East Side showing congestion (Jessie Tarbox Beals)
Children standing on wagon, c1920 (Jessie Tarbox Beals)
Outdoor stadium filled with people (Drucker & Balt)
A colossal kid chorus (Howard Cox)
Inter-Community singfest
Music recitals

B. Glass Plate Negatives with copy prints

4 boxes

The 60 glass plates and the postcard reproductions of the plates in this subseries were taken by Sidney Ateller of immigrant children's pageants and other activities in Chicago, 1914-1915.

All of the glass plates were reproduced as postcards. Researchers are advised to consult the copies of the postcards before consulting the original postcards. Original glass plates are available for consultation only with curator's permission. A few images of the glass plates are duplicated in subseries A. Photographic Prints.

72 Photocopies of postcards reproduced from glass plates
73 Postcards reproduced from glass plates

Glass Plates (Restricted: consult photocopies or postcards)

74 1-35
75 36-60

C. Lantern Slides

2 boxes

The lantern slides were made from the photographic prints in subseries A. They are arranged by subject with the exception of a quarter of the slides directly credited to Jessie Tarbox Beals and her husband Alfred Tennyson Beals. Some of the slides are colored.

Restricted: consult photographic prints. Originals available only with curator's permission.