

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 44 M 95

Location Annex
22-k-1 (L)

Title Women's Peace Union. Records

Approximate inclusive dates 1921 - 1941

Bulk dates 1929 - 1940

Date of receipt 1944

Received from Tracy D. Mygatt

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 8 AB; 3.25 l.f.

Condition good

Restrictions none

Description The Women's Peace Union (WPU), founded in 1921, was a national organization committed to personal refusal to support war and to promoting legislation outlawing war. In the aftermath of World War I, the Union was formed as a movement of unconditional resistance to war. Many of the original members of the WPU had been involved in pacifist activities during World War I. Frances Witherspoon, Tracy Dickinson Mygatt and Jessie Wallace Hughan, who were among the founding members, were also members of the Women's Peace Party. During WWI they had been active in aiding conscientious objectors.

The WPU was in favor of total independent disarmament by the United States. Their main program toward this aim in the years 1921 to 1941 was to promote a constitutional amendment, known as the Independent Disarmament Amendment, which would make war, preparation for war or appropriations for war illegal. In pursuit of this aim the WPU raised funds, spoke in support of the Amendment, enlisted the support of legislators, organized demonstrations, collected signatures and worked with other pacifist organizations including the War Resisters International. *the Pennsylvania Committee for Total Disarmament.* The Independent Disarmament Amendment was first introduced in the Senate by Lynn J. Frazier in 1926. In 1934 hearings on the amendment were held by the Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Statements of support were submitted by Devere Allen, Dr. Edmund Chaffee, Dr. Jessie W. Hughan, Annie E. Gray and Dr. Sidney Strong among others. The Amendment was introduced in the House by Vito Marcantonio in 1936.

The WPU had no officers and its planning and programs were carried out by a working committee. It's last year of operation was 1940.

The records of the Women's Peace Union span the years 1921 to 1941 and include correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records, writings and ephemera.

The bulk of the correspondence dates from 1929 to 1940 and includes letters among working
Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

NOTE: 2 snapshots & 1 unidentified image

Temporary catalog card added entries

Disarmament	Caroline Lexow Babcock	Tracy D. Mygatt
Pacifism	Vaughn Bachman Brokaw	Mary B. Orr
Pacifists - United States	Elinor Byrns	Mary Winsor
Peace	Jessie Wallace Hughan	
Peace - Societies	Frieda L. Lazarus	Accessioned by <u>FP</u>

United Pacifist Committee

Women and Peace

Pennsylvania Committee for Total Disarmament.

Date 2/19/86

committee members regarding planning and strategy, fundraising appeals, news from other pacifist organizations and general correspondence. Most of the outgoing letters were written by Tracy Mygatt for the WPU. The correspondence also includes information on conferences and meetings attended by WPU members, notably Frieda L. Lazarus's letters from the League of Nations Disarmament Conference in 1932. Correspondents include: Devere Allen, Caroline Lexow Babcock, Elinor Byrns, Vaughn Bachman Brockaw, Edmund Chaffee, Louise and William Floyd, Zona Gale, Jessie Wallace Hughan, Abraham Kaufman, Frieda L. Lazarus, Lola Maverick Lloyd, Tracy Dickinson Mygatt, Mary B. Orr, Sidney Strong and Mary Winsor.

Minutes are included for the first organizing conference in 1921. In later years working committee minutes are included for the years 1923 to 1932, 1936 and 1940 with varying degrees of completeness. Reports of Committee members document their activities on behalf of the WPU and also report on conferences which they have attended. Financial records for the years 1922 to 1939 include treasurer's reports, records of expenditures and records of contributions for some years.

Writings of WPU members and supporters include articles, addresses, speeches, fiction and poetry which reflect the pacifist position. Ephemera and unsorted papers include historical notes on the WPU, press releases, leaflets of the WPU and other peace organizations, membership lists, signed petitions and appeals (including those signed by American authors in 1939), 2 photographs and the minutes of the United Pacifist Committee for 1939.

NOTE: 12 ½ feet of records of the Women's Peace Union are available at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection where the personal papers of Tracy Mygatt and Frances Witherspoon are also housed.

WOMEN'S PEACE UNION

Container List

Box No.	Contents
1	<u>Correspondence</u> 1921 - Feb. 1936
2	March 1936 - Dec. 1936
3	1937 - Sept. 1938
4	Oct. 1938 - Sept. 1939
5	Oct. 1939 - 1941; n.d.
6	Minutes, 1921 - 1940 Reports, 1923 - 1938 Financial Records, 1922 - 1939 Contributions, 1936 - 1939 Cashbook, April 1922 - Jan. 1924 (1 vol.) Contributions Book, Jan. 1935 - July 1936 (1 vol.)
7	Historical Notes on WPU Publicity Writings Photographs Statements on Disarmament Amendment (Senate Hearings, 1934) Signed Appeals for Peace (U.S. Authors, 1939) Signed Petitions Draft Resolutions Minutes, United Pacifist Committee - 1939 Unsorted papers
8	Membership Lists Contributor's Card File List of Volunteers (1 vol.) Address book (1 vol.)