

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39 Records

Collection # 029

September 2009 version

Abstract

The Typographical Union collection includes the records of Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39, Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as general documents from the printing industry. The papers and records portray the history and financial background of the Union, everyday business proceedings, and activities and operations of the Union, including strikes. Strike Rolls contain the names of members that went on strike during 1905-1906, 1921-1922, and 1958-1959. Pamphlets are valuable in tracing the origins of the Union, and the International Typographical Union. The collection also contains material that pertains to the Unions involvement with Etheridge Company, Furniture City Printing Co., Grevel Printing Co. and other companies. Also found in this collection, but currently without context, are photographs and an autograph book associated with Hattie Carlyle Baker.

Collection #: 029
 Accession #: 1986.528
 Donor: Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39
 Span dates: 1876-1964 ;
 Original archival processing date: Jan. 1987.
 Size: 5.17 linear ft. (62 inches)

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
Box inventory 8/2009		
1	constitution/correspondence	standard
2	business records	standard
3	bus. records	standard
4	bus.records/cash books	standard legal
5	bus. records/contracts	standard legal
6	check receipts/photos	clam 3.5x9.5x13
7	bus. records/journals	standard legal
8	monthly stamp reports	gray lid 3.5x12x17.5
9	membership records	slim legal
10	minutes	standard legal
11	minutes	standard legal
12	minutes/clippings	standard legal
13	strike roll	standard legal
14	strike	standard

Changed to standard, and removed the few oversized items to another legal box.
3/18/2009

Processing note:

Miscellaneous materials include autograph book, stapler, two voting boxes, two printing blocks, and a seal imprint. These items except the autograph book were transferred to the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The original order of the collection was kept. Newspaper clippings and correspondence were copied onto acid free paper. Cleaning of papers and records was done with an opaline pad.

History

The Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39 emerged from the issuance of the North American Typographical Union charter on April 19, 1858. The earliest constitution book of the Union, bearing the imprint, "Printing House of I.S. Dygert, 1844," has a cut of the Union seal bearing this date. On May 2, 1859, the first official meeting under the charter was held in the composing rooms of the *Daily Eagle* in the Withey Block on Canal Street, now lower Monroe Avenue. After early records were lost, a new charter was issued by the International in 1873.

The presence of the Baker family photographs in this collection is currently unexplained. Wesley Baker is documented in the U.S. Census as a grocer and later a tanner. Hattie was a home maker. The older daughter Lena Baker is given as a stenographer at the Museum in 1910 and still living at home. Two other children are listed for Wesley & Hattie, a daughter, Berniece, and a son, R. Carlyle. Also in 1910 census are found Lena Baker Kelsey and Frank Kelsey living in Colorado, perhaps an aunt of the younger Lena.

Scope and Contents

The records of the company form about 75% of the collection. The best access to historical information about the organization in general may be the publications, including a one hundred year centennial from 1859 to 1959. Gaps exist in all of the records series within this collection. Minutes range from 1891-1934, with a few gaps. While the cash books appear to range from 1891 to 1954, there is a gap of about 20 years in the 1920's & 1930's. Other financial records may compensate for this gap.

The correspondence in the collection pertains to Union conventions, members, and strikes. Data specific to five companies for Etheridge Printing Co., Furniture City Printing Co., Grevel Printing Co., Toren Printing Co., and George W. Welsh Company is mainly correspondence from the mid 1940s to the mid 1950s. "Strike: 1958-1959" records consist of correspondence, business invoices, financial statements, and strike roll. Miscellaneous material consist of two voting boxes, two print blocks, stapler, seal printer, and an autograph book.

Series Descriptions

Series I. Records

Records of the organization for the bulk of the collection. Included are some correspondence from 1893 to 1959. Different types of ledgers document the finances, with some type of coverage from 1876 to the 1950's. There are gaps in several of the financial series, with some types of documents covering only certain date ranges. For example, the "Journals" cover the years, 1876 to 1903 only. Pension rolls exist for 1909 to 1929. Minute cover 1891 to 1934. Membership applications, certificates and registers cover 1893 to 1919. Most of these documents are housed in old ledge type volumes which would be damaged by photocopying or scanning, for the use of a non-flash camera to copy these items is preferred.

Series II. Strike Documents.

Strike rolls cover 1905/1906 and 1921/1922. For the period of 1958/1959 a wider scope of documentation is available, including correspondence, and also some strike rolls.

Series III. Records for Specific Companies

Correspondence related to three companies are available from 1944 to 1956. These are the Ethridge, Toren Printing, and George Welsh companies. Correspondence for the Furniture City Printing Company range from 1946 to 1958. For the Grevel Printing company only contracts are found.

Series IV. Images

Only a dozen photos are found in this collection, which seem to be associated with Hattie Baker.

Series V. Ephemera

An autograph book, also belonging to Hattie Baker, is found in this series. The association of Hattie Baker to this organization is currently unknown.

Also included in this series are some newspaper clippings and a few pamphlets or programs associated with the organization.

Series VI. Publications

Two items studying the history of the organization are dated 1963 or 1966. Also included here is a hundred year centennial publication from 1859 to 1959.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		Series I. Records
		Organizational Documents
11	1	Constitution, n.d.
		Correspondence
1	2	Aug 22, 1893-Nov 4, 1939.
	3	Oct 1, 1951-Apr 3, 1959.
		Business Records
		Accounts Payable
1	4	1950-1951.
	5	Jun 4-Oct 15, 1951.
	6	May 12,-Dec 8, 1957.
	7-9	1958-60.
2	10-13	1961-4.
		Business Invoices
	14	1919-30.
	15	1940-7.
	16	1948-9.
		Business Receipts
3	17-19	Business Receipts, 1910-1949
3	20-21	Financial Secretary Report, 1913-1931
		Cash books.
4	Vol. 1	Nov, 1897 to Jul, 1920.
	22	Jun 6, 1921 to Apr 21, 1922.
	Vol. 2	Sep 8, 1921 to Dec 30, 1922.
	Vol. 3	Jun, 1944 to Dec 15, 1947.
	Vol. 4	Dec 18, 1947 to Jan 11, 1952.
	Vol. 5	May 17, 1947 to Oct 17, 1953.
5	Vol. 6	Jan, 1952 to May, 1956.
	23	Contracts, 1914-16.
	24	Daily Newspapers, 1918-21.
		Dues Ledger
	Vol. 7	Feb 1931 to Dec 1940.
	Vol. 8	Jan 1941 to Dec 1946.

- Series I. Records**
Check Receipts
6 Nov 11, 1948 to Jul 5, 1958.
- Journals (Business)**
7 Vol. 9 1876-1896.
Vol. 10. 1896-1903.
- Old Age Pension Roll**
Vol. 11 Nov, 1909-Jun, 1912.
Vol. 12 Jul, 1912-Oct, 1915.
Vol. 13 Oct, 1915-Jan, 1918.
Vol. 14 Jan, 1918-Sep, 1922.
Sept, 1922-Oct, 1925
Vol. 15 Nov, 1925-Feb, 1929.
- Monthly Stamp Reports**
8 Vol. A Jan 6, 1910 to Nov 9, 1913.
Vol. B Dec 14, 1913 to Jan 18, 1916.
Vol. C Feb 14, 1916 to Aug 13, 1919.
Vol. D Dec 12, 1926 to Nov 17, 1930.
Vol. E Dec 18, 1930 to Aug 16, 1943.
- Savings & Share Acct. Books**
24a Feb 9, 1937 to Jul 15, 1968.
- Subseries Membership**
9 25 Applications, 1893-5.
26 Certificate, 1895-1909.
27 Certificate, 1898-1909.
28 Membership Register, 1917-19.
29 ITU Convention Visitors Register, 1944.
30 Certificate and Withdrawal Cards, n.d.
- Subseries Minutes**
10 Vol.16 May 3, 1891 to Dec 2, 1894.
Vol.17 Jan 6, 1895 to Dec 6, 1903.
Vol.18 Jan 3, 1904 to Jul 5, 1914.
11 Vol.19 Aug, 1917 to Feb, 1921.
Vol.20 Mar 6, 1921 to Dec 2, 1924.
Vol.21 Jan 6, 1924 to Aug 1, 1926.
Vol.22 Sep 5, 1926 to Dec, 1929.
12 Vol.23 Dec 1, 1929 to Jun 1, 1934.
Vol.24 Jun 3, 1934 to Oct 28, 1934.

		Series II. Strike documents
13		Strike Rolls
	Vol.25	Sep 12, 1905-Oct 31, 1905.
	Vol.26	Nov 1, 1905-Mar 17, 1906.
	Vol.27	Mar 19, 1906-Aug 8, 1906.
	Vol.28	Aug 15, 1921-Nov 12, 1921.
	Vol.29	Nov 14, 1921-Sep 16, 1922.
		Strike, 1958-1959
14	41	Correspondence, Oct. 16, 1958-Feb. 26, 1959.
14	42	Business Invoices-1959 Convention.
14	43	Financial Statements.
14	44	Notes.
10		Oversized notes.
14	45	Strike Roll.
6	x	Miscellaneous.

Series III. Records of Specific Companies

Etheridge Company

14 36 Correspondence, Oct 23, 1944-Aug 15, 1956.
14 37 Contracts.

Furniture City Printing Company

14 38 Correspondence, SepT. 17, 1946-Jul 15, 1958.
14 39 Contracts.

Grevel Printing Company

14 40 Contracts.

Toren Printing Company

14 46 Correspondence, Oct. 23, 1944-Jul 18, 1958.
14 47 Contracts.
10 x Oversized Contacts.

George W. Welsh Company

14 48 Correspondence, May 5, 1944-Jun 13, 1956.
14 49 Contracts

Series IV. Images

Photographs

14 50

12 photos, (10/1999 & 5/7/2007)

1. Hattie Carlyle Baker. Portrait photo of woman. A.A. Barr, photographer, Grand Rapids.
2. Wesley P. Baker. Portrait photo of young man. A.A. Barr, photographer, Grand Rapids
3. Hattie Carlyle Baker (left), Wesley P. Baker with Lena Baker (child) on his lap
4. Unidentified man in top hat (perhaps Wesley Baker). Stanton & Burdick, photographers, Los Angeles, Calif. Has "Hattie M. [Mary?] Baker" on verso
5. Unidentified map. Stanton & Burdick, photographers, Los Angeles, Calif. Has "Hattie M. Baker" on verso
6. Frank Kelsey & Lenna Estelle Kelsey. Portrait photo of couple, woman standing. Jarvis, photographer, Pasadena, Calif.
7. Man and woman standing in front of a brick house. Chair on porch in front of door. Photo postcard.
8. Unidentified young woman. F. L. Hogan, photographer, Rockford, Mich.
9. Unidentified photo of three woman, including woman in 8 and probably Hattie Baker at right. R.H. Williams, photographer, Rockford, Mi.
10. Unidentified group with 9 women. G.N. Westfall, photographer, Rockford, Mi.
11. Unidentified group with 1 man and 6 women. Probably Lena Baker Kensity seated front right, and Hattie Baker seated second row right. W.H. Jones, photographer, Cedar Springs, Mi.
12. Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Union Printers Home (Colorado Springs, Colorado) / James Bates, photographer. .

- 14 51 **Series V. Ephemera**
Autograph Book belonging to Hattie Carlyle Baker.
- Newspaper Clippings**
- 12 31
12 32 Notes
- Pamphlets, Programs, etc.**
- 12 33 75th Anniversary, 1859-1934
c. 1
c. 2 Formerly M331.88.In8 00.[2585].1 8/11/2003
- 12 33.5 87th Convention, International Typographical
Union.
c. 1 Disbound
c. 2 Disbound
c. 3 Spiral bound, cover torn off.
Formerly M655.0621.In8 00.[2584].1 8/11/2003
- Series VI. Publications**
- Books**
- 12 A Study of the History of the International Typographical Union,
1852-1963.
- 12 A Study of the History of the International Typographical Union,
1852-1966.
- 12 34 Centennial Celebration, 1859-1959.
- 12 35 Facts About The International Typographical Union For All Who
Like To Know