

Finding aid for the Trades and Labor Council collection Collection 038

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

March 1987

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Trades and Labor Council collection
Date [inclusive]	1890-1910
Extent	0.21 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This is a devised collection of programs from annual Labor Day events held by the Trades and Labor Council of Grand Rapids, an umbrella organization for local unions. The Labor Day programs were organized as a celebration of union strength and solidarity, to celebrate labor's own day and to provide an atmosphere of enjoyment for the union workers and their families. The programs include identified images of labor representatives, and/or candidates for office. Advertising is also a large portion of the programs, including engraved or photographic images of some buildings of the period.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The Labor Day programs were initiated in 1888 by the Trades and Labor Council of Grand Rapids, an umbrella group for the individual unions that existed at the time. As unions sprang into life or were forced out of existence by management, most were members of the larger organization, the Trades and Labor Council. The Labor Day events were organized as a celebration of union strength and solidarity, to celebrate labor's own day, and to provide an atmosphere of enjoyment for the union workers and their families. As the years passed, politicians and other people seeking help or support from the unions used the event as an opportunity to show their support of the unions or union causes by joining the celebration. Held at Ramona Park, the annual event was always well attended by labor and its supporters.

Scope and Contents note

The collection serves as a yearly document of labor's progress and defeats through the descriptions given in the programs of the member unions. Speakers and political figures featured, as well, are an indication of those supportive of labor and thus earning labor's notice. The collection spans the fourth (1890) Labor Day celebration through the twenty-fourth, with several years missing. The items also include informative advertising, and may have some unique images of Grand Rapids buildings.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department March 1987

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Library purchase, accession numbers 1986.312, P2006.003

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See also Coll. 239, the GRPL Scrapbook Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Trades and Labor Council of Grand Rapids.

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Labor Day
- Labor unions -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

Programs

Collection Inventory

Programs	Box	Folder
1890. Fourth	1	1
1892. Sixth	1	2
1893. Seventh	1	3
1894. (2) Eighth	1	4
1895. (2) Ninth	1	5
1896. Tenth. Fragments only.	1	6
1897. Eleventh	1	7
1898. [Twelfth]	1	8
1900. [Fourteenth]	1	9
1902. Sixteenth	1	10
1903. Seventeenth	1	11

Union Labor Directory

1906. Twentieth (c. 2 P2006.003)

1

12

1910. Twenty-fourth

1

13

Union Labor Directory**Box****Folder**

1907. Second Annual.

1

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