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Finding aid for the collection on labor and communist parties and activities in Grand Rapids Collection 484

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Collection on labor and communist parties and activities in Grand Rapids
ID:	Collection 484
Date [inclusive]:	1912-1961
Physical Description:	.5 Linear Feet One slim legal box
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This devised collection focuses on the activities of labor and communist parties in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the 1930s, and on communism in Michigan from the 1940s to the 1960s. Of particular note are original fliers from demonstrations and meetings in the 1930s, from organizations including the Communist Party USA, Local Grand Rapids; Unemployed Councils; Trade Union Unity League and the Working Men's Association. Also included are an advertising card for Emma Goldman lectures in 1912 and two issues of the Cauldron, a publication of the Grand Rapids John Reed Club.

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Scope and Contents

This is a devised collection including various materials related to labor and communism in Grand Rapids, particularly in the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s. The papers were likely originally kept in a vertical file.

Included are fliers for demonstrations and meetings, newsletters and political advertisements related to labor and communist party activities in the 1930s. Newspaper clippings relate to communism in Michigan in the 1940s and 1950s. Papers from the 1960s relate to communism in Michigan, proposed legislation and a film on communism, Operation Abolition.

The demonstration fliers from the 1930s are particularly valuable, as ephemeral fliers like this are frequently not saved. They provide a glimpse into the activities of the organizations that differs from reports in the local newspapers. Also of note is a card advertising Emma Goldman lectures in Grand Rapids in 1912.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Communism -- Michigan
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Demonstrations -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Working Men's Association of Grand Rapids
- Unemployed Council of Grand Rapids
- Trade Union Unity League of Michigan
- Grand Rapids John Reed Club

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Card advertising Emma Goldman lectures on Anarchism and Marriage and Love, 1912-03	Box 1	Folder 1
Communist Party USA, Local Grand Rapids fliers, 1929-1932	Box 1	Folder 2
Workers Election Rally flier/newsletter, 1931	Box 1	Folder 3
Fliers for demonstrations, includes Unemployed Councils, Communist Party, Trade Union Unity League, State Hunger March, 1931	Box 1	Folder 4
Working Men's Association fliers, 1932-1933		

	Box 1	Folder 5
Miscellaneous fliers and ephemera, Circa 1930s	Box 1	Folder 6
The Cauldron, published by the Grand Rapids John Reed Club, January and Spring issues, 1934	Box 1	Folder 7
Newspaper clippings, 1940s-1950s	Box 1	Folder 8
Newspaper clippings, 1951-1958	Box 1	Folder 9
Senate Bill No 332 (Callahan Act), 1947	Box 1	Folder 10
Education Information Service, RE investigation Wayne University faculty, Dr. Gerald Harrison, Irving Stein, Circa 1950s	Box 1	Folder 11
A Statement of the Position of the ACLU of Michigan RE House Bill No 334, no date	Box 1	Folder 12
Communist Target - Youth, Communist Infiltration and Agitation Tactics, House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1960	Box 1	Folder 13
Operation Abolition, 1961	Box 1	Folder 14
Letter, Arthur L. Shern to Governor John Swainson, RE film Operation Abolition, 1961-04-08	Box 1	Folder 15
Commies on the Campus booklet, The Detroit Suburban Newspapers, 1961	Box 1	Folder 16