Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933–1943: Final State Reports for the Federal Music Project, the Federal Art Project, the Museum Extension Project, the Federal Theatre Project, and the Federal Writers’ Project

Source: National Archives and Records Administration
Period: 1933–1943
Pages: 7,000

A continuation of the WPA's records, the second of two collections of the WPA's Final State Reports shows that the office did not discriminate in favor of manual or skilled workers. Instead, it set up separate projects to give employment to construction workers, engineers, farmers, doctors, educators, writers, musicians, artists, and almost every other kind of working person. The WPA restored pride to ordinary working people and achieved remarkable results in constructing not just manufacturing and infrastructure works but also works of art, the “living newspaper,” and new American music. This collection chronicles the remarkable artistic endeavors the WPA helped forge.

Civil Rights and Social Activism in the South: James A. Dombrowski and the Southern Conference Educational Fund

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society
Period: 1916–1975
Pages: 17,000

James Dombrowski was a southern white Methodist minister and intellectual who was active in the African American civil rights movement from the 1940s through the 1960s. This collection consists of his correspondence and papers as leader of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, 1941–1948, then as executive director of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, 1948–1966. These interracial civil rights organizations were instrumental in laying the groundwork for the success of the 1960s civil rights movement. Letters from colleagues at Emory University and Union Theological Seminary are included, as are exchanges with Reinhold Niebuhr, drafts of Dombrowski’s dissertation, and other written works. Prominent correspondents include Albert Einstein, Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy, and Aubrey Williams. Additional correspondence, clippings, scrapbooks, notes, and diaries collected by Frank Adams for an unpublished biography of Dombrowski are also included.

This collection consists of four series: Biographical Information, Correspondence, Subject Files, and The Frank Adams Files.
AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW COLLECTIONS

Philip Virta, Acquisitions Editor, Gale Primary Sources

Archives Unbound is a multidisciplinary digital resource providing carefully chosen, topically focused collections from worldwide archives and institutional repositories. The collections featured in Archives Unbound are meant to help us trace past actions in our collective history to see how they influence current events. Five new releases feature activism, social welfare programs, and political history in twentieth-century United States and the United Kingdom.

In their final state reports, the Work Projects Administration’s New Deal documents the achievements of state projects and recommendations for any future organization faced with similar problems. Home Intelligence Reports, 1940–1944, from the UK’s Ministry of Information, offers insights into the morale and behavior of the British people during World War II.

The papers of Methodist minister and intellectual James A. Dombrowski detail his work with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, which was instrumental in successfully laying the groundwork for the 1960s civil rights movement.

The George W. Ball Papers document the life of the lawyer who served as under secretary of state from 1961 to 1966 under both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He is most remembered as the only prominent dissenter against the escalation of the Vietnam War.

Archives of the Work Projects Administration and Predecessors, 1933–1943: Final Reports of the State Program, 1943

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

Period: 1933–1943

Pages: 6,000

The WPA (Works Progress Administration until July 1, 1939, known thereafter as the Work Projects Administration) was the agency responsible for the New Deal administration’s work relief program. The WPA was a constructive alternative to a straightforward Social Welfare system. It set out to put to work the millions of Americans who were unemployed due to the stock market crash of October 1929 and the tragic economic catastrophe that followed. The first of two, this collection documents the WPA’s employment efforts on behalf of millions of Americans during the Great Depression.
The George W. Ball Papers
Source: Princeton University, Mudd Library
Period: 1916–1994
Pages: 140,000

This collection documents the private and professional life of American lawyer and diplomat George W. Ball. From 1942 to 1944, Ball served as counsel in the Lend-Lease Administration and the Foreign Economic Administration. He was appointed under secretary of state for Economic Affairs in 1961, serving through 1966 under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. His tenure as under secretary of state is most noted for his opposition to the Vietnam War. This is an outstanding collection for those interested in researching diplomatic history and foreign policy.

Home Intelligence Reports, 1940–1944
Source: The Controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office
Period: 1940–1944
Pages: 4,000

Between 1940 and 1944, the Ministry of Information in the United Kingdom conducted regular and detailed investigations into opinions, morale, and feelings of the British people on the home front. The strength of these reports—a key primary source—lies in the fact that they were compiled from a great diversity of independent sources, notably the 13 different regional headquarters of the ministry, as well as panels of civilians and officials. The subjects covered include reactions to the presentation of the war by politicians, the press, and the British Broadcasting Corporation, as well as opinions about evacuation, housing, rationing, and strikes. [PRO Class INF1, Boxes 264 and 292]
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