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UNION LABEL AND THE NEEDLE TRADES: RECORDS OF THE UNITED GARMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA



This collection consists of two full series and one partial series from the Records of the United Garment Workers of America—Series I: Time and Motion Studies; Series III: Office Files, 1899-1994—Meeting Minutes of the General Executive Board subseries; and, Series VIII: Index Card Files for plants and/or locals in. The Time and Motion Studies are made up of time study/ time and motion research files for the garment industry, as well as files relating to industry research and information from the first half of the twentieth century. The minutes from the early period cover issues such as immigration, sick benefits, and nine-hour work days; those from the 1950s are concerned partly with the trial and ultimate dismissal of Board member Joseph Crispino; and those from the latter period contain issues such as the financial struggles and the loss of membership. The overwhelming majority of the Series VIII index card files comprise information on various plants and union locals. These are in alphabetical order by city (with a few exceptions) and contain information about the locals, manufacturers, wages, garments, and efforts to organize locals in those cities.

Date Range: 1899-1994

Content: 46,973 images

Source Library: Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University

Detailed Description:

The full finding aid can be found at - [United Garment Workers of America: A Guide to Its Records at Georgia State University Library](#)

Description

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Series I: Time and Motion Studies

This series contains some files relating to industry research and information from the first half of the twentieth century. This information includes files on the garment industry in different parts of the country, the activities of various companies that employed UGWA workers (i.e., J. C. Penney), constitutions, correspondence, union label issues, and the Hawes Cooper Bill (a law stating that convict labor of one state could not compete with convict labor in another state). The rest of this series is made of time study / time and motion research files for the garment industry. Time study was the process of determining wages for piecework based on how quickly workers could get a task done. The time study items here include time study sheets sorted by job, piece rate wage lists, and a few time study reports done for individual companies.

Series III: Office Files—Meeting Minutes of the General Executive Board

This subseries comprises the meeting minutes for two chronological periods - 1899-1912 and 1934-1994. The minutes from the early period cover issues such as immigration, sick benefits, nine-hour work days, and relations with the Union-Made Garment Manufacturers of America; those from the 1950s are concerned partly with the trial and ultimate dismissal of Board member Joseph Crispino; and those from the latter period contain issues such as the financial struggles and the loss of membership.

Series VIII: Index Card Files for plants and/or locals in

The overwhelming majority of the Series VIII card files comprise information on various plants and union locals. These are in alphabetical order by city (with a few exceptions) and contain information about the locals, manufacturers, wages, garments, and efforts to organize locals in those cities. In addition, the index card files consist of membership files—these are restricted and have not been included in this digital product.