

Dernoncourt, Wayne L., Papers

Wayne L. Dernoncourt Papers

1950-1980



Title Statement

Dernoncourt, Wayne L., Papers Wayne L. Dernoncourt Papers, 1950-1980 Ms.1988.025

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.025

Unit Date

1950-1980

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection consists of the papers of Textile Workers Union of America vice president Wayne Dernoncourt, including circular letters, printed materials, memorabilia, and photographs.

Creator

Dernoncourt, Wayne L., 1918-1981

Extent

0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Wayne L. Dernoncourt Papers were donated to Special Collections in 1988.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Wayne L. Dernoncourt Papers commenced in May 2013 and was completed in June 2013.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Wayne L. Dernoncourt Papers, 1950-1980, Ms1988-025, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Wayne LeRoi Dernoncourt, a union organizer and official in the Textile Workers Union of America, was born in Springfield, Illinois, on June 15, 1918. He was the son of Joseph Dernoncourt, himself a union organizer, and Amelia Dernoncourt. Starting work while still a minor, Dernoncourt soon became involved in union organization, serving on the Steel Workers Organizing Committee during the 1930s. Dernoncourt married Leona Lambeseder (1920-1996), and the couple would have three children. After serving in the U. S. Army during World War II, Dernoncourt joined the staff of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) in February 1946. He became a vice-president of the union in 1964. When the TWUA merged with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1976, becoming the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Dernoncourt was named vice-president and director of the Upper South Region of the Textile Division. He co-authored *The Grievance Procedure and Arbitration: Text and Cases* (Washington: University Press of America, 1978). In his later years, Dernoncourt lived in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he died on March 16, 1981.

Administrative History

The Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA) was formed in 1939 through a merger of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee and the United Textile Workers. As part of the Congress of Industrial Relations (CIO), the TWUA participated in the CIO's push to unionize industries in the American South. Beginning in 1948, the union became embroiled in bitter infighting between factions led by the union's president, Emil Rieve, and its executive vice-president, George Baldanzi. The 1952 biennial convention was particularly contentious and led to the secession of Baldanzi and his faction to the rival United Textile Workers (UTW). A number of TWUA locals followed Baldanzi to the UTW, resulting in a loss of 50,000 TWUA members. In 1976, the TWUA merged with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America to form the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). The new union had an initial membership of approximately 500,000, but it shrank steadily in the following decades. In 1995, the ACTWU merged with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, becoming the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). In 2004, UNITE in turn merged with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE) to form UNITE HERE.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Wayne L. Dernoncourt, a union organizer and official in the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA). Included are circular letters, reports, speech texts, printed materials, memorabilia, and photographs. Much of the material in the collection (especially the circular letters and printed material) focuses on 1950s infighting within the TWUA between factions headed by TWUA executive vice-president George Baldanzi and president Emil Rieve. The collection also holds materials distributed at the 1980 International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Educational Conference and a folder of material associated with a LaSalle Extension University law course taken by Dernoncourt. A small assortment of memorabilia and photographs, the majority of both relating to the TWUA, completes the collection.

Keywords

Labor unions
Textile workers
Textile Workers Union of America

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Circular letters

Unit Date 1950-1957, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1-2 (folder)

Speech texts

Unit Date 1951, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"Virginia State AFL-CIO's Program of Progress for Virginia"

Unit Date ca. 1963

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Broadsides and articles

Unit Date 1952-1956, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Booklets

Unit Date 1952-1957, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"Convention Songs"

Unit Date 1952

"Structure Committee Report Submitted to the TWUA Executive Council at Its Pre-Convention Meeting"

Unit Date 1952

Rules Committee Report Submitted to the TWUA Seventh Biennial Convention"

Unit Date 1952

"Two Years of Aggression: a Documentary Record of Baldanzi's Campaign to Take Over

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Unit Date 1952

"Constitutional Amendments Supported by the Pre-Convention Committee for a Democratic TWUA"

Unit Date 1952

"'I Salute You, Gabe...' For Exposing the Baldanzi-Baron Plan to Take Over TWUA--or Split It"

Unit Date 1952

"The Morristown Story" by William Michael Goldsmith

Unit Date 1952

"The True Story of TWUA in Dixie"

Unit Date ca. 1952

"Mariano S. Bishop"

Unit Date 1954

"Ethical Practices Code of the Textile Workers Union of America AFL-CIO"

Unit Date 1957

Converse, South Carolina TWUA Local 325 union hall dedication

Unit Date 1957

"United and Progress Through Democracy: the Program of the Pre-Convention Committee for a Democratic TWUA"

Unit Date n.d.

International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Educational Conference

Unit Date 1980

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Extent [3 folders]

LaSalle Extension University American law and procedure course

Unit Date 1952, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Memorabilia

Unit Date 1952-1973, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

TWUA local 6 (Lewistown, Pennsylvania) license plate

Unit Date n.d.

TWUA convention medals and ribbons

Unit Date 1952-1958

Extent [2 items]

"Support Rieve Administration" badge

Unit Date n.d.

"Unity and Progress Through Democracy" badge

Unit Date n.d.

International Date Line certificate of crossing

Unit Date 1973

Extent [2 items]

Photographs

Unit Date 1952-1965, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Extent [20 items]

TWUA convention (Cleveland, Ohio)

Unit Date 1952

Extent [2 items]

TWUA convention (Atlantic City, New Jersey)

Unit Date 1954

TWUA convention (New York City)

Unit Date 1964

TWUA Local 325 (Converse, South Carolina) union hall dedication

Unit Date 1957

Extent [3 items]

Unidentified groups

Unit Date n.d.

Extent [2 items]

Snapshots

Unit Date 1960-1965, n.d.

Extent [11 items]