

The John and Esther Eldon Collection

1/2 Manuscript Box, 10 Scrapbooks

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The papers of John and Esther Eldon were deposited with the Labor History Archives in June, 1966 by John Eldon.

John Eldon was born in Cleator, England, a port town on the Irish Sea coast. He left school at age 13, worked on farms and in iron ore mines until 1919, attended London Labor College from 1919 to 1921. In 1928 Mr. Eldon came to the United States, and from 1928 to 1937 he worked at Chrysler, Ford, Dodge, Murray Body, and Briggs where he was a member of Briggs Local 212. From October 25, 1937, until his retirement on May 17, 1959, he worked for the UAW International, first in the Education Department and later (ca. 1940-59) as International Representative to the Canadian Region.

The John and Esther Eldon Collection covers the period from 1883 to 1959, primarily 1938-1940.

Important subjects are:

UAW organizing and negotiations
NLRB and labor legislation
Briggs Strike, 1939
Chrysler Strike, 1939
Father Coughlin
Homer Martin and UAW Factionalism
Canadian labor
Krushchev's visit to the U.S., 1959

Description of Series

Box

1. Knights of Labor traveling card (1883), miscellaneous leaflets and badges (1940s), and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings (1938-1940, 1947-1949, 1959). Arranged chronologically.

Folder Inventory

Box 1

Knights of Labor traveling card, 1883
Miscellaneous leaflets, badges, 1940s
Scrapbook, Volume 1, July-September, 1938

Scrapbook #1

Volume 2, September 1938-January, 1939
Volume 3, January-March, 1939
Volume 4, March-August, 1939
Volume 5, August-November, 1939

Scrapbook #2

Volume 6, November-December, 1939
Volume 7, December, 1939-February, 1940
Volume 8, February-May, 1940
Volume (9), 1947-1949
Volume (10), 1959