

THE LAWRENCE GRACIA COLLECTION

Papers, ca. 1930-1940

2.5 linear feet

Accession Number 1105 L.C.
Number MS

The papers of Lawrence Gracia were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in September of 1982 by Fred Thompson, former General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW and opened for research in January of 1984.

The Lawrence Gracia collection consists of three unpublished, hand-written manuscripts of stories entitled The Deepening Stream, Bound North with the Sun and The Sun and The Sea. Very little is known of Mr. Gracia himself other than the fact he was a member of the IWW for an undetermined length of time. It is believed that Gracia may have had some connection with the mysterious author B. Traven whose most well-known work is The Treasure of the Sierra Madre. Traven had some anarchist connections which might have included the IWW. One of Traven's early works was entitled Per Wobbly when it was first published in Germany in 1926.

Both Gracia and Traven share a similar writing style and their stories have common themes of vagabonds and individualists who travel the world in search of work, encountering trouble as well as adventure in the process. These stories indirectly attack capitalism as being responsible for this rootlessness. According to Fred Thompson, Gracia's last known residence was San Francisco, and as of 1963, he was still on the mailing list of the Industrial Worker.

The collection of Lawrence Gracia provides an example of an attempt to personify the struggles of the IWW and to promulgate its principles through the medium of literature.

Contents

5 manuscript boxes

Series I, Manuscripts, ca. 1930-1940, Boxes 1-5:
Three unpublished manuscripts by Lawrence Gracia.

Series I
Manuscripts, ca. 1930-1940
Boxes 1-5

Three hand-written manuscripts by Lawrence Gracia dealing with IWW themes entitled The Deepening Stream, Bound North With the Sun and The Sun and The Sea. All three stories share common plots of sailors, drifters and itinerants searching for employment and their subsequent adventures. The stories are also critical of capitalism and its alleged injustices. Files are arranged alphabetically by title.

Box 1

1-16. Bound North With the Sun

Box 2

1-8. The Deepening Stream

9-15. The Sun and The Sea

Box 3

1-16. The Sun and The Sea

Box 4

1-16. The Sun and The Sea

Box 5

1-15. The Sun and The Sea