The papers of the IWW San Francisco Bay Area Branch were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in July of 1983 by Louis Prisco, Branch Secretary and opened for research in April of 1984.

The IWW San Francisco Bay Area Branch was formed in the early 1960s when some members of the already-existing Oakland branch petitioned the IWW General Headquarters for a separate charter. Members engaged in a leafletting campaign throughout the Bay area to encourage new memberships, then moved to the university campuses in 1963 to take advantage of increasing student activism. San Francisco branch members were actively involved in the Berkeley Free Speech fight in September of 1964 and one month later organized a strike of the employees at a popular local coffee house, Cedar Alley. The strike lasted until the owner filed for bankruptcy and closed the establishment in mid-1965.

Membership in the branch peaked during the time of the anti-war movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s and declined rapidly following the end of American involvement in Vietnam. In the spring of 1975, a special election was held to determine whether or not to disband the branch; the membership voted in favor of retaining their charter. The San Francisco branch remains active to this day, although on a much smaller scale than in the previous decades.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:
- Anarchism
- Coffeehouse strike, 1964-65
- Foreign radical groups
- IWW branch activities

Among the important correspondents are:
- Richard Ellington
- Fred Thompson
- Goddard Graves
- Walter Westman

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p.7
IWW SF Bay Area Branch Collection

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Correspondence, leaflets and pamphlets relating to the activities of the San Francisco branch as well as their contacts with other radical groups.

Non-manuscript material:
Nine photographs relating to a demonstration by IWW San Francisco branch members against the Nixon administration and the Vietnam war as well as an IWW lapel button and posters have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection. Numerous radical newspapers received with this collection are available in the Archives Library.
Series I
General Office Files, Leaflets and Pamphlets, 1922-1981
Boxes 1-6

Correspondence, leaflets, pamphlets and other publications relating to the activities of the IWW San Francisco Bay Area Branch as well as their contacts with radical and political groups throughout the United States and abroad. Included are materials concerning the Cedar Alley coffee-house strike and newsletters from other IWW branches. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or title.

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3. Anarchist Black Cross, newsletters, 1973-74
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10. Authoritarian Conditioning, pamphlet, Oct 1970
11. Bank statements re: San Francisco branch, 1974-75
12. Black civil rights and black power, leaflets
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19. IWW branch newsletters; New York City, 1973-75
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21. Political prisoners' newsletter, Amsterdam, Holland, 1975
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5. Social General Strike, Tom Brown
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9. Some Thoughts on Chairman Mao, pamphlet, (N.D.)
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