

THE OSCAR AMERINGER COLLECTION

Papers and Publications, 1909-1970
(Predominantly, 1909-1943)
3/4 linear feet

Accession Number 469
L.C. Number

The papers of Oscar Ameringer were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in February of 1972 by Mrs. Oscar Ameringer and were opened for research in February of 1973. Additional papers of Oscar Ameringer were placed in the collection in August of 1983 by James R. Green. These papers were opened for research in November of 1989. The papers deposited by Mr. Basen consist primarily of copies of articles by Oscar Ameringer and his wife Freda Hogan Ameringer. The papers deposited by Mr. Green include copies of letters relating primarily to the publication of Oscar Ameringer's autobiography If You Don't Weaken in 1940, copies of reviews of the book, plus copies of pages of a few manuscripts. The contents of some of the manuscripts appear in Ameringer's autobiography.

Oscar Ameringer was born near Laupheim, Germany on August 4, 1870. In 1886, he emigrated to the United States and settled first in Cincinnati. Employed later as a writer for the Columbus (Ohio) Labor World, he became a noted advocate of Socialist causes. Activities as a politician, labor organizer and journalist brought him for extended periods to Louisiana, Oklahoma and Wisconsin before 1920.

After 1920, Ameringer made his permanent home in Oklahoma City, where he edited a daily paper, The Oklahoma Leader, for three years and thereafter a semi-monthly, The American Guardian. From 1921 to 1931, he also edited and published The Illinois Miner of Springfield, Illinois.

In 1940, Ameringer published his autobiography, If You Don't Weaken (New York: Henry Holt and Co.) The book is available in both the Archives and General Library collections. He died in Oklahoma City on November 5, 1943.

Among the Correspondents are (with folder number):

Meta Berger (7,8)	Georgia Lloyd (6)
McAlister Coleman (8,9)	William Lloyd (6,7)
Eugene Debs (1)	Emil Ludwig (3,9)
Theodore Debs (8)	Severino Polio (7)
John Dewey (6)	Morris Rubin (7)
Judah Drob (8)	Carl Sandburg (3)
Charles W. Erwin (7,8)	Norman Thomas (8)
Clayton Fountan (7)	Oswald Garrison Villard (8)
Carl Haessler (8)	Henry A. Wallace (6)
Covington Hall (7,8)	Art Young (6,7,8)

Contents

1 Manuscript Box

1 Slim Legal Size Manuscript Box

Box 1

Folders 1-9, Correspondence, both personal and business subjects

1. 1914-1929
2. Letters to the editor, Illinois Miner, 1925
3. 1934-1937
4. Correspondence with Kent Lighty, October, 1937
5. 1938
6. 1940-1942
7. June, 1943 - October, 1943
8. June, 1943 - December, 1943
9. undated

Folders 10-27, Articles and Pamphlets by Oscar Ameringer

10. "Life and Deeds of Uncle Sam," 1909
11. "Life and Deeds of Uncle Sam," 1909-1921
12. "Unterm Sternbanner," German translation of "Life and Deeds,"
by B. Friedmann, 1924
13. "Socialism, For the Farmer," 1912
14. "Socialism, What it is and How to get it," 1913
15. "Digs," by "Adam Coaldigger," (Oscar Ameringer, pseudonym) ca. 1920
16. "Visions," for boys and girls of Illinois miners, pieces by
Oscar Ameringer et al., 1928
17. "American Miner," with editorial by Oscar Ameringer, September 3, 1930
18. "The Five Week Plan," ca. 1931
19. "The Yankee Primer," 1933
20. "Abundance For All," 1939
21. "Bread or Lead," 1940
22. "Klassen-Kampfe in Amerika," undated
23. "The Labor Press," undated
24. "Oklahoma Leader," pamphlets (2 items)
25. "Taking the 'Sic' out of Sickness," undated
26. "Two Constitutions," undated
27. "Unionism, Present and Future," undated

Folders 28-39 Articles about Oscar Ameringer

28. Covington Hall poem dedicated to Oscar Ameringer, July 14, 1919
29. Carl Sandburg column on Oscar Ameringer, August 23, 1930 with related letter by Harriet Reid, September 11, 1930.
30. Miscellaneous articles, 1936-1941
31. "Brewery Worker," article July 17, 1940
32. "Oklahoma City Times," article July 26, 1943
33. "The Progressive," article July 26, 1943
34. Obituaries, newspapers, November 6, and November 10, 1943
35. Obituaries, weeklies, November 12, and November 27, 1943
36. "Oklahoma Union Farmer," memorial tribute, November 15, 1943
37. "The Progressive," memorial tribute, November 15, 1943
38. "General Welfare Reporter," memorial tribute, February 10, 1944
39. 2 Memorials to Oscar Ameringer, 1949 and 1970

Folder 40 Miscellaneous Socialist Literature

In Binder Bush, Charles C, The Green Corn Rebellion, (Norman, Oklahoma, 1932.) A master's thesis with material quoted by Oscar Ameringer in If You Don't Weaken, (autobiography)

Box 2

1. Ameringer, O; "Chapter II-V"
2. _____; "I Help Make Milwaukee Famous."
3. _____; "Looking Backward and Forward"
4. Ameringer, O. and Ameringer, Freda. Articles, 1912-1913
5. Book reviews of Ameringer's "If You Don't Weaken"
6. Coleman, McAlister, "Oscar Ameringer-Laughing Radical"
7. Correspondence, Dec 1930 - Dec 1940
8. Raushenbush, S. H., "The Central Cool Board: A Proposal for the Coal Industry in 1930."

Non-Manuscript material 16 photographs of Ameringer's family, friends and associates, including; Carl Sandburg, Eugene Debs, Victor Berger and McAlister Coleman, have been placed in The Archives Audio-Visual Collections. Numerous Socialist and Populist pamphlets donated by Mrs. Ameringer have been placed in the Archives Library.