

Alan W. Mather Collection

Papers, 1930-1982

3.75 linear feet

Accession # 756

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Alan W. Mather was born in Glasgow, Scotland on February 11, 1907. He was raised and educated in Scotland, England, Canada and the United States. Mr. Mather was employed as an architectural draftsman in New York City during the 1920s and 1930s, and from 1935 to 1938 was on Isadore Rosenfield's staff with the New York City Department of Hospitals. He moved to Detroit in 1941, and since then has been employed by various architectural firms in the Detroit area and Chicago, including Albert Kahn, Inc., Saarinen & Swanson, Ralph R. Calder, Pilafian & Montana, and Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc. He has been a prolific freelance writer, with article's and book reviews published in a variety of magazines, newspapers and architectural journals. Throughout his career, Mr. Mather has been interested and actively involved in the unionization of architectural employees, and he supported the efforts of the Organization of Architectural and Engineering Employees in the 1970s.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Unionization of architectural employees in
Detroit, 1969-1973
City planning and housing, 1930s-1940s
Construction and architecture in the Detroit area

Among the important correspondents are:

Raya Dunayevskaya	Joe Raimist
Ernest Mazey	Isadore Rosenfield

An index to correspondents will be found on p. 8

Contents

5 1/2 manuscript boxes & 2 clamshell boxes

Series I, Architectural History, 1930-1950, Box 1:

Notes and other reference material compiled by Mr. Mather on architecture, construction, city planning, housing and related topics.

Series II, Detroit Area Architecture and Architectural Organizations, 1943-1976, Box 2: Notes, correspondence, memos and other material dealing primarily with architecture and architectural firms in the Detroit area, including information regarding specific firms, the construction of the Wayne County Youth Home, hospital construction and the Organization of Architectural and Engineering Employees.

Series III, Published Materials, 1933-1976, Box 3:

Articles and other publications by Alan Mather.

Series IV, Diaries, Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1933-1982, Boxes 3-8: Family history, diaries and correspondence.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 31 blueprints drawn by Mr. Mather for the firms of Austin, Barry & Kay, H. E. Beyster, Ralph R. Calder, Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., and Pilafian & Montana as well as for the Detroit City Engineer have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

Series I
Box 1
Architectural History

Notes, abstracts, photographs, drawings and some correspondence on architecture, city planning, housing, hospital construction and exhibits. Some topics indicated in the indexes were removed by Mr. Mather and do not appear in the files. The files are arranged by subject, and cover the approximate period of 1930 to 1950.

Box 1

1. ARCHITECTURE and RELATED SUBJECTS NOTES (ARS):
handwritten notes, references and bibliographical material collected by Mr. Mather, arranged alphabetically by subject and indexed. Index, Architects, Architecture.
2. ARS: Index, Construction
3. ARS: Index, Contracts and Law
4. ARS: Index, Detention Homes
5. ARS: Index, Hospitals, A to E (some subjects listed in the index were removed by Mr. Mather and do not appear in the files)
6. ARS: Hospitals, G to H
7. ARS: Hospitals, K to M
8. ARS: Hospitals, N to R
9. ARS: Hospitals, S
10. ARS: Index, Laboratory Buildings & Equipment
- 11-12. Demolition, Doors
13. ARCHITECTURE, CITIES, and HOUSING (ACH) Notes by Alan W. Mather 1932-1945. Handwritten and typed notes on the history of cities, city planning and housing, and comments on contemporary developments in the United States. Index, to Architecture.
14. ACH: Cities. History of cities, medieval town planning, the development of cities, public health and architecture 1940's
15. ACH: Cities, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. History of industry and transportation and development of cities, suburbs and towns.
16. ACH: Cities, New York City: History of its development. Index and essay,
17. ACH: Cities, City Development Notes, 1945. Comments and criticism on contemporary approaches to city planning and Federal assistance to cities.
18. ACH: Cities, England, France, Washington D.C. 18th century town planning, abstracts on Paris, town planning in Washington D.C.
19. ACH: Cities, A Teaching Unit on Housing by Alan W. Mather
20. ACH: Cities, Chicago, Gary, Indiana, Philadelphia, Boston Typed essays on Chicago and Gary, a history of Philadelphia, and a short description of Boston.

21. ACH: Housing, before and after World War I, comparison of plans in England and America.
- 22-23. ACH: Housing, notes on P.W.A. housing and government assistance for housing in the 1930's, and developments to 1945 (defense housing, housing shortages).
24. ACH: Housing, New York City 1941- : renovation of tenements and old housing, urban redevelopment, housing standards violations.
- 25-26. BUILDINGS in AMERICAN HISTORY: Photos & Drawings, historic buildings and industrial architecture. Galena, Toulon and Knoxville, Illinois. Pall River, Holyoke and Boston, Massachusetts. Harrisville, New Hampshire. Hightstown and Newark, New Jersey. New York, New York. Milan, Ohio. Salt Lake City, Utah. Green Bay and Racine County, Wisconsin.
- 27-28. BUILDINGS in AMERICAN HISTORY: Exhibit. Notes, correspondence and plans for a travelling exhibit of photos illustrating the history of architecture in America, created by Mr. Mather in 1938.
- 29-30. BUILDINGS in AMERICAN HISTORY: Notes. Notes on the history of American architecture as part of the preparation for the 1938 exhibit described above.
31. DETROIT and MICHIGAN NOTEBOOK No. 1.: notes on Michigan history and geology. Descriptions of housing, 1940's. Index on back page.
32. DETROIT and MICHIGAN NOTE BOOK No. 2: notes on defense planning, state building standards, demography and industry, U.A.W. - C.I.O. proposals on Postwar Urban Housing.

Series II

Box 2

Architectural Organizations
Detroit Area Architecture and

Notes, letters and memos concerning architectural firms and construction in the Detroit area. Information on the organization of unions of architectural employees in Detroit in the 1970's. The files are arranged by subject, and cover the period from 1943 to 1976, predominantly 1950 to 1970.

Box 2

1. ARCHITECT-ENGINEER OFFICES in Detroit: Austin, B. Eyster. Contracts and personnel roster, 1956, 1958, and 1960.

- 2-3. ARCHITECT-ENGINEER OFFICES in Detroit: Kahn. Inter-office Communications, memos, personnel rosters, news clippings, 1960 to 1970.
- 4-8. ARCHITECT-ENGINEER OFFICES in Detroit: Smith, Hinchman & Grylls. Inter-Office Communications, personnel rosters, specifications and notes, 1951 to 1953.
- 9-13. CONSTRUCTION FIELD NOTES: notes by Mr. Mather on construction projects in Detroit, Michigan and Chicago arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes apartments, college and university buildings, hospitals, office buildings, University of Michigan and Wayne State University. 1940's to 1977, predominantly 1950's to 1960'
- 14-15. ON HOSPITALS: Index, Letters. Correspondence between Alan W. Mather and Isadore Rosenfield, 1943-1959.
- 16-17. ON HOSPITALS: Excerpts from "My Life," an autobiography by Alan W. Mather, concerning hospital construction, 1935 to 1956.
- 18-19. ON HOSPITALS: Letters and Memos, 1943 to 1973, on hospital construction in Michigan and Detroit.
- 20-26. WORKING AT ALBERT KAHN's 1960 to 1970. Excerpts from Mr. Mather's diary concerning his work at Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.
27. THE PLANNING OF THE WAYNE COUNTY YOUTH HOME: Diary. Excerpts from Mr. Mather's diary concerning his work on the Wayne County Youth Home 1957-1958.
28. WAYNE COUNTY YOUTH HOME: Letters. Correspondence between Mr. Mather and Mary V. Beck, Will C. Turnblad, Director, N.P.P.A., Sherwood Norman (N.P.P.A.) 1957.
- 29-30. WAYNE COUNTY YOUTH HOME. Memos. Recommendations for the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Home submitted June 1946, memos regarding layout and requirements, through 1958.
- 31-33. Unionization of Architectural Employees 1973: A Recent Exposure of Detroit Area Architectural and Engineering Employees to the Professional Unionization Process. This is a summary of unionization activity by the Architectural-Engineering Employees Organizing Committee in the Detroit area. 1973.
34. Unionization of Architectural Employees: A.S.D.A., AFL-CIO. Letter from the Association of Structural Draftsmen of America (A.S.D.A.), and two copies of Engineers' Outlook, a publication of the AFL-CIO, 1962 and 1963.
35. Unionization of Architectural Employees: The Gnomon , 1970-1972. An incomplete series of The Gnomon, a Detroit publication providing "an open forum for the current issues directly concerned with the non-managerial secretaries, architects, draftsmen and engineers of the architectural offices in the Detroit area."

36. Unionization of architectural employees; OAE Newsletter, 1972-74
37. Unionization of architectural employees; OAE organizing material, 1969-72
38. Unionization of architectural employees; "Unionism Hurt by Hard Times," Jul 1976

Series III
Box 3
Published Material

Articles, book reviews and letters to the editor written by Mr. Mather and published between 1935 and 1976. The publications represented include *Pencil Points*, *The Nation*, *AIA Journal* and *Progressive Architecture*.

Box 3

- 1-6. Magazine articles, book reviews, etc., 1935-41
- 7-10. Printed work, 1944-76

Series IV
Boxes 3-7
Diaries and Correspondence

The family history and excerpts from the diaries of Alan W. Mather. Subjects covered include housing in Detroit during World War II, demountable housing, city planning, construction notes, and references to the different firms that employed Mr. Mather. Most of the volumes are indexed. The correspondence concerns the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (FAECT), the Workers' Federation for Housing, organized by the FAECT in 1934, housing, city planning, union activities, exhibits, racial equality in housing, and activities of the Socialist Party of Michigan. The material covers the period 1930 to 1970.

Box 3

11. Family history of Alan W. Mather; family history and reminiscences of Mr. Mather's childhood and youth
12. Professional record of Alan W. Mather; birth, education and professional information, 1970-76
- 13-14. Diary, 1933-41
15. Correspondence; FAECT, 1937-41
- 16-17. Correspondence; *The Nation*, 1937-41
18. Correspondence; *Pencil Points*, 1939-41
- 19-20. Workers' Federation for Housing; minutes and corres., 1939
21. Workers' Federation for Housing; minutes, resolutions, 1934-35
22. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1933-41
23. Workers' Federation for Housing; minutes, 1934 24-27. Diary, 1942-43
28. Correspondence; housing, 1942-43
29. Wartime housing in Detroit; articles, 1942-43

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1. Diary; descriptions of the housing situation in Detroit in relation to the migration of workers to defense plants, Bomber City at Willow Run, Jun 1941-Dec 1942
2. ; comments on city planning, Dec 1942-Oct 1943
3. , Oct 1943-Apr 1945
4. , 1944
5. ; housing and city planning, Apr 1945-May 1947
6. ; notes on construction at Wayne State University, Apr 1950-Oct 1951
- 7-14. , May 1947-Jan 1952

Box 5

1. Diary; John Dwyer and Raya Dunayevskaya, Nov 1953-Oct 1954
2. ; John Dwyer and Raya Dunayevskaya, Oct 1954-May 1955
3. , May 1955-Mar 1957
4. ; Barry & Kay (Chicago), Mar 1957-Jun 1959
5. ; Consoer and Morgan, Austin Engineers, Jun 1959-Oct 1960
6. ; Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., Raya Dunayevskaya, Oct 1960-Nov 1961
7. , Nov 1961-Jun 1963

Box 6

1. Diary, Jun 1963-Mar 1965
2. , Mar 1965-Dec 1967
3. , Dec 1967-Dec 1970
- 4-10. , 1952-55, 1960-70

Box 7

1. Correspondence, 1930
- 2-3. , 1931-33
4. ; Workers Federation for Housing, etc., 1934-35
- 5-6. ; American Russian Institute exhibits, etc., 1936-39
7. ; city planning, etc., 1940
8. , 1941
- 9-10. ; Partisan Review, Pencil Points, Common Sense, etc., 1942-43
11. , 1944
12. ; Joe Raimist on union organizing, etc., 1944
13. , 1945
14. ; housing, reports of the Legislative and Electoral Comm. of the Socialist Party of Michigan, etc., 1947
15. , 1948
16. ; planning and zoning in the city of Detroit, etc., 1949
17. ; housing projects and cooperative housing, etc., 1950
- 18-21. , 1951-52
22. , 1953
23. ; Joe Raimist on union organizing, etc., 1954
- 24-25. , 1955-56
- 26-28. ; Wayne County Youth Home, etc., 1957-59
29. ; construction at Jennings Memorial Hospital, etc., 1960

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30-31. Correspondence; CORE, Freedom Rides, etc., 1961
32-37. , 1962-67

Box 8

1. Correspondence, 1968
2. ; Ernest Mazey on union organizing activities, 1969
3. , 1970
- 4-5. "My Life" by Alan Mather
6. Central Industrial Park -- Detroit/Hamtramck, 1982
7. "Architecture Notes: The Albert Kahn Organization & the Beaux Arts System," n. d.
8. Mental health notes, 1940s
9. "Notes on North America," n. d.

Index to Correspondents

Dunayevskaya, Raya, 7:24-25
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