

William Cahn Collection
Papers, 1922-1976
(Predominantly, 1940s-1970s)

2 linear feet
2 storage boxes

Accession # 808
DALNET #
OCLC #

William Cahn was born in New York City, May 29, 1912, and graduated from Dartmouth College, where he began his writing career and learned the graphic arts trade as editor of the undergraduate newspaper. His association with the labor movement began in the 1930s when, as a reporter for the *Bridgeport Times Star*, he became the first Connecticut member of the Newspaper Guild. He was elected a founding officer of the Connecticut State Industrial Union Council at that time. As a newspaperman he covered the rise of industrial unionism during the Depression and interviewed leading labor and political figures.

Following World War II Cahn served for a decade as publicity director of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers. In the 1960s, while working as a communications consultant for the Solow/Wexton advertising agency, he designed and wrote most of the award-winning messages on labor history sponsored by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in newspapers throughout the country. Illustrated with historical photographs, they appealed to America's social conscience by placing contemporary social problems in historical perspective. As a freelance writer and historian, Cahn authored numerous articles and several books, including *Milltown, A Pictorial History of American Labor*, corporate histories and biographies. He died on October 13, 1976.

The William Cahn Collection contains a number of unpublished manuscripts on labor and other topics, material dealing with the ILGWU advertising campaign, reference files of printed material on unions and labor-related subjects, a few articles published by Mr. Cahn and a small amount of correspondence.

Important subjects in the collection:

Harry Bridges
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Race discrimination in employment
Strikes and lockouts--Teachers--Connecticut--New Haven
Trade-unions and Afro-Americans
Trade-unions and mass media
Trade-unions--hospitals

United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America

Non-manuscript material:

A large number of photographs and illustrations used in Cahn's books, slides of the Bicentennial memorial service in New Haven, Connecticut, marking the 80th anniversary of the death of Alfred W. Phelps, called the "father of the eight-hour day," and an audiotape from the 1975 New Haven teachers' strike have been transferred to the Audiovisual Department.

Box 1

1. Anti-Semitism; print material, 1940s-1950s
2. Bicentennial Labor Committee of Greater New Haven, 1975-76
3. Biographical information, publicity, c. 1960s-1970s
- 4-5. Blacks and labor; print material, 1940s-1970s
6. Church and labor; print material, 1930s-1950s
- 7-8. CIO publications, 1930s-1950s
9. (Anti-)CIO publications, 1930s-1940s
10. Correspondence, misc., 1958-76
11. "How the Cohen Boys Helped Extend the Rights of Man"; Cahn article for New Haven Jewish Community Center Year Book, 1971
12. ILGWU (International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union) "If You Don't Come in Sunday Don't Come in Monday" ad (Cahn); corres., publicity, awards, 1964-69
13. ILGWU "Signature of 450,000" brochure (Cahn), 1965
- 14-15. ILGWU social message ads (Cahn); corres., copy, publicity, 1960s
16. IWW (Industrial Workers of the World); print material, 1940s-1960s
17. Labor in art; print material, n.d., 1922
18. Labor song books, 1940s-1970s
19. Local 1199 Drug and Hospital Union (RWDSU), articles about, 1959, 1969-71
20. (Local) *1199 News* labor history issue (Cahn), Sep 1971
21. (Local) *1199 News* 25th anniversary issue (Cahn), Jun 1957
22. (Local) *1199 News* "Working in hospitals: then and now" issue (Cahn), Sep 1976
23. "Man Whose Vote Gave Women the Vote, The"; Cahn article in *Look* magazine, 1970
- 24-25. Manuscript, unpublished, corres., print material; "Bridges, Harry," 1950s-1960s
26. Manuscript, unpublished; "Champion of the Working Woman: The Life of Augusta Lewis Troup," n.d.
27. Manuscript, unpublished; "Does Violence Pay Off?," 1970
28. Manuscripts, unpublished, corres.; Greeley, Horace, 1961
29. Manuscript, unpublished; "Holson Company, The," n.d.
30. Manuscript, unpublished; "Marcantonio, Vito," n.d.
31. Manuscript, unpublished, corres.; "Mooney, Tom," 1967-68
32. Manuscript, unpublished, corres., print material; Moore, William H., family biography, 1964-66
33. Manuscript, unpublished (rough dummy); "Newcomers to Our Land" (with Rhoda Cahn), n.d.
34. Manuscript, unpublished (working outline); "No Child Shall Go Hungry" (with Rhoda Cahn), n.d.

Box 2

1. Manuscript, unpublished (rough dummy); "No One Shall Go Hungry," n.d.
2. Manuscript, unpublished; "Political Humor: Combat or Cop-Out," n.d.
3. Manuscript, unpublished; "Sacco, Nicolo, Bartolomeo Vanzetti," 1967
4. Manuscript, unpublished; "Uniformed Fire Officers' Association," n.d.
5. Manuscript, unpublished; Whitman, Walt, n.d.

Box 2 (cont'd)

6. Manuscript, unpublished; "Whose Heroes?" (compilation of columns, commentaries, advertising), n.d.
7. Manuscript, unpublished; "Will Watergate Revive the Comic Tradition of Will Rogers and Mr. Dooley?," n.d.
8. Manuscript, unpublished (book outline); "Women Fight for Their Rights" (with Rhoda Cahn), 1971
9. Manuscript, unpublished; "You Can't Think That!" (compilation of columns, commentaries, advertising), n.d.
10. *Mill Town*; corres., reviews, 1954
- 11-12. New Haven, Conn., teachers' strike; corres., flyers, clippings, 1975
13. New York City transit strike; clippings, 1966
14. Railroads and railroad workers; print material, 1950s-1970s
15. Right-to-work laws; print material, 1950s-1970s
16. Robeson, Paul; print material, 1940s-1970s
17. Roosevelt, Eleanor, Memorial Foundation, 1963-64
18. Speeches written by Cahn, 1960s-1970s
19. Steel industry and Steelworkers union; print material, 1950s-1960s
20. Taft-Hartley Act; print material, 1940s-1960s
21. UE (United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers); class outlines, n.d.
22. UE publications; civil rights, 1950s
23. UE publications; FDR, 1940s-1950s
24. UE publications; McCarthyism, 1950s
- 25-26. UE publications; misc., 1940s-1970s
27. UE publications; *UE Steward*, 1952-54
28. UE radio program; publicity, 1947-48
29. UE wage and contract campaign posters, 1948
30. Wright, Fred (UE cartoonist); "So Long Partner!," 1975
31. Wright, Fred, and William Cahn; collaborative publications, 1940s
32. Yale University strike; clippings, 1971