

Philip H. Van Gelder Collection

Papers, 1920's-1990's

**7 linear feet
7 storage boxes**

Accession #820

The papers of Philip H. Van Gelder were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1978 by Mr. Van Gelder and opened for research in February of 1996. Additional papers were placed in the Archives in August of 2001 by his children, Daniel and Helen Van Gelder, and opened for research in July of 2006.

Philip H. Van Gelder was born August 22, 1907 in New York City, but his family moved to New Jersey while he was still young. After graduating from Brown University in 1928, he accepted a fellowship in the Philosophy Department, but quit after a year to travel the country with his brother Norman, picking up jobs harvesting wheat, gandy dancing and working as a seaman.

In 1933 Van Gelder got a job organizing with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, beginning a lifelong involvement with the labor movement. He left the Amalgamated later that year and went to work for the Socialist Party in Philadelphia, which he had joined in 1931 and where he met Franz Daniel and his future wife, Miriam "Gob" Seaman, a physician. Van Gelder was one of the founders and the first secretary-treasurer of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America and helped lead the successful Camden shipyard strike of 1934.

In the years before he joined the International Association of Machinists as a Grand Lodge representative in 1953, Van Gelder spent time at Mexico City College on the GI Bill and worked as an organizer for the CIO and the United Electrical Workers (UE). Part of his responsibility at IAM was organizing secessionist UE locals. Van Gelder retired from IAM in 1972, but continued to serve on Maryland state agencies and AFL-CIO committees concerned with health care issues and unemployment insurance legislation. He and his wife were also active in a number of peace, human rights and liberal political groups. He died December 17, 1999.

The Philip H. Van Gelder Collection consists of correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, publications, ephemera and other material related to his career as a labor union organizer and his involvement in progressive politics and social welfare activities in Maryland.

RESEARCHERS USING THIS COLLECTION MUST SIGN A RESTRICTED USE FORM. NO NAMES APPEARING IN THE FBI OR CIA FILES OTHER THAN THAT OF PHILIP H. VAN GELDER MAY BE CITED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED. NO UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL IN RESTRICTED FILES MAY BE COPIED.

Important subjects in the collection:

Bendix strike, 1955
Brewery Workers Union
Central American peace movement, 1980's
Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America
IUMSWA Save the Union Committee, 1946
International Association of Machinists
IAM organizing, mid-Atlantic states
IAM takeover of UE locals, 1950's
Maryland politics and health care and social welfare programs
Medical insurance
Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions
Republic Aviation strike, 1956
Unemployment insurance
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

Important correspondents in the collection:

Alice H. Cook
Fred H. Coonley
Franz Daniel
John Green
John Grogan
James Matles
Joseph McCann
Philip Murray
James Price
Charles Smolikoff

Non-manuscript material:

A few photographs as well as film of the Camden shipyard strike and the IUMSWA's first convention have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection. A copy of *Illustrated History of the Baltimore Federation of Labor*, published in 1900, has been transferred to the Archives Library.

Box 1

1. Amalgamated Clothing Workers, 1933-35
2. American Red Cross, Baltimore Community Relations Committee, 1959-68
- 3-4. Americans for Democratic Action, 1967-75, 1977-82
5. (Metropolitan) Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions, 1957-62, 1973
- 6-8. Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions; Community Services Committee, 1956-71, 1984-87
- 9-10. Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions; Health Care Committee, 1970-74
- 11-14. Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions; meeting minutes, 1970's-1990's
- 15-16. Baltimore Democratic Socialists, 1973-94
- 17-18. Baltimore/Maryland peace groups, 1967-68, 1981-83
19. Baltimore/Maryland Rainbow Coalition, 1987-89
20. Biographical profiles, interviews, obituary
- 21-25. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland, 1964-67, 1969-72

Box 2

- 1-3. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland, 1972-76, 1992
- 4-5. Brewery Workers Union, Jun 1946-Feb 1947
6. Brown University, 1928-82
7. Center for Improving U.S.-Soviet Relations, 1986
8. Central America, 1988-89
9. Central America; Maryland Labor Committee for Democracy and Human Rights in Central America, 1986-87
10. Community Chest of the Baltimore Area/United Fund of Central Maryland, 1960's-1990's
- 11-15. Correspondence, ephemera, 1920's-1990's
16. Correspondence; Frederic Collins, 1934-88
17. Correspondence; Franz Daniel, 1933-76
18. Correspondence, ephemera; family, 1934-44, 1976
19. Correspondence; letters to the editor, 1940's-1990's
20. Correspondence; Elwood Wheatley, 1951-76
- 21-25. Eastpoint Medical Center, 1963, 1967-76

Box 3

1. Eastpoint Medical Center, 1977-80
2. FBI-CIA files, 1943-65
3. Human Relations Commission of Baltimore County, 1966-67
- 4-8. International Association of Machinists (IAM), Jul 1953-1955
9. IAM; Bendix strike, 1955
- 10-11. IAM, 1956
12. IAM; Republic Aviation strike, 1956
- 13-21. IAM, 1957-May 1961

Box 4

- 1-14. IAM, Jun 1961-69
15. IAM; Ingersoll-Rand strike, 1969
- 16-17. IAM, 1970-71
18. IAM; Bendix negotiations, 1971-72
19. IAM, 1972-73, 1976-77, 1983
20. IAM; pension, 1972-90

Box 5

- 1-2. IAM Representatives Association, 1966-72
- 3-22. IAM; weekly reports, 1953-72
23. Maryland Advisory Council on Comprehensive Health Planning, 1968-73
- 24-29. Maryland Health Maintenance Committee, 1970-75

Box 6

1. Maryland Labor Committee for McGovern, 1972
2. Mexico City College, 1951-52
3. Military service, 1942-48
4. Shipyard Workers Union (Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers/IUMSWA); *Book of Facts* (by Van Gelder), 1935
5. Shipyard Workers Union; *Building Ships for Victory*, 1942
6. Shipyard Workers Union; constitutions, by-laws, Van Gelder membership books, 1930's-1940's
7. Shipyard Workers Union; contracts, 1936-43
- 8-9. Shipyard Workers Union; convention proceedings, 1939, 1942
- 10-17. Shipyard Workers Union; corres., reports, 1934-38, 1944-Sep 1946
18. Shipyard Workers Union; corres., ephemera, 1948-52, 1977-78, 1983-93
19. Shipyard Workers Union; history—Mobile, Ala. (Bruce Nelson), 1991
20. Shipyard Workers Union; history—"Organizing the Shipyards" (David Palmer thesis), 1982-97
21. Socialist Party, 1932-36
22. Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee, 1933
- 23-27. Unemployment insurance, 1958-82

Box 7

- 1-13. Unemployment insurance, 1983-92
- 14-19. United Electrical Workers (UE), 1947-51, 1953
20. Van Gelder for Congress (Progressive Party), 1948