

Richard Ellington Papers
2 linear feet (2 SB)
1949 -1993, bulk 1971-1989

Walter P. Reuter Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
Finding aid written by Jennifer Meekhof on February 1, 2011.

- Accession Number:** 1562
- Creator:** Richard Ellington
- Acquisition:** The papers were deposited with the Walter P. Reuther Library by Mrs. Patricia Ellington in October of 1993.
- Language:** Materials primarily in English with some in Spanish and Italian.
- Access:** Records are open for research.
- Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information, which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**
- Notes:** Citation style: “Richard Ellington Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University.
- Related Material:** IWW Records, IWW San Francisco Bay Area Branch Records, Frederick W. Thompson Papers

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Abstract

Richard Ellington was a typographer and typesetter and member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Born in Seattle, WA, he moved to New York after his discharge from the army. Through his interest in science fiction, he became involved with sci-fi fan groups where he met his wife as well as other libertarian/anarchists. He joined the IWW in 1955, as a group effort to revive the organization and served on the Executive Board numerous times. In the mid 1960s, Ellington and his family move to the San Francisco Bay area where he later established his own typesetting business. Some projects for which he typeset include non-anarchist, alternative publications and poetry books, though many of his projects were for the IWW. Through his home office, he typeset many anarchist periodicals, including the Industrial Worker, and stickers that were called “silent agitators.” He also co-wrote the Boss’s Songbook. Richard Ellington died from lung cancer on May 26, 1991.

The Richard Ellington papers consist largely of correspondence related to his work with the Industrial Workers of the World starting in the 1950s until his death in 1991. Most of the correspondence is followed by the related typeset document. The collection includes various manuscripts, pamphlets, and leaflets on which he worked as well as files from his time as member of the Executive Board. The newspaper articles he saved covering the IWW and anarchist events are also included.

Important Subjects:

Anarchism

Earth First

The Industrial Unionist

IWW branch activities

IWW General Executive Board

Industrial Workers of the World--San Francisco Bay Area Branch

Industrial Workers of the World--Songs and music.

Shell Oil Company Strike

Silent Agitator Stickers

Important Names:

Joe Hill

Mike Lamm

Mitch Miller

Henry J. Pfaff

Ed Stover

Important Correspondents

Frank Cederwell

Marty Comach
Jess Grant
Goddard Graves
Michael E. Kozura
Fred Thompson
Walter H. Westman

Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

Box 1

1. Richard Ellington obituary articles, 1991-1993
2. General Executive Board, 1991 (1 of 2)
3. General Executive Board, 1991 (2 of 2)
4. IWW Correspondence and Executive Board Election, 1990
5. IWW Correspondence, 1989
6. IWW Correspondence and Mailings, 1988-1989
7. IWW Correspondence and mailings, 1985-1987
8. Stephen Schwartz Manuscript, 1984
9. IWW Correspondence, 1983-1984
10. IWW Correspondence, 1981-1982
11. IWW Correspondence, 1977-1980
12. IWW Correspondence, 1975-1976
13. IWW Correspondence, 1974
14. IWW Correspondence, 1973
15. IWW Correspondence, 1972
16. IWW Correspondence, 1971
17. IWW Correspondence to and from Headquarters, 1965-1970
18. IWW Correspondence to and from Headquarters, 1960-1964
19. IWW Correspondence to and from Headquarters, 1958-1959
20. IWW Historical Materials, 1970-1971
21. IWW Historical Materials, 1949-1965

Box 2

1. IWW Union Paper Drafts, 1990
2. The Joe Murphy Center, 1988-1989
3. Pfaff Poetry, 1980
4. Mitch Miller, Revolutionary Syndicalism, 1978-1980
5. Jewell Pamphlet, 1975
6. Kanerva
7. IWW Joe Hill Pamphlet, 1971
8. IWW Times Change Pamphlet, 1971
9. IWW Cheyenne Raps, 1970
10. Wobbly Newsletter, March 1962
11. Fred Thompson Manuscript, 1962
12. Thompson Book corrections

13. Stover-Lamm Leaflets and Clippings
14. The Industrial Unionist
15. Hy Weintraub thesis, UCLA, 1947
16. Sabotage by Walker C. Smith
17. Spanish OBU Pamphlet
18. IWW Newspaper clippings, 1970-1991
19. IWW Newspaper clippings, 1949-1969
20. New York Organizing Press Clippings, 1959
21. Anarchist Songbook
22. IWW Songbook and Sheetmusic
23. IWW Newsletters, flyers, leaflets and publications, 1975-1987
24. IWW Flyers and Leaflets, 1962-1973
25. IWW Flyers and Leaflets, 1977-1991