



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the Ken Eckert Papers LP001968

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 18, 2022.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
History	4
Scope and Content	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Eckert, Ken
Creator:	International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers
Creator:	International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, Agricultural Implement Workers of America. Public Review Board
Title:	Ken Eckert Papers
ID:	LP001968
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1940s-1960s
Date [bulk]:	1946-1954
Physical Description:	4.5 Linear Feet (1 SB, 1 MB, 1 OS)
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	Kenneth Eckert was a Toledo-born organizer for the UAW, the National Association of Die Casting Workers, and International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, and a member of the Communist Party. Eckert became involved with the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers when it absorbed the die casters union in 1942, a remaining regional director and board member until the merger was dissolved in 1948. The Ken Eckert collection contains court documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs pertaining to the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, its Die Casting Division, and their significant shared membership with the Communist Party. Of particular interest is documentation of the 1942 merger between the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers and the National Association of Die Casting Workers; the 1948 dissolution of that merger; and Eckert's testimony to United States Senate committees investigating Communist membership in labor unions. The collection also includes labor and Communism pamphlets, court subpoenas, administrative union documents, and Eckert's notes and research materials for a book he was planning in the 1950s.

Citation Style

"Ken Eckert Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

History

Kenneth Eckert was an organizer for the UAW, the National Association of Die Casting Workers, and International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers who worked in Toledo, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. Born in 1906 in Toledo, Eckert was a railroad worker until he was one of thousands laid off in 1930 and he became involved with the Communist-organized Unemployment Councils. He joined the Communist Party around 1931 and went to study at the International Lenin School in Moscow around 1932. He returned to the United States in the mid-1930s to work as an organizer for the Trade Union Unity League, the UAW, and the National Association of Die Casting Workers. He also served as the Secretary of the Community Party in Toledo. Eckert became involved with the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers when it absorbed the die casters union in 1942. He remained a regional director and board member until the merger was dissolved in 1948 due to Mine Mill's Communist Party allegiance. Eckert had become disillusioned with the Communist Party in the late 1940s, and after Mine Mill was expelled from the CIO in 1950 due to Communist Party allegiance, he gave testimony to several United States Senate committees investigating communism in labor unions. Eckert died in 1967.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

The Ken Eckert collection contains court documents, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs pertaining to the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, its Die Casting Division, and their significant shared membership with the Communist Party. Of particular interest is documentation of the 1942 merger between the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers and the National Association of Die Casting Workers; the 1948 dissolution of that merger; and Eckert's testimony to United States Senate committees investigating Communist membership in labor unions. The collection also includes labor and communism pamphlets, court subpoenas, administrative union documents, and Eckert's notes and research materials for a book he was planning in the 1950s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged in in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

Access

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition

The Ken Eckert Papers were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library by Wendy Watson on behalf of Dorothy Eckert in March 2008 and by Eileen Eckert Bond in April 2008.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Leah Minadeo on January Day, 2022.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

LR001199: UAW Doehler-Jarvis Department Records

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Labor unions and communism
- Labor unions -- Mergers
- Labor unions -- Organizing

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Witness data, circa 1940s-1950s		
Philadelphia - Nabrie, 1954	box 1	folder 1
Travis retrial (1958), 1950	box 1	folder 2
Labor unions and communism - miscellaneous, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 3
Jencks case, 1954	box 1	folder 4
Early union organizing in Toledo, undated	box 1	folder 5
Lamb, Edward, 1954	box 1	folder 6
Gold, Ben, 1953	box 1	folder 7
Registration Agent, 1950, 1953	box 1	folder 8
Facts, undated	box 1	folder 9
Travis - Washington and Denver, 1954	box 1	folder 10
Mine Mill and Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB), 1954, 1956	box 1	folder 11
Expenses and fees, 1954-1955, 1958	box 1	folder 12
Expense account Ken Eckert, 1953-1955	box 1	folder 13

Subpoenas, 1950-1959	box 1	folder 14
Jencks Clinton, 1954	box 1	folder 15
Witness data unlabeled, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 16
Mine Mill, 1941-1942	box 1	folder 17
Mine Mill, 1946	box 1	folder 18
Mine Mill, 1947	box 1	folder 19
Mine Mill, 1948	box 1	folder 20
Mine Mill, 1949	box 1	folder 21
Garwood and Canastota strike fund contribution, 1948-1949	box 1	folder 22
Ken Eckert personal, 1948-1951	box 1	folder 23

Scope and Contents

Primarily Die Casting News Letters

Mine Mill CIO trial, 1947, 1950	box 1	folder 24
Labor union and strike photography, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 25-26
Casting division minutes and reports, 1944-1948	box 1	folder 27
Photographs Ken Eckert, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 28
Ken Eckert research materials, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 29-30

Scope and Contents

Photographs, newspaper clippings, and notes collected by Ken Eckert while he was planning and researching a book in the 1950s.

Scrapbook, circa 1940s-1950s	box 1	folder 31-32
------------------------------	-------	--------------

Scope and Contents

Photographs, newspaper clippings, and *Die Casting News Letters*

UAW-CIO pamphlets, circa 1940s-1960s	box 2	folder 1
Other CIO and labor pamphlets, circa 1940s-1960s	box 2	folder 2
Labor and communism pamphlets, 1924, 1946	box 2	folder 3
Government hearings, circa 1950s	box 2	Folders 4-5
Oversize material, circa 1930s-1940s	box 3	

Scope and Contents

February 1938-December 1939 bound issues of the CIO News
Die Casters Edition, photograph of 1942 CIO members Labor

Day Dinner, 1941 "Monster Mass Meeting" poster for Die
Casters Toledo Locals 6-16 and Adrian Local 26, and 1962
U.S. Engineer Lake Survey (Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, St.
Clair River) Chart No. 400.