



Guide to the William Gernaey Papers LP002782

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Gernaey, William
Title:	William Gernaey Papers
ID:	LP002782
Date [inclusive]:	1938-1951
Physical Description:	1 Linear Feet (1 SB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	<p>William Gernaey was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 27, 1903. He attended the University of Michigan from 1920-1923 and majored in political economics. From there he studied one year each of business administration and accounting at Detroit Business University. From 1923 to 1927 Gernaey was employed by the Chrysler Corporation Detroit, as an industrial efficiency expert. From there he transitioned to investigating communist activities as an operative from 1927 to 1936. As a part of these investigations he was a member of the Youth Communist League and through his involvement in the group advanced to district secretariat and member of the Central Committee. He eventually became the section organizer of the North Detroit and Hamtramck sections of the party. In 1937 Gernaey started working for the Ford Motor Company. Here he established and organized an office on subversive activities where he investigated communist and pro-Axis Ford employees. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was authorized by his supervisor at Ford, to be a liaison to the FBI, both State and the City of Detroit Police, and Navy and Army intelligence.</p>

Citation Style

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

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Scope and Content

This collection consists of records that reflect William Gernaey's occupation as an investigational operative of communist activities for Chrysler Corporation Detroit, his operation of a subversive investigation department for Ford Motor Company, and as a liaison with the FBI, State and City Police, and Navy and Army Intelligence during World War II. Included are: correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, undercover field notes, background subject files, an autobiography, personal records, and the monograph High Treason by Albert E. Kahn.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 1 series. Folders are arranged by subject and span the dates from 1938-1951.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

This collection was donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library on 2017-10-09 by Peggy Wallace and Andrew G. Folgmann.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Elizabeth Nicholson on February 20, 2018.

Access

Collection is 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.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Refer to Walter P. Reuther collections on the early Labor Movement, Labor Unions and Communism, and World War II.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Ford Motor Company
- Labor unions and communism
- Fascism
- World War II
- Communism
- Anti-communist movements -- United States
- Chrysler Corporation

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
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William Gernaey Personal Files and Photographs; undated, 1940-1951	Box 1	Folder 1
Intelligence and Surveillance Notes; 1946-1947	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence; undated, 1946	Box 1	Folder 3
Background Files; 1940s (1 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 4
Background Files; 1940s (2 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 5
Background Files; 1940s (3 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 6
Background Files; 1940s (4 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 7
Background Files; 1940s (5 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 8
Background Files; 1940s (6 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 9
Background Files; 1940s (7 of 7)	Box 1	Folder 10
Besser Manufacturing Company- Alpena, MI: Back to Work Movement; 1946	Box 1	Folder 11
Handbooks, Manuals, Special Reports; undated, 1939-1946	Box 1	Folder 12
Leaflets, Propaganda, Booklets; undated, 1945-1946	Box 1	Folder 13
Monograph: "High Treason" by Albert E. Kahn; 1950	Box 1	Folder 14
Newspaper Clippings; undated, 1938	Box 1	Folder 15