

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Meta Riseman Collection

Papers, 1913 to 1979
(primarily 1946-57)

7 linear feet
7 scrapbooks
1 oversized manuscript box

Accession Number 619
L.C. Number

The WILPF/Meta Riseman Collection was placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May 1976 by Meta Riseman, and was opened for research in June 1978.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom was founded in 1915 at the Hague during the first Women's Peace Conference, which met to seek ways of ending existing hostilities. Jane Addams, who presided over the conference, became the League's first international president, and remained in that office until her death in 1935. In 1919, the Second Women's Peace Conference voted to continue the WILPF on a permanent basis. Its goal was, and is, to "unite women in all countries who are opposed to every kind of war, exploitation and oppression, and who work for universal disarmament and for the solution of conflicts by recognition of human solidarity, by conciliation, and arbitrations, by world cooperation, and by the establishment of social, political, and economic justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed."

The U.S. Section, one of twenty national sections on five continents, supports state and local branches across the country by its national offices in Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

The Michigan and Detroit branches came into existence jointly in 1919. The members have, since that time, been very involved in WILPF projects on the national, state and local levels. Some of the original members are still active.

Meta Riseman, nee Rosenberg, was born in Germany in 1904. She came to the United States in 1910 with her parents, and lived with them in Newark, New Jersey until she entered Smith College around 1920. After graduating in 1924, she spent a year in Europe where she attended the University of Berlin and the University of Zurich. Upon her return she taught school for two years, in New York and New Jersey. In 1927 she was married to Harry Riseman, and came to Detroit.

Mrs. Riseman's WILPF activity began when her mother encouraged her to become a member in 1928. In 1941 she became president of the Detroit Unit. She was elected president of the Michigan branch in 1943. She also served as president of the U.S. Section, and chaired a national committee on human rights.

The papers of Mrs. Riseman reflect her deep involvement in the activities of the WILPF and other peace groups.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Anti-semitism
Disarmament (A & H bombs, nuclear weapons)
Draft (UMT, conscription)
Human rights (Including civil rights, women's rights, Indians' rights)
Peace

Among the correspondents are:

Katherine (Kitty) Arnett
Alice Bostick
Kathleen Hendrie
Mildred Scott Olmstead
Elsie Picon
Elizabeth Weideman

Contents

14 manuscript boxes
1 storage box
1 oversize manuscript box

Series I, Boxes 1-8: WILPF Files, 1913-1976

Office files kept by Mrs. Riseman, including correspondence, membership lists and directories, bulletins and financial reports, petitions, pamphlets, brochures and reprints on pertinent topics.

Series II, Boxes 9-13: WILPF Branch Packets, 1956-1970

Packets of mimeographed material sent monthly from the national to state branch members.

Series III, Box 14: Personal Files of Mrs. Riseman, 1933-1973

Correspondence, newspaper clippings and pamphlets covering Mrs. Riseman's interests in Dryden, Michigan, her friendships, and her activities in organizations other than the WILPF.

Scrapbooks, 1941-1962

These scrapbooks document the activities of the Detroit and Michigan Branches of the WILPF, primarily through clippings. Three of them focus on specific projects (Human Rights Project, Disarmament Project, and Fortieth Anniversary), and the other four cover general activities.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately thirty photographs relating to Michigan Branch WILPF participation in the 1960 and 1961 State Fairs and the 1965 Symposium Toward a Peaceful Planet have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual collection. A WILPF button has also been placed there. Numerous pamphlets and periodicals dealing with peace, human rights, and anti-semitism have been placed in the Archives Library. With them are issues of Pax et Libertas, and the UAW Local 180 Newsletter. A complete listing of these publications is available with the librarian.

Series I

Boxes 1-8

WILPF Files, 1913-1976

Office files kept by Mrs. Riseman, including correspondence, membership lists and directories, bulletins and financial reports, petitions, pamphlets, brochures, and reprints on pertinent topics.

Box 1

1. Biographical materials (printed) - Jane Addams.
2. Jane Addams article, Chicago Examiner, August 11, 1913.
3. Clippings, letters, miscellaneous, 1916-1929.
4. Capital punishment articles, 1916-1929.
5. Carrie Chapman Catt article, Good Housekeeping, March 1918.
6. Suffragist Magazine, February 1920.
7. Suffragist Magazine, March 1920.
8. Suffragist Magazine, January-February, 1921. (2 copies)
9. The National Women's Party, 1913-1926.
10. WILPF National and International material, 1930-34.
11. Constitution, by-laws and rules of order, amended Zurich, 1934.
12. WILPF programs, 1934-37.
13. Twentieth Anniversary of WILPF (Jane Addams dinner), 1935.
14. WILPF Michigan Branch By-laws, as amended 1935.
15. Correspondence: Balch, Emily and Hendrie, Mrs. George, 1935-55.
16. Minutes and materials from the National and International, 1935-39.
17. Fellowship Magazine, December 1937.
18. Fellowship Magazine, April 1938.
19. Fellowship Magazine, June 1938.
20. Fellowship Magazine, September 1938.
21. Fellowship Magazine, November 1938.
22. Background for War, Reprint from Time, 1939.
23. Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., May 1939.
24. The Nation Magazine, June 1940.
25. Annual Report, 1940.
26. WILPF programs, 1940-55.
27. Pamphlets, reprints, and clippings, 1940-49.
28. Articles and WILPF reading list, 1940-49.

Box 2

1. South America materials, 1941 and 1946.
2. Anti-semitism letters from branches, 1944-45.
3. Resolutions (National Board Meetings), 1944-47.
4. Published material on peace and on bigotry, 1944-48.
5. Miscellaneous flyers and bulletins, 1945-49.

Box 2 continued

6. Notice of Annual Meeting, 1946.
7. "Highlights in WILPF History.....1915-1946", November 1946.
8. State Membership Correspondence, 1946-47.
9. Minutes, U.S. Section, 1946-47.
10. Detroit Branch Membership List, 1947.
11. Emily Greene Balch Dinner, 1947.
12. Membership Kit, 1947.
13. Articles from The Nation and Survey Graphic, 1947-48.
14. Michigan WILPF Bulletins and Minutes, 1947-49.
15. Michigan WILPF Financial Reports, 1950.
16. Michigan WILPF Minutes, 1950.
17. Michigan WILPF Bulletins, 1950.
18. Michigan WILPF Correspondence, 1950.
19. National WILPF Communications, 1950.
20. "The Story of the WIL Human Rights Project", 1950.

Box 3

1. Pamphlets and Congressional Letters about Draft, Conscription, UMT, 1950-51.
2. Fair Employment Literature, 1950-54.
- 3-5. Michigan WIL Correspondence and Bulletins, 1951.
6. Michigan WIL Branch Correspondence, 1951.
7. Michigan WIL Branch Financial Report, 1951.
8. State Board Meeting Minutes, 1951.
9. National Board Meeting, February 1951.
10. (UN) Point Four Conference, 1951.
11. Michigan WIL Branch Membership Lists, 1951-52.
12. Pamphlets, Reprints and Clippings, 1951-59.

Box 4

1. Michigan WIL Correspondence, 1952.
- 2-3. Michigan WIL Correspondence and Bulletins, 1952.
4. Michigan WIL Financial Report, 1952.
5. Organization Planning for a Lansing WILPF, 1952.
6. Michigan WIL Correspondence and Bulletins, 1953.
7. Michigan WIL Financial Report, 1953.
8. Honorarium for Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, May 1953.
9. Twelfth International Congress of the WILPF, Paris, August 1953.
10. The Legal Status of Women in the United States of America, 1953.
11. Michigan WIL Finance, 1953-55.
12. Michigan WIL Correspondence and Bulletins, 1954-55.
13. National Board Membership Lists, 1954-55.
14. Infiltration Packet, McCarthy Era, 1954-55.

Box 5

1. Study of Organization Problems, U.S. Section, May 1955.
2. Fortieth Anniversary Dinner, May 2, 1955.
3. Reports to the Annual Meeting, U.S. Section, July 1955.
4. Human Rights pamphlets, 1955.
5. Michigan WIL Correspondence and Financial Reports, 1956.
6. Letters sent with president's signature, U.S. Section, 1956.
7. Executive Session, 1956.
8. Material for the Executive Committee Meeting, Sept. 1956.
9. National Board Meeting, October 1956.
10. "Four Lights", Dec. 1956.
11. Letters referred from the National (answered), 1956.
12. Letters referred from the National (unanswered), 1956.

Box 6

1. Finance, WDWD, Policy committees, 1956-57.
2. Planning, Emily G. Balch 90th Birthday, 1956-57.
3. National and International Literature, 1956-57.
4. WILPF Press Clippings, 1956-64.
5. Civil Rights literature, 1956-71.
6. Petitions on Ending Nuclear Weapons Tests, Scrapbook, 1957.
7. Petitions on Ending Nuclear Weapons Tests, Correspondence, 1957.
8. National WIL Legislative Letters, 1957.
9. Notes from Executive Sessions, 1957.
10. Letters referred from the National (answered), 1957.
11. National Board Meeting, 1957.
12. Asian-American Conference, 1957.
13. Correspondence re: National Board Meeting, June 1957.
14. Annual Meeting of National Board, June 1957.
15. Annual Executive Committee Meeting, 1957.

Box 7

1. Directory, National Board, 1957-58.
2. Michigan WIL Bulletins, 1957-60.
3. National Board Meeting, 1958.
4. Annual Meeting U.S. Section, Appleton, Wisc., June 1958.
5. Planning, Jane Addams Centennial, 1958.
6. World Disarmament Correspondence, 1958-62.
7. National Board Meeting, 1959.
8. Fourth Annual Legislative Seminar, 1959.
9. Bulletins and miscellaneous communications, 1959-65.
10. WILPF and Michigan State Fair, 1960.
11. Peace, nuclear weapons cartoons, 1960's.
12. Pamphlets, brochures and reprints, 1960-69.
13. WILPF and Michigan State Fair, 1961.
14. Annual Meeting, April 1962.
15. "Cold War in the Classroom", WIL Flyer, 1963.
16. Communications from the National, 1964.
17. Symposium Toward a Peaceful Planet, Correspondence, 1965.
18. Symposium Toward a Peaceful Planet, Planning Correspondence and Background.
19. Symposium Toward a Peaceful Planet, Follow-up, 1965.

Box 8

1. Constitution and By-laws, Detroit Branch, 1965.
2. "50 Years for Peace and Freedom", play, 1965.
3. Correspondence and Flyers, 1965-68.
4. Report on Alabama Justice, Feb. 1966.
5. Material from the National and Pamphlets, 1966-69.
6. Michigan Branch Extension correspondence, 1969-70.
7. Publicity for WILPF sale of UNICEF cards, 1969-72.
8. "Declaration of Women's Independence" flyer, 1970.
9. Michigan WILPF Lobbying Materials, 1970.
10. Racism Kit, 1971.
11. Material from the National and Pamphlets, 1970-71.
12. Petitions: to End the War; Against Racial Discrimination, 1970-72.
- 13-14. Michigan WIL legislation and Bulletins, 1970-73.
15. Correspondence and Legislation, 1971-72.
16. A Strategy for Action Handbook, [1972].
17. Michigan WIL Correspondence, Bulletins, Minutes, and Resolutions, 1972-73.
18. Miscellaneous WILPF materials, 1975-76.

Series II

Boxes 9-13

WILPF Branch Packets

Packets of mimeographed material sent monthly from the national to state branch members.

Box 9

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. October 1956 | 23. December 1958 |
| 2. November 1956 | 24. January 1959 |
| 3. January 1957 | 25. February 1959 |
| 4. February 1957 | 26. March 1959 |
| 5. March 1957 | |
| 6. April 1957 | |
| 7. May 1957 | |
| 8. June 1957 | |
| 9. July 1957 | |
| 10. August 1957 | |
| 11. October 1957 | |
| 12. November 1957 | |
| 13. December 1957 | |
| 14. January 1958 | |
| 15. February 1958 | |
| 16. March 1958 | |
| 17. April 1958 | |
| 18. May 1958 | |
| 19. June 1958 | |
| 20. July 1958 | |
| 21. October 1958 | |
| 22. November 1958 | |

Box 10

1. April 1959
2. May 1959
3. June 1959
4. Sept./Oct. 1960
5. November 1960
6. December 1960
7. January 1961
8. February 1961
9. March 1961
10. April 1961
11. May 1961
12. June 1961
13. July 1961
14. Sept./Oct. 1961
15. November 1961

Box 10 continued

16. December 1961
17. January 1962
18. February 1962
19. March 1962
20. April 1962
21. May 1962
22. June 1962
23. February 1963
24. June 1963
25. October 1963

Box 11

1. January 1964
2. February 1964
3. April 1964
4. June 1964
5. Sept./Oct. 1964
6. November 1964
7. January 1965
8. February 1965
9. April 1965
10. June 1965
11. Sept./Oct. 1965
12. Annual Meeting Sept./Oct. 1965
13. November 1965
14. January 1966
15. February 1966
16. Annual Meeting June 1966
17. Sept./Oct. 1966
18. November 1966

Box 12

1. Feb./March 1967
2. April 1967
3. May 1967
4. November 1967
5. January 1968
6. Feb./March 1968
7. April 1968
8. May/June 1968
9. Sept./Oct. 1968
10. November 1968
11. January 1969
12. February 1969
13. April 1969
14. May/June 1969
15. July 1969

Box 13

1. Sept./Oct. 1969
2. November 1969
3. February 1970
4. May 1970
5. February 1971
6. May 1971
7. July 1971
8. October 1971
9. November 1971
10. March 1972
11. Memo from Washington 1956
12. Washington Newsletter, Feb.&Aug. 1956.
13. Washington Newsletter. Aug.&Sept. 1959.
14. Political Action Handbook, Feb. 1959.
- 15-16. Childhood Education Kit, 1963.
17. Society of Friends Ed. Packet, 1963.
18. Jane Addams Children's Book Awards and Related WIL Reading Lists, 1963-69.
19. WILPF Childhood Education Committee, St. Louis, Reading Lists [1969-70].

Series III

Box 14

Personal Files, 1933-73

Correspondence, newspaper clippings and pamphlets covering Mrs. Riseman's interests in Dryden, Michigan, her friendships, and her activities in organizations other than the WILPF.

Box 14

1. Card: Meta Riseman, Socialist Party Candidate for School Inspector, 1933.
2. Letters, August 1950 and March 1941.
3. Miscellaneous, 1955-1965.
4. Newspaper clippings, 1957-76.
5. Programs and Testimonials, 1960-76.
6. Obituary clippings, 1965-73.
7. Clippings on Alice Herz's death, March 1965.
8. Clippings on Stillman J. Elwell, 1971.
9. Brochure for Italian Divine Comedy, 1973.

Scrapbooks

1 storage box

Box 15

- WILPF, Detroit Branch, 1941-46.
- WILPF, Michigan and Detroit Branches, Human Rights Project, 1949-50.
- WILPF, Disarmament Project, 1950-51.
- WILPF, Michigan Branch, Fortieth Anniversary Celebration, May 1955.
- WILPF, Detroit Branch, 1955-58
- WILPF, Michigan State Fair, 1959-60.
- WILPF, Detroit and Michigan Branches, 1959-62.

Oversized Box

Box 16

- WILPF Scrapbook, 1951-55
- 1. Equal Rights, 24 May 1924
- Women of the Whole World, 1968
- World War II neutrality chart
- World War II Poster - "An Alert to All Rumor Wardens"