The papers of Lawrence Kelso Frank were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in January of 1982 as part of the greater Merrill-Palmer Collection.

Lawrence K. Frank was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 6, 1890. He received his A.B. degree from Columbia University in 1912 and began his association with foundations that supported research in child development in 1923, working first with the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, followed by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation (1936-1942) and the Caroline Zachry Institute of Human Development (1945-1950). During the 1920's and 1930's, he was a leader in the movement to set up child study institutes, and throughout his life, he wrote and lectured widely in education, psychology and child development. He received an honorary degree of L.L.D. from Wayne State University in 1959. Mr. Frank died in Boston, September 23, 1968.

Mr. Frank did consultation work for Merrill-Palmer, and had an association with that institution dating back the 1920's when he worked with the first director, Miss Edna Noble White. His papers, however, reflect this association only in a few published pieces. Instead, they focus on the broad scope of his publications and on two areas of professional concern: that of consultant in the planning of the establishment of a Friends World College and as committee member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 1955-1963
- Education and Mental Health
- Friends World College, 1960-1968
- Urban Housing
- Women in Society

Among the important correspondents are:

- Barry Commoner
- Morris R. Mitchell
- Ross L. Mooney
- Margaret Snyder

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 17
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Non-manuscript Material:

A two volume work in Italian on urban planning:
I Piani Regionali, vols 1 and 2. Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici. Roma, 1952, has been placed in the Archives Library.
Files relating to Mr. Frank's professional activities.

This series is divided into the following four subseries:

Subseries A: General Correspondence and Background Publications, 1954-1964, Box 1

Correspondence, newspapers, and other printed publications concerning Mr. Frank's writing and research. The correspondence is sparse, and mainly with universities. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Subseries B: Friends World College, 1960-1968, Boxes 1-2

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Subseries C: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 1955-1963, Box 2

Committee reports, minutes, clippings, and articles relating to Mr. Frank's activities within the AAAS, specifically his work on the Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type.

Subseries D: Conferences, 1930-1965, Boxes 3-6

Proceedings, programs and papers from conferences in a wide range of fields of interest to Mr. Frank, including psychology, psychiatry, religion, education, and women in society. Files are arranged alphabetically by the title of the conference.

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Files relating to Mr. Frank's writings, addresses and radio talks.

This series is divided into the following two subseries:

Subseries A: Manuscripts, 1929-1968
Handwritten and typed notes, drafts, and final copies of Mr. Frank's writings, including related correspondence, and files of background reading material which in some cases, bear his personal markings. Files are arranged chronologically.

Subseries B: Publications, 1922-1968
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