

MANUSCRIPTS ACQUISITIONS

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One hundred and fifty-eight cubic feet of records, 1937-1977, of the National Maritime Union of America have been received as the gift of the Union. Formed in May of 1937, the NMU rapidly became the principal union representing merchant seamen, who worked through it to achieve more favorable working conditions and economic benefits. At its first convention the union affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations; its president, Joseph Curran, subsequently became a CIO (later AFL-CIO) vice-president. The records received pertain to several aspects of the NMU, including governance, local organizing, contract negotiation and compliance, public relations, and policing the membership. Examples of documents found in the records include constitutions, minutes, correspondence, contracts, speeches and testimony, reports, clippings, personnel records, publications, photographs and audio recordings. The largest single portion of the records, however, consists of case files dating from the 1940s to the late 1960s. These records derive in most instances from charges of misconduct brought against an individual by his fellow crew members. The charges, such as drunkenness, not appearing when scheduled to sail on a ship, or refusal to work, were ruled upon by an NMU port trial committee which then assessed punishments in the form of fines, probation or suspension.

Another organization which has presented its archives to the Libraries is the National Women's Education Fund, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Established in 1972 as an outgrowth of a project of the National Women's Political Caucus, the Fund is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization. Through its programs, the Fund aims "to increase the numbers and influence of women in public life" by fostering their leadership and political skills and by providing them with assistance and information. The Fund's gift consists of over 60 cubic feet of records, 1972-1987, which document planning, fundraising, administration and program activities. During the period covered by the records the objectives of the National Women's Education Fund were advanced through seminars (on campaign techniques, management skills and other topics), publications (among them a *Campaign Workbook* and curriculum materials for skills

workshops), data collection and dissemination (including information distributed to news organizations in election years), cooperation with other non-governmental agencies (such as the national YWCA and the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church) and the aiding of support groups (by administering a networking group for District of Columbia women leaders and executives).

The Congressional papers of Democrat James J. Howard (1927-1988) are the gift of his widow, Marlene Howard. First elected in 1964, the Congressman served New Jersey's Third Congressional District for 23 years. He had been a schoolteacher and administrator (Rutgers Ed.M., 1958), but his principal committee assignment in the House of Representatives was Public Works and Transportation, of which he became the chairman in 1981. During the 1960s, Howard successfully sought an addition to the interstate highway system (now I-195) to connect his Monmouth County shore district with the state capital at Trenton. In the early 1970s he sponsored the 55 miles-per-hour speed limit enacted to conserve oil, but which reduced automobile fatalities as well. Later he supported the legislation, also intended to save lives, which resulted in adoption by the states of a uniform drinking age of 21 years. More recently he played a role in preserving key environmental aspects of the "Superfund" reauthorization and secured passage, over a presidential veto, of the 1987 reauthorization of the Clean Water Act. The Congressman's office files, which span the entire period of his tenure, fill 170 storage cartons. Included are his *Congressional Record* remarks, audio and video recordings, newspaper clippings, press releases, constituent newsletters, photographs, projects files, legislative correspondence, sponsored and co-sponsored bills, voting record and legislative profile, campaign files, including public opinion polls, and travel files.

An addition to the records of the Jewish Counseling and Service Agency by the Essex County, New Jersey, organization has strengthened the Libraries' manuscript holdings relating to social work and displaced persons. Received were records, 1939-1961, of the Bureau of Service to the Foreign Born conducted by the Newark Section, National Council of Jewish Women. The Bureau began its efforts in 1917, expanding to a county-wide program in 1940. About 1957 it merged with Jewish Family Service, a predecessor of the Jewish Counseling and Service Agency. The Bureau, through its largely volunteer staff, provided aid to immigrants and aliens, especially information and guidance relating to questions of legal status, immigration procedures and naturalization. The Bureau's records consist of 54 cubic feet of case files on approximately 5,000 im-

migrant individuals and families, including their histories and documentation of Bureau efforts on their behalf. An additional five cubic feet of case files pertain to searches undertaken by the organization to locate European relatives of Essex County residents. Completing the donation are ten cubic feet of administrative records, 1939-1957, among which are correspondence, budgets, reports and committee files.

The Libraries' Roebbling Collection, encompassing personal papers and business records of the Roebbling family of Trenton, New Jersey, has been augmented. The newly received manuscripts consist chiefly of an addition to the papers of John A. Roebbling II (1867-1952), but also include small additions to the papers of his parents, Washington A. and Emily Warren Roebbling. Included are correspondence, memoranda, legal documents, photographs and newspaper clippings and other printed matter. A significant portion of the new material consists of over 500 notes and letters written by Washington A. Roebbling (1837-1926) to his son John. The elder Roebbling, a principal owner of the John A. Roebbling's Sons Company, wire rope manufacturers of Trenton, was largely responsible for the design and completion of the Brooklyn Bridge. Topics covered in the notes and letters, which date from 1896 to 1926, include local events in Trenton, upkeep of the Roebbling mansion, Roebbling's mineral collection, his physical infirmities, family news and personal and family finances. Also documented in the letters is the family business, including Roebbling's observations about business practices, markets, price and profit levels, the physical plant, levels of current orders and contracts to supply cable for suspension bridges. Related documents include detailed assessments of the company written by Washington A. Roebbling in 1898 and 1921.

The New Jersey Zinc Company has donated 142 cubic feet of non-current records, 1980-1984, which document the company's New Jersey mining operations. The unique zinc-bearing minerals of franklinite and willemite are found only in the Wallkill River Valley in New Jersey's Sussex County, where they occur in conjunction with the mineral zincite. These ore deposits were not mined successfully until the mid-nineteenth century when methods were devised to extract saleable products from them. The first such product was zinc oxide (used initially only for paints); later, methods were devised to produce spiegeleisen (an alloy, containing manganese, used in the making of steel) and metallic zinc. The principal firm involved in mining the deposits of franklinite, willemite and zincite was the New Jersey Zinc Company, formed in 1897 upon consolidation of several competing companies. The records received this

year pertain chiefly to the New Jersey Zinc Company's mining and milling facilities in Franklin (Franklin Mine, closed 1955) and Ogdensburg (Sterling Mine, closed 1988) in Sussex County. These two mines are of note geologically not only for the presence of franklinite and willemite, but because together they represent one of the few locations in the world where a very large number of minerals—over 200—have been found in one place. New Jersey Zinc Company records received include correspondence, superintendent's and other reports, accident files, real estate documents, field notes, newspaper clippings, movie film and other records, including documentation of activities at several mills outside New Jersey.

A small but select collection of glass plate negatives, the gift of Beverly Clarke, augment the Libraries' holdings of historical photographs of New Jersey. The negatives, consisting primarily of gelatin dry-plates, represent a cross-section of the documentary photographs produced by Isaac S. Vanderveer of New Brunswick. The successor of David Clark, one of the city's earliest photographers, Vanderveer was active professionally from 1903 or before to about 1951. Although approached during his lifetime concerning the possibility of donating his negatives to the Rutgers University Libraries, Vanderveer did not do so. It was presumed that much of the rich visual record hinted at by surviving Vanderveer prints had been lost entirely; however, included in the Libraries' recent acquisition are approximately 400 negatives, most 8 x 10, representing a cross-section of Vanderveer's images of New Brunswick. Depicted are aerial views and street scenes, as well as individual buildings (many since razed) including the post office, county buildings, the children's home, churches of all denominations, banks, theaters, engine houses, the hospital, commercial structures and many private homes, including interior views of the city's oldest house. Additional negatives record the city's waterfront, including views of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, the Raritan River and the bridge to neighboring Highland Park. Images of individuals include group portraits of the high school teaching staff, a city band, a national guard unit, the police and fire departments, a baseball team and a Civil War veterans organization. Also included in the collection are several copy negatives of views made by David Clark during the late nineteenth century.