

William W. Weinstone Papers

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Prepared by Laura J. Kells

Collection Summary

Title: William W. Weinstone Papers

Span Dates: 1898-1985

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1937-1985)

ID No.: MSS83871

Creator: Weinstone, William W. (William Wolf), 1897-1985

Extent: 11,500 items ; 33 containers plus 1 oversize ; 13.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Founder of the Communist Party of the United States of America. Family and personal correspondence, speeches and writings, notes and notebooks, and subject files documenting Weinstone's role as a founding member of the Communist Party of the United States of America in 1919 and as an educator promoting its ideology, chiefly from 1937 to 1985.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Belfrage, Cedric, 1904- --Correspondence.
Blum, Emanuel--Correspondence.
Flynn, Helen Gurly--Correspondence.
Haessler, Gertrude, 1894-1975--Correspondence.
Lenin, Vladimir Il'ich, 1870-1924.
Marx, Karl, 1818-1883.
Rose, Peggy Weinstone--Correspondence.
Rothstein, Andrew, 1898-1994--Correspondence.
Weinstone, Laurie--Correspondence.
Weinstone, Monette Solataroff--Correspondence.
Weinstone, William W. (William Wolf), 1897-1985.

Organizations

Communist Party of the United States of America.
United States. Alien Registration Act, 1940.

Subjects

Arrest--United States.
Civil rights movements--United States.
Communism--United States.
Communist trials--United States.
Conspiracy--United States.
Imprisonment--United States.
Radicalism--United States.
Subversive activities--United States.
Trials (Political crimes and offenses)--United States.

Occupations

Communists.
Political scientists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William W. Weinstone, founder of the Communist Party of the United States of America, were donated to the Library of Congress by Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1996. Small additions were received in 1997 and 1999.

Processing History

The papers of William W. Weinstone were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. A pamphlet collection has been transferred to the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Photographs and posters have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division. Sound recordings have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the William W. Weinstone Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William W. Weinstone is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William W. Weinstone are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William W. Weinstone Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1897, Dec. 15	Born, Vilnius, Lithuania
1898	Immigrated to United States
1916-1919	Attended City College of New York, New York, N.Y.
1919	Founder, Communist Party of the United States of America
1920	Elected to Central Committee of the Communist Party, became full-time functionary of the party
1922	Founder, Workers School, New York, N.Y.
1924-1929	Secretary, New York and New Jersey district, Workers Party Helped organize unions and strikes among garment, subway, and textile workers
1925-1932	Unsuccessful candidate in New York elections for city comptroller, mayor, and United States Senate

1929-1930	Representative of the Communist Party of the United States of America to the Communist International in Moscow, USSR
1932	Editor, <i>The Daily Worker</i>
1934-1938	Secretary, Michigan Communist Party Helped organize sit-down strike of automobile workers, Detroit, Mich.
1939-1942	Director, Workers School, New York, N.Y.
circa 1943	Divorced Gertrude Haessler
1944	Married Monette Solataroff
circa 1945-circa 1950	Educational director, Communist Party of New York State
1951-1953	Arrested, tried, and convicted for violation of Smith Act
1955-1956	Served two-year prison sentence, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo.
1957-1959	Educational director, Communist Party of New York State
circa 1965	Editor and Director, New Outlook Publishers and Distributors
1968-1969	American representative, Preparatory Commission for International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, Moscow, USSR, 1969
1970	Awarded Lenin Medal by Supreme Council of Soviets of the USSR
1981	Appeared in motion picture, <i>Reds</i>
1985, Oct. 22	Died, Queens, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Wolf Weinstone (1897-1985) span the years 1898-1985, with the bulk of the material covering the period 1937-1985. The collection focuses on Weinstone's life as a founding member of the Communist Party of the United States of America and as an educator specializing in communist ideology. The Weinstone Papers were originally held by Fairleigh Dickinson University where they received preliminary processing along with cataloging of a portion of the documents. The collection has been further organized in five series: [Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), [Notes and Notebooks](#), and [Oversize](#).

The [Correspondence](#) series contains family and general correspondence consisting of letters received and draft copies of letters sent. Most of the family correspondence comprises letters between Weinstone and his wife Monette and their daughter, Laurie, as well as his first wife Gertrude Haessler and their daughter, Peggy Weinstone Rose. Some of the letters focus on Weinstone's residence in sanitariums in the Soviet Union in 1959 and 1967. Letters between Weinstone and his family during his imprisonment in the United States for violation of the Smith Act are filed in the [Subject File](#) under the name of the act. The general correspondence contains letters from friends, fellow party members, and students of labor history and the history of the Communist Party. Prominent correspondents include Cedric Belfrage, Emanuel (Manny) Blum, Helen Gurly Flynn, and Andrew Rothstein. Correspondence with Communist Party leaders is filed under Communist Party of the United States of America in the [Subject File](#).

The [Subject File](#), the largest series, features Weinstone's work in the Communist Party, his interest in communism and the writings of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin and Karl Marx, and protests and radical movements of the period. Files on the Communist Party of the United States span party activities from the 1940s to the 1980s, both at the national level and in New York. Also included is correspondence with party leaders such as Gus Hall and Henry Winston and Weinstone's draft memoranda to them on various issues. The party's educational activities are well documented, and files relating to Marxist education include course outlines and lecture notes. Another focus is Communist Party history. As a long-time member of the party, Weinstone headed its History Committee in the 1970s.

The [Subject File](#) also contains material on Communist Party members and scholars. In many cases these files include correspondence and notes relating to Weinstone's comments on their draft writings. He functioned both as a critic and an historical resource as a founder of American communism and a leader of the Communist Party's trade union activities. Files on the Smith Act include material relating to Weinstone's arrest and conviction, along with twelve other Communist Party leaders, of conspiracy to advocate the violent overthrow of the United States government. Weinstone served two years in prison and was fined four thousand dollars. Family letters during his imprisonment relate the impact of his conviction on the lives of his family as well as his own thoughts and activities.

The [Speeches and Writings](#) series contains copies of Weinstone's published articles and drafts of writings on political policy, party history, and Marxist theory and practice. Other material includes speeches delivered at international conferences and talks and lectures at seminars and small meetings.

The main portion of the [Notes and Notebooks](#) series is a group of numbered, loose-leaf binders containing notes, draft speeches, class outlines, and clippings that appear to have served as source material for Weinstone's writings and other activities. Topics include party history, strategy and tactics, individuals, events, and ideology.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1941-1985](#)
- [Subject File, 1898-1985](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1937-1983](#)
- [Notes and Notebooks, 1948-1984](#)
- [Oversize, 1898-1961](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>Correspondence, 1941-1985</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged into family and general correspondence and chronologically therein.
BOX 3-25	<u>Subject File, 1898-1985</u> Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, course outlines and other educational material, notes, clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name or topic and chronologically therein.
BOX 26-28	<u>Speeches and Writings, 1937-1983</u> Articles, drafts, pamphlets, speeches, and lectures. Arranged alphabetically by type or title of writing and chronologically therein.
BOX 28-33	<u>Notes and Notebooks, 1948-1984</u> Numbered binders, stenographic pads, and loose notes written and compiled by Weinstone on various subjects and including occasional clippings. Organized alphabetically by format. The binders are arranged in the sequence of numbers supplied by Weinstone or the staff of Fairleigh Dickinson University.
BOX OV 1	<u>Oversize, 1898-1961</u> Posters and other printed matter. Described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	Correspondence, 1941-1985 Letters sent and received. Arranged into family and general correspondence and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Family, 1941-1983, undated <i>For additional material see also Container 23, same heading</i> (9 folders)
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	1943-1957 (2 folders)
BOX 2	1958-1985, undated (9 folders)
BOX 3-25	Subject File, 1898-1985 Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, course outlines and other educational material, notes, clippings, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by name or topic and chronologically therein.
BOX 3	Appointment calendar, 1982-1983
BOX 3	Aronowitz, Stanley, 1968-1970
BOX 3	China, 1963-1968
BOX 3	Communist Party of the United States of America
BOX 3	Central Committee and National Council, 1972-1985, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Communist Party of New York State
BOX 3	Education Department, 1944-1949, 1957-1969, undated
BOX 3	General
BOX 3	1945, 1956-1968 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1970-1985, undated
BOX 4	Communist Political Association, 1944-1945, undated
BOX 4	Conventions
BOX 4	1956-1957, 1966-1968 (7 folders)
BOX 5	1969-1983 (7 folders)
BOX 6	Correspondence and memoranda, 1952-1979, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	General
BOX 6	1935-1937, 1945-1969 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1970-1985, undated (8 folders)

Subject File, 1898-1985

Container

Contents

BOX 8	History Committee, 1969-1977, undated (7 folders)
BOX 9	Issues
BOX 9	African Americans, 1922-1927, 1946-1979, undated (6 folders)
BOX 9	Jews, 1934, circa 1946-1971, undated (3 folders)
BOX 10	National Committee, 1957-1961, 1967-1971, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	National Education Department, 1949-1975, 1981, undated <i>See also Containers 13-15, Educational material</i> (4 folders)
BOX 10	Political Committee
BOX 10	1969-1972 (2 folders)
BOX 11	1973-1974, undated
BOX 11	Program, 1965-1970, 1981, undated (5 folders)
BOX 11	Schools and classes, 1967-1972, undated
BOX 11	Communist party, various countries, 1945, 1951, 1961-1976, undated
BOX 11	Czechoslovakia, Soviet invasion, 1968, undated (2 folders)
BOX 12	(6 folders)
BOX 12	De Caux, Len, 1970-1974, undated (2 folders)
BOX 13	Dimitrov, Georgi, 1933, 1972, undated
BOX 13	Educational material <i>See also Container 10, National Education Department</i>
BOX 13	Center for Marxist Education, New York, N.Y., 1970-1975, undated
BOX 13	Communist party, Great Britain, 1966-1967, undated
BOX 13	General, 1940-1945, 1953, 1963, circa 1977, undated (5 folders)
BOX 14	(1 folder)
BOX 14	Jefferson School of Social Science, New York, N.Y., 1953-1954, undated
BOX 14	Miscellany, 1958-1962, 1969-1977, undated
BOX 14	Schools for workers, teachers' outlines, 1978, undated
BOX 14	Workers School, New York, N.Y.
BOX 14	1930-1933
BOX 15	1940-1943, undated (2 folders)
BOX 15	Emspak, Frank, 1974-1975
BOX 15	Foster, William Z.
BOX 15	<i>History of the Communist Party of the United States</i> , 1951, undated (3 folders)
BOX 16	<i>History of the Three Internationals</i> , 1954, undated (3 folders)
BOX 16	General Motors, sit-down strike, 1979, undated
BOX 16	Green, Gil, 1964, undated
BOX 16	Harisiades, Peter, trial transcripts, 1946-1947, undated

Subject File, 1898-1985

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 17	Haywood, Harry, undated
BOX 17	Health matters, 1959-1981, undated
BOX 17	Honors and tributes
BOX 17	Comrades, 1963-1966, 1975-1980, undated
BOX 17	Weinstone, William W., 1967-1975 (3 folders)
BOX 17	International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, Moscow, USSR, 1968-1969, undated (6 folders)
BOX 18	(6 folders)
BOX 19	(1 folder)
BOX 19	Johnson, Christopher H., biography of Maurice Sugar, 1984, undated
BOX 19	Johnson, Oakley C., 1932, 1966, 1972, undated
BOX 19	Josephson, Leon, 1963, undated
BOX 19	Keeran, Roger, 1975-1977, undated
BOX 19	Klehr, Harvey, and Robert E. Blackwell, research on Communist party members, 1974-1975
BOX 19	Miscellaneous topics
BOX 19	1922-1925, 1932, 1941-1968 (4 folders)
BOX 20	1969-1979, undated (4 folders)
BOX 20	Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, Sixteenth Congress, Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 1971, undated (4 folders)
BOX 21	Naison, Mark, 1974, undated
BOX 21	Nevis, Joseph, 1970-1977, undated
BOX 21	New Outlook Publishers and Distributors, 1965-1971, undated
BOX 21	Oral History of the American Left, 1975-1980, undated
BOX 21	Personal and biographical, 1942-1960, 1972-1973, 1982, undated
BOX 21	Polish United Workers' Party, Fifth Congress, Warsaw, Poland, 1968
BOX 21	Printed matter
BOX 21	Leaflets and brochures
BOX 21	Campaign literature, 1946, 1957-1978, undated
BOX 21	Davis, Angela, 1970-1971, undated
BOX 21	May Day, 1957-1965, 1976, 1982, undated
BOX 21	McCarran Internal Security Act, 1961-1963, undated
BOX 21	Miscellaneous
BOX 21	1898, 1946-1969 <i>See also Oversize</i> (2 folders)
BOX 22	1970-1985, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (4 folders)
BOX 22	Strikes, 1946, 1958, 1970, undated
BOX 22	Vietnam War protests, 1965-1972, undated (2 folders)
BOX 22	Newsletters, 1948, 1956-1985 (3 folders)
BOX 23	Rally for the Living, Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles, Calif., 1946

Subject File, 1898-1985

Container

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BOX 23	<i>Reds</i> , motion picture, 1979-1982, undated
BOX 23	Smith Act
BOX 23	Fine payments, 1954-1965, 1983
BOX 23	Miscellany, 1952-1956, undated
BOX 23	Prison
BOX 23	Correspondence
BOX 23	Family, 1955-1956 <i>See also Container 1, same heading</i> (8 folders)
BOX 24	General, 1955-1956
BOX 24	Greeting cards, 1955
BOX 24	Miscellany, 1954-1955
BOX 24	Legal matters, 1954-1956, undated (2 folders)
BOX 24	Socialist Unity Party (SED), 1968, undated
BOX 24	Socialist Workers Party, 1965-1967
BOX 25	Solomon, Mark, 1974
BOX 25	Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), 1964-1970
BOX 25	Subversive Activities Control Board, 1960, 1960-1963
BOX 25	USSR, 1921, 1934, 1946, 1959, 1965-1984, undated (2 folders)
BOX 25	Vietnam, 1951, 1962-1967
BOX 25	W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America, 1964, undated
BOX 25	Young Workers Liberation League, 1970-1981, undated (2 folders)
BOX 26-28	Speeches and Writings, 1937-1983 Articles, drafts, pamphlets, speeches, and lectures. Arranged alphabetically by type or title of writing and chronologically therein.
BOX 26	Articles, circa 1937, 1948-1980, undated (2 folders)
BOX 26	Drafts
BOX 26	Autobiography, undated
BOX 26	"The Great Sit Down Strike in General Motors," undated
BOX 26	Miscellaneous, 1961, circa 1970-1971, 1977-1980, undated (4 folders)
BOX 27	"On the Crisis Period in the Party, 1956-1960," 1974-1976, undated (9 folders)
BOX 28	Mimeographed essays, 1947, undated
BOX 28	Pamphlets and brochures, 1937, 1946
BOX 28	Speeches and lectures, 1968-1971, 1980-1983, undated (3 folders)
BOX 28	Unidentified fragments, undated (2 folders)
BOX 28-33	Notes and Notebooks, 1948-1984 Numbered binders, stenographic pads, and loose notes written and compiled by Weinstone on various subjects and including occasional clippings.

Notes and Notebooks, 1948-1984

Container

Contents

Organized alphabetically by format. The binders are arranged in the sequence of numbers supplied by Weinstone or the staff of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

BOX 28	Notebooks
BOX 28	Numbered binders, 1948-1954, 1962-1978, 1984, undated
BOX 28	1-2 (2 folders)
BOX 29	3-9 (7 folders)
BOX 30	10-21 (8 folders)
BOX 31	23-27 (5 folders)
BOX 32	28-30 (4 folders)
BOX 32	Stenographic pads, 1968-1981, undated (3 folders)
BOX 33	Notes, 1971-1984, undated (4 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1898-1961 Posters and other printed matter. Described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Subject File
BOX OV 1	Printed matter
BOX OV 1	Leaflets and brochures
BOX OV 1	Miscellaneous, 1898, 1960-1961, undated (Containers 21-22)