

C St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40, St. Joseph, Missouri, Records, 1905-1991
4272 4.0 cubic feet (98 folders), 3 oversize items

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The records of St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40 consist of correspondence, meeting minutes, contracts and agreements, convention materials, financial records and miscellaneous materials of a printers' trade union.

DONOR INFORMATION

The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Robert M. Ward on 1 April 1999 (Accession No. 5806).

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The St. Joseph Local No. 40 of the International Typographical Union (ITU) was organized in 1859 as a printers' trade union, including those responsible for the typeset in newspapers and other print media. At the time of its demise, it was the oldest continuously operating local union west of the Mississippi River (the St. Louis local, which was a charter member, disbanded temporarily during the Civil War). The ITU was also the oldest national American labor union and was known for its democratic governance.

Besides negotiating contracts with workers at St. Joseph newspapers and printing companies, Local No. 40 managed benefits provided by the ITU to its members, including health insurance, pensions, life insurance, and support for residency at the Union Printers home, a sanatorium and hospital located in Colorado. The local also managed an apprenticeship program and assisted its members with ongoing training. The organization participated in the founding of the Missouri Typographical Conference, and its members were highly active in this organization.

In 1905, the ITU initiated a general strike among its members in support of the 8-hour workday, which it attained for all of its members by the end of 1906. The St. Joseph local participated in this strike for almost a year. Again in 1921, the local participated in an ITU general membership strike, this time in support of the 44 hour work week. In 1939, members of Local 40 went on strike over seniority rights. Beyond this episode, most local issues were resolved at the bargaining table. The local also contributed to several charities in St. Joseph and Missouri as well as to other typographical unions' strike funds.

Beginning with the development of typesetting machines in the 1880s, mechanization became an ongoing concern for union members. The trade survived this first change easily enough, but during the second half of the twentieth century, new technologies eliminated many positions traditionally represented by the ITU. Its numbers dwindling, the ITU merged with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) in 1987, and the St. Joseph Local No. 40 became the Printing, Publishing, and Media Workers Sector of the CWA (PPMWS-CWA) Local 14615.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40 primarily consist of correspondence (1914-1989), meeting minutes (1905-1982), and contracts (1929-1986). Scattered convention material as well as a small amount of financial material, membership and apprenticeship records, and miscellaneous memorabilia can also be found in the collection. Correspondence and meeting minutes both document Local 40's day-to-day activities as well as its relationship with the ITU, other related unions, the St. Joseph community, and the labor movement in Missouri. Information about Local 40's participation in the movement for the eight-hour workday and the 44-hour workweek can be found in the first folder of correspondence (1914-1921), as well as in the meeting minutes. The brief 1939 strike against the News Corporation is mentioned in the meeting minutes but is not documented in the correspondence due to a gap from 1935-1944. Some information, including clippings, about this strike can be found under Contracts and Contract Negotiation Materials. In 1909, Local 40 hosted the ITU's annual convention; most materials documenting this can be found under Events and Conventions, with one exception being the minutes from the 1909 convention, which can be found under Minutes. Researchers interested in the history of newspapers and print shops in St. Joseph as well as the history of the labor movement in Missouri will find much of value in this collection.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1-39	Correspondence
f. 1	1914-1921
f. 2	1918-1920
f. 3	1921-1922
f. 4	1923-1925
f. 5	1926-1927
f. 6	1928-1929
f. 7	1930
f. 8	1931
f. 9	1932
f. 10	1933
f. 11	1933-1934
f. 12	1934-1935
f. 13	Earl Brown Correspondence, 1933-1948
f. 14	1944-1959
f. 15	1949
f. 16	1950
f. 17	1951
f. 18	1951-1952
f. 19	1952-1953
f. 20	1953
f. 21-22	1956-1958
f. 23	1959

- f. 24 1959-1960
- f. 25 1960-1962
- f. 26 1962-1964
- f. 27 1964
- f. 28 1965-1966
- f. 29 1966-1967
- f. 30 1968-1970
- f. 31 1970-1972
- f. 32 Letters by Robert Ward, President, 1968-1973
- f. 33 Grievance Correspondence, 1974
- f. 34 1975-1976
- f. 35 1977
- f. 36-37 1977-1979
- f. 38 1979-1980
- f. 39 1979-1989
- f. 40-43 Financial records, 1943-1968
- f. 44-45 Membership
 - f. 44 Membership and apprenticeship applications, 1914-1976
 - f. 45 Dale M. Brown, Apprenticeship committee, circa 1935
- f. 46-62 Minutes
 - f. 46 Minute book, 1905- May 1911
 - f. 47 Minute book – Convention, 1909
 - f. 48 Minute book, June 1911 – February 1913
 - f. 49 Minute book, March 1913 – September 1916
 - f. 50 Minute book, January 1917 – May 1921
 - f. 51 Loose materials from minute book, 1917-1921
 - f. 52 Minute book, June 1921 – May 1927
 - f. 53 Minute book, June 1927 - June 1937
 - f. 54 Minute book, July 1937 - May 1944
 - f. 55 Minute book, June 1944 - May 1953
 - f. 56 Minute book, June 1953 - June 1962
 - f. 57 Loose material from minute book, 1958-1962
 - f. 58 Minute book, June 1962 - March 1970
 - f. 59 Loose material from minute book, 1969
 - f. 60 Minute book, April 1970 - July 1975
 - f. 61 Loose material from minute book, 1970-1971
 - f. 62 Minute book, August 1975 - June 1982
- f. 63 Rules, constitutions, and bylaws, 1935-1991
- f. 64-82 Contracts and contract negotiation material
 - f. 64 Printed contracts, 1942-1977
 - f. 65 Printed contracts, 1968-1992
 - f. 66 Signed contracts, 1929
 - f. 67 Signed contracts, 1930-1936
 - f. 68 Signed contracts, 1937-1940
 - f. 69 Signed contracts, 1941-1942
 - f. 70 Signed contracts, 1943-1945

- f. 71 Signed contracts, 1946-1947
- f. 72 Signed contracts, 1950-1954
- f. 73 Signed contracts, 1955-1959
- f. 74 Signed contracts, 1961-1986
- f. 75 "Minimum Wage Scales of Typographical Unions," 1916
- f. 76 Strike, 1939
- f. 77 Contract correspondence, 1941-1983
- f. 78 Contract drafts, 1943, undated
- f. 79 1977 News-Press contract proceedings
- f. 80 1980 News-Press contract proposals
- f. 81 1983 News-Press contract proposals
- f. 82 News-Press contract proposals, 1983, 1986
- f. 83-91 Events and conventions
 - f. 83 "55th Annual Convention International Typographical Union," 1909
 - f. 84 ITU convention delegates, circa 1909
 - f. 85 ITU convention visitors, circa 1909
 - f. 86 ITU convention, 1937
 - f. 87 ITU convention, 1949
 - f. 88 ITU conventions, 1951-1966
 - f. 89 ITU convention delegate cards, 1972-1976
 - f. 90 100th anniversary celebration, 1959
 - f. 91 Miscellaneous conferences and events, 1927, 1960-1984
- f. 92 Clippings and publications, 1947-1980
- f. 93 Miscellaneous, 1942-1990, undated
- f. 94 Photographs, undated
- f. 95 Conference badges, typeset, ruler, 1913, 1917, undated
- f. 96 Printing plate, circa 1970s-1980s
- f. 97-98 Printing blocks, undated

OVERSIZE

LOCATION C-8

- Item 1 Charter certificate, St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40
- Item 2 Charter certificate, St. Joseph Mailers Union No. 109, 1948

PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPH

LOCATION P7b

- Item 3 Missouri-Kansas Union Printers Picnic, Topeka, August 16, 1931

INDEX TERMS

Index Term	Folder
Alderman Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66
Apprenticeships	1-15, 44-45
Birmingham Typographical Union No. 104	66
Brown, Dale	45
Brown, Earl	13, 15-22, 28-29, 86, 90

Index Term	Folder
California, San Francisco, 1949	66
Chapman Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66
Combe Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	69-73
Comic books, strips, etc.	93, 97-98
Grievance procedures	33
Hours of labor	1, 46, 50-51
International Typographical Union	1-98
International Typographical Union Conventions	47, 83-89, 95
International Typographical Union Review	92
International Typographical Union, Centennial Celebration	22
Jan Hardman Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66
Journal Publishing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66-73
Labor contract	64-82
Labor unions--Missouri	1-98
Labor unions--Missouri, St. Joseph	1-98
Labor--Government policy	30-36
Lawlor Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68-69
Martin Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66
Mead Products, St. Joseph Division	65
Missouri State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries	91
Missouri State Allied Printing Trades Association	15-34, 63
Missouri Typographical Conference	15-32, 63, 91
Missouri Typographical-Mailers Conference	34, 91
Missouri Valley Typographical Conference	95
Missouri, St. Joseph	1-98
Nelson Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68, 70-73
News Corporation	64, 67-72
Newspapers--Missouri, St. Joseph	1-98
Olmstead, Jesse Parke (1898-1967)	16
Printing companies--Missouri, St. Joseph	1-98
Prompt Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	68-74
Quality Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68-72
Rees Printing, St. Joseph, Missouri	68-73
Robidoux Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68-73
San Francisco Typographical Union No. 21	87
Smith-Stull Typesetting Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68
St. John Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66

Index Term	Folder
St. Joseph (Missouri) News-Press	33, 64, 72-74, 76-77, 79-82
St. Joseph Gazette	72
St. Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri	71
St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40, St. Joseph, MO	1-98
St. Joseph Typographical Union No. 40, St. Joseph, MO-- Membership	1-12, 44-45
St. Joseph Union-Observer	64, 68-74, 71
Strikes and lockouts	1, 46, 50-51, 76
Typographers--Labor unions--United States	1-98
U.S. National War Labor Board	70, 77
Union Printers Home	13, 16-20, 28-29, 35, 63
Ward, Robert	32-39, 79-82
Western Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	66, 68-73
Western Tablet and Stationery Company	69-71, 78
Western-Robidoux Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	65, 74
Wing Printing Company, St. Joseph, Missouri	46, 49-52