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## Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Local 125 Records

1928-1984

17 boxes (8 linear ft.)

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Based in New Haven, Connecticut, Local 125 was a chapter of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) that worked

to improve wages and hours of work, to increase job security, to provide facilities for advancing cultural, educational, and recreational interests of its members, and to strengthen the labor movement. Includes constitution, by-laws, minutes, contracts, piece rate schedules, accounts, subject files, scrapbooks, newsclippings, printed materials, photographs and a phonograph record that document the history of Local 125 from its founding in 1933 to 1984, when the Local office in New Haven was closed. Included also are correspondence and case materials pertaining to grievance and arbitration proceedings (access restrictions apply).

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Labor

## Background on Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Local 125

In 1933 the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) began an organizing drive among New England garment workers. On April 29, 1933, Local 125 (New Haven, Connecticut and vicinity) was chartered by ACWA. Local governing bodies were established almost immediately; Shop Delegates Councils and the Executive Board each held their first meetings in May, 1933.

Local 125 worked to improve wages and hours of work, to increase job security, to provide facilities for advancing cultural, educational and recreational interests of its members and to strengthen the labor movement. A 5-day work week and "living wage" were prime objectives. Local ACWA social-athletic clubs were opened for members in 1934. Delegates received funding to attend labor conferences and speakers routinely addressed the Shop Delegates Council meetings on topics of labor interest.

Local 125 followed the industry's growth and decline. In 1933 the union represented 14 shops (over 2,000 workers); 1942: 19 shops; 1950: 24 shops; 1963: 18 shops; 1978: 8 shops. The local eventually represented shops both in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. At various times Bridgeport, Brandford, Danbury, Derby, Manchester, New Britain, New Haven, Shelton and Wallingford shirt factories have had ACWA representation.

Key figures in Local 125 include Aldo Cursi who, with Mamie Santora, organized the Connecticut shirtworkers. Cursi served as Manager of Local 125 from 1933 until 1954. John Laurie was the local's Business Agent from 1933 until 1963. He served as Manager of Local 125 from 1954 until his death in 1964. Nick Aiello was elected Local 125's Business Agent in 1963. In 1964 he was elected Manager of Local 125.

## Scope of collection

Constitution, by-laws, minutes, contracts, piece rate schedules, accounts, subject files, scrapbooks, newsclippings, printed materials, photographs and a phonograph record that document the history of Local 125 from its founding in 1933 to 1984, when the Local office in New Haven was closed. Included also are correspondence and case materials pertaining to grievance and arbitration proceedings (access restrictions apply). Early records were collected by Manager Cursi; Business Agent (and later, Manager) Laurie maintained Local 125's files through numerous office moves, and Business Agent and Manager Aiello maintained the records from 1964 until 1984.

The records are organized in five series, including Minutes, 1933-1978, Contracts and Piece Rates, 1928-1982, Subject Files, 1934-1984, Grievances and Arbitrations, 1958-1984, and Publications, Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1930-1983.

## Arrangement

This collection is organized into five series:

Series 1. Minutes, 1933-1978

Series 2. Contracts and Piece Rates, 1928-1982

Series 3. Subject Files, 1934-1984

Series 4. Grievances and Arbitrations, 1958-1984

Series 5. Publications, Photographs and Scrapbooks, 1930-1983

## Series descriptions

Series I. Minutes

1933-1978

Includes very complete minutes of the Executive Board and the Shop Delegates Councils, 1933-1977. This series also includes delegate election results, names of conference representatives, grievance and dispute resolutions in addition to more routine union business. Minutes of the regional governing committee, the New England Regional Joint Board, are complete from its founding in 1973 through 1978. Local 125's political interests are documented in the minutes of the Labor Non-Partisan League (1936) and the Political Action Committee (1948-1974). Social-Athletic Club minutes (1934-1944) reveal the local's recreational interests; Amalgamated Cultural Activities in Series IV supplement these minutes. Also in this series are two typescripts of the Constitution; dated print copies are found in Series IV.

## Series 2. Contracts and Piece Rates

1928-1982

Divided into two subseries.

Subseries One contains contracts between Local 125 and employers, arranged chronologically and dating from 1935 to 1955. Negotiations with the Gant Company of New Haven are well documented and extend from 1943 to 1980. Subseries Two contains piece rate schedules which are arranged chronologically and span 1928-1977. Piece rate surveys, 1939-1945, supplement the schedules.

Percentage Table for the Adjustment of Piece Rates file in Series III is also of interest.

## Series 3. Subject Files

1934-1984

Files are in a topical arrangement; some headings are assigned. Shop closings are listed under name of shop (Bay Products, Interstar Mfg., New Britain, Panettieri, and Rivoli Shirtmakers).

Maintained by Aldo Cursi and, later, by Nick Aiello. Bulk dates 1964-1984. Shop dues reports (1934-1983), Financial Statements (1975-1984) and Vacation Funds Balance Sheets (1950-1971) indicate the financial workings of the local. The Subject Files also reveal Aiello's work with the New England Regional Joint Board and the Greater Hartford Labor Council.

Photographs which accompanied Import Demonstration and March (1970-1971) files were moved to Series IV.

## Series 4. Grievances and Arbitration

1958-1984

Most cases are filed by name of the grievant; some are filed by name of the company.

[Access with special permission]. Restricted. Access to the material may be gained with the written permission of Local 125 (North Dartmouth, Massachusetts).

Grievance and arbitration case material includes: evidence, correspondence and decisions. Bulk dates, 1976-1979.

## Series 5. Publications and Scrapbooks

1930-1983

Contains three subseries.

The first subseries, publications, consists of printed material found in Local 125's records. Of special interest are: the second issue of ACWA's newspaper Advance; Bread and Roses, the early history of ACWA and printed copies of the Constitution and By-laws. Three scrapbooks, 1930-1955, consist of newspaper clippings and ACWA and Local 125 printed materials.

A record of the sound track (with additional narration) for the 50th Anniversary film of the ACWA-AFL-CIO, CLC "The Inheritance" (stored in the phonograph records box for manuscripts collections).

# Inventory

Series I. Minutes

1933-1978

Constitution and By-laws

n.d.

Box 1: 1

Constitution

1984

Box 1: 2

Affiliation Certificates

1938, 1945, 195-

Box 1: 3

Executive Board minutes

1933-1955

Box 1: 4-12

Executive Board minutes

1956-1977

Box 2: 13-18  
Shop Delegate Council minutes  
1933-1942  
Box 2: 19-21  
Shop Delegate Council minutes  
1943-1974  
Box 3: 22-30  
Shop Delegate Council minutes  
1975-1977  
Box 4: 31  
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1973-1978  
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1936  
Box 4: 33  
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1948-1974  
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Social-Athletic Club minutes  
1934-1944  
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Series 2. Contracts and Piece Rates  
1928-1982  
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1935-1955  
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Contracts (general)  
1958-1982  
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1947-1980  
Box 6: 17-18  
Gant Company correspondence  
1964-1979  
Box 6: 19  
Gant Company terminations  
1979-1980  
Box 6: 20  
Gant Company termination clippings  
1979  
Box 6: 21  
Piece-Rate Schedules  
1928-1960  
Box 6: 22-28  
Piece-Rate Schedules  
1961-1977  
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1934-1984  
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Anti-Import Demonstration  
1974  
Box 9: 3

Bank Letters  
1962-1978  
Box 9: 4  
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Box 9: 5-6  
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Bay Products Closing  
1968  
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1968-1969  
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COPE  
1960-1970  
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General Officers Elections  
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1970-1971  
Box 11: 30  
Import Protest Picketing  
1977

Box 11: 31  
Insurance Complaints  
1967-1969  
Box 11: 32  
Insurance Correspondence  
1962-1971  
Box 11: 33-34  
Interstar Mfg. Co. Closing  
1983-1984  
Box 11: 35  
J.P. Stevens Boycott  
1976-1979  
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Leaflets  
1933  
Box 12: 37-39  
Legislative Committee  
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Box 12: 40  
Membership List  
1966, 1970  
Box 12: 41  
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Box 12: 42  
Neckwear Organizing Campaign  
1966-1967  
Box 12: 43  
New Britain Shirt Company Closing  
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New England Regional Joint Board Material  
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Box 12: 45  
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Box 12: 46  
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Box 12: 47  
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Political Action Committee Finances  
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Shop Delegates  
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1934-1983  
Box 13: 57-58  
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Social Security Manual  
1939-1942  
Box 13: 60  
Survey of Industry  
1977  
Box 13: 61  
Unemployment Compensation Manual  
1937-1942  
Box 13: 62  
Vacation Fund Balance Sheets  
1950-1971  
Box 14: 63-65  
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1958-1984  
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1977  
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Salvatore Benevento  
1977  
Box 15: 2  
Gladys Blake  
1976  
Box 15: 3  
Sam Carter  
1978  
Box 15: 4  
Mrs. Giuseppe Casella  
1979  
Box 15: 5  
Sarah Ceccarelli  
1981  
Box 15: 6  
Robert James  
1978  
Box 15: 7  
Lee Lamirande  
1963-1967  
Box 15: 8  
Larry Langelo  
1978  
Box 15: 9  
Penny Langelo  
1968, 1976  
Box 15: 10  
Arcardo Sanchez

1984  
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1933  
Box 16: 2  
Amalgamated Cultural Activities  
1940  
Box 16: 3  
American Labor Rises to Power, 1935-1937

Box 16: 4  
Bread and Roses  
1933-1934  
Box 16: 5  
The Company Behind the Contract

Box 16: 6  
Conducting Your Union Meeting

Box 16: 7  
Constitution (ACWA)  
1944-1980  
Box 16: 8  
Constitution (Connecticut State Labor Council)

Box 16: 9  
Constitution (New England Regional Joint Board)  
1974, 1978  
Box 16: 10



## Directory of Manufacturers of Men's and Boy's Apparel

Box 16: 11

Leadership Training Manual

1982

Box 16: 12

Letters for Roosevelt

Box 16: 13

Song Book (AFL-CIO)

Box 16: 14

The Story of the Constitution of the United States--Ervin

Box 16: 15

Union Rules of Order

Box 16: 16

Workers' Compensation

Box 16: 17

Farah Strike Photos

1974

Box 16: 18

Anti-Import Demonstration

1974

Box 16: 19

Import Protest-Picketing-New Haven

1977

Box 16: 20

50th Anniversary Convention (ACWA)

1964

Box 17: 21

Scrapbooks

1930-1955

Box 17: 22-24

Phonograph record "The Inheritance" soundtrack with additional narration from the 50th anniversary film of ACWA, AFL-CIO, CLC

1964

Box 17

(see phono records storage box)

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## Administrative information

### Access

Access restrictions apply to correspondence and case materials pertaining to grievance and arbitration proceedings.

### Access

The collection is open for research.

The collection is userrestricted.

### Provenance

Acquired from Nick Aiello in 1984 and 1985

## Processing Information

Processed by Anneliese Ostendarp, June 1985.

## Language:

English

## Acknowledgments

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## Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Labor unions--Massachusetts.

Textile industry--Massachusetts--History.

### Contributors

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Local 125 **[main entry]**

### Genres and formats

Account books.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Labor



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