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# Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Boston Joint Board Records

1926-1979

13 boxes (7 manuscript boxes, 1 half manuscript box, 4 flat oversize boxes) (8 linear ft.)

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Read collection overview

Joint Board in Boston, Massachusetts, that formed at the beginning of the ACWA and included local unions that covered the range of ethnic groups and trades that comprised the men's clothing industry. Records include detailed minutes, abundant contracts and price lists, scrapbooks, and photographs that reveal the Joint Board's important role in local and state Democratic politics, its support of a wide range of social causes, its decisions to strike, and its reaction to the decline of the men's clothing industry in New England. Leader Joseph Salerno is well represented in the records.

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## Background on Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Boston Joint Board

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America originated from a split in the United Garment Workers in 1914. The ACWA quickly became the dominant force for unionism in the men's clothing industry, controlling shops in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, and New York. The Boston Joint Board, formed at the beginning of the ACWA, included locals that covered the range of ethnic groups and trades that comprised the industry. It coordinated the activities and negotiations for ACWA Locals # 1, 12, 102, 149, 171, 172, 173, 174, 181, 183, 267, and 335 in the Boston area.

## Scope of collection

The Boston Joint Board records document the growth and maturity of the ACWA in the city, and the eventual decline of the industry in New England. Abundant contracts and price lists show the steady improvement of conditions for workers in the men's clothing industry. Detailed minutes reflect the political and social influence of the ACWA. The Joint Board played an important role in local and state Democratic politics, and it routinely contributed to and supported a wide range of social causes including, among others, the Home for Italian Children and the United Negro College Fund.

The minutes of the Boston Joint Board are much more revealing for the detail they provide about the post-World War II development of industrial relations in the industry. These minutes document Joint Board decisions to strike, but they also contain much information about more mundane shop problems like grievances, arbitrations, shop committees, and organizing. Additionally, they provide insight into the impact of the industry's decline in New England. Many of the meetings discuss the closing of shops in the Boston area, while the merger of the ACWA with the textile workers' union to form the ACTWU evinces the declining membership of the clothing workers in the region.

The extant records of the Boston Joint Board largely coincide with the years of leadership of Joseph Salerno in the New England region. An Italian immigrant, Salerno came to Boston at age 10 in 1907. He participated in his first strike as a garment worker in 1911, and became a full-time organizer for the ACWA in 1920. After spending some years as regional director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee and as Vice-President of the Textile Workers, Salerno was elected Vice President and New England director of the ACWA in 1941 and remained in that position until 1972. He wielded substantial political power in the state, in part due to the influence of his nephew, Rep. Mario Umano. The scrapbooks and photos emphasize his importance in the Boston area and in New England more generally, and document his close relationship with Democratic politics.

The records are divided into four series, including Minutes, 1942-1979; Finances, 1954-1972; Collective Bargaining Files, 1926-1976; and Scrapbooks, 1958-1976.

## Arrangement

This collection is organized into four series:

Series 1. Minutes, 1942-1979

Series 2. Finances, 1954-1972

Series 3. Collective Bargaining Files, 1926-1976

Series 4. Scrapbooks, 1958-1976

## Series descriptions

Series 1. Minutes

1942-1979

Consists primarily of handwritten minutes of the Boston Joint Board executive committee meetings, 1948-1977. The minutes are detailed and they document the major activities of the ACWA in the Boston area. There are also minutebooks from two locals that participated in the Boston Joint Board, #174 (1942-1979), and #335 (1953-1976), which cover the minutes of local meetings.

Series 2. Finances

1954-1972

Contains only a small amount of information about the finances of two locals in the Boston Joint Board, #173 and #174.

### Series 3. Collective Bargaining

1926-1977

Comprises the bulk of the collection and includes three subseries. The first is arbitrations, which contains information, briefs, and decisions of some of the Joint Board's arbitration cases, 1926-1977. Subseries two, Contracts and Agreements, includes copies of contracts with all of the major men's clothing companies in the Boston area, dating from 1916, but with the bulk of the material covering 1930-1975. The third subseries contains price lists for many of the shops covered by the contracts, detailing wage rates for particular types of work, 1944-1977.

### Series 4. Scrapbooks

1958-1976

Primarily document the career of Joseph Salerno, the New England regional director of ACWA. In particular, the scrapbooks reveal his political activities throughout New England and contain information about some of the other prominent ACWA New England officials, including Alvaro Ferreira, Diana Nunes, and Harvey Friedman.

## Inventory

### Series 1. Minutes

1942-1979

Joint Board, Board of Directors

1948-1952

Box 1: 1-8

Joint Board, Board of Directors

1953-1969

Box 2: 9-20

Joint Board, Board of Directors

1970-1977

Box 3: 21-23

Local 174 meetings

1942-1979

Box 3: v. 1-2

Local 335 meetings

1953-1976

Box 4: v. 1

### Series 2. Finances

1954-1972

Cash Book, Local 174

1954-1957

Box 4: 1

Financial Statements, Local 174

1970-1972

Box 4: 2

Pension Resolution, Local 173

undated

Box 4: 3

### Series 3. Collective Bargaining

1926-1977

Arbitrations

1926-1977

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Contracts and Agreements

John Alden Cleansers

1965-1971

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Scott Allen Clothes  
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1968-1972  
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Anthony's Custom Clothing  
1971  
Box 5: 9  
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1971  
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Bancroft Cleansers and Dyers  
1938-1971  
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Barron-Anderson Co.  
1944-1974  
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1965-1974  
Box 5: 13  
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Box 6: 15  
Bond Stores, Inc.  
1916-1975  
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Boston Retail Clothiers Group  
1962  
Box 6: 17  
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1937-1970  
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Commonwealth Clothing Co.  
1929-1969  
Box 6: 21  
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1953-1971  
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1950-1965  
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Box 6: 26  
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Box 7: 33  
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1927-1975  
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1960-1975  
Box 7: 35  
Howard Clothes, Inc.  
1962-1972  
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Joslyn Dyers and Cleaners  
1941-1945  
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Box 7: 38  
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1968-1972  
Box 7: 39  
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Box 8: 45  
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1970  
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1968  
Box 8: 47  
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Box 8: 48  
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1942-1956  
Box 8: 49  
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Box 8: 50  
Parseghian Clothing Co.  
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Box 8: 51  
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1944-1972  
Box 8: 52  
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Box 8: 53  
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Box 8: 54  
Ripley Clothes  
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Box 8: 55  
Rogers Peet Co.  
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Box 8: 56  
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1935-1957  
Box 8: 57  
Joseph Ryack Coat Front Co.  
1950-1969  
Box 8: 58  
Screnci's, Inc.  
1957-1972  
Box 8: 59  
Simpson Clothes, Inc.  
1967-1972  
Box 8: 60  
Stuart Pants Co.  
1945-1968  
Box 9: 61  
Robert Todd, Ltd.  
1973  
Box 9: 62  
Trimount Clothing Co.  
1929-1972  
Box 9: 63  
Tru-Fit Clothing Co.  
1967-1975  
Box 9: 64  
United Clothing Corp.  
1949-1955  
Box 9: 64a

Wales Mfg. Co.  
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Box 9: 65  
Ware & Pratt Co.  
1947-1977  
Box 9: 66  
Wearwell Trouser Co.  
1954-1976  
Box 9: 67  
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Box 9: 68  
Zolloto & Cohen Co.  
1944-1947  
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Beacon Clothing Co.  
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Byron Clothing Co.  
1960-1963  
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Box 10: 74  
Commonwealth Clothing Co.  
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Box 10: 75  
Continental Garment Mfg. Co.  
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Box 10: 76  
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Box 10: 77  
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Box 10: 88  
McKay Clothing Co.  
1971-1974  
Box 10: 89  
New England Sportswear  
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Box 10: 90  
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Box 10: 91  
Picarillo & Singer, Inc.  
1946-1968  
Box 10: 92  
R&N Mfg. Co.  
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Box 10: 93  
Sharpiro Bros. & Gordon  
1952-1960  
Box 10: 94  
Star Sportswear Mfg. Co.  
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Box 10: 95  
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Box 10: 97  
Series 4. Scrapbooks  
1958-1976  
Scrapbooks: Joseph Salerno  
1958-1965  
Box 11  
Scrapbooks: Joseph Salerno  
1965-1971  
Box 12  
Scrapbooks: Joseph Salerno  
1971-1976  
Box 13

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Deposited by the New England Regional Joint Board, through Edward Clark, November 1984.

The records of the Boston Joint Board were maintained primarily by long-time manager Joseph Fiascone, who was succeeded in



1970 by Samuel Tancreto. They were sent to the New England Regional Joint Board headquarters in North Dartmouth, MA, in the late 1970s when the Boston Board activities were assumed by the New England Regional Joint Board. There they were maintained by New England Joint Board leaders Diana Nunes and Edward Clark.

## Processing Information

Processed by Kenneth Fones-Wolf, December 1984.

## Language:

English

## Acknowledgments

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Boston Joint Board.  
Boston (Mass.)--Economic conditions--20th century--Sources.  
Labor unions--Massachusetts--Boston--History--Sources.  
Salerno, Joseph, fl. 1907-1972.  
Textile industry--Massachusetts--History--20th century--Sources.  
Textile workers--Labor unions--Massachusetts--Boston--History--Sources.  
Textile workers--Massachusetts--Economic conditions--20th century--Sources.

### Contributors

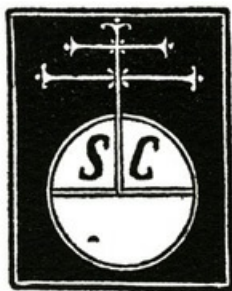
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Boston Joint Board **[main entry]**

### Genres and formats

Contracts.  
Financial records.  
Minutes.  
Scrapbooks.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Labor  
Massachusetts (East)



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