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## Yarn Finishers Union (Fall River, Mass.) Records

1919-1922

1 box (OS) (0.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 006



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The Yarn Finishers Union was one of several autonomous craft bodies affiliated with the Fall River-based American Federation of Textile Operatives (originally known as the National Amalgamation of Textile Workers). Active in several shops -- including Durfee Mills, Tecumseh Mills, Union Belt Co., O.B. Wetherell and Son, and Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufactory -- the Yarn Finishers included membership from different segments of the work force, including rollers, quillers, and harness markers.

This slender collection documents two years of labor activism by the Yarn Finishers Union in Fall River, Mass. The minutebook begins in May 1919 as the Yarn Finishers voted to strike over low and unequal wages, particularly those to "girls," and includes

references to elections, financial issues such as the proposition to institute a minimum wage scale, and to settling disputes. The minutes continue through the end of a much quieter year, 1922. The second volume consists of a record of union dues collected, arranged loosely by craft.

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## Background on Yarn Finishers Union

Built on manufacturing and textile mills, Fall River, Mass., witnessed intense labor agitation during the first decades of the twentieth century, reaching a crescendo during the national wave of labor unrest in 1919 and 1920. With 48 unions representing nearly 10,500 workers in 1920, Fall River saw strikes by hat and cap makers, molders and core makers, city employees, and loom fixers and doffers, leaving nearly a third of the workforce unemployed.

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## Scope of collection

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## Inventory

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Yarn Finishers Union Minutebook

1919-1922

1 vol. (26p.)

Yarn Finishers Union contribution book

1920-1922

1 vol.

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Provenance unrecorded.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2013.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Yarn Finishers Union (Fall River, Mass.) Records (MS 006). Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Fall River (Mass.)--History

Labor unions--Massachusetts

Textile workers--Labor unions--Massachusetts

### Contributors

Yarn Finishers Union (Fall River, Mass.) **[main entry]**

American Federation of Textile Operatives

## Genres and formats

Minutebooks

## Link to similar SCUA collections

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Special Collections & University Archives

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