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Stephen Siteman Collection

1910-1990

9 boxes (4.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 503



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A member of the Post War World Council, an ardent pacifist, and anti-imperialist, Stephen Siteman was a long-time member of the Socialist Party of America, serving for seventeen years as secretary to the party's leader Norman Thomas. In his late teens, Siteman was imprisoned as a conscientious objector during World War II. Although he was later pardoned, his time as a prisoner led him into active involvement in prison reform and the peace movement.

During his long involvement in the Socialist Party, Siteman collected a large quantity of material relating to important socialist issues, including Socialist Reform, the peace movement, conscientious objection, and prison reform. The collection also includes a small selection of Siteman's personal correspondence with Frank Zeidler, former Socialist mayor of Milwaukee, and the novelist Mark Harris.

See similar SCUA collections:

Communism and Socialism

Massachusetts (West)

Peace

Prison issues

Prose writing

World War II

Background on Stephen Siteman

Born in Montague, Massachusetts, on September 15, 1919, Stephen Siteman was introduced to Socialist ideals during the Great Depression, beginning a lifelong association with Democratic Socialism and leftist politics. A pacifist, Siteman was interned in upstate New York during the Second World War for resisting the draft, and although he was later pardoned for resisting military service, his experience helped galvanize his political beliefs.

Siteman became a member of the anti-Communist Socialist Party of America and for seventeen years, beginning in the 1950s, he served as secretary to the Party's leader and six time Presidential candidate, Norman Thomas. During this time, Siteman became deeply involved in several issues resonating with his life experience, including reform of the United States prison system and the promotion of peace and conscientious objection. Through his involvement in the Party, he was introduced to the novelist Mark Harris, assisting Harris with his dissertation on the pacifist and draft resister Randolph Bourne

During the later years of his life, Siteman worked closely with Frank Zeidler, the Socialist mayor of Milwaukee and one of the last Socialists to hold a significant elected office in the United States. Concerned with the failure of the Socialist movement to catch on in America and with the problem of factionalism, the two sought ways to return the party to its founding ideals. Together, they helped organize a series of Democratic Socialist Conferences during the 1980s in the hope of reviving the Party. Siteman retired to Greenfield, Mass., dying there on July 1, 2001, without realizing his dream.

Scope of collection

The Stephen Siteman Collection is composed of three thematic series: Socialism, Peace, and Prison Reform. Ranging in date between 1910 and 1990, the contents cover a variety of topics that center on Socialist politics and Socialist ideals. Siteman's idealistic, pacifist, and internationalist world view informs the collection throughout, offering insight into the moderate end of the Old Left political spectrum.

Series descriptions

Series 1. Peace and social justice

1939-1989

Series 1 contains publications on war resistance, conscientious objection, and peace. Comprised of works that question militarization and American Cold War-era politics, the series also includes articles on the philosophy and practice of non-violence. A significant portion of the series consists of the publications of *War Resistance*, *The War Resister*, and *The War Resisters League* from the 1940s through 1960s.

Series 2. Socialism

1939-1989

The largest series in the collection, Series 2 (Socialism) contains three boxes that can be divided roughly into three portions. The two largest and most personal consist of Siteman's correspondence with the novelist Arthur Mark Harris, on the one hand, and with Frank Zeidler, Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee on the other, dating between 1948 and 1960.

At the time of his correspondence with Siteman, Harris was writing a dissertation on the pacifist Randolph Bourne and was referred to Siteman for help. From 1954-1956 Harris and Siteman corresponded regularly about Bourne, developing a cordial relationship. For his assistance, Siteman was sent copies of Harris's newly published books *South Paw* and *Bang the Drum*

Slowly (neither present in the collection). Siteman was not shy to critique Harris's work: he did not care too much for *South Paw* and missed the overall message Harris was trying to convey. Although he wrote that he did not like baseball in general, Siteman did enjoy *Bang the Drum Slowly*, however in the letter thanking Harris for the book, Siteman politely told Harris not to send him any other books, stating that he knew writers received only a few free copies and that Harris should not waste them on him. Harris also sent Siteman a copy of his dissertation on Bourne, entitled *Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility*, which is included in the collection.

The correspondence with Zeidler is of a more personal nature. Zeidler and Siteman were longtime friends and collaborators. From 1985 to 1991, they exchanged letters and ideas on matters of Socialism, world politics, and the state of the Socialist Party. During Zeidler's term in office, Milwaukee grew industrially and never had to borrow money. Despite his success as a mayor, Zeidler failed to see his Socialist ways of administration take hold within the United States. "Socialist ideals of cooperation are combated with every event within the world," he wrote. Although he continued to work for the Democratic Socialist Conference -- material from which is included in the series -- Zeidler seemed to lose faith that Socialism would ever succeed in the United States. Siteman and Zeidler discuss the growing divisions within the party based on agendas like women's right or race, which divided the movement as a whole.

The series also contains several works on Socialist theory and practice, including an array of newspaper articles from 1918 to the 1980s.

Series 3. Prison Reform

1910-1990

Siteman's imprisonment as a conscientious objector and Socialist led him into research on reform of the American prison system. The Prison Reform series includes published articles and works, not only from the United States but from countries ranging from Austria to Yugoslavia. Siteman had the idea that prisons throughout the world did more harm than good, and he worked to change the system altogether. The series includes news articles documenting problems in prisons and laying out a vision for positive reform of the basic structure of the system. Several pamphlets focus on the idea of a Socialist reformation of the prison system, arguing that prison should be a place of reform, not simple containment.

Series 4. Research notes

1960

This small series consists of research materials relating to two of Siteman's historical projects, studies of the heretical Catholic scientists Galileo and the abolitionist Wendell Phillips. Most of the series is comprised of typescripts of published works prepared by Siteman.

Inventory

Series 1. Peace and social justice

1939-1989

American Catholics and War

1980s

Box 1

American Friends Service Committee: Steps to Peace

1951

Box 1

American Friends Service Committee: We the Offenders

undated

Box 1

Beacon: No. 2

1943

Box 1

Camus, Albert: Neither Victims Nor Executioners

1960

Box 1

CCCO An Agency for Military and Draft Council: Quitting your Job is not a Crime

undated

Box 1

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors: Punishment for Conscience

undated

Box 1
Church and Socialism: Newspaper Clippings
1984
Box 1
Coggins, Herbert: Choosing a Reason for War
1941
Box 1
Conklin, Francis J. : Conscientious Objector Provisions: A View in the Light of Torcaso v. Watkins
undated
Box 1
Cornell, Julien: Conscience and the State
1943-1944
Box 1
Davidson, Bill: Why Half Our Combat Soldiers Fail to Shoot
1952
Box 1
Doty, Hi: Bibliography of Conscientious Objection to War
1954
Box 1
Drinkwater, F.C.: War and Conscience
1951
Box 1
The Experience of the American Friends Service Committee in Civilian Public Service
1941-1945
Box 1
Fellow of Reconciliation: Meaning of Korea
undated
Box 1
Fortune Magazine: Arms and the Men
1934
Box 1
Freeman, Harrop: One Nation, Indivisible
1971
Box 1
Friends Peace Committee: Positions of Conscientious Objectors
undated
Box 1
German Pamphlets
1960s
Box 1
Gorgen, Carol Perry: Catholic Conscientious Objector
1963
Box 1
Greater Boston Strike Committee
1938
Box 1
Heard, Gerald: Militarisms Post-Mortem
1946
Box 1
Heisler, Francis: The Law Versus the Conscientious Objector
1943
Box 1
Hinshaw, Cecil E: Nonviolent Resistance a Nations Way to Peace
1956
Box 1
Hoyland, John: Gandhi-The Practical Peace Builder
1968
Box 1
Humius, F.C: Student Revolt West Germany

1968
Box 1
Huxley, Aldous: An Encyclopedia of Pacifism
1937
Box 1
Hyatt, John: Pacifism a selected Bibliography
1972
Box 2
Kepler, Roy C.: Dynamic Peace Making
1950
Box 2
Labor Anti-War Council: We Stand by Our Position
undated
Box 2
Liempa: Kriegsdienstverweigerung
1966
Box 2
Ligt, Bart De: Science of Peace
1939
Box 2
Mayer, Milton: Conscience and the Common Wealth
undated
Box 2
McDonald, Dwight & McDonald, Nancy: The War's Greatest Scandal: The Story of Jim Crow in Uniform
1943
Box 2
Morrison, Sybil: Plain Words on War
undated
Box 2
Muste, A.J.: Pamphlets
undated
Box 2
National Council Against Conscription: Case Against the Draft
undated
Box 2
National Council Against Conscription: Militarization of America
undated
Box 2
National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA): Have You Heard the Joke about President Ford's Clemency Program?
undated
Box 2
National Peace Council
1949
Box 2
Owen, Douglass J.J.: The International Rights of Conscience
undated
Box 2
Pacifist Research Bureau
undated
Box 2
Peace News Pamphlet
undated
Box 2
Peace News Pamphlet
undated
Box 2
Peace Pledge Union (PPU)
undated

Box 2

Siteman, Stephen: Galileo

ca.1960

Box 9

Transcript of Sister Marie Celeste, *The Private Life of Galileo* London, 1870

Siteman, Stephen: Phillips, Wendell: research notes and writing on Wendell Phillips

ca.1960

Box 9

Notes on ancestry of African Americans

ca.1960

Box 9

Book searches

ca.1960

Box 9

Ann Phillips: a memorial sketch

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy of privately published book, 1886.

Pastels of men, by Eugene V. Debs [passages on Wendell Phillips]

ca.1960

Box 9

Wendell Phillips, by George W. Smalley

ca.1960

Box 9

Lives and deeds of our self-made men, by Harriet Beecher Stowe

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy from book, 1889.

Wendell Phillips, the Agitators, by Carlos Martyn

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy from book, 1890.

Contemporaries, by Thomas Wentworth Higginson

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy from book, 1899.

Romantic days in old Boston, by Mary Cardine Crawford

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy from book, 1922.

Transcripts of Phillips' speeches

ca.1960

Box 9

Wendell Phillips Memorial, Boston

ca.1960

Box 9

Typescript copy from book, 1889.

Post-War World Council

undated

Box 2

Presidents Advisory Commission on Universal Training: An Analysis

1947

Box 2

Provisional Defense Committee: What Happened on June 15?

undated

Box 2
Service Board for Religious Objectors: Statement of Religious Bodies on the Conscientious Objector
1963

Box 2
Statement of Socialist party: Keep America out of War
undated

Box 2
Summary of Brief
1940

Box 2
Titford, Charles F.: Pacifist Techniques
undated

Box 2
Union Calendar: No. 563
1947

Box 3
War Resistance
1965

Box 3
War Resistance
1966

Box 3
War Resistance
1967

Box 3
War Resistance
1962-1963

Box 3
War Resistance
1964

Box 3
War Resister
1945-1949

Box 3
War Resister
1950-1953

Box 3
War Resister
1954-1955

Box 3
War Resister
1956-1957

Box 3
War Resister
1958-1959

Box 3
War Resister
1960-1962

Box 3
War Resisters International
1945

Box 3
War Resisters League
undated

Box 3
War Resisters League
undated

Box 3
Germany-Bridge or Battlefield

undated
Box 3
Non-Violence for the West?
undated
Box 3
Wartime Service and Treatment of Conscientious Objectors (Congressional Record)
1945
Box 3
The Way to Peace
undated
Box 3
Wellock, Wilfred: A Mechanistic or a Human Society
undated
Box 3
Why We Refused to Register
undated
Box 3
Youth Committee Against War: News Bulletin
1939
Box 3
Series 2. Socialism
1943-1991
American Civil Liberties Union
1950
Box 4
Balabanoff, Angelica M.D.: Tears
undated
Box 4
Black, Lee Roy: Union Press: Monograph
1975
Box 4
Catholic News Service (CNS) Origins
1986, 1991
Box 4
Clinton Farms, New Jersey
1950, 1953
Box 4
Democratic Socialism and Convention of Socialist Party: Minutes
1973
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 1st Session
1985
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 1st Session
1985
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 1st Session
1985
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 2nd Session
1985
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 4th Session
1986
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 4th Session
1986
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 4th Session

1986
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 6th Session
1987
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 6th Session
1987
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 7th Session
1988
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 7th Session
1988
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 7th Session
1988
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 8th Session
1989
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 8th Session
1989
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 8th Session
1989
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 9th Session
1989
Box 4
Democratic Socialist Conference: 9th Session
1989
Box 4
Eugene Debs Foundation:
undated
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1954 February 25-May 28
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1954 June 7-September 29
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1954 October 4-December 24
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1955 January 6-April 29
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1955 May 3-August 14
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1955 September 10-December 3
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1956 January 1-April 11
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Correspondence
1956 August 29-December 9
Box 4

Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 4
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 5
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
undated
Box 5
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 5
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 5
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 5
Harris, Mark: Randolph Bourne: A Study in Immiscibility
1956
Box 5
Hochschild, Mary Marquand: Memorial Talks at the Cosmopolitan Club
1974
Box 5
Japanese Internment and Papers
1995
Box 5
Jenkinson, Anthony: Know Your Enemy! Japan!
1943
Box 5
New York State Labor Religion Coalition
1984
Box 5
Revolutionary Union: Workers' History Calendar
1973
Box 5
Siteman, Stephen: Last Will and Testament
1974
Box 5
Socialism
1918-1920
Box 5
Socialism
1928-1939
Box 5
Socialism
1948-1949
Box 5
Socialism
1950s
Box 5
Socialism
1960-1970s
Box 5
Socialism
1980s
Box 5
Socialist Bibliography
undated
Box 5
Socialist Book Bibliography
undated

Box 5
Socialist Platform
undated

Box 5
Tamiment Institute Library: Bulletins
1960s

Box 6
Thomas, Norman: Newspaper Clippings
undated

Box 6
Thomas, Norman: Nobel Prize Nominations
1955

Box 6
Thomas, Norman: Photographs
undated

Box 6
Thomas, Norman: Memoir
undated
11 folders

Box 9
Thomas, Norman: Reflections on religion and The Christmas season
1955, 1958

Box 9
USSR Information: Bulletin
undated

Box 6
Vogel, Virgil J.: Bibliography
undated

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1984-1985

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1986 January-June

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1986 July-November

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1987 January-April

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1987 May-July

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1987 August-October

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1987 November-December

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1988 January-March

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1988 April-May

Box 6
Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1988 June-July

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1988 August-September

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1988 October-December

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1989 January-March

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1989 April-June

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1989 July-August

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1989 September-December

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1990 January-March

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1990 April-May

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1990 June-December

Box 6

Zeidler, Frank: Correspondence
1991 January-March

Box 6

Series 3. Prison Reform

1910-1990

Abolish Capital Punishment (ACP)

1952

Box 7

Abolish Capital Punishment (ACP): Special Report to Members

1967 June

Box 7

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Workers: The Public Employee

1954

Box 7

American League to Abolish Capital Punishment (ALACP)

1962

Box 7

Austria

1952

Box 7

Burma

1954-1957

Box 7

Canada

1933, 1950-1964

Box 7

China

undated

Box 7

Congress and Labor

1928, 1965

Box 7

England
1950-1956
Box 7
France
1956
Box 7
Germany
1952-1955
Box 7
Greece
1952
Box 7
Handouts
1965
Box 7
Hong Kong
undated
Box 7
Iceland
undated
Box 7
India
1954
Box 7
International Labor Defense: Long Term Political Prisoners in America
1936
Box 7
Ireland
1963
Box 7
Israel
undated
Box 7
Italy
1950
Box 7
Japan
1953
Box 7
Mufson, George: Letters
1953
Box 7
Netherlands
1952
Box 7
New Jersey Prison Riots
1950s
Box 7
New Jersey Prison Riots
1950s
Box 7
New Zealand
1955-1957
Box 7
Portugal
undated
Box 7
Printing Pressmen
1953

1950s
Box 8
United States Prison Reform

1950s-1960s

Box 8

USSR

1957

Box 8

Yugoslavia

1952

Box 8

Series 4. Research notes

1960

Galileo

1960

Box 9: 1

Transcripts and copies of secondary sources on Galileo, with Small assortment of correspondence from Siteman seeking information.

Wendell Phillips: notes on ancestry of African Americans

1960

Box 9: 2

Wendell Phillips: book searches

1960

Box 9: 3

Wendell Phillips: Ann Phillips: a memorial sketch

1960

Box 9: 4

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Pastels of men, by Eugene V. Debs

1960

Box 9: 5

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Wendell Phillips, be George W. Smalley

1960

Box 9: 6

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Lives and deeds of our self-made men, by Harriet Beecher Stowe

1960

Box 9: 7

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: The agitator, by Carlos Martyn

1960

Box 9: 8

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Contemporaries, by Thomas Wentworth Higginson

1960

Box 9: 9

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Romantic days in old Boston, by Mary Cardine Crawford

1960

Box 9: 10

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Speeches, Lectures, and Letters, by Wendell Phillips

1960

Box 9: 11

Typescript of published work.

Wendell Phillips: Memorial of Wendell Phillips from the City of Boston

1960

Box 9: 12

Typescript of published work.

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Purchased in .

Processing Information

Processed by Joel Nilles, 2009.

Related Material

Approximately 9 linear feet of books have been separated from the Siteman Collection and have been catalogued and shelved separately in the Rare Books Collections. See a list of the [Siteman Books](#) separately.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Stephen Siteman Collection (MS 503). Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Conscientious objectors.

Pacifists--United States.

Peace movements--United States.

Prison reformers.

Prisons--United States.

Socialism.

War Resisters League.

Contributors

Siteman, Stephen [[main entry](#)]

Democratic Socialists of America.

Harris, Mark, 1922-2007.

Thomas, Norman, 1884-1968.

Zeidler, Frank P.

Link to similar SCUA collections

Communism and Socialism

Massachusetts (West)

Peace

Prison issues

Prose writing

World War II



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