

Guide to the Herman Martin Memoirs

MS 1919



compiled by William Landis and Carol King

August 2008

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1919

CREATOR: Martin, Herman, 1894-1986

TITLE: Herman Martin memoirs

DATES: Circa 1965-1986

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of three versions of a memoir written by Herman Martin, an itinerant labor organizer at the turn of the century. The memoirs contain autobiographical information and political observations made by Martin. The three versions, created between 1965-1986, contain somewhat differing details. Related newspaper articles and correspondence complete the papers.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1919>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1919>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Susan Schapira Caplan and Adrienne Ferriss, 2008

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Herman Martin Memoirs (MS 1919). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Herman Martin (true surname unknown) was born on February 13, 1894, possibly 1896, in Berlin, Germany. After working as a child laborer in Germany, he enlisted in the Turkish Army at age 17, followed by employment with the German merchant marines prior to World War I. In 1916 Martin enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in the Philippines. As a foreign enlistee with a German passport, he was transferred to an American prisoner of war camp in the Southwest. Upon release in 1921, Martin helped organize railroad strikes in Mexico during the era of agrarian reform. He subsequently traveled to Germany to enlist men in the Seamen's Union and helped organize labor uprisings throughout Germany and Northern Europe. He returned to the United States and was employed as a postal worker from 1936 to 1964 and participated in organizing the American Postal Worker's Union. Martin died in New York City in 1986.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of three versions of a memoir written by Herman Martin, an itinerant labor organizer at the turn of the century. The memoirs contain autobiographical information and political observations made by Martin. The three versions, created between 1965-1986, contain somewhat differing details. Related newspaper articles and correspondence complete the papers.

Arrangement

The versions of the memoir are arranged chronologically, with newspaper clippings and correspondence last.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-2	Version 1, pages 1-273 Version 1 is an annotated typescript, with partially handwritten final pages.	Circa 1965-1986
	Version 2 Version 2 is a photocopy of the original, provided by the donor. There are numerous gaps in the pagination and some duplicate pages.	Circa 1965-1986
b. 1, f. 3-6	Pages 1-1001	
b. 2, f. 1-5	Pages 1002-2901	
b. 3, f. 1	Pages 2902-2921 and unnumbered pages	
b. 3, f. 2-3	Version 3, pages 1-420 Version 3 is a photocopy of the original, provided by the donor	Circa 1965-1986
b. 3, f. 4	Clippings of related newspaper articles and opinion pieces	1971
b. 3, f. 5	Letters (photocopies) from Yad Vashem to Herman Martin	1977

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Antisemitism
Child labor -- Germany
Labor unions -- Organizing
Railway workers -- Mexico

Geographic Names

Hamburg (Germany) -- History -- 20th Century
Tampico (Tamaulipas, Mexico)
Veracruz (Veracruz-Llave, Mexico)

Names

Calles, Plutarco Elías, 1877-1945
Carrillo Puerto, Felipe, 1874?-1924
Haberman, Roberto, 1883-
Huerta, Adolfo de la, 1881-1955
Martin, Herman, 1894-1986
Morones, Luis N.
Obregón, Álvaro, 1880-1928
Thälmann, Ernst, 1886-1944
Villa, Pancho, 1878-1923

Corporate Bodies

Industrial Workers of the World
Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands
Partido Laboral Mexicano