Guide to the Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt Papers

MS 315



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

January 1984

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives

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CALL NUMBER: MS 315

CREATOR: Kitchelt, Florence Ledyard Cross, 1874-1961

TITLE: Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt papers

DATES: 1920-1947

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, memoranda, printed material, and

miscellanea relating to Florence Kitchelt's work on behalf of international peace, through the Connecticut League of Nations Association and the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1924-1945. Among the topics covered in the papers are Kitchelt's peace efforts in Connecticut, and related organizational goals, struggles, and activities. These papers document only Kitchelt's work in the peace movement and do not focus on many of her other social-political activities. The papers detail the levels of activity in several Connecticut towns and cities. As executive secretary of the Connecticut League of Nations Association, Kitchelt served as a source

for information on regional activities.

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

b. box

f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt in 1943, 1945-1948, and 1956; gift of Anna Donovan, 1986.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt Papers (MS 315). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Florence Ledyard Cross Kitchelt was born in Rochester, New York, on December 17, 1874 to Frederick Holland and Jennie Ledyard (Wilcox) Cross. She attended Wells College in Aurora, New York, graduating in 1897 with an A.B. Throughout her early career Kitchelt was a social reform worker at a number of settlement houses in New York City and state. Immediately after college Kitchelt was a resident and volunteer worker caring for dependent and delinquent youth at the George Junior Republic in Freeville New York. She spent the next four years working for the College Settlement on the lower east side of Manhattan and its summer location in Mount Ivy, New York. In 1903 she was the head worker of an Italian American settlement called the "Little Italy House" in Brooklyn, New York. For a short time in 1904 she was a voluntary probation officer for women at the reformist Essex Market Court. From 1904 to 1905 Kitchelt worked at the Lowell House in New Haven, Connecticut.

After spending several months in Italy learning about the conditions from which her many immigrant cases came, Kitchelt returned to her hometown of Rochester, New York. In 1907 she opened "The Housekeeping Center" in an Italian neighborhood there, and the center operated under her supervision until1910. In June 1911, she married New York socialist agitator Richard Kitchelt.

By 1915 Florence Kitchelt had become a suffragette, continuing her work when she moved to New Haven, Connecticut three years later. There she became the Citizenship Director of the Connecticut League of Women Voters in 1920, and served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut branch of the League of Nations Association (CLNA) for twenty years beginning in 1924. During 1943 she was Chairman of the Connecticut Committee for the Equal Rights Amendment, a group she supported until 1956 when she and her husband moved to Ohio to live with Florence's sister Dorothy Zeiger.

Kitchelt was also a dedicated peace activist and worked with a variety of organizations to pursue pacifist goals, including thethe Connecticut Council on International Relations, the National Council for the Prevention of War, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Throughout her lifetime, Kitchelt was an active socialist, pacifist, member of the Unitarian society, and author of several books of poetry, a prose work called *The World's Work*, and editor for the Rochester magazine *The Common Good*. She died in Wilberforce, Ohio, on April 4, 1961.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, memoranda, printed material, and miscellanea relating to Kitchelt's work on behalf of international peace, through the Connecticut League of Nations Association and the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1924-45.

The papers document only Kitchelt's work in the peace movement and do not focus on many of her other socio-political activities. The papers detail the levels of activity in several Connecticut towns and cities. As executive secretary of the Connecticut League of Nations Association, Kitchelt served as a source for information on regional activities.

The Kitchelt Papers total seven and one-half linear feet (7.5') and are organized in twenty-five (25) boxes. The collection is arranged in three (3) series:

- I. Connecticut League of Nations Association, 1924-1945
- II. Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1939-1942
- III. Topical Files,1921-1947

Kitchelt selectively divided her papers by area of geographic and/or topical interest and donated these portions to various repositories. Other academic institutions with Kitchelt materials include Columbia University, Cornell University, Radcliffe College, and Smith College.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series. I. Connecticut League of Nations Association, 1924-1945. II. Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1939-1942. III. Topical Files, 1920-1947.

Collection Contents

Series I: Connecticut League of Nations Association, 1924-1945

Series I, Connecticut League of nations Association contains correspondence, printed material, and miscellanea relating to Kitchelt and her work as executive director of the Connecticut branch of the League of Nations Association (CLNA). Under Kitchelt's leadership, the CLNA operated a speaker's bureau, utilized radio stations to reach the public, circulated peace petitions, organized World Court Committees in several cities, and established local offices in towns and cities throughout Connecticut. CLNA publicity material, correspondence with activists and organizers throughout Connecticut, copies of petitions and speeches, and information on foreign military and peace activities are arranged in this series. These materials focus on the topic of the peace campaign in Connecticut, but also related to the broader questions of international relations, disarmament, war, and military policy. This series is alphabetically arranged by correspondent and/or topic, and is comprised of fourteen (14) boxes, and five (5.0) linear feet.

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Series II: Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1939-1942

Series II, Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, 1939-1942, contains correspondence, printed material, clippings, and miscellanea concerning Kitchelt's work as head of the New Haven chapter of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies (CDAAA). Publicity materials, including press releases, telegrams, and printed material, detail the efforts to generate public support to the cause, while correspondence with numerous town and city chapters in Connecticut focuses on the organizational and membership problems which confronted the CDAAA. Topical files in this series include small quantities of information on such related organizations as the America First Committee, the Associated League for a Declared War, the Fight for Freedom Committee, and the Citizens for Victory Committee.

This series contains three (3) boxes, or one linear foot (1.0') of material arranged in three sections: Office files, Topical files, and Citizens for Victory. Each section is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and/or topic.

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Series III: Topical Files, 1920-1947

Series III, Topical Files, 1921-1947, contains clippings and miscellanea relating to several individuals, organizations, and topics of interest to Kitchelt. Individuals and organizations active in the peace movement, or having a great impact upon the movement, represented in this series include: Clark M. Eichelberger, Irving Fisher, Cordell Hull, Harold Laski, Charles Lindbergh, Horace Dutton Taft, Henry A. Wallace, the Connecticut Peace Conference, and the World Peace Foundation.

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b. 22, f. 273	Perry, Ralph Barton	1941-43, undated
b. 23, f. 274	Pope, James P.	1934-35
b. 23, f. 275	<u>Posters</u>	1920-39, undated

b. 23, f. 276	Publicity from Edgar J. Fisher	1934-38, undated
	Radio	
	Addresses-WICC	
b. 23, f. 277	Auspices Connecticut League of Nations Association	1935-36, undated
b. 23, f. 278	Correspondence	1935-36, undated
b. 23, f. 279	Programs and publicity	1937-40, undated
b. 23, f. 280	Programs-WICC	1936, undated
b. 23, f. 281	WELI	1936, undated
b. 23, f. 282	Robinson, Leland Rex	1937-38, undated
b. 23, f. 283	Roosevelt, Franklin D.	1933-41, undated
b. 23, f. 284	Salter, Arthur	1925, 1931, undated
b. 23, f. 285	Schuman, Frederick L.	1938-42, undated
b. 23, f. 286	Schwimmer, Rosika	1937, undated
b. 23, f. 287	Seymour, Charles	1937-45
b. 23, f. 288	Sherwood, Robert E.	1940
b. 23, f. 289	Shotwell, James T.	1925-45, undated
b. 23, f. 290	Smuts, Jan Christian	1928, 1935
	Speakers	
b. 24, f. 291	Herbert B. Ames, Frank Speer Coan	1934, 1937
b. 24, f. 292	Connecticut	1924-42, undated
b. 24, f. 293	Staley, Eugene	1938-42, undated
b. 24, f. 294	Stimson, H.R.	1936-41, undated
b. 24, f. 295	Stories and songs, poems for speakers	1927-38, undated
b. 24, f. 296	Stout, Rex	1941
b. 24, f. 297	Sweeter, Arthur	1936-44

b. 24, f. 298 - 300 Taft, Horace D.		1929-43
b. 24, f. 301	Thompson, Dorothy	1937-41
b. 24, f. 302	Toynbee, Arnold J.	1933
b. 24, f. 303	Van Kirk, Walter W.	1937-38, undated
b. 24, f. 304	Veterans of Future Wars	1936
b. 24, f. 305	Wallace, Henry A.	1937-46, undated
b. 24, f. 306	Wambaugh, Sarah	1935, 1939, 1943
b. 24, f. 307	Washington, George	1925-39
b. 24, f. 308	Welles, Sumner	1936-45
b. 24, f. 309	Whelan, Frederick	1925
b. 24, f. 310	Whitney, Josepha	1925-35
b. 25, f. 311	Wilson, Woodrow	1931-44, undated
b. 25, f. 312	Winant, John G.	1939-46
b. 25, f. 313	Wolfers, Arnold	1939, 1942
b. 25, f. 314	World's Fair	1939
b. 25, f. 315	World Peace Foundation	1928-39, undated
b. 25, f. 316	World Peaceways	1935
b. 25, f. 317	Wright, Quincy, and Louise	1935, 1939, undated
b. 25, f. 318	Young, Owen D.	1933, undated
b. 25, f. 319 - 320	Youth movement	1924-40, undated
b. 25, f. 321	Zeeland, Paul Van	1938
b. 26	Oversize Poster, "General Pact for the Renunciation of War."	[1929]

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

International relations
Peaceful change (International relations)
Peace -- Societies, etc.
Women
Women and peace

Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Politics and government New Haven (Conn.) United States -- Foreign relations

Names

Angell, James Rowland, 1869-1949 Borchard, Edwin, 1884-1951 Danaher, John Anthony, 1899-Fisher, Irving Norton, 1900-Huntington, Ellsworth, 1876-1947 Taft, Horace Dutton, 1861-1943

Corporate Bodies

America First Committee Citizens for Victory League of Nations Association of Connecticut League of Nations -- Connecticut