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Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR), Connecticut Division Financial Records

LWL MSS 24



by Sandra Markham

2018

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Lewis Walpole Library
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CALL NUMBER: LWL MSS 24

CREATOR: Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform. Connecticut Division

TITLE: Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR),
Connecticut Division Financial Records

DATES: 1930-1934

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9.4 linear feet (12 boxes + 2 broadsides)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR), Connecticut Division Financial Records hold correspondence, donation records and acknowledgements, invoices, receipts, account books, bank records, financial reports, and other documents related to the organization's activities in the state of Connecticut. Although the records do not contain corporate minutes or program-related internal memoranda and correspondence, the division's financial records do provide granular documentation of the workings of the Connecticut chapter.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.024>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.024>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (Yale 1918), 1979.

Conditions Governing Access

This material is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR), Connecticut Division Financial Records. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR)

The Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR), founded in 1929 by Pauline Morton Sabin, had as its goal the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which established the prohibition of alcoholic beverages by declaring as illegal the production, transport, and sale of alcohol. Formed partly in response to the political corruption and flourishing organized crime connected to Prohibition, and to the hypocrisy of politicians who publicly supported Prohibition but enjoyed alcohol in private, the non-partisan volunteer association claimed 300,000 members by spring 1931 and more than 1,000,000 when the amendment was repealed in December 1933. The organization was self-supporting through dues, contributions, and fund-raising events. Their repeal message was also spread by the WONPR speakers' bureaus which sent members out to address audiences in women's social clubs, professional and union meetings, public rallies, and other venues.

Annie Burr Auchincloss Lewis (1902-1959)

Annie Burr Auchincloss Lewis was born in Newport, Rhode Island, on July 22, 1902, the daughter of Emma Jennings Auchincloss and Hugh Dudley Auchincloss. She attended Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, and married Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis in New York in 1928; the couple settled in Farmington where Annie Lewis became involved in many charitable and philanthropic activities. Among the groups with which she worked was the Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform, where she served as treasurer for Connecticut. Annie Burr Lewis died in Hartford, Connecticut, on May 9, 1959.

Scope and Contents

The Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform (WONPR), Connecticut Division Financial Records hold correspondence, donation records and acknowledgements, invoices, receipts, account books, bank records, financial reports, and other documents related to the organization's activities in the state of Connecticut.

In her capacity as treasurer of the Connecticut Division of WONPR, Annie Burr Lewis was responsible for forwarding to the national office in New York all income collected statewide. In addition, she paid the bills for setting up and running the administrative office at 1109 Chapel Street, New Haven, and for events taking place around the state. The series holds invoices and receipts covering expenses for printing posters, handbills, and window cards, renting chairs and banners for meetings, and cash for paying the "sandwich men" hired to carry pro-repeal signs at rallies and election polls. Another income stream resulted from the sale of WONPR-branded merchandise—such as cigarette boxes and matchbox cases,

scarves and ties, stickers, pins, playing cards, and thimbles—which the Connecticut division produced itself or purchased from the national office, and sold to members or at rallies; examples of WONPR smoking accessories are in the Lewises' household objects collection.

Although the collection does not contain corporate minutes or program-related internal memoranda and correspondence, the division's financial records do provide granular documentation of the workings of a state chapter of WONPR under the direction of president Margaret Bush Clement (1899-1993) of New Haven. The records range from receipts from the maintenance of typewriters in the New Haven office, to tabulations of individual members' contributions, to files of attendance forms generated by the series of "chain lunches" the women held in their homes throughout the state to raise interest in, and money for, WONPR. Other financial records include ledgers, reports, and bank statements, as well as a binder holding bookkeeping course lessons, which Annie Lewis likely used to train herself to keep the books. Also present are four folders of correspondence, documents, and ephemera related to the work of the Connecticut division of The Crusaders, Inc., a men's anti-prohibition organization. Hartford resident Philip Hewes (1902-1998), treasurer of the Connecticut Crusaders, gave the material to Wilmarth Lewis in April 1976. With his gift Hewes included a printed silk "Repeal" necktie he had purchased from WONPR in the early 1930s, an example of the merchandise documented in Series II above.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence and Administrative Records, 1930-1933. II. Invoices and Receipts, 1930-1933. III. Accounts and Financial Reports, 1930-1934. IV. The Crusaders, Inc., 1930-1932.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence and Administrative Records, 1930–1933

1.7 linear feet (4 boxes + 1 broadside)

Series I holds administrative correspondence and documents related to the organization's finances and programs. Primarily the records of contributions and contributors, the bulk consists of acknowledgement notes sent by Annie Burr Lewis in response to general donations and those brought in by the WONPR chain lunch program.

b. 1, f. 1	Advertising and public relations	1930–1932
b. 1, f. 2	Administrative documents	1932–1933
b. 1, f. 3	Cates, Mary Mary Cates was chair of the Speaker's Bureau.	1931–1932
b. 1, f. 4	Cleveland and Washington trips	1930, 1933
	Contribution records	
	Acknowledgement notes	
b. 1, f. 5-11	General contributors	1930–1932
b. 2, f. 1	General contributors	1933
b. 2, f. 2	Repeal Ratification campaign contributors	1933
	Chain lunch forms and acknowledgments	
	The WONPR chain lunches were hosted by women in communities across the state who invited other women into their homes to dine and discuss the anti-prohibition movement. Those guests then signed up to hold lunches in their own homes, to repeat the agenda and spread the organization's message.	
	The report forms list the hostess, with names and addresses of attendees, most of whom were friends and neighbors in Connecticut.	
b. 2, f. 3-8	Reports of lunches held in May and June 1–6	1932
b. 3, f. 1-3	Reports of lunches held June 7 through the fall	1932
b. 3, f. 4	Contribution lists Primarily typed reports organized by county.	1930–1933
b. 4	Contributor cards Printed cards with slots into which contributors were to insert dimes, quarters, and fifty-cent pieces for mailing to the organization. The cards are filed alphabetically by county and thereunder by town.	undated
b. 3, f. 5	WONPR correspondence Letters received from the national office in New York.	1930–1933
b. 3, f. 6	WONPR national financial policies and procedures	1932

b. 3, f. 7	Other correspondence	1930-1933
b. 5 (Broadside)	Photographs	1931-1933

Five panoramic photographs of WONPR women in Washington, DC, at the following events: White House visit, April 15, 1931; Third Annual Convention, April 1932 (members assembled on the east front steps of the Capitol, and at the banquet); and Fourth Annual Convention banquet, April 3, 1933 (two copies).

Series II: Invoices and Receipts, 1930–1933*0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The series contains material that documents the expenses incurred by the organization for its programs and administration. Also here are the records of the paid staff in the New Haven office, as well as organizers in other parts of the state.

Series II is organized into three subseries: Events, Merchandise, and Office Expenses.

Events		
b. 6, f. 1	Banners, booths, and displays	1930–1933
b. 6, f. 2	Chair rentals	1930–1933
b. 6, f. 3	Hall rentals	1931–1932
b. 6, f. 4	Hartford mass meeting at Bushnell Memorial Hall	1932
b. 6, f. 5	Manchester rally, March 20	1932
b. 6, f. 6	Sandwich men	1932
Merchandise		
Examples of WONPR-branded merchandise can be found in the Lewises' household objects collection, in addition to the single "Repeal" necktie present in Series IV.		
b. 6, f. 7	Diamond Match Company	1932
b. 6, f. 8	Stehle Silks Corporation Receipts for scarves, ties, and handkerchiefs ordered by the Connecticut Division.	1932–1933
b. 6, f. 9	WONPR national office items Invoices for WONPR-branded merchandise sent to Connecticut for sale in the office and at rallies.	1931–1933
b. 6, f. 10	Miscellaneous vendors	1932–1933
b. 6, f. 11	Resale pricelist	undated
b. 6, f. 12	Sales and inventories Includes records for sales during "Repeal Week," May 16-26, 1932.	1932–1933
Office Expenses		
b. 6, f. 13	Freight	1932–1933
b. 6, f. 14	Insurance	1932–1933
b. 6, f. 15	Postage	1931–1933
b. 6, f. 16	Postal-Telegraph Cable Company	1931–1933

Office Expenses (continued)

Printing

Invoices and receipts for engraving and printing for letterhead, ballots, posters, enrollment cards, and other print pieces by companies in New Haven, Hartford, and around the state. Proofs of photoengraved portraits of WONPR members, and other WONPR graphics, are attached to some invoices; a portrait of Annie Lewis is with the Rundbaken Engraving Company invoice of December 29, 1932.

b. 6, f. 17	Hunter Press	1930-1932
b. 6, f. 18	Quinnipiack Press, Inc.	1930-1932
b. 6, f. 19	Rundbaken Engraving Company	1932-1933
b. 6, f. 20	Swan Engraving Company	1932
b. 6, f. 21	Van Dyck & Company	1932-1933
b. 6, f. 22	Other printers	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 1	Southern New England Telephone Company	1930-1933
	Staff	
b. 7, f. 2	Falconer, Blanche	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 3	Gilligan, Peter	1931-1933
b. 7, f. 4	Gorska, Adela	1931-1933
b. 7, f. 5	Other employees	1930-1932
b. 7, f. 6	Student Typewriting Bureau	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 7	Typewriter maintenance	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 8	United Illuminating Company	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 9	Western Union	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 10	Whitlock's Bookstore, Inc.	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 11	Yale Cooperative Corporation	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 12	Yale University (rent)	1930-1933
b. 7, f. 13	Miscellaneous expenses	1930-1933

Series III: Accounts and Financial Reports, 1930–1934*6.42 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series III holds financial records for the organization, including bank check registers and statements, accounting volumes, and financial statements.

b. 8, f. 1	Audited financial statements	1932–1933
	Banking records	
b. 8, f. 2	First National Bank & Trust Company, Bridgeport Account kept by Eleanor Wheeler.	1932–1933
	West Hartford Trust Company Account kept by Annie Lewis.	
b. 8, f. 3	Bank book	1930
b. 8, f. 4-5	Check registers	1930–1934
b. 8, f. 6-7	Bank statements	1930–1934
b. 9 (Oversize)	Cash book	1930–1931
b. 10 (Oversize)	General journal Contains accounts of cash received, cash disbursed, and distributions.	1930–1932
b. 11 (Oversize)	General journal Contains accounts of cash received, cash disbursed, and distributions.	1932–1933
b. 12 (Oversize)	Journal Chronological record of contributions with names of contributors.	1930–1933
b. 13, f. 1	Ledger	1930–1934
b. 13, f. 2	Petty cash book	1931–1932
b. 13, f. 3	Petty cash reports	1930–1933
b. 13, f. 4	Receipt books	1932–1933
b. 13, f. 5	Treasurer's reports	1931–1933
b. 13, f. 6	Certified bookkeeping course notebook	circa 1930
b. 13, f. 7	Bookkeeping workbook (blank)	circa 1930

Series IV: The Crusaders, Inc., 1930–1932*0.42 linear feet*

The Crusaders, Inc., was a men's anti-prohibition movement founded on January 16, 1930, in Cleveland, Ohio. The treasurer of the Connecticut branch was Philip Hewes, who presented Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis with an envelope of Crusaders' material in April 1976; it was added to the WONPR records in 2018.

The series holds a small group of correspondence, documents, and ephemera related to the work of the Crusaders in Connecticut, including a receipt for their certificate of incorporation and a program and financial accounting for the Anti-Prohibition Mass Meeting held in Hartford on January 28, 1932, an event co-sponsored by WONPR. Also present is a "Repeal" necktie, of the type documented in the folder for Stehle Silks Corporation (Box 6, folder 8).

b. 13, f. 8	Correspondence	1931–1932
b. 13, f. 9	Hartford mass meeting at Bushnell Memorial Hall	1932
b. 13, f. 10	"Repeal" necktie	circa 1932
b. 14 (Broadside)	Newspaper clipping A clipping from the <i>Hartford Daily Courant</i> , with an advertisement for The Crusaders, Inc., which outlines the organization's beliefs and aims.	1930 July 31

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

Men -- Societies and clubs
Prohibition -- Societies, etc.
Prohibition -- United States
Women political activists -- United States
Women political activists -- United States
Women -- Societies and clubs

Genres / Formats

Account books
Financial records
Neckties
Panoramas

Names

Clement, Margaret Livingston Bush, 1899-1993
Hewes, Philip, 1902-1998
Lewis, Annie Burr Auchincloss, 1902-1959

Corporate Bodies

Crusaders, Inc
Schutz Group Photographers (Washington, D.C.)
Tenschert Photo Co. (Washington, D.C.)
United States. Constitution. 18th Amendment
Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform

Contributors

Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform. Connecticut Division
Hewes, Philip, 1902-1998
Lewis, Annie Burr Auchincloss, 1902-1959
Crusaders, Inc
Schutz Group Photographers (Washington, D.C.)
Tenschert Photo Co. (Washington, D.C.)

Acquired From

Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979