



BHC-MSS 0066

Guide to the Papers of Amy Heller for her thesis "*The Perennial Nightmare*":
anti-communism Inside and Outside the U.E. Local 203, Bridgeport, 1944-1950

By Meg Rinn, January 2020

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Amy Heller

Title: Papers of Amy Heller for her thesis "*The Perennial Nightmare*": *anti-communism Inside and Outside the U.E. Local 203, Bridgeport, 1944-1950*

Dates: 1985

Quantity: 2 manuscript boxes

Abstract: The thesis of Amy Heller and corresponding research notes explores the complicated history of the United Electrical, Radio and machine Works of America local 203, Bridgeport as the tensions between right and left wing factions erupted in 1944 to 1950.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History

Amy Heller produced this thesis in 1985 as a part of her master's degree at Yale University. Written for masters thesis at Yale. She donated the thesis and related research material to the Bridgeport History Center in 198.

The thesis itself focuses on the tensions of the United Electrical, Radio and machine Works of America (UE) Bridgeport Local 203, especially at the General Electric plant in Bridgeport. At the plant and within the local union, right and left factions were increasingly butting heads against each other, especially with regards to rhetoric regarding communism. Anti-communist slates of local leadership were a part of the problem, and those went hand-in-hand with the fact that UE was long accused of being associated with the Communist Party itself. Heller's thesis explores this complicated chapter of the union's history. The thesis itself and the accompanying notes offer additional sources for tracing this complex history's resources.

Scope and Content note:

This collection features the completed version of Heller's master's thesis, along with all of her research notes. Most importantly are the tape recordings of her interview with Katya Gilden.

Arrangement Note:

In original order. No series.

Administrative information:

Provenance Donation of Amy Heller, accession # 2018.85

See also:

Papers of Josephine and Lloyd Willard (BHC-MSS 0057), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine & Furniture Workers, AFL-CIO (IUE), Rutgers Special Collections and Archives. <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/scua/iue>

United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE) Records (collection 89), Archives and Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh.

Preferred Citation:

Papers of Amy Heller for her thesis "*The Perennial Nightmare*": *anti-communism Inside and Outside the U.E. Local 203, Bridgeport, 1944-1950* (BHC-MSS 0066) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Gilden, Katya
Willard, Josephine
Willard, Lloyd.

Corporate names

General Electric Company
United Electrical and Radio Workers of America

Subject tracings

Labor unions
Electric household appliances industry
Communists
Anti-communism

Detailed box and folder listing

1. Completed thesis, "The Perennial Nightmare": anti-communism Inside and Outside the U.E. Local 203, Bridgeport, 1944-1950
2. UE 203 - Santoianni, Willard, and Gilden and newspapers, labor leader, and UE news and elections
3. UE 203 - Santoianni, Willard, and Gilden and newspapers, labor leader, and UE news and elections
4. UE 203 - UE archives notes
5. UE 203 - UE archives notes
6. UE 203 - Prospectuses and draft #1 and sources
7. UE 203 final draft(s)
8. UE 203 - Articles (Xeroxed), notes on books, Xeroxes of gov. documents and etc. (miscellany)

Box 2

1. UE 203 - Articles (Xeroxed), notes on books, Xeroxes of gov. documents and etc. (miscellany)

2. UE 203 – Articles (Xeroxed), notes on books, Xeroxes of gov. documents and etc. (miscellany)
3. Re-print of "*The Perennial Nightmare...*"
4. Cassette tapes with the Katya Gilden interview and Michael Hyman interview, 1985
5. *Between the Hills and the Sea* by K.B. Gilden