



BHC-MSS 0178

Guide to the Records of the Connecticut Foreign Trade Association
by Meg Rinn
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Connecticut Foreign Trade Association

Title: Records of the Connecticut Foreign Trade Association

Dates: 1920-1977

Quantity: 1 linear foot; 2.5 manuscript boxes

Abstract The Connecticut Foreign Trade Association began in July 1920 at the University Club in Bridgeport, among a group of manufacturers who wished to start a group for those involved in exporting. Named the Export Managers Club of Bridgeport, it was intended to be a group that exchanged information regarding the shifting issues of export. The collection primarily contains minutes and bulletins and newsletters, offering documentation of executive level management and what was communicated to membership from the group's founding to the time of donation.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

The Connecticut Foreign Trade Association began in July 1920 at the University Club in Bridgeport, among a group of manufacturers who wished to start a group for those involved in exporting. Named the Export Managers Club of Bridgeport, it was intended to be a group that exchanged information regarding the shifting issues of export. Bridgeport was a major industrial hub until the 1970s, and the need for quick exchange of information and communication in a less formal setting among the various export managers from these businesses makes it clear this club was filling a very particular and important need.

In 1945, the organization became affiliated with the Manufacturers Association of Bridgeport, which would go on to handle administrative matters for the group. Members included employees from General Electric, Warner Brothers Company, Bead Chain Manufacturing, and the Bullard Machine Tool Company, among many others.

The club had regular meetings that included lunches with speakers, along with special programming. Topics covered a wide range of business interests, including trade with China, legal aspects, working with foreign sales agents, and many other aspects of exporting as international trade expanded over the years.

In 1976, the group changed its name to the Connecticut Foreign Trade Association to reflect a broader scope. This collection was donated in 1978, but it is unclear if the organization had disbanded at the time or did so later, or currently exists under a different name all together.

Scope and Content note:

The collection primarily contains minutes and bulletins and newsletters, offering documentation of executive level management and what was communicated to membership from the group's founding to the time of donation. The program series also contains correspondence and information, giving insight into planning of programs and events held by the organization rather than simply representing handbills.

Membership information is only representative from 1971 onward, and there is only one annual report.

Arrangement Note:

Series I, minutes and executive information, contains minutes, director's reports, treasurer's reports, and other material related to the management of the club. Series II, membership, includes information about applications and rules of membership for the 1970s.

Series III features correspondence, and series IV contains bulletins and newsletters generated by the organization. These newsletters often feature write ups of programs and minute overviews. Series V, programs, contains correspondence and documentation regarding programs hosted by the club, and series VI contains additional material such as new stationary and a small set of publicity clippings.

All material is arranged chronologically. Series I features an additional hierarchy of history, information in the form of constitution and bylaws as well as an annual report, followed by minutes, executive material, treasurer's reports, and then other committees.

Administrative information:

Provenance: 1978.70, Gift of the Connecticut Foreign Trade Association

Preferred Citation:

Records of the Connecticut Foreign Trade Association (BHC-MSS 0178), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings*Corporate names*

Connecticut Foreign Trade Association
Export Managers Club of Bridgeport

Subject tracings

Exports
Export duties
Foreign trade promotion
International trade

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

Series I, Minutes and executive information

1. History, 1977

2. Constitution, by laws, 1922 1959, 1966
3. Annual report, 1972
4. Minutes, 1920-1945
5. Minutes, 1945, 1959, 1966-1968
6. Minutes, 1969
7. Minutes, 1970
8. Minutes, 1971
9. Minutes, 1972
10. Minutes, 1973
11. Minutes, 1974-1975
12. Directors notes, 1977
13. Treasurer's reports, 1947-1950
14. Treasurer's reports, 1968-1969
15. Treasurer's reports, 1970-1975
16. Finance and insurance committee, 1975
17. Nominating committee, 1975
18. Connecticut development committee, 1967
19. Bridgeport companies in export business, undated

Box 2

Series II, Membership

1. Membership officers, 1971-1976
2. Membership applications and procedures, 1975
3. Membership applications, alphabetical, 1974-1975
4. Membership accepted, 1975
5. Questionnaires to membership, 1973-1975

Series III, Correspondence

6. Correspondence, 1966, 1971
7. Correspondence, 1969-1972
8. Correspondence, 1973-1975

Series IV, Bulletins and newsletters

9. Bulletins and newsletters, 1954-1968
10. Bulletins and newsletters, 1969-1975
11. Bulletins and newsletters, 1974-1975

Series V, Programs

12. Programs, 1968-1969
13. Programs, 1970-1971
14. Programs, 1971-1972
15. Programs, 1973

Box 3

1. Programs, 1974-1975
2. Programs, 1976-1977

Series VI, Additional material

3. Letter to Gov. Raymond Baldwin, 1944
4. Publicity 1966-1974
5. Manufacturer's Association, 1973
6. Quinnipiac College business course, 1974
7. United States Department of Commerce, 1974
8. Stationary, 1975
9. Certificate from International Business Club of the University of New Haven, 1976