

TRADE UNION PUBLICATIONS

1850 - 1941

Volume I

DESCRIPTION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1850 - 1941

VOLUME I Description and Bibliography

VOLUME II Subject Index

VOLUME III Subject Index (concluded)

Trade Union Publications

*The Official Journals, Convention Proceedings, and
Constitutions of International Unions
and Federations, 1850-1941*

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Volume I

Description and Bibliography



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*"I for my part venerate the inventor of Indexes; and I know not to whom to yield the preference, either to Hippocrates, who was the first great anatomizer of the human body, or to that unknown labourer in literature who first laid open the nerves and arteries of a book."—Isaac Disraeli, *Literary Miscellanies* (New York: W. J. Widdleton, 1868).*

FOREWORD

When Johns Hopkins University pioneered in the collection of trade union journals, convention proceedings, and other union publications, it opened an important new field of development for libraries. Other institutions have been somewhat slow to follow the example set by Johns Hopkins, and good collections of trade union publications are still somewhat scarce. Nevertheless, there are now almost a dozen important collections of trade union journals, convention proceedings, and other documents in the United States. During the next decade the number of such collections may be expected to grow rapidly. The trade unions are beginning to realize the value of their publications to scholars, and they may be expected to encourage the establishment of new collections.

The use of the steadily accumulating trade union materials by scholars has encountered a formidable obstacle in the absence of a general index. Even the individual publications of unions frequently lack indexes. A scholar who wishes to make a thorough study of the evolution of the policy of various unions toward piece work, technological change, or lay-offs, or study changes in the internal operations of the unions, such as changes in admission policy, the administration of transfer cards, the operation of permit cards, is confronted with an almost insuperable task. There are so many volumes of so many journals where material might possibly be found that no scholar can hope to cover them all. With the steady increase in the number of journals and the number of volumes, the work of going through accumulated material becomes increasingly difficult.

Now for a second time Johns Hopkins has pioneered in making trade union publications more available to scholars. The over-all index of the journals in its extensive collection will be an indispensable guide to every student of trade union policy and trade union administration. The index, of course, does more than increase the usefulness of the collection of Johns Hopkins. It makes more useful any collection which possesses the same journals as are found at Johns Hopkins. Let us hope that this index will stimulate a great growth in thorough studies of trade union government and trade union policies, and that it will also lead to the establishment of new collections of trade union material by the many institutions which have thus far neglected this important field.

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JUNE 1944

PREFACE

Shortly after 1900, Professor George E. Barnett undertook to assemble at Johns Hopkins University a collection of the publications of the international trade unions and federations of trade unions then in existence or which had existed prior to that time. By 1907 the collection had attained considerable size and a high degree of completeness. A list of the material included in it, and in the similar collections existing at several other institutions, was published by Dr. Barnett in *A Trial Bibliography of American Trade Union Publications* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1904 and 1907).

From that time to the present an effort has been made to secure each year the current publications of all international unions and federations in the country. Thanks to the cooperation of hundreds of trade union secretaries and presidents, the collection has grown steadily and now includes some seven thousand volumes. With respect to the main types of material included—the constitutions, convention proceedings and official journals of international unions and federations—the Johns Hopkins collection is more complete than any other in the United States for the period before 1900. The collection in the Department of Labor Library is very close to the Johns Hopkins collection in total size, and for the period since 1900 is possibly somewhat more complete. Other large collections, including much early material, are to be found in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, the John Crerar Library in Chicago, the Library of Congress, and the New York City Public Library.

At least twenty universities¹ are now receiving international union publications in considerable volume, but most of these collections are less comprehensive and of more recent origin than those first mentioned. A considerable amount of trade union material is also to be found in several state and city libraries,

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1. These include the University of California, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Duke University, Harvard University, the University of Illinois, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, the University of Missouri, New York University, the University of North Carolina, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, the University of Texas, Yale University and the University of Washington. The reader who wishes to know which of these libraries contain the publications of a particular union is referred to *Union List of Serials in the Libraries of the United States and Canada*, ed. Winifred Gregory (2nd ed.; New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1943).

including the Kansas State Historical Library, the New York State Library, the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, the James J. Hill Library in St. Paul, and the public libraries of Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. The index portion of the present work can therefore be used in a considerable number of places throughout the United States.

The cumulative increase in the quantity of trade union publications has long been a serious obstacle to effective use of the publications for research purposes. Studies of a single union have remained reasonably manageable, since the publications of one union rarely exceed one hundred volumes. Possibly for this reason, dissertations and monographs in the field of trade unionism during the past twenty-five years have been predominantly of the single-union type. The investigator who wanted to generalize about the experience of a large number of unions on a single subject was faced with the problem of skimming hundreds or even thousands of volumes to find the scattered references to the subject in which he was interested, and only after many months of work could he begin the real task of classifying and interpreting the references. The few scholars who have embarked on this type of study have been forced to sample the material without attempting to exhaust it. Thus the very abundance of the material has set limits to the possibility and validity of generalizing studies.

The initial purpose of the present undertaking was to compile a subject index which would unlock the official journals and convention proceedings of international unions and national federations for research use. Work was begun in September, 1941, and continued until May, 1944. The methods used and the detailed characteristics of the product are discussed in Chapter 2, which should be read by all who intend to use these volumes for research purposes. It is sufficient here to point out that the index covers the journals and convention proceedings of a selected group of fifty unions and federations from the beginning of their history until the end of 1941. It does not include other publications of these unions, such as pamphlets, research reports, or reports of collective bargaining conferences; nor does it include publications of local unions, city and state federations of local unions, or labor political organizations.

The unions selected for indexing were mainly those which, by virtue of great size or age or both, occupy an outstanding position in American trade union history; but others of lesser importance were included in order to secure a balanced coverage of different types of industry and occupation. The terminal date of December 1941 was selected in the first instance for the unions indexed

during 1941 and 1942. For unions completed more recently, it would have been possible to carry the index through 1943. The technical difficulties of going back to add only a year or two after a union had been completely indexed, however, made this seem inadvisable and December 1941 thus became the terminal date for the index as a whole. This date, although selected on purely practical grounds, is also an appropriate historical breaking-point, since it marked the entrance of the United States into the second World War.

Trade union constitutions, while they are listed in the bibliography, are not included in the index. This decision was based originally on the fact that union constitutions are compact documents which can be analyzed rather readily without the aid of an index. Our decision on this point has been further justified by the recent publication of an excellent collection of trade union constitutional provisions prepared by Miss Florence Peterson.² This provides in very compact form most of the textual material needed for comparative study of union constitutions.

As regards the official journals and convention proceedings of the selected unions, the coverage of the index is almost complete. Occasional volumes, particularly for the years before 1900, could not be obtained from library sources or from the union itself, the union being in some cases no longer in existence. Volumes of convention proceedings which could not be found have been omitted from the bibliographical listings because of the probability that they were never published. Missing volumes of union journals have been included in the bibliography on the assumption that publication was continuous, unless definite evidence to the contrary was found. Their omission from the index has been indicated by footnote references.

As the work of indexing proceeded, two important by-products developed from it. First, a brief critique of the publications of each union was written as soon as indexing of its publications had been completed. This critique is not intended as a history of the union, which would obviously have required much more labor. It is rather a brief introduction to the life of the union as seen through its publications, emphasizing the content of the publications and intended primarily to guide the reader toward profitable subjects of investigation. Second, a chronology and bibliography was prepared, not only for the unions indexed, but for some 225 other unions for which a record of publication could be found

2. Florence Peterson, *Handbook of Labor Unions* (Washington: American Council on Public Affairs, 1944).

either in the Johns Hopkins collection or in one of the other major collections. This material, like the index itself, was not carried beyond the end of 1941 except in a few cases where inclusion of more recent events in the chronology was necessary to eliminate possible confusion. These two types of material have been assembled in Part II of the present volume, while Part I presents generalizations about the content and uses of the publications and describes the methods used in analyzing them.

The index itself appears in Volumes II and III. Volume II contains prefatory notes explaining the meaning of index headings wherever the meaning is not self-evident, indicating the types of material which will be found under the major headings, and defining the special terms and symbols used. A careful reading of these notes will enable research workers to use the index with a more precise knowledge of its usefulness and limitations.

At the beginning of the study valuable suggestions concerning index headings and methods of work were received from Professors E. Wight Bakke, Charles A. Beard, J. Douglas Brown, Carroll Daugherty, John M. Gaus, William S. Hopkins, Richard A. Lester, H. A. Millis, R. E. Montgomery, Selig Perlman, Sumner H. Slichter, Edwin E. Witte, and Leo Wolman, in addition to the authors' colleagues at Johns Hopkins. Other helpful suggestions were received from Dr. L. F. Schmeckebier of the Brookings Institution; Miss Helen Baker of the Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University; Miss Laura Thompson of the Department of Labor Library; Mr. J. Christian Bay of the John Crerar Library; Miss Adelaide Hasse of Catholic University; Mrs. Ellen Commons of the Social Security Board; Miss Edith McMahan of the American Federation of Labor; and Dr. Joel Seidman of the National Labor Relations Board. To all who assisted in the undertaking we express our gratitude.

We wish also to express our deep gratitude to the members of the research staff, whose names are listed on a preceding page. Particular credit is due these persons for their patience in pursuing an unavoidably tedious enterprise and for their care and diligence in observing the working routines on which the quality and uniformity of the results depended. If the user of the index and bibliography finds their quality high, his thanks should go primarily to these individuals. Members of the research staff also prepared first drafts of the critiques of each union's publications. Jane Metzger Freed rendered valuable assistance in the assembling, checking and editing of this volume.

L. G. R.

C. C. K.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
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