ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES, INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH RECORDS, 1922-2002

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Charles Latham December 1993

Updated January 2005

Updated by Kelsey Bawel January 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department William Henry Smith Memorial Library Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

| VOLUME OF | 7 manuscript boxes, 2 oversized folders |
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COLLECTION:

COLLECTION

1922-2002

DATES:

PROVENANCE:

RESTRICTIONS: None

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RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION 1994.0086, 1996.0661, 2006.0534

NUMBER:

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The national organization of the English-Speaking Union was founded in New York in 1920. Its stated purpose was to strengthen friendly relations between the people of the United States and the other English-speaking people of the world, in order to work for a world with equal justice for all, with democratic government and with a concern for the rights of all individuals. The first three national presidents were William Howard Taft (1921), lawyer and statesman John W. Davis (1921-1938), and Yale University president James Rowland Angell (1938-1946).

The Indianapolis branch of the organization was founded in 1949 by Charles J. Lynn, retired vice president of Eli Lilly and Company. He served as president from 1949 to 1958, and was then succeeded by his wife, Dorothy B. Lynn (1958-1973). She was succeeded by attorney Robert S. Ashby (1973-1989).

The branch holds luncheon and dinner meetings with speakers usually provided by the speaker's bureau of the national headquarters. Speakers have included Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (1951), historian Denis Brogan (1956), British ambassadors Lord Harlech (1964) and Sir Antony Acland (1990), Margaret Thatcher (1969), and General Maxwell D. Taylor (1973). At times meetings have been monthly, at other times more occasional.

Since 1951 the Branch has provided scholarships for British Commonwealth students to study at Indiana University, and since 1976 for teachers from Marion County to study at British universities. The Branch has regularly provided hospitality for visitors from the Commonwealth and has supported special projects such as a memorial to Winston Churchill. Since 1988 the Branch has sponsored an annual Shakespearean Competition, with contestants from Marion County high schools giving dramatic presentations.

Source:

Materials in collection

English Speaking Union, Indianapolis branch website http://www.esuus.org/indianapolis/news/welcome/ Accessed on January 29, 2015.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the correspondence, circular letters, printed material from the period 1922-1991, and meeting minutes from 1968-2002 of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) of the United States, Indianapolis Branch. The collection is most complete for the period of the presidencies of Charles J. Lynn (1949-1958) and Dorothy B. Lynn (1958-1973). It also contains extensive meeting minutes.

The records for most years are organized in three main categories. The first is Programs and Speakers, including both the announcement of each program and correspondence about and with the speaker. For many meetings the menu is included, providing an interesting study of changes in organizational eating habits. A second category is general correspondence. A third is material regarding exchange students and visitors and about the Branch's drive for scholarship funds. Hospitality is also a major theme within the materials.

Box 1 (1922-1960) contains material 1922-1946 on Charles J. Lynn's individual membership in the ESU, material 1946-1949 on his successful effort to found the local branch, and records of the years of his presidency. OM 0304 folder 1 contains pages from a scrapbook of clippings from the years 1949-1959. OM 0304 folder 2 contains a reproduction of an illuminated scroll the original of which was presented to Sir Winston Churchill during World War II in the United States; transmittal note included.

Records representing the years of Dorothy Lynn's leadership (from 1958 to 1973) form the bulk of the collection. These records are in the first six boxes of the collection with Box 6 also containing partial records for the years since 1973.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

- 1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
- 4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0644).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.