

INDIANAPOLIS FOUNDRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION RECORDS, 1935-1957

Collection #
BV 2505

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Processed by
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 bound volume
COLLECTION DATES:	1935-1957
PROVENANCE:	Michael Jordan, Indianapolis, IN, 21 September 1988
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	BV 2506-2511, Associated Employers of Indianapolis
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1988.0682

HISTORICAL SKETCH

This collection contains records of three organizations, all formed by employers in the metal trades in order to

promote their point of view in labor relations.

First came the Foundrymen's Association, Inc. of Indianapolis (1914-1935), founded in connection with Associated Employers of Indianapolis and sharing the same secretary, Andrew J. Allen. In 1935 the association listed the following members: Link Belt Co., Dean Bros. Pump Works, Peerless Foundry Co., Electric Steel Co., Langsenkamp Wheeler Co., Sinker Davis Co., American Foundry Co., and Rockwood Mfg. Co. It also listed these former members: Marmon Motor Car Co., Midwest Engine Co., Lavelle Foundry Co., Federal Foundry Co., C & G Pattern & Foundry Co., Keyless Lock Co., Indianapolis Brass Works, Enterprise Iron Works, and Pioneer Brass Works. Apparently some of these companies dropped their memberships because of economic conditions. The stance of the association was clearly hard-line open shop: "While the above firms were members, our association handled and financed the combating of several serious and widespread strikes...resulting in benefit today because of the ultimate maintenance and spread of open shop labor relations."

In February-May 1935, the Foundrymen's Association was reorganized as Indianapolis Foundrymen's Association (1935-1940). The same officers were retained, including A. J. Allen; dues were changed to reflect the number of employees. The group noted with relief the Schechter decision by which the Supreme Court in May 1935 declared unconstitutional the National Industrial Recovery Act and the National Recovery Administration which it set up. But it reacted with alarm to the Wagner Labor Relations bill which loomed on the horizon, and joined with two other local organizations in wiring to Commerce Secretary Daniel Roper that "the Wagner bill would create worst industrial strife and disorganization this nation ever saw."

When the Wagner bill became law in July 1935, was upheld by the Supreme Court in the Jones and Laughlin decision in 1937, and was supplemented by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Indianapolis foundrymen found it advisable to state their position through a national organization with local branches. By 1938 the IFA had become a social organization operating without minutes, and its other activities had devolved upon the Indianapolis Branch of the National Metal Trades Association, which had headquarters in Chicago. R. W. Akin, the secretary of the old association, was the secretary of the new branch. The minutes of the Indianapolis branch, which continue to 1957, deal only with local organizational matters, and do not touch on national issues.

Source: Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one bound volume, the minutes and records of three Indianapolis foundrymen's associations, dating 1935-1957.

The volume begins with the dissolution, and history, of the Foundrymen's Association, Inc. of Indianapolis (1914-1935), in February-May 1935. It continues with the records of the short-lived (1935-1940) Indianapolis Foundrymen's Association. This association became in turn the Indianapolis Branch of the National Metal Trades Association, which minutes extend to 1957. All three organizations stood for employers against unions and for the open shop.

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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