WORKMEN'S CIRCLE, INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH MINUTE BOOK, 1918–1926

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF

1 bound volume

COLLECTION:

COLLECTION

1918-1926

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Lee Barnett, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 30 1981

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED

Indiana Jewish Historical Society (M 0743)

HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION

NUMBER:

1981.1124

NOTES: This forms part of the collection of the Indiana Jewish

Historical Society.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

From the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring website:

"Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe to the United States reached explosive proportions. Having endured the hardships of a sometimes harrowing journey across the Atlantic, many among the newly arrived were dumbfounded by what greeted them in America: a land of freedom and opportunity to be sure, but one too of exploitative labor practices, blighted and overcrowded tenements, ethnic rivalries, and the daunting job of assimilating into an unfamiliar new culture. Recognizing the importance of facing these challenges with a unified front, and feeling the resonance of traditional and deeply-held Jewish values emphasizing community and social justice, a convocation of progressive-minded immigrants gathered in 1900 to found *Der Arbeter Ring*, in English, The Workmen's Circle.

"Over the past century, we at the Workmen's Circle have undergone significant changes in outlook and program, but have remained passionately committed to the principles at the living core of our organization: Jewish community, the promotion of an enlightened Jewish culture, and social justice. Our social institutions for years played a crucial ameliorative role in the lives of American Jews; through our camp, our schools, and through our lively communities across the country, we continue to play such a role today. Yiddish was once the primary language of the majority of our members; we are today widely known and respected as a central force in the renaissance of fascination and creativity in Yiddish culture that includes literature, music, theater, and more. Historically, the Workmen's Circle raised a crucial voice in the struggles of American labor; today we work fiercely to remain a bulwark in the fight for the dignity and economic rights of immigrants, fairness in labor practices, decent health care for all Americans in short, for the very promises that brought our organizations founders to this nation in the first place."

The Workmen's Circle, Indianapolis Branch 175 is no longer in existence.

Sources:

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring: *Historic Overview*. http://www.circle.org/?page=about#mission

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of one bound volume, which is a minute book of the Indianapolis Branch 175 of The Workmen's Circle. The minute book dates from 1918–26. Written entirely in Yiddish, there are some loose papers inserted throughout the book.

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CONTENTS CONTAINER

Workmen's Circle Minute Book, 1918–26 BV1974

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, BV1974).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.