

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # * 88 M 35

Location 11-N-1

Title Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians of the Public Libraries of New York. Records.

Approximate inclusive dates 1929-1942.

Date of receipt 1941

Received from Citizens Committee...

Volume on arrival

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 4 boxes. 1 2/3 linear ft.

Condition Some letters are on brown, brittle paper.

Restrictions

Description

The Committee, alternately called the Citizens Committee on the Status of the Branch Librarians of the Public Libraries of the City of New York, was founded in 1929 to study and make recommendations concerning the status of librarians at the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Queens Borough Public Library. It worked to obtain salary increases and pensions for librarians, and recommended that job titles should be standardized across the three systems.

The Committee was formed at the suggestion of Robert E. Simon, President of the United Parents Associations of Greater New York, and its work was funded by grants from the Carnegie Corporation. Professor Howard Lee McBain of Columbia University served as chairman, Henry Bruere was treasurer, and Spencer Miller, Jr. was Secretary. Senator Ellwood M. Rabenold took over as chairman after Professor McBain's death. Members of the Committee were men and women both prominent in their fields, and active in New York City civic affairs.

The Committee concluded its work in 1939.

Special Formats ☐ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☐ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☐ Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries

Librarians-Salaries, pensions, etc.-New York (N.Y.)

Accessioned by Julie Miller

Date May 19, 1988

Description

Included are: correspondence, reports, memoranda, surveys, questionnaires, legal and financial documents, press releases, New York State bills and other government documents concerning pensions, calendars of the the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City containing communications from the Committee, and printed material, 1929-1932. These document the formation of the Committee, its efforts to obtain salary increases, pensions (this was accomplished in 1937 when the city librarians joined the New York State pension system), and uniform job titles for the librarians. Correspondence is among Committee officers and members, and with New York City officials; directors and trustees of the three library systems, and of libraries in other cities; the Carnegie Corporation; United Staff Associations of the Public Libraries of New York City; and with civic, educational, and women's organizations.

Correspondents include: Howard Lee McBain, Ellwood M. Rabenold, Robert E. Simon, Henry Bruere, Spencer Miller, Jr., Assistant Secretary Marinobel Smith, and members: Eunice Fuller Barnard, Bruce Bliven, Alvin Johnson, Paul Klapper, William F. Russell, Dorothy Straus, Mary Van Kleeck, Ella T. Sullivan, and others.

Also included is a transcript of a meeting held June 27, 1927 between Joseph V. McKee, President of the New York City Board of Aldermen, and representatives of the New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library. McKee had been appointed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to make a survey of the libraries, and called the meeting to present his findings to their representatives. Discussion centered on salary increases, pensions, and standardization, topics the Citizens Committee later addressed.

Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians - 3

Container List

Box

1	1927 meeting transcript; Records, 1929-1935
2	Records, 1936-1937
3	" 1938-1939
4	" 1939-1942; n.d.; New York acts and legal documents; Board of Estimate calendars; financial documents.

jds Mar, 1967

Citizens Committee on the Status of Librarians
of the Public Libraries of the City of New York

Preliminary Inventory - folder listing

- Box 1.
1. Minutes of a conference between Jos. V. McKee, President, Bd. of Aldermen, & representatives of the New York, Brooklyn & Queens public libraries, dtd 27 June, 1927.
 2. Corres, 1929
 3. Corres, Minutes, Memoranda, 1930
 4. " " " 1931, Jan-Mar
 5. " " " " Apr-May
 6. " " " " Jun-Dec
 7. " " " 1932
 8. " " " 1933
 9. " " " 1934
 10. " " " 1935
 11. " " " 1936, Jan-Oct
 12. " " " " Nov-Dec
 13. " " " 1937, Jan-Feb
 14. " " " " Mar-Apr
 15. " " " " May-Jul
 16. " " " " Aug-Sept
 17. " " " " Oct-Dec
 18. Report - "The Economic Status of the Branch Librarians in the Public Libraries of N.Y.C., dtd 27 May, 1937
 19. Corres, Minutes, Memoranda, 1938, Jan-May
 20. " " " " Jun-Oct
 21. " " " " Nov
 22. " " " " Dec
 23. " " " 1939 (4 fldrs - unsorted)
 24. Bank statements & check book, 1938-39

(F)

- Box 2.
1. Printed matter relating to pensions
 2. Misc. printed reports, surveys, etc., c.1930-31

(old style
ms. box)