



The New York Public Library  
New York Public Library Archives

Guide to the

**Tompkins Square Branch records**

1904-2004

MssArc RG8 5875

**Summary**

**Creator:** New York Public Library. Tompkins Square Branch

**Title:** Tompkins Square Branch records

**Date:** 1904-2004

**Size:** 3 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Transferred from Tompkins Square Branch Library.

**Abstract:** The Tompkins Square Branch traces its origins to the Fifth Street Branch of the Aguilar Free Library, which opened in 1887 at 624 Fifth Street on Manhattan's lower east side. The branch moved several times prior to the 1903 merger of the Aguilar Free Library with NYPL. In 1904 it opened in a new building at 331 East 10th Street, facing Tompkins Square Park. The building was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, and was constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. Traditionally, Tompkins Square has served varied ethnic populations, including German, Italian, Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian, and, since the 1960s, a thriving arts community. A major renovation of the branch was completed in 1996. Reports, clippings, scrapbooks and administrative files documenting operations of the Tompkins Square Branch of The New York Public Library.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

Box 7 closed to research.

**Preferred citation:** Tompkins Square Branch Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Compiled Jim Moske; machine readable finding aid created by FAKER.

**Related Materials:**

Free Circulating Libraries Records. New York Public Library Archives.

## **Creator History**

The Tompkins Square Branch traces its origins to the Fifth Street Branch of the Aguilar Free Library, which opened in 1887 at 624 Fifth Street on Manhattan's lower east side. The branch moved several times prior to the 1903 merger of the Aguilar Free Library with NYPL. In 1904 it opened in a new building at 331 East 10th Street, facing Tompkins Square Park. The building was designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, and was constructed with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. Traditionally, Tompkins Square has served varied ethnic populations, including German, Italian, Jewish, Polish, and Ukrainian, and, since the 1960s, a thriving arts community. A major renovation of the branch was completed in 1996.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Reports, clippings, scrapbooks and administrative files documenting operations of the Tompkins Square Branch of The New York Public Library.

**Arrangement:** The collection has been arranged in two series: 1. General Administration, 1904-1996; 2. Children's Room, 1926-1985.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Branch libraries -- New York (State) -- New York  
Libraries -- New York (State) -- New York  
Public libraries -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Names**

New York Public Library. Tompkins Square Branch

## Container List

1. General Administration 1904-1996
  - b. 1 f. 1 Anniversary - 35th 1939
  - b. 1 f. 2 Anniversary - 75th 1979
  - b. 1 f. 3 Anniversary - 100th 2004
  - b. 1 f. 4 Annual Reports - Adult 1946-1971
  - b. 1 f. 5 Annual Reports - Branch Librarian 1924-1970, 1975-1986
  - b. 1 f. 6 Annual Reports - Foreign Worker 1934-1952
  - b. 1 f. 7 Annual Reports - Readers Advisor 1939-1951
  - b. 1 f. 8 Annual Reports - Reference 1933-1939, 1949-1966, 1973-1974
  - b. 1 f. 9 Annual Reports - Young Adult 1934-1958, 1968-1971
  - b. 1 f. 10 Branch Brochure 1975-1996, n.d.
  - b. 1 f. 11 Building n.d.
  - b. 1 f. 12 Correspondence 1953
  - b. 1 f. 13 Finkel, Gertrude. "The Changing Lower East Side As It Will Affect Library Service" 1951
  - b. 1 f. 14 Guest Book 1939-1940
  - b. 1 f. 15 Guest Book 1943-1948
  - b. 2 f. 1 Harburg, Yip n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 2 "Here Is Labor" reading list 1940
  - b. 2 f. 3 International Unbound Anthology, 1930 - Ethel Ellis and Poets Guild n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 4 Lower East Side Community Council, referral list n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 5 Neighborhood History n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 6 News clippings v.d.
  - b. 2 f. 7 Opening 1904
  - b. 2 f. 8 Polish Collection n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 9 Polish Exiles Look at the Library n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 10 Polish Language Form 1917
  - b. 2 f. 11 Praise 1950
  - b. 2 f. 12-17 Programs 1906-1973, n.d.
  - b. 2 f. 18 Receipt in lieu of Reference - Saul Wolin 1913
  - b. 2 f. 19 Reconstruction Plan 1991
  - b. 2 f. 20 Re-Opening 1996
  - b. 2 f. 21 Support Groups 1960-1980
  - b. 2 f. 22-23 Survey of the Neighborhood 1936-1942
  - b. 2 f. 24 Survey of Publishers - Gertrude L. Cannon 1911
  - b. 2 f. 25 Tompkins Family 1991
  - b. 2 f. 26 Walker, Jeannette M. - Memorial Service 1974
  - b. 2 f. 27 Watson, Marion P. - Lower East Side Neighborhood Committee, Girl Scouts 1944-1948
  - b. 3 f. 1 Scrapbook 1905-1940

- 1. General Administration (cont.)
  - b. 3 f. 2 Scrapbook 1940-1948
  - b. 7 Reader Registration Book 1940-1946  
Closed to research
- 2. Children's Room 1926-1985
  - b. 4 f. 1-11 Annual Reports 1926-1969, n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 1-2 Annual Reports 1978-1985
  - b. 5 f. 3 Correspondence 1947-1951
  - b. 5 f. 4 Group Work Reports 1957-1960
  - b. 5 f. 5 Guest Book 1933-1934
  - b. 5 f. 6 Joyner, Juliana - Report on ALA Conference n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 7 List of Books n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 8 Neighborhood Activities n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 9 New York Infirmary ca. 1941
  - b. 5 f. 10 News clippings v.d.
  - b. 5 f. 11 Public School 15 1934
  - b. 5 f. 12 School Work - Children's Room and the Community Schools n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 13-15 School Work - Diary of Work 1922-1931
  - b. 5 f. 16-20 School Work - Reports 1943-1958, n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 21 Scrapbook n.d.
  - b. 5 f. 22 Story, Agatha Anastasi n.d.
  - b. 6 f. 1-7 Story Hour Reports 1907-1960, n.d.
  - b. 6 f. 8-13 Summer Programs 1942-1959, n.d.
  - b. 7 Reader Registration Books 1928-1973  
Closed to research