

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Workmen's Circle
Records

1984.171

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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Collection Information

Abstract: The Workmen's Circle was founded in 1900 by Jewish trade unionists, and, in part, provided financial benefits and social activities for its members. The collection includes secretary's minute book (1926-1931) and financial records. The minutes are written in Yiddish.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository. Series level description.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Gift of Philip Davis, Publisher, Mar-Len Publications, 1984.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, rbgenr, etc.

Workmen's Circle of America. Branch No. 712 (Worcester, Mass.)
Workmen's Circle of America. Branch No. 907 (Worcester, Mass.)
Workmen's Circle Ladies Branch. No. 824 (Worcester, Mass.)
Jews – Massachusetts – Worcester
Jews – Massachusetts – Worcester – Social conditions
Jews – Massachusetts – Worcester – Social life and customs
Jews – Massachusetts – Worcester – Societies, etc.
Yiddish letters
Manuscripts, Yiddish
Broad­sides, Yiddish (gmgpc)
Record-keeping works, Yiddish – Massachusetts – Worcester (rbgenr)
Promissory notes – Massachusetts – Worcester

See also: Other records of Workmen's Circle.

Historical Background

The Workmen's Circle (Arbiter Ring) was founded in 1900 by Jewish trade unionists dissatisfied with the existing orders. Of Socialist origins and purpose, the organization was composed primarily of immigrants. It offered members financial benefits in case of illness, death benefits, and a variety of social activities. The Worcester branches of the Workmen's Circle were established in 1902. The organization operated from a two-story building on Water Street, with credit union and office on the first floor, and meeting hall on the second.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of a Minutes Book, written in Yiddish, for meetings of the organization between January 4, 1926 and January 5, 1931. Financial records include promissory notes for payment to Worcester Independent Workmen's Circle Credit Union, for personal loans received, 1929-1933. The financial records also include one completed loan application form, 1947.

The collection illustrates through the minutes of the organization its activities and social concerns, and through the financial records the activities of the organization in assisting its members.

The dates of the collection range between 1926 and 1947, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1926-1933.

Series Description

Series 1: Minutes Book. Includes minutes of meetings (written in Yiddish) between 1926-1931.

Series 2: Financial records. Includes promissory notes given to Workmen's Circle Credit Union by members for personal loans, 1929-1933; and one completed loan application, 1947.

Workmen's Circle Records
1984.171
Series 1, Minutes Book

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1984.171.1.1	Minutes Book, 1926-1933. Includes minutes or organizational meetings, written in Yiddish. 300 p. 26 cm.

Workmen's Circle Records
1984.171
Series 2, Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1984.171.2.1a-f	Promissory notes. To Worcester Independent Workmen's Circle Credit Union, for personal loans by members, 1929-1933. 6 items
1	2	1984.171.2.2	Loan application form, to Workmen's Circle Credit Union for personal loan, 1947.