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David Dubinsky / International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Research File

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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David Dubinsky/International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Research File



A 1934 photograph in the Kheel Center archives showing David Dubinsky (right), Frances Perkins, and Byres H. Gitchell (left) commemorating the National Recovery Administration label during the New Deal at a dress factory. Kheel Center archive image: 5780PB24F23A

A Collection Guide by

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Introduction to the Collection

Ms. Susan B. Donoff, a graduate student in history at the University of South Florida, investigated the horrific 25 March 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City. As part of her research, she sought to examine how the fire transformed the labor movement and how notable leaders of the time—especially Frances Perkins and members of Tammany Hall—assumed important roles in promoting progressive reforms. Perkins, who later served as the first female cabinet member when she began her tenure as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor, championed the plight of those who perished in the greatest single tragedy to hit Gotham during the twentieth century.

This collection includes a variety of primary source documents from 1961 that commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Triangle fire. These materials came from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Presidential Records of David Dubinsky. He served as ILGWU President from 1932 through 1966. Dubinsky (1892-1982) maintained a long-time professional association with Frances Perkins (1882-1965). Papers in this collection, photocopies of documents held by the Cornell University's Kheel Center as Collection 5780/002, describe ways in which ILGWU officials and others sought to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of this tragedy.

Preservation Note

While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of paper organic items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Dubinsky/ILGWU Papers

This collection falls under the Humanities provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy two archival file folders (approximately 0.18 linear ft.). All materials represent photocopies produced in 2008 of documents originally created in 1961. The bulk of the collection covers correspondence and memoranda composed during the winter and spring of 1961. No restrictions inhibit access to this collection. For permission to republish segments of this collection that extend beyond "fair use" provisions, the researcher should directly contact: Archivist, Kheel Center for Labor-Management and Documentation Archives, Martin P. Catherwood Library, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, 227 Ives Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.