



**International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers,
District 9 Records
(S0238)**

Collection Number: S0238

Collection Title: International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9 Records

Dates: 1901-1965

Creator: International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9, 1902-

Abstract: The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9 Records document the district's growth, campaigns for an eight-hour workday, strikes and strike benefits, labor grievances, employment in St. Louis, jurisdictional disputes with other unions, and national union policy. Railroad machinists founded Locals 41, 85, and 394 of the International Association of Machinists in 1888-1889. They were chartered, along with Local 121, as District 9 of the International Association of Machinists in 1902.

Collection Size: 3 cubic feet
(74 folders, 14 volumes, 1 oversize, 2 microfilm rolls)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District 9 Records* (S0238); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Fran Arden on November 3, 1982 (Accession No. SA2491). An addition was made on May 23, 1983, by Fran Arden (Accession No. SA2540).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Isaac Alexander, October 2023

Historical Note:

Nineteen railroad machinists organized the International Association of Machinists (IAM) in Atlanta, Georgia in May 1888. On September 10, 1888, the nascent union sent circulars across the country announcing its founding and urging the formation of other locals. Originally oriented to the railroad craft, locals quickly formed in towns and cities along the Southern, Western, and Midwestern railroad lines in the railroad shops. Workers organized Locals 41, 85, and 394 in St. Louis from 1888 to 1889. The three locals in St. Louis area, with the addition of Local 121, received a charter as District 9 of the IAM in 1902.

District 9 formed and began meeting before it received its charter in 1902. In its early years, membership fluctuated annually (1155 members in 1901, 742 in 1902, 1047 in 1903, and 950 in 1907) with "lack of interest and unemployment" accounting for the declines. Since the trade was well defined, District 9 estimated that union membership included 90-98% of machinists from 1900 through 1910. In 1907, the International Association held its convention in St. Louis. District 9 developed into a strong, well-administered, and highly independent union. Several strikes occurred annually, with the greatest number occurring during World War I. Between 1916 and 1920, the district dismissed over 200 members for being scabs. F.M. Parmeter, secretary-treasurer from 1912-1927 and assistant business agent until 1934, conducted the district's business and guided it into its position as one of the strongest in the union. In 1921 and 1938, District 9 won appeals against the national policy on dues. (See *The Machinists: A New Study in American Trade Unionism* by Mark Perleman for more information on the International.)

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection is divided into seven series: administrative, membership, grievances and strikes, detectives, politics and union solidarity, national, and artifacts. Most of the records consist of F.M. Parmeter's files prior to 1945. There is very little material on individual unions. Half of the records deal primarily with the practical union business of dues, membership, and national series. The grievances, strikes, and detectives files reveal the conflict with businesses over wages and hours, changes in union demands, successes and failures of collective bargaining, and concern with company spies or "stool pigeons." The politics and union solidarity material indicate the range of labor politics, from radical or communist groups to the traditional Democratic and Republican parties. Topics covered throughout these records include: the eight-hour day, union organizing, injunctions, jurisdictional disputes, scab labor, strike benefits, company detectives, employment conditions in St. Louis, strikers' relief funds, union labels, and the effects of World War I and World War II on unions.

Administration

This series contains minutes of the executive board, committees, and regular meetings from 1901 to 1927 in ledgers; constitutions from 1946 to 1965; and bylaws from 1914 to 1935. Financial records include dues, loans, taxes, office costs, wage rates, fines, and salaries. Also included are

officer resignations and recalls and the election of a business agent. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1902 to 1965.

Membership

This series contains local lodge files, lists of lodge officers, information on individual members, and withdrawal cards. Some information from the local organizing committee and national organizing literature is included. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1913 to 1934.

Grievances and Strikes

This series contains grievances, injunctions, jurisdictional disputes, and protests over unfair conditions including union discrimination during World War II under the subversive acts. Strike files document benefits paid to strikers, scab labor, and boycotted businesses. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1909 to 1945.

Detectives

This series contains reports and correspondence revealing company detectives and "stool pigeons" hired to report on employees and union activities. Material of note includes a cipher code book (1901) and a machinists password book (1914). The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1901 to 1937.

Politics and Union Solidarity

This series contains circulars and correspondence on a variety of labor concerns, including Labor Day, union labels, local politics, strikers' relief funds, and labor defense funds. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1914 to 1949.

National

This series contains official circulars from international headquarters on union policy and one issue of *Machinists Monthly Journal*, vol. 37, no. 10, October 1925. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically from 1911 to 1934.

Artifacts

This series contains convention badges and eight LP records of labor songs and statements by IAM leaders. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

Microfilm

The volumes from the Administration series, containing meeting minutes and constitutions, and Grievances and Strikes series, containing roll calls of members, have been microfilmed onto two reels. Reel 1 consists of volumes 1-4 and 6-12. Reel 2 consists of volumes 5 and 13-14.

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