Finding Aid to the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards records BANC MSS 75/3 c

Marjorie Bryer
The Bancroft Library

2019
The Bancroft Library
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards records.
Creator: National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 75/3 c
Physical Description: 22.5 Linear Feet (18 cartons)
Date (inclusive): 1916-1955, bulk 1935-1955
Abstract: The National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards (NUMCS) records documents union-related activity from the 1930s to the 1950s. The collection includes correspondence; files related to arbitration; War Labor and National Labor Relations Board cases; agreements with various companies; NUMCS constitutional and biennial convention proceedings; committee minutes from various ports; NUMCS General Council minutes and reports; files related to the Pacific Coast Section Presidential Board of Inquiry and United States Maritime Commission hearings; and publications.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.
Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open for research.
Accruals
No future additions are expected.
Scope and Content of Collection
The National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards (NUMCS) records document union-related activity from the 1930s to the 1950s. Please note that the union was variously referred to as the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards and Marine Cooks and Stewards. Original folder titles were retained.
The collection is divided into 12 series: Correspondence; Arbitration; War Labor Board Cases; National Labor Relations Board Cases; Agreements (with various companies); NUMCS Constitutional and Biennial Conventions; Port Committee Minutes (predominantly West Coast); NUMCS General Council Minutes and Reports; Pacific Coast Section Presidential Board of Inquiry; United States Maritime Commission Hearings (related to wages, manning, and working conditions); Miscellany; and Publications.
Alternate Forms Available
Microfilm of some issues of Waterfront Worker are available at The Bancroft Library (BANC FILM 398)
Microfilm of 1943 issues of Voice of the Marine Cooks & Steward’s Association of the Pacific Coast, CIO are available at the New York Public Library
Microfilm of post-1945 issues of Voice – National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards are available at the UC Berkeley Library (NEWS; MICROFILM 1559 HD)
Organizational History
The Marine Cooks and Stewards Association of the Pacific Coast, later the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards (NUMCS), was founded in 1901. It represented the service workers in the steward departments of United States vessels that sailed in the Pacific. The union was originally dedicated to preserving these jobs for white men and excluding Asian and African American workers. But during and after the Depression-era maritime strikes in 1934 and 1936, communists and young radicals, as well as Black, Asian American, and gay workers, bridged their differences through collective struggle and transformed it into one of the most democratic, racially integrated unions in the United States. By the 1950s, the majority of the members and leaders of the union were people of color. However, anti-communism, homophobia, a federal maritime security program designed to screen out subversives, and the Taft-Hartley Act took its toll on the union. It was expelled by the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1950 for being communist-dominated and soon thereafter was the focus of a power struggle between the Seafarers International Union (part of American Federation of Labor) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.
The history of the NUMCS is complicated. Please see these links for more details on how race, class, gender, and sexuality intersect in the union’s story:
Marine Cooks and Stewards, Waterfront Workers History Project, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington: https://depts.washington.edu/dock/maritime_intro.shtml
Allan Bérubé, "No Red-Baiting, No Race-Baiting, No Queen-Baiting!": The Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from the Depression to the Cold War: http://outhistory.org/exhibits/show/no-baiting/red-race-queen

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards records, BANC MSS 75/3c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Marjorie Bryer in 2019.

Related Collections
Marine Cooks and Stewards Association of the Pacific Coast minutes, 1910-1931 (BANC MSS 2004/178 c)
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union papers (BANC MSS 77/168 c)
Life of a leftist labor lawyer: oral history transcript / introduction by James R. Herman; interview conducted by Estolv Ethan Ward; The Bancroft Library, Oral History Center, 1985 (BANC MSS 88/8 c, https://archive.org/details/lifeleftistlabor00leounrich/page/n1)
Allan Bérubé papers, 1946-2007 (GLBT Historical Society, 1995-17)
Labor Archives and Research Center Ephemera Collection (Labor Archives and Research Center. J. Paul Leonard Library. San Francisco State University, LARC EPH)
Norman Leonard papers (Labor Archives and Research Center. J. Paul Leonard Library. San Francisco State University, larc.ms.0027)
Marine Cooks and Stewards Union records, 1954 (University of Washington, 1128)
Stephen R. Blair papers, 1919-1996 (University of Washington)
Josephine Fowler papers, 1883-2005 (UCLA, 1801)

Publication Rights
Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction of some materials may be restricted by terms of University of California gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing and trademarks. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user. For additional information about the University of California, Berkeley Library's permissions policy please see: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/about/permissions-policies

Subjects and Indexing Terms
National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards -- Archives.
Marine Cooks and Stewards Association of the Pacific Coast -- Archives.
Cooks -- Labor unions.
Collective bargaining -- Stewards.
Collective labor agreements -- Merchant marine -- Pacific Coast.
Sailors -- United States.
Merchant mariners -- Labor unions -- United States.
Series 1. **Correspondence 1935-1955**

Physical Description: Carton 1; Carton 2, folders 1-12A

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

Scope and Content Note

Includes an 85-page history of the union. Correspondence with Ports are form letters, mostly by NUMCS president, Hugh Bryson.

**Washington, D.C. Office**

Carton 1, Folder 1-2 with E. Tangen 1947-1953

Carton 1, Folder 3 re: Legislation 1949-1953

Carton 1, Folder 4 re: National Labor Relations Board (NRLB) 1951-1955


Carton 1, Folder 6-10 re: Bryson Case 1954-1955

Carton 1, Folder 11 with Union Research 1945-1954

Carton 1, Folder 12-14 with New York Office 1948-1954

Carton 1, Folder 15 re: Health Matters 1952-1954

Carton 1, Folder 16 re: Fred Kulper Case 1952-1955

Carton 1, Folder 17 General 1947-1954

Carton 1, Folder 18-19 with and re: Congress and Government Agencies 1939-1953

Carton 1, Folder 20 with Other Unions 1939-1950

Carton 2, Folder 1 Interoffice 1950-1953

Carton 2, Folder 2 Inter-Union 1936-1953

Carton 2, Folder 3 with Ports 1946-1953

Carton 2, Folder 4-9 with Ship Owners 1936-1951

Carton 2, Folder 10-11 Miscellaneous 1935-1952

Carton 2, Folder 12 History of Union, Author Unknown undated

Carton 2, Folder 12A

Series 2. **Arbitration 1935-1951**

Physical Description: Carton 2, folders 13-17; Cartons 3-7; Carton 8, folders 1-2; Carton 18 (index cards are in the 3 boxes that are in the carton)

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

Carton 2, Folder 13-16

Carton 2, Folder 17 **Arbitration Awards 1936-1949**

**Arbitration Proceedings - Marine Cooks and Stewards (MCS) vs Pacific American Shipowners’ Association (PASA), San Francisco 1944**
Series 2. Arbitration 1935-1951

Carton 3, Folder 1-10  
**MCS-PASA Manning Scales Arbitration (Stewards’ Department) October 1945**

Scope and Content Note
October 2-5: Arbitrator’s Opinion, Transcript of Hearings, Union Material, and Employer Exhibits.
October 22-27: Correspondence, Transcript of Hearings, Union Exhibits, Employer Exhibits, Union Work Sheets, and Evidence.

Carton 3, Folder 11-13  
**MCS-PASA Arbitration - Compensation for Meals Served to Passengers, Matson Co., includes Transcript of Proceedings, Union Exhibits and Materials 1946**

*Fly Arbitration 1946*

Scope and Content Note
American Communications Association-Marine Cooks and Stewards-National Maritime Union Arbitration Hearings before James L. Fly, New York, August-September 1946

Carton 3, Folder 14  
**Running Index on Transcripts August 12-September 13, 1946**

Carton 3, Folder 15-16  
**Master Index to Transcripts August 1946**

Carton 3, Folder 17-18  
**American Communications Association (ACA) Exhibits #1-95 1946**

Carton 3, Folder 19  
**National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards (NUMCS) Exhibits #100-162 1946**

Carton 3, Folder 20  
**Union Exhibits in Arbitrations - ACA-NUMCS-National Maritime Union (NMU) August-September 1946**

Carton 4, Folder 1-5  
**Union Exhibits in Arbitrations - ACA-NUMCS-NMU August-September 1946**

Carton 4, Folder 6-23  
**Committee for Maritime Unity (CMU) Arbitrations, Vol. I, ACA Transcript and Exhibits - Part I; CMU Arbitrations, Vol. II, ACA Transcript and Exhibits - Part II; and Vol. III, Marine Cooks and Stewards (MCS) Transcript and Exhibits August-September 1946**

Carton 5, Folder 1-11  
**CMU Arbitrations, Vol. III, MCS Transcript and Exhibits, and Vol. IV, NMU Transcript and Exhibits August-September 1946**

Carton 5, Folder 12-19  
**Wage Review Arbitration - NUMCS vs PASA, including Union Exhibits and Case Outline and Transcript of Proceedings, Vols. I-V, VII-VIII January 1947**

Carton 5, Folder 20-23  
**Arbitration of Interpretation of Contract - NUCMS vs PASA - NUMCS Exhibits, and Transcripts, Vols. I-III April 1947**

Carton 5, Folder 1-3  
**Arbitration of Interpretation of Contract - NUCMS vs PASA - NUMCS Transcripts, Vols. IV-VI April 1947**

Carton 5, Folder 4-14  
**Wage Review Arbitration- NUMCS vs PASA, Union Exhibits, Union Rebuttal Exhibits, Employer Exhibits, and Procedural Discussion December 1947**

Carton 5, Folder 6  
**Mary Olson Arbitration [SS Mary Olson] - PASA vs. NUMCS, including Background Materials, Outline, the Union’s Case, the Company’s Case, and Transcripts, Vol. I-II May 1948**

Carton 5, Folder 19-20  
**Overtime Breaking Point Arbitration - MCS vs PASA - Outline, Notes, Union and Company Exhibits, and Transcript June 1948**

Carton 6, Folder 21  
**NUMCS “7.50” Arbitration, including Arbitration Award, Union Brief and Exhibits, PASA Brief, Miscellany, and Correspondence April-May 1949**

Carton 6, Folder 1-4  
**Negotiations and Strike, includes Correspondence, Memos, Legal Briefs, Minutes, Agreements, and Union Exhibits (some items are copies) February-December 1948**

Carton 7, Folder 5-21  
**Negotiations and Wage Reviews, includes Correspondence, Memos, Legal Briefs, Meeting Minutes, Agreements, Proposals, Union Exhibits, and Transcripts of Hearings. Some re: Schooners and Alaska (some items are copies) 1935-1948**

Carton 8, Folder 1-2  
**Negotiations and Wage Reviews 1949-1951**

---

Finding Aid to the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards records BANC MSS 75/3 c
Series 2. Arbitration 1935-1951

Carton 18

**Index to Arbitrations and National War Labor Board Cases circa 1946-1948**

**Scope and Content Note**

Carton 18 contains 3 boxes of Subject indexes. Box 1: A-L; Box 2: M-V and Wages; Box 3: Wages

Series 3. War Labor Board (WLB) Cases 1944-1945

**Physical Description:** Carton 8, folders 3-24; Carton 9, folders 1-13

**Carton 8, Folder 3-6**

**Correspondence, Legal Briefs, Agreements, Memos 1944-1945**

**Case #111-5510-D, Vols. I-III 1944-1945**

**Scope and Content Note**


**Carton 9, Folder 1-7**

**Case #111-15916-D – MCS and PASA, Vols. I-III 1944-1945**

**Scope and Content Note**

Vol. I – Award, Employer and Union Comments, Transcript of Hearings; Vol. II – Award, Employer and Union Comments, Transcript of Hearings; Vol. III – Duplicates

**Carton 9, Folder 8-13**

**Case #111-15916-D – Maritime Unions vs. Shipping Companies (Issue: Wages), Vols. I-II 1945**

**Scope and Content Note**

Vols. I-II contain Award, War Shipping Board Analysis of Parties, Transcript of Hearings, Employers’ Statements, Union Briefs and Exhibits, Union Work Sheets, and Duplicates


**Physical Description:** Carton 9, folders 14-23; Carton 10, folders 1-5

**Arrangement**

Original order was maintained.

**Scope and Content Note**

Includes legal briefs, correspondence, exhibits, and newspaper clippings regarding cases between 1941 and 1954.

**Carton 9, Folder 14-15**

**Cases 1941-1951**

**Case #20-CB-20 1949-1950**

**Cases #36-CD-2, #36-CD-3, #36-CD-7 1948-1950**

**Case #20-CB-53 1950**

**Case #30849 1951-1952**

**Case #20-R-C-1426 1952-1953**

**Case #20-R-C-1416 1952-1953**

**Case #13386 1952-1955**

**Case #13386 1952-1955**
Carton 10, Folder 3-5

Cases 1952-1954

Series 5. Agreements 1916-1953, bulk 1935-1953

Physical Description: Carton 10, folders 6-25; Carton 11, folders 1-48

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

Scope and Content Note

General agreements (1935-1949) are Marine Cooks and Stewards' agreements with maritime industries, primarily the Pacific-American Shipowners Association. The agreements concern manning scales, wages, holidays, working conditions, etc. The files also include correspondence, and supporting documents.


Carton 10, Folder 6-25
Carton 11, Folder 1-3
Carton 11, Folder 4-19
Carton 11, Folder 20
Carton 11, Folder 21-45
Carton 11, Folder 46
Carton 11, Folder 47
Carton 11, Folder 48

General 1935-1948

General 1949

Alaska Agreements 1936-1948

Steam Schooner Agreements 1946-1952

Agreements with Individual Companies – “All Years” 1935-1952

Gains Won 1944-1948

Comparison of National Maritime Union and Marine Cooks and Stewards 1947-1953

Shipping Rules 1916-1920, 1946-1947

Series 6. NUMCS Constitutional and Biennial Conventions 1945-1951

Physical Description: Carton 11, folders 49-51; carton 12, folders 1-12

Arrangement

Original order was maintained.

Scope and Content Note

Includes proceedings, minutes, transcripts, officers’ reports, bulletins, pre-conference outlines, newspaper clippings, union newsletters and newspapers, publicity, resolutions, and a small amount of correspondence from the First Constitutional Convention, July 1945; the Second Biennial Convention, May 1947; the Third Biennial Convention, July 1949; and the Fourth Biennial Convention, May 1951.

Carton 11, Folder 49
Carton 11, Folder 50-51

First Annual Convention – Proceedings/Officers’ Report July 1945

Series 6. NUMCS Constitutional and Biennial Conventions 1945-1951

- **Second Biennial Convention - Proceedings, Vols. II-III May 1947**
- **Third Biennial Convention - National Officers’ Report/Call to Order, Proceedings July 1949**

Series 7. Port Committee Minutes 1936-1953

- Physical Description: Carton 12, folders 13-17; Cartons 13-14; Carton 15, folders 1-8
- Original Order was maintained.
- Scope and Content Note
  - Consists of San Francisco Port Committee minutes, and minutes from other ports across the country (primarily West Coast).

- **San Francisco Port Committee Minutes July 1937-August 1948**
- **San Francisco Port Committee Minutes January 1949-1953**
- **San Francisco Port Committee Minutes with Correspondence Interfiled July 1936-1952**
- **San Francisco Port Committee Minutes and Various Reports 1950-1951**
- **San Francisco Port Committee Minutes and Various Reports July 1951-December 1953**
- **Honolulu Port Committee Minutes April-June 1951**
- **New York Port Committee Minutes October 1950-1953**
- **Area Port Committee Minutes - Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor January 1953**
- **Portland Port Committee Minutes 1948-1952 (Selected Dates), 1953**
- **Seattle Port Committee Minutes 1944-1947 (Selected Dates), April 1951-1952**
- **Seattle Port Committee Minutes 1952-November 1953**
- **Wilmington Port Committee Minutes April 1951-December 1952**

Series 8. NUMCS General Council Minutes and Reports 1946-1953

- Physical Description: Carton 15, folders 9-16
- Original chronological order was maintained.
- Scope and Content Note
  - Selected dates -- not a complete run.

Series 9. Pacific Coast Section Presidential Board of Inquiry 1948

- Physical Description: Carton 15, folders 17-22
- Scope and Content Note
  - Includes union and employers’ statements, statement of the Waterfront Employers Association of the Pacific Coast and the Pacific American Shipowners’ Association, Maritime Board of Inquiry Report to the President, and transcript (Vols. I-III).

Physical Description: Carton 16, folders 1-10
Arrangement
Original order was maintained.

Carton 16,
Folder 1
Carton 16,
Folder 2-10

Transcript January 1948
NUMCS Exhibits January 1948

Series 11. Miscellany 1938-1953, undated

Physical Description: Carton 16, folders 11-23; Carton 17, folders 1-10
Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.
Scope and Content Note
These records were characterized as "Miscellany."

Carton 16,
Folder 11
Carton 16,
Folder 12-17
Carton 16,
Folder 18-19
Carton 16,
Folder 20
Carton 16,
Folder 21-23
Carton 17,
Folder 1-3
Carton 17,
Folder 4-5
Carton 17,
Folder 6-8
Carton 17,
Folder 9-10

Alaska Bear Case 1952
Beefs and Agreement Clarifications 1938, 1951-1953
Congressional Committees/MCS Statements 1945-1953
Hugh Bryson's European Trip 1950

Raid: Sailor’s Union of the Pacific (SUP)-National Maritime Union (NMU) – Lurline Disputes 1951-1952
Raid: Sailor’s Union of the Pacific (SUP)-National Maritime Union (NMU) – Lurline Disputes 1952
MCS Action after San Francisco Caucus, includes Correspondence and Minutes, Some Port Committee Meetings April 1953
Seamen - Trade Unions - United States/MCS/(Independent), includes Reports, Memos, Addresses, Clippings, Some Correspondence 1937-1952
Waterfront Screening Material, includes Union Statements, Memos re: Blacklisting 1950-1953


Physical Description: Carton 17, folders 11-33; Carton 18
Arrangement
Arranged (roughly) chronologically.

Carton 17,
Folder 11-19
Carton 17,
Folder 20
Carton 17,
Folder 21-22
Carton 17,
Folder 23
Carton 17,
Folder 24
Carton 17,
Folder 25
Carton 17,
Folder 26

Waterfront Worker February 1933-March 1936
Bulletins circa 1936-1952
MCS Constitutions circa 1938-1953
The Ship Committee's Job 1939
Slager Case - Report of Investigating Committee 1942
Delegate's Handbooks 1945-1949
| Carton 17,  
| Folder 27-28 | Pamphlets and Brochures re: the Union’s History and Benefits, both Practical and Political circa 1945-1953  
| Carton 17,  
| Folder 29 | Analysis of the Financial Position of the Matson Co. June 1946  
| Carton 17,  
| Folder 30 | Voice Strike Bulletin October 1948  
| Carton 17,  
| Folder 31 | Financial Reports/Leaflets re: Finances 1950-1951  
| Carton 17,  
| Folder 32-33 | Leaflets circa 1951-1952  
| Carton 18 | Voice of the Marine Cooks & Steward’s Association of the Pacific Coast, CIO/Voice - National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards 1945-1951  

Scope and Content Note

Bound Volumes, Vol. 3 (1945), Vols. 6-9 (1948-1951)