Guide to the Ira Cross: California labor notes, 1815-1960

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Note
Social Sciences --Business and Economics
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Guide to the Ira Cross: California Labor Notes, 1815-1960

Collection number: BANC MSS C-R 12

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- Linda Jordan and Terence Padden

Date Completed:
- September 1997

Encoded by:
- Xiuzhi Zhou

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Ira Cross: California Labor Notes, 1815-1960
Date (inclusive): 1815-1960
Collection Number: BANC MSS C-R 12
Creator: Cross, Ira B. (Ira Brown), b. 1880
Extent: Number of containers: 5 cartons, 3 boxes, 8 oversize folders Linear feet: 8
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Abstract: Consists of notes and research materials which were gathered by Ira B. Cross and his research assistants primarily for his book, History of the labor movement in California. Contains the original typescript from 1909-1932, including manuscript corrections, illustrations, and all footnotes as they were written by Cross, only a fraction of which were retained in the published edition.
Research notes contain correspondence, including exchanges with various labor organizers and their families, most notably Astaroth and Burnette Haskell, Frank Roney, and Paul Scharrenberg, along with fan mail and critical analyses of the book by Cross’ colleagues. Also contains biographical sketches, including testimonies, clippings, and interviews taken by Cross or his assistants.
Research notes on the history of labor include sections with references to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the U.S.
Commission on Migratory Labor, as well as sections on the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, The Federated Trades Council of San Francisco, and the Maritime Trades Council of San Francisco. A card file of newspaper citations arranged by subject and scattered issues of labor newspapers (on microfilm) and clippings includes a variety of California publications and materials from several western states and Canada.

Languages Represented: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ira Cross: California labor notes, BANC MSS C-R 12, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Title: Haskell family papers, 1878-1951
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-B 364)

Title: International Workmen's Association records
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-A 306)

Title: Knights of Labor records
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-A 305)

Title: Frank Roney papers, 1870-1925
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-B 366)

Title: Paul Scharrenberg papers, 1893-1960
Identifier/Call Number: (BANC MSS C-B 906)

Printed materials, mainly constitutions of labor unions, have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Acquisition Information
Ira Cross, California Labor Notes, 1815-1960, were given to The Bancroft Library by Ira B. Cross in 1933, with additions made from 1951 to 1953. The manuscript of his book, History of the Labor Movement in California, was given to The Bancroft Library by Paul Schuster Taylor in 1962.

Funding
Funding for processing provided in part by a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), Title III: Networking, Preservation and Statewide Resource-sharing grant 1994-1996.

Biography
Ira B. Cross was born December 1, 1880, in Decatur, Illinois, the son of a working man. Due to the influence of a high school teacher, he decided to go to college, and earned his own way through the University of Wisconsin. He graduated with honors in economics, receiving his A.B. in 1905, and completing his M.A. in the same field in 1906. While he was a student there, he joined the Socialist Party and served as assistant secretary of the National Convention of the Socialist Party in Chicago in 1904.

In 1906, Cross went to Stanford as an instructor in economics while working for his Ph.D., which he received in 1909. His thesis, History of the Labor Movement in California, was enlarged and published by the University of California Press in 1935. While still an instructor at Stanford, Cross became Secretary of the California Industrial Accident Commission and was a special agent for the United States Immigration Commission during 1914-1915.

In spite of his reputation for radical views, Professor Cross was called to the University of California by Benjamin Ide Wheeler in 1914 and taught there until his retirement in 1951. He helped start the Berkeley Police School which has produced a model police force, famous throughout the country. Professor Cross taught courses in labor management during World War I and was also involved in arbitration and strike-settling activities. He was chairman of the Department of Economics during 1919-1920 and 1923-1924.
Ira B. Cross served as vice-president of the American Economic Association in 1925-1926, president of the Pacific Coast Economic Association in 1928, and member of the board of regents of the American Institute of Banking from 1935 to 1960. The University of Wisconsin gave him the LL.D. degree in 1951, and in 1957, he received the LL.D. from the University of California. In 1964, The Ira B. Cross Room was dedicated in Barrows Hall at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Scope and Content**

California Labor Notes consists of notes and research materials dating from 1815 to 1960, which were gathered by Ira B. Cross and his research assistants to complete his book, A History of the Labor Movement in California. Also includes the original typescript from 1909-1932, including handwritten corrections, illustrations, and all footnotes as they were written by Cross; the published edition retained only a fraction of the original notations and illustrations.

Research notes contain correspondence, including exchanges with various labor organizers and their families, most notably Astaroth and Burnette Haskell, Frank Roney, and Paul Scharrenberg, along with fan mail and critical analyses of the book by colleagues. Also contains biographical sketches, comprised of a variety of sources, including testimonies, clippings, and interviews taken by Cross or his assistants.

Research notes focusing on the history of labor include sections with references to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the U.S. Commission on Migratory Labor, as well as sections dedicated to the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, The Federated Trades Council of San Francisco, and the Maritime Trades Council of San Francisco.

Finally, the card file is rich with newspaper citations, arranged by subject, while clippings and labor newspapers (on microfilm) include a variety of California publications and material from several western states and Canada.

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**Box 1**

**SERIES 1: HISTORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA, 1909-1932.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Divided into two sub-series: Manuscript and Illustrations. Contains the original typescript, with manuscript corrections, including all footnotes --many of which were omitted from the original published edition. Also includes illustrations not found in the final version.

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**MANUSCRIPT, 1909-1932**

Box 1, folder 1-3  
Manuscript 1932

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**ILLUSTRATIONS, 1909-1932**

Box 1, folder 4-6  
Photos and Illustrations 1932
Guide to the Ira Cross: California labor notes, 1815-1960

SERIES 2: RESEARCH MATERIALS, 1815-1932.

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically or chronologically, as appropriate.

Divided into six sub-series: Correspondence, Biographical Sketches, Notes, Index, Clippings, and Labor Newspapers.

Correspondence and Biographical Sketches (arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject) include exchanges with various labor organizers and their families, as well as fan mail and critical analyses of the book by colleagues of Cross. Biographical sketches are comprised of a variety of sources, including testimonies, clippings, and interviews done by Cross or his assistants.

Notes consist of research done by Cross and his research assistants, and includes interviews, observations, and journal citations. Research notes related to the history of labor (arranged chronologically) also include special sections dedicated to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the U.S. Commission on Migratory Labor, which cover specific critical events rather than a complete history. Research notes dedicated to specific trades and unions are found under other sections on the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, the Federated Trades Council of San Francisco, and the Maritime Trades Council of San Francisco (all arranged alphabetically). Introductory material regarding each council in general precedes information about specific trades and their history. Federated trades are those that provide goods and services, such as bookbinders and the teamsters. The research notes include questionnaires, created by Cross to give details regarding the history of those trades in California, correspondence, newsletters, and rules of order; by-laws and handbooks are included when available.

A card file index, rich with newspaper citations, is arranged (alphabetically) by subject, while clippings are arranged chronologically. Labor Newspapers (arranged alphabetically by state, and then by title), are available on microfilm only and include a variety of California publications, as well as material from several western states and Canada.

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| box 2, folder 4 | Buchanan, Joseph Ray, 1851-1907 |
| box 2, folder 5 | Devereux, John P. 1907 |
| box 2, folder 6 | Ellison, Edward E. 1931-50 |
| box 2, folder 7 | French, William John, 1871-1947 1932 |
| box 2, folder 8 | Haskell, Astaroth Victor, 1886-1951 1928 |
| box 2, folder 9 | Haskell, Burnette G., 1857-1907 1907 |
| box 2, folder 10 | MacArthur, Walter, 1862-1944 1932-36 |
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oversize Oversize, folder 4 B
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folder 21 French, Will J. 1925-30
folder 22 Fuhrman, Alfred 1914-31
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folder 24 Heney, Francis J., 1859-1937 1907
folder 25 Kallow, Isaac Smith, 1832-1890 1887
folder 26 Kenaday, Alexander M. 1868
folder 27 Kidney, James 1883
folder 28 Mullen, James W. 1931
folder 29 O'Connell, Charles Carroll 1878
folder 30 O'Neill, J. J. n.d.
folder 31 Phillips, James K. 1907
folder 32 Roney, Frank, 1841-1925 n.d.
folder 33 Winn, A. M., 1810-1883 n.d.
folder 34 Biographical Notes 1855-94
folder 35 Miscellaneous Clippings 1908-12
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folder 34-36 Los Angeles 1898-1915
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Ctn. 4, folder 1-29 Building Trades Council of San Francisco 1882-1921
folder 30-52 Federated Trades Council of San Francisco 1885-1915
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Disputes 1903
Lockouts 1902-04
Strikes 1902-03
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oversize Oversize, folder 8 A Clippings 1909

LABOR NEWSPAPERS, 1882-1929
reel Reel 1 California
Eureka
The Labor News
1908 Nov. 7; Dec. 5, 12, 19
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<th>Newspaper</th>
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<td>The Citizen</td>
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<td>Times</td>
<td>1929 Oct. 1</td>
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<td>Union Labor</td>
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<td>Cooperative Journal</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
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<td>Labor Clarion</td>
<td>1908 Sept. 4; Dec. 18</td>
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<td>1896 May, Aug.</td>
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<td>Picket</td>
<td>1907 July 27</td>
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<td>1895 Nov. 16</td>
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<td>Truth</td>
<td>1882 July 26</td>
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<td>1890 April 26</td>
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<td>Union Picket</td>
<td>1907 July 17; Aug. 7, 17; Sept. 11; Oct. 30</td>
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<td>Voice of Labor</td>
<td>1894 June 13; July 10, 17; Aug. 15, 29; Sept. 12, 19; Oct. 25; Nov. 21</td>
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1896 May 9, 16; June 13, 29
1897 Jan. 30
1899 Oct. 21
Voice of the Unemployed
1909 Feb. 25
West Coast Mail
1892 April 9; June 11
Colorado
Denver
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Washington
Edison, Skagit County
Industrial Freedom
1898 Aug. 20
Canada
London, Ontario
The Free Press
1886 July 10