Register of the Eric Hass papers

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Register of the Eric Hass papers

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Collection Summary

Title: Eric Hass papers
Dates: 1899-1980
Collection Number: 81034
Creator: Hass, Eric.
Collection Size: 11 manuscript boxes (4.5 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Correspondence, speeches and writings, notes, clippings, serial issues, other printed matter, and photographs, relating to the Socialist Labor Party, and to social problems of aging.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Languages: English

Access
Collection is open for research.
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Eric Hass papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1981.

Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at http://searchworks.stanford.edu/. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the online catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
1905 Born, Lincoln, Nebraska
1928 Joined Socialist Labor Party
1932-1938 National organizer, Socialist Labor Party
1938-1968 Editor, The Weekly People
1949 Author, The Socialist Labor Party and the Internationals
1952 Socialist Labor Party candidate for President (first campaign)
1956 Socialist Labor Party candidate for President (second campaign)
1960 Socialist Labor Party candidate for President (third campaign)
1964 Socialist Labor Party candidate for President (fourth campaign)
1969 Resigned from Socialist Labor Party
1974-1978 Lived in Costa Rica
1980 Died, Santa Rosa, California

Scope and Content of Collection

Eric Hass was a longtime leader of the Socialist Labor Party. This party, dating back to 1876, was the first Marxist political organization in the United States. A number of the early leaders of the subsequent Socialist and Communist Parties served their political apprenticeships while passing through SLP ranks. Even before the death in 1914 of its outstanding leader Daniel De Leon, the SLP had been eclipsed in size and influence by the younger Socialist Party. For decades thereafter it nevertheless maintained a low profile existence, regularly publishing its newspaper The Weekly People and securing a ballot position for its presidential candidate every four years. Hass figured significantly in these activities as editor of The Weekly People for thirty years and as a four-time presidential candidate. In 1969, however, he broke with the party. While remaining a committed socialist, Hass came to believe that the SLP had become intellectually stultified and internally undemocratic.

The papers of Eric Hass are divided. Many are located in the Nebraska State Historical Society. Those in the Hoover Institution Archives were acquired from Tillie Hass in 1981, after the death of her husband. These papers largely date from Hass's later years, following his departure from the SLP. After this rupture he worked for a time as caretaker of Trinity Churchyard in New York City, then retired to Costa Rica where the cost of living was low, and after a few years returned to the United States. As an experienced journalist and an avid amateur naturalist, he was able to supplement his income by writing nature articles for the mainstream press, principally the New York Times.

The Subject File contains a good deal of collected information on Daniel De Leon. The Speeches and Writings file includes some output by Hass from his SLP period, especially his editorial reports prefiguring his breach with the party, and his account of his resignation. The Correspondence file includes exchanges in the 1970s with Sam Brandon, Nick Simon and other former SLP members, analyzing their experiences and the prospects for reconstituting a De Leonist political organization.

During the decade of the 1970s Hass became increasingly involved in study of the social problems of aging, and in advocacy for older persons in regard to age discrimination and related issues. Toward this end he joined the Gray Panthers after his return from Costa Rica. Shortly before his death he completed a book-length study, "Agism: The Shunning of the Elderly." This manuscript, for which he was unable to find a publisher before he died, is in the Speeches and Writings file. The Subject File contains a substantial quantity of collected material on aging.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Socialist Labor Party.
Aged.
Older people.
Socialism--United States.

Box: 1 Biographical File, 1905-1980
Scope and Content Note
Identification documents, biographical sketch, curricula vitae, clippings, and medical and financial records

Box/Folder: 1 : 1 General, 1905-1980.
Scope and Content Note
Identification documents, medical and financial records, and miscellany

Scope and Content Note
Includes press coverage of break with Socialist Labor Party

Box: 1-4 Correspondence, 1930-1980
Scope and Content Note
Arranged alphabetically
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Register of the Eric Hass papers

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Box: 4

Speeches and Writings, 1949-1980

Scope and Content Note
Arranged chronologically

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Scope and Content Note
Speech outline

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Scope and Content Note
Typescript

Box/Folder: 4 : 14
Scope and Content Note
Speech outline and typescript

Box/Folder: 4 : 15
Remarks at Belle Rosen memorial meeting, 1955 May 24.
Scope and Content Note
Typescript

Box/Folder: 4 : 16
Introduction to dramatized reading from Lincoln-Douglas debates, ca. 1959.
Scope and Content Note
Typescript

Box/Folder: 4 : 17
"Biological Demonstration of the Marxian Principle," ca. 1950s.
Scope and Content Note
Speech notes

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Scope and Content Note
Speech outline

Box/Folder: 4 : 19
Scope and Content Note
Speech outline
Scope and Content Note  
Speech outline |
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| Box/Folder: 4 : 21 | Remarks at golden jubilee celebration for Arnold Petersen as Socialist Labor Party national secretary, 1964  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Speech outline |
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
| Box/Folder: 4 : 29 | "Amy and the Deer Mouse" (children’s story), 1968 November 12.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 4 : 30 | "Clowns of the Plains" (article for juveniles), 1968 December 13.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 1 | "Another Mouse to Feed," 1968  
Scope and Content Note  
Holograph and typescript |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 2 | "What's Wrong with the SLP?" ca. 1968.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 3 | "How Indians 'Talked' Without Saying a Word'" (article for juveniles), 1969 January 24.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 6 | "Benjamin Gilbert: Friend and Naturalist" (memorial meeting remarks), 1969 September 5.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
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Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and printed copy |
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Printed copy |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 20 | “Block Island Summer,” ca. 1972.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and working materials |
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and working materials |
| Box/Folder: 5 : 22 | Untitled article re St. Paul’s Churchyard, New York City, ca. 1972.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and working materials |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Printed copy |
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript and printed copy |
Scope and Content Note
Typescript

Scope and Content Note
Typescript

"A Most Dangerous Snake," 1976
Scope and Content Note
Typescript and working materials

Scope and Content Note
Typescript

"Pueblo, a Newspaper for the People" (re Costa Rican newspaper; written under pseudonym Larry Able), 1977
Scope and Content Note
Typescript, transcript of interview with editor Javier Solís, and other working materials

Scope and Content Note
Typescript

Letter to the editor, Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, re supermarket item-pricing (written on behalf of Gray Panthers), 1979 May 23.
Scope and Content Note
Typescript

"Agism: The Shunning of the Elderly," 1979
Scope and Content Note
(book-length study, including multiple draft versions)

Outlines and front matter
Introduction
Chapter 1
Chapter 2
Chapter 3
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Chapter 6
Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Footnotes and bibliography
Note card working materials
Correspondence with writer's agent Richard Curtis and publishers
"Fear of Aging in Children," 1979
Scope and Content Note
Outline and drafts for study never completed
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
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Scope and Content Note  
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| Box/Folder: 7 : 14 | "Nature in the City," ca. 1970s.  
Scope and Content Note  
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Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 8 : 3 | "Taste of Terror in the Night," ca. 1970s.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 8 : 4 | "Three Weeds of Late Summer," ca. 1970s.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 8 : 5 | "Why Doctors 'Play God,'" ca. 1970s.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 8 : 6 | Untitled memoir re father of Eric Hass, ca. 1970s.  
Scope and Content Note  
Typescript |
| Box/Folder: 8 : 7 | Fragments, ca. 1970s |
Remarks to Sonoma County, California, Board of Supervisors on behalf of Gray Panthers re supermarket item-pricing, 1980

Scope and Content Note
Typescript and working materials

Subject File, 1889-1980.

Scope and Content Note
Notes, printed matter, correspondence, and typed copies, arranged alphabetically by topic

Aging
General. Notes and mimeographed materials, 1977-1979
Printed matter. Clippings and journal articles, 1943-1980

Sources. Bibliographies and catalogs, 1977-1980

Central America. Clippings and journal article, 1977-1978

De Leon, Daniel
Typed copies of De Leon correspondence, mainly with Olive M. Johnson, 1897-1913.
Scope and Content Note
Includes one photocopy of an original De Leon letter

Typed copies of De Leon writings, 1889-1913.
Scope and Content Note
Includes a few printed copies of articles, and pamphlet James Madison and Karl Marx

Correspondence about De Leon, 1933-1962, mainly from editorial files of The Weekly People. Includes letters by Arnold Petersen
Notes, clippings, and journal articles about De Leon, 1912-1977


Gray Panthers
General. Notes, lists, flyers, newsletters, circulated material, and clippings, 1975-1980

Scope and Content Note
Includes the Weekly People

Logging. Pamphlets, 1967
Monetary policy and inflation. Clippings, journal articles, and other printed matter, 1925-1979
Socialism. Clippings, journal articles, typed copies of journal articles, and other printed matter, 1910-1971, mainly re utopian socialist communities in the United States

Socialist Labor Party
General. Notes, clippings, and typed copies of journal articles, 1900-1967
Weekly People issues, 1967-1969

Trinity Church (New York City). Leaflets, newsletters, minutes, and other printed matter, 1908-1979
Wine. Typescript "The Glorious Grape" (authorship uncertain), 1978
Yugoslavia. Tourist guide literature, and typed transcript of interview with I. Sharenow, 1970
Miscellany. Mainly printed matter, 1946-1978
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**Scope and Content Note**

**Photographs**