Finding aid for the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics budgets 0445

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Finding aid for the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics budgets
Collection number: 0445
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.84 linear ft. 2 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1933-1950

Abstract: The Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics budgets consists of thirty five budgets, 1933-1950, with accompanying explanatory text, on the cost of living for families of different occupations and for single women in San Francisco. The Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics, of the University of California, Berkeley, produced the budgets (commonly known as the Heller Budgets), which encompass the Great Depression, World War II, and post-War eras. The budgets were for the use of social welfare agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area in determining the needs and support of families who were their clients.


Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access.

Conditions Governing Use
The use of archival materials for on-site research does not constitute permission from the California Social Welfare Archives to publish them. Copyright has not been assigned to the California Social Welfare Archives, and the researcher is instructed to obtain permission to quote from or publish manuscripts in the CSWA’s collections from the copyright holder.

Arrangement
The budgets are arranged chronologically, either by University of California publication or copyright date, when available, or lacking these, by the date of the study. They are stored in two archival boxes, with those for 1933-1945 in Box 1, and those for 1946-1950 in Box 2.

Physical Characteristics
The brittle condition of almost all of the budgets, especially noticeable in the torn bindings of the spines, requires that they be handled with care.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics budgets, Collection no. 0445, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Scope and Content
The Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics budgets consists of thirty five budgets, 1933-1950, with accompanying explanatory text, on the cost of living for families of different occupations and for single women in San Francisco. The Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics, of the University of California, Berkeley, produced the budgets (commonly known as the Heller Budgets), which encompass the Great Depression, World War II, and post-War eras. The budgets were for the use of social welfare agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area in determining the needs and support of families who were their clients. They bear the stamp of the Welfare Planning Council Library, partial indication of their provenance before arriving at the California Social Welfare Archives.

Historical note
The Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics was organized in 1923 by Professor Jessica Peixotto, chair of the Economics Department at the University of California, Berkeley. Peixotto obtained funding for the committee from Mrs. Clara Hellman Heller; her aim was to continue her research in the study of state wages and salaries among clerical workers, laborers, and executives. The members of the Committee were drawn from the UC Berkeley departments of economics and law; Peixotto served as its first chair. The funding provided the means for women faculty and graduate students in economics and home economics to undertake research in consumer economics. The committee sponsored the research and publication of many such studies, with particular emphasis on California, between 1923 and its demise in 1962; however, it was best known for its yearly “Heller Budget”. These budgets, one of three types of reports published by the committee, were innovative in their attention to a broad range of household expenditures not generally measured by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, examining how families actually spent their money rather than how economists thought they spent it, and thus allowed Peixotto and her colleagues to analyze how families gauged their expenditures in relation to their actual and hoped-for standard of living.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
University of California, Berkeley. Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics. -- Archives
Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2
*Budget for Dependent Families or Children, 1934.* Issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics. Berkeley: University of California, 1935

General note
Title page missing.

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4
*Clothing Budgets. Prices for San Francisco, October 1936. (Supplement to Quantity and Cost Budgets for Four Income Levels).* Issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics University of California. Berkeley: University of California Press circa 1937

Box 1, Folder 5
Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics. *Budget for Dependent Families or Children. Prices for San Francisco, October 1936 (extract from Quantity and Cost Budgets).* Berkeley: University of California Press 1936

Box 1, Folder 6
*Quantity and Cost Budgets for Dependent Families or Children. Prices for San Francisco, October 1937. (Extract from Quantity and Cost Budgets for Four Income Levels).* Issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics University of California. Berkeley: University of California Press circa 1937

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13


Box 2, Folder 12  

Box 2, Folder 13  
**Quantity and Cost Budgets for Dependent Families or Children. Prices for San Francisco, September 1949.** Issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics, University of California. Berkeley: University of California Press 1950

Box 2, Folder 14  
Ruth Okey and Mary Gorringe Luck. **Food for Four Income Levels. Prices for San Francisco, September 1949.** Issued by the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics, University of California. Berkeley: University of California Press 1949

Box 2, Folder 15  

Box 2, Folder 16  