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Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39 papers Collection 029

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Source:	Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39
Title:	Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39 records
ID:	Collection 029
Date [inclusive]:	1876-1964
Physical Description:	5.17 Linear Feet Fourteen boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection includes the records of the Grand Rapids local union (No. 39) of the International Typographical Union, as well as general documents from the printing industry. The papers and records portray the history, financial background, activities and operations of the Union, including strikes. Strike rolls contain the names of members that went on strike during 1905-1906, 1921-1922, and 1958-1959. The collection also contains material that pertains to the Union's involvement with Etheridge Company, Furniture City Printing Co., Grevel Printing Co. and other companies. Also found in this collection, but currently without context, are photographs and an autograph book associated with Hattie Carlyle Baker.

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Biographical / Historical

The Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39 emerged from the issuance of the North American Typographical Union charter on April 19, 1858. The earliest constitution book of the Union, bearing the imprint, "Printing House of I.S. Dygert, 1844," has a cut of the Union seal bearing this date. On May 2, 1859, the first official meeting under the charter was held in the composing rooms of the Daily Eagle in the Withey Block on Canal Street, now lower Monroe Avenue. After early records were lost, a new charter was issued by the International in 1873.

The presence of the Baker family photographs in this collection is currently unexplained. Wesley Baker is documented in the U.S. Census as a grocer and later a tanner. Hattie was a home maker. The older daughter Lena Baker is given as a stenographer at the Museum in 1910 and still living at home. Two other children are listed for Wesley & Hattie, a daughter, Berniece, and a son, R. Carlyle. Also in the

1910 census are found Lena Baker Kelsey and Frank Kelsey living in Colorado, perhaps an aunt of the younger Lena.

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Scope and Contents

The records of the company form about 75% of the collection. The best access to historical information about the organization in general may be the publications, including a one hundred year centennial from 1859 to 1959. Gaps exist in all of the records series within this collection. Minutes range from 1891-1934, with a few gaps. While the cash books appear to range from 1891 to 1954, there is a gap of about 20 years in the 1920s and 1930s. Other financial records may compensate for this gap.

The correspondence in the collection pertains to Union conventions, members and strikes. Data specific to five companies for Etheridge Printing Co., Furniture City Printing Co., Grevel Printing Co., Toren Printing Co. and George W. Welsh Company is mainly correspondence from the mid 1940s to the mid 1950s. "Strike: 1958-1959" records consist of correspondence, business invoices, financial statements, and strike roll. Miscellaneous material consist of two voting boxes, two print blocks, stapler, seal printer and an autograph book.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39, accession number 1986.528

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Controlled Access Headings

- Printing industry -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Labor unions -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39
- International Typographic Union
- Baker, Hattie Carlyle
- Grand Rapids Typographical Union No. 39

Collection Inventory

Series I. Records

Scope and Contents

Records of the organization form the bulk of the collection. Included are some correspondence from 1893 to 1959. Different types of ledgers document the finances, with some type of coverage from 1876 to the 1950s. There are gaps in several of the financial series, with some types of documents covering only certain date ranges. For example, the "Journals" cover the years 1876 to 1903 only. Pension rolls exist for 1909 to 1929. Minutes cover 1891 to 1934. Membership applications, certificates and registers cover 1893 to 1919. Most of these documents are housed in old ledger type volumes which would be damaged by photocopying or scanning, the use of a non-flash camera to copy these items is preferred.

Organizational Documents

Title/Description	Instances	
Constitution, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 1

Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Aug 22, 1893-Nov 4, 1934	Box 1	Folder 2
Oct 1, 1951-Apr 3, 1959.	Box 1	Folder 3

Business Records

Accounts Payable

Title/Description	Instances	
1950-1951.	Box 1	Folder 4
Jun 4-Oct 15, 1951.	Box 1	Folder 5

May 12,-Dec 8, 1957.	Box 1	Folder 6
1958-60.	Box 1	Folder 7-9
1961-4.	Box 2	Folder 10-13

Business Invoices

Title/Description	Instances	
1919-30.	Box 2	Folder 14
1940-7.	Box 2	Folder 15
1948-9.	Box 2	Folder 16

Business Receipts

Title/Description	Instances	
Business Receipts, 1910-1949	Box 3	Folder 17-19
Financial Secretary Report, 1913-1931	Box 3	Folder 20-21

Cash books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Nov, 1897 to Jul, 1920.	Box 4	Volume 1
Jun 6, 1921 to Apr 21, 1922.	Box 4	Folder 22
Sep 8, 1921 to Dec 30, 1922.	Box 4	Volume 2
Jun, 1944 to Dec 15, 1947.	Box 4	Volume 3
Dec 18, 1947 to Jan 11, 1952.	Box 4	Volume 4
May 17, 1947 to Oct 17, 1953.	Box 4	Volume 5
Jan, 1952 to May, 1956.	Box 5	Volume 6
Contracts, 1914-16.	Box 5	Folder 23
Daily Newspapers, 1918-21.	Box 5	Folder 24

Dues Ledger

Title/Description	Instances	
Feb 1931 to Dec 1940.	Box 5	Volume 7
Jan 1941 to Dec 1946.	Box 5	Volume 8

Check Receipts

Title/Description	Instances	
Nov 11, 1948 to Jul 5, 1958.	Box 6	

Journals (Business)

Title/Description	Instances	
1876-1896.	Box 7	Volume 9
1896-1903.	Box 7	Volume 10

Old Age Pension Roll

Title/Description	Instances	
Nov, 1909-Jun, 1912.	Box 7	Volume 11
Jul, 1912-Oct, 1915.	Box 7	Volume 12
Oct, 1915-Jan, 1918.	Box 7	Volume 13
Jan, 1918-Sep, 1922./Sept,1922-Oct, 1925	Box 7	Volume 14
Nov, 1925-Feb, 1929.	Box 7	Volume 15

Monthly Stamp Reports

Title/Description	Instances	
Jan 6, 1910 to Nov 9, 1913.	Box 8	Volume A
Dec 14, 1913 to Jan 18, 1916.	Box 8	Volume B
Feb 14, 1916 to Aug 13, 1919.	Box 8	Volume C
Dec 12, 1926 to Nov 17, 1930.	Box 8	Volume D
Dec 18, 1930 to Aug 16, 1943.	Box 8	Volume E

Savings & Share Acct. Books

Title/Description	Instances	
Feb 9, 1937 to Jul 15, 1968.	Box 8	Folder 24a

Membership records

Title/Description	Instances	
Applications, 1893-5.	Box 9	Folder 25
Certificate, 1895-1909.	Box 9	Folder 26
Certificate, 1898-1909.	Box 9	Folder 27
Membership Register, 1917-19.	Box 9	Folder 28
ITU Convention Visitors Register, 1944.	Box 9	Folder 29
Certificate and Withdrawal Cards, n.d.	Box 9	Folder 30

Minutes

Title/Description	Instances	
May 3, 1891 to Dec 2, 1894.	Box 10	Volume 16
Jan 6, 1895 to Dec 6, 1903.	Box 10	Volume 17
Jan 3, 1904 to Jul 5, 1914.	Box 10	Volume 18
Aug, 1917 to Feb, 1921.	Box 11	Volume 19
Mar 6, 1921 to Dec 2, 1924.	Box 11	Volume 20
Jan 6, 1924 to Aug 1, 1926.	Box 11	Volume 21
Sep 5, 1926 to Dec, 1929.	Box 11	Volume 22
Dec 1, 1929 to Jun 1, 1934.	Box 12	Volume 23
Jun 3, 1934 to Oct 28, 1934.	Box 12	Volume 24

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Series II. Strike documents

Scope and Contents

Strike rolls cover 1905/1906 and 1921/1922. For the period of 1958/1959 a wider scope of documentation is available, including correspondence, and also some strike rolls.

Strike Rolls

Title/Description	Instances	
Sep 12, 1905-Oct 31, 1905.	Box 13	Volume 25
Nov 1, 1905-Mar 17, 1906.	Box 13	Volume 26
Mar 19, 1906-Aug 8, 1906.	Box 13	Volume 27
Aug 15, 1921-Nov 12, 1921.	Box 13	Volume 28
Nov 14, 1921-Sep 16, 1922.	Box 13	Volume 29

Strike, 1958-1959

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Oct. 16, 1958-Feb. 26, 1959.	Box 14	Folder 41
Business Invoices-1959 Convention.	Box 14	Folder 42
Financial Statements.	Box 14	Folder 43
Notes.	Box 14	Folder 44
Oversized notes.	Box 10	
Strike Roll.	Box 14	Folder 45

Miscellaneous.

Box 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series III. Records of Specific Companies****Scope and Contents**

Correspondence related to three companies are available from 1944 to 1956. These are the Etheridge, Toren Printing, and George Welsh companies. Correspondence for the Furniture City Printing Company range from 1946 to 1958. For the Grevel Printing company only contracts are found.

Etheridge Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Oct 23, 1944-Aug 15, 1956.	Box 14	Folder 36
Contracts.	Box 14	Folder 37

Furniture City Printing Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, SepT. 17, 1946-Jul 15, 1958.	Box 14	Folder 38
Contracts.	Box 14	Folder 39

Grevel Printing Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Contracts.	Box 14	Folder 40

Toren Printing Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Oct. 23, 1944-Jul 18, 1958.	Box 14	Folder 46
Contracts.	Box 14	Folder 47
Oversized Contacts.	Box 10	

George W. Welsh Company

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, May 5, 1944-Jun 13, 1956.	Box 14	Folder 48
Contracts	Box 14	Folder 49

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Series IV. Images

Scope and Contents

Only a dozen photos are found in this collection, which seem to be associated with Hattie Baker.

Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Hattie Carlyle Baker. Portrait photo of woman. A.A. Barr, photographer, Grand Rapids.	Box 14	Folder 50
Wesley P. Baker. Portrait photo of young man. A.A. Barr, photographer, Grand Rapids	Box 14	Folder 50
Hattie Carlyle Baker (left), Wesley P. Baker with Lena Baker (child) on his lap	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified man in top hat (perhaps Wesley Baker). Stanton & Burdick, photographers, Los Angeles, Calif. Has "Hattie M. [Mary?] Baker" on verso	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified map. Stanton & Burdick, photographers, Los Angeles, Calif. Has "Hattie M. Baker" on verso	Box 14	Folder 50
Frank Kelsey & Lenna Estelle Kelsey. Portrait photo of couple, woman standing. Jarvis, photographer, Pasadena, Calif.	Box 14	Folder 50
Man and woman standing in front of a brick house. Chair on porch in front of door. Photo postcard.	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified young woman. F. L. Hogan, photographer, Rockford, Mich.	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified photo of three woman, including woman in 8 and probably Hattie Baker at right. R.H. Williams, photographer, Rockford, Mi.	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified group with 9 women. G.N. Westfall, photographer, Rockford, Mi.	Box 14	Folder 50
Unidentified group with 1 man and 6 women. Probably Lena Baker Kensey seated front right, and Hattie Baker seated second row right. W.H. Jones, photographer, Cedar Springs, Mi.	Box 14	Folder 50
Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Union Printers Home (Colorado Springs, Colorado) / James Bates, photographer.	Box 14	Folder 50

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Series V. Ephemera

Scope and Contents

An autograph book, also belonging to Hattie Baker, is found in this series. The association of Hattie Baker to this organization is currently unknown.

Also included in this series are some newspaper clippings and a few pamphlets or programs associated with the organization.

Title/Description	Instances	
Autograph Book belonging to Hattie Carlyle Baker.	Box 14	Folder 51
Newspaper clippings	Box 12	Folder 31
Notes	Box 12	Folder 32

Pamphlets, Programs, etc.

Title/Description	Instances	
75th Anniversary, 1859-1934	Box 12	Folder 33

Scope and Contents

c. 1; c. 2, formerly M331.88.In8, 00.[2585].1

87th Convention, International Typographical Union	Box 12	Folder 33.5
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Scope and Contents

c. 1 Disbound; c. 2 Disbound; c. 3 Spiral bound, cover torn off, formerly M655.0621.In8 00.[2584].1

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Series VI. Publications

Scope and Contents

Two items studying the history of the organization are dated 1963 or 1966. Also included here is a hundred year centennial publication from 1859 to 1959.

Books

Title/Description	Instances	
A Study of the History of the International Typographical Union, 1852-1963.	Box 12	
A Study of the History of the International Typographical Union, 1852-1966.	Box 12	
Centennial Celebration, 1859-1959.	Box 12	Folder 34
Facts About The International Typographical Union For All Who Like To Know	Box 12	Folder 35

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