
Inventory of the Archie Brown Collection, 1933-1978

Accession number: 92/5, 95/11, 95/67, 97/66, & 98/57

Labor Archives & Research Center

San Francisco State University
San Francisco, California

Contact Information:

- Labor Archives & Research Center
- San Francisco State University
- 480 Winston Drive
- San Francisco, California 94132
- Phone: (415) 564-4010
- Fax: (415) 564-3606
- Email: larc@sfsu.edu
- URL: <http://www.library.sfsu.edu/special/larc.html>

Processed by:

The Labor Archives & Research Center staff

Encoded by:

James Ryan

© 1998 San Francisco State University. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Archie Brown Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1933-1978

Accession number: 92/5, 95/11, 95/67, 97/66, & 98/57

Creator: Brown, Archie

Extent: 2 cubic feet

Repository: San Francisco State University. Labor Archives & Research Center
San Francisco, California 94132

Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Center's online catalog.

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has not been assigned to the Labor Archives & Research Center. All requests for permission to publish or quote from materials must be submitted in writing to the Director of the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Labor Archives & Research Center as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Archie Brown Collection, 92/5, 95/11, 95/67, 97/66, & 98/57, Labor Archives & Research Center, San Francisco State University.

Introduction

The collection consists of accessions from Archie Brown's wife, Mrs. Esther "Hon" Brown. Materials include broadsides from leftist causes, pamphlets, and correspondence. The collection was received in the spring of 1995 and processed during the summers of 1995 and 1996.

Biographical Notes

Archie Brown was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1911. In his early teens he rode the rails to the Bay Area. At age 14, he lost his job as a newsboy for organizing a newsboys' strike. During the 1930s, he belonged to the Young Communist League, helped organize California agricultural workers, and became a longshoreman, part of San Francisco's thriving waterfront union movement.

In 1938, his convictions led him into the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to fight the Fascists in the Spanish Civil War. He also served in the U.S. Army in World War II, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After his return from the war, Archie held a number of state and national Communist Party positions. He continued to work as a longshoreman, and served on the Executive Committee of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 10. He was arrested for violating the Landrum-Griffin Act, which stated that trade-union office holders could not be Communist Party members. He fought the guilty verdict up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down the ban in 1965.

Archie remained an active longshoreman until 1977. After his retirement, he worked to promote numerous leftist causes. He died of cancer in November 1990. A partial record of his activities can be found in the Collection.

Scope and Content

The collection includes items from the 1930s & 1960s, but the majority of documents cover the 1970s. Archie Brown was active in the ILWU, the Communist Party, and a host of "progressive" organizations. The many pamphlets and broadsides testify to his commitment to social justice and also give an idea about the issues of importance to San Francisco leftists in the 1970s.

The activities to which Archie Brown gave time and attention are the U.S. labor union activities to support Chilean workers and the fight to free Angela Davis. The Chilean folders document a Bay Area union active in a broad range of support actions.

Other activities of which there is less documentation include economic issues, for example, the Coalition to Fight the High Cost of Living. He also supported struggles of other unions and their strikes.

Of special interest are the angry letters Archie Brown received from all over the United States after the movie "Operation Abolition" was shown nationwide. This propagandistic documentary about the fight to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee also drew a few letters of support.

There is one folder of copies of letters Archie wrote to his wife during the Spanish Civil War. The originals are at Brandeis University in the Archie Brown Collection.

Xerox copies were made of the Waterfront Worker (1933-1936), a mimeographed newsletter.

The numerous Communist Party books and pamphlets were removed and sent to the Niebyl-Proctor Library.

Material Cataloged Separately

The following materials have been removed from the files and are located in the Ephemera Collection of the Labor Archives.

A Conversation--Labor Looks at Labor. Some members of the United Auto Workers undertake a self-examination. 1963.

Union Printers College. San Francisco Typographical Union, No. 21. 1963

Voices for Liberty. Stop McCarranism! Collection of speeches. Ca. 1964.

How to Speak at Union Meetings. UAW Education Department. 1977?

Effective Discussion Methods. UAW Education Department. 1976?

Come Out Swinging! A 2-Fisted Rank & File Program. Labor Education Fund. 1974.

Proposition "L": 30 Hours Work, 40 Hours Pay. Workers Action Movement. 1973.

Some Facts on the New Grape Boycott. UFW Research Department. 1973.

Agenda from the First Constitutional Convention, United Farm Workers. 1973. (English and Spanish)

Boycott Lettuce and Grapes. Political Education Project and UFW. 1973?

Joe Worker and the Story of Labor. (Comic book). National Labor Service. 1945.

On the Boss's Time. Shop Poems and Other Poems By George Bratt. 1958.

Security, Civil Liberties and Unions. AFL-CIO. 1956.

Of the People, for the People. Pictorial highlights of fifty years of the Communist Party, USA, 1919-1969. 1970.

"All Strikebreakers Must Go!" San Francisco Typographical Union No. 21. 1964.
Port of San Francisco Ocean Shipping Handbook. Board of State Harbor Commissioners. n.d.

- Box 1/0 **Descriptive Guide**
- Box 1/1 **Biography of Archie Brown 1990 1990**
- Box 1/2 **Biography n.d.**
- Box 1/3 **Black Panthers 1971, n.d.**
- Box 1/4 **Candidacies (of Archie Brown) 1959, n.d.**
- Box 1/5 **Chile 1974-1976**
- Box 1/6 **Correspondence, Incoming 1959-1977, n.d.**
- Box 1/7 **Correspondence, Operation Abolition 1960**
- Box 1/8 **Correspondence, Operation Abolition 1960-1961**
- Box 1/9 **Correspondence, Operation Abolition 1960-1962**
- Box 1/10 **Correspondence, Operation Abolition 1960-1961**
- Box 1/11 **Correspondence, Outgoing 1961-1974**
- Box 1/12 **Correspondence, Spanish Civil War (xerox) 1938**
- Box 2/1 **Court Transcript, State of CA vs. Brown 1935**
- Box 2/2 **Court Transcript. Jimenez, Canales, Brown & Villi 1935**
- Box 2/3 **FBI Records, Social Security Benefits 1977**
- Box 2/4 **Government Documents 1967-1976**
- Box 2/5 **Holmes Eureka Lumber Strike Commemoration n.d.**
- Box 2/6 **I.L.A. "Strike Bulletins" 1934,1936**
- Box 2/7 **I.L.A. "Women's Voice" 1936**
- Box 2/8 **I.L.A. Report 1936**
- Box 2/9 **I.L.W.U. 1971-1975**
- Box 2/10 **Labor Issues, Various 1963-1978**
- Box 2/11 **Local Negotiations 1971-1972**
- Box 3/1 **Newspaper Clippings 1934-1951, n.d.**
- Box 3/2 **Pamphlets n.d.**

Box 3/3 **Photographs 1941,1960**

Box 3/4 **Political Leaflets, Various 1964-1978**

Box 3/5 **Socialist Labor Party & Workers International Industrial Union n.d.**

Box 3/6 **Spanish Civil War, Abraham Lincoln Brigade 1962-1978**

Box 3/7 **Strike Bulletins & Flyers1934 1934**

Box 3/8 **Testimonial, Speech n.d.**

Box 3/9 **Viet Nam War 1965-1971, n.d.**

Box 3/10 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1933,1934**

Box 3/11 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1933,1934**

Box 3/12 **Waterfront Worker1934 1934**

Box 4/1 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1934**

Box 4/2 **Waterfront Worker 1935**

Box 4/3 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1935**

Box 4/4 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1935**

Box 4/5 **Waterfront Worker 1935-1936 1935-1936**

Box 4/6 **Waterfront Worker (xerox)1935-1936 1935-1936**

Box 4/7 **Waterfront Worker (xerox) 1935-1936**