

Annetta M. Dieckmann

Annetta Maria Dieckmann (1882-1974) was a pioneer in progressive causes that included the betterment of working peoples' lives, feminism and civil rights. A native of Titusville, PA., Ms Dieckmann received an (AB/1909) and ma degree from Cornell and Columbia Universities.

She was an inspector for the NY State Board of Charities (1910-1915) and taught at the University of Hawaii (1915-1918). In 1918, Ms Dieckmann became the first Industrial Secretary of the national YWCA, reflecting that organization's new emphasis on the "working girl". The YWCA Industrial centers grew out of World War I programs for women in war industries. In 1924, Annetta Dieckmann left the national YWCA headquarters to become the industrial secretary of the Chicago "YWCA. It was here that she was a key figure in developing programs for immigrant and unskilled women workers – "for which the Chicago YWCA became world famous". The programs provided for technical, clerical, and recreational needs, as well as stressing attitudes of racial harmony. Ms Dieckmann remained with the Central YWCA until her 1951 retirement.

During her tenure as Industrial Secretary, she had lobbied for over 16 years towards the passage of a minimum wage law in Illinois. Her perseverance in this area secured for her a two-year appointment as an inspector for the Illinois Department of Labor.

From 1948 to 1950, she coordinated and authored the final report of the St. Louis Labor Education Project. The report (Box 54 #34) reveals the extensive research and creative effort her staff supplied to help local unions be more responsive to the needs of their rank and file.

Returning to Chicago in 1952, Miss Dieckmann served for 2 years as Executive Secretary of the Metropolitan Chicago Council Against Discrimination.

From 1954 through 1960, she continued her work in civil rights and became editor of The Brief, a publication of the Illinois chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She also served on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Chapter from 1953 until her death. After becoming full-time Board secretary in 1956, her efforts resulted in a state-wide civil liberties program and an ACLU award named in her honor.

All Ms Dieckmann's projects reflected a deep commitment to basic humanitarian ideals. This attitude was visible in the active role taken in her neighborhood, Hyde Park. She was involved both in religious and civic affairs, especially with the Kenwood-Oakdale-Community-Organization (KOCO). Annetta Dieckmann was honored many times. Perhaps her most notable distinction was in 1963 when she received a special award from the US, Department of Labor, citing her work on behalf of all working women.

1. "History of the YWCA", 1973 review of Board of Directors.
2. More detailed material on the Industrial programs may be found in the "YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago Papers" (73-65), especially in Box 3, The Tower, 1933-1948.

The Annetta Dieckmann Papers (74-52) were received in a general subject order. The folders are arranged alphabetically by title, within the collection as a whole. The main area of concentration are: ACLU; Chicago/Hyde Park; Cornell University; Labor education, personal labor histories; women's rights; union work songs and poetry; the YWCA. Seven folders of material on the Teamsters detail Miss Dieckmann's work with St. Louis Local #688. This Teamster union provided the data for the Labor Education Project. All materials in this collection are printed or published, with the exception of two manuscript by Miss Dieckmann ("Report of St. Louis Project", Box #34, and a study of race relations in northern US cities, Box 3 #25). There is one oversize folder containing an ACLU fund-raising poster. This collection include correspondence, clippings, notes, reports, minutes of meetings, biographical vitae, legal briefs, financial records, publications newsletters, manuscripts, personal mementos, poetry, songs and photographs pertaining to the life and professional service of Annetta M. Dieckmann from 1920 through 1974.

Folder listing

Box 1

1. ACLU - Abortion Issues, 1961; 1967
2. ACLU - Administration, 1966-1974
3. ACLU - Annual Reports 1963-1964; 1965-1966
4. ACLU - Awards, 1970-1972
5. ACLU - Bail Issues, August, 1967
6. ACLU - Royer Baldwin Foundation, 1967-1971
7. ACLU - Birth Control Position, 1968-1970
8. ACLU - The Brief (publication), 1957 -1 9973
9. ACLU - Civil Disorder, 1966-1968
10. ACLU - Civil Liberties (publication), September 1970-September, 1973
11. ACLU - Communist Party, September 30, 1954 - 1970
12. ACLU - "Conspiracy 7", 1969-1971

Box 2

13. ACLU - Directories, '1970-'1971
14. ACLU - Downstate Illinois, November 2, 1967-January 13, 1973
15. ACLU - Freedom of Speech and Press, March-September, 1971
16. ACLU - History and Literature, 1969-1973
17. ACLU - Housing Litigation, 1 1965-1972
18. ACLU - Legal Briefs, October, 1947; September 17, 1965; October 2, 1970
19. ACLU - Legal Committee, May, 1970
20. ACLU - Legal Dockets, June 19, 1967 - February 15, 1971
21. ACLU - Military Issues, May 14, 1965 - March 30, 1972
22. ACLU - Minutes and Staff Reports, November 13, 1969 - March 10, 1973
23. ACLU - Minutes and Staff Reports, February 29, 1971 - July 29, 1972

24. ACLU - Patronage, October - November, 1970
25. ACLU - Police, 1963; 1967-1969
26. ACLU - Policy Statements, 1963; 1969-1972
27. ACLU - Press Releases, September - December, 1969
28. ACLU - School Issues, 1962; June 22, 1967-1972
29. ACLU - Status of Women, n.d.
30. ACLU - Subversive Activities, 1967
31. ACLU - Wiretaps, 1967

Box 3

32. Anti-War Activities, 1967
33. Chicago - bibliography, 1928-1971
34. Chicago - Citizens School Committee, 1950; 1964-1969
35. Chicago - Hyde Park, 1958-1972
36. Chicago - Sights, 1952-1972
37. Chicago - Sociological Perspectives, 1944-1969
38. Cornell University - Alumni, 1952-1970
39. Cornell University - Class of 1909 Reunion, 1940-1970

Box 4

40. Cornell University - Cornell Reports, March, 1969-July, 1972
41. Cornell University - Labor Relations - publications, ca. 1940s; 1956; ca. 1960s
42. Cornell University - Miscellaneous, 1970s
43. "The Effect of Common Interests on Race Relations in Certain Northern Cities: A Preliminary Study of Industry" - Ms., c. 1920s
44. Kenwood - Oakland Community Organization (KOCO), 1966-1967
45. KOCO - Community Conference, 1954-1960
46. KOCO - Drexel Area Block Club, 1958-1961; 1970
47. KOCO - Kenwood - Ellis Community Center, 1949; 1956-1960; 1966-1967
48. KOCO - Neighborhood Conservation Committee, 1955; 1960
49. Labor/Union Histories, ca. 1940s-1950s
50. Labor/Union Histories, 1950s
51. Miscellaneous Religious and Humanitarian, 1972-1974

Box 5

52. Poetry and Songs c. 1930s - 1940s
53. St. Louis Labor Education Project - report, 1948- 950
54. Status of Women, 1953-1961
55. Teamsters, International Brotherhood of Dave Beck, Harold Gibson-clippings, 1949, 1958, 1970s, 1971
56. Teamsters International Brotherhood of Jimmy Hoffa, 1958-1959; 1965-1966
57. Teamsters, Joint Council of No. 13 - Rent Strikes, Harold Gibbons, 1969-1970

58. Teamsters Local 688 - 19th City - Wide Shop Conference, September 27, 1964
59. Teamsters Local 688 - reports, articles, photo, 1949-1955
60. Teamsters Local 688 - report; articles, 1957-1965
61. Teamsters Local 688 - reports and resolutions, 1948-1950

Box 6

62. United Nations, 1948-1950; 1964
63. United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau - brochures, 1947; 1952; 1965
64. Workers and Inspirational Songs,
65. Workers' Education - bibliography brochures, 1933; 1934; 1950s
66. Workers' Songs 1940-1949; 1966
67. YWCA - Centennial magazine (1855-1955), 1953
68. YWCA - reports, bulletins, 1930-1952
69. YWCA - reports, bulletins, 1963-1971
70. YWCA - songs, 1930s-1940s