

Mike Solski Collection:
International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers

An Inventory of his Collection
in
The Library of The University of British Columbia
Special Collections

October 1988

Donna Kynaston
Jayne Bellyk

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Introduction:

The Mike Solski Collection is in two parts, and contains various physical mediums (cassette tapes, photographs and photo-copied correspondence) pertaining to the activities of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (I.U.M.M.S.W.), and the Northern Workers' Adult Education Association (N.W.A.E.A.). Mr. Solski is a former President of the I.U.M.M.S.W. and collected this material for his book, "Mine Mill: the history of the I.U.M.M.S.W. in Canada since 1895".

Scope/Contents:

The first part of the collection consists of eight files of the Northern Workers' Adult Education Association (N.W.A.E.A.) salvaged by Mr. Solski from among the records of the Extension Department of Sudbury University (now Laurentian University) which he donated to Special Collections in 1988. The N.W.A.E.A. traces its origins to a union leadership course offered in 1957 by the Extension Department, whose purpose it was to promote adult education amongst working people in the Sudbury, Ontario area. The Association sponsored lectures, short courses and study clubs, which tended to be critical of what was perceived to be a communist infiltration of Local 598 of the I.U.M.M.S.W..

The second part of the collection contains: two Charters of the I.U.M.M.S.W.; twelve photographs of Union members and union functions; and a collection of 75 cassette tapes relating to his union's activities which date from 1958 to 1966 (a binder describing the content and date of each tape accompanies the collection).

The Mike Solski Collection provides an interesting perspective in the development of the I.U.M.M.S.W. in Canada.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	ii
Scope/Contents	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Inventory:	
Subject Files: Northern Workers' Adult Education Association	1
Charters	1
Photographs	2
Sound Recordings	3

FILES: NORTHERN WORKERS' ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

- 1 - 1 Two essays (1982, 1985): Hogan, Brian F. Hard Rock and Hard Decisions: Catholics, Community and the I.U.M.M.S.W. - Sudbury Confrontations. Unpublished, 1985. Arnopoulous, Sheila M. Chapter Seven, Voices from French Ontario. Montreal: Queen's University, 1982.
- 1 - 2 Various photo-copied items (1959-61): Correspondence regarding the Extension Program; class lists; course outline; press release; Canadian Labour Congress briefs, trade union newsletter, and Court Order.
- 1 - 3 N.W.A.E.A.: 1958-62
Course on Communism
- 1 - 4 N.W.A.E.A.: 1960-61
Discussion Groups on Communism
- 1 - 5 N.W.A.E.A.: 1963-67
Attendance sheets; phone lists; By-laws regulating Association; annual membership roll.
- 1 - 6 N.W.A.E.A.: 1960-66
Various photocopied Correspondence regarding union leadership program: United Steelworkers of America, University of Sudbury, Dept. of Labour.
- 1 - 7 N.W.A.E.A.: 1960-63
Meeting notices and agenda; correspondence regarding functions.
- 1 - 8 N.W.A.E.A.: no date
Copies of two speeches (French, English) concerning Communism.

CHARTERS: INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MINE AND SMELTER WORKERS

- 2 - 1: Alberta Nitrogen Products Union No. 690 (March 1944)
Calgary Metal Workers' Union, No. 800 (May 1944).

PHOTOGRAPHS: INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MINE AND SMELTER WORKERS

The persons in this series of photographs are identified by an accompanying list.

- BC1916-01 April 24, 1949: First Conference of the Alberta Mine
Mill Union, Calgary, Alberta (25 x 20 cm).
- BC1916-02 March 5-7, 1953: Fifth Annual Canadian
I.U.M.M.S.W. Convention, Calgary, Alberta (20 x 20 cm).
- BC1916-03 January 18-20, 1954: Eleventh Annual Convention
of the I.U.M.M.S.W., Vancouver, B.C. (47 x 18 cm).
- BC1916-04 March 1954: Sixth Annual convention of the I.U.M.M.S.W.
Delegates to the Convention, Port Colburne, Ontario (25 x 19 cm).
- BC1916-05 July 18-23, 1955: Seventh Annual Canadian Constituent Convention
of the I.U.M.M.S.W., Rossland, B.C. Delegates to the Convention
(25 x 17 cm).
- BC1916-06 February 25, 1957: Eighth Annual Canadian Convention of the
I.U.M.M.S.W. Sudbury, Ontario. Delegates to the Convention (20 x
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cm).
- BC1916-08 September 18-20, 1961: Twelfth Annual Canadian Convention of the
I.U.M.M.S.W., Edmonton, Alberta
(40 x 20 cm).
- BC1916-09 District Two Convention, Local 598, Mine Mill, I.U.M.M.S.W.,
Sudbury, Ontario.
- BC1916-10 57th Convention of the I.U.M.M.S.W., The King Edward Hotel,
Toronto, Ontario (35 x 17 cm).
- BC1916-11 Third Annual District Two Convention, I.U.M.M.S.W., Local 598,
Mine Mill, Sudbury, Ontario. Delegates to the Convention (25 x 10
cm).

BC1916-121964 The Twentieth Annual Convention of the Western District
I.U.M.M.S.W., Vancouver, B.C. (36 x 23 cm).

TAPES:

SP 47 (1-74) 1958-66: Copies of 75 cassette tapes of "Local Labour Shows and
News Reports", recorded by Dave Lehto, a Local 598 Steward at Mine
Mill. Mike Solski made these copies from the original set at the
National Archives of Canada.

2 - 2 Binder: listing and description of the above 75 tapes (105
pages).

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