

Papers of
Hilda W. Smith
1884 - 1972

Accession Numbers: 64-5, 64-11, 65-18, 76-4

The papers were given to the Library by Hilda W. Smith in 1963 and 1964. Also filed with the papers is "A Seven Year Narrative: My Years in OEO, 1965-1972" by Hilda W. Smith, donated by John Boni in 1975. Literary property rights have not been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 17 linear feet (approximately 34,000 pages)

Restrictions: None

Related Material: Correspondence with Hilda Smith may be found in the papers of John Carmody and Eleanor Roosevelt. Related material may also be found in OF 444 FERA and OF 444c WPA in the President's papers.

Transcripts of four oral history interviews: interview with Miss Smith done by the Roosevelt Library, interview with Miss Smith by Ashley Doherty, Bryn Mawr, Class of 1971, and two interviews with Miss Smith and other individuals involved in workers' education by Alice Hoffman of the Pennsylvania State University Oral History Project.

With the exception of her FERA and WPA work, the Library has only fragments of Miss Smith's papers relating to her various activities. Other collections of her papers are located at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Rutgers University and the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College. See the Appendix for an inventory of the Hilda W. Smith papers at Radcliffe.

Hilda Worthington ("Jane") Smith was born in New York on June 19, 1888. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Bryn Mawr College in 1910 and a masters' degree from the same institution the following year, having studied economics, psychology and philosophy. Later she continued her studies at the New York School of Social Work, earning a diploma in 1915. In 1916 Miss Smith became Director of the Bryn Mawr Community Center and from 1919 to 1922 served as Dean at Bryn Mawr College. In 1921 Miss Smith was named Director of the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers, a pioneer school in the field of workers' education. Her growing interest in this area of education resulted in her appointment as Chairman and Director of the Affiliated Schools for Workers (later the American Labor Education Service), a group of cooperating resident workers' schools. In 1929, Miss Smith established the Vineyard Shore Workers' School at her family's home in West Park, New York. However after four years this school closed for financial reasons. In 1939, the Hudson Shore Labor School (formerly the Bryn Mawr Summer School) moved to the Smith property in West Park. No longer affiliated with Bryn Mawr, this school served both men and women from industry and the service trades. It was taken over by Rutgers University in 1952 and merged with its Labor-Management program.

Miss Smith worked for Bryn Mawr College and the Affiliated Schools until 1933 when she was appointed a Specialist in Workers' Education under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. She became Director of the Workers' Service Program when the workers' education program was continued under the Works Progress Administration. Under her direction, centers were established in 35 states to train unemployed teachers, many with no prior experience in workers' education, in working with labor. Also schools and camps were organized to educate approximately 8,000 unemployed women. Jurisdiction over the latter program was transferred to the National Youth Administration in 1937. From 1939 until its termination in 1943 the Workers' Service Program became more involved in projects relating to national defense.

From 1943 to 1945, Hilda Smith was Chief of the Project Service Section of the Federal Public Housing Administration, an advisory service in education and recreation. She resigned this position to serve as Chairman of the National Committee for the Extension of Labor Education, an organization lobbying for legislation to establish a Labor Extension Service under the Department of Labor. Miss Smith worked for this proposal until 1951 when it became clear that the bill would not pass Congress. Later, she became interested in services for the elderly, working for the New York State Education Department on a program of Recreation for the Elderly. From 1965 to 1972 she served as a consultant to the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington.

Miss Smith's papers at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library date mainly from the period of her government service under the FERA and the WPA and

include incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes of meetings, records of office interviews, newspaper clippings, songbooks, student magazines, printed and processed material such as articles, publicity materials, procedural issuances, forms, and other publications, as well as school books and family memorabilia. Also included are copies of two manuscripts written by Miss Smith, "Workers' Education in the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Work Projects Administration" and "A Seven Year Narrative: My Years in O.E.O., 1965-1972." The papers are divided into eight series, as follows:

Containers

Series

1 - 25

I. WORKERS' SERVICE PROGRAM: FERA AND WPA, 1932-1943

Incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, records of office interviews, statistical data, printed and processed material such as forms, procedural issuances, publications of the WPA and other federal agencies, newspaper clippings, articles, and teaching materials, arranged alphabetically by subject. An index roughly describing the content of these files, from Miss Smith's service in the FERA and the WPA, is located in Container I. Incoming correspondence is located mainly in files on public relations, individuals, and states. Previously unarranged WPA material was interfiled among the existing subject headings. Files on schools for women, once a part of this series, were returned to Miss Smith at her request in 1964. A chronological file of outgoing correspondence, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, and display materials are located at the end of the series. Related material may be found in Series II.

26-28

II. REPORT ON WORKERS' EDUCATION FOR FORD FOUNDATION

In 1952, Miss Smith received a grant from the Ford Foundation to compile the records of 30 years of workers' education. The records thus collected, with the exception of the FERA and WPA papers which came to this Library, were sent to the Wisconsin State Historical Society; Rutgers University received a duplicate set. This series consists of Miss Smith's monograph, "Workers' Education in the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Work Projects Administration," written under Ford Foundation sponsorship, accompanied by folders of supportive material arranged according to subject. This material,

Containers

Series

26-28
(con't)

dated 1933-1945, includes copies of correspondence, reports, memoranda, minutes, statistical material, articles and printed material such as FERA and WPA forms, issuances, publications, and publicity material. Related material may be found in Series I.

29-32

III. RESIDENT SCHOOLS FOR WORKERS, 1921-1957

Correspondence, reports, minutes, publicity material, articles, and school publications such as bibliographies, songbooks and student magazines, arranged alphabetically by organization. Includes material related to the Bryn Mawr Summer School, the Vineyard Shore Workers' School, the Hudson Shore Labor School and the Affiliated Schools for Workers. Articles and publications on resident workers' schools are filed in Series VI.

33

IV. FEDERAL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY, 1943-1945

A small amount of correspondence, memoranda, reports, and minutes from the period of Miss Smith's service with the Federal Public Housing Authority. Also an index to other FPHA papers not at this Library. See Appendix for listing of FPHA papers at Radcliffe College.

33-35

V. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EXTENSION OF LABOR EDUCATION, 1943-1951

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, minutes, publicity material, copies of bills introduced in Congress, testimony in Congressional hearings, and newspaper clippings, concerning the lobbying campaign headed by Miss Smith to establish a Labor Extension Service.

36-37

VI. PUBLICATIONS, 1921-1961

Articles and other publications concerning labor matters, especially education for workers.

Containers

Series

38

VII. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Xerox copy of "A Seven Year Narrative: My Years in O.E.O., 1965-1972" by Hilda W. Smith, describing her experiences as consultant to the Office of Economic Opportunity, written at the time of her retirement.

39-43

VIII. PERSONAL FILE, 1884-1969

Correspondence with friends and associates (1914-1968), family account books (1884-1905), Hilda Smith's baby book, childhood school books and exercise books, an autograph book, Sunday School hymnal, scrapbook, and newspaper clippings. A postcard collection, dating from the early 1900's and engraving plates depicting various labor activities, possibly of the Hudson Shore Labor School.

I. WORKERS SERVICE PROGRAM, FERA AND WPA, 1932-1943

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Index Books and Reading Carmody, John Conferences (1932-1936)
2	Conferences (1937-1938) Conferences (1939-1942) Course Outlines Defense Programs
3	Endorsements Federal Agencies, Related Forms Field Trips Hull House Conference (1940)
4	In-service Training Inter-office Communications Inter-Project Committee Job Seekers Labor Advisory Committee Legislation
5	New York City Program (File #1) New York City Program (File #2) Newsletter
6	Newspaper Publicity (1936) Newspaper Publicity (1937) Office Interviews (1935) Office Interviews (1936)
7	Office Interviews (1937) Office Interviews (1938-1939) Office Interviews (A - B) Office Interviews (C - D) Office Interviews (E - F) Office Interviews (G - H) Office Interviews (I - J) Office Interviews (K - L) Office Interviews (M - N)

I. WORKERS SERVICE PROGRAM - con't

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
8	Office Interviews (O - P) Office Interviews (Q - R) Office Interviews (S - T) Office Interviews (U-V-W) Office Interviews (X-Y-Z) Organization and Management (1933) Organization and Management (1934) Organization and Management (1935-1936)
9	Organization and Management (1937) Organization and Management (1938-1939) Organization and Management (1940) Organization and Management (1941-1943) Organization and Management (Undated) Public Relations - Civic Groups
10	Public Relations - Farmers Public Relations - Federal Agencies Public Relations - General Public Relations - International Public Relations - Labor (1933-1938) Public Relations - Labor (1939-1943)
11	Public Relations - Schools Publications
12	Publicity (1933-1935) Publicity (1936) Publicity (1937-1938) Publicity (1939-1940)
13 and 13A	Publicity (1941-1943) Reports - Community Service Division Reports - Education Division Roosevelt, Eleanor Schools for Women Schools for Women - Interviews Starr, Mark (ILGWU)
14	States - General States - Alabama - Illinois
15	States - Indiana - Minnesota

I. WORKERS SERVICE PROGRAM: - con't

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
16	States - Mississippi - Pennsylvania
17	States - Rhode Island - Wyoming Statistics (1934-1935) Statistics (1936-1942)
18	Supervisors Supervisors' Reports Teaching Materials Training Centers (1934)
19	Training Centers (1935) (2 folders) Training Centers (1936-1941) Williams, Aubrey Chronological File (February 1938) Chronological File (March 1938)
20	Chronological File (April 1938) Chronological File (May 1938) Chronological File (June 1938) Chronological File (July-August 1938) Chronological File (September-October 1938)
21	Chronological File (November-December 1938) Chronological File (January-February 1939) Chronological File (March-April 1939) Chronological File (May-June 1939) Chronological File (1941-1942) Personal File (H.W.S.), 1941-1942
22	Four Scrapbooks of Newspaper Clippings, 1934-1936
23	Two Scrapbooks of Newspaper Clippings, 1936-1939
24	Notes on State Projects and Personnel (5 by 8-inch cards)
25*	Visual Aid Material (<i>top of shelves</i>)

*Oversize

II. REPORT ON WORKERS' EDUCATION FOR FORD FOUNDATION

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
26	Proposal for Study "Workers' Education in the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Work Projects Administration" by Hilda W. Smith Five folders of Illustrative Material including reports, charts, magazine pictures, publicity material
27	Selected References on Workers' Education Under FERA and WPA Folder A General Background on Workers' Education Folder B Specific Background of FERA and WPA Programs Folder C Policies and Procedures Folder D Conferences and Reports Folder E Supervisors' Training
28	Folder F Teacher Training Folder G Resident Schools and Camps for Women* Folder H Bulletins and Publications Folder I Selected State Reports and Materials Folder J The Proposed Labor Extension Service

III. RESIDENT SCHOOLS FOR WORKERS

29	Affiliated Schools for Workers American Labor Education Service Barnard Summer School Bryn Mawr Summer School: Correspondence and Reports, 1921-1938 Bryn Mawr Summer School and Hudson Shore Labor School: Correspondence and Reports, 1939-1951
30	Bryn Mawr Summer School: Publications and Publicity Material (2 folders) Highlander Folk School
31	Hudson Shore Labor School: Publications and Publicity Material (2 folders)
32	Vineyard Shore Workers School: Correspondence and Reports, 1929-1939 Vineyard Shore Workers School: Publications and Publicity Material William Roy Smith Memorial Fund

*File returned to Miss Smith

IV. FEDERAL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
33	Federal Public Housing Authority: Correspondence Federal Public Housing Authority: Index Federal Public Housing Authority: Jobs and Job Seekers

V. NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE EXTENSION OF LABOR EDUCATION

33 (con't)	National Committee for the Extension of Labor Education: Correspondence National Committee for the Extension of Labor Education: Reports, Minutes, Memoranda, etc. Labor Extension Service Bill: Bills in Congress
34	Labor Extension Service Bill: Publicity (scrapbook)
35	Labor Extension Service Bill: Publicity Labor Extension Service Bill: Testimony Before House and Senate (3 folders)

VI. PUBLICATIONS

36	CIO Publications Cooperative Movement Educational Conference of UNO International Workers' Education President's Commission on Higher Education: Report on Organization and Expansion of Higher Education Taft-Hartley Act U.S. Labor Press Service Publications
37	Labor and Workers' Education

VII. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

38	"A Seven Year Narrative: My Years in OEO, 1965-1972" by Hilda W. Smith (binder)
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VIII. PERSONAL FILE

39	Personal File (Correspondence and other material), 1914-1968 Letters From Abroad Speaking Engagements Biographical Material Miscellaneous Clippings
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VIII. PERSONAL FILE - con't

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
40	Childhood Exercise Books Schoolbooks
41	Scrapbook with samples of dress material Hilda W. Smith's baby book Sunday School Hymnal Smith Family Account books, 1884-1905 Autograph book
42	Engraving Plates depicting various labor activities (Hudson Shore Labor School?)
43	Postcard Collection

Accession No. 79-7

Received October 10, 17, 18 and 19, 1978

Accretion to the papers of Hilda Smith, consisting of printed materials, including Miss Smith's autobiography, Opening Vistas in Workers' Education, and volumes of her poems and of her writings on workers education. Donated by Hilda Smith. 1954-78, and undated. Ca. 1000 pages.