

Scope and Content

Records of the American Fund for Public Service include internal and external correspondence of members of the board of directors, the treasurer, and legal counsel; board of directors meeting minutes, 1922–1941; several committee reports and surveys, 1923–1939; memorandums and reports on policy, 1922–1932; auditors' reports, 1922–1941; lists of appropriations and loans, 1922–1941; and application files for each individual and organization requesting assistance. Grant and loan application files account for 70% of the collection and contain the correspondence of the applicant with the Fund and often a variety of supporting materials such as reports, memoranda, publications, financial records and leaflets, as well as comments by Fund officials regarding the application. Almost every progressive group active between 1922 and 1941 is represented among the Fund's applicants, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, American Birth Control League, the Brookwood, Commonwealth, and Manumit Labor Colleges, the Vanguard Press, *The Liberator*, *The Daily Worker*, the United Mine Workers, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and defense committees for the Scottsboro Boys, Sacco and Vanzetti, and Tom Mooney. The Application Files are divided into two series: **Applications Approved** and **Applications Refused**. Each series is further divided into four time periods: 1922–1927, 1928–1933, 1934–1938, and 1939–1941. In the **Applications Approved** series, the files for each time period are separated into two subseries, **Gifts and Loans**, each with its own alphabetical arrangement. The files in the **Applications Refused** series are arranged alphabetically by the name of the applicant for each of the four time periods.

Researchers should note the following idiosyncracies of this collection:

- 1) Correspondence concerning loans that were eventually canceled can often be found in the subseries **Gifts**.
- 2) The chronological periods into which files are divided indicate the years during which an appropriation was made or a loan repaid or canceled. In many cases the correspondence in the files extends beyond the limits of the period indicated.
- 3) Reports from grantees, which were too lengthy to be included in the application files, can be found at the end of the **Applications Approved** series.