Collection #
M 1103

UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1918

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	**Manuscript Materials**: 1 document case **Visual Materials**: 1 photograph box, 1 OVA photograph box
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1918
PROVENANCE:	Robert L. Elliott, Wabash, Indiana, 1985
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	World War I Poster Collection (P 0131)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1985.0716
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

United States Food Administration:

During World War I Congress passed the Food and Fuel Control Act, also known as the Lever Act. President Woodrow Wilson, with authority granted to him by this act, created the U.S. Food Administration. It operated in each state to assure the supply, distribution, and conservation of food, prevent monopolies and hoarding, and maintain governmental power over food. Wilson also created two subsidiaries, the U.S. Grain Corporation and the U.S. Sugar Equalization Board.

Herbert Hoover, former head of the Belgian Relief Organization, lobbied for and won the job of administrator of the U.S. Food Administration. Hoover took total charge of the distribution, export, import, purchase, and storage of food. He received no pay for his work, believing that it gave him the moral authority to ask all Americans to make sacrifices for the war effort. “Food,” Hoover and the administration proclaimed, “will win the war.”

The Food Administration Advertising Section used patriotism and the “spirit of self sacrifice” to create posters that encouraged Americans to be patriotic and eat healthier foods, and save wheat, meat, sugar and fats for the army and allies. Americans were urged to try new foods, plant victory gardens and sign pledge cards testifying that they would never waste food.

This patriotic appeal for Americans to sacrifice and increase food production and decrease food consumption was successful. By 1918 the United States was exporting three times as much breadstuffs, meat, and sugar as it had prior to the war.

Sources:

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/sow-seeds/

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains paperwork and photographs concerning work of the U.S. Food Administration during World War I. Most of the material is focused on women and their role in food production for the war effort.

The materials were found in disorder and were organized into topics by the processors. Many photographs are accompanied by typed text. The text that is taken from the photographs is transcribed in quotation marks, processors comments are in square brackets.

Series 1, Indiana Materials: contains membership lists, forms, instructions, a formal certificate of appointment, speeches, and organization chart concerning Indiana's role with the U.S. Food Administration. The photographs in this series show the Indiana State Council of Defense and office workers at the Indiana State House.

Series 2, U.S. Food Administration Photographs: contains images of the administrators of the U.S. Food Administration including Herbert Hoover and the Indiana administrator, H.E. Barnard. There are also photos of graphs concerning food production and prices; food exhibits and demonstrations; Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts; food workers; the struggles in Belgium and France; sugar production; posters and political cartoons.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Indiana Materials, ca. 1918

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
"Acceptance of Appointment as President of U.S. Food Club…" [form] "Membership File" [instructions] [formal certificate of appointment] [Organization chart of the U.S. Food Administration for Indiana]	Box 1, Folder 1
[Indiana county and township presidents]	Box 1, Folder 2
[speech concerning Indiana's role for U.S. Food Club]	Box 1, Folder 3
[speech concerning publicity campaign for food]	Box1, Folder 4
[speech concerning soldiers returning to civilian life]	Box 1, Folder 5
Indiana State Council of Defense: [group photo] [people working in Indiana State House offices] [photographs taken by Bretzman]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 18

Series 2: U.S. Food Administration Photographs, ca. 1918

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Administrators/Headquarters/Symbol: [U.S. Food Administration symbol] "Home of the United States Food Administration, National Headquarters of the U.S. Food Clubs" [individual and group portraits of administrators including Herbert Hoover and H.E. Barnard administrator for Indiana]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Graphs: [showing production, price and need for various food products including meat and grain]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Graphs and Map: [graphs about food prices] [map illustrating distance from U. S. to Europe closer than distance from other food producing countries]	OVA Photographs Box 1 Folder 1
Washington & Lincoln: [portraits with written statement using Lincoln's words "by the people" to show that it was everyone's patriotic duty to save food]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 3
Exhibits: [showing uses of cornmeal, substitutes for butter, conserving meat, and wheat, and preserving food]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
Food Demonstrations & Exhibits, Washington, D.C.: "Official Uniform of the Food Conservation Section of the Food Administration" [woman modeling uniform] [community food demonstrations] [food conservation exhibitions in public libraries]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5
Food Displays: [U. S. Food Administration display at Chicago] [food displays at public libraries] [display about sending food to Europe] [substitutes for wheat and planting a garden]	OVA Photographs Box 1 Folder 2
Girl Scouts and Boy Scout: [Girl Scouts in front of U. S. Food Administration] "Girl Scouts of Washington in Food Conservation uniform learning to use perishable foods" [Boy Scout showing produce that he canned]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6
U. S. Food Administration Workers: [canning food, storefront exhibit, group of men preparing soup]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7
New York: [copy of a poster showing Mrs. Oliver Harriman using a dehydrating machine] "The War-Bread Wagon, New York City Food Aid Committee"	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8
Drying Food: [different methods of drying food]	OVA Photographs Box 1 Folder 3

A.L.A. Meeting:
"U. S. Food Administration Booth, American Library Association Meeting, Saratoga, New York, July 6–12, 1918"

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

New York State Woman Suffrage Party:
"Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, wife of the well known banker, and chairman of the Twelfth Campaign District of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, at work in her kitchen"
"Mrs. John Blair, Director of Publicity of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party" [conserving food in her kitchen]
"Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Honorary Pres. Natl. Amer. Wom. Suf. Assn. & Chairman of the Women's Council of National Defense"

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Pennsylvania Train Exhibit:
"Pennsylvania Food Conservation Train"
[exhibit on the train illustrating] "uses of fats saved in the household"

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 11

A&P Food Pledge Campaign:
[display that appeared in all Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company stores during the Food Pledge Week]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 12

Women Farm Workers:
"American girls learning to use tractors in order to increase the country's food supply at the National Service School, Inc., of the Women's Naval Service, Inc."
[Pictures of women performing various farm jobs]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 13

Sugar Production and List:
[farms, equipment, interior and exterior views of mills and factories, taken in the Philippines, Porto Rico, Cuba, Brazil, and Argentina]
[numbered list identifying the photographs, photographs are numbered on the verso]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 14

Belgium and France:
[conserving food and feeding children in Belgium]
[women and crippled veterans farming in France]
[statement lauding the "Heroic Women of France"]

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 15

England and France: [harvesting crops] [German destruction in France]	OVA Photographs Box 1 Folder 4
Posters: [photos of posters produced by the Food Administration emphasizing patriotism, urging people to conserve food, use substitutions for meat, wheat, sugar, and fats, and produce more food through increased farm work]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 16
Political Cartoons: [cartoons illustrating that conserving food and working on farm were acts of great patriotism]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 17
Poster and Cartoons: [copy of poster asking people to send wheat to the soldiers] [newspaper cartoons with Br'er Tater and other characters using humorous dialect to encourage people to save food for the soldiers]	OVA Photographs Box1 Folder 5
Art Institute of Chicago Posters: [copies of posters by Art Institute telling people to save wheat, meat and sugar, sign up for farm work, and victory will mean a new democratic Germany]	OVA Photographs Box 1 Folder 6

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1103).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.