

Title: Freie Gemeinde Collection

Call Number: Mss-1594

Inclusive Dates: 1870 – 1971

Bulk: 1.9 cu. ft. total

Location: GV, Sh. 29A (1.5 cu. ft.)
RC27, Sh. 003 (0.4 cu. ft.)
OS SM "F" (1 item)

Historical Note: The Freie Gemeinde of Milwaukee, a German-American free-thinkers and musical society, was formed April 7, 1867, and chartered Feb. 5, 1868. The society built and furnished a hall on Fourth Street in 1870 which housed their library and reading room, and was the site of society sponsored dances and lectures. In 1928 the Freie Gemeinde dedicated their headquarters, Jefferson Hall, on Fond du Lac Avenue which served as the society's social and entertainment center. The society also put out a German-English publication, *Das Freie Wort /The Voice of Freedom*.

Administrative Note: The collection was reprocessed on Jan. 21, 1991 by Mary B. Rieder. Material was added to the collection on Feb. 8, 1996 and processed by Steve Daily. The finding aid was retyped on September 27, 2011.

Note: Some items were transferred to Sm Mss German-American Press

Contents	Box #	Folder #
Minutes and financial reports, 1937-39	1	Binder 1
Minutes and financial reports, 1940-43	1	Binder 2
Minutes and financial reports, 1945-48	1	Binder 3
Minutes and financial reports, 1934-48	1	Volume 1
Minutes and financial reports, 1948-52	1	Volume 2
Treasurer's account book, 1965-68	1	Volume 3
Anniversary and Commemorative programs – Freie Gemeinde 70th – 100 th – Jefferson Hall dedication and 25th Anniversary	2	1
Concert programs, 1871-1944	2	2
German songbook, n.d.; Nov. 5, 1870 West Side Turn Hall	2	3
Film rental receipts and correspondence, 1942-45	2	4
Miscellaneous receipts, 1942-44	2	5
Other Unites States Freie Gemeinde affiliates	2	6
European Freidenker publications, clippings, 1870, 1933	2	7
Miscellaneous – correspondence, dance cards, publications, certificates, membership card, clippings – constitution, 1949	2	8

<i>Das Freie Wort/Voice of Freedom</i>	Box #	Folder #
Scattered issues Feb. 1934 – Jan. 1951. (Note: December 1943 issue found bound in a concert program in file 2 of Box 1) Bound volume Feb. 1953 – Jan. 1957 Single issues Feb. 1957 – March 1971 (Text of early issues is all in German, in 1941 it switches to all English, in 1948 it became half German and half English)	2	Loose in box
Oversize Items	Location	
50th Anniversary Certificate, Freie Gemeinde Milwaukee, n.d.	OS SM "F"	
Songbooks- tied bundle of songbooks	RC 27 Sh. 3	