

Title: Melms, Edmund T. Papers

Manuscript Number: Mss-0912

Inclusive Dates: 1915 – 1933

Bulk: 0.4 cu ft.

Location: ER, Sh. 010

Abstract: Edmund T. Melms was one of the pioneers of the Socialist Party of America and organizer of the Socialist Party of Milwaukee County. He was instrumental in developing the local party from a few hundred members to nearly five thousand. He served as secretary of the County Central Body for twelve years, was elected for eight years to the board of alderman and acted as president of the aldermanic board during the Seidel administration, 1911-1912. He was elected sheriff of Milwaukee County in 1915-1916 and came within a few thousand votes of being elected congressman in the fourth congressional district of Wisconsin. He was a member of the National Executive committee of the Socialist Party of America and was in charge of 50 local branches in Milwaukee County. He died in 1933.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of correspondence, both personal and relating to Socialist Party issues, Socialist Party books, tracts, and music, as well as material related to Melms' law enforcement activities.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English.

Administrative Note: Finding aid updated October 2014

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Biographical information; undated.	1	1
Correspondence, 1917-1928, primarily Socialist Party business.	1	2
Correspondence, cards and letters of condolence and funeral related material.	1	3
Notes and information. 1917 Pulaski Hall raid.	1	4
Legal papers. 1915-1920. Summons, eviction notice, jail record, etc.	1	5
Certificate. Sept. 25, 1919 Credential to American Freedom Collection.	1	6
Prison Material. 1915. Sociological information on crime and general prison efficiency material.	1	7
Notes and information. General law enforcement material and a test for deputy sheriff position.	1	8
Socialist songs and tracts undated transcripts.	1	9
Books and pamphlets: 1912-1922, Socialist Party books, pamphlets and leaflets	1	10
News clippings, 1915-1933. Newspaper clippings on Melms' career, as well as clippings related to his prison work.	1	11
Miscellaneous. 1916-1932. Notes, receipts, maps, Congressional Record, fire insurance and workman's compensation information. Undated.	1	12