

Title: Untermann, Ernest Papers

Reference Code: Mss-1482

Inclusive Dates: 1921 – 1955

Quantity: 0.3 cu. ft.

Location: ER, Sh. 022

Abstract: Ernest Untermann was born in Prussia in 1864. He studied geology and paleontology at the University of Berlin, but after graduation, the only work he could find was on several sailing vessels. He also served a brief stint in the German military, which fostered a desire within Untermann to abolish the “ruling class.” He emigrated to the United States and became a U.S. citizen in 1893. He established himself as an editor for several Socialist publications, translator (he was the first to translate Karl Marx’s *Das Kapital*) and author. He came to Milwaukee and worked as foreign affairs editor for Victor Berger’s Socialist newspaper, *The Milwaukee Leader*, during World War I and from 1921 through 1929. After he left the *Leader*, Untermann served as director of Milwaukee’s Washington Park Zoo. He eventually moved west where he focused on artistic endeavors. He was an accomplished painter of landscapes and prehistoric flora and fauna. Untermann died in Vernal, Utah, on January 5, 1956.

Scope and Content: The collection contains articles and a manuscript authored by Untermann, correspondence, newsletters and newspaper clippings regarding Untermann’s Socialist activities, his views on world politics and the economy and his time as zoo director. Correspondents include Eugene Dietzgen, Dan Hoan, Ralph Korngold and William Bohn, editor of *The New Leader*.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English, German

Notes: The collection was processed by Kevin Geary, February 25, 1992.

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Articles by Ernest Untermann	1	1
- “The New Economy”		
- “Art and Economics”		
- “An Epic of Democracy”		
- “The Quest for the Perfect Party”		
- “The American Way of Life”		
- “Unity, Our Distant Ideal”		
- “Tackling the Impossible”		
- “My Approach to Socialism”		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Impact of Reality" - "Past, Present and Future of Russian Communism" - "Navigating the Political Seas" - "The Fatal Cost of Hindsight" - "How a Physicist Turns Into a Metaphysicist" - "The Master Race" - "Waiting for the Push" - "The Acid Test" - "The Reign of Law" - "Double-Edged Slogans" - "Words and Facts" - "A Distant Spectre" (incomplete) - "The Next Economic Stage" - "Goodbye Philosophy" - "Facts and Make-Believe" - "Incomplete Revaluations" - "The Power Game" - "Old Dope, New Bottle" - "Unconditional Futility" - "The Better Truth" - "The Inevitable Handicap" - "Democracy at Bay" - "Coming Alignments" - "The Blight of the Past" - "Cross Purpose" - "Omens of the Future" - "Relativity" - "Social Relativity" - "A Few Searching Questions" - "The Missing Science" - "Pilgrim Joe's Progress" - "Napoleon and Hitler" - "Free your Heads" - "The Dawn of Truth" - "Thunder on the Left" - "Democracy and Prosperity" - "Looking Forward with Handicaps" - "Isolationism and Internationalism" - "Baffled Leaders" - "Co-operation with Fingers Crossed" - "Moscow Clarifies Things" - "Prelude to a Tragedy" - "Suggestions for a Socialist Platform, 1943-44" - "The Expected Arrives" - "Perpetual Futility" - "Dietzgen's Advance in Thinking" 		
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Manuscript: "The Tragedy of Marxism" (submitted to <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , August 18, 1947)	1	2
Newspaper clippings, 1940-1947 (re politics and zoo)	1	3
Zoo Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Our Friends at the Zoo" newsletter, 1937-1941 - "Washington Park Zoological Garden, Animals in Collection," October 1, 1939 (list) 	1	4
General Correspondence, 1921-1952	1	5