

Cambridge Committee for Plan E Scrapbooks

Cambridge Historical Commission
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Provenance: A box containing several scrapbooks and some mixed papers in folders and tied in bundles was deaccessioned by the library at the Littauer School. It was then acquired by the Cambridge Historical Commission.

Collection ID: N/A. Located in labeled CHC file drawer.

Dates: 1930-1950

Extent: 1 drawer

Processing: Finding aid by Laura O'Hara, August 1990. Finding aid reformatted by Brittany Fox, October 2020.

Languages: English

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use.

Collection Description:

These scrapbooks contain clippings and campaign material from the period of debate over the City charter. They were compiled by Herman C. Loeffler, a member of the Cambridge Committee for Plan E. As a member of this committee, the compiler probably had a bias for Plan E and did not have access to as much material against Plan E as vice versa. The tied bundle of paper was a later addition to the collection and was added by the Library. The original source of this information is unknown. A quick way of determining the contents of the scrapbooks is to examine the front matter of each item. This information is listed below as well as a brief summary of the actual contents of the scrapbooks.

Physical Access:

As a preservation measure, researchers must view the reference set of photocopied reproductions of the scrapbooks rather than the originals.

Scope and Content:

Tied bundle (label tied up with papers)

“Misc. papers on Camb. Charter version 1909-1911

Might put in p.r. under Cambridge”

[this is exactly what it says it is]

Volume I

[cover] Cambridge 1938 Plan-E Campaign

[verso] Harvard University, January 9, 1945. Graduate School of Public Administration

[this is a stamp later shown as HUGSPA stamp]

Gift of Herman and Helen Loeffler, Mary L. Allen, and Nathalia Lautner of the Cambridge Committee for Plan E

[titlepage] Cambridge Plan E, Compiled by Herman C. Loeffler, Vol. I

Clippings from Greater Boston newspapers, publicity materials by Cambridge Committee for Plan E and opposition groups, etc. 1937-1940

[The clippings in this scrapbook include information about plans for University City in which it is proposed that Harvard become a separate body from Cambridge, the Lampoon burlesque which was inspired by the debate, the debates between advocates of Plan E and the opposition, and the first election and the ensuing recount.]

Volume II

[verso] same as Vol. II

[titlepage] Cambridge Plan E, Compiled by Herman C. Loeffler, V.II

Clippings from the Cambridge Chronicle, etc., 1940

[The clippings in this scrapbook are mostly concerned with the budget of the City]

Volume III

[cover] Cambridge 1940 Plan E Campaign

[titlepage] Vol. III, Cambridge Plan E.

Clippings from newspapers and materials issued by the Cambridge Committee for Plan E, 1940 Campaign

[This scrapbook contains information from the second campaign for Plan E. Much campaign literature and campaign documentation is included]

Volume IV

[cover] Plan E (Cambridge, Mass)

[verso] Vol. IV, Cambridge Plan E

Clippings from newspapers, Nov 1940 to March 1941 [HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 194?]

[This scrapbook contains more general information about Plan E and from page 43 to the end follows the bribery scandal of Mayor Lyons, the last mayor before Plan E (this scandal is sometimes believe to be the reason that the campaign for Plan E succeeded)]

Volume V

[titlepage] Vol. V, Literature and Publicity for 1941, Campaign of Cambridge Committee for Plan E [HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 19??]

[This scrapbook continues the documentation of the Campaign for Plan E though it includes some pre-1938 literature and copies of Plan E legislation]

Volume VI

[verso] [HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 1948]

[title page] Vol. VI, Cambridge Plan E

Literature and Publicity for 1943 Campaign

[This scrapbook is also exactly what it says]

Volume VII

[verso] [HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 1948]

Vol. VII, Cambridge Plan E

Clippings from Jan. 1941 to Dec. 1942

[This scrapbook is also exactly what it says]

Volume VIII

[verso] [HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 1948]

[titlepage] Vol. VIII, Cambridge Plan E

Clippings from Feb 1943 to Nov 1943

[This scrapbook is also exactly what it says]

Volume IX

[titlepage] Vol. IX, Cambridge Plan E

Clippings from Nov 1943 to July 1945

[HUGSPA stamp - Feb 27, 1948]

[This scrapbook is also exactly what it says]

Processing Notes:

These scrapbooks are constructed of highly acidic paper and contain mostly newspaper clippings. Because of the deteriorating condition of the scrapbooks the decision was made to photocopy the collection so that the information could be preserved. The physical item was protected as much as possible during the processing but some damage was sustained. The actual items have been saved for reference when a need arises for examining the physical presentation of the material. The general process involved a brief examination of an individual item to determine the problems which would arise; preparation for these problems; the copying of each page, making any necessary reduction and as many copies as necessary to record the overlapping clippings; and the organization of the copies and storage of the originals.

Each problem had its own problems. Following is a summary of what action was taken with each volume.

- **Volume I:** Many loose articles, taped them in - deterioration is at such a height that the tape cannot do much more damage, mostly 84% reduction, copies of some loose items placed in the front because proper location could not be determined, if proper location is determined by a user corrections should be made
- **Volume II:** Los of overlapping articles, several copies for each page (numbered as 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc, wrote some notes on the copies about overlapping articles
- **Volume III:** Lots of items falling out because of the weakened state of the adhesive, copies of the loose items whose original location in volume could not be determined were placed at the front, mostly 84% reduction
- **Volume IV:** Straight forward copying at 86% reduction
- **Volume V:** Mostly 70% reduction, only some folding and overlapping
- **Volume VI:** No problems, 77% reduction
- **Volume VII:** Lots of overlapping, notes written by creator obscured by darkening of the paper
- **Volume VIII:** Lots of folded items, some overlap, mostly 75% reduction, very poorly constructed scrapbook with pieces lost or simply cut off
- **Volume IX:** Better constructed than others, few overlapping and “over” notes
- **Misc:** Seven pamphlets, 92% reduction, numbered these Pam 1 p1... instead of Vol I p1, this material predates Plan E so this folder goes first
- **Two folders of materials:** Some reductions, each folder is clipped together

The copies from each scrapbook were placed in individual folders. Though a separate folder was created for the copies of the booklet in Volume III, the booklets in Volume V, and the materials that were not in a scrapbook but in a separate folder. Each page of copied material was numbered in the bottom left hand corner. The format included a note of which volume, the page, and which portion of the original page. An example is: Vol X p Y.Z: X being the number of the volume which is the roman numeral assigned by previous owners of the volumes, Y being the page number (straight numerical order starting at the first leaf of the volume), and Z being the number representing order within the copies necessary for copying a single page of the scrapbook (made necessary by overlapping clippings). Pages in the scrapbook with no attached material are represented by a page in the copy which bears the note “[blank]” or a record of anything written on the page. This page is numbered in the same sequence as the rest of the copy.

With this processing report are copies of two items that were loose in the box so their proper location is indeterminable. If the location is identified by a user the copy should be properly marked and placed in the correct location. This action should be noted here as well.

Return to CHC Collections home:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>