

Bureau of Social Hygiene records

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Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository: Rockefeller Archive Center

Creator: Bureau of Social Hygiene. (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Bureau of Social Hygiene records

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Date [inclusive]: 1911-1940

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Material:

Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php

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Biographical/Historical note

The Bureau of Social Hygiene resulted from the appointment of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to a Special Grand Jury to investigate white slavery in New York City in 1910. In conferences taken in the course of this investigation, Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., became convinced that for a lasting improvement of conditions a permanent organization was needed. On March 22, 1911, The Committee of Three, including Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., Paul Warburg, and Starr Murphy, met. The name "Bureau of Social Hygiene" was first used in October of that year, but not consistently until 1913.

In 1913 the Bureau was incorporated and its purpose was stated as "...the study, amelioration, and prevention of those social conditions, crimes, and diseases which adversely affect the well being of society, with special reference to prostitution and the evils associated therewith." The Bureau would engage in research and education, publish reports, and employ and/or cooperate with other public or private agencies to obtain these goals. The emphasis in the years from 1911 until the reorganization of 1928 was mainly on prostitution, the control of vice, and, through that, the relationships to police organization. Narcotics was also an early interest. Throughout these early years, Katherine Bement Davis, Commissioner of Charities and Correction of New York and later Superintendent of Bedford Hills Reformatory, guided the Bureau as General Secretary.

Miss Davis resigned in 1928 and Lawrence B. Dunham was appointed Director. Under Mr. Dunham's administration, from 1928-1934, the Bureau developed a broadened interest in criminology. In 1929 the certificate of incorporation was amended and the emphasis on prostitution was dropped. Criminology embraced crime reporting, police training and education, penology, criminal law, and juvenile delinquency. While studies and projects were still conducted in narcotics and social hygiene, the main thrust of the organization was crime and criminology.

The Bureau functioned through grants. It was not a foundation and had no set endowment. In the very early years of its existence, financial backing came from several sources including Paul Warburg, the New York Foundation, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., although throughout the history of the Bureau, Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., was always the main contributor. Grants were occasionally channeled through the Bureau from the Spelman Fund of New York and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Grants were made by the Bureau for a variety of types of work. Research studies were conducted, such as the Institute of Criminology and the Crew Study; books were published, such as "European Police Systems" and "Policewoman's Handbook"; fellowships were given, as were the fellowships in prison study; and experiments were conducted at the Massachusetts State Prison Colony and the Laboratory of Social Hygiene at Bedford Hills. Grants were most often long range covering periods of from three to five years. Although the Bureau did not interfere in the conduct of a project once money had been granted, it was careful in its selection of projects and kept in close touch during the life of the project.

The Bureau ceased making new appropriations in 1934 and by mid-1937 all the previous commitments had been brought to a close. Annual meetings were held until 1940 when the Bureau was dissolved on November 13th.

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Scope and Contents note

Important subjects in this collection include: prostitution and white slavery, penal institutions and systems, juvenile delinquency, criminal law, police systems, police training, public administration, narcotics laws and control nationally and internationally, maternal health, sex education, birth control, uniform crime statistics, the relation of mental illness to crime, scientific criminal investigations, probation and parole.

Among the correspondents are: Raymond B. Fosdick, Starr Murphy, Arthur Woods, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Henry Aslinger, William Draper Lewis, John D. Rockefeller, 3rd, Abraham Flexner, Walter L. Treadway, Felix Frankfurter, J. Edgar Hoover, George Wickersham, Katharine B. Davis, Leonard V. Harrison, Franklin D. Roosevelt, James Bronson Reynolds, Lawrence B. Dunham, and Alfred E. Smith.

It was not the Bureau's practice to keep the research files from any given project. Thus the records for the Sanger Birth Control Clinic are at Harvard, the Laboratory of Social Hygiene records are at Bedford Hills, and so on.

The Bureau of Social Hygiene Collection covers the period from 1911 to 1940.

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Arrangement note

This collection is arranged in six series, as follows:

Series 1 - Administration

Series 2 - Finances

Series 3 - Projects

Series 4 - Leonard V. Harrison Files

Series 5 - New York Police Psychopathic Laboratory

Series 1017 - Photographs

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File Plan note

Former Classification: IV 2B 03

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Processing Information note

Processing was completed as of August 1, 1969. Processing Level 3: Standard Processing. All material is available in acid free manuscript boxes and folders.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The papers of the Bureau of Social Hygiene were deposited with the Rockefeller Foundation Archives in January 1938 by Arthur Woods.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Maternal health services
- Narcotic laws
- Public health administration
- Police training
- Juvenile delinquency
- Criminal law
- Crime
- Correctional institutions
- Mental health
- Family planning
- Hygiene
- Human rights

- Law
- Mentally ill offenders
- Birth control
- Sexual health
- Prostitution
- Human trafficking
- United States

Collection Inventory

Administration

Arrangement note

Dockets, 1928-1931

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of annual reports, dockets, the Bureau history, minutes, and folders for the members and staff of the Bureau. While there is reference to the various projects, the emphasis of this series is on administration policy.

Title/Description	Instances		
Annual Report, 1928-1930	box 1	folder 1	
Scope and Contents note			
This folder contains information on the Crew Study.			
Annual Report, 1929	box 1	folder 2	
Annual Report Correspondence, 1929-1932	box 1	folder 3	
Scope and Contents note			
This folder contains information on the Crew Study.			
Annual Report, 1931	box 1	folder 4	
Armour, Alexander, 1931-1932	box 1	folder 5	
Colby, Everett, 1931-1933	box 1	folder 6	
Davis, Katherine, 1925-1932	box 1	folder 7	
Debevoise, Thomas, 1929-1932	box 1	folder 8	
Dockets, 1928-1931	box 1	folder 9	
Dockets, 1928-1931	box 1	folder 10	
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box 1

folder 12

Dunham, Lawrence, 1927-1936	box 2	folder 13
Farnham, John, 1929-1936	box 2	folder 14
Fosdick, Raymond, 1914-1933	box 2	folder 15
Harrison, Leonard, 1932-1936	box 2	folder 16
History - Organization and Bylaws	box 2	folder 17
History - Reorganization, 1915-1916	box 2	folder 18
History - Reorganization, 1928	box 2	folder 19
History - Working Plans	box 2	folder 20
History - Termination, 1932-1935	box 2	folder 21
Meetings, 1930-1935	box 2	folder 22
Minutes, 1911-1916	box 2	folder 23
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Packard, A. W., 1930-1934	box 3	folder 50
Plazinski, Thaddeus, 1930-1935	box 3	folder 51
Publications	box 3	folder 52
Rockefeller, John D., Jr., 1912-1933	box 3	folder 53
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Rockefeller Foundation, 1930-1933	box 4	folder 55
Sellin, Thorsten, 1930-1933	box 4	folder 56
Social Sciences, 1921-1930	box 4	folder 57
Spelman Fund Appropriations, 1933-1935	box 4	folder 58
Sutherland, E. H., 1929-1935	box 4	folder 59
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Topping, Ruth, 1930-1932	box 4	folder 61
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Finances

Arrangement note

This series is arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Scope and Contents note

This series included budgets, accounts, treasurer's reports, royalty information on the publications, and pledges and commitments.

Related Archival Materials note:

Related Archival Materials note

The following Bureau financial records are located in JDR financial material: Ledger, Oct. 1, 1925 Cash Journal and Trial Balance, 1920-1924 Ledger, 1926-January 18, 1928

Title/Description	Instances	
Accountant's Reports, 1928-1934	box 1	folder 65
Budgets, 1928-1932	box 1	folder 66
Billerica Trust Company, 1932-1934	box 1	folder 67
Correspondence, 1928-1933	box 1	folder 68
Financial Reports, 1911-1934	box 1	folder 69
Income Tax, 1928-1933	box 1	folder 70
Mt. Kisco National Bank and Trust, 1938	box 1	folder 71
Norfolk Prison Report, 1934-1940	box 1	folder 72
"The Opium Problem", 1937	box 1	folder 73
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 74
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 75
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 76
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 77
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 78
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 79
Pledges and Commitments, 1928-1935	box 1	folder 80
Pledges and Commitments - John D. Rockefeller, Jr., 1911-1940	box 1	folder 80A
Project Reports	box 2	folder 81
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Tax, Capital Stock, 1933-1935	box 2	folder 90
Γax, Gift Donees, 1933-1935	box 2	folder 91
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Projects

Arrangement note

This series is arranged in five subseries, as follows:

Subseries 1 - Narcotics (6 boxes)

Subseries 2 - Social Hygiene (4 boxes)

Subseries 3 - Juvenile Delinquency (4 boxes)

Subseries 4 - Criminology (23 boxes)

Subseries 5 - Miscellaneous (3 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains project information, as well as general subject information. These files date mainly from the 1928 reorganization through 1935.

Existence and Location of Copies:

Existence and Location of Copies

Scholarly access to original archival material is permitted. User copies of microfilm are also available. The Projects series is reproduced in the microfilm publication of the Bureau of Social Hygiene project and research files, 1913-1940, reels 1-20 (Scholarly Resources Inc., 1980).

Projects - Narcotics

Scope and Contents note

This subseries contains information on publications such as "Dangerous Drugs", the League of Nations Committee, narcotics investigations, and legislation in the area of narcotics control.

Not Used:

Not Used

Persistent ID ref144, Box 1/folder 107Persistent ID ref145, Box 1/folder 108Persistent ID ref146, Box 1/folder 109All deleted because NOT USED

Fitle/Description	Instances	
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"Dangerous Drugs" by Arthur Woods, 1930-1932	box 1	folder 99
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"Dangerous Drugs" by Arthur Woods, 1930-1932	box 1	folder 100
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"Dangerous Drugs" by Arthur Woods, 1930-1932	box 1	folder 101
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League of Nations - Miscellaneous	box 3	folder 123

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Massachusetts Narcotics Survey, 1930-1931	box 3	folder 125
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Narcotics, 1924-1931	box 3	folder 126
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Narcotics - Manufacturers, 1928-1933	box 4	folder 138
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Narcotics - Seizure Cases, 1926-1930	box 4	folder 139

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National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction,	box 4	folder 141	
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Projects - Social Hygiene

Scope and Contents note

This subseries includes material on white slavery and prostitution, birth control, sex education, eugenics, venereal disease, and population.

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American Social Hygiene Association Vice Investigations -	box 7	folder 165
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Boston Dispensary, 1929-1930	box 7	folder 168
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Canadian Social Hygiene Council, 1931	box 7	folder 170	
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"Commercialized Prostitution in New York" by George	box 7	folder 171	
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Committee on Maternal Health, 1923-1934	box 7	folder 172	
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This folder contains information on the Crew Study.			
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Scope and Contents note	reel 4		
This folder contains information on the Crew Study.			
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This folder contains information on the Crew Study.			
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Eugenics, 1924-1934	box 8	folder 178	
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Federation Abolitionniste Internationale, 1931	box 8	folder 180	
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Johns Hopkins University Department of Syphilis, 1914-1915	box 8	folder 182	
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Lexington Investigation, 1915	box 8	folder 184
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National Research Council Committee on Sex Research -	box 8	folder 189
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"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9	folder 192
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"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9	folder 193
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"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9	folder 194
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"Prostitution in Europe" by Abraham Flexner, 1910-1912	box 9	folder 195
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"Prostitution in Europe" by Abraham Flexner - Translations	box 9	folder 196
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Prostitution - Regulation, 1912-1917	box 9	folder 197
	reel 5	
Prostitution - Regulation, 1912-1917	box 9	folder 198
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Regional Conference in Social Hygiene, 1933	box 9	folder 199

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"A Research in Marriage" by G. V. Hamilton, 1928	box 9	folder 200
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Projects - Juvenile Delinquency

Scope and Contents note

This subseries contains information on detention homes, boys clubs, adolescent courts, and the New York University Boys Club Study.

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Correspondence about the establishment of a court in New York.		
Boys' Clubs, 1927-1931	box 11	folder 215
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Brooklyn Continuation School, 1930	box 11	folder 216
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Committee on Boys in Prison, 1930-1931	box 11	folder 217
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Delinquency Study, 1929-1930	box 11	folder 219
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 2	box 12	folder 233B
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 3	box 12	folder 233C
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 4	box 13	folder 233
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 5	box 13	folder 233E
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 6	box 13	folder 233
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This subseries has material on projects such as the Massachusetts State Prison Colony, Associates for Government Service, Uniform Criminal Statistics, Police Training Schools, and the Institute of Criminology at Columbia. It also contains information on publications like "European Policy Systems" and general information on criminology, prisons, and probation.

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Leonard V. Harrison Files

Existence and Location of Copies:

Existence and Location of Copies

Scholarly access to original archival material is permitted. User copies of microfilm are also available. The Leonard V. Harrison Files are reproduced in the microfilm publication of the Bureau of Social Hygiene project and research files, 1913-1940, reels 21-31 (Scholarly Resources Inc., 1980).

Arrangement note

This series is arranged in five subseries, as follows:

Subseries 1 - Narcotics (2 boxes) Subseries 2 - European Police Systems (12 boxes) Subseries 3 - Boston-Harvard Survey (4 boxes) Subseries 4 - Criminology (6 boxes) Subseries 5 - Miscellaneous (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This series consists of Leonard Harrison's own files, as distinct from the Bureau's files. There is much material in this series which relates to studies in Series 3 - Projects. In fact, much of this series is background research for those projects. Research in Series 3 will be more fruitful if this series is also consulted.

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Biographical / Historical

The Bureau of Social Hygiene resulted from the appointment of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to a Special Grand Jury to investigate white slavery in New York City in 1910. In conferences taken in the course of this investigation, Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., became convinced that for a lasting improvement of conditions a permanent organization was needed. On March 22, 1911, The Committee of Three, including Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., Paul Warburg, and Starr Murphy, met. The name "Bureau of Social Hygiene" was first used in October of that year, but not consistently until 1913.

In 1913 the Bureau was incorporated and its purpose was stated as "...the study, amelioration, and prevention of those social conditions, crimes, and diseases which adversely affect the well being of society, with special reference to prostitution and the evils associated therewith." The Bureau would engage in research and education, publish reports, and employ and/or cooperate with other public or private agencies to obtain these goals. The emphasis in the years from 1911 until the reorganization of 1928 was mainly on prostitution, the control of vice, and, through that, the relationships to police organization. Narcotics was also an early interest. Throughout these early years, Katherine Bement Davis, Commissioner of Charities and Correction of New York and later Superintendent of Bedford Hills Reformatory, guided the Bureau as General Secretary.

Miss Davis resigned in 1928 and Lawrence B. Dunham was appointed Director. Under Mr. Dunham's administration, from 1928-1934, the Bureau developed a broadened interest in criminology. In 1929 the certificate of incorporation was amended and the emphasis on prostitution was dropped. Criminology embraced crime reporting, police training and education, penology, criminal law, and juvenile delinquency. While studies and projects were still conducted in narcotics and social hygiene, the main thrust of the organization was crime and criminology.

The Bureau functioned through grants. It was not a foundation and had no set endowment. In the very early years of its existence, financial backing came from several sources including Paul Warburg, the New York Foundation, and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., although throughout the history of the Bureau, Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., was always the main contributor. Grants were occasionally channeled through the Bureau from the Spelman Fund of New York and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Grants were made by the Bureau for a variety of types of work. Research studies were conducted, such as the Institute of Criminology and the Crew Study; books were published, such as "European Police Systems" and "Policewoman's Handbook"; fellowships were given, as were the fellowships in prison study; and experiments were conducted at the Massachusetts State Prison Colony and the Laboratory of Social Hygiene at Bedford Hills. Grants were most often long range covering periods of from three to five years. Although the Bureau did not interfere in the

conduct of a project once money had been granted, it was careful in its selection of projects and kept in close touch during the life of the project.

The Bureau ceased making new appropriations in 1934 and by mid-1937 all the previous commitments had been brought to a close. Annual meetings were held until 1940 when the Bureau was dissolved on November 13th.

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Scope and Contents note

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