



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
ID:	FA060
Date [inclusive]:	1911-1940
Physical Description:	31.87 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

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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

15 Dayton Avenue

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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

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
Dockets, 1928-1931	box 1	folder 11
Dockets, 1928-1931	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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Minutes, 1911-1916	box 2	folder 25
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Minutes, 1911-1916	box 2	folder 28
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Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 30
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Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 34
Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 35
Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 36
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Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 40
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Minutes, 1917-1940	box 3	folder 44
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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
Rockefeller, John D., 3rd., 1931-1934	box 3	folder 54
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
Sutherland, E. H., 1929-1935	box 4	folder 60
Topping, Ruth, 1930-1932	box 4	folder 61
Winsor, Max, 1931-1934	box 4	folder 62
Woods, Arthur, 1926-1934	box 4	folder 63
Woods, Arthur, 1926-1934	box 4	folder 64

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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

See also China Medical Board, Inc. Collection, Series 2, Box 5 for Trial Balance, 1928-1930.

Title/Description	Instances
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Bureau of Social Hygiene records

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
Project Financial Reports, 1929-1935	box 2	folder 82
Publication Agreements	box 2	folder 83
Publications	box 2	folder 84
Publications - Correspondence, 1913-1945	box 2	folder 85
Resolutions, 1926-1934	box 2	folder 86
Resolutions, 1926-1934	box 2	folder 87
Disposition of Royalties	box 2	folder 88
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Tax, Capital Stock, 1933-1935	box 2	folder 90
Tax, Gift Donees, 1933-1935	box 2	folder 91
Treasurer's Reports, 1928-1940	box 2	folder 92
Unemployment Insurance, 1935	box 2	folder 93
Accounts, 1919-1921	box 2	folder 93A
Accounts, 1922-June 1923	box 2	folder 93B

Accounts, July 1923-June 1924	box 2	folder 93C
Accounts, July 1924-May 1926	box 2	folder 93
Accounts, June 1926-1927	box 2	folder 93E
Cash Book, 1928-1940	box 3	folder 93
Journal, 1928-1940	box 3	folder 93G
Ledger, 1928-1939	box 3	folder 93H
Trial Balance, 1930-1939	box 3	folder 93I
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See also China Medical Board, Inc. Collection, Series 2, Box 5 for Trial Balance, 1928-1930.		
Casebook, 1928-1940	box 4	

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

Title/Description	Instances	
American White Cross Association on Drug Addiction, 1928-1930	box 1	folder 94
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Caldwell, Kenneth, 1928-1930	box 1	folder 95
	reel 1	
Case Histories, 1931-1932	box 1	folder 96
	reel 1	
Committee on Traffic in Opium, 1928-1929	box 1	folder 97
	reel 1	
Dai, Bingham, 1929-1933	box 1	folder 98
	reel 1	
"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
	reel 1	
"Dangerous Drugs" by Arthur Woods, 1930-1932	box 1	folder 101
	reel 1	
"Dangerous Drugs" by Arthur Woods, 1930-1932	box 1	folder 102
	reel 1	
Farnham, John, 1927-1929	box 1	folder 103
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Farnham, John, 1927-1929	box 1	folder 105
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Farnham, John, 1927-1929	box 1	folder 106

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Farnham, John, 1930-1931	box 2	folder 110
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Farnham, John, 1930-1931	box 2	folder 111
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Farnham, John - Miscellaneous	box 2	folder 112
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Gavit, John, 1927-1928	box 2	folder 113
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League of Nations, 1920-1934	box 2	folder 114
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Massachusetts Narcotics Survey, 1930-1931	box 3	folder 125

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Narcotics, 1924-1931	box 3	folder 127
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Narcotics, 1924-1931	box 3	folder 128
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Narcotics, 1924-1931	box 3	folder 130
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Narcotics, 1924-1931	box 3	folder 131
	reel 2	
Narcotics, 1932-1935	box 4	folder 132
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Narcotics, 1932-1935	box 4	folder 134
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Narcotics, 1932-1935	box 4	folder 135
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Narcotics - Miscellaneous	box 4	folder 136
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Narcotics - Investigations, 1932	box 4	folder 137
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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, 1922-1928	box 4	folder 140
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National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction, 1922-1928	box 4	folder 141

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National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction, 1929-1933	box 5 reel 3	folder 144
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National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction, 1929-1933	box 5 reel 3	folder 146
National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction - Clippings and Pamphlets, 1929-1933	box 5 reel 3	folder 147
National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction - Reports, 1929-1933	box 5 reel 3	folder 148
Nutt, L. C., 1926-1929	box 5 reel 3	folder 149
Opium, 1926-1931	box 5 reel 3	folder 150
Opium Advisory Committee, 1926-1933	box 5 reel 3	folder 151
"The Opium Problem" by Terry and Pellens, 1928-1934	box 6 reel 3	folder 152
Opium Production in Persia, 1925-1928	box 6 reel 3	folder 153
Porter Bills, 1929-1930	box 6 reel 3	folder 154
Porter Bills - Miscellaneous	box 6 reel 3	folder 155
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Uniform State Narcotics Laws, 1929-1932	box 6 reel 4	folder 160
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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 Birth Control League, 1929-1936	box 7 reel 4	folder 163
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Birth Control, 1931-1932	box 7 reel 4	folder 166
Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, 1931-1935	box 7 reel 4	folder 167
Boston Dispensary, 1929-1930	box 7 reel 4	folder 168
British Social Hygiene Council, 1931	box 7 reel 4	folder 169
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Committee on Maternal Health, 1923-1934 Scope and Contents note This folder contains information on the Crew Study.	box 7 reel 4	folder 173
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Committee on Maternal Health - Miscellaneous	box 7 reel 4	folder 175
Cooperative Donor Bureau for Blood Transfusion, 1928	box 8 reel 4	folder 176
"Eugenical Sterilization in the U. S." by Laughlin, 1920-1921	box 8 reel 4	folder 177
Eugenics, 1924-1934	box 8 reel 4	folder 178
"Factors in the Sex Life of 2200 Women" by Katherine Davis, 1930-1933	box 8 reel 4	folder 179
Federation Abolitionniste Internationale, 1931	box 8 reel 4	folder 180
International Federation of Eugenical Organization, 1932	box 8 reel 4	folder 181
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Kopp, Marie, 1932-1934	box 8 reel 4	folder 183
Lexington Investigation, 1915	box 8	folder 184

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National Research Council Committee on Sex Research, 1927-1932	box 8 reel 4	folder 186
National Research Council Committee on Sex Research, 1927-1932	box 8 reel 4	folder 187
National Research Council Committee on Sex Research - Reports	box 8 reel 5	folder 188
National Research Council Committee on Sex Research - Reports	box 8 reel 5	folder 189
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Population Conference, 1931	box 9 reel 5	folder 191
"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9 reel 5	folder 192
"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9 reel 5	folder 193
"Prostitution in America" by Abraham Flexner, 1914-1918	box 9 reel 5	folder 194
"Prostitution in Europe" by Abraham Flexner, 1910-1912	box 9 reel 5	folder 195
"Prostitution in Europe" by Abraham Flexner - Translations	box 9 reel 5	folder 196
Prostitution - Regulation, 1912-1917	box 9 reel 5	folder 197
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Regional Conference in Social Hygiene, 1933	box 9 reel 5	folder 199
"A Research in Marriage" by G. V. Hamilton, 1928	box 9	folder 200

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Sex Education, 1932	box 10	folder 201
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Social Hygiene, 1928-1934	box 10	folder 202
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Survey of Traffic in Women and Children, 1928-1933	box 10	folder 203
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Third International Congress of Eugenics, 1932	box 10	folder 204
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Venereal Disease - Pamphlets	box 10	folder 211
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White House Conference in Child Health and Protection, 1930-1931	box 10	folder 212
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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.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Scope and Contents note

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Correspondence about the establishment of a court in New York.

Boys' Clubs, 1927-1931

box 11

folder 215

Scope and Contents note

reel 6

New York City.

Brooklyn Continuation School, 1930

box 11

folder 216

reel 6

Committee on Boys in Prison, 1930-1931

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New York City.

Delinquency, 1930-1936

box 11

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Delinquency Study, 1929-1930

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reel 6

New York.

East Harlem Health Center, 1925-1926

box 11

folder 220

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Gang Study, 1928

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folder 221

reel 6

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House of Refuge, 1927-1928

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Scope and Contents note

reel 6

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Hudson Avenue Club for Colored Boys, 1928

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Institute for Juvenile Research, 1930-1932

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reel 6

International Boys Work Council, 1927-1928

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New York University Boys Club Study, 1927-1932	box 11	folder 230
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New York University Boys Club Study - Miscellaneous	box 12	folder 233
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"Jefferson Park Boys Club" by Frederick Thrasher - Volume 1	box 12	folder 233A
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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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Juvenile Courts, 1931-1934	box 13	folder 235
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Juvenile Detention Homes, 1930-1933	box 14	folder 240
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Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), 1925	box 14	folder 249
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Pamphlets	box 14	folder 250
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Scope and Contents note

Includes Children's Village (Dobbs Ferry, New York) and the New York Training School for Boys.

Projects - Criminology

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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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Arrangement note

This series is arranged in five subseries, as follows:

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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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New York Police Psychopathic Laboratory

Scope and Contents note

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Bureau of Social Hygiene photographs, 1926-1929

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 Insanity, law enforcement.		

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