

Guide to the Helene Gans Papers SC09

Finding aid prepared by Stephanie Neel

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator - Creator	Gans, Helene
Title	Helene Gans Papers
Date	1917-1984
Extent	0.21 Linear feet
Physical Location	This collection is stored offsite and advance notice is required for access. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of the personal papers of labor activist, Helene Gans.

Preferred Citation

Helene Gans Papers, undated; Box and Folder; Barnard College Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

Biography

Helene P. Gans was an early leader in civic, consumer, and labor movements during the first half of the twentieth century. Born in 1893 and a native of Chicago, she attended the University of Chicago in 1914 and then moved to New York two years later, after attending secretarial school. There, she met and later married Leonard S. Gans, with whom she had two daughters, Barbara Gallant and Nancy Spriggs. Throughout the 1930s and 40s, Gans was involved with various organizations that were invested in the Depression's impact on unemployment and living costs. Working with the National Women's Trade Union League, she wrote a study called "Cut-Rate Wages" in 1932, which encouraged the New York State Legislature to enact its first minimum-wage law. She wrote about unemployment for the League of Women Voters, and from 1938 to 1941, she served as executive secretary for the Consumers League of New York. From 1942 to 43, Gans was the eastern regional director of the women's division of the Treasury's war bond drive, and later served as the director of the women's division in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Helene Gans died in New York City on May 7, 1980.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection consists of correspondence, including a letter from Eleanore Roosevelt; a report written for the Standing Committee on Social Welfare; copies of Gans's resume; and minutes for a public hearing before the board of estimate and appointment.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the order in which it was received.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Publication Rights

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Single photocopies may be made for research purposes.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives by Nancy Spriggs. Acquired, 2013.

Processing History

This collection was processed by Stephanie Neel in October 2014.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Encoding: Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002.

Finding aid written in English.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- National Women's Trade Union League of America.

Subject(s)

- Feminism
- Labor movement
- Women--Social conditions