



Guide to the Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records, 1916-2015 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records, 1916-2015 and undated

Creator:

Consumer Reports (Firm)

Source:

John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History

Abstract:

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936. The Consumer Reports Board of Directors records include correspondence, meeting minutes, clippings, financial and status reports, pamphlets and other printed materials. Topics include general operations, Board memberships and resignations; budgets and financial performance, building maintenance and facility site planning; Consumers Union mission and philosophy; litigation; personnel and pension policies; publication and subscription status; research and technical activities. Board members and correspondents represented in the collection include Betty Furness, Clarence Ditlow, Colston Warne, Marjorie East, and Ralph Nader. Acquired as part of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History.

Extent:

60.0 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11787

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1s60g>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Consumer Reports Board of Directors records include correspondence, meeting minutes, clippings, financial and status reports, pamphlets and other printed materials. Topics include general operations, Board memberships and resignations; budgets and financial performance, building maintenance and facility site planning; Consumers Union mission and philosophy; litigation; personnel and pension policies; publication and subscription status; research and technical activities. Board members and correspondents represented in the collection include Betty Furness, Clarence Ditlow, Colston Warne, Marjorie East, and Ralph Nader. Acquired as part of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History.

Biographical/Historical

Consumer Reports is a product testing and consumer advocacy nonprofit organization based in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in 1936.

The Board of Directors provide policy oversight and strategic planning for the organization. The first Board was established with the founding of Consumers Union in 1936. Original Board members were: Robert Brady (economist, later Director of Western Consumers Union); Heywood Broun (journalist, co-founder of The Newspaper Guild); Osmond Fraenkel (lawyer, co-founder of The Lawyers Guild); Abraham J. Isserman (labor lawyer, Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union); Arthur Kallet (engineer, first Director of Consumers Union); Charles Marlies (chemical engineer); Dewey Palmer (physicist); A. Philip Randolph (labor organizer, co-founder of The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black-led union in the United States); Bernard Reis (lawyer and accountant, first Treasurer of Consumers Union); and Rose Schneiderman (Women's Trade Union League, labor organizer, feminist, leader in New York's suffrage movement).

Later prospective Board members were invited to apply for admission. Board members originally served 2-year renewable terms.

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: General Files; Board Meetings; President (Colston Warne); Treasurer; Correspondence; Committees; Board Members; Elections; Reports to the Board from Outsiders.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is restricted. Meeting minutes are closed for 25 years from the date of production. Other materials produced by Consumer Reports are closed for 40 years from the date of production.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2019.

Processing Information

Portions originally processed by Consumers Union Archives staff, approximately 1989; minimally re-processed by Richard Collier, 2019; Additions processed by

Guide to the Consumer Reports. Board of Directors records, 1916-2015 and undated
Richard Collier, Dec. 2019 and interfiled with collection. Accessions described
in this collection guide: 2019-0130

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Related Materials

Related Material

Related materials may be found in the following Hartman Center collections:

Consumer Reports A.J. Isserman papers;

Consumer Reports Arthur Kallet papers;

Consumer Reports Colston Warne papers

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Names and Subjects

- Consumer advocacy
- consumer protection
- Product safety
- John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History
- Warne, Colston E. (Colston Estey), 1900-1987

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