



Guide to the Consumer Reports. Arthur Kallet papers, 1917-1993 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

Consumer Reports. Arthur Kallet papers, 1917-1993 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. Arthur Kallet was an engineer and leading consumer advocate, co-founder of Consumers Union. The Consumer Reports Arthur Kallet papers include clippings, tear sheets, correspondence, pamphlets, meeting minutes, book chapter manuscripts, reports and other printed materials that document Kallet's career in consumer advocacy groups including Consumers' Research and Consumers Union. Correspondents include Bernard Reis and Colston Warne. Topics include management benefits, organization and finance, labor relations, dealings with consultants and government agencies, as well as U.S. government investigations into allegations of communist links and Un-American activities during the Cold War era. Acquired as part of the John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History.

Extent:

7.0 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11774

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1v02s>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Consumer Reports. Arthur Kallet papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The Consumer Reports Arthur Kallet papers include clippings, tear sheets, correspondence, pamphlets, meeting minutes, book chapter manuscripts, reports and other printed materials that document Kallet's career in consumer advocacy groups including Consumers' Research and Consumers Union. Correspondents include Bernard Reis and Colston Warne. Topics include management benefits, organization and finance, labor relations, dealings with consultants and government agencies, as well as U.S. government investigations into allegations of communist links and Un-American activities during the Cold War era. 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. Arthur Kallet was an engineer and leading consumer advocate, co-founder of Consumers Union.

Arthur Kallet was born in 1902 in New York. Kallet received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1924. Kallet worked at New York Edison Commercial Department (1924-1927) and American Standards Association (1927-1934). Kallet served on the Consumers' Research Board to 1933 and as Director (1934-1935) before co-founding Consumers Union in 1936 and serving as Director (1936-1957). Kallet was Director of The Medical Letter from 1957 and was founder of the Buyers Laboratory in 1961. Kallet died in 1972 in New York.

Arthur Kallet was author of two books: 100,000,000 Guinea Pigs (1933), and Conterfeit (1935).

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Arrangement

Organized into the following series: General Files; Book Files; Consumers' Research; Consumers Union.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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. Arthur Kallet papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2019.

Processing Information

Processed by Richard Collier, Oct. 2019;

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:

Advertising Council records;

Alvin A. Achenbaum papers;

American Association of Advertising Agencies records;

Cause Marketing Forum. Halo Awards records;

John O'Toole papers

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Names and Subjects

- Consumer advocacy
- consumer protection
- Product safety
- John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History

Collection Inventory

General Files, 1917-1993

American Standards Association, 1933-1934	Box 1
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American Standards Association--Tribute to Paul Agnew, 1954-1956	Box 1
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Scope and Contents

Paul Geogh Agnew (d. 1954), physicist and leader in the field of standardization. First Secretary of the American Engineering Standards Committee, precursor to the American Standards Association (later American National Standards Institute/ANSI)

American Standards Association--Tribute to Paul Agnew, 1954-1956	Box 8
Articles, 1932-1963	Box 1
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Articles, 1934-1946	Box 8
Articles, 1927-1962	Box 9
Articles--Guinea Pigs Go to Market (People's Press), 1936	Box 9
Biographical, obituaries, 1962-1972	Box 1
Buyers Laboratory, 1960-1987	Box 1
Buyers Strike Committee, 1946	Box 1
Clippings--Beauty, 1932-1940	Box 8
Scope and Contents	
Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials	
Clippings--Beauty, 1933-1939	Box 9
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials	
Clippings--Food, 1934-1939	Box 8
Scope and Contents	
Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials	
Clippings--Food, 1934-1939	Box 9
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials	
Clippings--Health, 1932-1939	Box 8

Scope and Contents

Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials

Clippings--Health, 1934-1939	Box 9
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Print advertisements, pamphlets and other printed materials	
<hr/>	
Committee on Standardization of Domestic Refrigerators, 1934-1935	Box 1
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Consumer education, 1934-1947	Box 1
Physical Description: 3 folders	
<hr/>	
Consumer education, 1936-1943	Box 8
<hr/>	
Consumers Foundation, 1937-1939	Box 2
<hr/>	
Lectures, speaking engagements, 1934-1939	Box 2
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Lectures, speaking engagements, 1934-1937	Box 9
<hr/>	
Miscellaneous, 1932-1993	Box 2
<hr/>	
Personal materials, 1917-1969	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
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Personal materials, 1917-1975	Box 9
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Photography research, 1924	Box 2
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Regional Plan of New York, 1928-1931	Box 2
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Regional Plan of New York, 1930-1931	Box 9

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Book Files, 1932-1951, undated

100,000,000 Guinea Pigs, 1932-1935

Best-seller lists, 1932-1935	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	

Best-seller lists, 1932-1935	Box 9
Publicity, 1932-1934	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Publicity, 1933-1934	Box 9
Reviews, 1932-1933	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Reviews, 1932-1934	Box 9
Cost of Living (Manuscript drafts and clippings), 1942, undated	
Appliances, undated	Box 2
Dry cleaning, undated	Box 2
Fuel oil standards and grades, 1942, undated	Box 2
Health, undated	Box 2
House cleaning and cleaning agents, undated	Box 2
Index and miscellaneous, undated	Box 2
Introduction, undated	Box 2
Keeping clothing clean, undated	Box 2
Linoleum, rugs, carpets, undated	Box 2
Removing spots and stains, undated	Box 2
Saving clothing in the family, 1942, undated	Box 3
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Small household equipment, undated	Box 3
Taking care of your electrical appliances, undated	Box 3
Textiles, undated	Box 3
Your personal finance program, undated	Box 3

Counterfeit, 1932-1951

Background articles, 1933-1940	Box 8
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Background articles, 1932-1939	Box 9
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Physical Description: 2 folders

Correspondence, 1934-1951	Box 3
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Publicity, 1934-1936	Box 9
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Poison for Profit, 1932

Manuscript drafts and correspondence, 1932	Box 3
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Physical Description: 2 folders

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Consumers' Research, 1929-1960

General Files, 1929-1960

Consumers Advisory Board of the National Recovery Act, 1933-1935	Box 3
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Correspondence, 1931-1936	Box 3
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John Day Company, Publishers, 1934	Box 3
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Magazine and newspaper articles, 1933-1937	Box 3
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Minutes, 1933-1935	Box 3
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Promotional materials, 1929-1935	Box 3
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Tugwell/Copeland Food, Drug and Cosmetic Bill hearings, 1932-1935	Box 3
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Vanguard Press, 1932-1960	Box 4
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Physical Description: 2 folders

Strike of 1935, 1935

American Federation of Labor correspondence, 1935	Box 4
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Arbitration, 1935	Box 4
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Board of Directors correspondence, 1935	Box 4
General correspondence, 1935	Box 4
Legal Defense Committee for strikers, 1935	Box 4
Organizations supporting strikers, 1935	Box 4
Strike Aid Committee, 1935	Box 4
Strike plan, statements, testimonies, 1935	Box 4

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Consumers Union, 1933-1970

General Files, 1933-1970

Ad Hoc Operation Committee, 1956-1957	Box 4
Board committee reports, 1956-1957	Box 4
Board of Directors correspondence, 1950-1960	Box 4
Board of Directors Policy Committee, 1951-1953	Box 5
Board of Directors--Resignation of Kallett, 1956-1957	Box 5
Brady Report correspondence, 1956	Box 5

Scope and Contents

Berkeley economist Robert A. Brady, was a co-founder of Consumers Union. He researched the economic impact of consumer testing services, which led to an examination of Consumers Union's practices and recommendations for improvement.

Branches, 1939-1956	Box 5
Budget controversy/Finance Committee, 1955-1957	Box 5
Consumers Technical Union--Application to 20th Century Fund, 1936	Box 5

Scope and Contents

Consumers Technical Union was a provisional name before the organization settled on Consumers Union of United States.

Contraceptive report correspondence, 1937-1958 Box 5

Physical Description: 2 folders

Contraceptive report correspondence, 1958 Box 8

Contraceptive report correspondence--A.J. Isserman, Mary Ware Dennett, Planned Parenthood, 1941-1943 Box 5

Scope and Contents

Abraham J. Isserman (1900-1988) was a labor lawyer and an original Board member of Consumers Union. Mary Ware Dennett (1872-1947) was a suffragist and early birth control advocate.

Contraceptive report correspondence--Jean Whitehill, 1938-1953 Box 5

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents

Jean Whitehill was Managing Editor of Publications at Consumers Union from 1946 until retiring in 1961.

Contraceptive report--Forms and donations, 1943-1944 Box 6

Correspondence and documentation, 1934-1965 Box 6

Physical Description: 6 folders

Correspondence and documentation, 1955 Box 8

Correspondence with Bernard Reis, 1952-1958 Box 6

Physical Description: 2 folders

Scope and Contents

Bernard Reis, accountant associated with Consumers Union finances.

Correspondence with Bernard Reis, 1956 Box 9

Correspondence with Mildred and Robert Brady, 1954-1957	Box 6
Direct mail letters and cards, 1936-1953	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Endorsements, 1937-1951	Box 7
Food and drug legislation, 1937-1939	Box 7
Frauds, 1937-1942	Box 7
Scope and Contents	
Consumers Bureau of Standards (Albert Lane); Consumers Research Foundation	
Frauds, 1939	Box 8
Scope and Contents	
Consumers Bureau of Standards (Albert Lane)	
Frauds--Newsletters, 1939-1942	Box 9
Scope and Contents	
Consumers Bureau of Standards (Albert Lane); Consumers Research Foundation	
History file, 1935-1970	Box 7
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Labor Advisory Committee, 1937-1951	Box 7
Labor and Consumers Union, 1936-1955	Box 7
Labor and Consumers Union, 1942	Box 8
Magazine and newspaper articles, 1935-1957	Box 7
Magazine and newspaper articles, 1933-1937	Box 9
Medical Letter, 1958-1964	Box 7
Pension plan for management, 1951-1962	Box 10
Physical Description: 2 folders	

Policy, 1941-1948	Box 10
Purchase of Mount Vernon property, 1953	Box 10
Resolutions, 1936-1937	Box 9
Resolutions, 1937-1938	Box 10
Rogers, Slade & Hill, 1954-1956	Box 10

Scope and Contents

Management consulting firm, commissioned to advise on the Technical Department

Rogers, Slade & Hill--Analysis, 1954-1956	Box 9
Ron Rico Rum, 1936	Oversize-folder 1

Scope and Contents

A Consumers Union test found that Ron Rico rum contained sulfuric acid and manganese. Manufacturers McKesson & Robbins threatened legal action. People's Press independently confirmed the results of Consumers Union's tests.

Sponsor list, 1936	Box 8
Staff memos, 1940-1948	Box 10
Tax exemption, Internal Revenue Service, 1953-1957	Box 10
The Henry story, 1956-1957	Box 10

Scope and Contents

Controversy concerning dealings with H.P. Henry/Peter Henry Associates, a consulting firm engaged by Consumers Union to provide testing services.

The Weinberg story, 1953-1957	Box 10
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Scope and Contents

Controversy surrounding Consumers Union and its relationship with Sol Weinberg, a clothing consultant, and allegations of a conflict of interest impinging on CU's reputation for disinterest.

Un-American Activities, 1935-1961

Affidavits, 1953	Box 10
Affidavits (drafts), 1952-1953	Box 8
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Congressional reports, articles, other printed materials, 1935-1960	Box 10
Congressional reports, articles, other printed materials, 1935-1960	Box 11
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Correspondence and documentation, 1940-1961	Box 11
Physical Description: 5 folders	
Correspondence and documentation, 1935-1939	Box 8
Miscellaneous, 1939-1952	Box 11
Miscellaneous, 1939	Box 8

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