

Scope and Content Note

The outer boundaries of the dates of the papers are 1924 and 2002. The very early material, which predates the creation of the League in 1932, is found in the first three series: *Sandwich Home Industries*, *Pioneer Years to 1938* and *Mary Coolidge*. These series document an active pre-League craft community in New Hampshire, and the creative give-and-take among the early supporters of a statewide craft organization.

The series follow along more or less chronologically. Some are named for the director of the period if the files seem to be that director's own files or if they seem to be an office file for the term of an individual director. There are files for David Campbell, Joseph Trippetti, La/Gardo Tackett, Richard Fitzgerald, Kathleen Soldati and Carl Richardson.

These files often contain materials dated earlier than the director's term of office because it appears that the director collected old files to gain history of a particular project or question, for instance, by-laws, the dissolution of a particular League shop, sale of headquarters.

Others are named for a phase in the League's history, for instance *Pioneer Years to 1938* mentioned above.¹ The series *Inevitable Change 1961 – 1982* refers to changes in the League brought about by growth and maturity, and to the reorganization of the League into a non-profit and profit-making component.²

The League split into two entities in 1985: the non-profit League of NH Craftsmen Foundation whose mission was to foster craft awareness and education in New Hampshire, and Crafts State Corporation, the profit-making entity that oversaw the shops and annual craftsmen's fair. *Post Jubilee Files 1983 – 1996* are League files kept after the fiftieth anniversary during the period when Kathleen Soldati and Mary White oversaw the organization as directors of both the League Foundation and CSC. The League Foundation's files then continue in the series of *Carl Richardson Files* until 1999. The final director of the League Foundation was Martha Lovejoy, and no files have been located that are specifically hers. *Crafts State Corporation Files 1985 – 1996* are office files for the profit-making entity of the League through the directorships of Kathleen Soldati and Mary White. Files of the last director of Crafts State Corporation, Susie Lowe-Stockwell remain at the League with her as she now is the director of the re-united League of NH Craftsmen.

Near the end are a group of *Meetings* series and they contain chronological runs of minutes and, when available, pre-meeting mailings including reports, correspondence, copies of speeches, etc. *Meetings* includes meetings of the Commission that set up the League and meetings of the League Council which became the Foundation Board in 1985, as well as annual meetings, financial reports, by-laws, council membership lists. Smaller series contain similar materials plus

¹ The name *Pioneer Years* was borrowed from the fifty-year history written by former staff member and volunteer Betty Steele.

² The name comes from a letter written by A. Cooper Ballentine to Debbie Hopkins dated February 2, 1981 and found in the same series, in League/Shop Relations, Jury & 60/40 Correspondence.

copies of other legal documents for the Craftsmen's Advisory Board and the Craftsmen's State Corporation Board.

The Craftsmen's Advisory Board meetings minutes often contain reflections or comments by juried craftsmen. Because the files of the individual craftsmen remain at the League, there is not as much material about the craftsmen as may be anticipated. However, there is material by and about the craftspeople in folders on Standards and Jury Procedures, Shop/League Relations, Juried Member Forums, the Craftsmen's Advisory Board, and the Archives and History Project. One should also check the Clippings File when it is available.

There are a few membership lists which were found throughout the building which have been filed in Membership Lists, a series fabricated to house them together. Hopefully more of these very informative documents will be discovered over time and added to the archives.

Bulk materials are filed at the end of the collection, and contain membership applications and scholarship donations from the Joseph Trippetti Files, membership applications and monthly class attendance records from the La/Gardo Tackett Files, and Fair Files from the years 1992 – 1996 from the Post Jubilee Files.

All of the records in this collection are textual, most are typewritten or computer generated. There are also some forms filled out by hand, brochures, and other published items. Duplicates have been removed, although two copies of the minutes and League policy papers were saved when possible. Some of the earliest papers have been replaced by photocopies because of the fragility of a large number of them. The originals have been put away for safety and preservation.