

Collection #  
M 1391  
OM 0679

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH  
RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1987–2011**

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Processed by

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 6 manuscript boxes, 3 cold storage photo folders, 1 oversize manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1987–2011

PROVENANCE: Thomas A. Mason, Indianapolis, IN; August 1999; Indianapolis Branch of the English-Speaking Union of the U.S., Indianapolis, IN; August 2011

RESTRICTIONS: Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: English-Speaking Union of the United States, Indianapolis Branch Records M 0644; English-Speaking Union of the United States, Indianapolis Branch Records Addition SC 3270

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1999.0590, 2011.0167

NOTES:

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The national organization of the English-Speaking Union was founded in New York in 1920. Its stated purpose was to strengthen friendly relations between the people of the United States and the other English-speaking people of the world, in order to work for a world with equal justice for all, with democratic government and with a concern for the rights of all individuals. The first three national presidents were William Howard Taft (1921), lawyer and statesman John W. Davis (1921-1938), and Yale University president James Rowland Angell (1938-1946).

The Indianapolis branch of the organization was founded in 1949 by Charles J. Lynn, retired vice president of Eli Lilly and Company. He served as president from 1949 to 1958, and was then succeeded by his wife, Dorothy B. Lynn (1958-1973). She was succeeded by attorney Robert S. Ashby (1973-1989).

The branch holds luncheon and dinner meetings with speakers usually provided by the speaker's bureau of the national headquarters. Speakers have included Admiral Chester W. Nimitz (1951), historian Denis Brogan (1956), British ambassadors Lord Harlech (1964) and Sir Antony Acland (1990), Margaret Thatcher (1969), and General Maxwell D. Taylor (1973). At times meetings have been monthly, at other times more occasional.

Since 1951 the Branch has provided scholarships for British Commonwealth students to study at Indiana University, and since 1976 for teachers from Marion County to study at British universities. The Branch has regularly provided hospitality for visitors from the Commonwealth and has supported special projects such as a memorial to Winston Churchill. Since 1988 the Branch has sponsored an annual Shakespearean Competition, with contestants from Marion County high schools giving dramatic presentations.

### **Sources:**

Latham, Charles and Kelsey Bawel. Collection guide. M 0644 English-Speaking Union of the United States, Indianapolis Branch Records, 1922–2002. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide updated January 2015)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection addition contains the administrative records of the Indianapolis branch of the English-Speaking Union as well as some published newsletters and photos. Administrative records include meeting minutes, financial and programming materials, membership records, President's business files, and conference materials. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

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