

Collection #
M 1084
OM 0537

THE GREEN FEATHER MOVEMENT PAPERS, 1953- 1954, 2005

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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April 16, 2014

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript folder, artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: November 1953 to April 1954, March 2005

PROVENANCE: Jean W. Perney, Indianapolis, Indiana, march 2011

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0082

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Green Feather Movement was a short-lived college protest directed against McCarthyism. In November of 1953, Mrs. Thomas J. White, of the Indiana Textbook Commission, called for the ban of the story of *Robin Hood* from all school textbooks because of its Communistic theme of robbing from the rich and giving to the poor. In response to her attempts at censorship, on March 1, 1954 five Indiana University students- Barnard Bray, Mary Dawson, Edwin Napier, Blas Davila and Jeanine Carter, collected six large burlap bags of chicken feathers from a local poultry farm, dyed them green to represent the feathers allegedly worn in the hats of Robin Hood and his followers, and spread them throughout the Bloomington Campus. The students called themselves Robin Hood's Merry Men and also circulated anonymous protest papers against censorship throughout the campus and owned up to their actions in letters to *The Indiana Daily Student*, Indiana University's student newspaper.

Students at other colleges learned of their activities through articles in both local and college newspapers and ordered literature, protest buttons, and green feathers from the Bloomington students. Within the course of several weeks the protest mushroomed into a nationwide campus movement. Green Feather groups were formed at the universities of Harvard, Michigan, Illinois, Chicago, and UCLA.

The Green Feather Movement came to an end in December of 1954 when Senator McCarthy was censured by the United States Senate.

Sources:

1. Kysia, Alison, "History of little-known student resistance movement against McCarthyism and censorship." 2013. (<http://zinnedproject.org/materials/the-green-feather-movement/>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of one manuscript box of folders containing materials from the Green Feather Movement at Indiana University at Bloomington dating from March and April of 1954. Materials included in Series 1 are a Green Feather statement of belief, handwritten notes on Green Feather activities entitled "Robin Hood Report", correspondence with other college protest groups, a printed sermon given by Rev. W. Douglas Rae to the congregation of First Baptist Church, Bloomington, copies of telegrams to Indiana University President Herman B Wells, Fliers and book marks, and receipts and invoices for badges and buttons.

Series 2 is one oversize manuscript folder which containing newspapers and a magazine article from November 1953 to April 1954, and one from March 2005 commemorating the 51st anniversary of the Green Feather Movement.

Series 3 is an artifacts box containing 3 Green Feather Movement lapel buttons.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Materials from Indiana University

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Statement of belief by Robin Hood's Merry Men
(undated)

Box 1 , Folder 1

"A Robin Hood Report", handwritten notes,
March 1, 1954

Box 1, Folder 2

Statement to Congregation of First Baptist Church
Bloomington, Indiana by Rev. W. Douglas Rae

Box 1, Folder 3

Copies of telegrams to IU President Herman B Wells
and to "Friar" General Robert Stevens, March 8, 1954

Box 1, Folder 4

Correspondence from supporters of Green Feather
Movement, April 8, 1954 - May 20, 1954

Box 1, Folder 5

Correspondence from "Joe Must Go" Campaign,
Madison, Wisconsin (undated)

Box 1, Folder 6

Fliers and Book Marks "Robin vs. McCarthy

Box 1, Folder 7

Clipping- Letter to the Editor, Re: Robin Hood's
Merry Men (undated)

Box 1, Folder 8

Receipts and invoices from Adcraft Manufacturing
Co. for badges and buttons

Box 1, Folder 9

Miscellaneous receipts and invoices

Box1 , Folder 10

Series 2: Newspapers

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Newspapers: *Indiana Daily Student, The Chicago
Maroon, New York Times and Washington Post*
November 1953 to April 1954, March 2005

OM 0537, Folder 1

Series 3: Artifacts

CONTENTS

(3) Green Feather Movement lapel buttons

CONTAINER

2011.0082

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1084).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.