American Committee for Devastated France Records, 1919-1926: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: MC026
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Special Collections.
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.
Public Policy Papers.
65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA

Size: 0.75 linear feet
2 boxes
1 oversize folder

Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: The American Committee for Devastated France collection contains the annual reports, promotional pamphlets and minutes of this post-World War I relief organization. Newspaper clippings and routine correspondence between the group's treasurer and other staff members are also included in the collection.

Location: This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.
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The American Committee for Devastated France (ACDF) had its origins in the Civilian Division of the American Fund for French Wounded (est. 1916) and was organized in 1918 to provide emergency relief and restoration aid to the citizens of post-World War I France. Its original stated purpose was to establish a community center which would determine the needs of French citizens, and act as a liaison between them and American relief workers. The group was also to "further understanding and friendship between France and the United States."

The ACDF, staffed primarily by American women of a professional background, set out first to provide basic necessities: food, clothing, shelter and day care. Beginning in 1919, it concentrated on more constructive aid, such as vocational, educational, and physical training, providing farm equipment, housing and building restoration, public health facilities, libraries and scouting camps. The organization collected nearly five million dollars from over one million U.S. donors and members through canvassing and fund-raising benefits. ACDF received numerous awards, including the Gold Medal of French Reconnaissance (1920).

In March 1924, ACDF announced that it had completed its work and officially disbanded. All assets were liquidated and remitted to French organizations to carry on projects begun by ACDF, such as the Camp-École de Scoutisme and the Comité Francais de la Bibliothéque Moderne.

The collection contains annual reports, minutes, records of account, promotional pamphlets and several news clippings praising the work of the ACDF. A report by an unknown author chronicles the establishment of École de Scoutisme, and recommends facilitating "the scout movement of France." Approximately half of the collection consists of the correspondence (1920-1926) of ACDF treasurer Alexander C. Humphreys. The letters and telegrams document exchanges between Humphreys and several members of the Executive Committee (especially Chairman Anne Morgan) on funds allocation. The correspondence also includes donor acknowledgments and routine messages regarding meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Several letters contain hand-written calculations.

The papers in this collection are arranged chronologically.

Access
Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information
Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition
Princeton University Library purchased the Tournament for the Benefit of Devstated France -- Par Auction Score Card in 2012. The associated accession number is ML.2012.015.
The oversize certificate of appreciation was donated by Jim Poole in 2015 (accession number ML.2015.005) and the medal was donated by Mr. Poole in 2017 (accession number ML.2017.006).

Appraisal
No information about appraisal is available for this collection.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); American Committee for Devastated France, Box and Folder Number; Public Policy Papers, Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information
This collection was processed by Laura E. Burt in 1994. Finding aid written by Laura E. Burt in 1994.

Encoding

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings
- Nonprofit organizations -- United States -- 20th century.
- War relief -- France -- 20th century.
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Civilian relief -- France.
- World war, 1914-1918 -- War work -- France.
- World war, 1914-1918 -- War work -- United States.
· France -- Relations -- United States -- 20th century.
· United States -- Relations -- France -- 20th century.
· Correspondence.
· Reports.
· American history/20th century
· European history
· World War I
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- **Statement of Mrs. A. M. Dike, 1919**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 1
- **Annual Report, 1920**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 2
- **Progress Reports, 1920**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 2
- **Libraries Report, 1920**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 2
- **Report on Canning Work, 1920**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 2
- **System of Accounts, 1920**
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- **Treasurer's Report, 1920**
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- **Six Months Among the Ruins, 1921**
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- **Special Six Months Report of the Work in France, 1921**
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**Printed Reports/Minutes, 1923**

- **Proposals Regarding The Good Will Foundation, 1923**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 5
- **Constitution and By-laws of The American Good Will Association, The Franco-American Branch, Inc. from April 1, 1918 to March 31, 1924, 1924**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 6

**Summarized Statement of the Work of the American Committee for Devastated France, Inc. from April 1, 1918 to March 31, 1924, dates not examined**

- **Scouting in France (Camp École de Scoutisme), dates not examined**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 8
- **Correspondence of Alexander C. Humphreys, 1920-1926**
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- **Travel Diary of Maud J. Conway during ACDF Good Will Tour, 1923**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 16
  - accessionnumber: ML.2005.005
- **Tournament for the Benefit of Devastated France -- Par Auction Score Card, undated**
  - Box: 1 Folder: 17
  - accessionnumber: ML.2012.015
- **Oversize Certificate of Appreciation, undated**
  - Cabinet: 6 Drawer: 5
  - accessionnumber: ML.2015.005
Medal, undated

accession number: ML.2017.006