

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT IUP:

The Special Collections and Archives at IUP's Stapleton Library currently houses the archives of Districts 2, 3, and 5 of the United Mine Workers of America, Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Coal Mining Institute of America, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 459, United Steel Workers of America Local 1397 (Homestead), and the Tri State Conference on Steel. Special Collections also serves as the archives for AIHP.

The District 2 collection, one of the most complete groups of UMWA district materials in existence, dates from 1899. These early materials comprise wage agreements, convention reports, financial data, and other printed items.

The papers of John Brophy, president of District 2 from 1917 to 1927, contribute insights into the coal strikes of 1919 and 1922, the beginnings of the conflict between Brophy and John L. Lewis, and the development of Brophy's plan for nationalization of the mining industry.

The correspondence of James Mark, who served for half a century as vice president and later as president of District 2, highlights the implementation of mine mechanization, miners' Health and Welfare programs, and Black Lung and mine safety legislation on both a state and federal level.

The remainder of the collection is composed of correspondence files of International Board other legal and international documentation relating to District 2.

The District 5 collection comprises several important groups of materials, including president's and secretary-treasurers' files dating from 1896 through 1984, grievance cases from all of the local unions within the district, election and convention materials and publications, correspondence of the Special Membership Committee, Welfare and Retirement Fund records,

and Compensation Department case files.

This collection also contains significant amounts of material pertaining to legal cases involving District 5 of the UMWA and several of its miners and the Coal Miners' Political Action Committee (COMPAC).

The bulk of this district's papers are relatively recent in scope (1950-1985) due to several relocations of its office. The earlier materials, however, are particularly rich in documentation of the dual union action in the district, which plagued District 5 for more than two decades during the early part of the twentieth century, and the 1926 strike in the Pittsburgh region.

District 3 of the UMWA was ultimately absorbed by District 5. The District's materials are limited to a small amount of correspondence, contract agreements and financial records, and Workers' Compensation case files. Of some interest are the records of several now-defunct coal companies from around the Pittsburgh area.