

Zorn-Macpherson Bill Collection, 1926-1933

Overview of the Collection

Title	Zorn-Macpherson Bill Collection
Dates	1926-1933 (inclusive) 1926 1933 1932 (bulk) 1932 1932
Quantity	0.75 cubic feet, (3 boxes, including 1 oversize box)
Collection Number	MSS ZornMacpherson
Summary	The Zorn-Macpherson Bill Collection consists predominantly of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and broadsides pertaining to the Zorn-Macpherson School Moving Bill. The bill provided for the consolidation of the University of Oregon and the Oregon State College and other major changes to the organization of higher education in Oregon. The bill was resoundingly defeated in the November 1932 general election.
Repository	Oregon State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives Research Center Special Collections and Archives Research Center 121 The Valley Library Oregon State University Corvallis OR 97331-4501 Telephone: 541-737-2075 Fax: 541-737-8674 scarc@oregonstate.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open for research.
Languages	English, Finnish, German
Sponsor	Funding for initial encoding of this finding aid in 2004 was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

The Zorn-Macpherson School Moving Bill (official title: Bill Moving University, Normal and Law Schools. Establishing Junior Colleges.) was an initiative petition on the November 1932 general election ballot. The bill provided for the consolidation of the University of Oregon and Oregon State College at the Corvallis campus to form the Oregon State University; moving of the normal schools from Monmouth, Ashland, and La Grande to the campus in Eugene; moving the law school from Eugene to Salem; closing of the normal school at Monmouth; and creation of junior colleges at Ashland and LaGrande. The Zorn-Macpherson initiative petition campaign was the largest and most expensive in Oregon educational history up to that time. The bill was resoundingly defeated by a vote of more than 6 to 1.

Henry Zorn was a farmer near Champoeg in Marion County and President of the Marion County Taxpayers Equalization League, one of the sponsors of the initiative petition.

Hector Macpherson was a faculty member in economics and sociology at Oregon Agricultural College from 1911 until 1926, when he resigned his faculty position to offer his services to the movement for reorganization of higher education in Oregon. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1927, 1929, and 1939.

The Zorn-Macpherson Petition, 1932: A Study of the Development of Higher Education in Oregon by J. David Cunningham (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Oregon) includes a detailed analysis of this initiative petition as well as biographies of Zorn and Macpherson.

Content Description

The Zorn-Macpherson Bill Collection consists predominantly of published materials pertaining to the Zorn-Macpherson School Moving Bill, an initiative petition on the Oregon general election ballot in November 1932. The collection includes clippings, pamphlets and broadsides; subject files; correspondence; and newspaper issues and other publications. The clippings, which comprise the bulk of the collection are from newspapers throughout Oregon and include articles, editorials, and advertisements. The clippings span from 1929 to 1932, but the bulk are from 1932. Newspapers represented include the *Oregonian*, *Portland News-Telegram*, and *Corvallis Gazette-Times*.

The pamphlets and broadsides include items both in favor of and against the Zorn-Macpherson School Moving Bill. One of the broadsides is a full-page advertisement from the *St. Helens Sentinel*. The subject files (1926-1932) include reports and statistics compiled by Oregon Agricultural College staff, information about the normal schools in Oregon, materials pertaining to higher education consolidation in other states, and reports prepared for the Survey Commission.

The correspondence consists primarily of exchanges during 1932 between G.H. Fullenwiler of Carlton, Oregon; W.A. Jensen, the Executive Secretary at Oregon State Agricultural College; and Dean James H. Gilbert at the University of Oregon regarding space available at both institutions for classrooms and laboratories.

The collection includes full issues of a selection of newspapers and other publications from throughout Oregon published in 1932-1933. In addition to several issues of the *Oregonian*, copies of neighborhood papers within Portland are available. These include the *Southeast Portland Index*, *East Side Enterprise*, *Sellwood Bee*, *East Portland Post*, and *Rose City News*. Of special note are the November 1932 issue of a Finnish publication *Veljeys-Viesti* (Astoria, Oregon); the October 28, 1932 issue of *The Scribe -- a Record of Jewish Life and Thought* (Portland, Oregon); and the November 3, 1932 issue of *Nachrichten* (Portland, Oregon) in German.

Copies of the *Oregon Taxpayer* for September through November of 1932 are part of the collection. The *Oregon Taxpayer* was a "monthly review of Oregon problems" published by Hector Macpherson.

In addition to information about this measure, the Collection includes materials pertaining to the reorganization of higher education in Oregon in the late 1920s through early 1930s, establishment of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, and appointment of William J. Kerr as Chancellor in 1932.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Acquisition Information

The initial source of the materials is not known. A component of the collection was transferred from the Memorabilia Collection in 2000.

Related Materials

The [President's Office Records of William Jasper Kerr \(RG 013 - SG 07\)](#), the [President's Office Records \(RG 013\)](#), [Board of Regents Records \(RG 008\)](#), and the [Edwin T. Reed Papers](#) include materials pertaining to the reorganization of Oregon higher education in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Several other repositories in Oregon include materials pertaining to this initiative. The Oregon Historical Society holdings include the Hector Macpherson Papers. The University of Oregon Special Collections and University Archives include [other papers of Macpherson](#) as well as the [Register-Guard Records on Higher Education Consolidation](#).

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Advertising, Political.
Education, Higher--Oregon.
Political campaigns--Oregon.
Referendum.

Personal Names :

Kerr, William Jasper, 1863-1947.

Corporate Names :

Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Macpherson, Hector, 1875-1970.
(creator)
Zorn, Henry, 1880-1971.
(creator)

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen.
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