

# Oregon Social Hygiene Society Records, 1895-1960

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Oregon Social Hygiene Society
<b>Title</b>	Oregon Social Hygiene Society Records
<b>Dates</b>	1895-1960 (inclusive) 1895 1960
<b>Quantity</b>	6 cubic feet (5 document cases, 13 flat boxes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	Mss1541
<b>Summary</b>	Records of an Oregon social service organization founded in 1911 and concerned with promoting physical fitness and ameliorating immorality and vice, especially sexually transmitted diseases and youthful sexual transgressions. Most files were created by the Executive Secretary, Fred B. Messing, who served from 1929 to 1941. Includes correspondence, subject files, minutes of meetings, financial records, and educational literature.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library</a> Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 <a href="mailto:libreference@ohs.org">libreference@ohs.org</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	The collection is open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

The Oregon Social Hygiene Society was established in 1911, at the urging of the Young Men's Christian Association, to limit the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and to combat "social vices" such as prostitution, gambling, and childhood immorality. It promoted physical fitness, especially among young people, and exposed medical quackery. It also helped in organizing local promotion committees in cities and towns around Oregon. The group focused on educational activities such as lectures, classes, and presentations to school groups, as well as publications, exhibits, government lobbying, and assistance with law enforcement. Committees included: public education, school cooperation, publication, social hygiene, exhibits, social evil, legislation, and quackery. Much of the funding of the organization came from a trust fund established by Dr. E. C. Brown. Its operations were later assumed by the University of Oregon.

The organization's Executive Secretary from 1929 to 1940 was Dr. Fred B. Messing. He was born in North Tonawanda, New York, around 1876, and he held a PhD in physical education. Much of his early career was spent working with the YMCA, lecturing on health and sex education to schools, civic organizations and churches. From 1919 to 1922 he lived with his wife Frances in Poland, where he directed physical education for the Polish government. After living in Portland for most of his later life, he moved to Chehalis, Wash., where he died in 1960.

## Content Description

Collection includes: correspondence; financial records; lectures; legislation; case histories; minutes (1911-1938); organizational material; society publications and reports; student questions and statements; scrapbooks; and statistics relating to family relations, prostitution, sexual hygiene and venereal diseases. Correspondence contains letters of Executive Secretary Fred B. Messing (1929-1960). Scrapbooks include photographs of exhibits, publications, letters, and newspaper clippings. Other items include record books with statistics by city and month regarding talks, exhibits, and publications to be distributed. Other topics include obscene literature, physical education, contraception, cigarettes, and camps and institutes.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

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### Preferred Citation

Oregon Social Hygiene Society Records, Mss1541, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

- Series A: Minutes of meetings, 1911-1938
- Series B: Correspondence, 1915-1960
- Series C: Subject Files, 1895-1941
- Series D: Financial Records, 1911-1940

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Fred B. Messing, 1960, Library Accession 8882

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series A: Minutes of Meetings, 1911-1938

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Executive Committee minutes	1911 Sept-1912 Jan
1/2	Executive Committee minutes	1912 Jan-1912 May
1/3	Executive Committee minutes	1912 May-Oct
6/1	Minutes (old vol. 4)	1912 November 1-1913 September 6
6/2	Minutes (old vol. 5)	1913 September 1-1914 October 9
7/1	Minutes (old vol. 6)	1916 April 14-1917 November 9
7/2	Minutes (old vol. 7)	1917 November 16-1918 October 25
8/1	Minutes (old vol. 8)	1918 November 1-1919 October 31
8/2	Minutes (old vol. 9),	1919 November 7-1921 June 3
9/1	Minutes (old vol. 10)	1923 September 24-1929 Feb
9/2	Minutes (old vol. 11)	1929 Feb-Oct

Container(s)	Description	Dates
10/1	Executive Committee minutes and reports (old vol. 12)	1929 September 29-1934 October 1
1/4	Minutes	1934-1938

## Series B: Correspondence, 1915-1960

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/5	General correspondence	1919; 1929-1949
1/6	Correspondence of Fred B. Messing	1919-1938
1/7	Correspondence of Fred B. Messing	1939-1960
10/2	Correspondence with members of the legislature (scrapbook)	1915

## Series C: Subject Files, 1895-1941

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/1	Camps and institutes	1911-1940; undated
2/2	Case histories Contains anonymous case histories, mostly of young people, regarding sexuality and personal habits	1912-1914; undated
18/1	Certificate of appreciation to Fred B. Messing	circa 1941
2/3	Cigarettes	1940-1947; undated
2/4	Contraception	1938; undated
11/1	Data (old vol. 14)	1913; undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/5	Diagnostic tests Includes anonymous completed test sheets for the Neymann-Kohlstedt Diagnostic Test for Introversion-Extroverion, 1928 revision.	1928-1938
2/6	Diaries of Fred and Frances Bell Messing Typescript diaries, including an account of Fred Messing's travels throughout Oregon in 1941, and his wife's account of the couple's activities in Poland in the early 1920s.	1941; undated
2/7	Ephemera of Fred B. Messing	1905-1939; undated
2/8	Lectures by Fred Messing	1935-1940; undated
2/9	Legislation	1912-1940; undated
13/2	Lists, miscellaneous (old vol. 19)	1913-1914
18/3	Lists of contributors and other lists (old vol. 24)	circa 1911-1916
2/10	Marriage Includes pamphlets, programs and reports relating to sexual issues in marriage	1928-1938; undated
18/2	Membership lists and contributions (old vol. 25)	1914-1919
16/1	News articles and photographs (old vol. 23)	circa 1928-1937
3/1	Oaths of office, by-laws, and other organizational documents	1929-1937; undated
3/2	Obscene literature Includes typescript report on sales of obscene literature in Portland.	1930
3/3	Physical education	1900-1939; undated
3/4	Prostitution Includes typescript report on commercialized prostitution in Portland, 1932.	1932-1941

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/5	Publications	1912-1947; undated
3/6	Questions/answers, boys Anonymous answers to questions regarding the lectures by the Social Hygiene Society.	circa 1933-1936; undated
3/7	Questions/answers, girls	circa 1933-1936; undated
18/4	Record book Contains monthly statistics, records on frames, talks, circulars, and exhibit attendance.	1911-1919
3/8	Reports, activity	1895; 1931-1932
4/1	Reports, annual	1922-1940
4/2	Reports, miscellaneous	1910-1940
4/3	Reports, quarterly, monthly	1911-1939; undated
11/2	Samples of printed matter (old vol. 15)	1914-1917; undated
12/1	Samples of printed matter (old vol. 16)	1917-1919; undated
12/2	Scrapbook (old vol. 17) Contains news clippings, programs and photographs relating to the Society's activities.	1937-1940
14/1	Fred Messing scrapbook (old. Vol. 20)	1899-1907
15/1	News clippings (old vol. 21)	1917-1923
15/2	News clippings (old vol. 22)	1915-1916
13/1	Publications from other sources (old vol. 18)	1919-1921; undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
17/1	"A synopsis of the work of the Oregon Social Hygiene Society"	1911-1915; undated
18/5	State record meeting book Contains city name, committee name, date, attendance numbers, and index.	1913-1918
4/4	Statistics, miscellaneous	1899-1939; undated
4/5	Student addresses	1931-1939; undated
4/6	Support statements	1932-1938; undated
4/7	Venereal disease	1912-1939

## Series D: Financial Records, 1911-1940

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/1	Financial records, general	1933-1940; undated
5/2	Cash book	1911-1914
5/3	Cash book	1917-1920
5/4	Cash book	1921-1926
5/5	Ledger, by account	1911-1914

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Hygiene, sexual--Oregon

Public health--Oregon

Sex instruction literature--Oregon

Sex instruction--Oregon

**Personal Names :**

Messing, Fred B.--Correspondence

**Corporate Names :**

Oregon Social Hygiene Society--Archives  
(creator)

**Form or Genre Terms :**

Case histories

Clippings

Letters

Minutes

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