

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

### Manuscripts

No. 113

Date processed: 4/80

- I. Title New Haven Citizens Committee for Council-Manager Charter. Collection, 1949-52.
- II. The papers of James Osborn deposited in the Library on Oct., 1979, by J. Marshall Osborn, ~~Madison, Wisc. as~~ ~~converted the deposit to a gift.~~
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1 ft. 5 1/2 in.  
Approximate number of items: 1000
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: Council-Manager Charter in New Haven-Background:  
In 1940, the League of Women Voters became interested in a new charter and in 1942, Mayor Murphy, appointed a Charter Revision Committee. This committee and future Committees which were Appointed by Mayor Celantano in the next few years (1949-52) lay politically dormant. The League agitated for a Council-Manager Charter by forming a Citizens' Charter Committee (1948) which later became the New Haven Citizens' Committee for Council-Manager Charter (1949). By 1949, three proposed charters existed: the 1946 Commission's charter, Taxpayer's Research Council charter (1949), and the Council-Manager Charter. No action was taken by the Board of Aldermen so the New Haven Citizens Committee  
(Continued p. 2)
- VIII. Analysis:  
4 boxes; James Osborn's personal collection of papers of the New Haven Citizens' Committee for Council-Manager Charter (1949-52). Collection is not inclusive of all committee papers. Filed with Osborn's personal correspondence first, and with the rest of the folders filed chronologically and alphabetically by subject: committees, meetings, newsletters; publicity; reference (general). Contains drafts of the proposed charter, committee working papers, newsletters, newspaper articles, publicity material, National Municipal League Conference papers, court papers, general statistics. Correspondence is filed in folders relating to the subject and/or committee. Brackets on the right side of the Contents Guide indicate the number of items in the folder.

Biographical note: con't.

petitioned for a referendum in 1952. The publicity attendant on this campaign personally collected by James M. Osborn is set forth in this collection.

James Marshall Osborn: born in Cleveland, April 22, 1906. B. S. Wesleyan, 1928, M. A. Columbia, 1934. Research Associate, English, Yale, 1934-, advisor on 17<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts to University Library, 1954-, curator Osborn Collection, 1962-72. Was acting chairman of New Haven Committee for Council-Manager Charter until 7/52 when Palmen Bevis became permanent Chairman; Osborn held the post of vice-chairman. Died in October, 1976.

New Haven Citizen's for Council-Manager Charter  
Charter Collection, 1949-52

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Box I Osborn, James - Correspondence (outgoing re. Charter Revision) and Political Action Papers	
Folder A. J. Osborn - Correspondence	[27]
B-F. Background Material - Charter Revision Political Action	
B. Court Action - Call for Referendum, August 28, 1952	[10]
C. Home Rule Amendment	[21]
D. Preliminary Draft of Revised Charter of City of New Haven, August, 1951 (145p.)	[1]
E. Proposed Council-Manager Charter for City of New Haven, Nov. 4, 1952 (59p.)	[1]
F. Senate Bills and Charter Revision S.B. 386 Suggested Amendments to S.B 737, 386 510, 814 Correspondence about Senate Bills	[5]
Box II Committees, Meetings, and Newsletters	
Folder A. City and Boroughs Committee, 1951	[2]
B. New Haven Citizen's Committee: Organizational Papers	[40]
C. New Haven Citizens Committee - Membership Lists and Handwritten Instructions (3p.) Preliminary list w/additions (32p.) Final List - typewritten (14p.) 3 copies	[3]
D. Meeting of 6/2-3/50	[3]
E. Meeting of 2/26/51 Phono. Records of Meeting	[41]
F. New Haven Taxpayers Research Council, Inc. Annual Reports, 1949, 1952	[2]
G. Newsletters re proposed revisions of of charter 1949-1952 --Memo and summary of provisions New Haven Charter (44p.)	[7]
H. <u>Taxpayer</u> - <u>Charts</u> Summarizing and comparing existing charter with various proposed revised charters 1949 (10p. each)	[3]
I. National Municipal League, Conference - New Haven, June 2-3, 1950 Transcript of opening session 6/2 (55p.) Pamphlets and Photos of meeting Correspondence - re meeting	[5]
J. National Municipal League, Correspondence re meeting (Feb 26, 1949 - May 22, 1950) Alfred Willoughby, Ex. Sect. Nat. Munic. League John E. Bebout, Asst. Sect. - Nat. Munic. League	[45]

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- Folder K. National Municipal League, Correspondence  
 re Meeting (May 23, 1950 - May 31, 1950)  
 Alfred Willoughby, Ex. Sect.  
 John E. Bebout, Asst. Sect. [45]
- L. National Municipal League - Publications  
 National Municipal Review, Vol. XLI,  
 No.3, Mar., 1952 & No.4, April, 1954  
 Pamphlets [9]
- M. Newsletters - New Haven Organizations  
 City Managers' News Letter, 1950-51  
 Council - Comment, 1949-52  
 Council - Manager News, 1952  
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 The Newsletter, 1951 [32]

## Box III

## Publicity - New Haven and Other Cities

## Folders A-K. Publicity - New Haven Charter

- A. Newspaper Articles, re. New Haven Charter 1949 [61]  
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 D. " Elm City Bugle, 1950-51 [70]  
 E. " Articles re Municipal Affairs -  
 New Haven, 1951-52 [8]  
 F. " Articles re New Haven Charter - [1]  
 G. Campaign Material - New Haven Charter (I)  
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 H. Campaign Material - New Haven Charter (II),  
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 Pamphlets and Printed Info  
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 Correspondence - committee work for charter [25]  
 I. Cartoons [7]  
 J. Misc. Correspondence-Volunteer worker  
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 K. Publicity Program-New Haven Citizens  
 Committee, 1947-52 [45]  
 Outline of Publicity Program (2 copies)  
 Talks, Notes, Pamphlets, Postcards, Talks

## Box IV

## Folders A-C Publicity-Other Cities Re Charter

- A. Campaign Material-Other Cities [31]  
 Printed Material, Newspaper Articles
- B-1. Publicity Campaign-Greenwich re [34]  
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 pamphlets, letters, copies of rules, acts
- B-2. Council Management Government-Hartford, [30]  
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- C. Council Management Government-Milford, [18]  
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- Folders D-I General Reference Data Re New Haven Charter
- D. Mayor Celentano and Judge Henchel [23]  
 Pamphlets, Talks, Notes-Board of Aldermen,  
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- E. Reference Data-Charter [23]  
    Statistics, Talks, Correspondence re  
        Statistics  
    Partial Notes on Proposed Charter
- F. Labor Unions-Opinion on Charter [8]  
    Pamphlets, Talks, Correspondence-1952
- G. Richard Lee, Mayoral Candidate [23]  
    Questionnaires, Talks, Correspondence(1949)  
    Newspaper Article-Nov., 1949
- H. Reference Data-Misgovernment [31]  
    Notes, Memos (2 copies), Newspaper  
        Articles, 1950-51
- I. Strong Mayor-Faults-Reference Data [15]  
    Talks, Background Info, Newspaper Articles,  
        1949-50
- J. Additions:
1. clippings re speech on spoils system, 2/21/51
  2. clipping-debate on charter reform, 2/25/51
  3. clippings re Pawtucket award, 2/5/52
  4. to JMO from Joseph Kelly, 2/29/52
  5. to JMO from Robt. J.M. O'Hare, 4/5/52
  6. Council-Manager News. April, 1952
  7. clippings March 19, 1953 "Council Vote Unfair"
  8. Mss Notes for speech 3/19/53.