

The Mellie and Herbert S. Calvert Collection

Papers, 1920-1973 (Predominately  
1921-1926)

1 Mss. Box

Accession Number 778 L. C.  
Number MS

The papers of Mellie and Herbert Calvert were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mr. and Ms. Calvert in September of 1975, July of 1976, and December of 1977, and were opened for research in October of 1990.

In 1921, Herbert Calvert, at the age of 32, went to Moscow as a delegate of the International Workers of the World (I.W.W.) to the First Congressman of the Trade Union's International held in Moscow. In the fall of 1921, he became a member of the Organizational Committee, chartered by the Soviet Council of Labor and Defense to set up an industrial labor colony in the Kuznetsk Basin in Siberia which was to be operated by skilled craftsmen and technicians. The Organization Committee labelled the proposed enterprise "The Autonomous Industrial Colony of Kuzbas." In November, 1921, Calvert returned to the United States and in February, 1922, became president of the American Committee for Kuzbas whose mission was to recruit American skilled workers and artisans for the Autonomous Industrial Colony of Kuzbas in Siberia. In the years 1922-1923, nine groups of workers were enlisted to emigrate to the industrial colony of Kuzbas. The American Organization Committee for Kuzbas was disbanded in 1923 and in the fall of that year, Herbert Calvert and his wife Mellie moved to California. Herbert Calvert died c.a. 1977 and Mellie Calvert died in August of 1979.

The papers of Herbert and Mellie Calvert consist primarily of a book-length, unpublished manuscript entitled The Kuzbas Story; History of the Autonomous Industrial Colony Kuzbas by Herbert and Mellie Calvert. The manuscript covers the founding and history of the colony from 1921 to 1926. During this period, the efforts of the Kuzbas Colony to improve the productivity in coal mining and industrial production in the Kuznetsk Basin were allegedly hampered by political factionalism and the bureaucratic elements of the old regime in the Soviet Union.

Other items in the collection include a few minutes, reports, membership records and clippings related to the American Organization Committee's involvement in the effort to establish a pioneer industrial colony in the Kuznetsk basin of Siberia.

## Contents

### Box 1

1. Agreements; c. 1922
2. Calvert, Herbert; Poem, 1927
- 3-14. Calvert, Herbert and Mellie; The Kuzbas Story, Chapters 1-12, 1973
- 15-19. Calvert, Herbert and Mellie; The Kuzbas Story, Chapters 1-12; Appendixes I-XX
20. Clippings, Feb 1922 - Oct 1934
21. Correspondence, 1921, 1923
22. Credentials, 1921
23. Flyers, 1920
24. Leaflets, 1922
25. Membership Records, 1922-26
26. Minutes, Jul-Aug 1922, Mar 1923
27. Reports, 1923

### Non-Manuscript Material:

A pamphlet entitled Tom Barker and the I.W.W. has been placed in the Archives Library.