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Collection 55
Trenton Trust & Safe Deposit Company

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History

The Trenton Trust Company was founded in 1888 in part because of a need for investment opportunities for affluent Trentonians. Edward T. Green was the first president with the earliest home of the institution being at West State Street and Chancery Lane. The Trust Company was active in advertising their services and the importance of capitalism and free enterprise, which was essential to their function of investing and safeguarding money and assets. This company was almost comparable to a credit union, which is more closely tied with investment banking as opposed to a savings and loan oriented bank.

Mary G. Roebling assumed the position of president of the company in 1972, noteworthy due to the majority of the banking officials up to this time being men. Her influence and impact was especially significant due to her breaking of the gender barrier in a multitude of different banking and finance organizations during her tenure as president.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection contains a plethora of promotional items in the form of printed material and advertisements that often stressed the importance of the free marketplace and the potential those investors could utilize if they became lenders; and thus partners, in the bank.

The collection also has information regarding Mary G. Roebling, who served as the president of the company and was often the only woman at that time in the higher ranks of banking officials. In particular, there is a pamphlet in folder 6 in celebration of her 50th anniversary in banking. It lists all her positions in organizations in which she was the first woman to serve. This information would undoubtedly be of interest to anyone working in the field of women's studies.

Series Description:

Series 1. Printed Material

This series includes an assortment of documents about the company, including brochures that praise capitalism and investment and seem to advertise the prosperity that will inevitably come if investing in their company. There are cash folders that list the bank branches; a Jr. 4 school account pass book belonging to Margaret Kish; a pass book belonging to Adelaide Henry (1917-1921); a return envelope; postcard; 75th anniversary program and invitation (1963); annual statement (1971); and “In Review” booklet (1971). The “Target” newsletter, published for employees, is located in this series, as is “Trade Winds”, the newsletter for the National State Bank with which the Trenton Trust merged in February 1972. This material is pivotal in understanding the relationship that the bank had with the public and their advertising model in general.

Series 2. Mary G. Roebing

This series includes information about Mary G. Roebing, the bank’s first woman president, and one of the very few at that time. Material includes a published biography; a program for her 50th anniversary in banking (1987); her resume; and “Nine National Leaders Tell Their Views on Free Enterprise in the U.S.A.” with an article that she wrote (c.1963).

Series 3. Publications

This series contains the March 1955 “Trenton” magazine with a cover story on the bank, and the December 1925 issue of “Architecture” magazine that prominently featured the architectural design of the bank building.

Series 4. Banking Objects

This is a relatively small series and includes a small money bag intended to hold \$100, and a small buckle that would have indicated the number of a specific safety deposit box; in this case, #394.

Container List

Box 1, Folder 1	Printed Material
Box 1, Folder 2	Printed Material
Box 1, Folder 3	“Target” newsletter, 1959-1962
Box 1, Folder 4	“Target” newsletter, 1963-1965
Box 1, Folder 5	“Trade Winds” newsletter, 1972-1981
Box 1, Folder 6	Mary G. Roebing
Box 1, Folder 7	Publications
Box 1, Folder 8	Banking Objects

Bibliography

“Trenton’s First Bank.” *Trenton Historical Society, New Jersey*, www.trentonhistory.org/His/banks.html.