

# Van Amberg Bittner (1885-1949), Labor Leader, Papers A&M 1698

Van Amberg Bittner (1885-1949), Labor Leader, Papers  
1908-1961



## Title Statement

Van Amberg Bittner (1885-1949), Labor Leader, Papers A&M 1698

**Author:** Staff of the West Virginia & Regional History Center

## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

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**Language Usage:** English

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

A&M 1698

**Unit ID**

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**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/6223

**Unit Date**

1908-1961

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

UMWA international representative and organizer, member of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, director of the CIO Organizing Committee, and vice-chairman of the CIO Political Action Committee  
Correspondence, legal papers, diaries, clippings, and other papers relate to Bittner's early career in the western Pennsylvania coal fields; his presidency of District 5, UMWA, 1911-1916; and his organizational activities in southeastern Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, northern West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kansas, 1916-1928. Subjects include labor strife and strikes in West Virginia, 1912-1913, 1924-1928, Alabama, 1920-1921, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1911, and Oklahoma and Kansas, 1922; UMWA intra-union affairs; relief for striking miners; Kansas Industrial Court; Workers Communist Party; Red International of Labor Unions; American Association for Labor Legislation; National League of People's McAdoo Clubs; labor trouble in Montana, 1920; the railway assigned coal car problem; and Bittner's activities on various state and national labor boards and committees. There are photographs of mining towns, camps, and tent colonies, labor parades, conventions, demonstrations, and strikes; portraits of labor leaders; and pictures of the Irwin, Pennsylvania coalfield strike of 1911, the Ludlow Massacre of 1914, and the northern West Virginia strikes of 1924-1926. Frank Farrington, William Green, Frank J. Hayes, John L. Lewis, John Mitchell, Philip Murray, and John P. White are included among the correspondents. A detailed listing of the correspondence in boxes 1-7 is available upon request.

**Creator**

Bittner, Van A. (Van Amberg), 1885-1949

**Extent**

6.42 Linear Feet 6 ft. 5 in. (13 document cases, 5 in. each; 1 document case, 3 in.; 1 small flat storage box, 3 in.; 1 large flat storage box, 3 in.; 1 unboxed scrapbook, 3 in.)

**Physical Location**

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**Repository**

West Virginia and Regional History Center

## Administrative Information

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[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Van Amberg Bittner (1885-1949), Labor Leader, Papers, A&M 1698, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

## Separated Materials

6 photos separated to A&M 4168, Panoramic Photos Collection:

District 17 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), Golden Jubilee Convention, Columbus, OH, 1940 January 23-1940 February 01; 1940 January-February

5th Constitutional Convention, Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), Boston, MA.; 1942 November 09  
Members Policy Committee, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, OH; 1922 August 07

6th Annual Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) Convention, Bellevue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, PA; 1943 November 01

1st Constitutional Convention Banquet, United Steelworkers of America, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, OH; 1942 May 20

2nd Constitutional Convention, United Steelworkers of America, Cleveland, OH, 1944 May 09-1944 May 13; 1944 May

# Keywords

Alabama  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Montana  
Oklahoma  
Tennessee  
Coal mining - camps and company towns.  
Coal mining - Labor organization.  
Coal mining -- Strikes  
Diaries and journals.  
American Association for Labor Legislation  
Workers (Communist) Party of America  
Congress of Industrial Organizations (U.S.)  
Kansas Industrial Court  
National League of People's McAdoo Clubs  
Red International of Labor Unions  
Steel Workers Organizing Committee (U.S.)  
United Mine Workers of America. District 5  
United Mine Workers of America  
Bittner, Van A. (Van Amberg), 1885-1949  
Farrington, Frank.  
Green, William.  
Hayes, Frank J.  
Lewis, John L. (John Llewellyn), 1880-1969  
Mitchell, John.  
Murray, Philip, 1886-1952  
White, John P. (John Phillip), 1870-1934

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **Series 1. Correspondence (Boxes 1-7)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193764

**Unit Date** 1908-1950

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)

### **Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193769

**Unit Date** 1908-1920 July

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

### **Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193770  
**Unit Date** 1920 August - 1920 November  
**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193771  
**Unit Date** 1920 November 11 - 1920 December 20  
**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193772  
**Unit Date** 1920 December 21 - 1921 February 10  
**Mixed Materials** 4 (Box)

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193773  
**Unit Date** 1921 February 11 - 1921 March 20  
**Mixed Materials** 5 (Box)

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193774  
**Unit Date** 1921 March 21 - 1922 December  
**Mixed Materials** 6 (Box)

**Correspondence**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193775  
**Unit Date** 1923 January - 1950  
**Mixed Materials** 7 (Box)

**Series 2. Legal Papers, Speeches, and Programs (Box 8)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193765  
**Unit Date** 1920-1922  
**Mixed Materials** 8 (Box)

**Series 3. Personal Papers (Box 9)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193766  
**Unit Date** 1909-1947  
**Mixed Materials** 9 (Box)

**Series 4. Printed Material (Boxes 10 & 11, 12)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)  
**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193767  
**Unit Date** 1907-1961  
**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)

**Printed material, clippings, etc**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193776

**Unit Date** 1907-1961

**Mixed Materials** 10 (Box)

**Printed material, clippings, etc**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193777

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 11 (Box)

**Publications**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193778

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 12 (Box)

**Series 5. Scrapbooks (Boxes 11A-11B, 13)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193768

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 11A (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 11B (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 13 (Box)