

The Communist Party of Great Britain archive

CP/HIST Communist Party archive history materials

not
filmed

SERIES: Andrew Whitehead, interview transcripts

CP/HIST/01/01

Transcripts of interviews with Denis Healey, Mick Mindel and E.P. Thompson regarding their membership of the CP.

Creation dates: 1991

SERIES: Ron Bond, Communist art student and typographer

CP/HIST/01/02

MS reminiscences of the Kingsmead Club, later the Challenge Sports and Social Club, run by Tottenham YCL in the 1930s.

Creation dates: 1984

Scope and Content: Describing particularly the decoration of the club premises; the memoir accompanied a deposit with the CP archive of the posters used to decorate the club

SERIES: David Burchell, historian, University of Sydney

CP/HIST/01/03

TS essay 'Popular Fronts Fifty Years On: the case of the Left Book Club.

Creation dates: 1985

SERIES: Stuart Macintyre, historian, University of Melbourne

CP/HIST/01/04

TS article for Le Mouvement Sociale, 'Dealing with Moscow: the Comintern and the early history of the Communist Party of Australia', with covering letter.

Creation dates: c1991

SERIES: Clive Hartley, student in trade union and industrial studies, Northern College

CP/HIST/01/05

TS diploma dissertation 'Jack Murphy, syndicalist and socialist: the early years, the workers committees'.

Creation dates: 1983

SERIES: Geoff Roberts, Communist Party historian

CP/HIST/01/06

TS essay 'How the peace was lost: British Communism 1941-45', intended for the never-published Lawrence & Wishart symposium on the CP's history.

Creation dates: 1980

SERIES: Nina Fishman, historian

CP/HIST/01/07

Draft ts article 'The British Road is Resurfaced for New Times' intended for international symposium on European communist parties.

Creation dates: 1992

SERIES: Monty Johnstone, Communist Party historian, London

CP/HIST/01/08

TS article 'The Communist Party of Great Britain 1920-1943' intended for International Institute of Social History symposium on European communist parties in the period of the Comintern.

Creation dates: c1991

SERIES: Robin Page Arnot, 1890-1986, Communist party historian

CP/HIST/01/09

TS account 'Birth of a Party' (71pp), covering period 1918-21 and apparently never

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published.

Creation dates: 1954

Stephen Jones, historian

CP/HIST/01/10

TS article: 'Sport and Politics: the British Workers Sports Federation 1923-1935'.

Creation dates: 1980s

SERIES: Jim Fyrth, historian

CP/HIST/01/11

File relating to his entry on Isabel Brown, 1894-1984, for the Dictionary of Labour Biography.

Creation dates: c1990

Scope and Content: Brown was a leading Communist women's activist and anti-fascist campaigner, involved in the Reichstag Fire trial campaign and Spanish Civil War; the file includes JF's draft entry for the DLB; correspondence with Kenneth Brown (IB's son), Noreen Branson, Douglas Hyde; transcript of interview with IB held by the Imperial War Museum

SERIES: Mike Squires, CP historian, biographer of Shapurji Saklatvala

CP/HIST/01/12

TS article submitted to Race and Class responding to Marc Wadsworth's earlier article 'Black Politics; a historical perspective' (Race and Class vol. 34 no 2, 1992), drawn from Wadsworth's own forthcoming biography of Saklatvala.

Creation dates: 1992-1994

Scope and Content: The response was rejected for publication by the journal

SERIES: Bill Moore, CP activist and historian, Sheffield

CP/HIST/01/13

TSS of contributions to seminar on The World of Working People and the Destiny of Mankind, Moscow, 23-35.5.1989, incl. opening address by Professor Timour Timofeev.

Creation dates: 1989

SERIES: Ben Weinreb

CP/HIST/01/14

TS reminiscences of poetry bookshop at no 4 Parton Street, London, incl. mentions of Giles and Esmond Romilly, David Archer, Dylan Thomas, etc.

Creation dates: n.d.

SERIES: Arthur Clegg, d.1994, campaigner for solidarity with People's China

CP/HIST/01/15

TS memoir 'Aid China 1937-1949: the forgotten campaign', published in 1989 by New World Press, Beijing; with covering note to A.L. Morton.

Creation dates: c1985

SERIES: BBC television Arena documentary on the Daily Worker and Morning Star

CP/HIST/02/01

Transcripts of interviews with Douglas Hyde, Zelda Curtis, Nina Temple, Dennis Ogden, David Elliott, James Friell (BBC copyright material).

Creation dates: 1990-1991

CP/HIST/02/02

Transcripts of interviews with Phil Piratin, George Matthews, Bob Leeson, Kay Beauchamp, Ted Willis, Mikki Doyle and of speech by Gerry Wilcox at Karl Marx's grave (BBC copyright material).

Creation dates: 1990-1991

SERIES: Andy Croft, literary historian and broadcaster

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CP/HIST/02/03

TS of BBC radio broadcast Damn, Damn, Damn, the Communist Party Man.

Creation dates: c1992

SERIES: J.N. Rawling, Australian communist historian

CP/HIST/02/04

Extracts from unpublished ts history of Australian Communist Party dealing in part with relations and correspondence between Harry Pollitt and Esmonde Higgins; with covering letter from Stuart Macintyre 16.6.92.

Creation dates: n.d.

SERIES: Building Workers

CP/HIST/02/05

TS article 'Factory papers' by Merseyside building worker describing the Can Lane Salt-Box, the Hump, the Building Worker and other publications of the late 1920s.

Creation dates: 1920s

SERIES: Lionel Munby, Communist Party historian

CP/HIST/02/06

Photocopy of talk by LM on 'The Communist Party Historians Group', not to be quoted without Mr Munby's permission.

Creation dates: 1991-1992

SERIES: Kevin Morgan, historian

CP/HIST/02/07

Transcripts of oral history interviews with Phil Piratin; Ted Bramley; Winifred Doherty; Edmund Frow; Ralph Simons; Ted Smallbone; Betty Reid; Bennry Rothman; Harold Marsh; George Matthews; Dave Campbell; Ted Willis; Arthur Exell; Margot Kettle.

Creation dates: 1984-1988

SERIES: Eileen Heslin, CIRTUS student

CP/HIST/02/08

TS essay on the Left Book Club.

Creation dates: 1981

SERIES: Hanna Behrend, East German historian

CP/HIST/03/01

TS articles re T.A. Jackson with covering letters.

Creation dates: 1982-1983

SERIES: Roland Berger, businessman and former Communist

CP/HIST/03/02

Materials re Rose Smith, 1891-1985, Communist Party national women's organiser and Daily Worker journalist; the papers incl. transcripts of interviews by RB with RS, then living in Beijing, c1978; with notes and cuttings re RS.

Creation dates: 1970s-1980s

SERIES: Unknown East German Brecht scholar

CP/HIST/03/03

Dissertation 'Bertolt Brecht and the New English Drama 1950-1965; the influence of Brecht on the works of Arden, Bolt and others'; with covering letter to Idris Cox 21.12.71.

Creation dates: 1971

SERIES: John Mathieson, Communist and mineworker, Fife

CP/HIST/03/04

TS essays 'The Most Unforgettable Character I've Ever Met' (about Joseph Mitchell) and 'The Communist Party and the Closing of Rothes Colliery' with ts poem and covering letter.

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Creation dates: 1990s?

SERIES: Kathleen (Kitty) Cornforth, Communist Party functionary

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TS reminiscences of the CP in Cambridge 1936-66 with covering letter to Betty Reid.

Creation dates: 1988

SERIES: Isabel Brown, Communist Party women's organiser

CP/HIST/03/06

TS memoir of Georgi Dimitrov.

Creation dates: 1960s?

SERIES: Hetty Bowers papers

CP/HIST/03/07

Photocopied transcripts of interrogation by NKVD of George Fles, a Communist of mixed Dutch and British background; with related letter to Monty Johnstone from Hetty Bower (?) 1993.

Creation dates: 1930s-1993

SERIES: Andrew Ferns, BA student, Strathclyde University

CP/HIST/03/08

Undergraduate dissertation: "The Development of the Solidarity Movement with Republican Spain in Glasgow 1936 - 1939".

Creation dates: 1974 - 1975

SERIES: Mr. Carr, and Frank Thacker

CP/HIST/03/09

TS "The Formation of the Communist Party in Coventry", with handwritten comments thereon by Frank Thacker.

Creation dates: 1970

SERIES: David Larcombe (history student?)

CP/HIST/03/10

TS "Strategies of Class Struggle in the Communist Party of Great Britain".

Creation dates: 1991

CP/HIST/03/11

Assorted anonymous TSs on various labour-movement-history related themes.

Creation dates: n.d.

Scope and Content: Includes list of LM anniversaries by Frank Jackson, lecture on LM ideology by Lionel Munby, Chartism by A. L. Morton and by Dorothy Towers, notes on Sheffield Shop Stewards by Bill Moore, the case of Albert Inkpin (by Emile Burns??), the SDF's withdrawal from the LRC, etc.

CP/HIST/03/12

Commentaries and speakers' notes for various slide shows on the history of the labour movement and of the CPGB. (Not certain whether slides extant).

Creation dates: 1950s and 1960s

CP/HIST/03/13

Harold Hoare's (CP activist/shop steward in London and Luton) memoirs "All the Trees were Bread and Cheese" with introduction by Owen Hardisty. Covering letter from G Matthews.

Creation dates: 1920s-1960s

SERIES: Stephen R. Parsons, historian

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PhD thesis: "Communism in the Professions: the Organisation of the British Communist Party

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among Professional Workers 1933 - 1956" Part 1.
Creation dates: 1990

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PhD thesis: "Communism in the Professions: the Organisation of the British Communist Party among Professional Workers 1933 - 1956" Part 2.
Creation dates: 1990

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PhD thesis: "Communism in the Professions: the Organisation of the British Communist Party among Professional Workers 1933 - 1956" Part 3.
Creation dates: 1990

SERIES: John Ross Campbell, CPGB founder member and leading figure

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TS drafts of commemorative pamphlet for the CPGB's 40th anniversary.
Creation dates: 1960

SERIES: Finlay Hart, Scottish communist, shipyard worker

CP/HIST/04/05

Recollection of the 7th World Congress of the Communist International, Moscow, 1935.
Creation dates: 1985

SERIES: John Mahon, London District CPGB Secretary 1940s - 1960s

CP/HIST/04/06

TS document: "CPGB London Division: Who Was First Secretary or Organiser?", and correspondence.
Creation dates: 1971

CP/HIST/04/07

TS articles on local history: script for labour history tour of the Clerkenwell area, possibly by Dona Torr (handwritten corrections certainly in her hand); anonymous ts "The Gas Workers Led the Way"; anonymous ts "Joe Vaughan and Bethnal Green".
Creation dates: 1950s (?)

SERIES: Robin Page Arnot (1890 - 1986) Communist journalist and historian

CP/HIST/04/08

"The Struggle of the Fife Miners and their Allies between the Two World Wars" - ts lecture given by RPA at the Dysart Miners' Institute.
Creation dates: 26 May 1968

CP/HIST/04/09

Material on the history of the NU Seamen and Havelock Wilson:~ MS excerpts from The Seaman, TUC reports, etc.
Creation dates: n.d.

CP/HIST/04/10

Anonymous ts notes on the history of Sheffield.
Creation dates: n.d.

CP/HIST/04/11

TS list "Communist Party Broadsheets in the Possession of Glyn Evans" - lists many duplicated local CPGB bulletins produced in the 1920s and 1930s.
Creation dates: 1977

Related material: Most of these titles are held at the Working Class Movement Library, some may be found in Evans' papers. Similar materials from South London can be found in the Lewisham CPGB boxes

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Unpolished translation from the Russian by Francis King of fond 495, opis' 14, delo 265 from

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the Comintern Archive, and brief index of some other materials prepared by Monty Johnstone.

Creation dates: 1994

CP/HIST/04/13

Sundry lists and other materials relating to holdings on the CPGB in other archives and holdings. In English and Russian.

Creation dates: 1989 - 1994

CP/HIST/04/14

Marika Sherwoods notes from Moscow CI archives 1993 (photocopies). Concentrate on material relating to the relations between the CPGB and the colonies in the CI archives.

Creation dates: 1920s-1930s

CP/HIST/5

"Young People and Formal Political Activity: a Case Study..." - Michael Waite's MPhil thesis on the Young Communist League.

Creation dates: July 1992

SERIES: Lawrence Black thesis

CP/HIST/06/01

"British Communism & 1956: Party Culture & Political Identities" MA Thesis University of Warwick 1994.

Creation dates: 1994

SERIES: Ralph Russell's autobiography

CP/HIST/06/02

"They Think I Lost - Conclusions from a communist life" (unpublished ?) by Ralph Russell.

Creation dates: 1995

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Passed to NMLH by Geoff Andrews.

Scope and Content: Includes material on Cambridge, India during & immediately after the war, the London party, university work, 1956 & reflections on communism & the Communist Party.

SERIES: Sue Bruley's interviews

CP/HIST/06/03

Transcripts of interviews conducted by S Bruley for 1980 PhD on "Communist Women 1920 - 1939".

Creation dates: 1976 - 1977

Access Conditions: NOTE TO RESEARCHERS: These transcripts remain the property of Sue Bruley & their use must be so acknowledged. Permission for any extensive quotation must be obtained in advance from Dr Bruley, the University of Portsmouth.

Scope and Content: Interviewees include Phyllis Bell, Peter & Rose Kerrigan, Kate Loeber [aka Kate Kant], Dora Cox [nee Roberts], Louie & Bob Davies, Bessie Johnson and Harold & Bessie Dickinson.

SERIES: Frieda Brewster's autobiography

CP/HIST/06/04

Copy of "A Long Journey" by Frieda Brewster (a.k.a. Frieda Devine).

Creation dates: 1988

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Passed on to the CP Archives at the NMLH by Kevin Morgan.

SERIES: RP Dutt & the British Communist Party

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Draft article on Dutt & his relationship with the party until the adoption of the class against class line. Author not given [David Cooper?]. Also comments by Betty Reid.

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Creation dates: n.d.

SERIES: John Lloyd, recollections

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Written memories of YCL & LBC public school activist John Lloyd. Letter of explanation to LBC researcher Jon Heddon.

Creation dates: 1997

SERIES: Alan Spence typescript

CP/HIST/06/07

Copy of ts article/book "Mister Capital and Mistress Land" on the history & continued influence of landed property under capitalism.

Creation dates: 1988

SERIES: Party history articles

CP/HIST/06/08

Draft ts articles on "Struggles of the Textile Workers 1927 - 1940" & "The 'New Line' and the Trade Unions 1928 - 1935" by unknown author, possibly prepared for party's History Commission.

Creation dates: n.d.

Scope and Content: Also letters from Eddie Frow to Kevin Morgan speculating on authorship (ie Trevor Robinson, Lancashire District Organiser 1930 - 1934).

SERIES: Wealdstone Labour Hall

CP/HIST/06/09

Account of early years of Wealdstone Labour Hall by local activist HG Gange. Intended for inclusion in proposed history of Harrow Labour Movement by J Macy. Also letter from Macy to Jim Fyrth.

Creation dates: 1962

SERIES: Marika Sherwood TS

CP/HIST/06/10

TS article "The CPGB & the Colonial Issue 1938 - 1948". Also includes letter to Betty Reid re article.

Creation dates: 1989