

# The MRC in 50 Objects

Exhibition Catalogue



Modern Records Centre

Celebrating 50 years





## The MRC's 50th anniversary

1973 saw the launch of VAT, the Austin Allegro, and *Last of the Summer Wine*. Meanwhile, the University of Warwick, now eight years old, was beginning to establish itself as a new and innovative centre for learning and research. Given its youth, it could not have the archives or special collections to rival those at some of its neighbouring educational establishments such as Oxford or Birmingham so it decided to go in another direction. The University itself had been founded as part of the post-war expansion in tertiary education provision, and with Warwick there is and always has been a particular emphasis on links with industry. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the Modern Records Centre was opened on 1 October 1973 with the express intention of reflecting the history of industrial relations.

The post-war period saw a steady growth in interest in the study of social and labour history. At Warwick, the Industrial Relations Research Unit (part of the Social Science Research Council) was founded in 1969, and a number of prominent academics (amongst them Hugh Clegg and George Bain) found that the primary material for their research was not being collected by the existing network of archive repositories. None of them collected the national records of the trades union movement which formed a crucial resource for the study of labour history. They obtained a grant from the Leverhulme Trust which funded the Centre for its first four years; thereafter the University itself funded two professional posts and one clerical post, and the Modern Records Centre became a permanent part of the University. The first trade union to deposit its archives was NALGO, from February 1974.

The initial collecting policy included records of trades unions, employers' organisations, pressure groups, political groups and the records of the University itself. This policy was expanded over time to include some

business records (e.g. Jensen Motors, the Rubery Owen group, and the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, the latter since transferred to the British Motor Museum) relating to the history of transport which characterised many aspects of Coventry's industrial past, in both the bicycle and motor industries. Whilst the Centre no longer collects in these broad areas (as there are many well-established archives supporting this area of study), it is still home to the ever-expanding National Cycle Archive, which reflects the importance of that industry to the history of Coventry.

The Centre has always tended to focus on and been most closely associated with its trades union collections, but it is equally an archive which collects material relating to trade and employers' associations, as much reflecting the role of the employer as that of the employee. Other collecting areas include pressure, protest and campaigning groups (e.g. CND, the Howard League for Penal Reform, National Union of Students), radical political movements (with a particular focus on Trotskyist movements), and professional associations (e.g. British Association of Social Workers, Institute of Administrative Management).

Over the years, the Centre has built on its vision as a centre for the study of British social and labour history, and in 1993 moved to new purpose-built premises in an annexe of the main University Library. By 2023, the Centre had grown to over 16 kilometres of shelving and extended to a further new outstore facility with another 10 years' or so expansion space. The collections continue to grow as the Centre is offered material both by the creating organisations and by individual donors who have amassed collections over their lives.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary year, the Modern Records Centre is delighted to present a celebration of its fantastic collections made up of 50 selected items, chosen by its staff, friends, researchers and supporters.

The items that have been chosen are an eclectic mix, from rock concerts to trade union extravaganzas, from Leamington Spa to Volgograd, from Doctor Who to the Tolpuddle Martyrs, from Uncle Tom's Cabin to the French Résistance, from Eric Hobsbawm to the General Strike and from pencil sharpeners to toy hospitals.

It would be impossible to choose one collection or one item which summarises the breadth of the topics covered or to tell the stories contained within them, but we hope that the exhibition helps to bring to life a little of the rich variety of our collections.



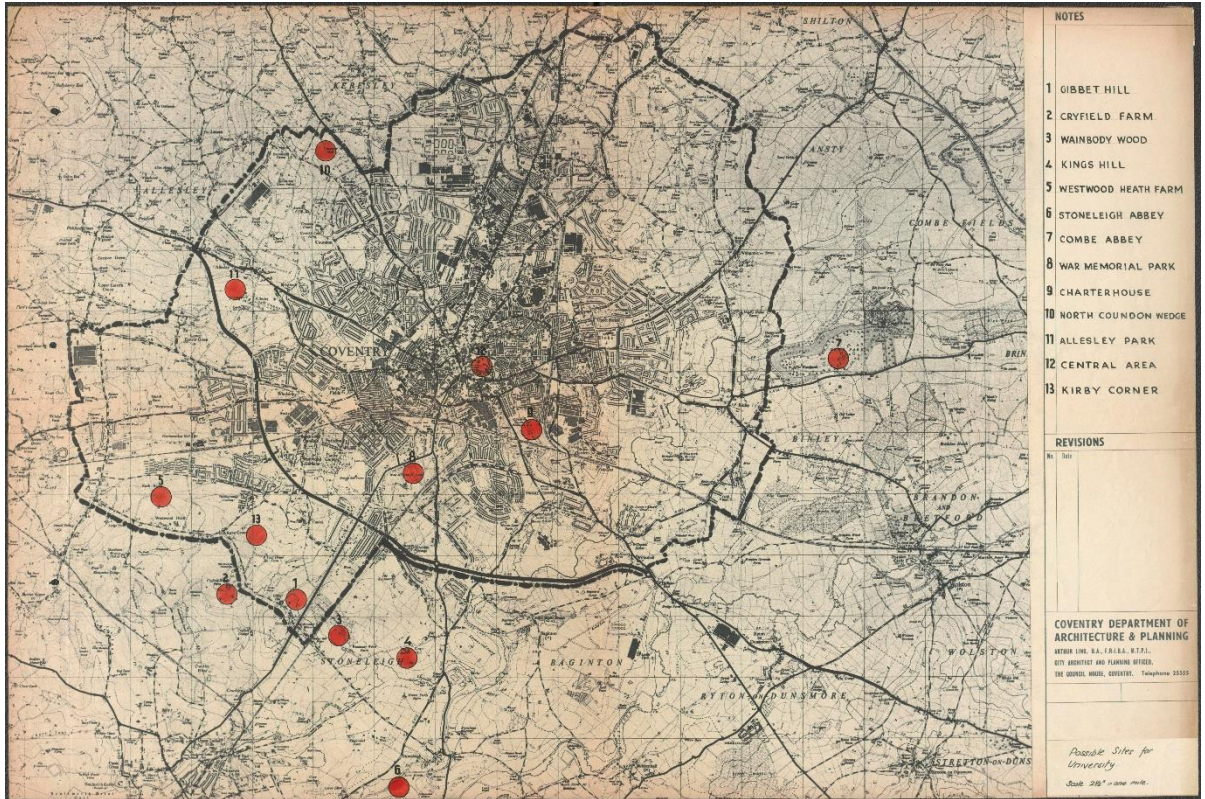
The Modern Records Centre in the 1990s, including the MRC's first and second Archivists Richard Storey and Christine Woodland.



# 1. Letters Patent from the College of Arms granting a Coat of Arms to the University of Warwick dated 5 October 1966 Ref No: uncatalogued

Nominated by: The Rt Hon. The Baroness Ashton of Upholland Cathy Ashton (Warwick University Chancellor)

This Grant of Arms may seem out of place in a repository which deals with modern records and the modern world but it is a reminder that some forms of record-keeping do not change over the centuries. Its purpose is simple: to provide official proof of the institution's unique coat of arms which can then be produced for anyone who may wish to see it - hence the type of legal document used (a declaration issued on behalf of the reigning monarch) and its general form of address ('To all and singular to whom these presents shall come'). What is so striking about Warwick's coat of arms is the emphasis on science, discovery and progress. It is as though Warwick was granted an up-to-date version of heraldry befitting of a new, forward-looking university established in the twentieth century.

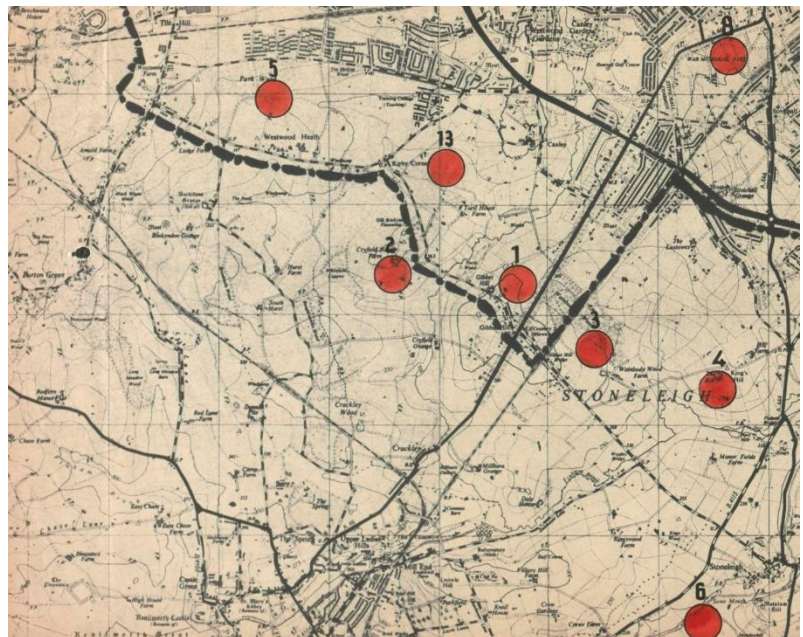


## 2. Possible sites for university (c.1960s)

Ref No: uncatalogued

Nominated by: Professor Stuart Croft (Warwick University Vice-Chancellor)

This map shows different locations around Coventry where Warwick University could have been developed. The original Gibbet Hill campus would take shape at Site 1. Next to Site 13 is the Teacher Training College which is now the University's Westwood campus. The measure of Warwick's growth since its foundation is that the current campus covers sites 1, 2, and 13, and all the land in between! When looking at the University Archives, Vice-Chancellor Croft said, "I LOVE the campus locations map, I had no idea! Fascinating!"





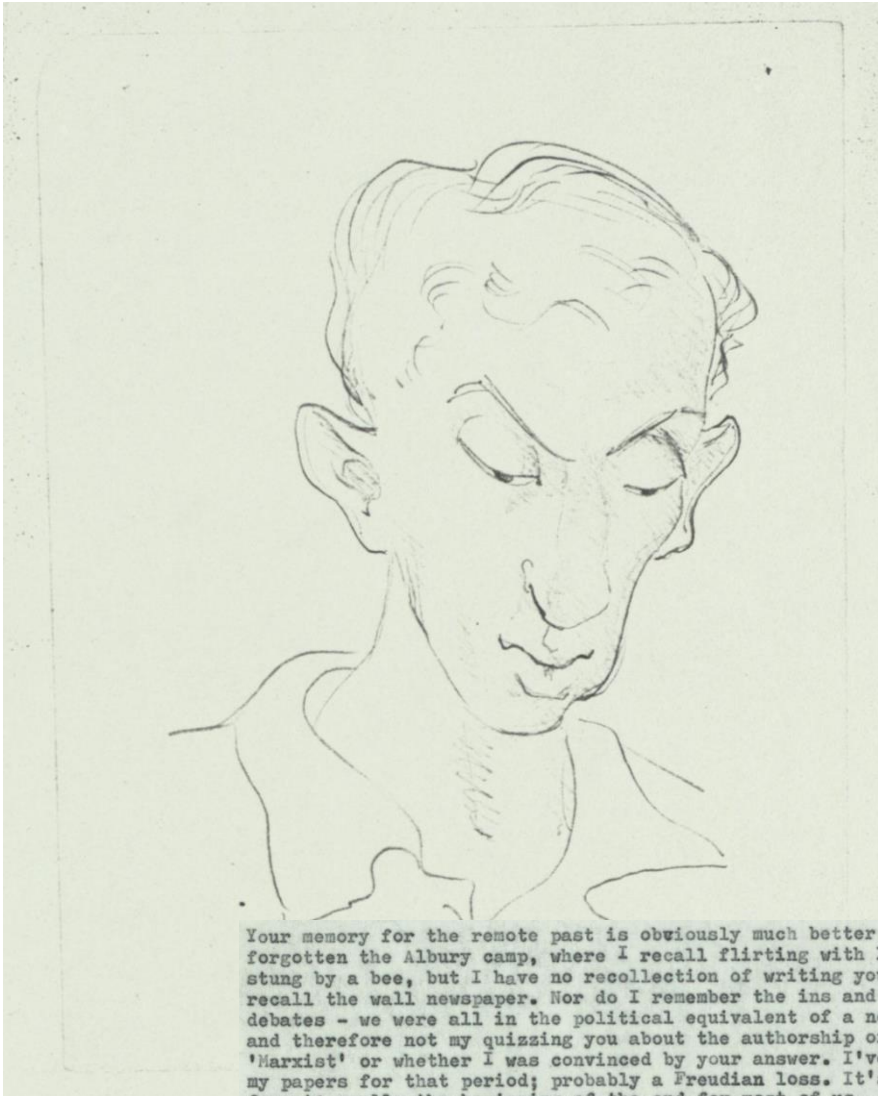
### **3. Letter from Moscow (10 May 1924)**

Ref No: MSS.334/3/6/20

Nominated by: Rachel MacGregor (Modern Records Centre Archives Manager)

The image of Tom Mann included in this letter is both striking and slightly humorous - as acknowledged by Tom himself: 'the painting of which this is a photograph was done by an artist who had not seen me; he took it from photographs [...] He's given me a nose like Tolstoy eh?'

Tom is a bit of a poster boy for the MRC (a local lad and we are watched over him in his bronze bust incarnation in our exhibition space), so it seems fitting to include him in his guise as poster boy for the Soviet Revolution.



Your memory for the remote past is obviously much better than mine. I have not forgotten the Albury camp, where I recall flirting with Iris Murdoch and being stung by a bee, but I have no recollection of writing your biography, though I recall the wall newspaper. Nor do I remember the ins and outs of the 1956 debates - we were all in the political equivalent of a nervous breakdown - and therefore not my quizzing you about the authorship of the NS letters by 'Marxist' or whether I was convinced by your answer. I've also lost most of my papers for that period; probably a Freudian loss. It's a time I prefer to forget: really the beginning of the end for most of us. It's all very well to plug along on the left in our various ways, doing what we can, but I've never since 1956 felt that the movement is something one can any longer devote one's life to. And I have felt convinced that in missing its chance of a new

#### **4. Sketch of Eric Hobsbawm from Communist Party Student Summer School (1939) & Letter to Brian Simon (1979)** Ref Nos: 937/6/1/6 & 937/6/4/6

Nominated by: Professor Sir Richard J. Evans (Cambridge University)

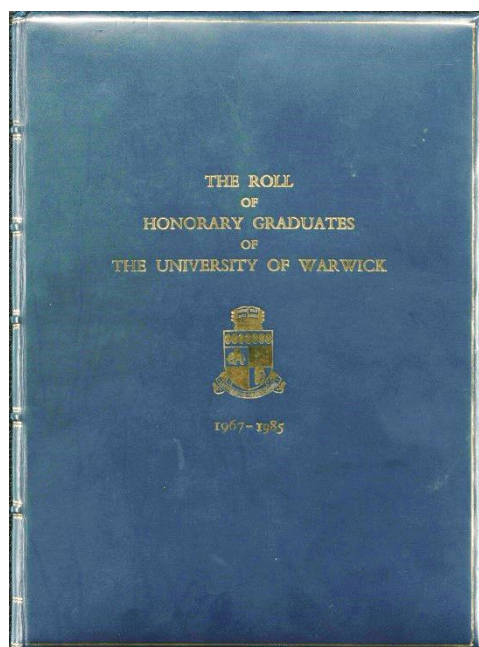
These two items come from the papers of Eric Hobsbawm, one of the most significant historians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were chosen in consultation with his biographer Professor Sir Richard J. Evans (*Eric Hobsbawm: A Life in History*, 2019). The sketch was made at a Communist Party summer camp in 1939, which Hobsbawm attended having decided against hitchhiking across Nazi Germany to Vienna. Hobsbawm recalls the summer camp in a 1979 letter to Brian Simon, before going on to discuss the impact of the 1956 Hungarian crisis on the Communist movement. Evans notes that in a profile accompanying the sketch, Hobsbawm was portrayed as 'precociously brilliant', the profiler remarking that 'he means to be a Don or a Journalist, and as either he will get into the headlines. You ask him what is his favourite book, and he will say that he hasn't written it yet'.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

*Roll of Honorary Graduates*

*On The Occasion of The  
Degree Congregation  
13th July 1979*

*Wesley Harrison  
was Bachelor of Science  
Clifford Addison  
Iris Murdoch  
L. C. Knights*



### 5. Roll of Honorary Graduates (1967-1985)

Ref No: UWA/SC/DC/1/1

Nominated by: Lizzie Morrison (Archives Assistant, Modern Records Centre)

Not actually a roll but three separate books containing the signatures of all of Warwick's Honorary Graduates.

Volume 1 contains signatures of Yehudi Menuhin, Peggy Ashcroft, Judi Dench, Iris Murdoch (signature above; see also Object 4), Tom Stoppard, Trevor Nunn and Elizabeth Frink.

Volume 3 contains signatures of David Edgar, David Bradley, Rodney Bickerstaffe and Antony Sher.





**6. Photographs showing the arrival of President Bill Clinton, First Lady Senator-Elect Hilary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton (2000)**

Ref No:  
UWA/CVA/6/3

Nominated by:  
Professor Ingrid de  
Smet (French  
Studies, Warwick University)



President of the United States, Bill Clinton, visited the University of Warwick on 14 December 2000. He was accompanied by First Lady and Senator-Elect Hilary Clinton, their daughter Chelsea, and British Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Detailed records of this visit can be found on the Warwick website: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/communications/archive/clinton/>

He had breakfast & then they produced the bill which was one of the most <sup>high</sup> prices we've had because they'd managed to bring it up to over 67 francs by such charges as 5/-<sup>each</sup> for breakfast & dinner, + extra for showing it in an room (as if anyone wanted their meals in a small bed-room!) +

45.

7<sup>th</sup> d each for eggs. Anyways we hadn't got so much money in in Swiss money & the train was going at any minute so we went to the station & they came protesting that it had "very little for the mountains", finally we paid 50 francs & said we'd send the rest from London. We left

## 7. Eileen Younghusband personal diary (April-July 1926)

Ref No: MSS.463/EY/J20

Nominated by: Carole Jones (Archives Assistant, Modern Records Centre)

The diaries offer fascinating social insights, political history and plenty of entertainment. Hard to pick just one but there's much to enjoy in this account of a European tour – including walking out of a Swiss hotel without paying. Alongside the tale of her travels are comments on news from the UK and the start of the General Strike.

Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Monday. Had our usual bath before breakfast.

G. went out a got turpentine with which I endeavoured to make our tarred garments more respectable & had fair success over it - We decided this morning that we had gone far enough from home & would make Milton our headquarters - We can then make excursions round & have the advantage of being able to leave our luggage behind - At 7.0 - we started on a round, first through Christ Church & Bournemouth.



We went in to Christ Church a most magnificent building. We were much disappointed to find one is not allowed to see any part of the interior (except just inside the V. door) without payment of 6d. It seems a disagreeable thing thus to deprive people of their right of entering a place of public worship - One can excuse it when it is a question of going over highly vaulted parts as the Tower etc - but not where the main part of the Church is concerned -

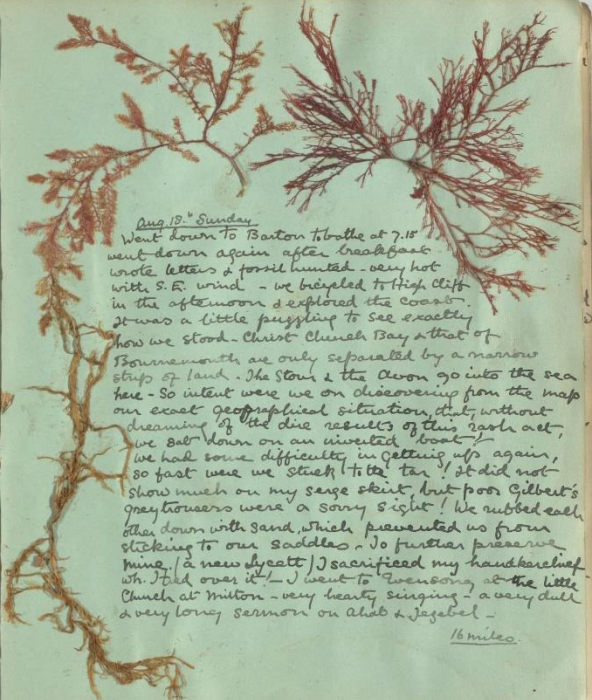
On to Bournemouth this 'Boscobe' - the former we found alive with people the beach looking as tho' it could hardly hold another person! the pleasure gardens opposite the entrance to the pier looked cool & pretty. We did not go into them as bicycles are not allowed inside -



Christ Church. Interior.

We got into conversation with a man on the beach who proved to be the owner of 2 private bathing tents. He very kindly placed them at our disposal - Costumes were to be hired at the Bournemouth bathing place - After lunch we had a glorious bath the water seemed quite warm - In the evening we rode to Milford-on-Sea & walked along the cliff - I found plenty of sea-thrift growing - It is a dear little place with a splendid view of the Isle of Wight -

A perfect evening & a glorious sunset.  
16 miles.



Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday

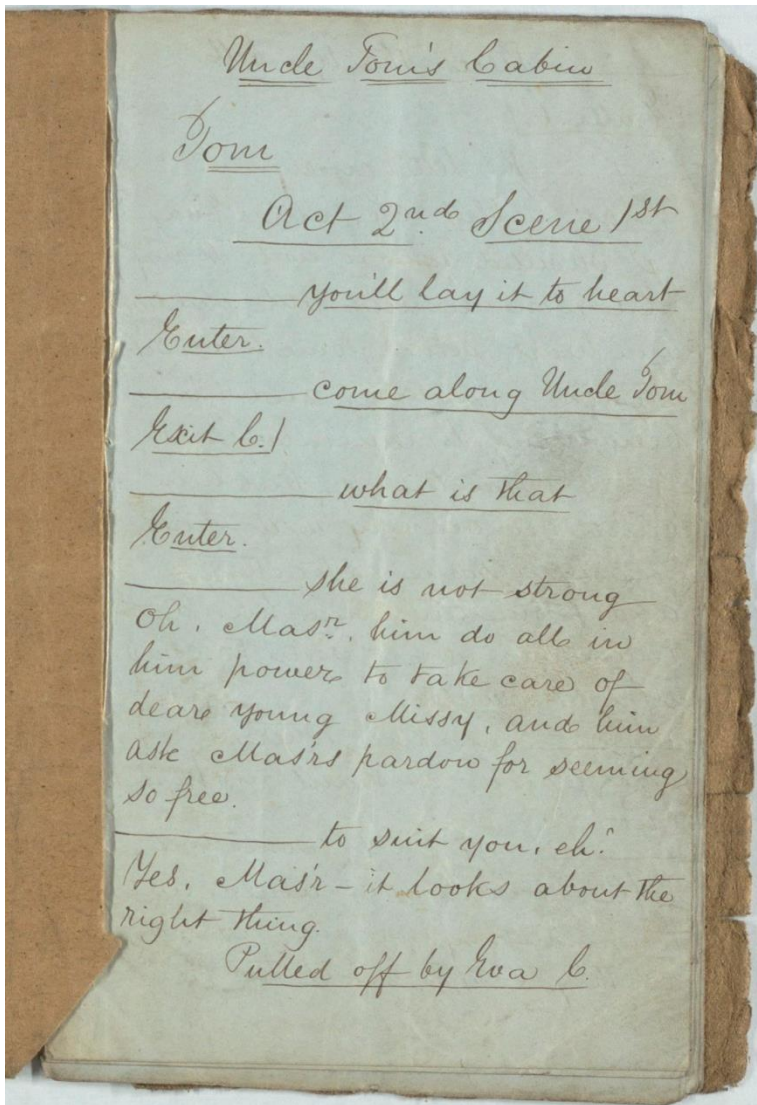
Went down to Barton to bathe at 7.15 - went down again after breakfast wrote letters & fossil hunted - very hot with S.E. wind - we bicycled to High Cliff in the afternoon & explored the coast. It was a little puzzling to see exactly how we stood - Christ Church Bay & that of Bournemouth are only separated by a narrow strip of land. The Stour & the Avon go into the sea here - So intent were we on discovering from the map our exact geographical situation that without dreaming of the dire results of this rash act, we got down on an inverted boat - we had some difficulty in getting us up again, so fast were we stuck to the tar! It did not show much on my serge skirt but poor Gilbert's grey trousers were a sorry sight! We rubbed each other down with sand, which prevented us from sticking to our saddles - To further preserve mine (a new dyestuff) I sacrificed my handkerchief wh. I hid over it - I went to Swinson at the little Church at Milton - very hearty singing - a very dull & very long sermon on Job & Jobab -

16 miles.

### 8. Diary of Amy Malden (1898-1903) Ref No: 1227/1

Nominated by: Carole Jones (Archives Assistant, Modern Records Centre)

The diary, part of the National Cycle Archive, contains the account of three holidays, including cycling tours of south-east England and north Wales. Illustrated with photographs and postcards, the pressed flowers and ferns reflect Amy's horticultural interests.



## 9. 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' script (undated)

Ref No. MSS.18/92/3

Nominated by: Dr David Coates (Theatre & Performance Studies, Warwick University)

This item is part of a large collection of flimsy nineteenth century 'acting edition' play texts, held in the Hall Collection in the Modern Records Centre. These texts were printed and sold cheaply by a number of London publishers who catered for the growing number of professional and amateur actors in the mid-nineteenth century. Many of the texts in the Hall Collection have the name Clara St Casse written across their cover and pages. This was the stage name of an actress called Hannah Cass. Together the collection documents her acting career, which began when she was a young child. She experienced fame as a child star for depicting the character of Eva in Uncle Tom's Cabin - a play which had a significant effect on attitudes towards slavery on both sides of the Atlantic. This fame was short-lived and the collection therefore represents the career of an ordinary actress, making a career on the fringes of London and regional theatre.

**10. Script for  
'Doctor Who',  
anonymous  
(7 July 1966)**

Ref No. 1042/C/1905

Nominated by:  
James King  
(Senior Assistant  
Archivist,  
Modern Records  
Centre)

This item is one  
of many we hold  
from the  
Writers' Guild of  
Great Britain.

This script,  
submitted to the  
Guild in 1966,  
remained  
unopened until  
we opened it for  
the purposes of  
cataloguing.

INTRODUCTION

Tardis lands in a crippled space ship which has been drifting in space for two years with three survivors on board. They accuse Dr. Who of having been involved in the attack that wrecked the ship, which was on a reconnaissance flight from the moon Straba to its twin moon Hemiul.

They order him to take them back to Straba in Tardis. To save the lives of his friends, Dr. Who pretends to comply and accidentally takes them a short way back in time, restoring the dead members of the crew to life.

After helping the Strabax to escape the attack which first crippled their ship, he aids them in saving their civilization by reconquering Hemiul, whose atmosphere has been fatally altered by an invading race.

BER You've landed us in outer space!  
Dr. WHO Impossible! Why do you say that?  
BER --ooo--  
BER If we're on earth the sky would be blue, not black.  
Dr. WHO It's night.  
BER I've never seen it like this.  
POLLY Where are you?  
BER I don't recognize the sky. It doesn't look like any I've ever seen.  
Dr. WHO Surely that's impossible.  
BER So, it's not.

REGISTERED WITH THE WRITERS  
GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN  
DATE 7th July 1965  
REG. No. 1905

# 11. Coventry Herald article on 'Sunday games' in Coventry parks (1939)

Ref No: MSS/11/7/6/18

Nominated by: Andrew Walton (Coventry Local History Society)

During a visit to the MRC, I was drawn to the display of an undated extract of a newspaper. This headlined the Coventry Council's agreement to permit Sunday games in their parks. What was intriguing was that one Alderman had left the meeting as a protest at its passing.

I wondered in which era this had taken place. I referred to the British Newspaper Archive and quickly found the article. It was published on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1939 in the Coventry Herald. To me, it appeared that Sunday games were a long-established practice, so I decided to carry out some brief research.

The treatment of Sunday as a day to be reserved for religious purposes can be traced back hundreds of years. There are acts to establish its observance dating from 1625, 1627, 1677 and 1780. The observance of Sunday began to come under heavy pressure after the Second World War from a desire to go shopping, play or watch sports, go to the cinema and have day trips to attractions, to name just some. All this reminded me that as a young child, I remember going to motorcycle races where spectators purchased programmes or paid heavily for parking to get around the illegality of charging an entry fee.

There were several attempts in Parliament to repeal aspects of Sunday observance. For instance, in 1953, a Bill to legalise Sunday entertainment was heavily defeated. The Statute Law Repeals Act 1969 repealed three of the four Sunday Observance Acts—those of 1625, 1627 and 1677. The Sunday Cinema Act was passed in 1972. It was not all plain sailing: the Shops Bill was defeated in 1986. However, Sunday trading was ultimately relaxed by the Sunday Trading Act 1994, the twenty-seventh attempt to do so. Opposition to these changes came from the Lord's Day Observance Society and other groups such as the Keep Sunday Special campaign. The latter was a coalition body which included the shopworkers' trade union USDAW. Presumably they were more interested in the effect on their workers than the religious aspect. In 2014, a poll commissioned by pressure group 'Open Sundays' claimed that 72% of people believe they should be able to shop whenever is convenient to them. All this made me realise that the free and easy Sunday we now enjoy is much shorter lived than I imagined. Indeed, I believe that the younger generation would be amazed if this was brought to their attention. This newspaper article has unexpectedly given me cause for thought and I believe that it merits being nominated as one of your 50 exhibits.

## SUNDAY GAMES

### CITY COUNCIL'S DECISION

Principle Approved by Majority of 10

### ALDERMAN LEAVES MEETING AS PROTEST AFTER A BRISK DEBATE

COVENTRY City Council to-day agreed to the principle of Sunday games in the Corporation parks.

This is the first occasion such a decision has been arrived at in Coventry, and it was urged by the supporters of the innovation that there was no reason to anticipate an abuse of a privilege that was generally desired by the citizens.

The debate was again a brisk one, though the discussion was ended before several speakers against the project had raised their objection, the Mayor receiving an overwhelming call for a vote to be taken.

Then, when the vote was taken, 30 members voted in favour of Sunday games and 30 against. Alderman Kimberley left the Council Chamber "as a protest against the manner in which discussion was brought to an end by members of the Council asking for a vote to be taken."

He should be explained that the Baths and Parks Committee had recommended the re-affirmation of the resolution of April 17 that there be no Sunday games, and that if the Council did not approve of this to-day then the Council should themselves decide the question of principle.

#### CINEMA OPENING: A COMPARISON

Alderman Hodgkinson led the debate in favour of the principle of Sunday games by moving an amendment that the minute of the Baths and Parks Committee be not confirmed and that the Council decide in favour of Sunday games and instruct the Baths and Parks Committee to put the necessary arrangements into effect as soon as possible.

"It seems to me," he said, "that if we are going to consider public policy in this matter then it should be carried."

Alderman Hodgkinson raised a long laugh, when, with his features as expressionless as usual, he said "Coventry is an extraordinary city in many ways—it has produced Lady Godiva and Councillor Wyles." He went on to describe the opposition that originally met the suggestion of Sunday opening of cinemas that had now been carried on for 21 years and said that the opposition for Sunday games was of a similar type.

However, there was a reverse action, he said, for while people came to Coventry from far and wide to go to the cinema on Sunday, Coventry had to go out into the country for Sunday games.

"At Wellesbourne," he said, "on a Sunday afternoon you find organised cricket almost within the shadow of the church. These country villages are having their fling and setting the city quite a decent example. Go to Chipping Norton and you will see that country cousins at organised baseball matches, and to look on it makes one wonder why Coventry has not done the same to make the experiment."

#### WOULD PRIVILEGE BE ABUSED?

Here Alderman Kimberley interjected: "Outside my bat and ball lines was a cricket match the other day and Alderman Hodgkinson continued to say there were many examples in Coventry itself of Sunday sport."

"No one says anything about it," he said, "but all the works clubs play up to a certain time. Go to Binley Road and you can see the N.E. cricket ground frequently engaged. One would think to hear the opposition that the carrying of the Lord's Day like letting hell loose on Sundays, so to speak."

Alderman Hodgkinson suggested that people who wanted to play games on Sundays would be like members of the Council who had few transport passes—they would use the privilege with discretion.

A member of the Council broke into Alderman Hodgkinson's speech to ask "What About Fishing?" and Alderman Hodgkinson who is a well-known local angler replied "Well, when I go fishing it does not involve Sunday labour."

"I like you, Mr. Mayor, and other members of the Council have received some documents this morning by post from the Lord's Day Observance Society, and the Christian Social Council," Alderman Hodgkinson continued. "These documents are four years old, and the people who composed them have not been good enough to bring them up-to-date. Some of the signatories have died, and some have left the City. One would have thought that if the Lord's Day Observance Society had thought this was important they would have brought it up-to-date and modified it in the light of the experience of the intensification of labour in the City since 1935."

#### "VESTED INTERESTS"

He spoke of the work of the National Council, and then went on to suggest that there was no organised vested interests against the opening of the Corporation parks. Most private clubs were open in the city, and it had been stated on a previous occasion that Sunday was their best day of the week. "It is not Sunday observance at all, but private vested interests," he declared. "If you are going to live by God, you have to live to God every day of the week," he added with vehemence. Mrs. Councillor Hyde seconded the amendment, on the grounds of the individual rights of the citizens to do what they pleased in the parks, which were their property, and Councillor Peatfield, supporting, said there had been exactly the same opposition to Sunday games as there had been in the first place to mixed bathing.

#### OPONENT OF SUNDAY GAMES

The first opponent of Sunday sport was Councillor Handle, who commented that he had never played games on a Sunday and did not intend to. He held that there was no call for Sunday games and that for those people who desired to play ample provision was made on private ground. He made point of the fact that whereas no organised body had applied to the Council to be allowed to play on Sundays, there was very big opposition.

When Councillor Wyles expressed his support for the amendment, Councillor Weston commented with surprise on the fact that Alderman Hodgkinson and Councillor Wyles were, for once, in agreement.

Councillor Wyles, referring to Councillor Handle's statement, said: "If he does not want to play a game on Sunday that is his business. But he has no right to come here and say that no one else has any right to play. Allow Sunday recreation at least a trial for twelve months," he said.

It was at this point that a number of members shouted "Vote," and when the Mayor called on Alderman Hodgkinson to reply, Alderman Kimberley made his protest that there were several speakers who wished to oppose the amendment.

#### ALDERMAN KIMBERLEY WALKS OUT AS A PROTEST

The Mayor pointed out that there were equally as many who desired to speak for the amendment, and when he had again asked the opinion of the Council and had closed the discussion, Alderman Kimberley retired from the meeting.

Alderman Hodgkinson then replied to the debate in favour of the amendment. The vote was taken, resulting in a majority of ten for the amendment, and Alderman Hilliwail said, peculiarly: "I suggest the Labour Party play the Progressives the first Sunday morning."

The Mayor: "I cannot see that on the agenda." (Laughter.)

After Councillor Roberts had suggested that there should be restriction of hours for Sunday play, the Rev. Richard Lee moved a further amendment that was accepted by the Council that the Baths and Parks Committee should use discretion in the hours of the opening of the parks for games, so as not to interfere with those people who desired a "quiet Sunday."

His amendment also included a safeguard to employees of the Corporation who on conscientious grounds did not wish to work on Sundays. During his speech, the Rev. Richard Lee expressed his personal opinion that from a humanitarian point of view the Council had gone on the wrong lines in passing the principle, thus destroying the one day of rest in a week.

## NEED FOR LARGER ABATTOIR

### Coventry M Face Cap

A warning that the future will be made in public affairs of the City, the Mayor said in his address to the Council to-day. He said that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public, and that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public. He said that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public, and that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public.

When the Mayor said that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public, he was making a statement that was well received. He said that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public, and that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public. He said that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public, and that the future of the City would be made in the hands of the public.



## 12. Photograph of the founders of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) outside Leamington Town Hall (1921)

Ref No: MSS.642/64

Nominated by: Professor Ben Richardson (Politics and International Studies, Warwick University)

Leamington is not usually associated with the labour movement, but this meeting was pivotal in the history of trade unionism in the UK. This photo, with TGWU leader Ernest Bevin at the centre, perfectly captured the moment and encouraged me to find out more about the hidden history of the town where I live.

Professor Richardson has authored a longer piece on this meeting, which can be found here: <https://leamingtonhistory.co.uk/the-foundation-of-the-transport-and-general-workers-union-in-leamington/>



**Safe on foreign soil, refugees**  
So great is the rush to La Perouse that refugees must wait for hours just to get a meal and a change of clothes.

**wait—and wonder 'What now?'**  
They hang on to the camp. Middle Grounds have them in their. The refugees wait for the lucky moment when they can leave.

January 30, 1939

**TRUDDING ALONG THE ROAD TO SAFETY**

Refugee children in the picture above had each lost a limb.  
Right: Looking down the rugged mountain path along which the refugees trudged to La Perouse, seen in the picture on right of the picture.

**Food for the hungry—and rest for the weary**

January 30, 1939

These refugees in camp...  
The boys...  
The girls...  
The children...  
The women...  
The men...  
The old...  
The young...  
The sick...  
The healthy...  
The happy...  
The sad...  
The brave...  
The cowardly...  
The noble...  
The ignominious...  
The brave...  
The cowardly...  
The noble...  
The ignominious...

Every mother...  
Every father...  
Every child...  
Every man...  
Every woman...  
Every old man...  
Every young man...  
Every sick man...  
Every healthy man...  
Every happy man...  
Every sad man...  
Every brave man...  
Every cowardly man...  
Every noble man...  
Every ignominious man...

**BRITISH SOLDIERS WHO DIVED INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE DARK TO SAVE THE LIVES OF DOWNING SPANISH REPUBLICAN SAULORS WERE AMONG THE LAST HEROES OF A GALLANT, THRILLING AND DESEPERATELY UNEQUAL NAVAL BATTLE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND FASCISTS, FOUGHT OFF THE ROCKS OF CIBALETA YESTERDAY.**

The Spanish cruiser Jose Luis Diaz...  
The British Government...  
The Spanish...  
The British...  
The battle...  
The heroism...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...  
The heroism...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...

**ITALIAN PLANES USE NAZI BOMBS**

Eighty-three German...  
The Italian...  
The German...  
The bombs...  
The attack...  
The destruction...  
The damage...  
The loss...  
The cost...  
The effort...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...

**"HAS GOD TURNED HIS HEAD AWAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE?"**

At Sartreac...  
The refugees...  
The hunger...  
The thirst...  
The cold...  
The heat...  
The pain...  
The suffering...  
The despair...  
The hope...  
The faith...  
The love...  
The mercy...  
The grace...  
The power...  
The glory...

**First Message From Spain**

From GEORGES BODIA...  
The message...  
The news...  
The situation...  
The progress...  
The setbacks...  
The challenges...  
The opportunities...  
The risks...  
The rewards...  
The costs...  
The benefits...  
The losses...  
The gains...  
The profits...  
The losses...  
The gains...  
The profits...  
The losses...  
The gains...  
The profits...

**ITALY GAMBLING ON SPAIN PUSH**

Both the British...  
The Italian...  
The Spanish...  
The gamble...  
The risk...  
The reward...  
The cost...  
The effort...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...  
The heroism...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...



**Italians Again Held In Night Attack**

From SAN RUSSELL...  
The night...  
The attack...  
The surprise...  
The success...  
The failure...  
The cost...  
The effort...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...  
The heroism...  
The sacrifice...  
The bravery...  
The courage...  
The valor...  
The gallantry...

**CATALANS NOW HITTING BACK**

From GEORGES BODIA...  
The Catalans...  
The fighting...  
The strategy...  
The tactics...  
The weapons...  
The armor...  
The horses...  
The soldiers...  
The officers...  
The leaders...  
The followers...  
The army...  
The fleet...  
The navy...  
The air force...  
The police...  
The militia...  
The volunteers...  
The conscripts...  
The draftees...  
The recruits...  
The trainees...  
The cadets...  
The students...  
The scholars...  
The students...  
The scholars...  
The students...  
The scholars...

**REFUGEES**

From GEORGES BODIA...  
The refugees...  
The camps...  
The conditions...  
The food...  
The clothing...  
The shelter...  
The security...  
The health...  
The education...  
The recreation...  
The culture...  
The religion...  
The politics...  
The economics...  
The sociology...  
The psychology...  
The anthropology...  
The geography...  
The history...  
The literature...  
The art...  
The science...  
The technology...  
The industry...  
The commerce...  
The agriculture...  
The industry...  
The commerce...  
The agriculture...  
The industry...  
The commerce...  
The agriculture...



#### 14. Handwritten letter from Elizabeth Bickerstaffe to NUPE General Secretary (1966)

Ref No: 1019/3

Objects 13 & 14 nominated by: Jim Sutherland (Former Director of Education & Training, UNISON)

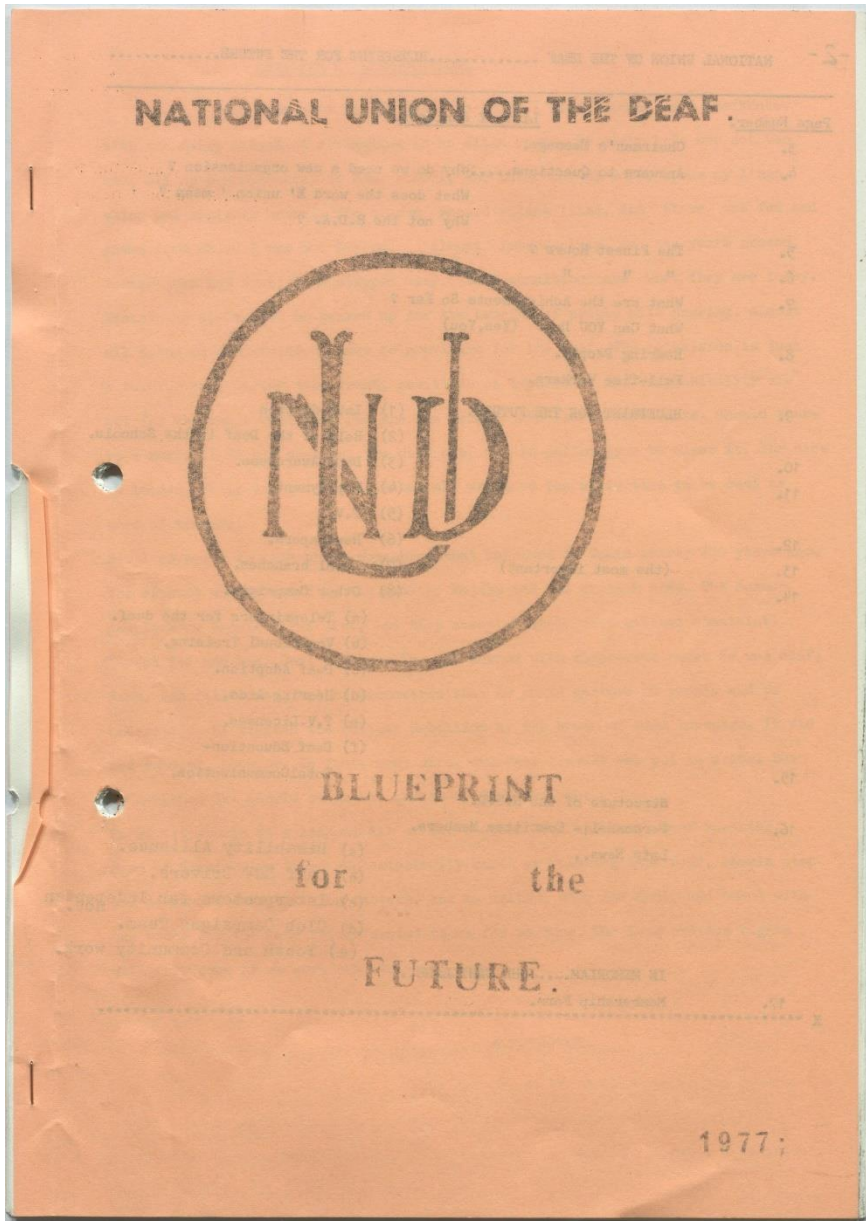
The importance of the work of the MRC is underlined by both of these documents.

I was involved in creating the Rodney Bickerstaffe archive. When I got to know Liz Bickerstaffe in the 1980's she was simply "Rodney's mum" to me until I began to organise his papers. As a young girl of 16/17 she created a contemporary scrap book of the Spanish Civil War. As a trade union activist and single mum she took her son on union demonstrations and later composed this handwritten letter to NUPE's (National Union of Public Employees) General Secretary asking if there could be a job for her son just finishing college.

This lady, identified by the process of creating MRC collections, was central in many ways in the emergence of one of the most important trade union leaders in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her story underlines that history is not only created by the actions of prominent individuals.

I have a son, Rodney Kevan Bickerstaffe (my husband is Rodney's step-father although he has never been treated any differently than if he had been his own son, indeed he is as concerned for his future as myself). Rodney is a full-time student at Rutherford College of Technology at Newcastle upon Tyne, in his 3rd year and will be taking his Finals for his B. Sc in Sociology in June. Rodney will be 21 years of age in April. Rodney is very interested in the possibility of doing Trade Union work. My own membership

in the Union is over 20 years since my student days at West Ham with Bro. Fellowes, over 18 of them with Doncaster General Branch. I have met several officers over the years at the rallies and indeed it was Bro. Weston who suggested I write to you. Will there be the possibility of Rodney having an interview in the foreseeable future, please what can you suggest? I cannot of course write to you himself but I wanted to feel the way for him as it were firstly.



## 15. National Union of the Deaf: 'Blueprint for the Future' (1977)

Ref No: MSS.292D/841.46/1

Nominated by: Kirstie Stage (Cambridge University)

Deaf history is often not reflected in mainstream exhibitions. The National Union of the Deaf is a fascinating and important case study within modern British history. MRC sources show the local and national campaigns of Deaf people, with the NUD establishing themselves as a linguistic and cultural minority group.

DISABLEMENT INCOME GROUP

NOTES FOR THOSE TAKING PART IN TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

WHAT TO WEAR

Wear something that makes you feel good. Your most becoming shirt, tie and suit.

Ask the studio in advance what colours to avoid. They normally do not like blacks, whites, horizontal lines or checks.

Wear cool clothes.

No matter how much is offered only take one drink otherwise under the heat of the lights there is a tendency to sweat which can come over to the viewer as being one of concern and lack of confidence.

THE PHYSICAL SET UP IN THE STUDIO

Remember that your reactions are picked up by the camera whether or not you are talking and whether or not you are watching a film.

Watch how you react and whatever else do not sit and look stoic.

If you disagree show disapproval and approval by facial expression.

Let your voice reflect the state of your mind.

EXPRESSIVE EYES

Express interest all the time and use eye to eye contact.

Watch and think about the reactions of your eyes and be involved and believe in what you are putting over.

Work with your eyes all the time and concentrate on their reaction because it is a very popular TV cameraman's habit to bring a face into close up at any time and, of course, you do not know that this is happening.

HANDS

Move your hands to talk with your hands but keep them in towards your body so that they remain in focus and if at all possible keep them near your face so that the cameraman cannot photograph a set face without also showing hand movement.

WHERE TO LOOK

Look always at the people who are speaking.

Do not look at the monitors and do not look at the cameras. Ignore both of them.

Remain the whole time involved in the discussion that is taking place.

In an opening discussion ask the floor manager on the set which camera you should look at (it is normally the one with the red light on).

**16. How-to Guide, written by the Disablement Income Group** Ref No: MSS.147/3/3/1/1

Nominated by: Beckie Rutherford (History, Warwick University)

A document advising DIG members on how to approach TV and radio interviews. As far as I recall, this document is undated, but I would guess it was produced in the early 1970s. It offers fascinating insight into the creative and clever strategies with which disabled people sought to debunk common stereotypes about how they would come across in conversations/interviews. It reveals not only the prevalence of discrimination and derogatory assumptions about disabled people at this time, but equally the ingenuity and determination fostered within politicised disabled communities.

LEAMINGTON ANTI-RACIST ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Rock **A**gainst **R**acism at the SPA with the   
**'SPECIALS'** + 21 GUNS  
THE SNACKS

15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

7.30.

575

TICKETS:

£2.50



JERRY DAMMERS OF THE  
SPECIALS SAYS: 'YOU  
CAN TELL ANYONE YOU  
LIKE THE NF AND  
THE BM ARE NOT  
WELCOME AT OUR  
GIGS. WE JUST DON'T  
WANT THEM THERE.'

PUBLISHED BY L.A.R.A.F.C.

### 17. Card publicising Rock Against Racism gig at Leamington - featuring The Specials (c.1977)

Ref No: MSS.247/23

Nominated by: Ant Brewerton (Former Head of Academic Services, Warwick University Library)

What else could an ephemerist into ska music choose? This ticket for an early Specials concert is a real piece of cultural history. It was always strange that this multi-racial band on the 2 Tone Records label attracted a racist element to their fanbase. Jerry Dammers, leader of The Specials, has to remind members of the National Front and British Movement they are not welcome at their gigs! Nearly 50 years on from those Rock Against Racism events of my childhood, we still need the Black Lives Matter movement. Things haven't progressed much...

# WHAT THE NEWS IS ABOUT

## NF leader John Tyndall explains party policy on some key questions

The National Front's big impact in local government elections last month, together with its plans to fight over 300 seats in the next General Election, have raised enormous nationwide interest in the party. In this feature John Tyndall, Chairman of the party and publisher of *Spearhead*, answers some of the main questions on policies which will be in the forefront of the party's general election campaign.

**Q. Mr. Tyndall, the National Front is known as a party which supports the compulsory repatriation of coloured immigrants and their descendants. Many people would consider this to be a harsh and extreme measure.**

**A.** Certainly, as a measure it might be called extreme, but the situation it is aimed to deal with has reached a point of being extreme in its urgency. Due to the folly of the old parties, we are now faced with the imminent threat of racial war in our cities. Drastic measures are now needed to avoid that threat. Certainly, such a programme will be harsh to some people but we are making the choice of risking some suffering to one generation of coloureds in order to spare countless future generations of coloureds and whites the agony of race war and race hatred.

**Q. How, in practical terms, would you repatriate the immigrants?**

**A.** We would put into operation a plan of phased repatriation which could take anything between 10 and 20 years to complete, the aim being the resettlement of up to a quarter of a million people a year. The fares of those being resettled would be paid by the British Government and the Government would pay an additional resettlement grant to each migrant. This is far more generous than the help given to European migrants in the peak period of their migration to the New World.

Britain would negotiate resettlement quotas with Afro-Asian countries by using the very considerable leverage that she possesses by virtue of the economic aid she is giving to those countries.

**Q. Britain faces a growing unemployment problem, yet the National Front is on record as agitating for the ruthless tightening down of labour forces in many industries in the cause of greater modernisation and cost-**

**effectiveness. Won't this aggravate unemployment still further?**

**A.** Only if we persist with the same 'export-or-bust' commitment to the international economy as at present. Within this economy it is considered sound economics to pay a million and a half British workers to remain idle while we are importing vast quantities of machinery, motor vehicles, electronic goods, cameras and textiles which those workers might otherwise be occupied in making. Our proposal is that these imports be stopped and that British industry be expanded to fill the gap, thereby creating new employment opportunities for millions.

**Q. Surely such a policy will bring retaliation overseas. Britain is an international trading nation, dependent on exports for her survival. What if we lose these exports?**

**A.** The question is would we lose more business in foreign markets than we gain in the home market? All the facts say no; the largest sellers of manufactured goods to Britain buy much less from Britain in return, and we still have potentially massive export markets in the developing countries. Japan has during her greatest period of industrial development placed an almost total barrier against imported manufactured goods. This has not stopped her exporting on a huge scale.

**Q. Wouldn't import controls amount to featherbedding inefficient British industries?**

**A.** Again, the experience of Japan suggests not. Greater efficiency comes mainly through modernisation of plant and better labour relations and better management. To the extent that competition is needed, this can be provided among British firms themselves.

**Q. Do you support the Government's pay policy?**

**A.** No, it is unwelcome. It seeks to keep wages down to the extent that competition is needed. It was devised through an understandable desire to stop inflation but by people who know nothing about the real mechanics of inflation. The policy has not stopped inflation and has only sown the seeds of a new wave of industrial discontent. It is a recipe for industrial civil war.

**Q. What then is the National Front's answer to inflation?**

**A.** There can only be one answer: proper control of the money supply. This means not only issuing money in correct relation to

the increase in the wealth we produce, it means issuing it debt-free. At the present time most of the money we use comes into existence in the form of 'loans' created by private banks, which of course have to be paid back to those banks with interest. This means that the element of debt-plus-interest forms an increasing part of the price of every item for sale on the market. This is the real source of inflation.

We would forbid banks to create overdrafts not covered by existing funds, thus creating money out of nothing. The only agency empowered to create new money would be the Crown Authority, which would issue money debt-free at a rate estimated according to the real increase in the national product. In this way money would constantly retain its value.

**Q. How would this affect taxation?**

**A.** It would affect it enormously. At the present time Government is squeezing the taxpayer dry in order to pay off its own massive loans to bankers. Under our system government would finance its own public expenditure by a debt-free issue of money, to whatever extent the increase in the national product allowed. Whatever requirements of public expenditure remained, the Government would raise by taxation, but this taxation would only be a fraction of what it is now.

**Q. You have talked a lot about the abuse of union power. What would you do to stop it?**

**A.** We would apply government legislation which compelled all unions to adopt the secret ballot for all elections and all major union decisions. The same legislation would establish one union for one industry and reduce the number of British unions from the present 140-odd to no more than about 30.

We would take far stronger measures against violent picketing and other forms of industrial intimidation. Social security payments to strikers' families would be by a voucher system which ensured the provision of essentials to strikers' wives and children only.

**Q. The National Front is on record as supporting Britain's withdrawal from the Common Market but what is its alternative to the Common Market?**

**A.** In the short term the strength and self-reliance of the United Kingdom alone. That is potentially very much greater than many people realise. There is presently going

around some ridiculous theory that Britain is too small to survive outside the Common Market. What a preposterous idea that is! Of a hundred-odd nations in the world, only 8 have a substantially larger population than Britain. By all normal standards we are one of the larger and more richly endowed nations of the world. If we are weak today it is because of decades of bad government.

Anyway, suppose we are thinking about 'smallness', look at three nations, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland, none of which with a population as great as London. These are three of the most prosperous nations in Europe and they are all outside the Common Market. They are prosperous because they are efficient.

In the longer term it is our policy to reestablish close trading partnerships with Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Southern Africa and build a new British Commonwealth with the first three named countries and Britain as its nucleus, with Rhodesia retained to membership and South Africa, if she preferred to remain outside, enjoying a special economic relationship. In these countries there is far greater economic potential than in the EEC. However, Britain has to do a great deal to win back the loyalty and confidence of the countries concerned - which she has for the moment largely lost - but we have faith that, given time, this can be achieved.

**Q. The National Front is known to support White Supremacy in South Africa and Rhodesia. Surely if the Blacks are in the majority they have a right to rule?**

**A.** No one has a 'right' to rule. Races rule, or are ruled, according to their fitness, or otherwise. We have got to get rid of this idiotic conception of automatic and God-given 'rights'. The only rights that really exist in this world are those fought for and earned by reciprocal duties. The Whites have more rights in Southern Africa than the Blacks; but they also have more duties. If the Blacks were as fit to rule as the Whites we would not have to have British governments in the United States - plus the UN - plus the Communists - all frantically campaigning to get the Blacks in power; the latter would have taken power long ago.

Only a fool believes that the White Man could have maintained supremacy in Southern Africa for all this time other than by being a higher type of race.

**Q. Are you for or against the Welfare State?**

**A.** We are for the Welfare State in drastically revised form. The Welfare State should do more for the very old and the very young, also for those who are in need through genuine disability. For able-bodied people in the prime of life there should be the inducement to rely much less on the Welfare State and much more on personal initiative and hard work.

**Q. What are your main aims in Education?**

**A.** To produce a population that is sturdy in body and character, with respect for the law, a dedicated patriotism and a sense of the responsibilities of citizenship, and which is educated and trained in the skills necessary to run a strong and efficient nation able to compete in the modern world.

**Q. Are you for Devolution?**

**A.** No. It is a desperate pious measure to win back votes in areas where separatists have gained ground in an atmosphere of national disillusionment and despair. We believe that the majority of Scots and Welsh who vote Nationalist are voting not against central government but against bad government. We must not be stampeded by this situation into policies which could break up the United Kingdom; we must resolutely defend the unity of the Kingdom.

The people of Scotland and Wales, and for that matter Northern Ireland and many parts of England, have many justified grievances in the economic field. These grievances can only properly be met within the framework of a strong and united Britain.

**Q. You have advocated much stronger armed forces. How will you pay for this?**

**A.** Obviously by building a stronger economy. At a time when our economy is very weak, it is a matter of deciding over priorities. We believe that national defence is the top priority of all. Until a man has taken reasonable precautions that his house won't be burnt down by a known arsonist in the vicinity he would be an idiot to spend a lot of money on furnishing the interior. We must first ensure that we have a country, and only then provide ourselves with the means to live comfortably within it.

**Q. Are you a party of Democracy?**

**A.** Yes we are, as can be seen by any examination of our Constitution. Our leaders have to seek re-election much more frequently than those of the other parties, and they are also elected by all the members - not by little cliques at the top of the party.

We are for the upholding of Democracy in the political system of Britain. It is quite possible that we may introduce reforms in the present system of parliament but whatever the reforms may be the essential principle of Democracy - that government is by consent of the people and can be dismissed by the people - would remain.

**Q. What is your attitude to the Monarchy?**

**A.** We are for a strengthening of the institution of Monarchy and the defence of it against insulting attacks by tin-pot politicians looking for publicity. We are for the maintenance of the establishment of the British Monarchy on a scale and in a style that befits the foremost Monarchy in the world.

**Q. Finally, Mr. Tyndall, would you care to put in a nutshell your driving force in politics and your idea of Britain?**

**A.** This is very simple. I have an ideal of Britain in which she is great, proud and strong. I have always had this ideal since I was a small boy and it has motivated all that I have ever done in the way of political work. I believe the British are a remarkable race with a scale of achievement second to no other. I believe that such a race deserves a leading position in the world, a place of the highest honour and respect among the nations. In earlier times I would have been an extreme imperialist; today I believe in an updated form of imperial idea which seeks to link the British race worldwide in a mighty union which can guarantee its independence from either of the two major power blocs of today.

I want the British to be best, or at least to strive to be best, in all things, in economic performance, in military values, in the arts and sciences, even in recreation. Without the striving to be best, no improvement will come and a people stagnates.

I want to see political institutions established in this country which can re-ignite the British to great purposes and galvanise the national spirit in a way in which, during this century, it has only been galvanised in times of war. I see no possibility of such institutions emerging through the established political parties, which are themselves the germ-carriers of everything that is rotten and decayed in this country. I can see such emergence coming only by the victory of the National Front. The road to this victory may still be long and hard, but never have I been as convinced as I am today that that victory can and will be won.

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**A.** Certainly, as a measure it might be called extreme, but the situation it is aimed to deal with has reached a point of being extreme in its urgency. Due to the folly of the old parties, we are now faced with the imminent threat of racial war in our cities. Drastic measures are now needed to avoid that threat. Certainly, such a programme will be harsh to some people but we are making the choice of risking some suffering to one generation of coloureds in order to spare countless future generations of coloureds and whites the agony of race war and race hatred.

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## 18. Interview with National Front leader John Tyndall, *Spearhead* magazine (1977)

Ref No: MSS.21/1571/1/1-2

Nominated by: Louis Finch-James

I understand through my own research that these issues of *Spearhead* contain abhorrent examples of racism, misogyny and antisemitism but I believe their preservation by the MRC to be an important part of coming to terms with British reactions to immigration and a part of our history that we should not forget when we consider modern discussions on the topic. In addition to this it is the responsibility of historians to preserve not just "good" history but also shine a light on the frankly terrible things that humanity has produced and created. Furthermore, it is useful to preserve these issues of *Spearhead* because, as I did so in my own research, one can draw from the content similarities to mindsets and practices of the modern far right and through this combat the ideology more effectively.

# RELEASE

# 603-8654

## IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

You are advised:

1. To insist on telephoning the number on the front of this card for assistance.
2. To make no statements.
3. Not to discuss the matter with which you are charged.
4. To request that any property taken from you is packaged and sealed in your presence.
5. To be polite to police officers.

Facts arising out of

## JUDGES' RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIONS TO THE POLICE (Jan. '64)

1. You are entitled to telephone your friends or your solicitor. (7(a))
2. You need never make any statement unless you wish to do so. (11)
3. You should not be harassed by the police to make a statement. (e)
4. Reasonable arrangements should be made for your comfort and refreshment. (3)

## 19. The first Release 'bust card' (1967)

Ref No: MSS.171/3/12/12

Nominated by: Caroline Coon (Co-Founder, Release)

In 1960s West London, two groups experienced growing hostility from the Metropolitan Police around their use of illicit drugs: Caribbean migrants and people associated with the counterculture. Police racism and new drugs laws fuelled increasing numbers of people being stopped on the streets or having their homes raided. With little sympathy from the police and courts, those prosecuted often faced unduly harsh punishments. By 1967, it was clear that a crisis had developed, resulting in the formation of Release and its 24-hour telephone line to get legal help to those arrested on drugs charges. Release pioneered the 'bust card', a small, printed card given out at festivals or club nights that had its phone number and key pieces of advice.

The Release bust card put civil rights into the pocket of anyone at risk of arrest. Caroline Coon's design was powerful in its simplicity. The cards distilled the laws on arrest into the absolute essentials that could be read in a hurry – including having the ability to ask to make a telephone call. This helped the individual manage their interactions with the police until a call to Release to get legal assistance could be made.

The bust card was a major innovation in helping people assert their civil rights, by being readily accessible when someone was arrested, and giving them the information that they needed at that moment. Bust cards were an essential tool in campaigns pushing back against the over-policing of marginalised groups, helping the individual as well as building a force for change. The bust card brought to light how the relationship between the criminal justice system, the police and the public in Britain needed – and still needs – remaking.

*Text provided by Dr. Kate Bradley (University of Kent)*

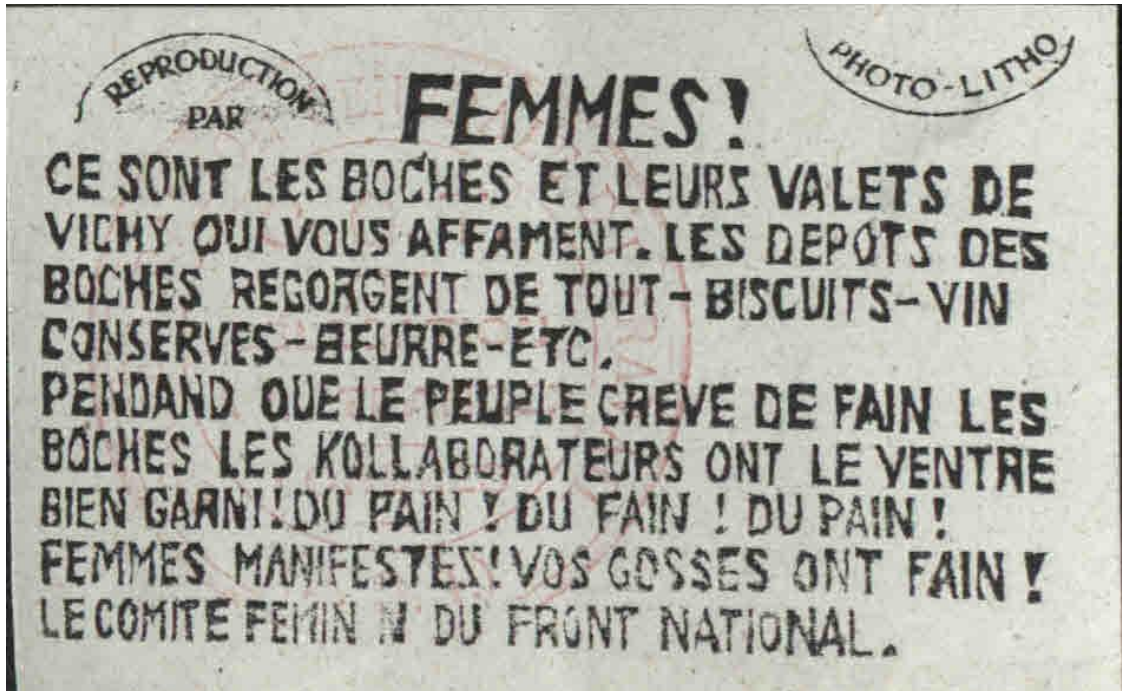


## 20. Brixton Black Women's Group (1976)

Ref No: CRER/MAA/Photos/2/372

Nominated by: Professor Meleisa Ono-George (Oxford University)

The photo always stuck with me because it shows the everydayness and the transnational nature of Black women's political engagement in Britain. The women in the photo seem to range in age and maybe even motivation, but the causes are shared.



## 21. 'Femmes!' Resistance flyer (1943)

Ref No: MSS.159/3/C/a/143/72

Nominated by: Dr. Jessica Wardhaugh (French Studies, Warwick University)

Small enough to conceal in the hand, this resistance flyer of 1943 packs a mighty punch. It appeals to women in wartime France to demonstrate for food, risking their safety — and potentially their lives — in an act of public opposition. Phonetically spelled, and vividly contrasting the deprivation and misery of ordinary families with the luxuries enjoyed by Nazis and their collaborators, it was created by French women in British exile, working for the *Comité Féminin du Front National* and close to the French Communist Party. Other copies would have been clandestinely disseminated within occupied France itself.

Flyers like this rarely survive. Their ephemeral existence was to be affixed to walls, buildings, and public transport, frequently ripped down by passers-by even before their removal by the police. This flyer — just one of the MRC's remarkable collection of French resistance materials — offers a glimpse of both structures and strategies of opposition. Here is a reminder of the resistance that, whatever its attendant dangers, could be within anyone's grasp.



1894. July & August. תמוז Tamuz. 5654.

Nt. h. m.	Portion of Scrip. read.	Remarkable Events and Occurrences.	Day of the month.	Day of the week.	Sabbaths, Festivals, Fasts, &c.
		July	5	Th	ב' דראש חדש
9 14	N 16 1		6	F	קרה פ"ד
			7	S	
			8	S	
			9	M	
			10	T	
			11	W	
			12	Th	
9 6	N 19 1		13	F	חקת ולפרק ה'
			14	S	
			15	S	
			16	M	
			17	T	
			18	W	
			19	Th	
8 57	N 22 2	Fast of Tamuz	20	F	בלק פרק ו' צום שבעה עשר נדהה
8 56			21	S	
			22	S	
			23	M	
			24	T	
			25	W	
			26	Th	
			27	F	
8 46	N 25 10		28	S	פינחס הפ' דברי פ'א [מב ה
			29	S	
			30	M	
		AUG. 31 days	31	T	
			1	W	ערב ראש הרש יב'ק
			2	Th	

Wednesday, 9h. 12m. 16s. p.m. תקופה 7.30 a.m. מולד אב

1894. June & July. סיון Sivan. 5654.

Nt. h. m.	Portion of Scrip. read.	Remarkable Events and Occurrences.	Day of the month.	Day of the week.	Sabbaths, Festivals, Fasts, &c.
		June	5	T	ראש הרש
			6	W	שלשה ימי הנבלה
			7	Th	לפרס ו'
			8	F	
9 11	N 1 1		9	S	במדרב ע' שבותות
9 12	E 19 1	F. of Weeks	10	S	א' דלשבותות
9 13	D 15-19	2nd Day	11	M	ב' דלשבותות רוח
			12	T	אסרו הו'
			13	W	
			14	Th	
			15	F	
9 17	N 4 21		16	S	נשא פרק א'
			17	S	
			18	M	
			19	T	
			20	W	
		Longest day	21	Th	יום הארוך
			22	F	
9 19	N 8 1	Midsummer	23	S	בהעלותך פרק ב'
			24	S	
			25	M	
			26	T	
			27	W	
			28	Th	
			29	F	
9 18	N 13 1	JULY 31 days	30	S	שלח לך מב'ח פרק נ'
			1	S	
			2	M	
			3	T	
			4	W	ער"ה א' דר"ה

Tuesday, 8h, 28m. 13s. a.m. מולד תמוז

22. Valentine's Anglo-Jewish Almanac and Diary (1892-1894)

Ref No: MSS.240/W/4/2/8

Nominated by: Lizzie Morrison (Archives Assistant, Modern Records Centre)

This item is one of many mentioned on the MRC's online resource page which illustrates our archive holdings relating to Jewish East London - part of a wider set of webpages designed for the Warwick History Module 'H12D4: Race, Ethnicity, and Migration in Modern Britain'. Its contents provide a detailed insight into Jewish life, capturing information on the location of Jewish baths, hotels and cemeteries as well as businesses run by Jewish immigrants. The book opens back to front when compared to Western publications which means that it is also of interest to anyone studying the history of books and publishing. This item belonged to William Wess (1861-1946), a trade unionist, socialist and Jewish activist who assisted in the foundation of many Jewish trade unions, and whose archives also contain press cuttings, photographs, correspondence and subject files.

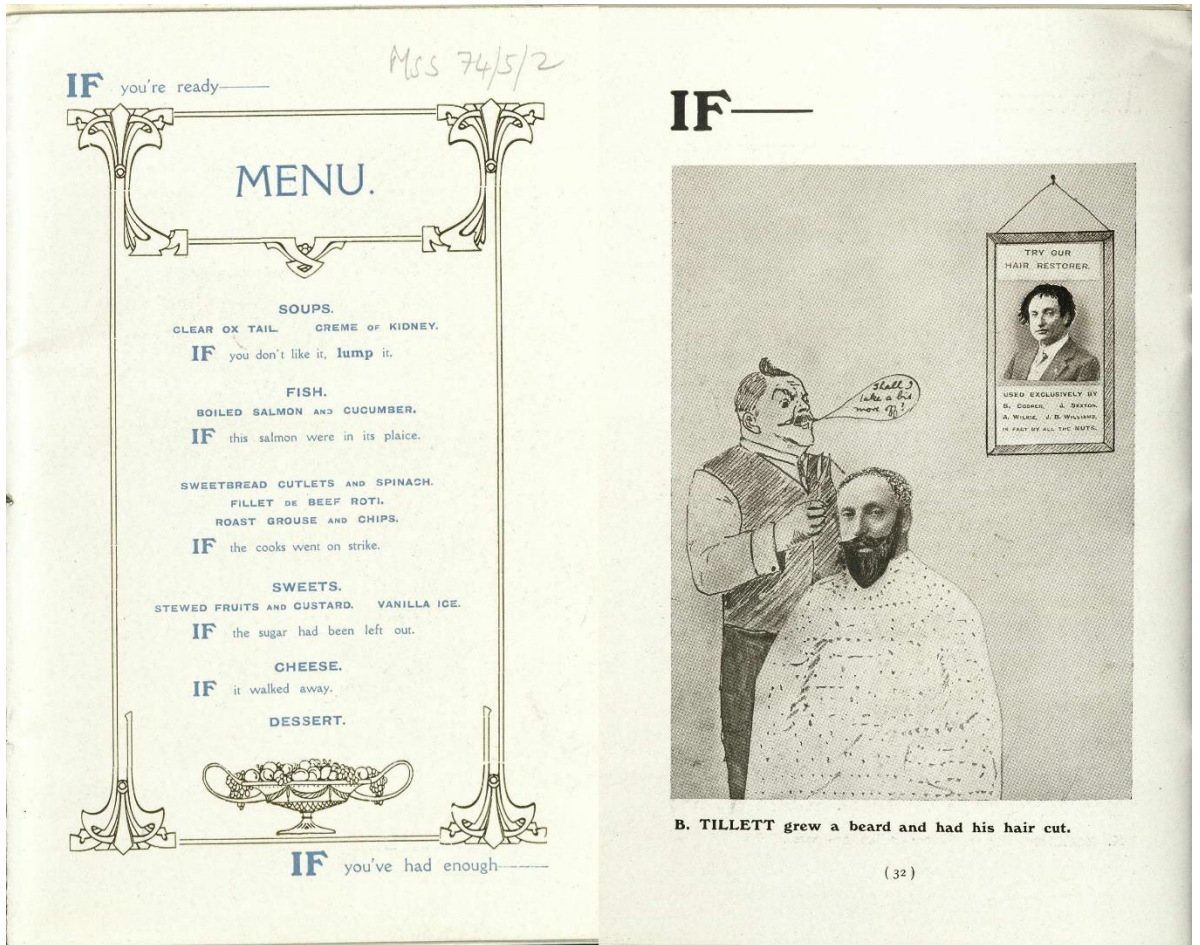


### 23. *Railway Review* cartoon relating to women's employment (1915)

Ref No: MSS.127/NU/4/1

Nominated by: Dr. Emma Robertson (LaTrobe University, Australia)

Trade union journals such as the *Railway Review* are such a rich resource for labour historians and the Modern Records Centre have a fantastic collection. One of my favourite items would be the World War One cartoons satirising the employment of women as railway workers. I remember finding these images late one Friday afternoon, just as I was finishing my research for the week – and promptly deciding I would need to return to the archives as soon as possible to do more work on them! These cartoons became a key source in an article I co-published with Dr. Lee-Ann Monk, for a special issue on women's and gender history in the *Australian Journal of Labour History*. We explored how the humorous portrayal of female railway workers reinforced masculine occupational identities at the same time as revealing ambiguities and anxieties over the gendered nature of railway employment.



**24. Menu and commemorative booklet for the complimentary dinner to fraternal delegates from America by the Trade Union Congress parliamentary committee, together with delegates who attended the American Convention (5 September 1911) Ref No: MSS.74/5/2**

Nominated by: Dr. Edda Nicolson (Wolverhampton University)

This commemorative booklet for the fraternal delegates that attended a dinner held by the TUC Parliamentary Committee in 1911 does more than signify the importance of internationalism. Our understanding of labour leaders is so often informed by high politics, whereas these cartoon depictions – or, perhaps, Edwardian photoshop? – allow a glimpse of home lives, hobbies, and friendships instead.

For instance, James O’Grady MP was depicted as a boxer, showing his love for the sport. William Brace MP had such an impressive moustache that he was made into a walrus. Will Thorne MP was most well know for his political and trade union achievements, but his busy household of 12 children transformed him into the woman who lived in a shoe.

We can thank the artistry of Joseph Williams from the Amalgamated Musicians’ Union for these cartoons. He designed at least three booklets in total, so we can assume that they were met with good humour by everyone involved. Can we say for sure whether the labour leaders of today would have the same sense of self-deprecation?

6<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> that we will meet the first Monday in each month and that each member shall put in to the Chest 3<sup>d</sup> and spend 3<sup>d</sup> the money to be spent at 8 o'clock attending or not attending

7<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That the Pres<sup>nt</sup> & Sec<sup>y</sup> & Committee men must meet each monthly 8 o'clock or be fined 6<sup>d</sup> each. 10 Minutes Allowed

8<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any man having an account to settle must attend at 7 o'clock otherwise his account not to be settled that 8 o'clock. 10 Minutes Allowed

9<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any piece of work that is settled in this Society which is not in the book of prices the settler is to book it with the mans name that made it if neglecting to be fined 2<sup>d</sup> or 3<sup>d</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That no mans Account is to be settled without all fines and arrears be paid up

11<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any Journeyman not having serv<sup>d</sup> 7 years as an apprentice to the Cabinet business under a regular indenture cannot be admitted into this Society

~~12<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That each member pay 2<sup>d</sup> for their ticket in 1 month after their admittance at first and 1<sup>d</sup> for every month after~~

13<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That no more Colts is to be admitted into any regular Shop

12<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any strange Member coming into this Society shall pay 2<sup>d</sup> for his ticket in two months at full after admittance and all men that serves their time in this town in a regular Shop to pay 16<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> in the same time and each at entering for his ticket to belong 1<sup>d</sup> or more

14<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any Member of this Society working in the town and absenting himself for three monthly Nights without giving sufficient Reason is fined 1-7<sup>h</sup> Exclusive of his monthly money and for every month after 1<sup>o</sup> Each Month

15<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> that no General meeting to be Called without the consent of the Majority of the Committee

16<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any Man Calling the Commit<sup>tee</sup> to settle his Account must pay 1-2<sup>d</sup> to defray expences

17<sup>th</sup> That when the committee meets on particular business they are to be allowed one Shilling to Dinner and no more money to be taken out of the Chest without the consent of the Majority of the body

18<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That no employer to be allowed to have any more than 2 apprentices at a time except the eldest be in the last <sup>year</sup> of his time and then he may take <sup>other employ</sup> <sup>ment</sup>

19<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That no employer is to be allowed to employ any more than 2 apprentices at a time except the eldest be in the last <sup>year</sup> of his time and then he may take <sup>other employ</sup> <sup>ment</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> that we will meet the first Monday in each month and that each member shall put in to the Chest 3<sup>d</sup> and spend 3<sup>d</sup> the money to be spent at 8 o'clock attending or not attending

14<sup>th</sup> Resolv<sup>d</sup> That any Member of this Society working in the town and absenting himself for three monthly Nights without giving sufficient Reason is fined 1-7<sup>h</sup> Exclusive of his monthly money and for every month after 1<sup>o</sup> Each Month

25. Manuscript rules, minutes of decisions taken and [at back] a membership list for Journeyman Cabinet Makers of Belfast (1788-1830) Ref No: MSS.78/TC/Bel/1/1

Nominated by: Dr. Pierre Botcherby (Outreach & Widening Participation Officer, Modern Records Centre)

Described by one source as 'the earliest authentic record of woodworkers' trade clubs', this handwritten book is the MRC's oldest trade union document.

St Helens Branch No. 505

NAME	Age when Admitted		Name of Branch Admitted into	Date when Admitted	Married or Single when Admitted	If Married since he was admitted, state date of marriage	State whether Ordinary, Trade, or Junior Section	If he has received the Funeral Benefit on the death of his wife, state the date when paid	Date of Death	Date of Exclusion	Cause of Exclusion
	Years	Months									
1 William K Robinson	28	9	St Helens	5 Nov 1870	Married	ord	May 24/82		Oct 14/86		
2 James Taylor	20		St Helens	8 April 1871	Single	Jan 1 1874	ord	Jan 18/81	May 11/11		
3 Samuel Wradbury	21	1	St Helens	14 June 1870	Single	Apr 23 1876	ord				
4 Graham Thompson	23	9	Darlington	21 Aug 1876	Single	June 8 1881	ord				
5 Edwin Bulmer	21	3	Bolton	10 Apr 1876	Single	Apr 8 1878	ord		June 24/82		
6 Robert Standring	27	6	Sheffice 2nd	30 Apr 1881	Married	ord					
7 William Mc Coris	22		St Helens	24 Feb 1883	Single	May 1885	ord		13 July 1913		
8 James Lucas	30	10	Wolverhampton	28 Aug 1865	Married	ord		Apr 23 1900		Dec 19/85	
9 Herbert Thomas	20	5	St Helens	6 Sept 1884	Single	June 29 1885	ord				
10 George H Mills	24	8	St Helens	24 Oct 1887	Single	June 4 1892	ord		Nov 19/99		
11 James Simons	23	11	St Helens	28 May 1887	Single	ord		Aug 1/05			
12 Samuel Parnby	23	4	St Helens	15 Sept 1887	Single	Aug 26 1893	ord				
13 J. Mc Arthur	25		St Helens	10 Oct 1887	Single	Aug 19 1888	ord				
14 George H Bellis	23	3	St Helens	29 Oct 1887	Married	ord				1911	aw
15 Robert Davies	20	10	Horness	22 Nov 1886	Single	Feb 17 1891	ord	5 Dec 1907			
16 Alfred Mees	31	11	St Helens	9 May 1891	Married	ord					
17 Robert Baker	29	4	St Helens	5 Apr 1894	Married	ord					
18 William Taylor	39	1	St Helens	24 Oct 1891	Married	ord					
19 Emily James	20	11	St Helens	21 Nov 1891	Married	ord					
20 William Lockie	31	2	St Helens	21 May 1892	Single	June 15 1899	ord				
21 James Graham	24		St Helens	16 Feb 1894	Single	May 18 1892	ord				
22 Nelson Cropton	29	7	St Helens	8 Oct 1892	Married	ord					
23 George Mallock	37	7	St Helens	29 July 1893	Married	ord					
24 William Bradley	38	4	St Helens	29 July 1893	Married	ord					
25 William Evans	24	5	St Helens	8 Nov 1890	Single	Dec 7 1890	ord				

St Helens Branch No. 505

NAME	Age when Admitted		Name of Branch Admitted into	Date when Admitted	Married or Single when Admitted	If Married since he was admitted, state date of marriage	State whether Ordinary, Trade, or Junior Section	If he has received the Funeral Benefit on the death of his wife, state the date when paid	Date of Death	Date of Exclusion	Cause of Exclusion
	Years	Months									
1 William K Robinson	28	9	St Helens	5 Nov 1870	Married	ord	May 24/82		Oct 14/86		
2 James Taylor	20		St Helens	8 April 1871	Single	Jan 1 1874	ord	Jan 18/81	May 11/11		
3 Samuel Wradbury	21	1	St Helens	14 June 1870	Single	Apr 23 1876	ord				
4 Graham Thompson	23	9	Darlington	21 Aug 1876	Single	June 8 1881	ord				
5 Edwin Bulmer	21	3	Bolton	10 Apr 1876	Single	Apr 8 1878	ord		June 24/82		

## 26. Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers and Joiners – Registration Book: Middleton to York (1901)

Ref No: MSS.78/ASCJ/2/2/3

Nominated by: Mark Crail (Society for the Study of Labour History)

The registration books compiled by the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners are enormously valuable as a family history resource for those with ancestors who worked in the trade. They provide information on the member's area of work, any benefits they claimed from it, and even some family information (as the union provided benefits to members' wives). Quite aside from this, the books are an important social and labour history record covering one of the key craft unions of the later 19th/early 20th centuries. And the huge handwritten volumes look pretty impressive too!



## 27. Henry Sara lantern slide: Faustovo village, Russia (c.1923-24)

Ref No: MSS.15B/5/2/3

Nominated by: Alan Stewart

The Henry Sara Collection is an amazing resource which I first became aware of when the Twitter account of the MRC got in touch with me. I'd been researching the life of my great grandfather Bob Stewart - a Scottish communist and agent for the Comintern and these slides provided an illustration to his time in Moscow outlined in his memoirs. The slide I've chosen shows Bob, his wife Margaret and young daughter Annie with some of their circle of British communists. It would have been taken around 1923 or 1924. It seems to depict Bob and his comrades' optimism at being part of a world revolution while also foreshadowing the tragedy of what would happen in the Stalin era. In the next decade, one of the women pictured, Rose Cohen, a British communist, would be arrested, tried and shot by the NKVD after her Russian husband met the same fate. Bob's daughter, pictured in the front row would later marry a Soviet official who was also arrested in the purges in 1938. She had to escape to the UK with her baby son, my dad's cousin. It wasn't until 1956 after Khrushchev's acknowledgment of Stalin's crimes that they found out her husband had been executed in 1941. As a historical source on 1920s world communism this slide is fascinating. As an object of personal, family history, it is everything.

Chile Solidarity Campaign  
129 Seven Sisters Road  
London N7 7QG  
Tel: 01-272 4298

**National Demonstration**  
**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 1976**  
assemble Clerkenwell Green, London, 1pm



**SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF CHILE**

**28. 'Support the people of Chile' poster, Chile Solidarity Campaign (1976)**

Ref No: 854/2/2/2/1

Nominated by: Naomi Shewan (Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

This poster is part of the Margaret Stanton papers on Chile, 1973-1976. A powerful image of a clenched fist featuring the colours of the Chilean flag, it is a call for a national demonstration to show solidarity with the Chilean people, three years after Pinochet's coup. 2023 marks 50 years of the Chile coup, and the MRC marked this in conjunction with the School for Modern Languages and Cultures at Warwick. This poster was one of many to feature in our exhibition on Chile.

## Sub-Normal and Mentally Defective Workers.

FILE NO.	Date of consideration of application.	Action of Committee Period and Rate of Wages specified.	Sex of worker and age on 1.8.25.	Particulars of Infirmary.	Remarks.
1966/24.	18. 2.20. 19. 8.20. 30. 9.20. 4.10.22.  14.12.22. 3. 7.23. 15. 8.23. 11.12.24.	3 months 15/-: 40 hours. Deferred for report. Deferred for report. Refused: Apprenticeship suggested.  6 months No rate specified. Deferred for report. 12 months 5/-: 40 hours. 12 months 11/-: 48 hours.	M. 21.	Mentally below normal: Hydrocephalus in infancy Paralysis of legs.	Dismissed in June, 1920. Re-employed July, 1922.
7051/23.	1.10.20. 16.12.20. 22. 7.21. 29. 3.22.	Deferred for report: 6 months 17/-: 44 hours. 6 months 20/-: 44 hours. 12 months 20/-: 44 hours.	M. 20.	Mental incapacity: "a bit soft"	Worker left in July, 1923.
1588/23.	15. 6.21. 29. 7.21. 29. 3.22.	Deferred for report. 6 months 12/6d: 40 hours. 12 months 15/-: 46 hours.	M. 20.	Mental Deficiency: Had attended a special school.	Worker left in June, 1922, to be employed by another firm at full rates.
5848/19.	18. 2.20. 24. 3.20. 14. 4.20. 30. 5.20.	Deferred for report. -ditto- 3 months 10/-: 48 hours. 12 months 10/-: 48 hours.	M. 32.	Mental deficiency. Intelligence of a young child.	Worker left.
6204/19.	15. 1.21. 24. 3.20. 14. 4.20. 7. 5.20. 9. 6.20. 30. 9.20.	Deferred for report. -ditto- -ditto- -ditto- -ditto- 6 months 55/-: 48 hours.	M. 27.	Mentality and eye trouble.	Worker left in 1921.
5595/19.	15. 1.20.	3 months 4/-: 48 hours.	Male Adult.	Mentally deficient: Rejected by Army: Feeble minded. No memory.	Worker left in 1920.
1041/24.	15. 1.20. 6. 7.20. 30. 9.20. 1. 6.21. 29. 6.22. 14.12.22.	3 months 25/-: 48 hours. Deferred for report. 6 months 30/-: 48 hours. 12 months 30/-: 48 hours. 6 months 30/-: 48 hours. 12 months 27/5: 48 hours.	M. 28.	Not mentally fit.	Employer ceased to do repairs in 1923.
2306/22.	16. 8.22.	6 months 15/-: 48 hours.	M. 19.	Mentally deficient: Attended special school.	Worker left 1923.

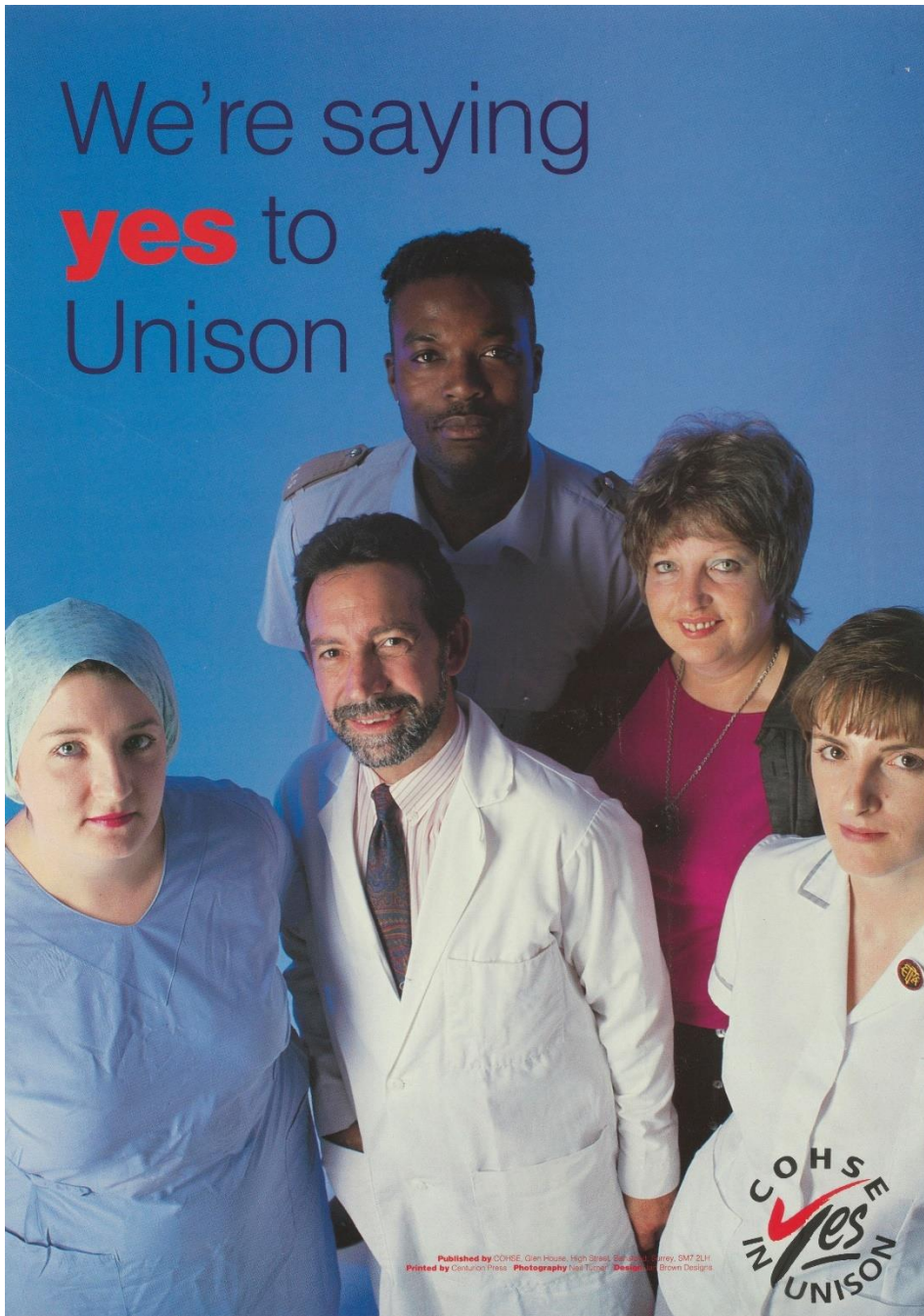
## 29. Permits of exemption granted to 'sub-normal and mentally defective workers', (29 September 1925) Ref No: MSS.292C/239.04/2

Nominated by: Professor Lucy Delap (Cambridge University)

The Trades Boards system, set up in 1909 to ensure minimum wages in sweated/exploitative workplaces, ironically created a system of exemptions, meaning workers deemed less efficient could be paid less. These records are a bonanza for historians of disability, showing the impairments found in UK workplaces: workers who were 'deaf mute', blind, amputees, 'cripples', and 'mental defectives'. 'Aged' was the most common appellation, including for the Boot and Shoe Repairing Trade Board (pictured). Wages to such workers may be as low as 7 shillings for adolescents and 16 shillings for adults. The diagnoses were often made in vernacular terms, paired with labels like 'not very bright' or 'a bit soft', and impairments were judged without reference to medical terminology or mental testing. What mattered was the kind of labour possible for an individual. Alongside stigmatisation is evidence of accommodation and a willingness to maximise labour capacity. Boards may perceive skills amongst disabled workers and negotiate higher wages or shorter hours. The views of the workers or their relatives are sometimes present; siblings and parents would sometimes negotiate better conditions or wages.

Trade Boards, renamed Wage Councils in 1945, are alternatives to sources in disability history which centre on hospitals, asylums, and other institutions. They highlight a period where there was little to support disabled employment but also an astonishing range of forms of embodiment in British workplaces, glimpses of the social networks of disabled people, and a rudimentary corporatist system of oversight - jointly operated by the trade unions, state and employers - that tried to maintain fair wages for disabled workers.



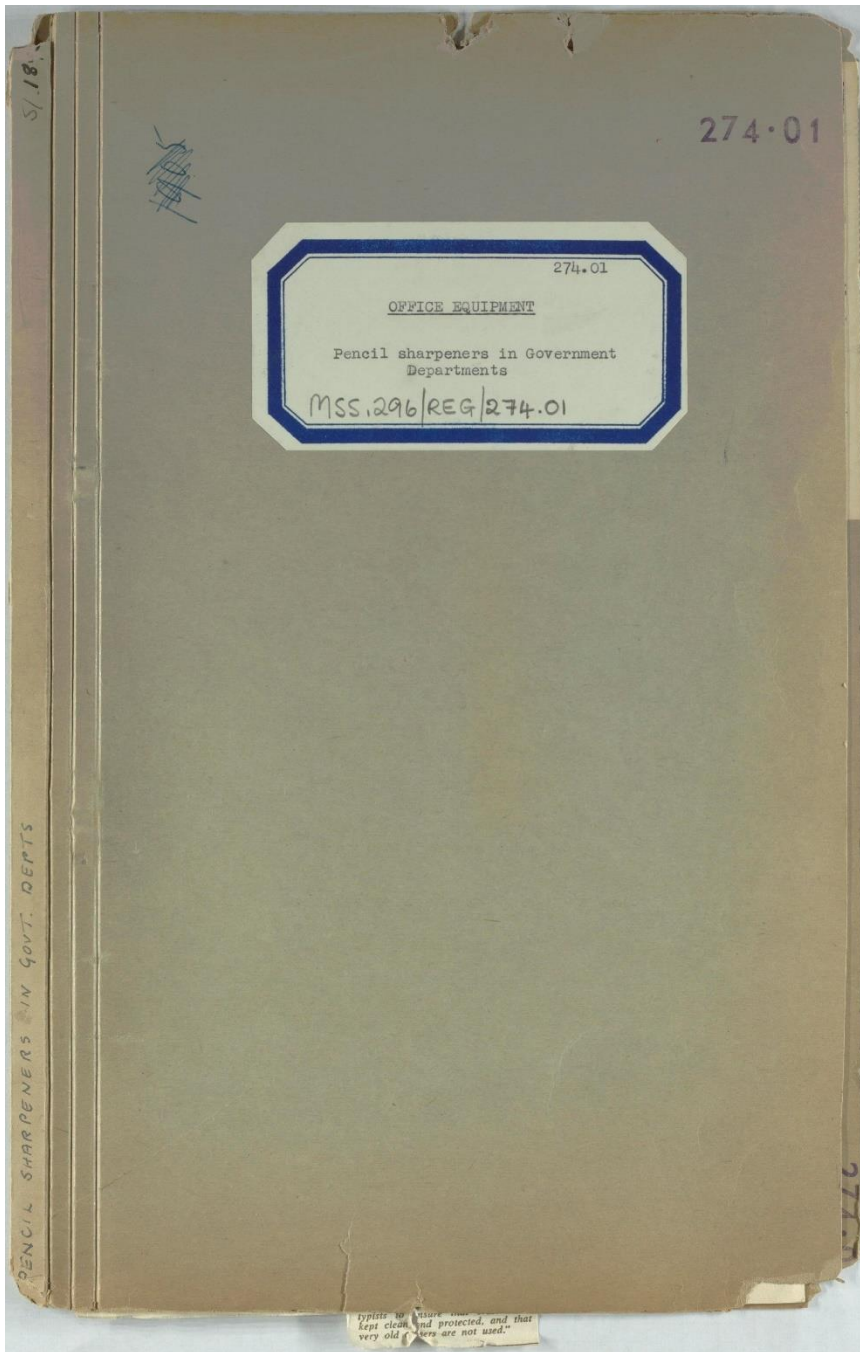


### 30. 'Yes to Unison' campaign pack and newsletters (1992)

Ref No: MSS.229/CO/G/3/14

Nominated by: Naomi Shewan (Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

One of the two largest trade unions in Britain today (along with Unite), Unison boasts over 1.2 million members. It was formed in 1993, following the merger of three public sector trade unions: the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO), the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE, see also Object 14), and the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE, above).

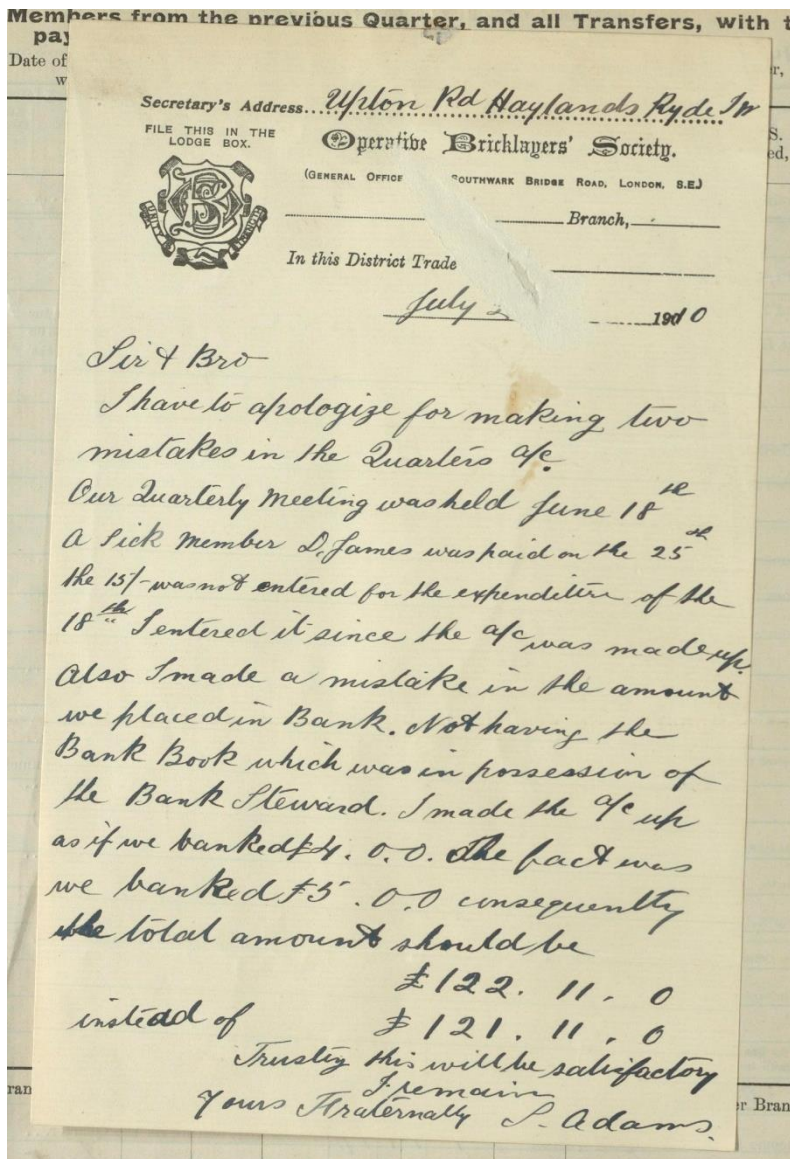


### **31. Pencil sharpeners and pencil type erasers for typing staff in government departments (1954-1968)**

Ref No: MSS.296/REG/274.01

Nominated by: Martin Sanders (Senior Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

This comes from the Staff Side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service. It is a vital source for a major theme of modern history: the need to ensure that the work of civil servants was not rendered pointless but could be expunged when necessary.



### 32. 'Yours Fraternally S. Adams', letter from 2x great-grandfather (1910)

Ref No: MSS.78/OB/2/2/19

Nominated by: Liz Wood (Project Archivist, 'Mining the Past', Modern Records Centre)

One day, 16 years after starting work at the Modern Records Centre, I opened a volume and found a 112-year-old letter from my great great grandfather.

Samuel Adams was an Isle of Wight bricklayer and builder. As a young man, inspired by new unionism, he became the first branch secretary of the Operative Bricklayers' Society at Ryde and spoke at local workers' meetings, losing work at the Queen's nearby Osborne estate as a result.

This is an ordinary letter, a routine admission of accidental mistakes in the branch accounts, but it is an unexpected personal link in the collection – I know the Upton Road house it was written from, my mum remembers the man – and it serves as a reminder that there is always more to find in those archive boxes.

1249

MSS.15X/2/209/36

# WHO PAYS FOR THE ATTACKS ON LABOUR?

An exposure of the Blackleg Organisations  
and Propaganda Agencies of Big Capital

1. *The Reconstruction Society*
2. *The People's League*
3. *National Constitution Defence Movement*
4. *Middle Classes Union*
5. *Liberty and Property Defence League*
6. *British Empire Union*
7. *British Commonwealth Union*
8. *National Propaganda*

Prepared and published by

**THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY  
INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

5 YORK BUILDINGS, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C. 2

PRICE TWOPENCE

UNIVERSITY of WARWICK LIBRARY  
Meitland / Sara Collection

### 33. 'Who pays for the attacks on Labour? An exposure of the blackleg organisations and propaganda agencies of big capital' (1920)

Ref No: MSS.15X/2/209/36

Nominated by: Mick Hamer

I've never seen it elsewhere. The pamphlet provides a good outline of who the people were behind the attacks on Labour in the 1920s.

this tends to a more whole-hearted attention to duties. Where a pension scheme is found at work one naturally assumes that a harmonious feeling exists between employer and employed, which is so very desirable in these days when it is so essential that the two forces commonly known as "Capital" and "Labour" should work hand in hand for the expansion of business and the well-being of the whole community.

V.

### THE LITTLE THINGS. THAT RUMOUR!

**I**T really was a distressing rumour! The Welf got it from the Timekeeper when she came in. He approached the subject through the weather, the prevailing distress in the district, those people who were too proud to apply to the Guardians though widows, and thus led up in a masterly way to the bit of information that the girls seemed upset like because one of them had a fit in the tram that morning, and swallowed her dinner-money, and her mother a widow once if not twice, he wasn't sure which.

By the time the Welf had heard the versions of Nurse, the girl's Forewoman, a sympathetic manager, and any others who happened to come along, the rumour had assumed the bold lines of Greek tragedy. Briefly, though not of necessity in order, the points seemed to be that a certain girl had had a fit in the tram, swallowed some money, and been taken to hospital. As given to the Welf the story had the accumulated detail of any tragedy as reported in any typical hysterical daily paper.

In some versions the fit preceded the swallowing of the money, in others it was caused by the coins. The other chief poignant details were, that it was her tram money, her dinner money, money to buy necessities for her widowed mother (once—twice—thrice widowed?), money to go to a dance (this by the more uncharitable), money she'd no right to (this by the most uncharitable), but the exact amount varied from a penny to two or three silver coins. Those who said coppers went so far as to say they were greenish, and therefore poisonous. Again, she had been removed from the tram in a serious condition, requiring two policemen to hold her, and having fit after fit all the way up the street, had been taken to the nearest hospital. Finally, she was probably dead.

Out of this mass of devastatingly emotional and seemingly epileptic evidence, the Welf felt justified in assuming that a certain girl was possibly detained in some hospital for some cause unknown. Beyond these modest inferences to which even the strictest censor could take no exception, she would accept nothing. She decided to ring up hospitals. They were not a

bit interested. They were indeed coldly unmoved, even bored. She gathered from one damsel of exquisite clay (by implication) at the other end of the 'phone that they had scores of people in every day with loose change in their insides, and it was more than likely the girl was home by now, dead or alive.

The Welf, having made lifelong enemies of two switch girls, and one porter, decided to send a tactful visitor to the girl's home. It was discussed at length how to tackle the widowed mother in case she was in ignorance of the tragedy. After rehearsals as to what to do in about six possible situations (including fits on the widow's part) the sick visitor went off.

Meanwhile the sympathetic Manager and Forewoman, and anyone else who came in, gave fresh details and asked anxiously after the victim. Further reports as to the professed use of the money came in, including the suggestion that it was to pay some insurance arrears for the widow who had a life policy that would cover any husband, and that it was the rent which had never been missed for years.

Half-way through the morning a Director rang up and asked how the girl was, and was there any case of hardship, and was it true a treasury note had been swallowed? Could he help? The Welf grew very touchy. She feared that if she didn't get news soon there'd be enquiries about a wreath and bearers.

The Sick Visitor returned. She was very ruffled and very acidly announced she's never felt such a fool in her life. The girl was at home, had never been ill, and had jumped off the car because she found she'd forgotten her overall, and knew it was no use going on. She'd dropped some pennies, and had on alighting greeted two policemen as she knew one of them, and had walked up the street with them. That was all. As a result of further conference the originator of the report was traced and led reluctantly and protestingly down to the Welf. She was one of those young people who are too bright for factories. There are such. She had, she stated indignantly, merely done what her Forewoman was always telling her to do, used her common sense and reasoning powers, and if others exaggerated she couldn't help it. She knew this girl's sister had fits, so very likely she had them too, and she'd turned red in the face in the car and got out suddenly, and dropped money as if she'd been holding it between her teeth, and swallowed some, and the policemen had spoken to her and walked each side of her, and they'd all gone up a street leading to a hospital, and if that wasn't plainly a case of being taken there, what could be? She'd naturally reasoned it out (glaring at her Forewoman), and if folks were fools enough to add to it, she couldn't help it. She admitted under cross-examination hazarding a few details as to home circumstances and background, but nothing like the wicked stories that were going round, and when she got to know who'd made her out such a scandalous liar she's bash them, and she finally washed her hands of using common-sense again, and wept copiously.

At that point it is wiser to leave her, and the rumour.

Q.E.N.

## 34. *Welfare Work: The Journal of the Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers* (1924) Ref No: MSS.97/4/2/5

Nominated by: Joe Chick (Brunel University)

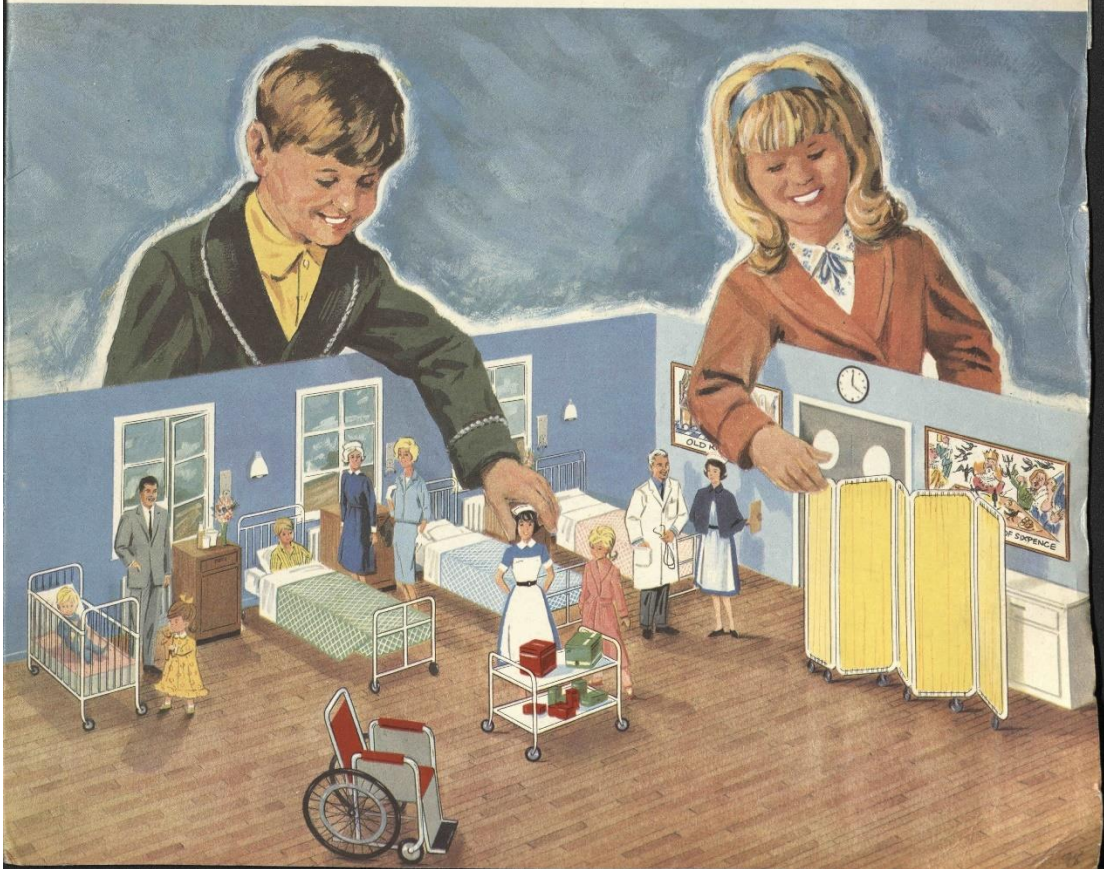
This is the magazine of the Welfare Workers' Institute, the organisation that would one day evolve into the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). It was formed for the welfare workers employed by managers pursuing the paternalistic welfare schemes that were common after World War I. The early magazines made the case for the importance of welfare work through a series of short stories about a character called 'the Welf'. This edition exemplifies why communication was part of the remit of a 1920s welfare worker. It highlights the potentially disastrous consequences of rumours spreading on the grapevine. It was not uncommon for 1920s magazines to have articles on communication within large businesses, but this stood out for me with its entertaining way of making its point through a short story.

Presented with the compliments of Smith & Nephew Limited, makers of Elastoplast Bandage, Plasters and Dressings, Airstrip Dressings, Gypsona etc.



MSS.184/2/10/7

# The Elastoplast Hospital



## 35. 'The Elastoplast Hospital' by Smith and Nephew Limited (mid-1960s)

Ref No: MSS.184/2/10/7

Nominated by: Naomi Shewan (Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

A reminder of a time when childhood play was simple and fun. It is a paper model book for constructing a children's ward at 'The Elastoplast Hospital', featuring card pull-outs of equipment, staff, patients and parents.

# NEW Y.W.C.A. INSTITUTE BUILDINGS, LIVERPOOL. GORDON HALL.



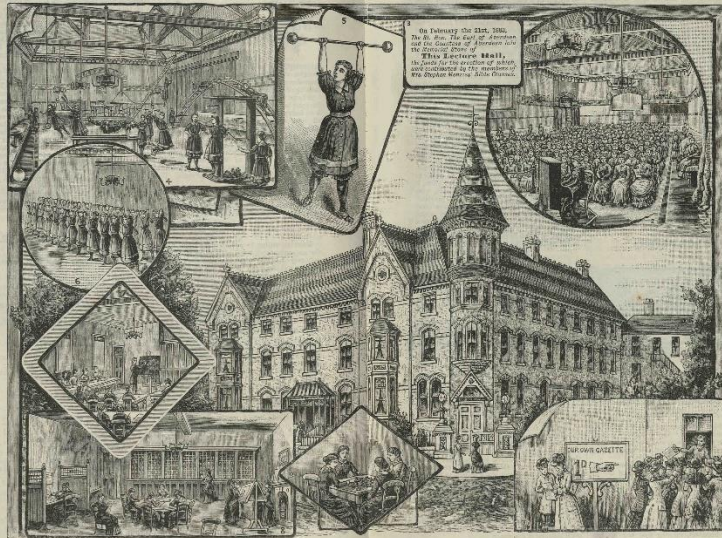
11. Our Bible History Examination.



12. "How we did enjoy Llandudno!"



13. A Happy Day at Eillemere.



1. General View of the Institute Buildings. 2. Bible Class in Gordon Hall. 3. Inscription on Granite Slab in Lecture Hall. 4, 5, 6. Gymnasium and Exercises. 7. French Class. 8. Library and Reading Room. 9. A Game of Four-handed Chess. 10. Secretary's Office on Publishing Day. 14. "We sing and work, and love the flowers." [SEE NEXT PAGE.]



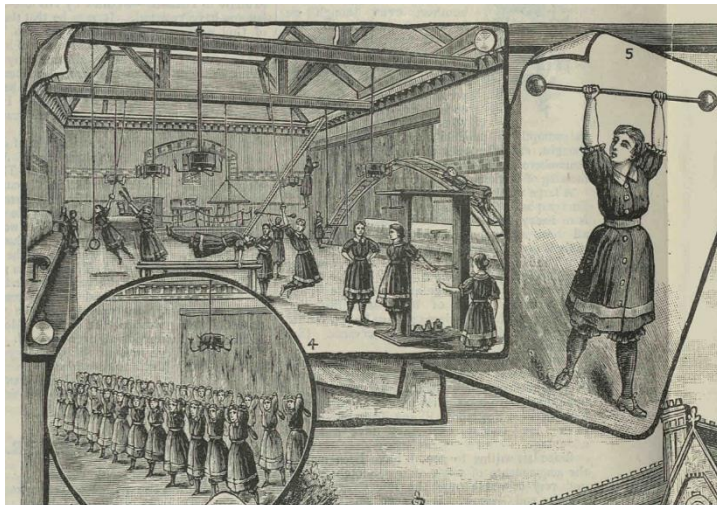
16. Preparing for our Winter Studies.



15. Fresh from the Country.



14. "We sing and work, and love the flowers."

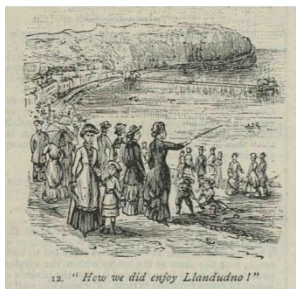


## 36. YWCA 'Our Own Gazette' (1884)

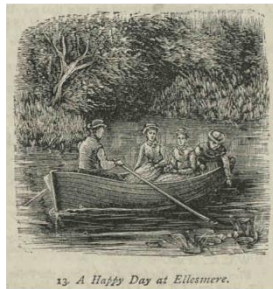
Ref No: MSS.243/5/1

Nominated by: Naomi Shewan (Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

The image shows the new Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Institute Buildings in Liverpool, called Gordon Hall. There are illustrations of the Institute buildings, Bible class, gymnasium, library and excursions. I just love the detailed illustrations, but the gym equipment looks like an instrument of torture!



12. "How we did enjoy Llandudno!"



13. A Happy Day at Eillemere.

## 37. 'Strike at the new Houses of Parliament' (1841)

Ref No: MSS.78/OS/4/1/5

Nominated by: Caroline Shenton

I used the records of the Friendly Society of Operative Stonemasons for my book *Mr Barry's War. Rebuilding the Houses of Parliament after the Great Fire of 1834*. The construction of the new Palace of Westminster was plagued with delays, and the stonemasons' strike of 1841 was central to these. Two-thirds of British stonemasons were members of the Society, and 230 of them were employed on building the Houses of Parliament. They downed tools in September 1841 over the callous and unreasonable behaviour of George Allen, foreman of Grissell & Peto, the civil engineering firm contracted to build the new Palace. Their strike went on until May 1842, and the MRC's records are full of fascinating ephemera, minutes of meetings and correspondence. They include what today we call press releases, and flyers and posters defending themselves to the public which were pasted to the hoardings surrounding the building site - this one, a unique survival. Their strike began in a desperate but rather diffident way, their subdued and respectful tone at first reflecting the union's origins as a semi-religious, secretive brotherhood, but six months later the strikers had changed their approach to become very vocal, radicalised and savvy about interacting with public opinion.

# STRIKE

## AT THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

### Notice to the Public!

We, the Masons lately employed at the above works, having observed in the public papers of the Metropolis repeated attacks upon our character, relative to our recent strike, we therefore considered it our duty to defend ourselves through the same channel we were attacked; but to our surprise we found such channels only open to one side of the question, which must at once convince a discerning public that our opponents' position cannot be maintained by fair and just means. In consequence of a letter having appeared in the "Times" of Monday the 4th instant, signed Messrs Grissell and Peto, we felt ourselves called upon to answer the same through the medium of the same journal, and therefore sent the following letter, which was refused insertion, and which has also been refused by several of the daily press:—

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.)

SIR,  
A LETTER having appeared in the *Times* of this day, signed MESSRS. GRISSSELL & PETO, stating that the charges made by the Masons lately employed at the New Houses of Parliament, against Mr. Allen, their foreman, are without the slightest foundation, and that the secession of the workmen has not originated in any oppression on the part of their foreman, we trust in your sense of justice to give insertion to the following reply in vindication of our rights as men, and to substantiate our charges:—

It would take up too much of your valuable space to enter *seriatim* into a refutation of their refutations; but, suffice it to say, that we regard them as mere glosses and evasions. Allen himself has not denied our charges, and Messrs. Grissell & Peto have merely made an attempt to shift the question, and to throw the blame upon what they are pleased to term our ill-will and inexperience. This charge comes with an ill grace from them, after having posted bills on their own gates, declaring us to be sober and industrious.

We would also beg to remind Messrs. Grissell & Peto that they themselves virtually admitted the truth of our charges against Allen, for when we made a complaint to them on a former occasion they promised that Allen should alter his conduct. He did alter it. But how? He merely changed from one species of tyranny to another. He adopted the system of encouraging what they are pleased to term *chasing*, whereby one man who, might be gifted with greater physical ability than another, could be excited to do more work than his companions; his performance is then made a standard for the quantity of labour demanded from all the rest, who are bullied and abused if unable to come up to this mark.

We do not wish to have the nomination of our superintendant, but

a spark of malignance, can submit to have his feelings outraged in the manner which Allen is constantly doing. The public will bear in mind that we are not the first who have struck against this man's tyranny. The Masons of Birmingham struck against him in 1837, and Allen, we are sorry to say, has not mended in temper, if he has in circumstances.

In conclusion, we beg to reiterate our charges,—we could add to them, were we disposed to do so, and are prepared to prove them by the evidence of the sufferers and eye-witnesses of his tyranny. Instead of shrinking from them, we court public enquiry and investigation into them; we challenge it, and are ready at any convenient time and place to meet it.

It is not of the quantity of work required, or the rate of our wages, that we complain, but of the unbearable insolence and oppression of a taskmaster, who resembles those of Pharaoh; and who would reduce us to a bondage worse than that of the Egyptians; and because we complain of it, is it to be said—"Go to, ye are idle!"

We have all along separated our employers from the tyrannical foreman, for we believed that the conduct of the latter was not tolerated by them. We are therefore surprised and sorry to observe that they have now made common cause with him, and identified themselves with him. But they cannot justly constitute themselves arbiters in their own case, any more than we in ours. All we want (and surely we do not ask too much) is that a more civil man than Allen be appointed as our superintendant, and in the mean time rest our cause upon the candid and impartial consideration of the public.

FROM THE OPERATIVE MASON'S,  
PAVIERS' ARMS, WESTMINSTER.

This has been thought unfit to appear in the "liberty loving" and impartial daily press of the metropolis. But mark their honesty: an article appeared in the columns of the *Times* of last week, containing the greatest amount of unprincipled falsehoods in so short a space it was ever our misfortune to behold. Mr. Jackson, of Pimlico, (to whom the said article principally alluded) was so disgusted with its audacious falsehoods, that he immediately contradicted it in the same Journal the following day, but nevertheless, it appeared in almost all the metropolitan press, both daily and weekly, although it must have been obvious to them all that they were promulgating the grossest falsehoods. Under these circumstances we have been forced to the alternative of placards, by which means we beg to state to Messrs. Grissell & Peto and the Public that we struck against a system the most degrading to the human character in existence. We have maintained our position hitherto peacefully and manfully; and however far they may have recourse to error and mystification—however far they try to persuade the public and us that injuries are not injuries, we have felt the lash, and have withdrawn from beneath its excruciating inflictions; and when they are prepared to remove the slave driver, then, and not till then, are we prepared to resume our employment. Resting our cause with an impartial public, we subscribe ourselves

Your humble Servants,  
**THE MASON'S,**  
Lately employed at the New Houses of Parliament.  
THOMAS CARTER, Sec.

SALISBURY & BATEMAN, Printers.



THE LONDON DORCHESTER COMMITTEE

TO THE Working Classes of the United Kingdom, and to all Friends of Justice and Humanity.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED

DORCHESTER LABOURERS' FARM TRIBUTE

From May to August, 1838.

THE period is now rapidly approaching which will become the period of the Dorchester 'Lay' before you the final period of their labours, with a detailed Report of their Receipts and Disbursements; previous to which, however, they deem it necessary to state how far they have succeeded in carrying out the resolutions adopted at the Public Meeting at the Crown and ...

Table of subscriptions received, listing names and amounts. Includes names like T. Murphy, J. P. Cobbett, J. M. Cobbett, and various other contributors. Total amount listed as 92 18 11.

in the common cause, until their return; leaving a surplus in hand. This has been done. Have the Working Classes done more than their duty? Have they yet completed it?—No; not until they have placed their brethren in such a situation as will enable them to gain a comfortable subsistence by their labour, free from the power of their former task-masters: this is what ought to be done, and what the Committee propose doing.

Continuation of the subscription table, listing names and amounts. Includes names like Mr. Goulding's List, Mr. Wootton's ditto, Mr. Shepherd's ditto, etc. Total amount listed as 92 18 11.

38. The London Dorchester Committee (1838) Ref No: MSS.78/OS/4/1/5

Nominated by: Liz Wood (Project Archivist, 'Mining the Past', Modern Records Centre)

In 1834, six Dorset farm labourers were transported to an Australian prison colony for swearing an oath of allegiance to their trade union. After two years of political campaigning, the Tolpuddle Martyrs were pardoned and they returned to Britain in 1838. The London Dorchester Committee was set up to raise funds 'to keep the families of their injured brethren from starvation' and to provide the men with 'a comfortable subsistence' after their release. 1834 is also the earliest date of the fortnightly returns (members' bulletins) of the Dorchester Committee, a rich source for labour and social historians. Bound in with the returns are several fragile sheets of ephemera (now partially conserved) which provide a link with the Tolpuddle men - subscription lists for the Dorchester Labourers' Farm Tribute. These documents provide a tangible link to one of the central stories in trade union history and give an idea of the range of contemporary public interest in the union pioneers - subscribers include the radical publishers J.P. and J.M. Cobbett, employees in named shops and factories, local workers' groups and 'surplus proceeds of a ball at Stratford upon Avon'.



### 39. 'Student Life' parts 1 and 2 (c.1972)

Ref No: MSS.280/157/5

Nominated by: Dr. Jodi Burkett (Portsmouth University)

This is a rare and valuable insight into student life and activity in the period. I have used it in my research about student activism, and also use it with undergraduate students in my teaching (it shows them both the continuities and differences in student life and connects them to this history in a crucial way).

# 9 million school students without a voice



**Fight for your rights**

**NUSS**

National Union of School Students 3 Endsleigh Street London WC1 01-3871277

## 40. 'Nine Million School Students Without a Voice' (c.1977)

Ref No: MSS.292D/815.55/3

Nominated by: Dr. Andrew Burchell (History, Warwick University)

I first came across these documents during my MA – and later PhD – research into campaigns around the abolition of corporal punishment in schools and school discipline more generally. They represent a handful of leaflets and posters produced by the National Union of Secondary Students, a radical organisation of schoolchildren and young people which attempted to affiliate itself to NUS. As might be expected, it was particularly vocal on questions of discipline, as evidenced in these posters and leaflets. Not only is this a great example of how the voices of a wide range of different and often unexpected groups – including children – are represented in the MRC (and a great window onto young people's activism), but it also highlights the strength of the MRC in preserving ephemera and campaigning materials that would otherwise not survive elsewhere. The MRC served as a vital resource for being able to access this story of young people's own resistance to corporal punishment, and for tracing the groups active in the abolition movement. Corporal punishment may have been abolished in schools since 1986, but questions around children's rights in our society remain topical, as does the participation of young people in movements such as Black Lives Matter.



#### **41. Soldering On: Women workers soldering tin boxes (1909)**

Ref No: 642/59/5

Nominated by: Liz Wood (Project Archivist, 'Mining the Past', Modern Records Centre)

There's something about a good photo that can draw you in. This image, taken in the early 20th century, shows women employed by the Bermondsey biscuit-maker Peek Freans. Every person in the picture has paused their work - soldering sharp-edged tin boxes - to meet the eye of the interloping photographer.

Peek Frean was regarded as a good employer, hence the publicity shot of the workroom, but the face I keep coming back to is the one closest to the camera: a woman wearing a look of weary irritation.

## 42. 'Leaflet for general meeting of female workers engaged in the hammered branch of the chain trade' (1910)

Ref No: MSS.292C/239.08/3/5

Nominated by: Simon Briercliffe (Black Country Living Museum)

**National Federation of Women Workers.**  
**Cradley Heath & District Branch.**

**To all Female Workers engaged in the  
Hammered Branch of the Chain Trade.**

**A**  
**General Meeting**

WILL BE HELD  
**Next Monday Afternoon**  
APRIL 11th, 1910,  
IN  
**Grainger's Lane School Room,**  
CRADLEY HEATH.

Chair will be taken at **3 o'clock prompt,**  
BY THE  
**Hon. President, Mr. T. SITCH.**

**Miss M. MACARTHUR**  
(President of the above Federation),  
AND  
**Mr. J. J. MALLON**  
(Secretary of the Anti Sweating League), London,  
Will attend and Address the Meeting.

**CHARLES H. SITCH,**  
*Secretary.*

N.B.—As a Report will be given on the Trade Boards' Bill and its effects upon the Chain Trade, all Workers are requested to observe **NEXT MONDAY AFTERNOON** as a general half-day holiday, and attend this **MOST IMPORTANT MEETING.**

The 1910 women chainmakers' strike is a central part of Black Country history, and is on permanent display at Black Country Living Museum in our Workers' Institute. This building was originally constructed in the chainmaking town of Cradley Heath using leftover strike funds. It was translocated brick-by-brick to BCLM in 2006.

By the early twentieth century, chainmaking was characterised by exploitative labour practices. Women worked long shifts in backyard forges for a dismal piece-rate. Pressure from trade unions prompted a new minimum rate of pay in the spring of 1910, but when employers refused to pay, the National Federation of Women Workers – led by the indomitable Mary Macarthur – undertook a ten-week strike for Britain's first hourly minimum wage. Veteran chainmakers like 73-year-old Patience Round became unlikely media stars, before the dispute ended in October 1910, when the last employer signed up to pay the new rate.

The trade board papers in the TUC archive at MRC are an invaluable source. They include social investigations, statistics, correspondence and records of negotiations, and ephemera like the song 'Rouse, ye women' which encouraged strikers to 'beat no iron, blow no bellows' until 'ensuring pay that is your due'. Our Workers' Institute houses a permanent exhibition on the strike, and school groups learn about researching the lives of exploited workers using documents from this collection. It's not uncommon to meet Mary Macarthur herself out on the street, or see chainmaking in action too. The depth of information available about the strike has enabled this to become an iconic Black Country story, not just of manufacturing might but of solidarity and pride.

# THE BRITISH WORKER

## OFFICIAL STRIKE NEWS BULLETIN

Published by The General Council of the Trades Union Congress

No. 3.

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1926.

PRICE ONE PENNY

### TO OUR READERS

You will at once ask when you get this issue: Why is it only half the size it was before? The reason is that the Cabinet has stopped our supply of paper.

At the docks and in a mill there are supplies belonging to us. The Cabinet refuses to let us have them.

We are, therefore, compelled to cut down our size to-day. To-morrow, if Mr. Baldwin still declines to allow the Workers' cause to be defended by the General Council's newspaper, we may not be able to appear at all in our present form.

The Prime Minister, by attempting to stifle the voice of Labour, runs the very grave risk of undoing all the good that has been done by the General Council's daily appeal to strikers to behave in an orderly manner.

His action is provocative. It is bound to be angrily resented. We hope that the indignation aroused by it will be controlled, but no one can doubt that Mr. Baldwin thus adds another alarming responsibility to those which already weigh upon him.

When the workers have no assurance that they are being told the truth (they will certainly not believe the Cabinet organ any more than they will believe the Capitalist sheets), dangerous rumours will have free play.

Already these are inflaming many minds. Instead of being suppressed by anti-Labour journalists, who must know how perilous they are, they are reproduced day by day.

Thus the miniature Daily Telegraph yesterday, under the heading "Reckless Rumours," was so reckless itself as to print reports of policemen being murdered and a Cabinet Minister injured.

It is by that kind of lying titillation that evil passions are stirred. We show to-day how few and trifling have been the acts of disorder committed. To drop into the public ear suggestions that violence is increasing and raffianism loose should be made a crime.

If the BRITISH WORKER is suppressed, that will be a crime of the same character, for it will equally create a dangerous disturbance in the minds of very large numbers of people.

### WEATHER

Wind S.W. to variable, finally northerly, fresh at times; dull, some rain; improving later, with showers and fair intervals; cold.

**The General Council does not challenge the Constitution. It is not seeking to substitute unconstitutional government.**

**Nor is it desirous of undermining our Parliamentary institutions.**

**The sole aim of the Council is to secure for the miners a decent standard of life.**

**The Council is engaged in an Industrial dispute.**

**There is no Constitutional crisis.**

### WHERE WE STAND

It is being persistently stated that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Herbert Smith, Mr. Arthur Cook, and other Trade Union leaders have been engaged in an attempt to reopen negotiations with a view to ending the General Stoppage.

The General Council wish it to be clearly understood that there is no truth in this assertion.

No official or unofficial overtures have been made to the Government by any individual or group of individuals, either with or without the sanction of the General Council. Complete control of all negotiations is vested in the General Council, who have had no direct or indirect communication with the Government since they sent their emphatic letter of protest against the Cabinet's wanton action in wrecking the peace discussions that were proceeding.

The position of the General Council may be stated in simple and unequivocal terms. They are ready at any moment to enter into preliminary discussions regarding the withdrawal of the lock-out and the ending of the General Stoppage and the resumption of negotiations for an honourable settlement of the Mining Dispute. These preliminary discussions must be free from any condition.

The Government must remember, and the public are asked to remember, that the General Stoppage took place as a result of the action of the Cabinet in breaking off peace discussions and issuing their ultimatum, using as their excuse the unauthorised action of the printing staff of a London newspaper. The responsibility for the present grave situation rests entirely upon the Cabinet. Even the newspaper concerned admits it to be true "that when the negotiations broke down the trade union representatives knew nothing of the stopping of 'The Daily Mail.'"

It is therefore merely fantastic for the Prime Minister to pretend that the Trade Unions are engaged in an attack upon the Constitution of the Country. Every instruction issued by the General

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

### FAILURE OF THE O.M.S.

**Truth About Situation at Newcastle-on-Tyne**

The Organisation for Maintaining Supplies at Newcastle-on-Tyne has broken down completely, and the authorities have appealed for the aid of the unions," announced Mr. Conolly, one of the Tyneside Labour M.P.s, in the House of Commons on Thursday night. An hour later a Government representative told the House he had telephoned to Newcastle, and received a denial of the statement.

The BRITISH WORKER is able to publish the following account of the Tyneside situation, as given by the Worker's Chronicle, published by the Newcastle Trades Council.

"With reference to the Government denial in the House of Commons," says the Worker's Chronicle, "that Sir Kingsley Wood had a conference with the Strike Committee, the fact that these conferences were held was known to all the leading trade unionists of Newcastle."

"The conferences were unofficial; they were initiated by Sir Kingsley Wood, who made an offer to withdraw the O.M.S. and who suggested a system of dual control."

"The Strike Committee decided that it could not agree to these proposals, and this decision was confirmed by the T.U.C."

"The Strike Committee further decided, in view of the facts before it, to withdraw immediately all permits whatsoever."

On another page the Worker's Chronicle states:—"The nine months' preparation by the Government has failed owing to the magnificent response of the workers. If proof is needed for this statement we get it from Sir Kingsley Wood. Yesterday he appealed to the Trades Council for help. He admitted that he had lost control of the situation, and asked the transport unions to co-operate in maintaining supplies."

"His position was so desperate that, provided the unions would come to his help, he was prepared to ask the Government to withdraw the troops and marines. This the unions refused."

### LEVY YOURSELVES IF AT WORK!

The General Council requires that all workers who are still in service or employment shall contribute 5 per cent. of their wages to the Strike Fund.

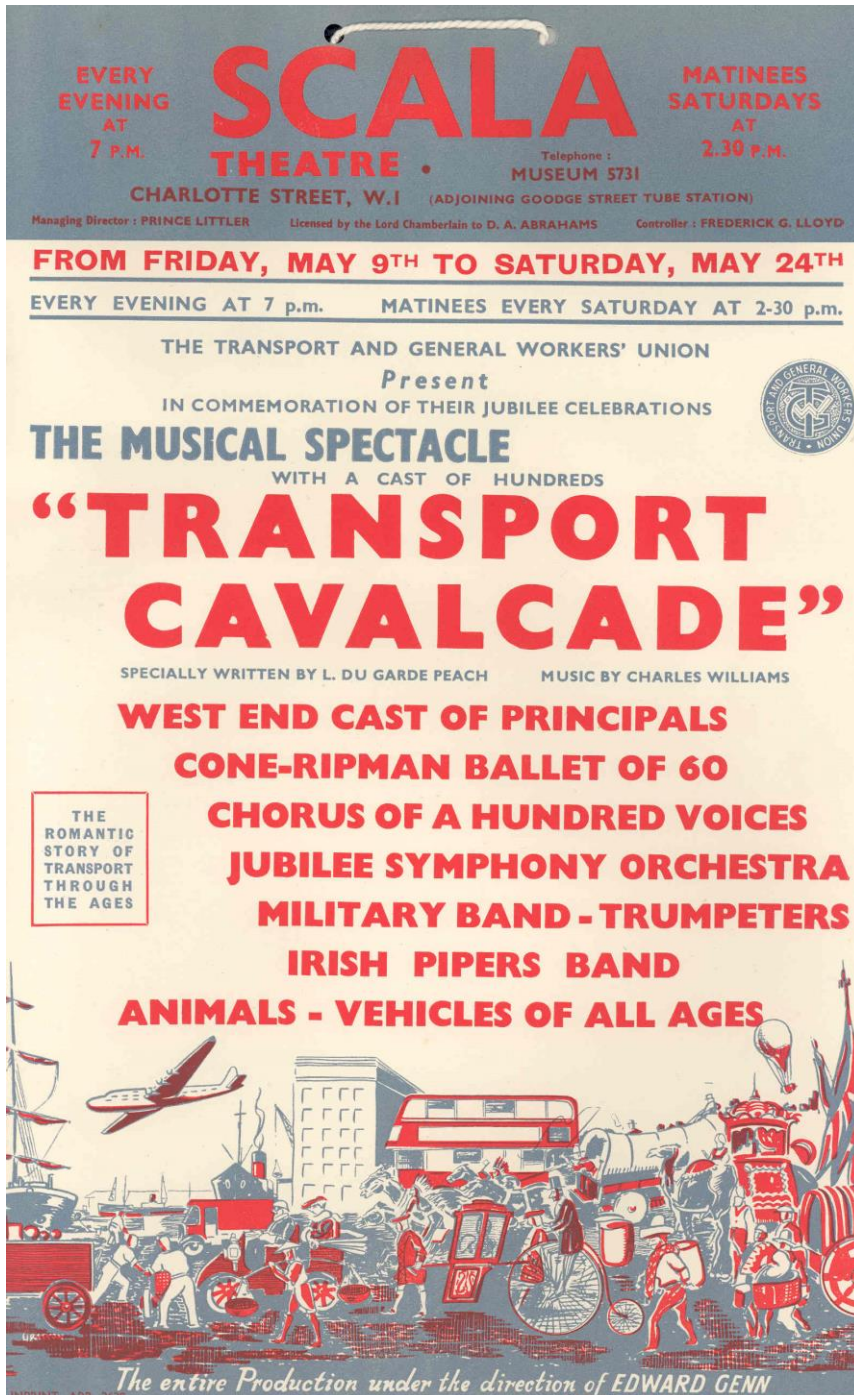
This levy should be remitted to the General Council through the Headquarters of the Unions concerned.

In other cases contributions should be sent to X2, Trades Union Congress, 32, Eccleston-square, London, S.W.1.

### 43. The British Worker (May 1926) Ref No: MSS.292/252.62/24

Nominated by: Liz Wood (Project Archivist, 'Mining the Past', Modern Records Centre)

Britain's 1926 General Strike lasted nine days and brought industry across the country to a halt. Inaccurate rumours – of revolution, murder, riot – spread. Striking printers meant that most national or local newspapers were only able to produce one or two sheet emergency bulletins, at best, which were unable to keep up with the public demand for information. On 5 May 1926, day two of the strike, the government and the Trades Union Congress both stepped into the breach and produced competing strike newspapers. The TUC-produced 'The British Worker' combined general statements on the dispute ('There is no Constitutional crisis') with 'stirring messages from the areas', human interest stories and practical advice. Like many of General Strike sources at the MRC, the newspaper has an immediacy to it, a sense of events unfolding, and gives us a vivid glimpse into an extraordinary time.



#### 44. 'Transport Cavalcade' poster (1947)

Ref No: MSS.126/TG/662/2/1-13

Nominated by: James King (Senior Assistant Archivist, Modern Records Centre)

A full-scale musical extravaganza at a London theatre is something that would definitely not be put on to celebrate a trade union's silver jubilee today!

0  
OSEAGRAM BM U

RUBROWEN DARSTN ZCZC VBM3201 TYA318

LAKE EYRE SA 41 19 1115

20 JUL 1964

CA.1  
ABLE

SIR ALFRED OWEN,  
RUBERY OWEN COMPANY,  
DARLASTON ENGLAND.

LT

SIR ALFRED OWEN RUBERY OWEN COMPANY DARLASTON ENGLAND

SUBJECT CONFIRMATION BLUEBIRD ACHIEVED NEW OFFICIAL WORLD LAND  
SPEED RECORD 403 MPH CAR PERFORMED MAGIFICENTLY UNDER APPALLING  
TRACK CONDITIONS CLEARED FIRST MEASURED MILE ACCELERATING 430  
STOP PLEASE CONVEY THANKS ALL CONCERNED

DONALD CAMPBELL

COL 403 430

**45. Telegram from Donald Campbell to Sir Alfred Owen reporting his breaking of the land speed record in the 'Bluebird' car at Lake Eyre, Australia (20 July 1964)** Ref No: MSS.338/RO/4/1/2/607/CA.1

Nominated by: Nick Owen (Grandson of Sir Alfred Owen)

A few short words capture and highlight the wonderful achievements of Donald Campbell, the Owen Organisation, which oversaw the creation of the 'Bluebird' car, and all others involved. A magnificent achievement for Great Britain and the culmination of many years of engineering teamwork.

This document is just one of the many thousands in the huge archive of the Rubery Owen group of companies, which had extensive links with the motor industry in the West Midlands, including Coventry, where 'Bluebird' was built. It was also involved in the aircraft and defence industries, undertook major structural projects such as the sports stadia at Molyneux and Twickenham, and manufactured domestic appliances, office equipment, agricultural implements and many other products.



# The Impact of a University on its Environment

The University of Warwick  
and its Community after Fifty Years



Michael Shattock

## ***46. The Impact of a University on its Environment: The University of Warwick and its Community after Fifty Years (2015)***

Ref No: UWA/B/44

Nominated by: Professor Mike Shattock (former Registrar, Warwick University)

When Coventry and Warwickshire combined to provide a site for a university (see also Object 2) no one could know what its local and regional impact would be. *The Impact of a University on its Environment* was an attempt to assess this and was written as a contribution to the University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The research benefitted greatly from the University archive held in the MRC.



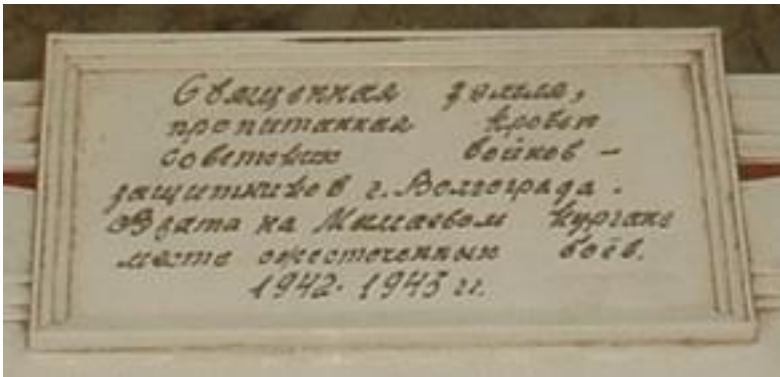
#### **47. Sample white tile from university building (mid-1960s)**

Ref No: Uncatalogued

Nominated by: Sue Pardon (Resource Acquisitions & Digital Access, Warwick University Library)

I chose the 'White tile' firstly because I was pleased that a simple item of social history was deemed worthy enough to be retained and was fascinated to learn that implementing the iconic 'white tile look', still evident on some buildings around the University, was not without its difficulties.

The above pictures show the Physics building at Warwick, minus the white tiles which had fallen off. The picture and the actual tile chosen by Sue are both in our physical exhibition.



#### 48. Box of 'sacred blood-soaked soil' taken from mass graves of Soviet soldiers at Volgograd

Ref No: MSS.5/7/9ii

Nominated by: Christine Woodland and Richard Temple (former Archivists, Modern Records Centre)

This item has been on long-term loan to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, as part of its 'Peace and Reconciliation' exhibition.

Like the white tile (Object 47) or the 'Student Life' cine reel (Object 39), this is an example of how archives contain physical objects as well as documents.

B. M. FAY.

LA

FORTERESSE  
DU DANUBE,  
MÉLODRAME

EN TROIS ACTES, EN PROSE,  
ET A GRAND SPECTACLE;

Par R. C. GUILBERT-PIXERÉCOURT,

*Représenté, pour la première fois à Paris, sur  
le théâtre de la Porte St.-Martin, le 13 nivose  
an XIII. (3 janvier 1805.)*

La Musique est del signor BIANCHI,

Les Ballets sont de M. AUMER, de l'Académie impériale.



A PARIS,

Chez BARBA, Libraire, palais du Tribunat, galerie du  
Théâtre Français, n°. 51.

AN XIII. (1805.)

#### 49. 'La Forteresse du Danube' (1805)

Ref No: SPC PQ 2382.I9

Nominated by: Professor Kate Astbury (French Studies, Warwick University)

This best-selling melodrama by the Andrew Lloyd Webber of his day, Guilbert de Pixérécourt, is part of the Marandet collection of French plays of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Marandet collection, part of Warwick's 'Special Collections', is one of the most significant collections of French plays of this period in the UK. This volume contains hand-written annotations showing where music can be found in the original Parisian production (the points at which music occurs are not indicated in the published play text), made by a visitor to Paris who wanted to be able to recreate the play for an amateur performance in Lyon.

### Conduct and Discipline

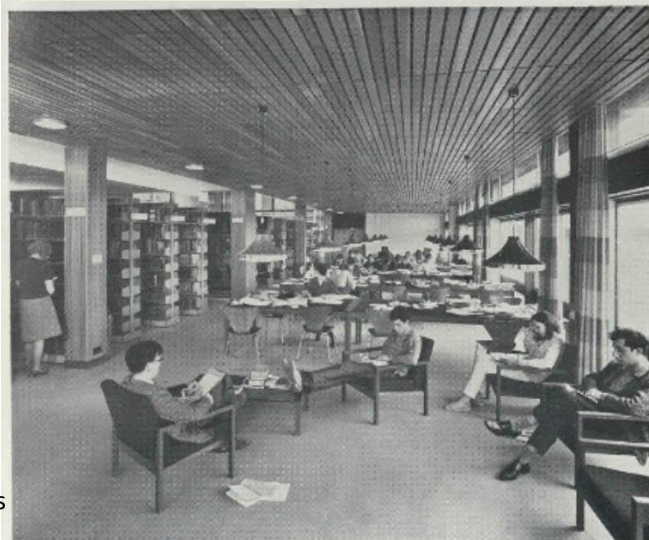
12. The marking and defacing of books and other library property is strictly forbidden.
13. Readers will be held responsible for, and will have to make good, any loss of or damage to books on loan to them, or being used by them in the Library. If the book is one of a set or series they may be called upon to replace the whole set or series. A minimum charge of 10/- will be made when a reader is required to replace a book lost or damaged.
14. The reservation of places is not permitted. Books and other articles left for any length of time on chairs and tables may be removed by the Library staff. Articles left at closing time will be cleared away. The Library accepts no responsibility for personal belongings.
15. Readers when leaving the Library are required to show for inspection all books in their possession, whether these belong to the University or not.
16. Umbrellas, wet coats, parcels, cases, bags and other receptacles must be left outside the Library.
17. Bottles of ink may not be brought into the Library. A supply will be kept at the control desk.
18. Smoking and the consumption of food and drink are forbidden in the Library premises, but smoking is permitted in the reading room in the Library entrance block.
19. A warning bell will be rung ten minutes before closing time and all readers must vacate the Library by closing time.

*The library in use in 1965-66 in the first buildings. The library will be housed on the main site from the summer of 1966.*

## 50. Photo of original Library at Gibbet Hill and Library rules (1960s)

Ref No: UWA/PUB/4/4 & UWA/PUB/7/1/2

Nominated by: Anna O'Neill (Librarian, Warwick University Library)



These items form part of the University's own archives and perfectly illustrate how much the University and its Library and Archives have evolved over time. They come from a 1967-68 prospectus and a mid-1960s library guide. I love that the Library was, and still remains, an important decider for both students and staff on whether the University of Warwick is the right place for them. These photos show that the Library has always been a place for scholarly study and research but also somewhere you are sure to meet friends. As we look to the next stage of the physical development of the Library and Archives it is good to be reminded that whilst rules may change, the commitment to an outstanding student experience and ongoing investment in the facilities that are essential to their success, has never faltered.

# Acknowledgements

The MRC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been a team effort not just from everyone who works at the MRC, but also our colleagues in the Library and in the wider Warwick community. First thanks therefore go to everyone at the MRC (see team photos), who have all contributed so much in terms of archival knowledge, specialist skills, good humour, patience and forbearance, and enthusiasm and passion. With regards to this exhibition, we are particularly indebted to the suggestions for objects we received from students, researchers, university staff, depositors, and visitors to the MRC; without these, there would be no exhibition.

It is always hard to ensure everybody who deserves a thank you gets one, but as regards the exhibition particular thanks (in no particular order) should go to: Anna O'Neill and Karen Jackson from the Library for providing institutional support for the 50<sup>th</sup>; Samantha Platts and Hannah O'Brien for their help with communications and marketing; and Matt Eastwood and the team at Jade design agency, for the wonderful catalogue design and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary graphics.

Looking at the wider range of events we have held as part of the 50<sup>th</sup>, we extend thanks to: the Marx Memorial Library and the South Wales Miners Library for the joint anniversary seminar in July; to Karen Aspin for helping organise the Heritage Open Days; to Bron and Pav for helping with media coverage; to our speakers, panel chairs, caterers, and helpers for the celebratory symposium; and to Gaz Johnson, Hannah (again!), and Emil Rybczak for the special issue of *Exchanges* which will come out in 2024 to round off our celebrations.

## The MRC team



Left-to-right: Pierre Botcherby, Rachel MacGregor, Lizzie Morrison, Carole Jones, James King, Liz Wood.

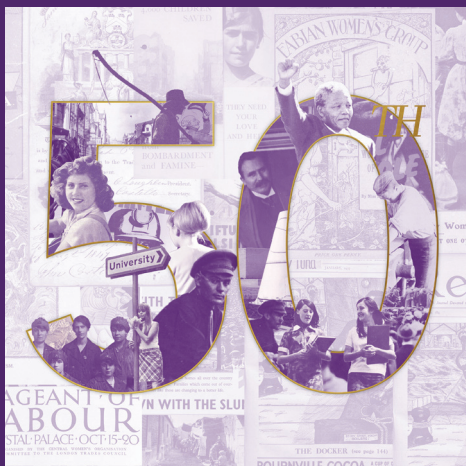


Left-to-right: Martin Sanders, Naomi Shewan, Izzy Hadlum, Melissa Prior, Eren Delaney (*in absentia*).



## Modern Records Centre

Celebrating 50 years



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