Social and Political History

Manuscript Resources

The *Manchester Guardian* Archive is a major source for studies of the political, military, economic, social and technological developments of the twentieth century. It contains correspondence with a large number of politicians and statesmen, and almost every major political event and social trend is documented in the correspondence and despatches. The papers of W.P. Crozier, former editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, contain interviews with leading politicians and statesmen, while the manuscript collection of A.P. Wadsworth, another former editor, is important for the

![Image of an account book of the Peterloo Relief Fund, recording payments made to persons injured in the Massacre of 16 August 1819. English MS 172, opening 32.](image)

Figure 15

An account book of the Peterloo Relief Fund, recording payments made to persons injured in the Massacre of 16 August 1819. English MS 172, opening 32.
social and economic history of Lancashire, and includes material relating to the Peterloo Massacre.

The great social campaigns of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, such as the abolition of slavery, factory reform and the emancipation of women, are documented in the Raymond English Anti-Slavery Collection, the Papers of the Fielden Brothers (including material on John Fielden and William Cobbett), and the Women’s Suffrage Movement Archives. The history of slavery in the West Indies is illuminated in the Stapleton Manuscripts and the Brooke of Mere Muniments, while Manchester's social history is reflected in the archives of Agecroft Rowing Club, Manchester Reform Club, and the charities Henshaw's Society for the Blind and Wood Street Mission.

The Library holds papers of several national and local politicians, including Prime Minister James Ramsay MacDonald; Thomas Spring Rice (1790–1866), first Baron Monteagle of Brandon, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir John Bowring (1792–1872), MP for Bolton and Anti-Corn Law League campaigner; J.W.T. Newbold, Britain’s first Communist MP; and the Manchester councillor Dame Mabel Tylecote. The Pink Papers contain
copious biographical information on Members of Parliament. Political parties are represented by the Accrington Conservative Club Archive.

Other collections include the Aladin Papers (mainly pre-Revolution Russia); the Axon Papers (Manchester local history, journalism, social reform); the Leonard Behrens Papers (United Nations, Liberal Party, social and cultural life of Manchester); the Dale Papers (Cheshire poor law and parish records); the Heald Family Papers (trade, military and physical medicine); the Hibbert-Ware Papers (local history, military history and antiquarian); the Kay-Shuttleworth Papers (education, poor relief and social reform); the Simon Papers (the Frankfurt Parliament and Revolution of 1848); and the D.A. Wilson Papers (socialism and trade unionism). The papers of Dorothy Richardson comprise detailed accounts of travel in England during the late eighteenth century, illustrated with drawings, and offer extensive scope for cultural, social, gender and art historical studies.

The Library also holds papers of two historians of government and politics: Samuel Finer, Professor of Government at Manchester University and later Gladstone Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford; and Sir Lewis Namier, Professor of History at Manchester University, 1931-53, and author of *The Structure of Politics at the Accession of George III* (1929).

See also the sections on Economic and Industrial History (p. 125) and Muniment and Charter Collections (p. 101).

**Printed Resources**

The Library has attempted to acquire all the major printed sources for the social and political history of Britain. The coverage is wide-ranging, from Tudor texts to the literature of twentieth-century social and political movements such as socialism and the campaign for family planning.

It is estimated that the Library has some 8,000 pre-Civil War English publications, of which about half are theological and the rest are almost equally divided between historical and literary works. Of later publications, many are extra-illustrated copies; for example, the 1807 edition of Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* which was increased from three volumes to twenty-one volumes by Lord Spencer's grangerization.

The Sir John Neale Collection includes works covering almost every aspect of the reign of Elizabeth I. The English Tract Collection comprises over 15,000 items relating to political, social and theological subjects; many date from the Civil War period.
Further tracts of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries are to be found within the Sutherland Collection. The Ferguson Collection is particularly valuable for the study of Scottish history and literature in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Poll Book Collection comprises some 1,000 poll books, broadsides, posters and leaflets relating to English parliamentary elections in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The history of English socialism and radicalism is comprehensively documented. The Benson Collection comprises early socialist periodicals such as *Hog's Wash* and monographs by Robert Owen, Jacob Holyoake and other radicals. It also includes all the major publications of the Independent Labour Party. The massive collections of pamphlets, reports and newspaper cuttings from the Labour Party Library document the history of British and international socialism in unparalleled detail, and are key sources for studies of the major events and trends of the twentieth century. The Dame Mabel Tylecote Printed Collection holds material relating to the Fabian Society and the fledgling Labour Party. Publications of all the major political parties are represented in the twentieth-century Election Literature Collection. The campaign for the abolition of slavery is recorded in the H.J. Wilson Anti-Slavery Collection. The history of education for the deaf is the subject of the Deaf Education Collection, while the Marie Stopes and Birth Control Collection is concerned with the family-planning movement of the twentieth century. On a lighter note, sport, and cricket in particular, is documented in the Brockbank Cricket Collection.

The Library's excellent collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century County Histories reveals the warp and weft of English social life at the local level, although the authors were primarily concerned with the gentry and landed classes. These volumes are an invaluable accompaniment to the Muniment and Charter Collections (p. 101). Other general historical collections include the Ashburne Hall Collection, which holds many seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century items, and the Edward Freeman Printed Collection.

French history is also well represented. The period of the Fronde, 1648–53, is documented in the Mazarinades Collection, while the Preston Pearce Collection contains documents from the century before the French Revolution, constituting a fascinating resource for the social and political history of the country in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The French Revolution Collection is acknowledged to be one of the finest in Britain, if not the world, comprising some 40,000 monographs, periodicals, newspapers, proclamations and broadsides, from the time of the Revolution up to the restoration of the Bourbons.
In addition to primary source materials, the Special Collections Division holds a full range of secondary literature, including key historical monographs, periodicals, numerous series of record society publications, and a complete set of the Calendars of Rolls, State Papers and other public records published by the Public Record Office.

Bibliography


Select alphabetical list of resources:

(MS: Manuscript/Archive; Pr: Printed)

- Accrington Conservative Club Archive (MS) 146
- Papers of the Agecroft Rowing Club (MS) 147
- Aladin Papers (MS) 147
- Ashburne Hall Collection (Pr) 160
- Axon Papers (MS) 147
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Manuscript Resources

Accrington Conservative Club Archive

Date range: 1880–1966.

Records of the Accrington Conservative Club, Lancashire. These include general and executive committee minute books; minute books of specific committees such as the municipal, political, entertainment and financial committees; subscription and visitors books; newspaper cuttings books; and miscellaneous papers such as brochures, programmes, photographs and documents relating to General Elections.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.
Papers of the Agecroft Rowing Club

Date range: 1864–1980.

Agecroft Rowing Club was founded in 1861 to encourage the sport of rowing on the River Irwell near Manchester. The Club held regattas and participated in events organized by other clubs, but it was primarily a social club for rowing enthusiasts. Records include minute books, correspondence files, log books and regatta notes. The collection is rich in photographs, not just of Club members and of rowing activities on the Irwell, but also of the social aspects of the Club. A series of travel journals records one member's journeys in Europe between 1900 and 1938, profusely illustrated with photographs.


Aladin Papers

Date range: c. 1905–27.

Papers, in Russian and English, of Alexis Aladin (d. 1927), member of the first Russian Duma (pre-Revolutionary assembly), leader of the Trudoviks, and subsequently an emigre in England. The collection includes extensive correspondence with (Sir) David Russell and Miss E. Constance Nightingale concerning the Russian Revolution and subsequent Civil War, with photographs, articles and newspaper cuttings.


Axon Papers

Date range: 1864–1947.

Papers of Dr William Edward Armytage Axon (1846–1913) and his son Ernest A. Axon (1868–1947). Dr Axon was a librarian (1861–74), a journalist with the Manchester Guardian (1874–1905), bibliographer, local historian, folklorist and social reformer. He was also a Unitarian of very liberal tendencies. The archive contains some 6,600 letters to him arising from these various interests. There is also a collection of some 600 autographs of famous contemporaries sent to or collected by him.

Ernest Axon was a librarian for over fifty years, a historian of Manchester and the North-West, and the author of several Unitarian local histories. His papers consist of almost 1,500 in- and out-letters, 1897–1947.

Finding aid: card index of correspondence.
Leonard Behrens Papers

Date range: 1916–76.

Papers of Sir Leonard Frederick Behrens (1890–1978), Manchester businessman. The collection contains diaries; personal correspondence; files relating to the United Nations (1946–75), the Liberal Party (1949–74), the BBC (1944–58), the Serbian Relief Fund (1916–19), and the Hallé Orchestra (1952–72); and volumes of newspaper cuttings and photographs on the Irish rebellion, the United Nations, the Liberal Party, the Hallé, and the German Democratic Republic.

Finding aids: outline list.

W.P. Crozier Papers

Date range: 1931–44.

Accounts, both typescript and holograph, of interviews conducted by William Percival Crozier (1879–1944), editor of the Manchester Guardian, 1932–44, with statesmen and politicians. The interviews are concerned with European politics and the Nazi threat, the Jewish National Home and the Far East (India and China). There are 175 major interviews with 23 leading politicians, including Stanley Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, David Lloyd George, Jan Masaryk and Herbert Morrison. There are also 57 other interviews with other notable figures such as Leo Amery, Lord Halifax, Neville Laski, Jawaharlal Nehru, Eleanor Roosevelt and Chaim Weizmann.

Finding aids: outline list.

Raymond English Anti-Slavery Collection

Date range: 1824–86.

Important source for the history of the abolition of slavery. The archive contains letters, letter-books, diaries, lectures and printed works of and concerning the anti-slavery campaigners George Thompson (1804–78), his daughter Amelia Chesson, and son-in-law Frederick Chesson. Much of the correspondence relates to Thompson’s work in India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and America. There are diaries of George Thompson, Frederick Chesson and Amelia Chesson. The latter recorded her father’s anti-slavery activities in notebooks. In addition, there are original minutes of the London Emancipation Committee and a letter-book of the Aborigines Protection Society.

Figure 17
A letter from the anti-slavery campaigner George Thompson to his wife Anne, 25 January 1838. Raymond English Anti-Slavery Collection, REAS/2/1/42.

Papers of the Fielden Brothers
Date range: 1811–1906.
Collection of papers concerning the cotton-spinning firm of Fielden Brothers and the career of John Fielden MP (1784–1849), important for the social, political and economic history of the nineteenth century. The partnership of Fielden Brothers was formed in 1816, based at Waterside Mill in Todmorden, West
Yorkshire, and it became one of the most important and profitable textile firms in the country. John Fielden, a practising Unitarian, was elected MP for Oldham in 1832 with William Cobbett. He was known for his radical politics, taking an active part in the movement to limit the hours of factory labour and attempting to get a minimum wage agreement for handloom weavers.

Company records include accounts and correspondence concerning the running of the mills and trading activities at home and overseas. There are also papers concerning John Fielden's political activities, especially factory reform and the Ten Hour Bill, including correspondence with John, James and Richard Cobbett.


**Guardian (formerly Manchester Guardian) Archive**

Date range: 1821–1970s.

The *Manchester Guardian* was founded by John Edward Taylor (1791–1844) in 1821, two years after the Peterloo Massacre. In the 1880s and '90s, under the editorship of the legendary Charles Prestwich Scott (1846–1932), it was transformed from an essentially provincial journal into a newspaper of national and international standing. Scott pursued a consistently radical, liberal editorial stance during his fifty-seven years in the post, even in the face of public hostility. He championed Irish Home Rule, condemned the excesses of imperialism, and criticized British policy in South Africa immediately before and during the Boer War. The *Manchester Guardian's* radicalism continued under successive editors. In 1959 the title of the newspaper changed to the *Guardian*, to reflect its national distribution and news coverage, and in 1970 the main editorial offices and production facilities moved to London. The newspaper and its archive are a major source for studies of the political, military, economic, social and technological developments of the twentieth century.

The archive consists of three elements: printed copies of newspapers and related publications; the records of the newspaper as a business; and editorial correspondence and despatches from reporters.

The archive contains a complete hard-copy set of the *Guardian* newspaper from 1821 to 1991, with an index on microfilm from 1821 to 1928 and on microfiche from 1929 to 1985, and copies of regional issues and other *Guardian* publications such as the *Guardian Weekly*. 
Business records include partnership contracts and legal documents relating to the foundation and subsequent ownership of the paper, leases of properties, and libel actions; financial records such as ledgers, cash books, balance sheets and financial correspondence; circulation and distribution records, including detailed sets of statistics; and employment records and records relating to the production of the newspaper, containing information on developments in printing technology, changes of premises, working conditions, wage rates and trade union employment agreements.

The correspondence and despatches are a source of immense importance for studies of almost every aspect of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The period of Scott's editorship (1872–1929) is represented by two classes of correspondence. There are nearly 4,400 personal letters to and from Scott, exchanged with some 1,100 individuals. The second class comprises editorial correspondence, numbering 13,000 items from over 1,300 persons. Scott's correspondence reveals his close personal and political contacts with many of the leading statesmen and politicians of his time, such as Herbert Asquith, David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, Lord Haldane, Lord Grey of Fallodon, Ramsay MacDonald (q.v.), Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Beveridge, Sir Samuel Hoare and Leslie Hore-Belisha. His interest in causes such as women's suffrage, Irish nationalism and the establishment of a Jewish homeland is illuminated in correspondence with the suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, the subsequent Irish rebel Sir Roger Casement, and the Zionists Chaim Weizmann and Sir Lewis Namier (q.v.). Leading literary figures also feature in the correspondence, such as George Bernard Shaw, William Butler Yeats, John Masefield and Arthur Ransome. In the post-war period, under the editorships of Alfred Powell Wadsworth (1944–56) and Alastair Hetherington (1956–75), Labour politicians figure prominently, such as George Brown, James Callaghan, Richard Crossman, Hugh Gaitskell, Roy Jenkins and Harold Wilson, while Jo Grimond represents the Liberals. Among the prominent Guardian staff members who feature in the correspondence are Neville Cardus, Alistair Cooke, Bernard Levin, Malcolm Muggeridge, Peter Preston, Terence Prittie, Arthur Ransome and Brian Redhead.

The large collection of despatches submitted by the Guardian's foreign and war correspondents is perhaps the richest source for the historian. Almost every major event and crisis of the twentieth century is represented in the archive: the First World War, the Russian Revolution, the Abdication Crisis of 1936, the rise of Fascism and the Second World War, the founding of Israel and the later Middle East conflicts, the Suez Crisis, the Korean and
Vietnam Wars, the Cold War, the development of the European Economic Community and so forth. There are also files on industry, technology, transport, the churches, the police, and social issues such as housing, employment and poverty.

See also the papers of: W.E.A. Axon, journalist (p. 147); W.P. Crozier, editor, 1932-44 (p. 148); A.N. Monkhouse, critic (p. 205); C.E. Montague, journalist (p. 206); Howard Spring, journalist (p. 210); and A.P. Wadsworth, editor, 1944-56 (p. 156).


Location: JRULM (Main Library).

Heald Family Papers

Date range: 1866-1987.

The original donation of Heald family papers, made in 1958, consists of 400 letters, five letter-books and six volumes of diaries. The bulk relates to Walter Heald (1841-1925), a merchant who went to South America in 1866, to his wife Emily Isabel, née Krabbé (1852-1926), whom he met there, and to the firm of Krabbé, Higgins & Co. of Buenos Aires, general merchants. Most of the correspondence consists of business letters from this country and from South America written and received by Walter Heald, who seems to have acted as a representative for the company. There are also four diaries written by Heald during his voyage to and residence in Buenos Aires, 1866-70, and a two-volume diary kept by his future wife in Quinta, 1869-71.

Additional material acquired in 1996 and 1997 chiefly comprises the papers of Charles Brehmer Heald (1882-1974), formerly consultant physician in physical medicine at the Royal Free Hospital. C.B. Heald had the distinction of serving as a medical officer in all three branches of the armed forces during the First World War. After the war he took a keen interest in electrotherapeutics and played a leading role in the development of physical medicine. His papers include a typescript copy of his unpublished autobiography relating his colourful wartime experiences, scrapbooks, printed matter, correspondence and personal papers. These will be of interest to students of the history of medicine and particularly of the military medical services. There
are also further family papers relating to the Heald, Hall and Krabbé families.

Finding aids: earlier material recorded in published handlist of English Manuscripts (English MSS 1217-1223); unpublished accession list of later material.

Records of Henshaw's Society for the Blind

Date range: 1833-1982.

Records of Henshaw's Society for the Blind, formerly known as Henshaw's Blind Asylum which was opened in Old Trafford, Manchester, in 1837 to provide education, employment and welfare for the blind. Henshaw's has gradually broadened the scope of its activities in relation to blindness, and since 1971 it has provided a service for the visually impaired as well as the blind. The Asylum was re-named Henshaw's Institution for the Blind in the 1920s and assumed its present name in 1971. Today the Society provides a wide range of services for the blind and visually impaired.

Records consist of the minutes and financial accounts of Henshaw's Society for the Blind and its precursors, including a wide variety of committees, departments and meetings. Many of the minutes of individual committees include reports from other committees, relevant correspondence, and reports of joint meetings between committees, and many of the volumes are indexed.


Hibbert-Ware Papers

Date range: 1770-c.1880.

Papers of the Hibbert-Ware family. The collection includes notes and papers of Dr William Hibbert, surgeon in the Second Queen's Royals, relating to his service in India, 1836-38; papers of Lt. Col. George Hibbert (1790-1847), commander of the 40th Regiment, 1838-48; letters from Captain G.H. Hibbert-Ware during the Crimean War, 1854-56; a household account book of Thomas Hibbert, merchant of Manchester, 1770-95; over 2,000 family letters and papers, the majority relating to Dr Samuel Hibbert-Ware (1782-1848), geologist and antiquary, 1797-1849; a commonplace book of Samuel Hibbert jun., 1799-1815; Lancashire tradesmen's bills, 1802-15; documents concerning the history of Ireland and the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715, and other historical and topographical notes.

Finding aids: recorded in published handlist of English Manuscripts (English MSS 989-1038).
Kay-Shuttleworth Papers
Date range: c.1820–77.

Papers mainly relating to Sir James Phillips Kay-Shuttleworth (1804–77), public-health reformer and founder of the English system of public education. The collection chiefly comprises letters to James Kay-Shuttleworth from his family, friends, colleagues and associates, including Lord John Russell, first Earl Russell, and Sir William Cavendish, seventh Duke of Devonshire. There are also letters to Sir James’s son, Ughtred James Kay-Shuttleworth, first Baron Shuttleworth (1844–1939), and printed materials relating to poverty and its relief, education and social reform.


Ramsay MacDonald Papers
Date range: 1893–1937.

Correspondence and papers of the Labour and National Government Prime Minister James Ramsay MacDonald (1866–1937). The correspondence relates to a wide range of subjects, political and personal. There are discussions upon political questions with colleagues, instructions on government policy during his premiership, affectionate notes to family and friends and day-to-day working correspondence. There are files relating to the Independent Labour Party, the Union of Democratic Control, the Coal Dispute and General Strike of 1926, the Zinoviev Letter, Communism, Palestine, China, India and Egypt. There are also appointment diaries, notebooks and Cabinet papers from 1934–37.


Manchester Reform Club Archive

Manchester Reform Club was established in 1867 as a gentlemen’s club for Liberal politicians and supporters in the Manchester area.
The Club's fortunes paralleled those of the Liberal Party. Faced with declining membership in the twentieth century, it merged with the Engineers' Club in 1967 to form the Manchester Club, which was eventually wound up in 1988.

Records include minute books of the Club's many committees, financial papers, membership records, records relating to the building, cuttings books and a photograph album. As well as illuminating the history of the Club, the collection has wide significance for studies of nineteenth-century radicalism and the history of the Liberal movement in Manchester.


**Newbold Papers**

Date range: c.1913–43.

Papers of John Walton Turner Newbold (1888–1943), socialist and historian. Newbold was briefly Britain's first Communist MP (representing Motherwell, 1922–23), but resigned from the Party in 1924, and gradually drifted to the right of politics.

Papers comprise notes on historical, political and economic subjects, including the history of capitalism, international finance, banking and trade, the electricity and chemical industries, armaments and the two World Wars. There are also autobiographical materials relating to Newbold's political life, the Labour Party, the Communist Party and Russia, and copies of articles written by him.


**Pink Papers**

Date range: late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Papers collected by Mr W. Duncombe Pink of Leigh, Lancashire, mainly in connection with an unpublished biographical dictionary of Members of Parliament. Papers include indexes of and biographical notes on MPs in the Tudor and Stewart periods, notes on London MPs from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century, notes on the Long Parliament and Pride's Purge, transcripts of poll books, and miscellaneous notes and papers.

Finding aids: recorded in published handlist of English Manuscripts (English MSS 296–333).
**Simon Papers**

Date range: 1816–40.

Eight volumes of papers of August Heinrich Simon (1805–60). Born in the Prussian town of Breslau (now Wroclaw, Poland), Simon trained for the legal profession and was a prominent advocate of constitutional and educational reform. He was a leading member of the revolutionary Frankfurt Parliament of 1848–49. Arraigned for high treason, Simon fled to Switzerland in 1849, taking with him the Parliament’s seal. The volumes contain letters, diaries and documents relating to Simon’s life in Breslau, and in particular to his training and early career as a lawyer. They provide interesting background information for the study of August’s nephew, Henry Simon (1835–99), who came to Manchester from Germany in 1860 and founded the engineering companies Henry Simon Ltd and Simon-Carves Ltd, still in existence as the Simon Engineering Group.


**Dame Mabel Tylecote Papers**

Date range: 1914–79.

Personal papers of Dame Mabel Tylecote née Phythian (1896-1987), mainly concerning her career in the Labour Party, Manchester local politics, and adult education. The collection comprises: general correspondence, both personal and official; letters of congratulation and condolence; files relating to particular topics such as adult education, by-elections and general elections, her career in Manchester politics and Mechanics’ Institutes; Phythian family correspondence; letters to Lucile Keck of Chicago, Illinois, from Tylecote and others; Sidebottom family correspondence, including earlier letters from A.J. Balfour (1888, 1893), John Bright (1848, 1864) and Richard Cobden (1864); personal diaries; and photograph albums. There is also a collection of sixty-seven watercolours and drawings of scenes from the First World War by her brother Wilfrid Phythian.

See also the Dame Mabel Tylecote Printed Collection (p. 171).

Finding aids: incomplete provisional handlist.

**Wadsworth Manuscripts**

Date range: 18th–20th centuries.

The historical collections of Dr Alfred Powell Wadsworth, former editor of the *Manchester Guardian* and a governor of the John…
Rylands Library, were presented by his daughter, Miss Janet Wadsworth. In addition to Wadsworth’s own notebooks and papers concerning his researches into the textile industry, Manchester Sunday schools and the history of Rochdale, there are significant original materials collected by him. These include letters from Mrs Linnaeus Banks, author of *The Manchester Man*, 1882–95; a collection of papers relating to the Peterloo Massacre of 1819, including original placards and notices; correspondence of Isaac Hawkins Browne the younger, 1788–1802; miscellaneous letters and papers of the Rev. William Robert Hay, vicar of Rochdale, 1781–c.1836; a ‘minute book’ of William Hough of Chorley, Lancashire, attorney, 1783–1836; ledgers, stock books and inventories of Lancashire cotton manufacturers, Messrs Cardwell, Birley & Hornby of Blackburn, 1768–1858, Nathaniel Dugdale & Bros of Padiham, 1807–51, and Ashworth Cotton Mills at Eagley near Bolton, 1831–79.


*D.A. Wilson Papers*

Date range: 1926–37, 1968.

Papers of David Arnold Wilson (b. 1897), a Yorkshire railway clerk, trade unionist and socialist. His papers comprise diaries, correspondence, socialist and trade union pamphlets, circulars and reports, newscuttings, copies of articles, and printed books and journals. Subjects covered include the General Strike of 1926, the Minority Movement, municipal elections in Bradford, housing in Leeds, the organization and condition of the Communist Party, the Comintern, and the Labour Party and Independent Labour Party in Bradford. There is also a brief autobiography and personal reminiscence of the General Strike, compiled in 1968. The printed books concern socialism, the Labour Party, the Communist Party and the Soviet Union.


*Women’s Suffrage Movement Archives*

Date range: 1892–1920.

The Library holds archives for: the Parliamentary Committee for Women’s Suffrage (1892–1901); the Manchester Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage (1909–18); the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (1910–14); and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (1913–20).
The Parliamentary Committee for Women’s Suffrage was founded in 1894 and its members included twenty-four MPs. The object of the all-party Committee was to secure the Parliamentary franchise for women and they promoted the passage of all Bills and amendments which would further their cause. The archive consists of four minute books and a couple of annual reports for the period 1895–1901, and a few printed items relating to the women’s suffrage movement, dated 1892.

The Manchester Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage was founded in 1908 and was active in propaganda activities until the outbreak of the First World War. Initially affiliated to the London Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage, it later became independent. It dissolved after the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918. The archive consists of minute books, chronological correspondence files, League ephemera, ephemera collected by the League and news cuttings indexed by subject, covering the period 1909–18.

The National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies was founded in 1897 to provide an umbrella organization for the various regional societies devoted to the cause of women’s suffrage. Its headquarters were in London and its President was Millicent Garrett Fawcett. Its methods were constitutional. The archive consists of thirty bound volumes of news cuttings, 1910–14, which offer a very full chronological record of the social and political position of women and of all aspects of the women’s suffrage movement during this period.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance was founded in 1902 at the initiative of Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and by the end of 1920 it had affiliated societies in thirty countries throughout the world, with its headquarters in London. The aim of the Alliance was to aid the enfranchisement of the women of all nations through the international co-operation of the national societies. The Alliance held biennial international Congresses, published a monthly journal, Jus Suffragii, and ran an international Information Bureau. The archive consists of almost 300 files from the period 1913–20: subject files relating to the work of the IWSA; alphabetical correspondence files; and files of news cuttings classified by subject.

All the collections are valuable for the study of the women’s suffrage movement in Britain. The archives of the MMLWS, the NUWSS and the IWSA give valuable insights into the social and economic, as well as political, position of women in the early twentieth century and also touch upon the concerns of other reform movements of the period: prostitution and the ‘white slave
trade'; divorce law; venereal disease; prisons; poor law; and other issues. The archive of the IWSA is also a source for the study of international conditions and attitudes during the First World War and its immediate aftermath.

See also the correspondence of C.P. Scott with Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst within the Guardian Archive (p. 150).

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

Alternative form: published microfilm: The Women’s Suffrage Movement: Papers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, the Parliamentary Committee for Women’s Suffrage, and the Manchester Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage, from the John Rylands University Library, Manchester (Woodbridge: Research Publications, 1990).

Wood Street Mission Archive

Date range: 1885–1995.

Wood Street Mission, known officially as the Manchester & Salford Street Children’s Mission, was founded in 1869 by Alfred Alsop, to provide spiritual and practical support for poor children in the slum areas of central Manchester and Salford. In 1873 the Mission moved to its present premises on Wood Street (adjacent to the site where a few years later Mrs Rylands chose to build her Library). The practical necessities of life — food, clothing and shelter — were provided for hundreds of poor children and their families, while their spiritual and recreational needs were also attended to: church services and Sunday schools were held, and in 1897 a holiday camp was built at St Anne’s on Sea near Blackpool. The Wood Street Mission is a registered charity which continues to provide services to the community, with particular emphasis on mitigating the effects of poverty and deprivation on children, young people and their families in the Manchester and Salford areas.

The archive comprises minute books, annual reports, cuttings books, account books, registers of donors and recipients of charity, wages books and other employment records, visitors books, diaries and photographs. The collection constitutes a vital record of the social history of Manchester and Salford, with particular emphasis on poverty and social deprivation, and on efforts to alleviate them.

Access: by written permission of the director of Wood Street Mission; confidential material is subject to a 75-year closure from the date of its creation.

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.
Printed Resources

Ashburne Hall Collection
3,000 items.
This includes three special groups of material, the Morley, Toller and Tootal Broadhurst collections. Many of the items date from the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, and there is a marked emphasis on the history of England, America and Europe, although the subject range of each collection is wide. The Morley Collection comprises works on philosophy, theology, political economy and political science, British, European (particularly French) and American history, and literature (Classical, English and European). The Toller Collection includes historical texts, foreign-language dictionaries and works on literature and theology, while the Tootal Broadhurst Collection contains works of general history, literature and illustrated books.

Finding aids: Morley Collection catalogued on cards in the Main Library card catalogue; Toller and Tootal Broadhurst collections recorded in separate card catalogue at Deansgate.

Location: JRULM (Deansgate); some items remain at Ashburne Hall.

Benson Collection
500 items (dispersed).
This collection, devoted to the history of English socialism, was formed by Sir George Benson (1889–1973), former Labour Member of Parliament for Chesterfield, and was donated between 1947 and 1952. The material ranges from the works of Robert Owen, Bronterre O’Brien, Jacob Holyoake, and William Thompson to the early socialist periodicals of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, *Hog’s Wash*, *The Black Dwarf* and *The Crisis*. Also included are all the major publications of the Independent Labour Party.


Brockbank Cricket Collection
1,200 items.
This important collection of cricket books was bequeathed to the Library by Dr William Brockbank (1900–84), a Manchester
physician. Representative rather than comprehensive in nature, it nevertheless includes many rare individual items as well as runs of early statistical works, e.g. a virtually complete set of *Wisden*, including some facsimile editions and a fine series of 'Britchers', or rather Samuel Britcher's *A Complete List of All the Grand Matches*, 1793–1804/5. Also held are early classics of the game in many editions, e.g. Nyren's *The Young Cricketer's Tutor*, and early tour books such as Frederick Lillywhite's *The English Cricketers' Trip to Canada and the United States*, 1860.


**County Histories Collection**

500 items (dispersed).

The Library holds a fine collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century county histories, which are an important source for studies of local history and topography, antiquities, agriculture and commerce, the aristocracy and gentry, ecclesiastical history, and genealogy. They include Owen Manning and William Bray's *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* (1804–14); Sir Richard Colt Hoare's *Ancient History of South and North Wiltshire* (1812–19) and *History of Modern Wiltshire* (1822–44); three editions of John Hutchins's *History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* (1774, 1796–1815 and 1861–70); John Cussans's *History of Hertfordshire* (1870–81); George Baker's *History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton* (1822–41); John Nichols's *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* (1795–1811); the Rev. Stebbing Shaw's *History and Antiquities of Staffordshire* (1798 & 1801); the original 1819 edition of George Ormerod's *History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*, and the 1882 edition revised by Thomas Helsby; Edward Baines's *History of Lancashire* (first edition, 1836, second edition edited by John Harland, 1868–70); and Robert Surtees's *History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham* (1816–40). The Library also boasts all the editions of John Stow's *A Survey of London*, from 1598 to 1633, and a grangerized copy of Thomas Pennant's *Some Account of London* (1805). Many of the volumes are extra-illustrated with the coats of arms hand-painted.

Buy my Great Eels, buy my live Eels.

Figure 18
**Election Literature Collection**

380 items.

A small collection of election literature relating to British general elections, by-elections, and municipal elections between 1931 and 1966. There are 131 items produced by the Conservative Party, eighty-seven by the Liberal Party, ninety-seven by the Labour Party, and sixty-six by minor parties and independent candidates. In addition there are a dozen newspaper supplements for general elections, and miscellaneous leaflets and pamphlets.

See also the Poll Book Collection (p. 169).

Finding aids: unpublished handlist.

**English Tract Collection**

15,000 items.

The Library holds very extensive collections of tracts on political, economic, social and theological subjects. Many of these date from the Civil War period, with over 745 items associated with parliamentary matters, fifty-five relating to Oliver Cromwell and 351 specifically concerned with Charles I. This last figure includes eighteen editions of *Eikon Basilike* from the first edition of 1648 onwards.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; a partial chronological index is available.

**Ferguson Collection**

363 items.

Frederick Sutherland Ferguson (1878–1967), managing director of Quaritch's from 1928 to 1943, made an outstanding contribution to the first edition of STC.¹ This portion of his personal library, purchased in 1966, contains a large number of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century items relating to Scottish history and literature. The collection contains four works by the historian George Buchanan, including the first editions of his *De Iure Regni* (1579) and his *Rerum Scoticarum Historia* (1582). There are four editions of the Scottish royal book of King James, *Basilikon Doron*, and some twenty-five items relating to Scottish parliamentary administration. The Library also has a copy of Ferguson’s own extensively annotated version of the first edition of STC.

A Punctuall Relation of the Passages in Lancashire this Weeke.

1 Containing the taking of Houghton Tower by the Parliaments Forces, and the pernicious treachery of the Papists who after they bad upon Quarter yielded up the Tower, treacherously set fire to a traine of powder, and blew up Captaine Starkey with above a hundred men.

2 How the Earle of Darbies Forces made an on-set on the Towne of Boulton, and was driven off with the losse of a hundred men, and but eight on the Towne side.

3 The taking of the Towne and Castle of Lancanster by Sergeant major Birch.

Printed in the Yeare 1643.

Figure 19
The title page of the civil-war tract, A Punctuall Relation of the Passages in Lancashire this Weeke (no imprint, 1643). R35592.
Edward Freeman Printed Collection

6,500 items (dispersed).

The library of Edward Augustus Freeman (1823–92), the nineteenth-century historian and commentator on a vast range of political and social issues, constituted the foundation of Owens College Library's history holdings when it was acquired by the Whitworth Legatees in 1892. The collection is especially rich in medieval history, and played a significant role in the development of the 'Manchester History School'.

See also the Edward Freeman Papers (p. 278).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogues. See also James Tait, *Catalogue of the Freeman Library presented to the Owens College by the legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bart* (Manchester, 1894).

Location: JRULM (Main Library and a small amount at Deansgate).

French Revolution Collection

40,000 items.

Acknowledged to be one of the finest collections of newspapers, periodicals and books published at the time of the French Revolution and up to the restoration of the Bourbons, it includes 15,000 proclamations, broadsides and bulletins as well as contemporary periodicals and newspapers (over 1,000 titles). The original folio edition of *Moniteur* (1789–1815) is present, together with an almost complete set of the *Bulletin de la Convention Nationale* (1792–95), more complete, in fact, than the set available at the Bibliothèque Nationale. The broadsides and proclamations are for the most part mounted in over 100 folio binders, and range in date from 1789 to 1871. There are substantial runs of laws and decrees, with much critical and biographical material.

Finding aids: books, periodicals and newspapers are recorded in the general printed-book catalogue. See also the following published guides: Albert Goodwin, 'The French Revolutionary Collection in the John Rylands Library: a Brief Survey', *Bulletin*
Au cours d'autre passion que celle de la liberté.

Pâti des dangers de la république, & de la surveillance de toutes opinions particulières, fut l'affaire de justice nationale qui vint d'être executée. Le Peuple Français ne peut avoir des mesures propres, efficaces.

Les mesures qui ont dispensé le respect pour la liberté des opinions, pour la souveraineté nationale. Un de vos représentants, comme il apparaît à toute l'Europe, a déclaré aux Français que sa tâche était d'animer et de donner un nouvel exemple aux esclaves des rois.

Le crime n'est plus. Depuis long-temps, ses remords se font sentir dans les temps troublés. Des incertitudes de tous espèces, le commerce Français qui a subi de graves dommages, doit reprendre de toutes ses forces, sa naissance, pour être utile à la patrie.

Le tyran n'est plus. Depuis long-temps, ses remords se font sentir dans les temps troublés. Des incertitudes de tous espèces, le commerce Français qui a subi de graves dommages, doit reprendre de toutes ses forces, sa naissance, pour être utile à la patrie.

Du 13 Janvier 1793

AU PEUPLE FRANÇAIS.

Prevenons par notre union l'opprobre que donneront les tyrans, centuplera l'anime de notre conscience dans tous les devoirs et les fonctions que vous avez confi- dérites à vos représentants, & les liens confpirateurs apprendront de ces exemples de l'humanité. Ils pourront sauver un bon de citoyens.

La stabilité de la fortune publique est un objet constant de l'aristocratie, de la liberté. Qu'il triomphe de tous les obstacles & de tous les crimes, il s'occupera de défendre le pavillon de la liberté. C'est de tous les événements qu'elle a connus depuis le début de la République, le tyran a été avec lenteur & par petites parties, de l'homme de la liberté, de la liberté civil, de la liberté publique.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.

Cette attitude sereine & ultime des hommes libres, terrifiera les tyrans, centuplera la conscience de vos devoirs & l'humanité de vos fonctions.

Au moment où nous, gens de bonne volonté, pour nos enfants futurs, nous avons donné à nos représentants la liberté, il est vrai que nous avons de nos jours des taux de taux d'opinion.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.

La liberté publique doit nous enseigner le peuple de son exemple. Elle nous a appris que nous sommes les enfants de la soumission, que nous sommes, que nous sommes les enfants de la soumission, que nous sommes les enfants de la liberté, que nous sommes les enfants de la soumission, que nous sommes.

On nous a muselé une grande gloire; on a cherché à se faire mépriser dans le peuple. Comme nous, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission.

Le commerce Français qui a subi de graves dommages, doit reprendre de toutes ses forces, sa naissance, pour être utile à la patrie.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.

Au nom de la République, le Cordial perdant ses droits, & le Peuple pasam n'ayant de patrie, nous avons les honneurs de la soumission, qui nous ont été gracieusement donné par nos représentants. Comme nous, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.

Des hommes libres, qui ont réussi dans un temps troublé, doivent inspirer les esprits de leurs contemporains, de leurs contemporains, de leurs contemporains, de leurs contemporains.

Au nom de la République, le Cordial perdant ses droits, & le Peuple pasam n'ayant de patrie, nous avons les honneurs de la soumission, qui nous ont été gracieusement donné par nos représentants. Comme nous, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission, nous avons arrêté la liberté pour la soumission.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.

Le peuple de la République, la République, a fait de ces temps troublés de ces temps troublés, de ces temps troublés, de ces temps troublés, de ces temps troublés une époque qui a inspiré de la soumission, qui a inspiré de la soumission, de la soumission, de la soumission.

C'est maintenant pour nous. Ce n'est plus que pour nous.
Labour Party Library Collections

50,000 items.

The JRULM holds two very substantial collections of material acquired from the library at the Labour Party headquarters in London. These collections are known as the Labour Party Pamphlets and Reports Collection (LPPRC) and the Labour Party Newspaper Cuttings Collection (LPNCC).

The Pamphlets and Reports Collection comprises some 10,000 pamphlets, reports and material published predominantly between 1900 and 1970. It may conveniently be divided into four sections. There is an incomplete collection of pamphlets, leaflets and conference reports published by the Labour Party itself between 1906 and 1968, which includes a number of publications issued jointly by the Labour Party and other bodies such as the TUC. Secondly, there are several thousand pamphlets on twentieth-century events and conditions in countries throughout the world. The third section comprises over 100 pamphlets issued between 1887 and 1954 by such organizations as the Fabian Society, Independent Labour Party, Socialist League, Clarion Press and the Glasgow Reformers’ Bookstall. The final and largest section contains reports of Royal Commissions, Select Committees of the House of Commons, and departments of the British Government; annual reports of private companies, nationalized industries and ‘quangos’; publications of the Conservative Party; periodicals; newspapers; publications of international organizations such as the European Union, International Labour Organization and United Nations; publications of charities and societies; and local government publications.

The Labour Party Newspaper Cuttings Collection comprises approximately 40,000 envelopes containing some one million cuttings from British and foreign newspapers between 1909 and 1983. Most of the cuttings derive from British national daily and
Sunday papers, such as the *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Herald*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Sketch*, *News Chronicle*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Times* and the *(Manchester) Guardian*. The collection covers all areas of twentieth-century history and events, with the ironic exception of cuttings relating directly to the Labour Party itself, which have been retained by the Party. Events in all countries of the world from Abu Dhabi to Zimbabwe are documented.


Location: JRULM (Main Library).

**Mazarinades Collection**

1,800 items.

The collection comprises more than 1,800 pamphlets, printed mainly between 1649 and 1652. These tracts, often scurrilous and mainly anonymous, were written in protest at, or sometimes in defence of, Cardinal Jules Mazarin (1602–61) and his policies at the time of the Fronde, the series of civil wars which afflicted France during the minority of Louis XIV. They provide a fascinating insight into the political and social turmoil in France at the time. More than one third of the items listed in the standard bibliographies of Moreau and of Lindsay and Neu are available. The collection is enhanced with engraved portraits of the political figures of the period.


**Sir John Neale Collection**

170 items.

The library of the Elizabethan historian Sir John Neale (1890–1975) was purchased from his widow and daughter on very favourable terms in 1979–80. Sir John had held the chair of modern history at Manchester from 1925 until 1927, but most of his academic career was spent as Astor Professor of English History at University College, London (1927–56). His abiding interest in Elizabeth I is reflected in the collection, which contains
works covering almost every aspect of her reign. The 170 items of antiquarian interest held at Deansgate date mainly from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They include William Camden’s *Rerum Anglicarum et Hibernicarum Annales Regnante Elisabetha* (London, 1635), Sir Edward Coke’s *The Second Part of the Institutes of the Laws of England* (London, 1642), and Jakob Spiegel’s *Lexicon IurisCivilis* (Basel, 1569): an edition not recorded in Adams. The Library also holds ten boxes of Neale’s lecture notes.

Finding aids: antiquarian items recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Location: JRULM (Deansgate); non-antiquarian material at Main Library.

**Poll Book Collection**

1,000 items (dispersed).

A collection of poll books dating from 1734 to 1868, with a large group from East Anglia. Some 300 broadsides, posters and leaflets relate to elections in Shrewsbury, 1790–1841, and in Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumberland, 1826–74.

See also the Election Literature Collection (p. 163).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; unpublished handlist of former University Special Collections items.

**Preston Pearce Collection**

800 items (dispersed).

A collection of printed almanacs and ‘companions’ dating from 1681 to 1866 (including ten from 1684), donated by A. Preston Pearce between 1952 and 1954. The collection also contains miscellaneous French documents dating from the century before the French Revolution, formed to illustrate the history of revenue stamps. It includes records of all types relating to Paris and the regions of France, as far apart as Savoy, Brittany, Lorraine and Corsica, with wills and marriage settlements being particularly well represented. The collection provides a fascinating research resource for students of French social and economic life in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

### Taverham Hundred

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**Figure 21**

Sutherland Collection
600 items (dispersed).

John Gordon (1661–1733), sixteenth Earl of Sutherland, brought together this collection of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century tracts. Approximately one third consists of polemical works on the religious issues of the day, including many tracts by well-known divines such as Thomas Case, Rector of Stockport, Edward Stephens and Daniel Featley. The major portion reflects the Earl's interest in the affairs of his time, and in particular in the Union of Scotland with England, of which he was an active supporter.


Dame Mabel Tylecote Printed Collection
400 items.

The collection contains material relating to the birth of the Fabian Society, the nascent Labour Party and British socialism generally. There are numerous Fabian Society tracts, research publications and Young Fabian pamphlets. In addition there are pamphlets published by the Anglo-Israel Association and publications relating to the foundation of Israel, the Middle East conflict, and many aspects of life in Israel.

See also the Dame Mabel Tylecote Papers (p. 156).

Finding aids: uncatalogued; recorded in accession register.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

H.J. Wilson Anti-Slavery Collection
800 items.

A collection of nineteenth-century anti-slavery pamphlets received in 1923 from the executors of Henry Joseph Wilson (1833–1914), the distinguished Liberal Member of Parliament for Sheffield. The collection is of particular importance for the study of the activities of the provincial philanthropic societies, such as the Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Association, the Birmingham and West Bromwich Ladies' Negro's Friend Society, the Glasgow Emancipation Society, the Manchester Union and Emancipation Society, and the Sheffield Ladies Female Anti Slavery Society.

