

Sources for the History of Strikes, Lock-outs and General Strikes in the United Kingdom

This fact sheet was created to coincide with the conference The History of Strikes, Lock-outs and General Strikes, Keele University, 6 May 2006. It is not an exhaustive survey of resources for the study of strikes but an overview of key collections held at institutions that are members of SSLH ARC. Researchers should also check the indexes of the National Register of Archives. See:

<http://www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/>

Bishopsgate Library

The Bishopsgate Institute has been collecting archive and printed material since its opening in 1895 and offers unrestricted access to these special collections in its Library's reading room. It now houses the archives and printed collections of politicians George Howell and Charles Bradlaugh, and co-operative pioneer and secularist George Jacob Holyoake. The Library has also recently acquired the archives of historian Raphael Samuel, the extensive London Co-operative Society collection and the Freedom Press Library, the latter containing a wide range of internationally published books on anarchism. The Library's collections are strongest on co-operation, secularism and trade unionism and we hold a variety of archive and printed material of interest to researchers exploring the history of strikes.

The **George Howell Archive** contains a wealth of material for those interested in trade unionism and strikes in the nineteenth century. Howell was a leading figure on the Strike Committee of the Operative Bricklayer's Society, played a large part in the Nine Hours struggle (1859-1862) and the archive contains papers, press cuttings, strike reports and correspondence relating to dispute and Howell's involvement. The Howell Library also contains a large selection of annual reports, pamphlets, publications and circulars issued by a wide variety of nationwide trade unions from the early nineteenth to twentieth century detailing their activities, including various strikes and disputes. There are selection of bulletins and local and national newspapers detailing the General Strike of 1926, including The Times, Daily Herald, Daily Mirror, the British

Worker and the British Gazette, alongside a number of general secondary works on trade unionism and industrial disputes.

The Library also holds the papers of the **National Miners Support Network** was established in 1992 at the initiative of the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs and was supported by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Women against Pit Closures. It aimed to encourage and coordinate maximum practical support and solidarity for miners in all areas of the country following the Government's announcement of pit closures in 1992. The collection includes publicity material, correspondence and other papers concerning the organisations activity.

Papers of the engineer and socialist **Reg Glover** (1900-1977) are also held at Bishopsgate Library. They include typescript and handwritten drafts of the autobiography, 'Thimble Pie', along with correspondence and manuscripts regarding the Coventry 'Gang' System, the engineering trade, strikes and other matters during the 1960s and 1970s.

Contact:

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Hull University Archives

Archives and manuscripts have been collected since the establishment of Hull University College in 1928. The main strengths of the collections are: modern political papers; pressure group archives; trades union and labour archives; modern English literary manuscripts; landed family and estate papers; business records; religious archives; South East Asian manuscripts; records of Hull University College and the University of Hull; and papers of individuals employed by or associated with the University.

Material on the history of strikes and lock-outs in Britain is found mainly amongst the pressure group and trade union archives and the personal papers of Communists, Socialists and others on the Left. There are also some sources providing the employers' perspective and comment from the Right.

Charles George Ammon (1873-1960) [DMN]

Trade unionist, Labour MP and chairman of the National Dock Labour Board.

Ammon resigned from his various government positions after his controversial role in the dock strike of 1949 and was replaced as chairman of the NDLB in 1950. There are letters received about the 1949 strike (including from Clement Attlee), press cuttings covering the period and a series of papers on docks issues, such as the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the London docks dispute of March 1945, a statement issued by the NDLB to dock workers in July 1949, and government reviews of the 1949 dock strike and the work of the Board during that period.

Robin Page Arnot (1890-1986) [DAR]

Founder member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, writer and historian of the miners' trade unions and secretary of the Labour Research Department.

Both through personal involvement and historical research, Arnot accumulated a range of papers relating to the General Strike of 1926. As a member of the executive committee of the CPGB, Arnot was imprisoned under the Incitement to Mutiny Act for agitation amongst the miners and the wider trade union movement in the period leading up to the General Strike. Arnot's correspondence during his imprisonment (October 1925 to April 1926) is available. During the strike itself, Arnot was based in the North East and played an important role in organising the Northumberland and Durham General Council and Joint Strike Committee. His experiences formed the basis for the publication by the LRD of *The General Strike, May 1926: its origin and history* (1926) and copies of documents used in researching this pamphlet are held. Arnot's copy of the account of the proceedings of the General Council and Joint Strike Committee has not survived, although his notes about its work (entitled 'The Debacle'), schedules listing the membership of the organisation, and a file of correspondence and research notes for the pamphlet, *The General Strike in the North East*, published by the Communist Party Historians Group in 1961, are available. Other material on the General Strike includes: typescripts, articles and book reviews by Arnot; records of the

TUC, special meetings of trade union executives, and the Miners Federation of Great Britain before, during and after the strike, including the report of the Strike Organisation Committee of the TUC, June 1926, transcripts of daily wireless bulletins issued by the BBC during the strike, and issue no.5 of *The Picket*, published by the Lochgelly group of the CPGB, May 1926.

Amongst the research notes and drafts of Arnot's published histories of the miners' trade unions there is material relating to various industrial disputes in the industry. Amongst his memoirs, there are transcripts of taped conversations with Arnot in the late 1970s about strikes in the early 1910s and the railway strike of 1919.

Reginald Bridgeman (1884-1968) [DBN]

Diplomat, Labour Party parliamentary candidate and secretary of the League Against Imperialism.

Amongst his papers is a file on the General Strike which contains various contemporary documents including: statements issued by the MFGB and the TUC; a programme for an International Labour Carnival held on May Day 1926; issues of the strike bulletin of Wealdstone and District Trades Council, 12 - 16 May 1926; pamphlets of the Women's Committee for the Relief of Miners' Wives and Children; and a statement about the effect of the strike on the LMS Railway.

Ellerman's Wilson Line (est. 1825) [DEW]

Shipping company based in Hull, established as Thomas Wilson and Sons and taken over by Sir John Reeves Ellerman in 1916.

The company archives include miscellaneous records about industrial disputes including: correspondence, accounts and other papers regarding the fitting up of a shed at Albert Dock for policemen during the strike of June 1893 (including communications with the Watch Committee); a paper on the use of EWL steamers during the General Strike; files on the 1955 dispute with the 'blue union', the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, (including daily reports of numbers working); and a notice issued by the Shipping Guild about administrative workers and the General Strike.

Jock Haston (1913-1986) [DJH]

Merchant seaman, secretary of, and parliamentary candidate for, the Revolutionary Communist Party and later, member of the Labour Party.

The Haston archive comprises the records of a number of Trotskyist groups, principally the Revolutionary Communist Party. There are documents issued by these groups about strikes by a variety of workers during the 1940s (despite the wartime ban). These include: Rolls Royce (engineering apprentices); miners; dockers; Humber Ltd. and Nuffield Export Ltd. (motor industry); and Adrema Ltd. (office equipment manufacturers). The most extensive papers relate to the strike by apprentices in Newcastle in 1944, after which Jock Haston and three others were prosecuted under the Trade Disputes Act 1927 for conspiring to cause the strike.

Winifred Horrabin (1887-1971) [DWH & DX/283]

Socialist and feminist writer.

Relating to the General Strike, there are small numbers of letters received from her husband Frank Horrabin about attending strike meetings in various towns and from her mother Lilian Batho; a letter from Myfanwy Westrope to Frank Horrabin about the aftermath of the strike; and a letter from Catherine Wells to Frank Horrabin arranging a meeting with HG Wells. A lecture on the Russian Revolution given by Myfanwy Westrope to strikers at Aberystwyth during the General Strike is held separately within DX/135.

Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties) (est.1934) [DCL]

One of Britain's oldest and most consistently successful pressure group, founded against a background of mass unemployment, hunger marches and the rise of fascism. The archives of Liberty contain subject files and publications on strikes and industrial disputes since the 1930s. During its first decade the NCCL played a major role in defending the case of striking miners at Harworth Colliery in Nottinghamshire, who were arrested in April 1937 during disturbances orchestrated by the police, and in campaigning for the remission of the heavy sentences received by the miners. Surviving papers include material assembled for the appeal, the NCCL report into the dispute and other publications, press cuttings, photographs and the NCCL petition against the sentences. There are also files about: the cases of tenants who took part in the Stepney rent strike in 1939; a campaign to end the National Arbitration Tribunal and Conditions of Employment (the wartime Order 1305 which withdrew the right to

strike), 1950-51; emergency powers during the railway strike, 1955; a closed shop dispute at Ferrybridge power station, 1976; the Grunwick dispute, 1976-78; picketing during the steel strike, 1979-80; the policing of the miners' strike, 1984-85 (including the independent commission of inquiry); and the Wapping dispute between the printing unions and News International, 1986.

Kevin McNamara MP (b.1934) [DMC]

Labour MP for Hull North, 1966-2005 and Shadow Spokesman on Northern Ireland. McNamara's political papers include subject files on: the Grunwick dispute, 1976-78; the dock strike, 1984; the miners' strike, 1984-85.

John Saville (b.1916) [DJS]

Professor of Economic History, member of Communist Party until 1956, editor of Dictionary of Labour Biography.

Saville's personal papers include: press cuttings about the national fire fighters' strike, 1977-78; material gathered during research into the miners' strike, 1984-85; and papers gathered by Peter Wyncoll during research into the General Strike in Nottingham (including strike bulletins issued by the Nottingham Trades Council Joint Dispute Advisory Committee and transcripts of interviews with local militants). Similar material about the General Strike was donated separately by Wyncoll and is at DX/125.

Tony Topham (1929-2004) [DTO]

Labour historian, adult education tutor (specialising in trade union education), member of the workers' control movement and of the Labour Party.

Topham's personal papers document various strikes and other forms of industrial action, especially from the perspective of workers' control and industrial democracy, including: a dock strike in Bristol and Avonmouth, 1965; the seamen's strike, 1966; an unofficial strike amongst Yorkshire miners, 1969; redundancies and industrial action in the electrical industry, especially on Merseyside, 1969; the closure of Dunlop Canada Ltd., 1970; an unofficial strike amongst women workers in the clothing industry in Leeds, 1970 (including a television drama about the strike by Colin Welland); industrial action by dock workers, including the national dock strike, 1970; the closure of four shipyards in Govan, 1971; the closure of Imperial Typewriters in Hull and the workers'

sit-in, 1975; the closure of East Moors Steel Works, Cardiff, 1975; and a dispute about new technology at Reckitt & Colman, Hull, 1981.

Transport and General Workers' Union: Region 10 [DTG]

The files of Brian Barker, Docks and Waterways Officer of Region 10 (covering mainly Hull and Goole), include material about: the blacking of companies/vessels by dock workers, late 1970s - early 1980s; the 1980 national dock strike; a manning and wages dispute on Hull docks, 1982-83; the Tilbury docks dispute, 1983; and a dispute over the common roster in Hull, 1983-84. There is also a series of files about disputed cases brought before Hull Joint Port Working Committee and the National Joint Council for the Port Transport Industry, during the 1970s and 1980s.

Julia Varley (1871-1952) [DJV]

Trade unionist, especially amongst women workers, and suffragette.

Despite Varley's active involvement in the trade union movement from the early 1890s onwards, her surviving papers are few and document very little of her work in organising strikes. There are press cuttings and photographs of Varley with women pickets and on a march during the strike amongst Cornish clay miners in 1913; a letter from Miss P Bellars, Transport & General Workers Union, asking for reminiscences of the 1913 Black Country strike; and photographs of Varley with women pickets, playing football and at a mass meeting during the 1914 strike at Bliss Tweed Mill, Chipping Norton.

Sir Patrick Wall MP (1916-1998) [DPW]

Naval officer and Conservative MP for Beverley and Haltemprice.

Sir Patrick's political papers include subject files on: the trawlermen's strike, 1970; industrial relations on Hull docks, including the national dock strikes of 1970 and 1972 and the blacking of companies; the rail workers' strike, 1972; the miners' strike, 1972-74; and industrial disputes involving the teaching unions in 1978 and 1985.

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London School of Economics Archives

The Archives Division has material relating to the General Strike scattered throughout its holdings and researchers are advised to use the Archives Catalogue to track down all available resources (see <http://archives.lse.ac.uk/>). The following are details of the more significant holdings relating to the General Strike.

Tawney General Strike (COLL MISC 0358)

Covering Dates: 1926

A single volume diary kept by R.H.Tawney of negotiations between the government and the Miners' Federation of Great Britain concerning wages and working hours, 10th March-3rd May 1926.

Access: Open

British Worker: official general strike bulletin. (COLL MISC 767)

Covering Dates: 1926

1 folder of the British Worker: official strike news bulletin 1-11 (complete set). Published by the Trade Union Congress.

Access: Open

General Strike (COLL MISC 0140)

Covering Dates: 1926

12 volumes of news bulletins, newspaper cuttings, periodicals, timetables, official proclamations, TUC bulletins etc. These items were collected by the Library soon after the strike.

Access: Open

General Strike: Birmingham Railway Unions Central Strike Committee (Coll Misc 0408)

Covering Dates: 1926

One volume relating to the central strike conference of the National Union of Railwaymen, the Transport Salaried Staff's Association, the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the Union of Railway Signalmen.

Access: Open

General Strike publications (COLL MISC 0783)

Covering Dates: 1926

1 box of copies of General Strike publications and bulletins.

Arrangement: One box

Accruals: No further accruals are expected

Access: Open

Contact:

Archives and Rare Books Library
London School of Economics and Political Science
10 Portugal Street
London
WC2A 2HD

Tel 020 7955 7223

Fax 020 7955 7454

Email Document@lse.ac.uk

Web <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/>

Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick

There are a number of collections held at the MRC which contain information on strikes and industrial action. The main collections include the archives of the Trades Union Congress (MSS.292), the archives of the TGWU (MSS.126), the papers of individuals such as Tom Mann (MSS 334) and Dick Etheridge (MSS.202) and a number of other collections which contain papers of relevance.

Trades Union Congress collection

Includes many files on the General Strike of 1926 as well as other disputes and strikes. The main sequence of files includes preparations for strike action; negotiations with the Government, money for fined strikers, victimisation etc.

Transport and General Workers Union archive

Also contains files specifically on the General Strike (up to 97 files) as well as other disputes.

Papers of Tom Mann

Includes material on the national Dock Strike of 1911 along with pamphlets and publications, speeches, correspondence, scrapbooks and notebooks on a range of international and national issues.

Papers of Dick Etheridge

Records his activities as a shop steward at Austin Motors in Longbridge during the 1950's and 1960's and there are several files on industrial action along with a large number of relevant subject files.

Other collections:

The International Transport Workers' Federation collection

Includes photographs and material relating to national and international dock and shipping strikes.

Individual trades unions collections

The contain numerous items relating to local and national disputes and strikes. Many of these collections include minutes and annual reports which record the nature of the dispute, its duration and effects. There may also be correspondence and photographs.

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National Co-operative Archive

The co-operative movement's proud claim to look after its members from the cradle to the grave is reflected in the materials held by the Archive. The Co-operative College

has brought together collections formerly held by the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative College to establish the National Co-operative Archive. This has enabled the development of a resource allowing researchers to consult material from the early nineteenth century to the present day in a single Archive – from Robert Owen through the Christian Socialists and the formation of national and international organisations to modern successful co-operative businesses of the twenty first century.

Material on strikes can be found in the Archive's major correspondence collections and also in the collections of secondary printed material. Listed below are a few specific examples of the type of material held relating to strikes, although this list is not exhaustive. Contemporary reports and discussions of strikes can also be found in the national weekly newspaper of the co-operative movement, the Co-operative News 1871-current, and also in the Co-operative Congress Reports, 1869 to the present day. In addition the Archive holds a wide range of pamphlets and printed material on trade unions and the co-operative movement. Please contact the archivist for further details.

Robert Owen Correspondence Collection:

Letter from J Hansom dated 18 August 1833, re Manchester Builders Strike and Labour Exchange. [RO 651]

Letter from J Hansom dated 25 August 1833, re the building strike. [RO 656]

Letter from Hansom & Welsh dated 6 September 1833, manifesto and progress of Building Strike. [RO 657]

Letter from Wm Pare dated 14 May 1834, re Birmingham Trades Union Tailors' Strike and Grocers' Union. [RO 694]

George Jacob Holyoake Correspondence Collection:

Letter from T Dunning (Bookbinders Trade Society) 2.2.1860 Thanking Holyoake for the pamphlet on *Trades Unions and Strikes*. [GJH 1183]

Letter from Toulmin Smith (Highgate) 16.2.1862, the "Bishops Bill" and the "Assessment Bill" strike at the root of local self-government. [GJH 1401]

Letter from G J Holyoake to J Villiers Lister (Foreign Office) 1.5.1869, (rough draft): on the draft of proposed legislation sent by Lord Clarendon; on the need for working men to have a knowledge of foreign workers, to make them responsible and avoid strikes; the aim being that of co-partnership. [GJH 1862]

Letter from G J Holyoake to Bright, for Clarendon (1869?), G J Holyoake's plan for details of working class conditions in foreign countries to aid emigration and to supply knowledge so as to avoid such strikes as that at Preston. [GJH 1863]

Letter from R H Haweis (Worthing), 1880s?, wants to know if Holyoake has written anything about strikes – wise or unwise. [GJH 3207]

Letter from W Morrison, 15 Jun?, need for Co-partnership in order to avoid state socialism; the folly of a 30 weeks strike in Lancashire; foreign competition in steel. [GJH 3515]

Letter from A L Cox (Hon Sec, the Liberal Labour League), 10.2.1904, sending details of the *Daily News* lock out, which Holyoake had thought was a strike. [GJH 4062]

Letter from F Harrison (Lincoln's Inn), 3 Nov ? , asking where he can find out about the colliers' strike at Sunnybrow (Newcastle?) [GJH 4252]

A note by G J Holyoake, 1893?, on wholesale trading with firms which were operating a lock-out. [GJH 3455]

Letter from William Pare (Seville Works, Dublin), 13.1.1852, draws Holyoake's attention to the Report of the Board of Manufacture and Industry on Education; what use can be made of the Engineers' dispute. [GLH 459]

Edward Owen Greening Collection:

Letter from C Mason 22.08.1918, returning Greening's 'sermon', asking to read the next address as well. Excited at the idea of visiting Ireland, he has almost fixed up his

passport, he has a document stamped Aliens Registration Dept. Wishing the Conductorettes luck in their strike for 5/- bonus 'like the men'. [Box 5 5:165]

Notes by Greening on strikes in USA, undated. [Box 7 126]

Ch III Two Views of a Strike (changed to 'Early Memories' in book), and Ch IV After the Strike (not included in book), from draft manuscript for the book: 'A Pioneer Co-Partnership - History of the Leicester Co-operative Boot & Shoe Manufacturing Society Ltd.' 1923. By Edward Owen Greening. [Box 19 5 and 6]

Brief Account of the Labour Association's Action in the South Metropolitan Gas Strike 1890. [Box 21 21]

Memo from CA Knight, 29.08.1889, concerning a possible stop in production due to difficulty in getting materials because of a strike. [Box 22 10a]

Secondary reference material:

National Association for the Promotion of Social Science Committee on Trades' Societies, *Trades' Societies and Strikes, Report of the Committee on Trades' Societies, appointed by the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, presented at the fourth annual meeting of the Association, at Glasgow, September, 1860*, John W. Parker & Son. [Misc Spec Coll]

J Ward, *Workmen and wages at home and abroad, or the effects of strikes, combinations and Trades Unions*, Longman's, Green & Co, 1868. [331.2:331.8 WAR]

Chrys Salt & Jim Layzell, *Here We Go, Women's memories of the 1984/85 miners strike*, CRS London Region Political Committee. (331.892:622.33:396 SAL)

Reg Beer, *Matchgirls strike, 1888, the struggle against sweated labour in Londons East End*, National Museum of Labour History, 1979. [331.892 (421) "1888" BEE (P)]

Birmingham Public Libraries Social Sciences Department, *The nine Days in Birmingham: the General Strike 4-12 May 1926*, (BPLSSD & WEA, West Midlands District, 1976. [331.892 (424) "1926" BIR (P)])

Farnworth & Walkden Co-operative Society, file of letters, press cuttings, leaflets etc concerning the National Union of Distributive & Allied Workers dispute with the Co-operative Movement concerning wages and conditions, leading to strike action. [Misc Spec Coll FAR]

Miners' Federation of Great Britain, *Statement on the General Strike of May, 1926*, CPS, 1927. [1927 MIN]

Co-operative Union, *Procedure for settlement of disputes in the Co-operative service*, [19-] [334:331.15 COO (P)]

David Dale, *Thirty Years Experience of Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration: paper read at the Leeds Industrial Conference, March 4th 1899*, Labour Association. [LCA Leaflets 4]

E O Greening, *A policy of conciliation for co-operators*, Co-operative Reference Library 1917. [E.O.G. Spec Coll]

Frank Jones, *Story of the National Conciliation Board*, Co-operative Union (193-] .[331.881:334 JON)

William Pare, *The Claims of Capital & Labour with a sketch of practical measures for their conciliation: a paper read before the Dublin Statistical Society*, Ward & Lock, 1854. [Misc Spec Coll PAR (P)]

Contact:

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The People's History Museum

The collections of the People's History Museum cover strikes over a period of almost two centuries; the Dock strike of 1889, the General strike of 1926, the Shrewsbury Pickets'/Building Workers' dispute of 1972/3, the Grunwick strike of 1976, the Miners' strikes of the 1980s, the Wapping dispute of 1986 and the Firemens' strike of 2002/3 are all well represented with archival and/or museum object collections. Other strikes listed may only be represented by one or two artefacts:

1815 Calico workers dispute
1818 Coalmining dispute
1829 Manchester Cotton Spinners' strike
1853 Tin Plate Workers' strike
1873 Ascott-under-Wychwood strike
1888 Gas Workers' strike
1889 London Tailors' strike
1889 Dock Workers' strike
1892 Durham Miners' strike
1899 Leeds Lockout
1912 Railway Workers' dispute
1912 Tram Workers' dispute
1913 Carmen's dispute
1914 Woolwich Arsenal dispute
1919 Railway Workers' dispute
1919 Soldiers' strike
1919 Police strike
1924 Railway Workers' (ASLEF) dispute
1925 Building Trades Workers' dispute
1936 Musician's Union dispute
1937 Clyde Apprentices' strike
1939 Rent strike

1950s Printers' strike
1954 Electricians' strike
1971 Postal Workers' strike
1976 Grunwick dispute
1972/3 Shrewsbury Pickets'/Building Workers' dispute
1978/9 Times Newspapers strike
1979/80 Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' strike
1970s Miners' strikes
1970s Ford Sewing Machinists' strikes
1983/4 Thornton View Hospital strike
1984/5 Miners' strikes
1984/92 GCHQ dispute
1985/6 Quarrymen's strike
1986 National Graphical association strike
1986 Wapping dispute
1986/7 Furniture and Allied Trades dispute
1989 National Union of Journalists/Pergamon strike
1986 Tobacco Workers' strike
1988 Seamen/P&O strike
1989 Ambulance Workers' strike
1989/1991 National Association of Local Government Officers' strike
1980s Silentnight strike
1980s Barking cleaners' strike
1980s Wales Iron and Steel Trades Confederation strike
1991/2 Tilbury Dockers' strike
1994 Railway Workers' (RMT) dispute
1998 Electricians' dispute
2002/3 Firemen's strike

In the Labour History Archive and Study Centre (LHASC), the papers of Jim Middleton, Wal Hannington and Harry Pollitt contain various references to strike actions. The Miners' strikes of the 1980s are particularly well covered in the papers of Martin Walker, the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners movement and the LHASC's newspaper collections, which also cover the 1926 General strike.

The list above is by no means exhaustive; please contact the People's History Museum for further details and/or visit our collections website. Go the home page of www.phm.org.uk and select the *Search Our Collections* option from the list on the left-hand side. Entering 'strike' in the *General Search* box currently yields over forty records. Appointments need to be made to access archive and reserve museum object collections held at the Head Office in Princess Street. Contact us by telephone as indicated below or by e-mail at archive@phm.org.uk for a reservation to research archive collections at the Labour History Archive and Study Centre, currently open from 10.00am - 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm - 5.00 pm, Tuesday to Fridays inclusive.

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M1 6DD

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TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University

The TUC Library Collections, established in 1922, transferred to London Metropolitan University, in September 1996. Core areas of the collection include trade union publications from the UK and overseas, documents relating to working conditions and industrial relations in various industries, and material collected from the various campaigns and policy areas in which the TUC has been involved since its foundation in 1868. A major strength of the Library are the large holdings of pamphlets, periodicals and ephemera dating from the 1860s to the current day.

Folders relating to strike organisation [mainly comprising pamphlets, ephemera and press cuttings] are filed with other trade union literature and are difficult to quantify.

Material in Special Collections include:

1926 General Strike: 6 metres of official, union and local documents plus contemporary newspapers and other published material. 2000 documents from the

collection have been digitised and are available online at
<http://www.unionhistory.info/generalstrike/index.php>

1984-85 Miners Strike: 1 metre of mainly printed ephemera.

1888 Match Workers Strike: The Strike Fund Register and associated material. The Register and some related archival material is available online at
<http://www.unionhistory.info/matchworkers/matchworkers.php>

Gertrude Tuckwell Collection- folders relating to various strikes 1908-1915, organised by the **National Federation of Women Workers** – online catalogue at
http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/library/x60186_24.doc

Press cuttings on strikes 1911-1970 – online database at
<http://webapps2.north.londonmet.ac.uk/apps/tuc/search.cfm>

Audiovisual resources on strikes include a large photograph collection [open to researchers later in 2006] and union produced videos.

Further details of the Collections can be found at www.londonmet.ac.uk/libraries/tuc or
www.unionhistory.info

Contact:

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Web <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/libraries/tuc>

University of London Research Library Services

The following is a list of material relating to the history of strikes and lock-outs.

Researchers may wish to use the Library's online archives and manuscript database at <http://archives.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/> to search for other related subject terms, persons and institutions.

Title: Letter from Joseph Holder (OWTU General Secretary) to General Manager of Texaco Trinidad

Reference: ICS40F/4/10

Date: 1960 June 27

Scope and Content : Re points in dispute between the union and the company and announcing strike action.

Title: Letter from J A Hulme (General Manager of Texaco Trinidad) to the Governor

Reference: ICS40F/4/11

Date: 1960 June 27

Scope and Content: Re forthcoming strike by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union and asking for a Board of Inquiry into the dispute to be set up.

Title: Strike News

Reference: ICS40F/4/14

Date: 1960 July - August

Scope and Content :14 bulletins issued by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union during a strike by workers at Texaco Trinidad: - [no 1] (undated); - no 2 (7 July 1960); - no 3 (8 July 1960); - no 4 (9 July 1960); - special strike bulletin (9 July 1960); - no 5 (10 July 1960); - no 6 (11 July 1960); - no 7 (12 July 1960); - no 8 (13 July 1960); - no 9 (14 July 1960); - no 10 (15 July 1960); - no 11 (18 July 1960); - no 12 (25 July 1960); - no 13 (8 August 1960).

Title: West Indian Committee Peace and Sovereignty - Press statement

Reference: ICS40G/6

Date: undated [c1963]

Scope and Content: Re political repression and general strike in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Title: Unemployment Protest Photographs

Reference: MS1089/4/1

Date: 1936-1939

Scope and Content: Press photographs of protests by the unemployed during the 1930s, including the following: - Photograph of Smithfield strikers marching to the docks following a meeting in the market (6 February 1936) (Copyright: Central Press Photos Ltd) - Photograph of police struggling to control the 10,000 crowd gathered in Whitehall following an appeal by the International Peace Campaign (23 September 1938) (Copyright: The Associated Press) - Photograph of police attempting to stop members of the National Union of the Unemployed bringing a 'coffin' into Bow Street Magistrate's Court in an attempt to aid an arrested members charged with obstruction at a recent demonstration (9 January 1939) (Copyright: Alfieri Picture Service) - Photograph of police attempting to stop members of the National Union of the Unemployed bringing a 'coffin' into Bow Street Magistrate's Court in an attempt to aid an arrested members charged with obstruction at a recent demonstration (different photograph from above) (9 January 1939) (Copyright: Keystone) - Photograph of police attempting to stop members of the National Union of the Unemployed bringing a 'coffin' into Bow Street Magistrate's Court in an attempt to aid an arrested members charged with obstruction at a recent demonstration (different photograph from two photographs above) (9 January 1939) (Copyright: Alfieri Picture Service) - Photograph from demonstration of unemployed men at the Cruft's Dog Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, showing protester with placard reading, 'You Breed Dogs – UAB Breeds Misery' (11 February 1939) (Copyright: The Associated Press) - Photograph showing members of the Unemployed Workers Movement fishing in unfinished ARP trenches in Regent's Park (13 February 1939) (Copyright: Keystone)

Title: Chapman, Sidney (fl 1885-1886), solicitor

Reference: MS193

Date: 1885-1886

Scope and Content: Paper entitled The Strike in the London Boot Trade, 1885-1886.

Title: Burnett, John (fl 1892), member of the Board of Trade

Reference: MS460

Date: 1892

Scope and Content: Two items c 1892, by John Burnett of the Board of Trade concerning the reduction of wages and strikes in the mining, shipbuilding, metal and textile trades.

Title: Article concerning the Coal Strike Legislation, written by Charles Booth 18 March 1912 (2 copies)

Reference: MS797/III/33

Date: 1912

Title: Newspaper extract of copy of permit issued by Dockers strike committee

Reference: MS797/IV/10

Date: 1911

Title: Cover of Daily Mirror newspaper. Contains photograph of meeting of railwaymen's unions to discuss a general strike because of refusal to reinstate 250 Liverpool Tramwaymen

Reference: MS797/IV/12

Date: 1911

Contact:

Special Collections
Senate House Library
Senate House
Malet Street
London
WC1E 7HU

Tel 020 7862 8470

Fax 020 7862 8480

Email specialcollections@shl.lon.ac.uk

Web <http://www.uwl.ac.uk/>

University of Wales Swansea

The University of Wales Swansea holds the **South Wales Coalfield Collection (SWCC)**, which includes a wide range of printed and archival material on the history of the South Wales Coalfield. Much of the Collection relates to the **National Union of Mineworkers (South Wales Area)** and its predecessor, the **South Wales Miners' Federation (SWMF)**. It includes records and publications of the central administration and its branches or lodges which would contain much relevant material on strikes in the

20th century. Similarly, the Collection includes material from welfare associations and co-operative societies in the Coalfield which would cover specific strike years. Material can vary from minutes of general meetings to details of distress funds, food funds, support groups and picketing lists.

The Collection also includes **personal collections** and within these varied items can be found relating to both national and local strikes, for example:

William Henry Davies (Penclawdd) :1907 pocket-book containing an account of the strike at Berthlwyd Colliery.

Bryn Williams (Cwm) :Contains Cwm Llantwit Lodge minutes chiefly relating to strike-picketing and a Miners` Eisteddfod competition essay by Bryn Williams, 'My experiences at the picket line', 1926 strike.

The Collection also includes a large collection of **photographs** a number of which capture industrial disputes and strikes throughout the twentieth century. The photographs taken during the 1984-85 strike, for example include scenes of demonstrations in which women, children and miners are involved.

Printed material held at the South Wales Miners' Library includes personal collections of pamphlets, covering many aspects of the social life, politics and culture of the coalfield. For example:

Glyn Evans pamphlets: Communist Party of Great Britain, The reds and the general strike: the lessons of the first general strike of the British working class. 1926

Glyn Evans pamphlets: Cook, A.J, The Mond moonshine: my case against the "peace" surrender, 1926

Arthur Horner pamphlets: Horner, Arthur, Coal: the next round, 1926

As well as traditional printed material, the Collection also contains a large selection of **newspaper cuttings** relating to the miners' strikes of 1972, 1974 and 1984-1985.

In addition the South Wales Miners' Library houses the **oral history collection**, which consists of interviews with former miners, political leaders of the coalfield and their families. The interviews cover a wide variety of subjects, including:

The General Strike: AUD 221, interview with Jim Brewer ; AUD 227, Morgan Lewis Jones: AUD 169, Frank Williams.

Miners' strike of 1972: AUD 258, interview with Glyn Williams: AUD 345, Dulais Valley Strike Committee.

Miners' strike of 1974: AUD 352, interview with Harry Samuel; AUD 415, Dai Francis.

Miners' strike of 1984-85: AUD 505, interview with Donna Jones; AUD 465, Des Dutfield.

The SWCC can be searched online through the following

link:<http://www.swan.ac.uk/swcc/>

However two further printed catalogues of material are available in the Archives.

A number of the photographs can be seen and audio material heard through the Coalfield Web Materials site, <http://www.agor.org.uk/cwm/>

Contact:

The SWCC is held at two different locations.

Manuscript archives and photographs are held at:

Archives, Library & Information Services
University of Wales Swansea
Singleton Park
Swansea
SA2 8PP

Tel 01792 295021

Fax 01792 295851

Email archives@swansea.ac.uk

Web http://www.swan.ac.uk/lis/historical_collections/archives.asp

Audio and video, banners, posters and printed material are held at:

South Wales Miners Library
Hendrefoelan House
Gower Road
Swansea
SA2 7NB

Tel 01792 518603

Fax 01792 518694

Email miners@swansea.ac.uk

The Welsh Political Archive, National Library of Wales

The Welsh Political Archive was established in 1983 to coordinate the collection of archives and documents relating to the political history of Wales. Its content includes the papers of individual Welsh politicians (such as David Lloyd-George); leaflets and

pamphlets from Welsh political parties (including Plaid Cymru) and information on Welsh nationalist movements such as the Parliament for Wales Campaign and the fight for political devolution in the region

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Coalowners' Association Records

Hold a wealth of material on the south Wales coal industry, including numerous records on strikes and lockouts. These include the Minute Books of the Joint Sliding Scale Committee, Oct. 1875 - Nov. 1902, the General Minute Books of Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners Association (21 vols, 1873 - 1944), six folders containing letters, telegrams, newspaper cuttings, statistics, etc., dealing with disputes and strikes at collieries throughout South Wales; Scrapbooks (3 vols) containing newspaper cuttings on all matters relating to the coal and allied industries, especially in South Wales, such as <http://www.llgc.org.uk:81/isysquery/irl8a84/9/doc - hit3> strikes, explosions, conferences of miners, coal shipments, bankruptcies, the Miners Permanent Provident Society, etc. The 3 volumes respectively cover the periods Oct. 1882 - May 1884, Sept. 1884 - Dec. 1887, and April 1894 - May 1895; notices to terminate contracts and strikes on the non-unionist question from Sept. 1899 – 1939; and Minute Books of the Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of Monmouthshire and South Wales, 31 March 1903 - 29 Nov. 1918 (6 volumes).

There are letters relating to strikes in the iron industry in south Wales in the **Tredegar Park muniments**, the **Lord Merthyr 1947 collection**, and the **Maybery archive**, and to strike action in the early coal industry in the **Bute archive**. The **Dolaucothi archive** has letters discussing strike action in early twentieth century Wales.

Material on strikes in the north Wales slate quarrying industry is available in the papers of **W. J. Parry** and among the extensive correspondence of **D. R. Daniel**, **T. E. Ellis MP** and **Sir Owen M. Edwards**. The papers of **Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos** also include some material on strikes in the north Wales slate quarrying industry. There are some letters on strikes in south Wales in the early years of the twentieth century in the **Dolaucothi correspondence**.

The miners' strike of 1984-85 has generated a substantial archival output. Some of the more significant holdings at the NLW are the **Bert Pearce Papers** (i.e. the archive of

the Welsh Communist Party), **Councillor Ray Davies of Bedwas, Erastus Jones**, the **Wales TUC records**, the **Ty Cenedl records**, the **Welsh Political Ephemera collection**, and **NLW ex 787-88 and 859**.

In the **general series of NLW manuscripts**, the following would seem to be the more relevant items:

NLW MS 22674: letters, 1853, relating to strikes at the Merthyr Tydfil ironworks.

NLW MS 22574: letters and papers, 1912, relating to the British coal industry.

NLW MS 23380: papers containing references to the British coal industry, 1951.

NLW MS 23133: letters concerning the 1921 national coalminers' strike.

NLW MS 23166 material on the 1926 General Strike.

and 23523:

There are also, of course, scores of relevant stray items in other archives and collections held at the NLW.

Contact:

The Welsh Political Archive
The National Library of Wales
Aberystwyth
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SY23 3BU

Tel 01970 632866

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