

SOURCES ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY

**A SUBJECT GUIDE
ON LABOUR HISTORY
THEMES BY THE
SOCIETY FOR THE
STUDY OF LABOUR
HISTORY**

MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY & WORKERS' SCHOOL

Contact • Marx Memorial Library,
37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU
Tel: 020 7253 1485
Web: www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk
Email: m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk

The Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School was founded in 1933 in response to the rise of fascism in Europe. Its aim today remains the advance of education, knowledge and understanding of all aspects of Marxism and the history of socialism and working-class struggle. At the heart of the British labour movement for over 80 years, the Library is home to a unique collection of published and archival sources on related subjects, including the Spanish Civil War, trade unionism and peace and solidarity campaigns. The Library's education programme – online and on-site – covers subjects ranging from political and economic theory to socialist art.

Our catalogue can be found here:
<https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/collections>

Communist Party resources include:

Branch and section papers: We hold branch papers including for the Bethnal Green Communist Party (1941-2) <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/61394>, the Hornsey Branch of the Communist Party (1937-44) <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/61077>, and papers of the Communist Party of Great Britain's National Education Advisory Committee (1972-87) <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/60951>.

Printed material: Our collections include hundreds of pamphlets dating from the foundation of the party (shelf mark 'YA'), plus runs of various serials produced by the party including the *Daily Worker*, *Communist Review* and *Marxism Today*.

Personal papers

- Noreen and Clive Branson: The archives of Noreen and Clive Branson are rich with material on the history of the Communist Party. Noreen was historian of the Communist party and her papers include research notes and writings. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59883>
- James Klugmann: the communist educator and writers' library – dating back to

the early trade union and chartist movement - and archive. <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/special-collections-and-subject-guides/james-klugmann-collection>

- Phil Piratin: archive of the Communist MP for Mile End (1945-50) and housing activist in Stepney. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59451>
- Helen Crawford: The manuscript of the autobiography of communist activist for women's suffrage and leader of rent strikes. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59446>
- Wal Hannington: Founding member of the Communist Party and National Organiser for the National Unemployed Workers Movement, this extensive archive focuses on the work of the communist led NUWM. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59884>
- TA Jackson: Another founding member of the Communist Party, writer and lecturer, Jackson's papers include manuscripts and research notes. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59450>
- AL Morton: Member of the Communist Party History Group, this communist historian's archive includes notes and writings. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59886>
- Laurence Bradshaw: communist artist responsible for the bust at Karl Marx's tomb. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59789>
- We also hold papers of other individuals including John Gibson Secretary of Chester Branch of the Communist Party who stood as councillor in 1946 local elections in Horwich <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/61078>, and significant items of ephemera including the Communist Party membership card of Shapurji Saklatvala <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/63380>.

Organisational papers

We hold many collections documenting campaigns and movements in the Twentieth Century in which the Communist Party played a leading role:

- The International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War. Our Spanish Civil War Collection documents the British response to war including the Aid Spain Movement and the International Brigades. This rich collection of over 150 boxes includes correspondence, diaries, photographs and ephemera. It includes the papers of many Communist Party members who volunteered to fight fascism in Spain including Ralph Fox, Bill Alexander and Thora Silverthorne. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59879>
- China Campaign Committee: the papers of Secretary and Communist Arthur Clegg. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59885>
- British Soviet Friendship Society: we hold minutes of the executive Committee and

related administrative papers. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/75643>

Photographs, posters and objects:

Our *Daily Worker*/*Morning Star* photo library contains numerous prints which document Communist Party history including demonstrations, banners and events. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/59988>

- We hold banners created by the Hammersmith Communist Party in solidarity with the Spanish Republic. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/77262>
- Our poster collection includes a range of posters produced by the party on subjects ranging from the EU to Women's rights. <https://marx.soutron.net/Portal/Default/en-GB/RecordView/Index/71298>

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, MANCHESTER

Contact • John Rylands Research Institute and Library
150 Deansgate Manchester M3 3EH
Tel: 0161 275 3764
Web: <https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/>
Email: uml.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk

The John Rylands Library was founded in 1889 by Enriqueta Rylands in memory of her husband John Rylands. The library became part of The University of Manchester in 1972 and currently holds the Special Collections of The University of Manchester Library. You can search our digital repository and access online versions of key items in our Library collections via Library Digitised Collections: <https://luna.manchester.ac.uk/luna/servlet/allCollections>.

Communist Party resources include:

Papers of John Turner Walton Newbold (1888–1943), socialist and historian

Date range: c.1913-1943

Newbold became politically active while a student at the University of Manchester. He stood unsuccessfully as Independent Labour Party and Bolshevik candidate for Motherwell and Wishaw in the 1918 general election. In 1921 he joined the new Communist Party of Great Britain, and was briefly Britain's first Communist MP, representing Motherwell (1922–23). However, disillusioned with revolutionary politics, he resigned from the Communist Party in 1924, and gradually drifted to the political right. In 1928 he joined the Social Democratic Federation, and during the 1931 crisis he supported the National Government, finally abandoning socialism altogether.

Newbold's 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.

Catalogue available via Special Collections Reading Rooms.

Robert Duncan, 'The Papers of John Turner Walton Newbold, 1888-1943: an introductory guide', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 76, no. 2 (1994), pp. 195-203. James Ramsay

Correspondence and papers of James Ramsay MacDonald (1866–1937), the first Labour Prime Minister

Date range: 1893–1937

When Baldwin's Government collapsed in January 1924, MacDonald was asked to form an administration, but he was dependent upon the support of the Liberals and this fragile alliance collapsed after nine months. After the 1929 general election, Labour became the largest party in the Commons for the first time, and MacDonald returned to 10 Downing Street, although he was still reliant on Liberal support.

In the face of the financial crisis of 1931, MacDonald controversially formed a National Government, splitting the Labour Party. He remained Prime Minister until 1935, an increasingly isolated and forlorn figure.

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' affair of 1924, the spread of Communism, Palestine (revealing of MacDonald's impatience at Lord Passfield's attempts to hinder Jewish settlement), China, India and Egypt.

Other material includes a series of appointment diaries and notebooks, 1900-1937, the most interesting of which is a notebook kept by Ramsay MacDonald during the International Economic and Monetary Conference of 1933. The Prime Minister wrote a series of character sketches of the main players, such as Litvinoff: 'Stout and perspiring. Boldly inaccurate and began by saying no wage cuts and no unemployment in Russia. It took one's breath away!'

Finally, there is a small set of Cabinet papers dating mainly from the period after 7 June 1935, when Ramsay MacDonald resigned as Prime Minister and took up the post of Lord President of the Council; they are concerned with foreign affairs, especially the fear of German armament, Italian aggression and the preparedness of Britain for war.

Further Information:

Catalogue available online via ELGAR.

D. Howell, 'The Ramsay MacDonald Papers in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester: an Initial Discussion', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 72, no. 2 (1990), pp. 101-20.

Papers of D. A. Wilson

Date range: 1922-1969

Papers of David Arnold Wilson (1897-1981), a Yorkshire railway clerk, trade unionist and socialist. His papers comprise diaries, correspondence, socialist and trade union pamphlets, circulars and reports, news cuttings, 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 (1968). The printed books concern socialism, the Labour Party, the Communist Party and the Soviet Union.

PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Contact • Labour History Archive,
People's History Museum,
Left Bank, Spinningfields,
Manchester, M3 3ER
Tel: 0161 838 9190
Email: archive@phm.org.uk
Website: www.phm.org.uk

The People's History Museum (the National Museum of Labour History until 2001) in Manchester, England, is the UK's national centre for the collection, conservation, interpretation and study of material relating to the history of working people in the UK.

The Museum houses the internationally significant Labour History Archive & Study Centre (LHASC), housing collections of key political papers including the complete archives of two of the most important political parties in British history, the Labour Party and the Communist Party of Great Britain, as well as the personal papers of prominent

figures within those two parties, such as Michael Foot, Judith Hart, Eric Heffer and Rajani Palme Dutt. The two collections also include over 95,000 photographs, which provide a comprehensive overview of the growth of democracy in Britain

Additional complementary collections include the archives of the Manchester branch of radical environmental advocacy group Earth First!, the London group of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations, and both the Nicaragua and Chile Solidarity Campaigns.

The Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10.00 – 17.00 and the LHASC Tuesday to Thursday, 10.30 – 3.30. For research visits or queries, contact collections@phm.org.uk. Our catalogue can be accessed here: <https://phm.org.uk/collection-search/>

Communist Party resources include:

Central to the CPGB archive are the minutes of the Communist Party Executive Committee 1943 - 1991, the Political Bureau 1924 - 1925 and the Political Committee 1946 - 1991, as well as the Political Sub-Committee 1954 - 1991 and Economic Committee 1946 - 1987. There are also extensive files on the International Department 1945 - 1991, national congresses 1920 - 1991, industrial files 1950 - 1991, and organisation files 1944 - 1991. Material from district and local parties is also present, particularly London, Yorkshire and the East Midlands, as well as from the People's Press Printing Society (Daily Worker and Morning Star) 1945 - 1990, the Young Communist League 1922 - 1987 and Women's Department 1933 - 1991.

Also present are the personal papers of a number of prominent Party members, including Harry Pollitt 1905 - 1959, Rajani Palme Dutt 1908 - 1971, Willie Gallacher 1920 - 1981, John Gollan 1931 - 1977, Wal Hannington 1934 - 1966, Ivor Montagu 1924 - 1983, Bert Ramelson 1945 - 1991, James Klugmann 1928 - 1976, Kay Beauchamp 1961 - 1979, Ben Bradley 1929 - 1969, Dona Torr, which includes some Tom Mann and Jack Woddis material 1937 - 1977. A collection of several thousand images is also present, as is a large quantity of CPGB pamphlets.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES, GOLDSMITH'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Contact ● Special Collections & Archives Library (Rutherford Building)
Lewisham Way
Goldsmiths, University of London
London SE14 6NW
Tel: +44 (0)20 7919 7171
Email: [special.collections \(@gold.ac.uk\)](mailto:special.collections@gold.ac.uk)
Website: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/library/special-collections/>

Special Collections & Archives includes the Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths Textile Collection, Daphne Oram Archive, and numerous other unique special collections that focus on music, theatre, art, social movements and their intersections. To get in contact please email special.collections@gold.ac.uk. Our archive catalogue can be viewed here: <http://www.calmview.eu/Goldsmiths/CalmView/default.aspx>. Books, score and pamphlets: <https://librarysearch.gold.ac.uk>. Communist Party resources include: Papers of Margot Heinemann (1913-1992), writer, drama scholar and member of the CPGB. Material includes papers relating to Communism and communists (HEIN/7), literary, political and historical notes: general (HEIN/2/1/15), correspondence (HEIN/1/1), some with members of the CPGB including John Cornford from Spain during the Spanish Civil War (HEIN/1/1/1).

Papers of Victor Seidler (1945-) Emeritus Professor in the Department of Sociology, at Goldsmiths, University of London. Material includes documents and publications relating to the Communist Party of Spain (SEID/1/5/1), the Communist Party of Great Britain (SEID 1/8), The papers are accompanied by a collection of books.

WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT LIBRARY

Contact ● Working Class Movement Library
Jubilee House
51, The Crescent
Salford M5 4WX
Tel 0161 736 3601
Email: enquiries@wcml.org.uk.
Web: <http://www.wcml.org.uk>

The Working Class Movement Library is a national collection of the history of British and Irish radical and labour movements from the late 18th century up to the present day. It includes books, pamphlets, leaflets, banners, pottery, prints, photographs, personal papers, posters, videos, trade union records and much else that documents and illuminates the story of working class struggles for social justice, democracy and equality.

The Library is open to everyone to visit by appointment between 10am and 4pm Tuesday to Friday, and the catalogue is available online at www.wcml.org.uk/catalogue - although not all material has yet been catalogued, this is often a useful first port of call.

Communist Party resources include:

- Very early (1918-20) copies of the People's Russian Information Bureau Bulletins, and material on Hands Off Russia campaigns, as well as British Socialist Party material;

- A very wide range of CPGB literature – pamphlets, leaflets, reports etc., including early manifestos, conference documents, handbooks for members and training syllabi;
- Pit and Factory Papers issued by the CPGB, 1927-1934, produced by small Communist Party cells, and giving a unique insight into local activism. Many were duplicated items, so were ephemeral by nature - few have survived. The Library's holdings include a representative sample of just over 100 of the publications, with a focus on the North West of England;
- Young Communist League papers, 1927-1986 (3 boxes);
- A strong run of *Daily Worker*/*Morning Star* from its first issue of 1930;
- 61 boxes of material from CPGB districts and branches, 1920-1999, including 8 boxes of material dating back as early as 1920 from Greater Manchester/Manchester and Salford Area, and 19 boxes from the Lancashire and Cheshire District/North West District (1924-1991);
- Archives of communist activists including Mick Jenkins, Benny Rothman and Angela Tuckett and the Library's own founders Edmund and Ruth Frow; unpublished correspondence from R. Palme Dutt; and material (letters, notebooks, interviews etc) relating to communists who went to fight fascism in the Spanish Civil War.

The Library also holds CP banners, oral history tapes relating to Party membership, Party posters and badges, and a wide range of photographs of CP members and events.

MODERN RECORDS CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Contact ● Modern Records Centre,
University of Warwick,
Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL
Tel: 024 7652 4219
Email: archives@warwick.ac.uk
Web: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/>

The Modern Records Centre, founded in October 1973, is the main British repository for national archives of trade unions and employers' organisations, and also has strong collections relating to pressure groups, fringe political parties and transport.

The Modern Records Centre is based at Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL. We can be contacted by phone and email - 024 7652 4219 / archives@warwick.ac.uk. Our website is <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/>

Communist Party resources include:

The Trades Union Congress archive includes an extensive series of files on the Communist movement in Britain, including reports, correspondence, publications and ephemera on the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) and associated organisations, such as the National Minority Movement, United Front Movement, Workers' International Relief, National Unemployed Workers Movement and Red International of Labour Unions. Much of the material reflects the TUC's interest in the extent of Communist involvement ("disruption") in the union movement. Sources relating to Communism and rank and file movements are also included in other trade union collections at the MRC, including those of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Electrical Trades Union and International Transport Workers' Federation.

The archives of Tom Mann include correspondence, journals and scrapbooks relating to his activism in Britain and beyond, including material relating to his visits to the Soviet Union during the 1920s and 1930s as British representative of the Red International of Labour Unions: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/archives_online/digital/russia/tom_mann/. Shop stewards' archives, such as those of Dick Etheridge and David Michaelson, include sources relating to CPGB trade union work during the 1950s-1970s.

Archives of founder members of the Balham Group (including Reg Groves, Henry Sara, Harry Wicks and Hugo Dewar) contain material relating to their membership of the CPGB during the 1920s/early 1930s, and expulsion from the Party over their support for Trotsky. These include the CPGB Nine Elms Rail Group / Balham Group minute book, 1931-2, International Lenin School study notes, c.1927-30, correspondence, statements and ephemera. Henry Sara's archive also includes lantern slides used to illustrate CPGB-funded lecture tours during the 1920s: https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/archives_online/digital/sara/.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Contact ● The Welsh Political Archive,
The National Library of Wales,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BU
Tel 01970 632800
Email: gofyn@llyfrgell.cymru
Web: www.library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive

The National Library of Wales is situated in Aberystwyth, on the Ceredigion coast. For more information about our opening times and visiting the library please refer to our website: <https://www.library.wales/about-nlw/about-us/about-nlw>

Catalogues for library resources and archives and manuscripts can be accessed here:

https://discover.library.wales/primo-explore/search?vid=44WHELF_NLW_NUI

Communist Party resources include:

- Idris Cox Papers - <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/idris-cox-papers-2>
- Ben Davies Papers (Uncatalogued)
- Bert Pearce (Welsh Communist Party) Papers 1884-2002 - <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/bert-pearce-welsh-communist-party-papers-2>
- Welsh Political Ephemera Collection - <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/communist-party>
- Ronald and Stella Garrett-Jones Papers - <https://archives.library.wales/index.php/ronald-and-stella-garrett-jones-papers>

MANUSCRIPTS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Contact ● Manuscripts and Special Collections
The University of Nottingham King's Meadow Campus
Lenton Lane Nottingham NG7 2NR
Telephone: +44 (0)115 951 4565
Email: mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/

The University of Nottingham has a number of archive and printed special collections relating to individuals who were active in the Communist Party. The collections can be accessed in the reading room at the University's King's Meadow Campus: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/index.aspx>

The Manuscripts and Special Collections' catalogue can be accessed here: <https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview/>.

Communist Party resources include:

Personal and political papers of Fred Westacott (1916-2001), communist and political activist; 1920-1995. Document Reference 'FW'. <https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=FW>

This extensive collection relates to Westacott's political activities and work as a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain and various other political bodies and unions. Also present are papers of his wife, Kathleen Westacott. The papers include minutes, circulars and congress files for the East Midlands district of the Party. There is a substantial quantity of socialist and communist ephemera relating to local and

international events, causes and campaigns, reflecting his activities as a self-titled “professional revolutionary”. Topics include racism, fascism, mining, friendship with communist countries, women’s rights, pensioner’s rights, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Poll Tax protests, etc.

Fred Westacott Printed Collection, 1872-1996. Document Reference ‘FWPC’.
<https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=FWPC&pos=1>

The collection comprises 337 books and c. 3000 pamphlets of socialist and communist literature as well as a journal, ‘Information bulletin: documents of the Communist and workers’ parties, articles and speeches’, published in Prague by the Peace and Socialism International Publishers. There are classics of the genre by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, books by leaders of governments such as Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Zedong as well numerous publications by notable British communist and socialist activists such as Harry Pollitt. The publications authored by the Communist Party of Great Britain alone number 700 items. Topics include racism, fascism, mining, friendship with communist countries, women’s rights, pensioner’s rights, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Poll Tax protests, etc. However, the overall outlook of the collection is international, evidencing a deliberate interest in the struggle of the working classes worldwide, though primarily in Europe, the Soviet Union and China.

The Westacott Collections featured in a recent exhibition which now has an online presence - ‘A Selection of Elections’: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/exhibitions/online/selection-of-elections/index.aspx>.

A number of blog posts also refer to the collections:

- The Life of a Communist: My placement working on the political papers of Fred Westacott <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscripts/2018/02/28/life-communist-placement-working-political-papers-fred-westacott/>.
- Getting Political with the Archives: <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscripts/2017/11/23/politics/>.
- Nottingham Advantage Award Placement: Working on Westacott: <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscripts/2015/11/30/naawestacott>
- Papers of a ‘Professional Revolutionary’: <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscripts/2013/09/05/papers-of-a-professional-revolutionary/>.
- **Papers of Douglas Garman (1903-1969)**, communist, writer and educationalist. Document Reference ‘DG’.
<https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=DG&pos=3>.

Douglas Garman came from Wednesbury, Staffordshire, and was educated at Caius College, Cambridge. He spent the 1920s between London and Paris, and was in Leningrad in 1926. During this period he began to assist in editing *The Calendar of Modern Letters*, and to contribute articles to it. From 1930-1940 he worked for the publishers Lawrence and Wishart, including a period as editor of *The Modern Quarterly*. He had strong left-wing sympathies, and from 1940 to 1950 held the position of head of the Communist Party's education programme. His opinions came to be in disagreement with the Communist Party, and he retired to a farm in Dorset, where he continued to write and translate. The archive, which consists of five boxes, reflects Garman's political, literary and educational interests from the 1930s until his death. It includes books, notebooks, miscellaneous notes, articles, pamphlets, letters and news cuttings. Among his papers are notes and ephemera concerning the South Wales Hunger March of 1936, which he reported on behalf of the *Daily Worker*. His poems survive in manuscript and typescript, including copies of those published in 'The Jaded Hero' (1927). Some posthumous papers are included, evidence of efforts made after his death to collect material for a biography.

- **Papers of Connie M. Ford (1912-1998)**, poet, 1932-1998. Document Reference 'CF'. <https://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk/Calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=CF&pos=1>

Connie M. Ford was born in 1912 in south-east London and qualified as a vet in 1933. She was awarded an MBE in 1970 for her contribution to veterinary science. Connie Ford had written poems since her childhood, but began submitting her poetry to competitions and writers' groups in the 1950s. She was an active member of the Nottingham Poetry Society from 1951, and acted as its chairman in the 1980s. She published four books of her own poetry: 'Veterinary Ballads and other poems' (1973), 'Wings and Water' (1973), 'Boat Crazy' (1975), and 'The Crimson Wing' (1977). She was a lifelong supporter of communism and women's rights, and enjoyed boating. She died in 1998. Blog post: <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscripts/2011/09/07/connie-ford-keepsakes-of-an-activist/>.