

# **SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF THE 1926 GENERAL STRIKE**



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

This fact sheet was created to provide a guide to sources held in archives and libraries relating to the 1926 General Strike. It is not an exhaustive survey of resources for the history of the strike but an overview of key collections held at institutions that are members of SSLH ARC.

Researchers should also check the National Archive's Discovery network <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Updated May 2026

## **BIRMINGHAM PEOPLE'S HISTORY ARCHIVE**

Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

Email: [birminghampha@gmail.com](mailto:birminghampha@gmail.com)

Web: <https://bpha.online/>

<https://www.instagram.com/birminghampha/>

### **\* Books**

*Socialism in Birmingham and the Black Country (1850-1939)*, George J. Barnsby (Wolverhampton, 1998). Chapter 25 The General Strike in the Black Country, pg. 491, Chapter 26 The General Strike in Birmingham, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1926, pg. 505.

*The History of the T.U.C 1868-1968: A Pictorial Survey of a Social Revolution* (Illustrated with Contemporary Prints, Documents and Photographs), author/editor not stated. pg. 49 Comments on General Council/T.U.C actions regarding the General Strike, pg. 78-79 The Gold Standard Road to the General Strike (sources/images).

*The Woman and Men of 1926: A Gender and Social History of the General Strike and Miners' Lockout in South Wales*, Sue Bruley (Wales, 2010).

*The 1926 Miners' Lockout: Meanings of Community in the Durham Coalfield*, Hester Barron (Oxford, 2010).

*The Miners of Nottinghamshire 1914-1944: A History of the Nottinghamshire Miners' Unions*, Alan R. Griffin (1962). Chapter 7 Prelude to Disaster, pg. 130, Chapter 8 The General Strike, pg. 150, Chapter 9 The 1926 Lockout, pg. 162.

*1926: The General Strike*, ed. Jeffrey Skelley, multiple authors, (London, 1976).

*Communists and British Society 1920-1991*, Kevin Morgan, Gideon Cohen and Andree Flinn (London, 2007), pg. 17-18 Reference to party members and numbers.

### **\* Transcriptions**

A series of transcribed testimonies by Kevin Morgan; some references to the General Strike.

Kulsoom Khan, Aston University placement student and Gill Binnie, BPHA volunteer, 14.5.26.

## **CO-OPERATIVE HERITAGE TRUST**

**Co-operative Archives, Holyoake House on Hanover Street,  
Manchester, M60 0AS**

Email: [archive@heritagetrust.coop](mailto:archive@heritagetrust.coop)

Web: <https://www.co-operativeheritage.coop/cooperative-archive>

The main resources for material relating to the General Strike in the Co-op Archives will be found in the Periodicals Collection.

### [Periodical Collection - Archives Hub](#)

This includes:

- \* The Co-op New which reported on the miner's lockout, the build up to the strike, during the General Strike and after with the continuing miners strike. There are also a number of and a cartoons and an insert from May when the Co-op News was not able to be published because of the strike.
- \* Millgate Monthly - Co-op press printed periodical with poetry about the general strike and a cartoon promoting peace.
- \* Women's Outlook 1926. The magazine for the Co-operative Women's Guild who raise money for the lockout and also for the general strike. Articles marked include asking members if striking is good, feeding striking families and peace.
- \* In the Co-operative Union Collection, Co-operative Union Congress Reports Sectional reports would include information about what societies were doing throughout the General Strike and report on how communities were hit by the industrial action. The 1927 edition includes questionnaire asking for information from co-op societies about what they and their members did throughout the General Strike and how communities were hit by the industrial action.

Pamphlets include:

- \* **The Miners; Struggle and the Five Big Banks**, Nov 1926. Published by The Labour Research Department it looks at the coal shortage, world production and the continuing struggle for miners and their families
- \* **Statement on the General Strike of May 1926**, Jan 1927. printed by the Co-op Printing Society for the Miners' Federation of Great Britain which provides a background of the causes of the strike and the general councils case for abandoning the strikers.

Co-operative Union Photograph Collection

[Co-operative Press Photographic Collection - Archives Hub](#)

\* Photos and a news cutting of Shilbottle Colliery, a co-operative Colliery.

## **THE MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY & WORKERS' SCHOOL**

**Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU**

Tel: 020 7253 1485

Web: [www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk](http://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk)

Email: [m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk](mailto:m.jump@marx-memorial-library.org.uk)

### **\* General Strike Collection**

The [General Strike Collection](#) is made up of material created during the strike by the trade unions, local groups and employers. In particular it shows the activities of [local Councils of Action](#) formed to coordinate the labour movement during the strike. It includes a number of [national and local newspapers](#), produced as small, more basic bulletins by strike breakers as print unions had joined the General Strike, forcing the press to a near standstill. Amongst the strike editions of the regular press, the collection also contains copies of newspapers created specifically for the strike - The British Gazette, produced by the government, and The British Workers, produced by the TUC. It also includes strike bulletins from around the country in support of the strike, created by [Councils of Action and other local groups](#), and the [Communist Party of Great Britain](#).

### **\* Communist Party of Great Britain**

These publications are complimented by our CPGB Collection, which contains rank-and-file bulletins produced by the party and National Minority Movement in local workplaces from 1925 and 1926. Of particular interest are railway worker publications "The Spur" and "The Signal", produced during the strike itself and including calls for workers defence corps and a cartoon of fascists and employers collaborating against workers.

In the year running up to the strike, twelve leading Communist Party members were arrested and imprisoned under the Mutiny Act for articles published in the Workers' Weekly. The library holds pamphlets giving the defence speeches

of three of the arrested - [Willie Gallacher](#), [J.R. Campbell](#) and [Harry Pollitt](#) - as well as a publication by the [Home Office](#) listing the documents seized by police after the arrests. The library also holds ephemera from the trial including a [postcard](#) of the twelve defendants, and an uncatalogued souvenir programme for the release of Wal Hannington and other prisoners, autographed by a number of prominent members of the labour movement.

### \* **International Class War Prisoners Aid**

International Class War Prisoners Aid (ICWPA) was the British section of International Red Aid and was active in supporting those imprisoned as a result of the strike. A collection of photos from the ICWPA offices is included in the uncatalogued Sarah Lovell Collection and show demonstrations at Trafalgar Square in support of imprisoned strikers addressed by A.J. Cook.

The pamphlet, [ICWPA at Work](#) reproduces a speech by George Lansbury on the work of the ICWPA in supporting prisoners from the strike, including the twelve Communist Party members. A [report](#) from their first national congress held in December 1926 also outlines the aid given to prisoners around the country.

### \* **Newspapers**

Our periodical collection includes socialist newspapers from the time which report on the strike and its preparations. This includes the CPGB newspaper [Workers' Weekly](#), as well as [Young Worker](#) by the YCL, and the communist youth paper Young Comrade. During the strike, Workers' Weekly was unable to publish as normal due to striking printworkers, and instead a smaller bulletin called [Workers' Press](#) was produced by the Party, incorporating its usual paper. We also hold copies of [Lansbury's Labour Weekly](#), produced by George Lansbury and which includes his recommendations to the TUC on preparation in the run up to the strike.

### \* **Photos**

The [MML Photographic Collection](#) also holds a number of photos taken during the strike. While the photos are mostly of the strike in London, others from around the country are also included. The collection shows demonstrations of striking workers, as well as activity by strike breaking volunteers in the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies, and repression by the police and army.

### \* **Publications**

Our library collection holds a number of publications from before and after the strike, including reflections by significant figures involved and anti-strike publications from the government. Some of these are:

[The General Strike. May 1926](#), by Robin Page Arnot

[The Nine Days](#), by A.J. Cook

[A Workers' History of the General Strike](#), by Plebs League correspondents R.W. Postgate, Ellen Wilkinson and J.F. Horrabin

[Red Money](#), by Paul Eden and Paul Cedar

[The General Council and the General Strike](#), CPGB

[The British Public and the General Strike](#), by Kingsley Martin

[General Strikes and Road Transport](#), by George Glasgow

[Parliamentary Debates on the General Strike](#)

### ✳ **Printworkers**

Printworkers played an important role in the General Strike by refusing the print copies of the Daily Mail condemning the miners', with the printers walk out sparking the TUC to call the strike more widely. The [Printworkers Collection](#) holds a file of papers on the strike, with negotiations between employers and unions on the return to work, and associated notes by a union official at the time. A collection on the [Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Printers](#) contains a back to work agreement following the strike, and a minute book for ["The People" Clerical Chapel](#) includes references to the strike.

# **MODERN RECORDS CENTRE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

**Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL**

Tel: +44 (0)24 7652 4219

Email: [archives@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:archives@warwick.ac.uk)

Web: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/>

The Modern Records Centre (MRC) holds key archives for the study of the 1926 General Strike, including unique documents which demonstrate the role of the trade unions during this period.

More than 550 documents relating to the General Strike, including strike bulletins, reports and transcripts of radio broadcasts, have been digitised and are [available online](#).

The MRC's collections include:

## **\* Trade Union archives**

The Modern Records Centre holds archives for many of the national unions involved in the General Strike. Most of these archive collections will include minutes and reports of proceedings which will give a general overview of the policy and actions of individual unions during the dispute. Additional information about a small sample of our trade union collections is given below.

### [Trades Union Congress archives \(MSS.292\)](#)

The archives of the Trades Union Congress contain nearly 250 subject files on the General Strike, divided into five principal sections - the 'Main Series', 'Subsidiary Series', 'Organisation Committee', 'Industrial Disputes' and 'Nottinghamshire Miners' Dispute'. The collection includes sources on the pre-strike build up, the organisation and management of the General Strike, relations with other unions, negotiations with the British government, foreign opinion, responses to the termination of the dispute, and post-strike victimisation. The files include minutes, reports, memoranda, correspondence, press statements, circulars and publications.

### [Transport and General Workers' Union \(MSS.126\)](#)

The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) archive contains the second most significant collection of documents on the General Strike held at the Modern Records Centre. The main series consists of over 90 files and items, including instructions to members, circulars, reports, bulletins, correspondence and publicity material, as well as documents regarding the termination of the strike, settlements over resumption of work, and victimisation of strikers.

### [Miners' Federation of Great Britain \(MSS.I479/MF\)](#)

Most pre-1943 records of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain (MFGB) were destroyed during the London Blitz, but surviving records include reports of conferences on the miners' lockout and General Strike, reports relating to the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry, and other publications.

### [Yorkshire Miners' Association \(MSS.I479/YK\)](#)

The Yorkshire Miners' Association (YMA) archives include minutes, accounts, reports and proceedings, 'Letters' books which contain brief summaries of correspondence between branches and head office, 'The Yorkshire Quarterly Mine Workers' Journal', and a small number of branch membership records from the mid-1920s.

### [International Transport Workers' Federation \(MSS.I59\)](#)

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) archive includes subject files on the British General Strike. These contain correspondence, ITF circulars and bulletins, and the text of an illegal radio broadcast on the strike.

### [Iron and Steel Trades Confederation \(MSS.36\)](#)

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) archives include minutes, reports, publications and printed ephemera relating to the General Strike and the wider 'coal crisis'.

### [National Union of Railwaymen \(MSS.I27\)](#)

The archives of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) include documents relating to the NUR and its involvement in the Triple Alliance (formed in 1914 between the NUR, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain and the National Transport Workers' Federation). Records relating to the General Strike and its aftermath include minutes, reports, bulletins, circulars, correspondence, summaries of radio broadcasts and ephemera.

## **\* Archives of employers' organisations:**

### [British Employers' Confederation \(MSS.200/B\)](#)

The British Employers' Confederation (BEC) collection includes minutes, annual reports and circulars from the period around the General Strike.

### [Federation of British Industries \(MSS.200/F\)](#)

The Federation of British Industries (FBI) archives include minutes and circulars from the General Strike period, and a correspondence file on meetings with the government about the coal crises of 1921 and 1926.

## [The Shipping Federation](#)

Shipping Federation archives include minutes from the period around the General Strike, together with an edition of the Workers Bulletin and bundle of cuttings regarding the strike.

### **\* Papers of individuals:**

#### [Papers of Ernest Bevin \(1884-1951\), trade union leader and politician \(MSS.126/EB\)](#)

Bevin's papers include 12 files on the coal crisis of 1925, the General Strike of 1926, and subsequent inquiries and recriminations. They include reports, both published and private, on conferences, meetings and correspondence exchanged; minutes of and Bevin's notes on meetings; correspondence, memoranda, press cuttings and agreements. These papers deal particularly with Bevin's role in the organisation and administration of the strike, his role in its termination, and the safeguarding of Transport and General Workers' Union agreements with employers in the aftermath of the strike.

#### [Papers of Stan Awbery \(1888-1969\), politician and trade union officer \(MSS.126/SA\)](#)

The collection includes 'The British Worker', nos.4-7, and Swansea General Strike Bulletin, nos.1-10.

#### [Papers of Reg Groves \(1908-1988\), journalist and socialist \(MSS.172\)](#)

The collection includes material collected in connection with Groves' contribution towards 'The General Strike in Battersea 1926: a reassessment' - mostly published material, including contemporary pamphlets, leaflets, circulars, newspapers and journals.

#### [Papers of William Henry Stokes JP \(1894-1977\), trade unionist and Communist](#)

The collection includes strike bulletins and handbills issued in Coventry, Birmingham, London and Oxford, as well as national newspapers and press cuttings relating to the General Strike.

#### [Papers of Harry Wicks \(1905-1989\), Trotskyist \(MSS.102\)](#)

During the early / mid 1920s, Harry Wicks was on the Southern District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen and produced and distributed the Communist railwaymen's paper the 'Victoria Signal'. In 1926, after suffering victimisation for his active participation in the General Strike, Wicks was elected to the Executive of the Young Communist League (YCL).

The archive includes drafts and notes for Wicks' autobiography, including for a chapter on the General Strike; the pamphlet 'The General Strike' by Harry

Wicks, 1976; and a published copy of Wicks' autobiography. Extracts from recorded interviews with Wicks, including some of his memories of the General Strike, are available through the MRC website: [A veteran Trotskyist remembers](#).

**\* Business archives:**

[Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Printing Department \(776\)](#)

Internal papers regarding the management of the Printing Department during the General Strike (and in 1929 and 1932); with applications by 50 employees for re-instatement to their posts following the end of the 1926 dispute.

## **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND**

**Archives & Manuscript Collections, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW**

Tel: 0131 623 3700

Email: [manuscripts@nls.uk](mailto:manuscripts@nls.uk)

Web: [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

Following the establishment of the National Library by an Act of Parliament in 1925, political manuscripts became a major collection area. The Archives & Manuscripts Division has important holdings from the 18th century onwards of the papers of Scottish politicians, as well as deposits of Scottish political party archives and the records of national campaign and pressure groups. From the 1960s onwards, the Library also became very active in collecting archives of the history of the Scottish labour and trade union movements. The Library works in close partnership with the Scottish Labour History Society and the Scottish Working People's History Trust in collecting this material.

The General Strike is represented in the NLS archive collections through the records of strikers as well as contemporary observers.

The literary archive of **Joe Corrie (1894-1968)**, miner, poet, novelist and playwright, contains drafts of his first full-length play, 'In Time o' Strife' (1926-1927), with photographs of later stage performances. Inspired by his experiences in Fife during the General Strike, it was originally performed by the Bowhill Players, an amateur company of miners raising money for local soup kitchens. [[MSS.26490-26560](#)]

The **William Gallacher Memorial Library Archive** contains materials relating to the life of William 'Willie' Gallacher (1881-1965) as well as over 60 special collections relating to working class histories and left-wing politics in Scotland. These include a collection of General Strike newspapers and rare Scottish local strike bulletins; Trades Union Congress reports; press cuttings and pamphlets; and research materials including an undergraduate dissertation on the General Strike by Patrick Clark. Original archival materials include:

- \* papers of **William Docherty** concerning the Workers' Theatre Movement, which was set up in response to the General Strike;
- \* notes on the strike by **Bob Clark**, a railway driver from Dundee;
- \* photographs and later reminiscences of **Anni Cairns** regarding striking miners in her family in Glencreig, Fife.

The WGML archive also contains papers of the **Glasgow Trade Union Film Society** regarding commemorations of the General Strike on film and activities in Scotland in the 1970s. [[Acc.14114](#)]

The papers of **Ian MacDougall (1933-2020)** contain research notes, correspondence, and papers towards an unpublished book project on the General Strike; papers relating to oral history research with participants of the General Strike in the 1970s and 80s; and papers relating to various projects and initiatives surrounding the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Strike in 1976. [[Acc.14627](#)]

**Hugh Pattison Macmillan (1873-1952)**, lawyer and civil servant, received a silver tray with 'the grateful thanks of the Great Western Railway Co.' for his role as a volunteer during the General Strike in London; this survives as part of his archive. [[Acc.14268/39](#)]

The papers of **James P. M. Millar (1893-1989)**, General Secretary of the National Council of Labour Colleges, concern his role in co-ordinating the Edinburgh Strike Committee during the General Strike, including correspondence and financial records, and a set of strike bulletins. [[Acc.5695](#)]

Memoirs and photograph albums of **Lieutenant Colonel William Burton Stewart (1872-1936)**, army officer and politician, including volume of his diary with comments on his role as a volunteer in London during the General Strike [[Acc.13934/1-10](#)]

Correspondence of **Ernest Younger**, emigrant to Toronto, with his parents in Tillycoultry, Clackmannanshire, including observations on the General Strike in Scotland. [[Acc.9407](#)]

Assorted literary papers, including unpublished manuscripts and poetry, of **James C. Welsh (1880-1954)**, miner, trade unionist, novelist and MP, relating to the experiences of mining communities in Scotland and England during the 1920s. [[Acc.14846](#)]

## **THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE**

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES**

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

Tel 01970 632800

Email: [gofyn@llyfrgell.cymru](mailto:gofyn@llyfrgell.cymru)

Web: [www.library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive](http://www.library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive)

The Welsh Political Archive is a dedicated programme within the National Library of Wales to collect, store, catalogue and promote archival material which reflects the political life of Wales. Many of the political archives we hold are personal collections of well know political figures – Members of Parliament, Lords, Members of the European Parliament and Assembly Members/Members of the Senedd as well as the formal records of a large number of political organisations including the main political parties, campaign groups, referendum campaigns, business and labour groups.

#### **\* Archival Collections**

##### **Poundley and Griffiths Papers**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/poundley-and-griffiths-papers-2>

##### **John Bryn Roberts Collection 1241**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/labour-party-and-socialism-dinorwig-quarries-dispute-1885-1886-to-general-strike-1926>

##### **A. J. Sylvester Papers B21**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/1926-file-papers-include-type-script-memorandum-general-strike-file-of-typescript-copies-of-correspondence-relating-to>

##### **Gwasg Gregynog Archive D90/24 - Idris Davies, The angry summer**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/idris-davies-the-angry-summer>

Copy and correspondence relating to a proposed collection of poems about the 1926 general strike.

## **Idris Davies Manuscripts MS 22400C**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/angry-summer>

Autograph draft of Idris Davies, *The Angry Summer* (London, 1943).

## **James Griffiths Papes A/456**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/correspondence-and-circulars-addressed-to-james-griffiths-together-with-few-copies-and-drafts-of-letters-from-him-some-of>

Correspondence And Circulars addressed to James Griffiths, together with a few copies and drafts of letters from him. Some of the correspondence relates to the general strike of May 1926 and the subsequent lock-out in the coal industry.

## **Thomas Jones CH Papers**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/dr-thomas-jones-ch-papers-2>

Various papers (mainly in Subfonds C) relating to the General Strike and 1926 Coal Strike

## **Lord Davies of Llandinam Papers**

<https://archives.library.wales/index.php/lord-davies-of-llandinam-papers>

Mainly in series F3 and F4 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, minutes of the joint committee minutes of the Representative Group and the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, 1925-26, concerning the preparation of the coalowners' case to be submitted to the 1925 Royal Commission on the Coal Industry chaired by Sir Herbert Samuel.

## **\* Print collections**

As a legal deposit library the National Library of Wales holds a substantial collection of books which can be found on the [main catalogue](#).

The [newspaper collection](#) includes UK, Welsh and local newspapers from a range of political perspectives and in both Welsh and English.

## **THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM**

**Labour History Archive, People's History Museum, Left Bank,  
Spinningfields, Manchester, M3 3ER**

Tel: 0161 838 9190

Web: [archive@phm.org.uk](mailto:archive@phm.org.uk)

Email: [archive@phm.org.uk](mailto:archive@phm.org.uk)

The Museum is open every day (except Tuesday) 10.00-17.00, and the LHASC Wednesday to Friday, 10.00– 4.00 (closed for lunch 12.30-1.30) For archive appointments or queries, please email [archive@phm.org.uk](mailto:archive@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, Harry Pollitt and Rajani Palme Dutt.

- \* Pamphlet Collection – ref 331.81, 2 boxes that include numerous reports on the events that unfolded, before, during and in the immediate aftermath of the general strike. In many cases the different pamphlets originate from different parts of the country and as a result, different pamphlets will give a slightly different insight than the others in the collection.
- \* General Strike Newspaper Collection- The collection includes a number of newspapers and publications that reported the events of the general strike while exploring the immediate aftermath. Includes The British Gazette, The British Worker, Manchester Guardian, and The Miner (NMLH/GS).
- \* Acc 1377 – General Strike newspapers including Daily Mail, The Manchester Gazette, MEN Bulletin and Manchester Emergency Echo
- \* Acc 1463 – General Strike newspapers including Evening Standard, Daily Sketch, Hendon, Cricklewood and Golders Green Gazette and Daily Mirror
- \* Communist Party of Great Britain- A large amount of material originating from the National Minority Movement (CP/CENT/IND/I 1/03) and the Miners Minorities Movement (CP/CENT/IND/I 1/06). This collection includes titles such as “One Mineworkers Union, Why?” and “The Miners Next Task”.

- \* Labour Party Annual Report – The 1926 Labour Party Conference Report includes descriptions about committees and subcommittees that aimed at debating whether the Party should nationalise the mines while considering the best way forward after the impact of the General Strike.
- \* Labour Party Photographic Collection: Photos from the General Strike and different demonstrations around the country with some photos depicting other strikes in the lead up to 1926.
- \* Communist Party of Great Britain Photographic Collection- This collection includes a range of photos from the General Strike (Box 48) as well as some general photos of miners (Box 45) and their work places, both from before and after the General Strike in 1926.

### **Related material**

There are a number of reference books in the reading room, classification no. 331.81

See collection guide at <https://phm.org.uk/collection/labour-history-archival-study-centre/general-strike-1926/>

# **ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**20 Cavendish Square London W1G 0RN**

Tel : 0345 337 3368

Web : [www.rcn.org.uk/library](http://www.rcn.org.uk/library)

Email : [rcn.library@rcn.org.uk](mailto:rcn.library@rcn.org.uk)

**Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 7pm Saturday  
(not during August) 9am – 5pm**

The Royal College of Nursing is a professional UK membership body and union of over 435,000 registered nurses, midwives, health care practitioners and nursing students. The RCN Library and Archive Service (LAS) holds Europe's largest nursing collection, with the historical collections being held in London and Edinburgh. The collection is primarily in the English language and dates mainly from the 1850s. The RCN was founded in 1916 to lobby parliament for the state registration of nurse and continues to actively campaign for nursing. Its library service established in 1922 and the archive in the 1980s. RCN LAS actively collects material on nursing in the UK, focusing on RCN union activities including its annual Congress, industrial relations issues, campaigns and activism. Recurring themes include pay and conditions, gender, status of women, diversity, immigration, public health, mental health. Catalogues are available online, together with an increasing number of free online resources such as digitised content and exhibitions. RCN LAS also delivers an annual programme of events aimed at the public.

The collection includes notices about food distribution and copied government statements.

## **SCOTTISH POLITICAL ARCHIVE**

**Scottish Political Archive, School of Arts and Humanities, History and Politics, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA**

Tel: 01786 466619

Email: [scottishpoliticalarchive@stir.ac.uk](mailto:scottishpoliticalarchive@stir.ac.uk)

Web: <https://libguides.stir.ac.uk/c.php?g=530467&p=3628566>

The archives reading room is open to university staff and students, and external researchers by appointment. Our current service arrangements are available at: <https://collections.stir.ac.uk/using-archives-special-collections/>

Material relating to the General Strike comes from the Tait & Watson Archive (which isn't within the Scottish Political Archive, it sits separately in the wider University Archive and Special Collections). Generally speaking, the collection is formed of two donations from William Tait and William Watson, two Glaswegian collectors who were both very pro-active within Scottish politics and both very left-wing with the main focus being early 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are circa 3,000 pamphlets, 340 newspaper titles (some fairly niche, some well known, some large runs, some with only individual newspapers) and 2,000.

See: <https://libguides.stir.ac.uk/archives/TaitWatson>

The newspapers collection also has extensive coverage of the General Strike.

# THE SPARROWS' NEST LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

19 Robin Hood Chase, Nottingham, NG3 4EY Tel: 07388417325

Email: [info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk](mailto:info@thesparrowsnest.org.uk)

Web: [www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk](http://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk)

Based in St Ann's, Nottingham, we focus on the history of anarchist groups and individuals in the UK and beyond, as well as on the history of other social movements, protests and radicalism in Nottingham & Notts and the wider regions of the East Midlands & South Yorkshire. Browse our online catalogue, download digital copies of thousands of documents and come and visit us!

Our collections contain a number materials on the 1926 General Strike, mostly from an anarchist and syndicalist perspective. Many of the materials have already been digitised and added to our free Digital Library. We recommend you run a search for 'General Strike' in our catalogue: <https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/index.php/search-catalogue>

See for instance the coverage in the classic anarchist newspaper *Freedom*:

✿ *Freedom* 1926/04-05 Vol:40 #434.

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/3651.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/3651.pdf)

✿ *Freedom* 1926/06-07 Vol:40 #435.

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/3652.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/3652.pdf)

Numerous sources published in later years report and analysed on the events, such as this issue of Syndicalist Workers Federation's paper *Direct Action*:

✿ *Direct Action* (SWF) Vol:02 #03, Mar 1962.

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/4471.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/4471.pdf)

Noteworthy is also this classic SWF pamphlet:

Brown, Tom: *The British General Strike 1926*, Freedom Press, 1943.

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/7394.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/7394.pdf)

We also hold a few materials on the General Strike in Nottinghamshire, notably:

Barton, David; Gasse, Ian: *Newark and the General Strike - May 1926*, 1976.

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/9574.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/9574.pdf)

And for the fun of it make sure to have a look at this song sheet with lyrics and the score for a General Strike song:

[https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public\\_archive/3995.pdf](https://www.thesparrowsnest.org.uk/collections/public_archive/3995.pdf)

## **JOHN RYLANDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND LIBRARY**

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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>

- \* [Manchester Guardian Archive](#) (Ref GDN 256/5)
- \* [University of Manchester Archives](#) (Ref.VCA/7/185)
- \* Papers of Frank Andrews, trade unionist and printer (uncatalogued)
- \* [Papers of David Arnold Wilson](#) (1897-1981), railway clerk, trade unionist and socialist, includes a personal reminiscence of the General Strike in Bradford
- \* [Ramsay MacDonald Papers](#) includes [General Strike](#) materials documenting the entire course of events, from the problems of 1925 to post-dispute commentary.

**A selection of General Strike material will shortly be available in our [digital viewer](#)**

Further information is available from a blog on some of the sources at Manchester University - [Rylands Blog Stories from Manchester's General Strike: Silent printing presses and strikebreaking students](#)