

Archive sources

Dr J. Graham Jones lists the archival collections of interest to students of the Liberal Party held at Newcastle University

Newcastle University Library Special Collections

THE PHILIP ROBINSON Library's Special Collections hold many unique archives and rare books.

These materials provide great scope for original research for many subject areas and the potential to complement teaching and learning at the university. These materials comprise rare books and other significant printed works and also archives, which include a full range of materials such as photographs, audiovisual materials, illustrations and maps.

Not everything in Special Collections is old: the collections date from the fourteenth century to the present day. A collection item might be scarce because few copies survive or because it was issued in a limited print run; it might have been issued by a private press, have previously belonged to someone significant, have a fine binding, be annotated, have additional material tipped or pasted in, or be part of a person's private collection that the library wishes to keep together.

The following archival collections are of likely interest to students of the Liberal Party:

Walter Runciman Archive

The papers of Walter Runciman, 1st Viscount Runciman of Doxford (1870–1949), relate chiefly to his political career, but also include material concerning his personal and professional life. They cover his election campaigns and his political career during the years 1894–1938, and in particular they cover the different political offices he held, as a Liberal MP and cabinet minister, and as a member of the Board of Education, 1908–11, and the Board of Trade, 1914–16 and 1931–37. There is also material relating to Runciman's attempt to solve the 1938 Sudeten crisis through his mission to Czechoslovakia.

The collection also includes the diaries and some correspondence of Walter's wife, Hilda Runciman, herself briefly an MP. Hilda's diaries have been found

to be of particular value to researchers, providing as they do an insight into the world and circles in which she and her husband moved, sometimes revealing insider knowledge about the current talk in London society, a classic example being Hilda's remarks in her 1936 diary about the abdication crisis and the king's intentions.

In addition, there are 114 volumes of press cuttings, plus material relating to Walter Runciman's father, the 1st Baron Runciman, as well as documents relating to Sir Walter Leslie Runciman (1900–1989).

Link to Runciman Papers: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=87

Trevelyan Papers

The Trevelyan Papers, deposited by the Trevelyan family, are those of several generations of the Trevelyan family whose home was Wallington Hall, Northumberland. The archive is rich and diverse, not least because the family had so many roles and indulged so many interests between them that the archive can truly be described as multi-disciplinary.

Charles Philips Trevelyan (1870–1958) was a Liberal and then Labour MP and thus his papers deal with early twentieth-century political issues, for the most part. He was a founder of the Union of Democratic Control in during the First World War and president of the Board of Education. His papers cover the Liberal and Labour parties, parliamentary measures, and contain cabinet papers and election material but also include items concerning education acts; school diaries; summer, vacation and Sunday schools; Parents' National Education Union schools, Catholic and London Board schools; school attendance; and specific UK schools and colleges. There are also some papers from his wife,

Molly (1881–1966), including her diaries for 1892–1917.

George Otto Trevelyan (1838–1928) was a historian, Liberal MP and chief secretary for Ireland after the Phoenix Park murders.

Charles Edward Trevelyan (1807–1886) worked for the East India Company and the Home Civil Service. He was assistant secretary to the Treasury during the Irish famine. Although his papers largely reflect his interest in Civil Service reform, the papers include some material relating to education. (He may be of interest to readers because of his family's political leanings.)

Link to Trevelyan Papers: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=93

Mary Moorman

The archive does not include the papers of the historian G. M. Trevelyan, but there are letters from him to his family in the collections. However, the archive does hold the papers of Mary Caroline Moorman (1905–1994), historian, biographer and daughter of the historian G. M. Trevelyan. They mainly consist of letters from Mary Moorman's parents, George M. Trevelyan and Janet Penrose Trevelyan, née Ward.

Link to Moorman: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=82

Other collections of possible interest are:

Ethel Williams Archive: Ethel Williams was Newcastle's first female doctor, and in 1906 became the first woman to found a general medical practice in the city. In 1917, Williams co-founded the Northern Women's Hospital. As a suffragist, she served as secretary of the Newcastle Women's Liberal Association and became president of the Newcastle and District Women's Suffrage Society

Europe: the Liberal commitment

Why have the Liberal Democrats, and their Liberal and SDP predecessors, always supported membership of the EU? Discuss the historical origins of the Liberal commitment to Europe with Professors **Anthony Howe** and **Eugenio Biagini**. Chair: **Baroness Julie Smith**.

6.15pm, Sunday 16 September

Sandringham Suite, Hilton Brighton Metropole (no conference pass necessary)

(NUWSS). As a pacifist, she was a founding member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, of which she was a secretary of the Newcastle branch in 1934. This collection includes letters from contemporaries of Ethel Williams, a number of photographs of her throughout her life, objects connected to the suffrage movement, and selected information about Williams collected after her death.

Link to Ethel Williams: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=132

Spence Watson/Weiss Archive: This collection consists of papers relating to the Newcastle-born politician, co-founder of Armstrong College (now Newcastle University), and social and educational reformer Robert Spence Watson (1837–1911) and, to a lesser extent, his wife Elizabeth (1838–1919), a Quaker who was involved with many of her husband's projects, in particular with educational projects such as the Industrial or Ragged Schools. The papers were donated to the library by Miss Mabel Weiss (Spence Watson's granddaughter) and consist chiefly of correspondence sent to Robert and Elizabeth Spence Watson and also correspondence relating to Ernest F. Weiss. There is also some correspondence to named and unnamed individuals which found their way into the papers through Spence Watson's involvement with various committees and organisations. There are letters from Liberal politicians and statesmen, including Sir Edward Grey, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, W. E. Gladstone, John Morley, Joseph Cowen, and John Bright, as well as letters from associates or friends from the many areas in which the Spence Watsons were interested, such as the arts, literature, exploration and political asylum. In addition, there are

a number of family letters mainly from Robert Spence Watson to his wife and daughters and a few letters to Robert Spence Watson's father, Joseph Watson.

The material concerning Frederick and Evelyn Weiss also includes letters to and from friends and associates working in the various fields of politics, science, the arts and general education matters. There are also letters addressed to C. P. Scott interspersed with the collection, and some miscellaneous material including a collection of autographs and letters from well known characters of the nineteenth century, pamphlets and publications by Robert Spence Watson and some cuttings and newspaper articles.

Link to Spence Watson/Weiss: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=97

Joseph Cowen Tracts: The Cowen Tracts are almost 2,000 pamphlets which were formerly owned by local (radical) MP, Joseph Cowen (1829–1900). The tracts date mostly from the mid-to late-nineteenth century and reflect Cowen's interest in the social, educational, political and economic issues of the day. (The Cowen Tracts can also be viewed through JSTOR, if the institution participates.)

Link to Cowen Tracts: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=16

The Manuscript Album: This is a miscellaneous collection, but there are some letters relating to people of interest, such as Cowen.

Link to Manuscript Album: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/collection_details.php?id=79

There are also individual items held across the collections that may be of interest to the readership of this journal, such as 'The Boer War and the Liberal Party in Newcastle and Gateshead', 'The Speech of Mr. Hugh Mason, (Chairman), at an aggregate special meeting of the Liberal Committees of Ashton-under-Lyne, on Monday, May 25th, 1874', and Robert Spence Watson's 'The coming work of the Liberal Party'. They can be found by using the library's integrated online catalogue: http://libsearch.ncl.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=NCL_V1

Whilst there are some items relating to the First World War, there is a significant amount of material relating to the Second World War – published 1939–1943, often by Penguin (or the Pelican imprint) in the iconic early paperback series. This material includes E. O. Lorimer's *What Hitler Wants* (1939) – a Penguin Special which achieved record-breaking sales, as well as F. Lafitte, *The Internment of Aliens* (1940) and E. Glover, *The Psychology of Fear and Courage* (1940).

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24/7 Live Chat Support is also available via the University's website.

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