



University of  
**Sheffield**

University  
Library

# Extreme left- and right-wing political collections



Special Collections, Heritage and Archives

Research Guide

## Extreme left- and right-wing political collections in Sheffield University Library's Special Collections

### Overview

Sheffield University Library has unusually rich collections of both archival and published material relating to extreme right- and left-wing political movements of the twentieth century. These collections have arisen primarily from the teaching and research interests of academics at the university, and continue to be developed to support that academic work. Collections of material assembled specifically for research or teaching have been deposited by academics, further archival collections have then been donated to the university from individuals associated with political movements, and the library has purchased books, pamphlets, and journals in the subject field.

### Content and language

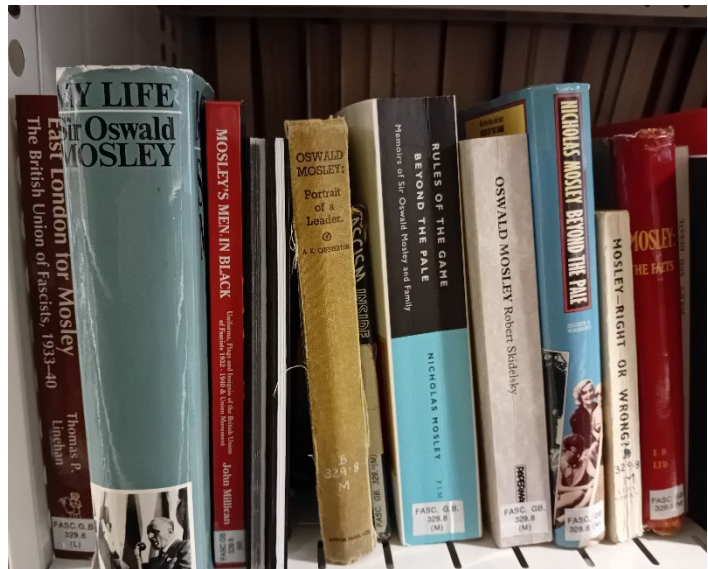
It is recognised that this material can contain strong and contentious views, and that those views may be expressed using language that readers find offensive.

### Finding Fascist and Far Left material

Fascist and Far Left material may be found within both published and archival sources.

Published works are all catalogued on *StarPlus*. <https://find.shef.ac.uk/>  
Searches can be limited to special collections.

Archival material, including some photocopies and printed ephemera, are catalogued on *Discover our Archives*. <https://archives.shef.ac.uk/>



*You may need to search more than one catalogue to find all of the relevant items.*

### Consulting the collections

Information about visiting the archives, including a booking form, may be found at <https://sheffield.ac.uk/library/special-collections-heritage-and-archives/use-our-collections>

Contact [lib-special@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:lib-special@sheffield.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

## Material relating to Far-Right Politics

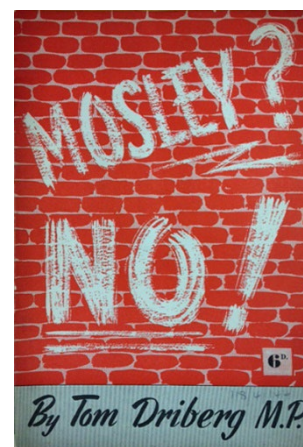
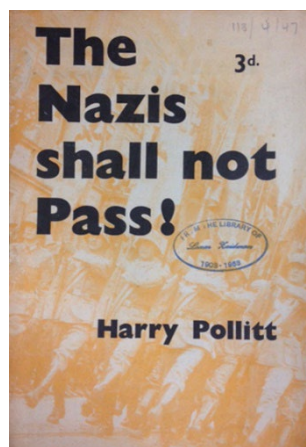
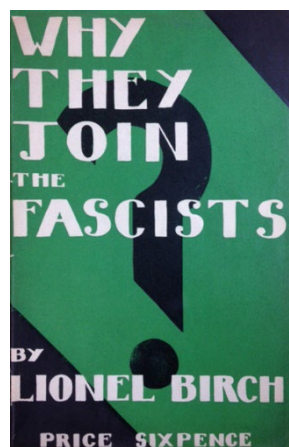
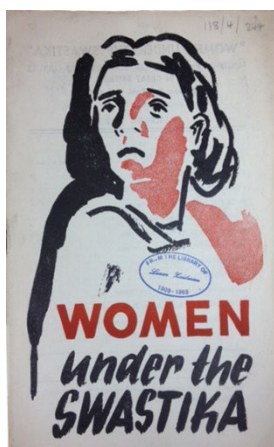
### Research and teaching collections

**British Union Collection** – published and unpublished documents relating to the political movements associated with Sir Oswald Mosley: the New Party, the British Union of Fascists, and the Union Movement from 1925 to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The collection was originally assembled to support research and teaching at the University of Sheffield on 20<sup>th</sup>-century British political movements.

**Defence Regulation 18B Research Papers** – documents and correspondence relating to internment under Defence Regulation 18B during World War II, assembled by Prof. A.W. Brian Simpson while writing his book *In the highest degree odious: detention without trial in wartime Britain*. Much of the collection consists of photocopies of primary sources held in other repositories.

**Dorril Blackshirt Collection** – documents, correspondence, articles, and research notes collected and created by Dr Stephen Dorril, University of Huddersfield, when researching his book *Blackshirt: Sir Oswald Mosley and British Fascism*, published 2006.

**Fascism in Europe Collection** – a developing collection of books on the history of fascism on the continent of Europe and beyond in the twentieth century.



**Fascism in Great Britain Collection** – collection of published and unpublished documents relating to Fascism and other right-wing movements in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Britain up to the end of the Union Movement, plus critical and biographical material published later. It includes a number of rare pamphlets, and is mostly made up of documents produced by the British Union of Fascists before 1940, together with more overtly anti-Semitic material produced by organisations such as the Sons of Liberty and the Imperial Fascist League.

**Pugh Papers** – This collection consists of assorted research materials relating to Oswald Mosley and fascism between 1932 and 1955, assembled by Peter Pugh in researching his PhD *A political biography of Alexander Raven Thomson* completed in 2003. The collection includes correspondence, questionnaires, research notes, and sound recordings, along with a small number of books.

### *Material relating to local organisations*

**Blackshirts in Kingston Project** – This collection stems from a project undertaken by Jeffrey Wallder, a member of the Friends of Oswald Mosley, the original project being held by Kingston Museums and Heritage Service Archive. It consists of documentation recording the activities of the Kingston-upon-Thames branch of the British Union of Fascists from 1932 to 1941.

**Robert Saunders Papers** – this collection contains an almost complete set of administrative files covering the work and activities of the Dorset West District of the BUF. It also contains correspondence relating to Robert Saunders' internment under Defence Regulation 18B, further material relating to his life, and a file of personal correspondence with Oswald Mosley 1955-1870.

### *Collections relating to or compiled by individuals*

**John Beckett Collection** - documents, correspondence, books and journals belonging to the politician John Beckett, who was at different times active in the Independent Labour Party and the British Union of Fascists, together with research assembled by his son for the writing of his biography *The rebel who lost his cause*.

**Howard Biggs Papers** – Biggs was a member of the British Union of Fascists in 1930s and was interned during the Second World War under Defence Regulation 18B. The collection includes letters, diaries, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings and leaflets.



**Cooper Collection** – published and unpublished material mainly dating from the 1930s thought to have been compiled by F.T. Cooper, a cartoonist associated with the Imperial Fascist League. It includes the English language version of the World Service issued by the Nazis in the 1930s. This material is strongly anti-Semitic in nature.

**Joyce Manuscripts** – a collection of documents related to William Joyce and Cecil Courtney Lewis, including material collected by Lewis relating to the British Union of Fascists. Lewis acted as a legal advisor to Oswald Mosley. The collection includes early copies of *The Blackshirt*, the official newspaper of the BUF, which was edited by Lewis, and photographs of eminent members of the BUF.

**Peroni Scrapbooks** – Peroni was an active member of British Union of Fascists. The first scrapbook covers the period 1935-38 and contains news cuttings about Oswald Mosley and fascist activities in the London area. The second dates from 1949 to 1950 and contains press cuttings documenting the post-war activities of Mosley and his supporters.

## **Material relating to Left-wing Politics**

**Hillsborough Socialist Workers Party Documents** - a small collection of documents produced by the Hillsborough, Sheffield branch of the Socialist Workers Party in 1995 and 1996, illustrating issues addressed at both local and national level.

**Klugmann Collection** - books and pamphlets formerly in the Library of the Communist Party of Great Britain, some of which were once the property of N.J. Klugmann. The topics of trials, espionage, treason, and political events in Eastern Europe feature strongly.

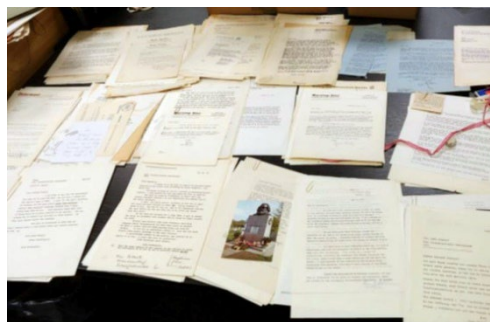
**Left Pamphlet Collection** - a collection of printed pamphlets relating to left-wing politics, mainly of the twentieth century. Such publications are ephemeral in nature, often produced to address a particular issue of the moment, without thought for any potential historical value. These pamphlets have been drawn together from various sources, covering a variety of topics, and expressing widely divergent viewpoints from the authoritarian to the democratic left.

**Left Book Club Collection** - books published 1936-48 by Victor Gollancz on behalf of the Left Book Club. The library holds a complete set, along with a part-set on microfilm of *Left news*, the journal edited by Gollancz and distributed to Club members.



Records of the **Socialist Labour Party** – located within the **Arthur Scargill Archive**. The SLP was founded by Arthur Scargill in 1996 following his resignation from the Labour Party the previous year. The archive covers all aspects of the foundation, organisation, governance, and activities of the party from 1996 through to 2021.

**Winnington Papers** – notebooks, correspondence, photographs, manuscripts and personal documents created by the journalist and author Alan Winnington, a British Communist, who was foreign correspondent for the *Daily Worker* in China, Korea, and Berlin between 1949 and 1980.



**Zaidman Collection** – the personal library of Lazar Zaidman, reflecting his interests in anti-Fascism, Jewish matters, politics and economics before, during, and after World War II.

**Zaidman Papers** – printed ephemera and manuscript documents collated by Lazar Zaidman, relating to the anti-fascist movement in London and Communist party of Great Britain during the 1930s to 1950s.