**D227 Eric Fry Collection**

<table>
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<th>History</th>
<th>The Eric Fry Collection contains left wing, Socialist, and Communist publications dating from the 1920s to the early 1970s, with an emphasis on post-1940s material, coinciding with Mr. Fry's rising interest in such issues.</th>
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D227  Eric Fry Collection

[NB: The following listing is based on the original compiled by Eric Fry during 2000. It contains historical and descriptive comments by him, with additional information provided by Archives staff. Mr. Fry's original arrangement of the collection has been maintained.]

The Collection is arranged in the following sections:

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Detailed descriptions of the items are included below, along with relevant historical contextual information by Eric Fry. Related holdings in other repositories include:

- National Library of Australia - Eric Fry Papers and Eric Fry Correspondence, manuscripts.
- Biographical and autobiographical
**Part I Early Influences, to c 1945**

**a) General**

Mainly paperback books, including Pelican, on current affairs, social criticism and psychology, particularly Freud, criticism of religious beliefs including Ingersoll and H G Wells.

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**b) Economics**

In the four years 1938-1914 I completed an Economics degree at Sydney University. These studies, as Andrew Wells observes, gave me a broad understanding of economy and society and also of European economic history. In retrospect the most lasting influences were Adam Smith, the Marxist based works of Roll and Dobb and Joan Robinson on full employment.

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**Part II Left Book Club**

For ten years from 1936 the Left Book Club was the most persuasive and powerful force for left wing views in the English speaking world. Gollan in *Revolutionaries and Reformists* cites several histories of the Club and discusses its influence in Australia. Founded in London in 1936, it was started by radical publisher Victor Gollancz providing cheap editions of works opposing fascism, appeasement, the threat of war and the current economic and social inquisition. The Spanish Civil War gave impetus to the Club, which grew during the Second World War and the debates about post-war reconstruction. Gollan says that the Club was stronger in Australia than in any other country outside Britain.
From 1936 to 1948 the Club published 257 books. There was a monthly choice which went to all members and many additional books available for purchase. The Club was also, in Australia as in Britain, a political movement running discussion groups, a newsletter and lecture tours. Gollan says that the Club in Australia had a maximum of 4,000 members after Munich (1938) and produced an Australian Left News with local application. It had a significant influence on opinion and politics.

Most of the books dealt with international relations and economic policy, but they ranged widely in world affairs, including European imperialism and national liberation movements in Africa, India and China which subsequently achieved political power. Amongst the books are many classics of their time.

**A Personal note on the Left Book Club.**

In 1940 I was working as a junior clerk in the Commonwealth Customs Department in Sydney, attracted to left wing and radical ideas. The impact of the Depression, still apparent, the rise of Fascism in Europe, the drift to war, sharpened these opinions. I sought to obtain left wing publications when I could, buying the Communist Party Tribune from a street seller at Wynn yard railway station and seeking some of the publications which it mention, if I could afford them.

That year I had a windfall. Goods brought into Australia under customs bond had to remain under customs supervision until duty was paid or they were otherwise disposed of. Any importer who wanted to use the goods in manufacture had to pay for a customs officer to be in attendance whilst the goods were treated. This "merchants overtime" paid by the importer was a welcome perk for the improvising customs officer. It did not often come the way of lowly junior like me, but once I was given an "all nighter", sitting up all night in a factory, nominally verifying that dutiable goods were used for manufacture, and being paid for this twelve hour shift about as much as my normal weekly wage.

On payday I went to the Workers Educational Association (WEA) bookshop in Macquarie Place, near the Customs House. I took out a subscription to the Left Book Club, bought many of the back numbers which attracted me and carried them off the start my own political library. During the war years I kept up my Left Book Club subscription even as a "six bob a day" soldier and bought extra issues on air crew pay.

[Box 3]

2/25 'Vigilantes' (K Zilliacus). *Why We are Losing the Peace: the National Governments' Foreign Policy: it's Causes, Consequences and Cure*. London: Victor Gollancz, 1939.

[Box 4]

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[Box 5]

2/89 Cohen, Max. I was One of the Unemployed. London: Victor Gollancz, 1945.

[Box 6]

University of Wollongong Archives


[Box 7]

Part III Books from 1940 onwards

Marxist studies in history

3/1 Childe, What Happened in History
3/2 ----, History
3/3 ----, The Story of Tools
3/4 Caudwell, Studies in a Dying Culture
3/5 Kautsky, Society in Imperial Rome
3/6 Thompson, Essay on Religion
3/7 Hessen, Newton's Principia
3/8 Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism

Books on Asian History, including textbooks for Sydney University History Course, 1949-50.

3/9 Lattimore, The Making of Modern China
3/10 Latourette, A Short History of the Far East
3/11 Outline History of China
3/12 Bodde, A Short History of Chinese Philosophy
3/13 Epstein, Opium war to Liberation

Marxist works on contemporary affairs

3/14 Dutt, Problems of Contemporary History
3/15 Churchward, Myth of Soviet Imperialism
3/16 Matsurow, False Witness
3/17 Paraker, Conspiracy Against Peace
3/18 Sayers, & Kahn, Great Conspiracy
3/19 The Soviet Union and the Korean Question

[Box 8]

Part IV Marxist Theory

Writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and other theoretical works on Marxism.

Karl Marx

4/5 Class Struggles in France, 1848-1850. Moscow, 1948. (2 copies)
University of Wollongong Archives


Marx and Engels

4/11 a & b Communist Manifesto. Moscow, 1948
4/13 Marx and Engels on Reactionary Prussianism. Moscow, 1943.

Frederick Engels

4/15 Ludwig Feurbach and the Outcome of Classical German Philosophy. Moscow, 1917.

[Box 9]

4/19 Peasant War in Germany. Moscow, 1956.
4/20 Articles from the Labour Standard. Moscow, [n.d.].
4/23 Socialism. Utopian and Scientific

[Box 10]

4/31 ----, Utopian Socialism of the Nineteenth Century. Moscow, [n.d.].

Lenin

4/33 Selected Works Vol. II. Moscow, 1951.
4/34 The Development of Capitalism in Russia. Moscow, 1956.

[Box 11]

4/38 What is to Be Done? Moscow, 1947.
4/40 Three Sources and Three Common Parts of Marxism. Moscow, [n.d.].
4/41 Left Wing Communism. Melbourne, [n.d.].
4/43 The State. Sydney, [n.d.].
Stalin

4/49 Foundations of Leninism. Sydney, [n.d.].
4/50 Anarchism or Socialism. Moscow, 1950.
4/51 Stalin - Marxism and the National Question; Lenin - the Jewish Question. Melbourne, [n.d.].
4/54 Dialectical and Historical Materialism.

Other

4/56 Bernal, Marx and Science. 1952
4/57 Cornforth, Dialectical Materialism and Science. 1949
4/59 ----, In Defence of Philosophy.
4/60 Leontien, Political Economy.
4/64 Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, Manifesto Comunista. 1976.

[Box 12]

Part V Booklets and Pamphlets

a) Australian
Booklets and pamphlets on politics and current affairs from c 1945. Subjects are all contemporary questions. Packed in three bundles, in roughly chronological order.

First Bundle

5/1 Cotton, Frank, Porkobidni's Plan - The Development of the Northern Territory. Sydney, 1933.
5/2 An Outline of Social Credit. Sydney, [n.d.].
5/4 Monopoly. Left Book Club, Sydney, 1944.
5/7 Workers' Control, Fabian Society of NSW, Sydney, [n.d.].

5/17 A People's Plan for the Australian Sugar Industry, Queensland State Committee, Communist Party of Australia: [s.l.], [n.d.].

5/18 Wilson, James, *The Inefficiency of Private Enterprise*, Current Book Distributors: Sydney, [n.d.].


5/28 Study Organise and Play with the Eureka Youth League, Eureka Youth League: [s.l.], [n.d.].


5/35 Strengthen the Party, The Australian Communist Party: [s.l.], [n.d.].


5/46 Debate on Indo-China, D W A Baker: Canberra, ACT, [n.d.].

5/47 Facts on the War in Korea, Australian Student Labor Federation: [s.l.], [n.d.].


[Box 13]

**Second Bundle**

Include introductory booklets on Marxism, instructional booklets for study classes, tutors, mainly produced by Australian Communist Party, some British. Authors include Maurice Dobb, Emile, Burns, L.L. Sharkey, L H Gould,
E W Campbell. Australian and world affairs, Australian economic issues, labour history, Eureka, conscription, trade unions. Authors include John Barton, R Dixon, E A [unreadable], Brian Fitzpatrick.

5/56 Bacon, E A, Outline of the Post-War History of the Communist Party of Australia, [s.n.]:[s.l.], 1965.
5/57 History of: Australian Trade Union Movement, [Labor Council]: Wollongong, NSW, [n.d.].
5/63 Fitzpatrick, Brian, A Future or No Future -- Foreign Policy and the A.L.P., Victorian Fabian Society: [Melbourne], [n.d.].
5/68 Sendy, John, Socialism?, [Communist Party of Australia: Sydney, n.d.].
5/75 Sharkey, L.L., The Labour Party Crisis, Current Book Distributors: Sydney, [n.d.].
5/77 Handbook for Tutors, Communist Party of Australia: Sydney, [n.d.].
5/78 Wilson, James, Science and the Progress of Man, Current Book Distributors: Sydney, 1945.
5/85b Political Economy - Beginners' Course, Sydney, [n.d.].
Third Bundle

5/101 Full Human Rights for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Communist party of Australia: Sydney, [1967].
5/102 Heffernan, J E, The Socialist Alternative, ALP: [s.l.], [n.d.].
5/104 Marxism and Youth.
5/107 Jurjevic, M, Ustasha Under the Southern Cross, M Jurjevic: [s.l., n.d.].
5/112 Workers' Control: Discussion Material, Australian Left Review: [s.l.], [1969?].
5/114 Fry, E C, The Communist Party in Australian History, typescript
5/115 Bacon, E, The Struggle for Unity in the Labour Movement in the Post-war Period, typescript
5/118 Aarons, E, Communists and the Battle of Ideas, Communist Party of Australia: [s.l.], 1967.
5/120 Gollan, W, Australia and Foreign Policy, Communist Party of Australia: [s.l.], 1967.
5/121 Cahill, Rowan, Notes on the New Left in Australia, Australian Marxist Research foundation: Sydney South, [n.d.].

b) British and International

From 1940s. International affairs, Britain, USA, Cold War, Marxism, social theory. Authors include John Strachey, G.D.H. Cole, Dobb, Pollitt, Hobsbawn, T.B. Bottomore, Angela Davis. 24 items.

5/127 Peel, Gerald, Two Worlds in Europe - The Old and the New, Sydney, 1949, 64p.
University of Wollongong Archives

5/140 Hobsbawm, E., Introduction to Pre-Capitalist Economic Formations by Karl Marx, 35p.

[Box 15]

c) Soviet

Booklets, pamphlets, reports. Mostly 1940s to 1970s. reprints of short works and speeches of Lenin and others, especially of and about Stalin. Five Year Plans from 1930s. Economic construction programmes, international affairs, especially Cold War, Twentieth Congress, Kruschev on Stalin, debates on Marxism. 44 items.

5/147 Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, Moscow, 1969, 95p.
5/150 Sverdlova, Claudia, Jacob Sverlov, Moscow, 1945, 60p.
5/152 The Soviet Union and the Berlin Question (Documents), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Moscow, 1948, 84p.
5/158 Stalin, J.S., Report to the Seventeenth Congress of the CPSU(B) on the Work of the Central Committee, Moscow, 1951, 132p.
5/164 Stalin, J., Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR, Moscow, 1952, 104p. (2 copies)
5/166 Lenin, V.I., The Tasks of the Youth Leagues, Moscow, 1951, 31p.
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5/178  Lenin, V.I., The Impending Catastrophe and How to Combat It, Moscow, 1951, 87p.
5/183  Decisions of the Central Committee, CPSU(B) on Literature and Art, Moscow, 1951, 38p.


d) Chinese and Asian

Principally works of Mao Tse-Tung; also Liu Shao-Chi; some Australian observations of China. One item on Indonesian independence. 17 items.

5/194  The Draft Constitution of the People's republic of China, People's China, 1 July 1954, 16p.
5/195  Tse-Tung, Mao, On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People, People's China, 1 July 1957, 27p.
5/197  Yuan Chang-ching (Poem) and Wu Ching-po (Drawings), Song of the Chang River, May 1958, 46p.

e) Others

Part VI Periodicals

a) Communist Review


b) Brian Fitzpatrick's Labour Newsletter

February 1960 - August 1965 (Incomplete).

c) Australian Left Review

Monthly.

d) Realist (Realist Writer)

Realist
No. 17, Summer 1964- No. 35, Autumn 1970.

Realist Writer

e) Recorder

Melbourne Branch of Australian Society for the Study of Labour History
No. 149, December 1987 - No. 221 June 2000 (Incomplete).