

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

I. Institutional news

Allen Hutt's Collection in the Library of Miyazaki University, Japan

Born in London in 1901, G. Allen Hutt was a long-term communist and historian. Well-known for his involvement in and writing on the labour movement, he died in 1973. In March 1994, assisted through the financial aid of Japan's Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Miyazaki University acquired the right to house Hutt's extensive collection of writings and materials. The collection, previously housed in Hutt's personal library, has been sorted and organized, and the classification of these materials will be described below.

The name of the collection is "Allen Hutt's Working Library of Books, Periodicals, and Manuscripts on the British Labour Movement, Anglo-Soviet Relations, and the Theory of Marxism-Leninism" and contains a total of 1,025 items, which includes books, journal volumes, and folders. If one were to count each journal, manuscript and newspaper cutting separately, the number of materials may well be over 2,000. The collection has been classified into five categories:

- (1) Books, pamphlets, and reprinted articles (801 volumes). Hutt often wrote notes or pasted reviews (including his own) in the books. Most of these books and pamphlets are written in English, but there are also some materials written in French, Russian, German, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Hungarian and Rumanian. Also, some translations of Hutt's writings, including Chinese and Japanese translations, are available.
- (2) Journals (53 titles and 131 volumes). Almost all issues of the *Labour Monthly* up until 1973 are available.
- (3) Manuscripts, notes, newspaper cuttings and other documents (52 items). Hutt himself filed these materials according to subject and placed them in folders, files, binders, or notebooks. This system of classification has been adopted with few modifications. There is an important folder which contains original documents relating to the General Strike of 1926. In particular, issues of the *Workers Bulletin*, for 4–6 May, 13–14 May of 1926, are included. There are also some scrapbooks and albums concerning Hutt's activities as a journalist and typographer.
- (4) Musical scores (14 scores). All but two were published in the Soviet Union.
- (5) Miscellaneous items (27 items). Dictionaries, grammars, readers, calendars, other items, most of which are concerned with Russia, are included.

Few letters have been included in the collection. However, some letters have been inserted in the books, and 42 letters are in a folder which also contains a duplicated typescript of "Twenty years ago. For the 20th anniversary of comrade Harry Pollitt as General Secretary of the Communist Party". The letters include 3 letters exchanged between Hutt and H.P. Rathbone, who was in Sweden and then Moscow, 1925–1926; 14 letters exchanged with P.J. Schmidt, 1926, 1928–1929; 20 letters exchanged with Maurice H. Dobb, 1926–1928.

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An English table of contents of the collection has been prepared, but its publication will be delayed. Enquiries concerning the collection, however, are welcome and should be addressed to Professor Akito Yamanouchi, Department of History, Faculty of Education, Miyazaki University, 1-1 Gakuen Kibanadai-Nishi, Miyazaki 889-21, Japan.

II. Announcements

"Family and Household" – Revisiting Concepts and Experience

The Social History Society of the United Kingdom will be holding its Annual Conference in January 1998 on the theme of "Family and Household" – Revisiting Concepts and Experience. The Conference will be held from the afternoon of 2 January to mid-day on 4 January 1998, in Nottingham, at the city site of Nottingham Trent University, with accommodation in the nearby Stakis Hotel. Nottingham is not far from the M1, and is readily accessible by rail from a number of directions, including the Midland Main Line from London St Pancras (journey time approximately one hour and fifty minutes).

Offers of papers are invited from historians and others, and postgraduate students are also encouraged to submit offers of discussion papers relating to work in progress, to be included in proposed workshop sessions. The following list of themes and topics is offered as guidance, but contributions outside these areas are welcome; there are no limits to period or place. It is also hoped that offers will be forthcoming from those seeking to challenge, as well as those seeking to explore, traditional understandings and usages of the terms "Family" and "Household"; drawing on theoretical concepts and on investigations of past experience, as well as on methodological issues.

Kitch, Kin, Clans and "Castes" and their workings, including: "Family" and "Household" Networks (local, national, international, imperial); "Family" Organizations (including issues of location, regional and spatial, as well as groupings such as religious orders, trade unions, guilds, Freemasons, etc.); Religion and Family or Household.

The Economics of Families and Households, including: Labour and Leisure in Family and Household; Science and Technology (including creation of physical environment for family/household); Family/Households and Consumption (including advertising, shopping, etc.); Communications Issues (including travel and time issues).

Creation of "Family" and "Household" culture and reputation and their wider implications (including political and legal issues), including: Representations and the Ideology of the Family or Household in literature, art and popular culture; "Belonging" and Existence outside "Family" (including orphans, issues of race, miscegenation and the national "family").

Power Structures and Procedures (including gender issues), including: Age and Class Structures; Changing Concepts of the Ideal in relation to Family and Household (including issues of response to short-term circumstance and pressures); Memory, Invention and Tradition in "Family" and "Household" discourses (including processes of exemplification and idealization of individuals and

behaviours); Gender Issues: Patriarchy and Matriarchy, Sisterhood and Brotherhood and their implications for "Family" and "Household".

All enquiries and offers of papers to Mrs Linda Persson, Administrative Secretary, Social History Society of the UK, Centre for Social History, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG, UK. Tel. 01524 59605; e-mail L.Persson@lancaster.ac.uk. Those interested in offering papers should send a one-page summary of their proposed paper by 16 May 1997.

Labnet (European Network of Labour Historians) Founded

On 17–18 February a group of 50 Labour historians from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland gathered in the Netherlands. They discussed the state of Labour and Working-Class history in Europe, on the basis of papers by Jürgen Kocka (Overview), Eileen Yeo (Gender), Mike Savage (Class), Patrick Pasture (Religion) and John Belchem (Ethnicity). Those present agreed on the importance of class and gender in the study of Labour history. The papers on religion and ethnicity led to more debate, even if nobody denied the importance of these two factors for the field. The papers and comments will be published.

After the substantive discussion, the group debated the organization of Labour History in Europe. Within the field of Labour history explanations based on national data are increasingly felt to be inadequate. More and more attention is focused on international and comparative history. At the same time more fields of activity are becoming concentrated on the European level. This is beginning to hold true for research and the funding of research and in the future this trend may be expected to become stronger. Labour historians should organize on the same level to be prepared for this development. And last but not least, those present felt that Labour historians all over Europe can learn much from each other. The meeting therefore decided to found a European Labour History Network, Labnet. The association regards as Labour history the history of the working classes, including, but not limited to, their organizations. It is open to all those interested in European Labour history, wherever they are based. The primary aim of the network is exchanging information. The structure of Labnet will be as light as possible, using electronic means of communication where this is possible.

Labnet will operate an electronic discussion list. Through the list members may exchange information, review books and discuss developments in the field. Labnet will also publish a Newsletter on paper, operate as the network on Labour for the bi-annual European Social Science History Conference and organize conferences of its own. Its next conference will be in 1999 on migration, social mobility and the labour movement as living strategies of working-class families.

Labnet hopes to establish co-operation with networks of labour historians elsewhere. Its members belong to Labnet as individuals, but there already exist contracts with many national Labour history organizations in Europe. Furthermore, there are newly founded Labour history organizations in Australia and India. And if the current debate on the organization of the field in North America leads to the foundation of an Association there, one can imagine a system of interlocking networks of Labour historians which will facilitate writing comparative history on a global scale.

The Conference was called together by the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam), which will also house its secretariat and support Labnet for the coming period. The moderators of the list are Aad Blok (ABL@iisg.NL) and Lex Heerma van Voss (LHV@iisg.NL). To join the Labnet List, send an e-mail message containing only the words "SUBSCRIBE LABNET" to LISTSERV@iisg.NL. If you are not on e-mail, you can join Labnet by sending your name, address, telephone and fax number to Labnet, International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, 1019 AT Amsterdam, The Netherlands (fax +31.20.6654181). The membership of Labnet is free.