

Labour and social history archives held by the Institute
of Commonwealth Studies at Senate House Library
(SHL), University of London

Richard Temple, IALHI conference, 2016

Some examples:

- Billy Strachan papers (ref. ICS158)
- C.L.R. James papers (ICS40)
- Baruch Hirson papers (ICS32)
- Workers' Party of South Africa (ICS106)
- Ralph Millner papers (ICS165)
- Ruth First papers (ICS117). Trivial question. What is significant about the reference number?
- Political pamphlets from around the Commonwealth. Includes Sri Lankan Trotskyism (PP. CE)

Some research themes

- Political struggle against colonialism, independence movements (eg Billy Strachan re West Indies, Guyana + Cheddi/Janet Jagan correspondence)
- Struggle against apartheid (RF, Workers' Party of SA, Hirson)
- Exile (eg RF in the UK, Mozambique; Hirson etc)
- Trotskyism (Hirson, C.L.R. James, Sri Lankan Trotskyism)
- Orthodox Communism and anti-imperialism (eg Billy Strachan)
- Legal struggles against colonialism (Ralph Millner. Includes Guyana, Kenya + Mau Mau)

More research and contact details

- Guide to Trotskyist archives held at SHL (including Institute of Commonwealth archives),
<http://www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk/our-collections/special-collections/archives-manuscripts/subject-guides-to-archives/trotskyist>
- SHL archives catalogue, <http://archives.urls.lon.ac.uk/>
- Working day's notice of research visit
- Contact: shl.specialcollections@london.ac.uk
- Digitised resources: Ruth First papers,
<http://www.ruthfirstpapers.org.uk/about/project>