

Rachelle Hope Saltzman:

A Preliminary Inventory of Her Collection of 1926 General Strike Research Materials at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Saltzman, Rachelle Hope
Title:	Rachelle Hope Saltzman Collection of 1926 General Strike Research Materials
Dates:	1926-2010
Extent:	6 document boxes, 4 oversize boxes (osb), 6.55 linear feet
Abstract:	The collection consists of research materials used by Saltzman for her book, <i>A Lark for the Sake of their Country</i> , which examines the British 1926 General Strike. Contents include correspondence, interview transcripts, notes, articles, and newspapers.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-05289
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
Restrictions on Use:	Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Center's Open Access and Use Policies.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation Rachelle Hope Saltzman Collection of 1926 General Strike Research Materials (Manuscript Collection MS-05289). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Gift, 2012 (12-07-004-G)

Processed by: Courtney Welu, 2023

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Scope and Contents

The 1926 General Strike was a key moment in labor history; it took place in the United Kingdom from May 4 through May 12, 1926. The strike was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) due to the wage reductions and dangerous working conditions faced by coal miners. Other working-class Britons joined the strike in support of the miners. The strike was ultimately unsuccessful, due in part to upper- and middle-class volunteers who stepped into the striking workers' jobs. Saltzman's research focuses on these volunteers, and how the folklore and memories around the strike have informed British cultural identity.

The Rachelle Hope Saltzman Collection of 1926 General Strike Research Materials documents the research process of Saltzman's 1988 dissertation and eventual 2012 book, *A Lark for the Sake of Their Country*. The collection contains correspondence, interview transcripts, and notes from 1985 to 1987, as well as research materials including clippings, photocopies, and original newspapers. The papers are organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1985-1987; II. Interview Notes and Transcripts, 1976-1987, undated; and III. Research Materials, 1926-2010, undated.

Series I. Correspondence contains correspondence between Saltzman and people and organizations related to her research on the 1926 General Strike. It is arranged in three subseries: A. Responses to Advertisements, B. University Letters, and C. General. Subseries A contains letters written in response to her advertisements asking for firsthand accounts of the strike, which were solicited via newspaper and radio.

Subseries B contains correspondence solicited from alumni of various local universities who had memories of the strike, arranged alphabetically by school. Subseries C contains all other correspondence, including letters exchanged with institutions, archives, and clubs about the strike. There are also correspondents belonging to the upper class that Saltzman reached out to regarding their experiences of the strike.

One notable correspondent is Rose Kerrigan, a member of the Community Party of Great Britain, who helped found the party in Glasgow in 1921 and worked on issues related to labor for her entire life. Saltzman corresponded with Kerrigan's daughter after her mother's death as well, and was invited to *A Red Rose*, a short documentary about Kerrigan's life.

Series II. Interview Transcripts and Notes is arranged in two subseries: A. Interview Transcripts and B. Notes. Subseries A includes both the interview transcripts themselves as well as excerpts from the letters Saltzman received. They are organized alphabetically by surname. Subseries B includes notes on the interview transcripts as well as on books and articles, along with multiple reporter's notebooks. The subseries also contains notecards with contact information for many of Saltzman's correspondents.

Series III. Research Materials is arranged in three subseries: A. Printed Materials, B. Journal and Magazine Articles, and C. Newspapers. Subseries A includes printed materials, both photocopied archival materials from 1926 as well as more recent materials, including booklets, about the strike from the perspective of the 1980s. The material from the 1920s includes materials that come directly from the Trades Union

Congress and other labor organizations, as well as documents from organizations that helped coordinate the volunteer effort. There are transcripts of the Trades Union Congress meetings in the aftermath of the strike, as well as the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Souvenir, which commemorates the strike; the official organs from the Salvation Army (The War Cry) and the mechanical department at Ealing Common Depot (Puffing Billy) cover the volunteer efforts.

The material from the 1980s includes many booklets about the history of the General Strike, including one called *More valuable than gold* which includes recollections of the striking miners' children. There is also an activist handbook from the Association of Liberal Trade Unionists, which includes a membership card for Saltzman, who is identified as an associate member.

Subseries B contains articles written about the strike and how it relates to British society more broadly, spanning the 1930s through 2010. They are often accompanied by notes from Saltzman on their content. Many of these articles originate from 1976, reflecting on the General Strike on its 50th anniversary. In conjunction with the anniversary, a series of articles were printed about how the General Strike affected specific cities across the United Kingdom, including Aberdeen, Battersea, Birmingham, Brighton, Bolton, Devon, Kilsyth, Lanarkshire, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Reading, Southwark, and York.

Subseries C includes both photocopies and original papers from 1926 about the strike. Many newspaper copies are also accompanied by Saltzman's handwritten notes. The collection includes both mainstream papers like the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail* as well as papers dedicated to covering workers' issues such as the *Daily Worker*, *British Worker*, *Scottish Worker*, *Sunday Worker*, and *Workers' Daily*.

Separated Material

66 unpublished, non-commercial audio recordings, principally oral history tapes related to the Great Strike of 1926 and original accounts, were transferred to the Ransom Center's Sound Recordings holdings and are described separately in a database.

Series I. Correspondence 1985-1987

Subseries A. Responses to Advertisements

Newspapers, 1985-1986 **Container 1.1-2**Radio, 1985-1987 **Container 1.3**

Subseries B. University Letters

Clare College, 1986 **Container 1.4**Corpus Christi, Oxford, 1986 **Container 1.5**Girton College, 1986-1987 **Container 1.6**Newnham College, 1986-1987 **Container 1.7**Somerville, 1987 **Container 1.8**St. Hughes, 1987 **Container 1.9**Other or unlabeled, 1986 **Container 1.10**

Subseries C. General

A-M, 1985-1986 **Container 1.11**N-Z, 1985-1986 **Container 1.12**Institutional, 1985-1987 **Container 1.13**Upper Class Letters, 1985-1987 **Container 1.14**Kerrigan, Rose, 1985-1996 **Container 1.15**Archivists, 1985-1987 **Container 1.16**Men's Clubs, 1986 **Container 1.17**Extracts, 1985-1986 **Container 2.1**

Series II. Interview Transcripts and Notes 1976-1987, undated

Subseries A. Interview Transcripts

Interview Transcripts with Letter Excerpts, 1976-1987 **Container 2.2**

A-F, 1985-1987 **Container 2.3**

G-R, 1985-1987 **Container 2.4**

S, 1985-1987 **Container 2.5**

T-Z, 1985-1986 **Container 2.6**

Subseries B. Notes

Notes on Interview Transcripts, 1985-1987 **Container 2.7**

Notes on newspapers with interview extracts and manuscript drafts, 1985-1986, undated **Container 2.8**

Notes on Greater London Council with reporter's notebook on the Home Office, undated **Container 2.9**

Reporter's notebook with interviews, undated **Container 2.10**

Reporter's notebooks, Trades Union Congress Newsaoers and Marx Memorial Library, undated **Container 3.1**

Notes on books, undated **Container 3.2**

Notes on other subjects, undated **Container 3.3**

Index cards and notes with lists of contacts and interviewees, undated **Container osb 1**

Series III. Research Materials 1926-2010, undated

Subseries A. Printed Materials

Materials for Chapter 4 including information on Poplar People, The Workers' Education Association, and the National Portrait Gallery with correspondence and notes, 1986	Container 3.4
Booklets, 1972-1986	Container 3.5-6
Liberal Trade Union News, 1985	Container 3.7
Labour Museum Teachers Notes, undated	Container 3.8
The Sphere General Strike Factpack and The General Strike Jackdaw compiled by Richard Tames, undated	Container 3.9
News Bulletins and Reports (photocopies), 1926	Container 3.10
Government notices (photocopies), 1926	Container 3.11
Clare College Magazine photocopy with letter from archivist and notes, 1926, 1986	Container 3.12
Trades Union Congress Strike Materials (photocopies), 1926	Container 3.13
Trades Union Congress General Council Special Conference transcripts (photocopies) with notes, 1926	Container 4.1
Times Archive photocopies with notes, 1926	Container 4.2
Imperial War Museum photocopies with notes, 1926	Container 4.3
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Souvenir of the General Strike, 1926	Container 4.4
Peterborough Labour documents, 1926-1929	Container 4.5
Official Organs, The War Cry and Puffing Billy, 1926	Container 4.6
Spec Bulletins and Trade Union documents, 1926	Container osb 2.1

Subseries B. Journal and Magazine Articles

Background articles with notes

1926	Container 4.7-9
1927-1938	Container 4.10
1941-1948	Container 4.11
1950-1956	Container 5.1
1961-1969	Container 5.2
1970-1974	Container 5.3
1976	Container 5.4
Fiftieth anniversary articles, 1976	Container 5.5
Articles on cities, 1976-1982	Container 5.6-8
1977-1979	Container 6.1
1980-1981	Container 6.2
1982-1983	Container 6.3
1984-1987, includes correspondence with author	Container 6.4
1988	Container osb 2.2
2010, undated	Container 6.5
Notes on articles, undated	Container 6.6
Subseries C. Newspapers	
Saved by Toms (interviewee), 1926	Container 6.7
London Opinion, 1926	Container 6.8
The New Leader with notes, 1926	Container 6.9
The Tatler, 1926	Container 6.10
Clippings and photocopies, 1984-1986	Container 6.11
Newspaper notes and lists, appendix of newspapers, magazines, and broadsheets, undated	Container osb 2.3
British Gazette and British Worker, 1926	Container osb 2.4

The Children's Newspaper with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.5
Daily Gazette and Daily Graphic with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.6
Daily Express and Daily Chronicle with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.7
Daily Sketch, Daily Telegraph, and Daily Worker with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.8
Daily Herald and Daily Mail with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.9
Daily Mirror, 1926	Container osb 2.10
Daily News, 1926	Container osb 2.11
Emergency Press, Evening News, Evening Standard, Evening Telegraph with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.12
Financial Times and Halifax Courier and Guardian, 1926	Container osb 2.13
The Illustrated London News with notes, 1926	Container osb 2.14
Lock-Out Strike Time Sentinel, Manchester Guardian, Morning Post with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.1
The Queen, Eve, The Lady with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.2
The New Statesman, 1926	Container osb 3.3
Scottish Worker with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.4
Sketch and Sunday Pictorial, 1926	Container osb 3.5
Southern Daily Echo, 1926	Container osb 3.6
The Sphere, 1926	Container osb 3.7
The Spectator, 1926	Container osb 3.8
The Star with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.9
Sunday Worker, 1926	Container osb 3.10

The Times, 1926	Container osb 3.11
Westminster Gazette, 1926	Container osb 3.12
Workers' Daily, 1926	Container osb 3.13
Yorkshire Post, 1926	Container osb 3.14
Local Papers with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.15
Reports from Trade Unions, 1926	Container osb 3.16
Multiple papers regarding football match with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.17
Multiple papers and bulletins from the National Portrait Gallery with notes, 1926	Container osb 3.18
British Gazette, 1926	Container osb 4.1
British Worker, 1926	Container osb 4.2
Daily Express and Sunday Express with notes, 1926	Container osb 4.3
The Star, 1926	Container osb 4.4
The Times, 1926	Container osb 4.5