



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

**Peter Sedgwick Archive
(SEDGWICK)**

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Name of Creator:

Sedgwick, Peter Harold (1934-1983) socialist and author

Extent:

5 Boxes

Administrative/Biographical History:

Peter Sedgwick was born in 1934 and brought up in Liverpool. He gained a scholarship to Balliol College Oxford where he became a communist, leaving the Communist Party in 1956 with other members of the early New Left. He then joined the Socialist Review Group later to become the International Socialists. He wrote brilliantly for the group's press, but also involved himself deeply in all the drudgery and activities of the rank-and-file members. He was always a free spirit and was bitterly opposed to the International Socialism group renaming itself as the Socialist Workers Party in 1976 refusing to join the new organisation while always remaining a man dedicated to the far left. He was editing the works of Victor Serge at the time of his death.

Custodial History:

Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute from Ruskin College, Oxford, 2011.

Scope and Content:

Papers of Peter Sedgwick (1934-1983), including: correspondence with contemporaries and friends including Raphael Samuel, Jean McCrindle, Anna Davin, Luke Hodgkin, Stanley and Hannah Mitchell, Steven Lukes and others, 1953-1983; photocopies of Sedgwick's handwritten diaries, 1980-1983; family, biographical and personal papers, 1934-1952; published articles, reviews and papers regarding politics, psychology and Victor Serge, 1963-1984.

System of Arrangement:

The papers of Peter Sedgwick are divided into the following four sections:

SEDGWICK/1: Correspondence

SEDGWICK /2: Personal Papers

SEDGWICK /3: Diaries

SEDGWICK /4: Articles, writings and correspondence for a proposed memorial volume

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of

the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Archive Catalogue

SEDGWICK/1 Correspondence

1953-
1983

Correspondence with Raphael Samuel, Jean McCrindle, Anna Davin, Stanley Mitchell, Hannah Mitchell, Richard Greeman, Julie Greenman, David Widgery, Shelia Rowbotham, Steven Lukes, Tom Arie, Jon Blishen, David Beetham and others, (1954-1983)

OPEN

SEDGWICK/1/1 Correspondence with Raphael Samuel

1953-1969

Includes:

- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding George Orwell, Vietnam War, Peter's writings and family matters (4pp) (1 November 1969)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding New Left Review, family matters, meetings and the Committee of 100 (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the Institute (?), family matters, the Belgrade Conference and Nigel Harris' article in International Socialism (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Raphael to Peter regarding family matters, possibility of publishing a story in New Left Review (1p) (28 December 1961)
- letter from Raphael to Peter regarding concern on not hearing from Peter for some time (1p) (17 November 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding a housing project, Norman Rankin, New Left Review, the Fourth International and family matters (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Raphael to Peter regarding New Left Review (1p) (c October 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding New Left Review and review writing, The Left Club, Revan Tranter (1p) (1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Local Committee of 100, New Left Review, Socialism, the Labour Party, the Third Programme, family matters and job hunting (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding New Left, New Left Review conference at Stockport and Edward (?), CND (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Cuba tape, Cuba, Popper, Holy Loch, Harry McShane, Theo (?), New Left Review and Independent Socialist Press (2pp) (c1960)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Cameron (?), Gillard Watson, Socialist Commentary, Abrams (?), New Left Review, the book Opinions and Personality, the Cliffs and family matters (3pp) (c1969)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding sending the enclosed on to Geoff Richman, family matters, problems of New Left Review, Peter's desire for Raphael and Denis to re-enter political activity and suing New Left Review for libel (4pp) (18 July 1961)

- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding New Left Review, article by Gary (?) on Kitchener, Tribune and family matters (2pp) (22 June 1961)
- letter from Frances Kelly to Peter regarding Peter's letter to Frances Kelly of New Left Review, Raphael Samuel, issues relating to a solicitor, Stuart (?), Peter's disillusionment with New Left Review, Frances' disillusionment with New Left Review and the possibility of Peter returning to New Left Review (2pp) (22 June 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding apology published by New Left Review, possibility of correspondence with Stuart (?), International Socialism and doodled picture (3pp) (20 June 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Dallin business, apology in New Left Review and Stuart (?) (1p) (20 June 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding New Left Review, Dallin business and Stuart (?) (1p) (16 June 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding being incensed by a book, Bulgamin, the Narodnaya Volga, Stalin's short course, collectivisation, Catcher in the Rye and US Communist Party (2pp) (8 June 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Serge being three-quarters translated, Khmscherite history, family matters and Mark Fisher (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Gary's piece which is enclosed (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Raphael to Peter regarding modifications Raphael made to Peter's work (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding a book review, Socialist Commentary, the book Opinions and Personality, New Left Review and Serge (1p) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Soviet History, the Robert Conquest book, New Left Review, International Socialism, Young Socialist, New Advance, Keep Left, YS, CND, family matters and Stockport conference (1p) (?)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding possibility of Raphael visiting Peter on May Day, Socialist Review, Merseyside Unity, books Peter wishes to review, Dallin, Simon Fabian and a draft for a Feiffer cartoon (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Raphael to Peter regarding Lipset, Freeman, possibility of Raphael visiting Peter, club talk in Leeds, Left Centre and family matters (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Herman Kahn's article on Thermonuclear War in OUP, reviews in New Left Review, a potential review on Gandhi, family matters and Socialist Review Aggregate conference in Chigwell (1p) (c April 1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Gaitskell article, Peter's time constraints, ward meetings in Liverpool, Gaitskell riot, "New Left Revue", family matters, Peter Seglow and an article on an Underground University (2pp) (c1961)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding family matters, International Socialism, Peter returning to the translation at the expense of other activities, review on Imre Nagy Institute, New Left Review, The Adelphi and the Long

Revolution (2pp) (c 1960/1)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Serge's carnets, Verwood (?) and capital punishment, Mercaber (?), Deutscher School, David Ross on the New Left and historical materialism and Socialist Review pamphlets (2pp) (c 1960/1)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding family matters and the possibility of Peter and family staying with Raphael (1p) (c1960)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding family matters and the possibility of Peter and family staying with Raphael and Raphael's book (1p) (c1960)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding sending back Serge's carnets (1p) (c October 1960)
 - letter from Raphael to Peter regarding apologies, family matters and the possibility of Peter and family staying with Raphael (1pp) (29 June 1960)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Serge's carnets, Raphael altering Peter's work, Peter's work frequently being altered or rejected by publications and a review on The Mind of an Assassin by Isaac Don Levine (which is crossed out but commented upon) (2pp) (c1960/1)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Serge's carnets, Theo Molville (?), moving to Liverpool, Peter writing a pamphlet on the Communist Party and the Hydrogen Bombs, CND and several publications (1p) (c 20 September 1960)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the possibility of Raphael lending Peter some money, Peter applying for jobs and Raphael's review of the Youth Report (1p) (c 21 September 1959)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Peter receiving Raphael's money, Pound Lerg (?) candidate, starting teaching at a Secondary Modern school and intention to do educational psychology after teaching (1p) (c 26 September 1959)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding organising speakers other than Bourdet for the Liverpool meeting, London School of Economics, possibility of breaking off contact with the Oxford Society Club and the ULR Club in Oxford (2pp) (c 21 October 1957)
 - letter from (unreadable as in shreds) (2pp) (4 April 1956)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael and Omerga regarding request for money which is written as a poem (2pp) (23 August 1955)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the possibility of Raphael visiting Peter in Liverpool (1p) (12 August 1955)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael (unreadable as in shreds) (4pp) (26 September 1955)
 - letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Raphael's inability to visit Peter in Liverpool, Raphael's visit to Glasgow, possibility of organising a holiday together, Maurice Dobb's book, Vandenberg papers, William Morris' book, Marxism and ethics, Gary (?), Peter's postal argument with Revan Tranter, Roy and Deborah Manley, living in Liverpool, possibility of Raphael writing a thesis on London radicalism, speculation over what the two of them will do next year, issues relating to the Cold War, Russian Baptists inviting Billy Graham to the Baptist

World Alliance Congress and a doodle cartoon (3pp) (23 July 1955)

- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding a trip to Warsaw, books and articles recently read by Peter, 1951 census, subscription of the Oxford Times and family matters (2pp) (8 July 1955)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding life at Balliol before term starts (second page of letter is seemingly missing) (1p) (c1955)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the internal fighting within the Labour Party, Yugoslavia, local Labour Club, cinema and family matters (2pp) (c1955)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding French and German chauvinism, the Bourgeoisie, Eurovision and card playing (2pp) (31 December 1954)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Peter's wish for Raphael to send him an article written for OL (?), working in the post office, (?) and Peter recovering from a cold (2pp) (29 December 1954)
- petition from Balliol College undergraduates decrying the role of the British Government in the dismissal of the government of British Guiana signed by D. Alleyne, Ralph Walden, John Smith, Ralph Samuel, Danny Cohen, Gabriel Pearson, Mark Fisher, Charles M. Taylor, George Isaac, Peter Sedgwick, Mahen Vaithianathan, Gareth Williams and M. Posner (1p) (c1954)
- petition from Balliol College undergraduates opposed to the electrocution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg by the United States Government signed by Gabriel Pearson, Peter Sedgwick, Charles Taylor, Denis Grose, Raphael Walden and John Griffith (1p) (1953)
- letter from Oxford Communist Club discussing the importance of Communism and its role in reshaping Britain and the world, programme of discussions and socials including lectures by George Thomson, R. Palme Dutt, Ewan MacColl, Emile Burns, Idris Cox from Ralph Samuel (Secretary) and Tony Young (Chairman) (1p) (1953)

OPEN

SEDGWICK/1/2 Correspondence with Raphael [Ralph] Samuel (with photograph) 1962-1975

Includes:

- letter from Peter to Raphael including two photos of Peter's family dated (c1961-2) (3pp) (undated)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding a lack of letter writing between Peter and Raphael, friends Peter stays with whilst in London, History Workshop, Perry Anderson style of history, a debate with Laing on 'What is Mental Illness', Leeds allowing Peter to unite his chief interests of psychology and politics, teaching a course on Clinical Psychology and the Politics of Industrial Society with Jeff Gleisner and a course on Fascism at York University (1p) (18 June 1975)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding moving to York, family matters, Serge translation, IS journal, Jean (?), Tim (?) (the top right corner of the page is missing) (1p) (undated)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the possibility of

moving to York and Chimen (?) not getting a job (2pp)
(c1963)

- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Peter's hope that Raphael will visit, views on Sartre, totalitarianism of children's departments in hospitals, and thanking Peter for a cheque (2pp) (c 24 August 1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the "basic laws of the system", Raphael's proposed trip to see Peter, Edwin Brooks, Serge notices, TLS, Brennan book and an article on Serge for IS (1p) (c1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding sending a copy of the Serge book, Telegraph notice, reviews in The Times, Toynbee in The Telegraph and Hingley in The Sunday Times (1p) (c1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Peter seeing Raphael in Oxford and an enclosed Labour Worker pamphlet entitled "Unemployment the Socialist Answer" by Paul Foot (1963) (1p) (c1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the possibility of meeting up in London, working at BM and ISGB (1p) (21 March 1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding family matters, receiving the first proofs of Serge, looking for information on Paul Schmierer, collections received from Vlady and uncertainty over which types of jobs to apply for (1p) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Raphael's resignation from New Left Review, Christianity and its comparison with Judaism and Chimen (?) moving to Israel (2pp) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding how Peter regards the long and short term, Wilson (?) continuing in Gaitskell's (?) path, article by Crossman on pensions, the importance of 'industrial front' in life and its relation to unemployment and 'wages policy', forming a Labour Worker Group around these ideas, the likelihood of building a real Socialist movement, the time and effort wasted on other organisations and family matters and a doodle (4pp) (c1963)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding family matters, not writing on Serge, reading, learning Spanish, 1962 Balliol, NLR, NS and the Spectator (2pp) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding writing an editorial in IS, finishing Serge, Peter Worsley's article in Peace News titled 'Where is Socialism', being invited to Sir Robert and Lady Aitken's daughter's wedding and family matters (1p) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding job hunting, holding on to Secrets, Mike Artis and being in the last chapter of Serge (1p) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding Serge, family matters, job hunting, The Appeasers, Harold Wilson and the introduction to the book on Serge (20pp) (c1962)
- letter from Peter to Raphael regarding the possibility of meeting up, New Left Review and family matters (1p) (c1961/2)

OPEN

SEDGWICK/1/3	Correspondence with Raphael [Ralph] Samuel (photo copies only, partly duplicating 1/2)	1954-1961
	Correspondence with Raphael [Ralph] Samuel (photo copies only, partly duplicating 1/2) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/4	Correspondence with Raphael [Ralph] Samuel (typed for inclusion in proposed volume) (see 4/1)	1954-1975
	Correspondence with Raphael [Ralph] Samuel (typed for inclusion in proposed volume) (see 4/1) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/5	Correspondence with Jean McCrindle	1955-1978
	Correspondence with Jean McCrindle OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/6	Correspondence with Jean McCrindle (photo copies, some duplication with 1/5)	1955-1956
	Correspondence with Jean McCrindle (photo copies, some duplication with 1/5) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/7	Correspondence with Anna Davin and Luke Hodgkin (photo copies with covering letter 1 Feb 1984 from Anna Davin to Steven Lukes)	1956-1968
	Correspondence with Anna Davin and Luke Hodgkin (photo copies with covering letter 1 Feb 1984 from Anna Davin to Steven Lukes) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/8	Correspondence with Anna Davin and Luke Hodgkin (photo copies with covering letter 1 Feb 1984 from Anna Davin to Steven Lukes) (typed for inclusion in proposed volume)	1956-1968
	Correspondence with Anna Davin and Luke Hodgkin (photo copies with covering letter 1 Feb 1984 from Anna Davin to Steven Lukes) (typed for inclusion in proposed volume) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/1/9	Correspondence with Stanley & Hannah Mitchell (photocopies)	1960-1963
	Correspondence with Stanley & Hannah Mitchell (photocopies) OPEN	

- SEDGWICK/1/10 Correspondence with Richard and Julie Greeman (with covering letter 31 May 1984 from R Greeman to S Lukes) 1964-1983**
- Correspondence with Richard and Julie Greeman (with covering letter 31 May 1984 from R Greeman to S Lukes)
OPEN
- SEDGWICK/1/12 Correspondence with David Widgery and Sheila Rowbotham (photo copies, with copy of letter 3 Aug 1984 from D Widgery to S Lukes) (typed for inclusion in proposed volume) (see 4/1) 1971-1983**
- Correspondence with David Widgery and Sheila Rowbotham (photo copies, with copy of letter 3 Aug 1984 from D Widgery to S Lukes) (typed for inclusion in proposed volume) (see 4/1)
OPEN
- SEDGWICK/1/13 Correspondence with Steven Lukes (some photocopies) including references for P Sedgwick job applications [CONFIDENTIAL] 1967-1983**
- Correspondence with Steven Lukes (some photocopies) including references for P Sedgwick job applications
CLOSED
- SEDGWICK/1/14 Correspondence with Tom Arie (photo copies, with copy of letter 12 Jun 1984 to S Lukes) and between Tom Arie and others 1963-1974**
- Correspondence with Tom Arie (photo copies, with copy of letter 12 Jun 1984 to S Lukes) and between Tom Arie and others
OPEN
- SEDGWICK/1/15 Correspondence with Jon Blishen (re-typed copies with copy of letter 1 Nov [?1983] to Peter Robinson) 1977-1982**
- Correspondence with Jon Blishen (re-typed copies with copy of letter 1 Nov [?1983] to Peter Robinson)
OPEN
- SEDGWICK/1/16 Correspondence with various addressees (some photo copies) including: 'Index on Censorship'; Critique editorial board; Alan and Janet Wallach; Tamara and David Ross; Fiona [?]; Gordon [?]; Bernard [?]; Dick [?]; James [?]; Greg [?]; Hillel [?]; Steve [?] 1975-1983**
- Correspondence with various addressees (some photo copies) including: 'Index on Censorship'; Critique editorial board; Alan and Janet Wallach; Tamara and David Ross; Fiona [?]; Gordon [?]; Bernard [?]; Dick [?]; James [?]; Greg [?]; Hillel [?]; Steve [?]
OPEN

SEDGWICK/1/17 Correspondence with Leeds University (David Beetham) regarding leave of absence and for senior lectureship 1982-1983

Correspondence with Leeds University (David Beetham) regarding leave of absence and for senior lectureship
OPEN

SEDGWICK/2	Personal Papers	1934-1983
	Personal papers of Peter Sedgwick, (1934-1983) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/2/1	Papers concerning dissolution of second marriage	1982-1983
	Papers concerning dissolution of second marriage CLOSED	
SEDGWICK/2/2	Sedgwick family and Liverpool Collegiate School: photographs, school reports, magazines and MS notes (with correspondence 1983-1984 from S Lukes, Brian Sedgwick)	1934-1952
	Sedgwick family and Liverpool Collegiate School: photographs, school reports, magazines and MS notes (with correspondence 1983-1984 from S Lukes, Brian Sedgwick) OPEN	
SEDGWICK/2/3	Obituaries; papers, correspondence about memorial meeting (4 Nov)	1983
	Obituaries; papers, correspondence about memorial meeting (4 Nov) OPEN	

SEDGWICK/3	Diaries	1980-1983
	Diaries CLOSED	
SEDGWICK/3/1	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 3 Mar – 17 Sep	1980
	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 3 Mar – 17 Sep CLOSED	
SEDGWICK/3/2	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 20 Sep 1980 – 2 May 1981, plus pages from address book	1980-1981
	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 20 Sep 1980 – 2 May 1981, plus pages from address book CLOSED	
SEDGWICK/3/3	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 2 May 1981 – 14 Mar 1982 (A3 photo copies)	1981-1982
	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 2 May 1981 – 14 Mar 1982 (A3 photo copies) CLOSED	
SEDGWICK/3/4	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 6 Mar 1982 – 8 Aug 1983 (A3 photo copies)	1982-1983
	'Diary': photocopies of MS pages, 6 Mar 1982 – 8 Aug 1983 (A3 photo copies) CLOSED	

SEDGWICK/4	Articles, writings and correspondence for a proposed memorial volume	1969-1992
	Articles, writings and correspondence for a proposed memorial volume OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/1	Proposed 'memorial volume': lists of P Sedgwick's writings; correspondence; draft introduction	1983-1984
	Proposed 'memorial volume': lists of P Sedgwick's writings; correspondence; draft introduction OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/2	Proposed 'memorial volume': lists of P Sedgwick's writings; correspondence; draft introduction	1985-1992
	Proposed 'memorial volume': lists of P Sedgwick's writings; correspondence; draft introduction OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/3	P Sedgwick, Psycho Politics (London, Pluto, 1982): original material, correspondence, published reviews	1982
	P Sedgwick, Psycho Politics (London, Pluto, 1982): original material, correspondence, published reviews OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/4	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on psychology	1972-1981
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on psychology OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/5	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on psychology, including conference papers; closely related correspondence	1982-1984
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on psychology, including conference papers; closely related correspondence OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/6	P Sedgwick writings on Victor Serge; related correspondence	1963-1984
	P Sedgwick writings on Victor Serge; related correspondence OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/7	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics	1957-1961
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics OPEN	

SEDGWICK/4/8	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics	1962-1968
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/9	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics	1969
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics OPEN	
SEDGWICK/4/10	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics	1970-1982
	Published articles, reviews etc. primarily on politics OPEN	