



HISTORY WORKSHOP EVENTS ARCHIVE

(RS 7)

Name of Creator: History Workshop

Extent: 108 files

Administrative/Biographical History: History Workshop was a popular movement for the democratisation of History which flourished in Britain from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s (with sporadic activity continuing into the 1990s). It emerged from Ruskin College Oxford where Raphael Samuel, the movement's initiator and presiding spirit, taught history for many decades. During the 1970s History Workshop spread across Britain, spawning dozens of regional and local initiatives, publishing many books, pamphlets and journals (including the still-extant History Workshop Journal), and acquiring influence throughout intellectual and educational circles. During these years, the movement also went international, spawning sister workshops in Germany, France, Italy, South Africa and America. Its high point was reached in the late 1970s, and thereafter it went into a slow decline, although many of the developments it helped to foster (such as oral history and women's history) continue to flourish today.

The early workshops were Ruskin-based, participant-led events that drew on what Raphael Samuel described as a 'fluid coalition of worker-students from Ruskin and other socialist historians'. The first one, 'A Day with the Chartists', held in 1967, was a modest affair with about 50 in attendance. But five years later a workshop on 'Workers' Control' attracted over 700 and by the mid-1970s the workshops had become major festivals of history, attracting up to a thousand participants. While the themes explored varied widely, the events were primarily a showcase for history seen from a non-elite perspective, 'people's history' as it was labelled. In the early years this meant primarily working-class history but over time, after some controversy, it expanded to include the new women's history, for which the History Workshops were the primary seedbed.

Custodial History: Transferred to Bishopsgate Institute from Ruskin College, 2012.

Scope and Content: Papers regarding History Workshop events, including: Papers regarding the general administration of History Workshop events, including: correspondence between Ruskin College and History Workshop; minutes and papers of the History Workshop Collective, the History Workshop Housing Group, the Federation of History Workshops and the History Workshop Memory and Myth Working Group; press and publicity sheets from History Workshop events, 1968-1989; Papers, draft papers, correspondence, programmes, press cuttings, lists of attendees, financial papers, notes and publicity material from all of the History Workshops held at Ruskin College and elsewhere, 1966-1995; Correspondence, minutes, papers, programmes, publicity materials and notes from local and specialist History Workshops, including material from the Co-operative History Workshop, Television History Workshop, Language and Class Workshop, Massachusetts History

Workshop, East London History Workshop and History Workshops from around the UK, 1974-1993.

System of Arrangement:

The History Workshop Events Archive is divided into the following four series:

RS 7/001-008: History Workshops in general

RS 7/009-089: Individual History Workshops

RS 7/101-116: Local and Specialist History Workshops

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

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Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

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.

RS 7/001-008	History Workshops in general Papers regarding the general administration of History Workshop events, including: correspondence between Ruskin College and History Workshop; minutes and papers of the History Workshop Collective, the History Workshop Housing Group, the Federation of History Workshops and the History Workshop Memory and Myth Working Group; press and publicity sheets from History Workshop events, 1968-1989. OPEN	1968-1989
RS 7/001	Ruskin College and History Workshop: correspondence, programmes, finance (examples) OPEN	1968-1982
RS 7/002	History Workshop Collective (Executive): minutes OPEN	1975-1977
RS 7/003	HW Housing Group: minutes OPEN	1977
RS 7/004	Federation of History Workshops: minutes, correspondence OPEN	1980
RS 7/005	Federation of History Workshops: Bulletin No. 1 (September) OPEN	1980
RS 7/006	HW Memory and Myth Working Group: minutes OPEN	1984

RS 7/007	(National) media comment on HW, including Feb-Mar 1980, 'New Statesman' series of articles	1975-1989
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OPEN

RS 7/008	HW Publicity sheets (spare copies)	1968-1989
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OPEN

RS 7/009-089	Individual History Workshops	1966-1995
	Papers, draft papers, correspondence, programmes, press cuttings, lists of attendees, financial papers, notes, and publicity material from all of the History Workshops held at Ruskin College and elsewhere, 1966-1995. OPEN	
RS 7/009	‘A Day with the Chartists’ [HW 1] 4 Mar 1967, Ruskin College: correspondence, programme	1966-1968
	OPEN	
RS 7/010	‘A Day with the Chartists’ [HW 1] 4 Mar 1967, Ruskin College: papers	1967
	OPEN	
RS 7/011	‘Education and the Working Class in 19th Century England’ (HW2), 4 Nov 1967, Ruskin: correspondence, programme	1967
	OPEN	
RS 7/012	‘Education and the Working Class in 19th Century England’ (HW2), 4 Nov 1967, Ruskin: papers	1967
	OPEN	
RS 7/013	‘The English Countryside in the 19th Century’ [HW3] 16-17 Nov 1968, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, finance	1968-1969
	OPEN	
RS 7/014	History Workshop 4, 29-30 November 1969, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, press cuttings	1969
	OPEN	
RS 7/015	History Workshop Theatre, ‘The Factory Lad’, 4-6 June 1970, Ruskin: programme	1970
	OPEN	

RS 7/016	'Workers' Control in 19th Century England' (HW 5) (includes 'The Factory Lad', see 7/015), 13-14 Feb 1971, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, press cuttings, photograph	1970-1971
	OPEN	
RS 7/017	'Popular Culture, Past and Present', 18-20 June 1971, Birmingham University: MS notes, correspondence, programme (and Ruskin College summer term HW programme)	1971
	OPEN	
RS 7/018	'Childhood in History: children's liberation' (HW 6), 5-7 May 1972, Ruskin: programme, papers, MS notes, finance	1972
	OPEN	
RS 7/019	'Childhood in History: children's liberation' (HW 6), 5-7 May 1972, Ruskin: papers	1971-1973
	OPEN	
RS 7/020	'Women in History' (HW 7), 4-6 May 1973, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, press cutting	1972-1973
	OPEN	
RS 7/021	'Women in History' (HW 7), 4-6 May 1973, Ruskin: papers (typescript, MS, some relating to proposed book)	1973
	OPEN	
RS 7/022	'Family, Work, Home' [HW 8], 20-21 Oct 1973, London School of Economics: correspondence, MS notes, programme	1973
	OPEN	

RS 7/023	'Family, Work, Home' [HW 8], 20-21 Oct 1973, London School of Economics: papers (relating to proposed book, typescript, some related correspondence)	1973
	OPEN	
RS 7/024	'Britain Between the Wars' (HW 9), 2-4 May 1975, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, finance, papers	1974-1976
	OPEN	
RS 7/025	'On the Waterfront', 27-28 June 1975, London School of Economics (joint HW – Essex Oral History Project): programme, correspondence, MS notes	1975
	OPEN	
RS 7/026	'Working Class Consciousness', 10-12 Apr 1976, Manchester Polytechnic: correspondence, MS notes	1975-1976
	OPEN	
RS 7/027	'Workers Education and Class Consciousness' (HW 10), 29-30 May 1976, Ruskin: correspondence, (Collective) minutes	1975-1976
	OPEN	
RS 7/028	'Workers Education and Class Consciousness' (HW 10), 29-30 May 1976, Ruskin: programme, papers, MS notes	1976
	OPEN	
RS 7/029	'Chapters in the History of Sociology', 26-27 June 1976, [London] City University: correspondence, minutes ('Counter Sociology Group' and others), drafts	1975
	OPEN	

RS 7/030	'Chapters in the History of Sociology', 1976: correspondence, drafts, MS notes, programme	1976
	OPEN	
RS 7/031	'Rank and File Movements' (HW 11), 21-22 May 1977, Ruskin: correspondence, mailing lists, programme	1976-1977
	OPEN	
RS 7/032	Dublin History Workshops, 10-12 Mar 1978; 2-4 Nov 1979, [Dublin] Liberty Hall: correspondence, programmes, MS notes, press cuttings	1977-1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/033	'Art and Society History Workshop', 3-4 June 1978, City of London Polytechnic: correspondence, minutes ('Art and Society Group'), programme	1977-1978
	OPEN	
RS 7/034	'In Our Time, Britain 1945-1978' (HW 12), 22-23 Oct 1978, Ruskin: correspondence	1977-1978
	OPEN	
RS 7/035	'In Our Time, Britain 1945-1978' (HW 12), 22-23 Oct 1978, Ruskin: MS notes, programme, papers	1978
	OPEN	
RS 7/036	'Realism, Art and Society (2)', 12-14 Oct 1979, City of London Polytechnic: correspondence, minutes, MS notes, programme	1978-1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/037	'People's History and Socialist Theory' (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: minutes (planning meetings), MS notes, programme	1979
	OPEN	

RS 7/038	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: correspondence (pre-Workshop)	1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/039	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: correspondence (post-Workshop), photographs	1979-1980
	OPEN	
RS 7/040	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: position papers	1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/041	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: position papers	1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/042	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: Tim Mason, ‘Open Questions in thinking about Nazism’	1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/043	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: session reports (typescript, MS)	1979
	OPEN	
RS 7/044	‘People’s History and Socialist Theory’ (HW 13), 30 Nov-2 Dec 1979, Ruskin: press cuttings	1979-1980
	OPEN	
RS 7/045	‘Science and Society History Workshop’, 23-24 Feb 1980, London University: correspondence, minutes (planning), programme	1979-1980
	OPEN	

RS 7/046	'Language and History' (HW 14), 14-16 Nov 1980, Brighton Polytechnic; (Collective) minutes, MS notes, programme	1979-1980
	OPEN	
RS 7/047	'Language and History' (HW 14), 14-16 Nov 1980, Brighton Polytechnic; correspondence	1979-1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/048	'History and Politics Now' (HW 15), 6-8 Nov 1981, Brighton Polytechnic: (Collective) minutes, MS notes, programme	1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/049	'History and Politics Now' (HW 15), 6-8 Nov 1981, Brighton Polytechnic: correspondence	1980-1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/050	'Regionalism and Socialism' (HW 16), 5-7 Nov 1982, Sheffield City Polytechnic: correspondence, programme	1982
	OPEN	
RS 7/051	'Victorian Values, historians take issue with Mrs. Thatcher', 22 May 1983, Ruskin: correspondence, publicity material, press cuttings, typescript [? For publication] [in original folder]	1983-1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/052	'Religion and Society', 7-9 July 1983, Friends House, London: correspondence, minutes of meetings, MS notes	1979-1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/053	'Religion and Society', 7-9 July 1983, Friends House, London: correspondence, minutes of meetings, MS notes	1982-1984
	OPEN	

RS 7/054	'Religion and Society', 7-9 July 1983, Friends House, London: programme, papers	1983
	OPEN	
RS 7/055	'Industrialisation and After' (HW 17), 11-13 Nov 1983, Manchester Polytechnic: correspondence, programme, papers	1983
	OPEN	
RS 7/056	'Ideology and Myth in the Making of English National Identity', 10-11 Mar 1984, Ruskin: correspondence, MS notes, programme	1983-1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/057	'19th Century Liberalism, an international perspective', 8-10 June 1984, Somerville College, Oxford: correspondence, MS notes, programme	1983-1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/058	'19th Century Liberalism, an international perspective', 8-10 June 1984, Somerville College, Oxford: papers	1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/059	'19th Century Liberalism, an international perspective', 8-10 June 1984, Somerville College, Oxford: papers	1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/060	'History Workshop 18', 16-18 Nov 1984, Moat Community College, Leicester: MS notes, correspondence, programme	1984
	OPEN	
RS 7/061	'Miners' [History] Weekend', 22-24 Mar 1985, Ruskin: minutes of meetings, correspondence, MS notes, programme, finance	1984-1985
	OPEN	

RS 7/062	'Miners' [History] Weekend', 22-24 Mar 1985, Ruskin: miners' support groups printed matter (in original wallet)	1984-1985
	OPEN	
RS 7/063	'Whose History Is It Anyway?' (HW 19), 22-24 Nov 1985, Leeds Polytechnic: correspondence, programme, papers	1985
	OPEN	
RS 7/064	'Uses of History' (HW 20), 21-23 Nov 1986, Leeds Polytechnic: minutes of meetings, correspondence (minimal)	1986
	OPEN	
RS 7/065	'Uses of History' (HW 20), 21-23 Nov 1986, Leeds Polytechnic: programme, publicity material	1986
	OPEN	
RS 7/066	'Speaking for Ourselves?' (HW 21), 20-22 Nov 1987, Newcastle Polytechnic: minutes of meetings, convener's report, correspondence (minimal)	1987-1988
	OPEN	
RS 7/067	'Speaking for Ourselves?' (HW 21), 20-22 Nov 1987, Newcastle Polytechnic: programme, publicity material	1987
	OPEN	
RS 7/068	'Answering Back' (HW 22), 18-20 Nov 1988, Brighton Polytechnic: correspondence, draft papers, publicity material	1987-1988
	OPEN	
RS 7/069	'Answering Back' (HW 22), 18-20 Nov 1988, Brighton Polytechnic: introduction and synopses	1988
	OPEN	

RS 7/070	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (HW [Journal] Conference), 3 June 1989, Ruskin: correspondence, finance	1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/071	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (HW [Journal] Conference), 3 June 1989, Ruskin: programme, papers	1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/072	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (HW [Journal] Conference), 3 June 1989, Ruskin: press cuttings	1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/073	'Class, Community and Conflict' (HW 23), 3-5 Nov 1989, Salford University: programme, press cutting	1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/074	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (recall conference) 19 May 1990, Ruskin: correspondence, finance, MS notes	1990
	OPEN	
RS 7/075	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (recall conference) 19 May 1990, Ruskin: programme, papers, list of attendees	1990
	OPEN	
RS 7/076	'History, the Nation and the Schools' (recall conference) 19 May 1990, Ruskin: press cuttings and related correspondence	1990
	OPEN	
RS 7/077	'History Workshop 24', 17-18 Nov 1990, Glasgow College: press announcement only	1990
	OPEN	

RS 7/078	'Future of English: History, the Nation and the Schools/3', 16 June 1991, Ruskin: correspondence, programme, press cutting, MS notes	1990-1991
	OPEN	
RS 7/079	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, Ruskin (HW 25th anniversary): correspondence, (collective) minutes press cuttings	1990-1992
	OPEN	
RS 7/080	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, Ruskin (HW 25th anniversary): programme, papers, publicity material	1991
	OPEN	
RS 7/080A	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, address lists, correspondence, papers of collective meetings. (deposited by Hilda Kean, 5/11/2011)	1990-1991
	OPEN	
RS 7/080B	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, correspondence, papers (deposited by Hilda Kean, 5/11/2011)	1991
	OPEN	
RS 7/080C	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, correspondence, papers regarding strands of the conference (deposited by Hilda Kean, 5/11/2011)	1990-1991
	OPEN	
RS 7/080D	'People's Histories, National Histories' (HW 25), 8-10 Nov 1991, correspondence, papers (deposited by Hilda Kean, 5/11/2011)	1992
	OPEN	

RS 7/081	'Rediscovering Ourselves' (HW 26), 6-8 Nov 1992, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic: correspondence, programme, drafts	1992
	OPEN	
RS 7/082	'Fascism in Perspective', 19-20 Mar 1993, St Peter's College, Oxford: programme only	1993
	OPEN	
RS 7/083	'Nationalism and Regionalism' (HW 27), 19-21 Nov 1993, Leeds Metropolitan University: correspondence, programme	1992-1993
	OPEN	
RS 7/084	'End of History' (HW 28), 11-13 Nov 1994, Brighton: programme	1994
	OPEN	
RS 7/085	'History, the Nation and the Schools 4, Scottish Dimension', 24-26 Mar 1995, Ruskin: correspondence, minutes, MS notes	1993-1995
	OPEN	
RS 7/086	'History, the Nation and the Schools 4, Scottish Dimension', 24-26 Mar 1995, Ruskin: programme, papers, photographs	1995
	OPEN	
RS 7/087	'History, the Nation and the Schools 4, Scottish Dimension', 24-26 Mar 1995, Ruskin: papers (2 bound volumes)	1995
	OPEN	
RS 7/088	'History, the Nation and the Schools 4, Scottish Dimension', 24-26 Mar 1995, Ruskin: papers (loose)	1995
	OPEN	

RS 7/089 'E P Thompson and the uses of History', HW 1994-1995
Conference, 8 Jul 1994, Conway Hall,
London: programme, press cutting

OPEN

RS 7/101-116	Local and Specialist History Workshops	1974-1993
	Correspondence, minutes, papers, programmes, publicity materials and notes from local and specialist History Workshops, including material from the Co-operative History Workshop, Television History Workshop, Language and Class Workshop, Massachusetts History Workshop, East London History Workshop and History Workshops from around the UK, 1974-1993. OPEN	
RS 7/101	(London) Co-operative History Workshops: correspondence, minutes	1982-1985
	OPEN	
RS 7/101A	Co-operative History Workshops: correspondence, minutes (deposited by Hilda Kean, 5/11/2011)	1992-1993
	OPEN	
RS 7/102	(London) Co-operative History Workshops: correspondence, minutes	1986-1987
	OPEN	
RS 7/103	(London) Co-operative History Workshops: programmes, publicity material	1984-1987
	OPEN	
RS 7/104	The Television History Workshop: correspondence, MS notes	1981-1990
	OPEN	
RS 7/105	The Television History Workshop: program notes, proposals (papers donated by Barbara Taylor)	1982
	OPEN	
RS 7/106	The Television History Workshop: publicity material	1985-1993
	OPEN	

RS 7/107	Language and Class Workshop: newsletter, agenda	1974
	OPEN	
RS 7/110	Merseyside, 1976; East Anglia 1977; Kent 1977-1981; Birmingham and Black Country, 1976-1977; Coventry, 1977; Northern Ireland, 1977; Manchester (Young People) 1977; Oxfordshire (Local History) 1977; Bristol 1977	1976-1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/111	South Yorkshire 1979; Manchester (UMIST) 1979-1980; Nottingham, 1981; Ireland, 1982; Hastings, 1984; Salford 1989	1977-1989
	OPEN	
RS 7/112	East London History Workshops	1976-1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/113	Other London local HWs: South East London; Central London; Hanwell; Waltham Forest; Battersea; Tufnell Park; Tottenham; Gospel Oak; Islington	1978-1981
	OPEN	
RS 7/114	History Workshop Journal London seminars	1981-1990
	OPEN	
RS 7/115	‘William Morris Day’: correspondence etc.	1982
	OPEN	
RS 7/116	Massachusetts History Workshop: correspondence	1979-1985
	OPEN	