



**(Clifford) James Hemming  
(HEMMING)**

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**HEMMING    HEMMING, (Clifford) James (1909-2007)    1945-2010**

**Name of Creator:**

Hemming, (Clifford) James (1909-2007)  
educationist, writer and humanist

**Extent:**

2 Boxes

**Administrative/Biographical History:**

James Hemming was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, had a sporadic formal education, but he earned a BA through a correspondence course at Birkbeck College, London. He taught in schools in Bristol, Bournemouth and lastly at Isleworth grammar school, Middlesex. When the second world war broke out, he stayed at Isleworth and taught English and PE. He started a campaign to get the cane abolished in schools, bringing considerable odium from the educational establishment.

His first book, *The Child is Right - a Challenge to Parents and Other Adults* (1947), was written in collaboration with Josephine Balls. *Instead of God* is subtitled *A Pragmatic Reconsideration of Beliefs and Values*; *The Betrayal of Youth* tackles the secondary educational system, warning against an overemphasis on academic values. He gave much time and energy to the British Humanist Association, serving as its President between 1977 and 1980. His other books included *Problems of Adolescent Girls*, *Individual Morality*, *Sex Education in Schools*, *Sex and Love*, and *You and Your Adolescent*.

Hemming appeared as a defence witness in the Penguin Books obscenity trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in 1960 and was a regular panel member on the 1970s BBC programme *If You Think You've Got Problems*. During the 1980s and 90s, he was a humanist representative on the Religious Education Council of England and Wales, an honorary associate of the Rationalist Association and a vice-president of the Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association.

**Custodial History:**

Deposited with Bishopsgate Library by Anne Almond, 21 December 2009.

**Scope and Content:**

Papers of educationalist, writer and humanist (Clifford) James Hemming (1909-2007), including: curriculum vitae and obituary notices, 2007-2008; personal material, including texts of interviews, cartoons and poems/jottings, 1987-2008; miscellaneous articles, papers and published letters, 1951-1999; correspondence, 1962-2000; press cuttings and ephemera, 1945-1960; papers regarding involvement with the World Education Fellowship, 1969-2008; programme for the James Hemming Essay Prize, 2009; copy of Hemming's PhD, Some Problems of Adolescent Girls, 1957; photographs, 1977-2007.

**System of Arrangement:**

No further arrangement required.

**Language/scripts of material:**

English

**Access conditions:**

OPEN

**Copying conditions:**

Documents cannot be photocopied at present. 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

## HEMMING/1 Curriculum Vitae

1997

Includes:

- typescript curriculum vitae, 'Dr. James Hemming F.B.Ps.S. CV and writings', by James Hemming (1p) (6 May 1997)
- typescript curriculum vitae, 'James Hemming', by James Hemming (1p) (n.d.)

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## HEMMING/2 Obituaries and BHA Celebration

2007-2008

Includes:

- photocopy of press cutting, 'Moral educationist dies', from The Times Educational Supplement (1p) (11 January 2008)
- scan of press cutting, 'Obituaries', from The Guardian (1p) (14 March 2008)
- annotated article, 'Humanist educationist and activist Dr James Hemming has dies peacefully at the age of 98 in Teddington Hospital (25/12/07)', [www.humanism.org.uk](http://www.humanism.org.uk) (2pp) (n.d.)
- serial, 'Ed-lines', Spring 2008, published by British Humanist Association (4pp) (2008)
- article, 'GALHA mourns the death of gay rights defender: Dr. James Hemming dies at age 98', [www.gaynews.org.uk](http://www.gaynews.org.uk) (2pp) (n.d.)
- handbill, 'The British Humanist Association invites you to a celebration of the life of Dr James Hemming (1909-2007)', by the British Humanist Association (1p) (7 April 2008)
- typescript programme, 'A celebration of the life of Dr James Hemming: 1909-2007', by the British Humanist Association (4pp) (7 April 2008)

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## HEMMING/3 Personal Papers

2005-2008

Includes:

- annotated typescript article, 'Obituary of James Hemming: 09 September 1909-25 December 2007 (original un-cut version)', by Ashley Jones for The Guardian (2pp) (3 February 2008)
- Transcript of 'A celebration of the life of Dr James Hemming: 1909-2007. Brockway Room, Conway Hall: 2.30pm, 7th April 2008',

- compressed version (19pp) (7 April 2008)
- transcript of 'A celebration of the life of Dr James Hemming: 1909-2007. Brockway Room, Conway Hall: 2.30pm, 7th April 2008', original text as received from Caroline Black (29pp) (7 April 2008)
- annotated typescript transcript of a series of interviews with James Hemming, by Dr. Victor Maxwell (7pp) (14 August 2005)
- annotated typescript note, 'An example of James' sense of humour', by Anne Almond (1p) (2007)
- 7 cartoons, sent to Kay Hemming, by James Hemming (7pp) (n.d.)
- typescript poem, 'On being 80: a sonnet', by James Hemming (1p) (n.d.)
- handwritten poem, 'In diligence & restraint: a rather personal ode about living', by James Hemming (3pp) (n.d.)
- handwritten poem, 'Kay', by James Hemming (1p) (n.d.)
- annotated typescript poem, 'En route', by James Hemming (1p) (n.d.)
- handwritten poem, by James Hemming (1p) (n.d.)

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**HEMMING/4 Articles, Papers and Published Letters**

**1951-1999**

Includes:

- pamphlet, 'The dilemma in education', by James Hemming (15pp) (1951)
- article, 'The physiology of moral maturity', by James Hemming, from the Journal of Moral Education, vol. 20, no. 2 (11pp) (1991)
- article, 'Sexual paperchase', by James Hemming, from New Society (2pp) (12 August 1976)
- article, 'The future of the planet', by James Hemming, from New Humanist, vol. 114, no. 2, Rationalist Press Association website, [www.rationalist.org.uk](http://www.rationalist.org.uk) (2pp) (June 1999)
- article, 'Reasons to be cheerful', by James Hemming (6pp) (n.d.)
- article, '12. Personal conundrum', by James Hemming (2pp) (n.d.)
- article, 'Jesus was a Humanist', by James Hemming (10pp) (n.d.)
- article, 'The power of consciousness', by James Hemming (8pp) (n.d.)

- annotated typescript notes, 'Notes on Dartington', by James Hemming (4pp) (n.d.)
- annotated typescript notes, concerning sex education and young people (1p) (n.d.)
- print out of letter, 'Tony's friends' from James Hemming to The Independent, originally published on 14 August 1995, printed from www.findarticles.com (1p) (14 August 1995)
- letter, to the editor of The Observer, from James Hemming, concerning the murder of James Bulger and violence within the media (1p) (29 October 1999)
- letter, to the editor of New Humanist, from James Hemming, concerning Martin O'Brien's questioning of James Hemming's religious beliefs (1p) (18 May 1999)
- article, 'The fudging must stop', by James Hemming (1p) (April 1999)

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**HEMMING/5 Personal Correspondence**

**1962-2000**

Includes:

- letter, to David (Attenborough?), from James Hemming, concerning environmental protection (1p) (24 January 1997)
- letter, to David Attenborough, from James Hemming, concerning David Attenborough's appointment as president of the B.A. and Hemming's paper on "morality in the natural processes of life's evolution on earth" (1p) (31 August 1991)
- handwritten letter, to James Hemming, from David Attenborough in reply to the letter dated the 31 August 1991 (1p) (20 September 1991)
- letter, to Prime Minister (Tony Blair), from James Hemming, concerning the Labour Party's political message and voter empathy (1p) (14 May 2001)
- photocopy of letter, to Tony Blair, M.P., from James Hemming, concerning the education system (1p) (15 October 1996)
- letter, to James Hemming, from S. Gibson, Assistant to Tony Blair, M.P., in reply to the letter dated the 15 October 1996 (1p) (3 September 1996)
- photocopy of letter, to Antony Blair, M.P., from James Hemming, concerning Labour's time in government (1p) (22 August 1996)

- letter, to Jack Straw, M.P., from James Hemming, concerning government policy on oil reserves and climate change (2pp) (8 November 2000)
- letter, to James Hemming, from Jack Straw, M.P., in reply to the letter dated the 27 February 1995 (1p) (13 March 1995)
- letter, to Jack Straw, M.P., from James Hemming, concerning Jack Straw's article in The Independent on Sunday about South Africa (1p) (14 April 1994)
- handwritten letter, to James Hemming, from Jack (Straw?), in reply to James Hemming's letter of congratulations (1p) (24 May 1979)
- letter/report, from James Hemming, concerning 'the quality of the school community' and the Teddington Lawn Tennis Club (6pp) (4 May 1990)
- letter, to James Hemming, from Jack Straw, M.P., in reply to the letter dated 31 January 1990 (1p) (26 April 1990)
- letter, to Sir Julian Huxley, from James Hemming, concerning school curriculum and psychometabolism (1p) (8 January 1963)
- letter, to James Hemming, from Sir Julian Huxley, concerning scientific theories (1p) (21 December 1962)
- letter, to Sir Julian Huxley, from James Hemming, concerning Huxley's book "The Human Framework" (2pp) (18 December 1962)
- draft copy of letter, to Sir Julian Huxley, from James Hemming, concerning Huxley's book "The Human Framework" (2pp) (18 December 1962)
- letter, to James Hemming, from Sir Julian Huxley, concerning Huxley's book "The Human Framework" and a trip to West Africa (1p) (5 January 1962)

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**HEMMING/6 Ephemera and Press Cuttings**

**1945-1960**

Includes:

- pamphlet, 'Carshalton division of Surrey: general election polling day Thursday, July 5th: James Hemming, B.A.: The Common Wealth candidate', published by Margery Low, agent for James Hemming (4pp) (1945)
- handbill, 'The New Education Fellowship invites you to hear a public lecture by Mr. James

Hemming, a well-known English educationist:  
subject "teach then to live" (2pp) (19 October  
1949)

- press cutting, 'Talk on new English course',  
from The Umtali Post (1p) (13 January 1960)

- press cutting, 'Psychologist's advice to  
parents: trust in life, avoid teenager problems'  
(1p) (n.d.)

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**HEMMING/7 World Education Fellowship Papers**

**1969-2008**

Includes:

- 'James Hemming: life time achievement award  
presented by the World Education Fellowship:  
March 23rd, 2007. A small selection of  
members' testimonies from around the world',  
published by the World Education Fellowship  
(13pp) (23 March 2007)

- serial, 'New era in education: James Hemming  
1909-2007', The Journal of the World Education  
Fellowship, vol. 89, no. 1 (33pp) (April 2008)

- annotated programme, 'World Education  
Fellowship international conference: education  
for the 1970's: social change and social  
conscience: 30th July to 1st August, 1969',  
published by the World Education Fellowship  
(4pp) (1969)

- 'Guiding committee officers', from World  
Education Fellowship - International website,  
[www.wef-international.org/officers](http://www.wef-international.org/officers) (1p) (n.d.)

- print out of search results for "Dr James  
Hemming", from [www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com) (2pp) (28  
August 2005)

**OPEN**

**HEMMING/8 BBC and BHA Papers**

**1987**

Includes:

- typescript abstracts of James Hemming's  
contributions to BBC television and radio  
programmes (11pp) (n.d.)

- article, 'James Hemming, Humanist, child  
psychologist, writer and activist (born  
September 1909)', from British Humanist  
Association website, [www.humanism.org.uk](http://www.humanism.org.uk)  
(2pp) (n.d.) (2 copies)

- article, 'Positive images', The Gay Humanist,  
Spring 1987, from Gay and Lesbian Humanist  
Association website, [www.galha.org](http://www.galha.org) (2pp)



(1987)

- typescript biography of James Hemming, by John White, British Humanist Association (4pp)

(n.d.)

- typescript list of James Hemming's quotations, by John White, British Humanist Association

(5pp) (n.d.)

**OPEN**

**HEMMING/9 James Hemming Prize Essays**

**2009**

Includes:

- pamphlet, 'The James Hemming prize essays 2009', published by the South Place Ethical

Society, British Humanist Association and New Humanist (12p) (2009)

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**HEMMING/10 Photographs**

**1977-2007**

Includes photographs:

- 'James Hemming (R) with Len Murray (centre) and Herbert Morrison? (L) plus others' (n.d.)

- 'L-R. Bill Almond, Anne Almond, James Hemming and Peter Hale (a good supportive friend of James - in later years) in the garden of Orine Residential House, Hampton Wick' (2007)

- 'James with Harold Blackham, at HB's 100th birthday lunch at Conway House. H.B. (philosopher, historian and 1st director of the B.H.A.)' (29 March 2003)

- 'James' birthday 95' (2004)

- 'James with his wife Kay. Tunisia' (1977)

- 'James on holiday. Paxos, Corfu' (1989)

- 'James Hemming' (1979)

- 'We think this is a W.E.F. group including [?] L 1 - Dennis Clark, 2 - ?, 3 - Kay Hemming, 4 - ?, 5 - James Hemming, 6 - Dorothy Clark' (n.d.)

- 'Tunisia 1977 : Kay, (R) and James Hemming and friends - holiday' (1977)

- 'James Hemming (2nd L) at WEF conference' (1994)

- 'James Hemming (centre) with other WEF members' (1995)

- 'James Hemming with his boat' (n.d.)

- 'James Hemming with his wife Kay' (n.d.)

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**HEMMING/11 PHD Thesis**

**1957**

Includes:

- thesis, 'Some problems of adolescent girls (an analysis of the content of letters to a journal).

Thesis presented for the degree of doctor of philosophy in the University of London, 1957 by Clifford James Hemming, B.A.' (351pp) (1957)

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**HEMMING/12 Publications**

**1971-2010**

Includes:

-letter, to Stefan Dickers, from Anne Almond, concerning adding 'Personal philosophy' to the James Hemming Collection at the Bishopsgate Institute (1p) (25 January 2010)

-pamphlet, 'Personal philosophy: a series from Women's Hour', published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (47pp) (1971)

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