



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

Jacob (Jack) Gaster Archive (GASTER)

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2008, 2016.**

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GASTER Gaster, Jacob (Jack) (1907-2007) 1977-1999

Name of Creator: Gaster, Jacob (Jack) (1907-2007) lawyer, civil rights campaigner and communist

Extent: 6 Boxes

Administrative/Biographical History: Jacob (Jack) Gaster was the twelfth of the thirteen children born to Moses Gaster, the Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Community of England, and his wife, Leah (daughter of Michael Friedlander, Principal of Jews' College). Rumanian by birth, Moses Gaster was a distinguished scholar and linguist. He was also keenly active in early twentieth century Zionist politics.

Never attracted by Zionism and from 1946, a supporter of a "one state" solution to Israel/Palestine, Gaster still never broke with his father, merely with his father's ideas, becoming acutely aware of working class politics (and conditions of life) during the General Strike in 1926. While his favourite brother, Francis actually worked as a blackleg bus driver, Jack Gaster sided with the strikers. It was at this time that he joined the Independent Labour Party (ILP), then headed by James Maxton. Despite his admiration for Maxton (who remained with the ILP), as a leading member of the Revolutionary Policy Committee (RPC) within the ILP, Jack Gaster led the 1935 "resignation en masse", taking a substantial group within the ILP with him to join the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB).

In the immediate post war period, Jack Gaster was elected (as one of just two Communist councillors) to the London County Council (LCC). Representing the working class area of Mile End, Stepney, he immersed himself in the bread and butter issues of housing, employment and transport, while in 1952, (along with seven other representatives of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers) he made an illegal journey at the height of the Korean War to North Korea. The prime mission was to discover if the United Nations was using any biological weapons (germ warfare) against the North Korean civilians. On his return to Britain, Jack Gaster published a 38- page dossier, Korea... I Saw the Truth, indicting Washington not only for their use of germ, but other barbaric forms of warfare in North Korea. Jack Gaster was denounced by the patriotic press and there were serious calls for him to be indicted for treason.

A solicitor by profession, for some sixty years Jack Gaster was deeply involved with the legal aspects of political struggle, representing communists, trades union, civil rights and peace activists and also individuals of the left as different in temperament and ideology as Joe Slovo and Tariq Ali. He was for many years the Communist Party's principle legal adviser. A member of the CPGB until its dissolution, he had no sympathy with those who left the party over Hungary or Czechoslovakia, he viewed the Paris events of 1968 and the New Left as "subjectively progressive and objectively reactionary". He was totally opposed to Revisionism and the destruction of the CPGB seeing with absolute clarity that the fall of the Soviet Union would result not in a "Peace Dividend", but in new and more brutal "Imperialistic" wars.

In the 1990's Jack Gaster joined the Socialist Labour Party (SLP) headed by Arthur Scargill; though in his very ultimate years he was in no political party, he remained a vice-President of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers.

Custodial History: Donated to Bishopsgate Institute by Lucy Gaster, 13 June 2007.

Scope and Content:

Papers of Jack Gaster (1907-2007), including: quarter-inch tape reels featuring music recordings by Rufus John and speeches by George Lansbury, Ramsay MacDonald, Willie Gallacher, James Maxton, etc., n.d.; papers, press cuttings and notes relating to social issues in London and Gaster's service on the London County Council, 1946-1961; press cuttings and miscellaneous notes regarding China, Poland, Guiana, Communism and international affairs, 1953-1982; selection of Communist and peace badges, n.d.; metal paper stamp of the British Soviet Friendly Houses Limited, n.d.; festschrift for Jack Gaster on his 95th birthday and order for memorial service, 2002-2007.

System of Arrangement: The Jacob (Jack) Gaster Archive is divided into the following five sections:

GASTER/1: London County Council

GASTER/2: Press Cuttings

GASTER/3: Miscellaneous

GASTER/4: Political Papers

GASTER/5: Personal Papers

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

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Copy of hand list 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.

GASTER Gaster, Jacob (Jack) (1907-2007) 1946-2007

Papers of Jack Gaster (1907-2007), including: quarter-inch tape reels featuring music recordings by Rufus John and speeches by George Lansbury, Ramsay MacDonald, Willie Gallacher, James Maxton, etc., n.d.; papers, press cuttings and notes relating to social issues in London and Gaster's service on the London County Council, 1946-1961; press cuttings and miscellaneous notes regarding China, Poland, Guiana, Communism and international affairs, 1953-1982; selection of Communist and peace badges, n.d.; metal paper stamp of the British Soviet Friendly Houses Limited, n.d.; festschrift for Jack Gaster on his 95th birthday and order for memorial service, 2002-2007.

OPEN

GASTER/1 London County Council Papers 1939-1979

Papers, correspondence and material regarding and compiled during Gaster's service as Communist councillor on the London County Council, including material regarding social services, rented housing, welfare, education and the activities of the London District Committee of the Communist Party (1939-1979)

OPEN

GASTER/1/1 Misc. on Policy on Social Issues in London 1931-1979

Includes:

- Note pad, 'Association internationale des juristes Democats VII Congress 10-14 October 1960 SOFIA', includes typescript paper regarding the draft resolutions on Algeria, Commission no.1 and resolution of the 2nd commission (3pp) (October 1960)
- typescript newsletter, 'London in Action' (2pp) (4 October 1967)
- printed leaflet, 'The Rent Bill. Let's put paid to it! A summary by the Haldane Society of Progressive Lawyers' (4pp) (n.d.)
- correspondence between G.M.A.Ellis (election agent for Geoffrey Finsberg) and the Adelaide Ward Communist Party regarding the pamphlet 'Danger Ahead', includes photocopy of pamphlet (3 letters) (18 April - 15 May 1979)
- circular letter from the Adelaide Branch of the Communist Party regarding the next branch meeting (1p) (October 1979)
- typescript paper, 'Report of the Royal Commission on local government in Greater London' (2pp) (4 December 1960)
- typescript paper, 'Housing and the LCC [London County Council]', regarding proposals of the Royal Commission on Greater London (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Minutes of the Social Services Committee', includes notice of the next special meeting and June meeting of the Social Services Committee (1p) (25 May 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Material for discussion on Sunday 18 December 1955' (3pp) (18 December 1955)
- typescript paper, 'Social Service's Committee for decision on 5 August' (3pp) (n.d.)
- typescript pamphlet 'This Hampstead Housing

Racket: An Examination of Hampstead Borough Council Differential Rent Scheme', Hampstead Federation of Tenants (3pp) (n.d.)

- typescript newsletter, 'The LCC [London County Council] elections, housing', London District Committee, Communist Party' (4pp) (16 April 1958)
- typescript paper, 'Draft statement on housing' (1p) (November 1950)
- typescript paper, 'Facts on London housing', London District Committee, Communist Party (4pp) (24 May 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Londons Health: The price of rearmament', London District Committee, Communist Party (5pp) (24 May 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Facts on London Housing', London District Committee, Communist Party (4pp) (24 May 1951)
- printed newsletter, 'Tenants' Leader' no.91, National Association of Tenants and Residents (8pp) (August 1958)
- printed annual report, 'Civil Liberty' vol.12, no.8, National Council for Civil Liberties (16pp) (1958-1959)
- typescript report, 'Housing', Social Services Committee (8pp) (August 1959)
- typescript report, 'Housing', Social Services Committee (annotated) (8pp) (August 1959)
- typescript paper, Campaign for support from workers in the building trade, Communist Party (11pp) (n.d.)
- printed newsletter, 'Social Service News' vol.10, no.5, The Labour Research Department (4pp) (May 1948)
- typescript report, 'General Purposes Committee (no.2)', 'Distribution of building materials - report of a Committee of Inquiry' (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The Requisition Houses Bill' (3p) (31 March 1954)
- typescript paper, 'Draft election programme for the LCC' [London County Council]' (1p) (n.d.)
- printed newsletter, 'Social Service News' vol.10, no.10 (4pp) (October 1948)
- pamphlet, 'How to get the homes we need', London District Committee, Communist Party' (15pp) (n.d.)
- report, 'Housing', Social Services Committee (8pp) (August 1959)
- typescript paper, 'The De-requisitioning Bill and

Central London' (2pp) (n.d.)

- typescript paper, 'Draft discussion statement, housing and the LCC [London County Council]' (annotated) (12pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Draft proposals for reform of local government' (10pp) (n.d.)
- printed memorandum, 'Local government reorganisation', Communist Party (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Legal profession (England and Wales)' regarding the legal profession and the Law Society (13pp) (n.d.)
- typescript draft memorandum, 'Memorandum on policy for London Transport' (10pp) (7 May 1954)
- typescript paper, 'Speakers' notes on LPTB: What the LPTB wants to do', London District [Committee], Communist Party (5pp) (20 August 1946)
- typescript paper, 'Stepney LCC [London County Council] elections programme' (4pp) (13 April 1961)
- typescript paper, 'London's development plan 1951' (15pp) (1951)
- typescript paper, 'Press statement' (draft), regarding the London District Committee of the Communist Party's proposal for the reform of local government in London and the creation of an elected Greater London Authority (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Local government reform', regarding the Communist Party's proposals for local government reform (14pp) (August 1958)
- typescript letter, from the Royal Commission on local government in Greater London, to John Mahon, (Secretary, London District Committee, Communist party) regarding providing evidence to the Commission that relates to local government reform, including a statement showing the membership and terms of reference of the Commission (2pp) (25 February 1958)?
- correspondence between J.R. Niven (Secretary, Royal Commission on Local Government in Greater London) and John Mahon, (Secretary, London District Committee, Communist Party) regarding the eighth programme of hearing, includes a list of representatives from the London District Committee who will provide oral evidence at the hearing. (4pps) (27 October-20 November 1959)
- typescript paper, 'Civil defence', Social Services Committee (2pp) (November 1961)

- typescript paper, 'Statement of the Executive Committee of the Communist party on the Beloe report on secondary school examinations other than the GCE' (6pp) (January 1961)
- printed newsletter, 'World news' no.32 (12pp) (n.d.)
- circular typescript letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, Social Services Committee.) regarding the next Social Services Committee meeting, includes the minutes of the Social Services Committee held 24 July 1953 (2pp) (24 July-11 August 1953)
- typescript report, 'a report of activity on the condition of schools in one London borough' (3pp) (August 1953)
- printed newsletter, 'Bulletin' vol.12, no.33, London District Communist Party (4pp) (28 August 1953)
- typescript paper, 'Notes on school cuts' (2pp) (15 March 1954)
- typescript letter from K Cornforth (Education Department) to Jack Gaster regarding information about London Schools, includes a list of criticisms of London schools from Liz Whitman, Hampstead (2pp) (23 September 1953)
- typescript paper, 'But why my child', a critique of London schools' (11p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Facts about the schools', a critique of London schools (5pp) (6 August 1953)
- printed circular letter, 'This affects your child, a letter from the National Union of Teachers [NUT]' (4pp) (July 1953)
- typescript paper, 'Press statement on schools' (ref. DFC/5) (1p) (20 September 1953)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, Social Services Committee) regarding the next Social Services Committee meeting, includes extracts from the report of the Select Committee and LCC [London County Council] minutes (1p) (30 June-21 July 1953)
- typescript report, 'a report of activity on the condition of the schools in one London Borough' (3pp) (August 1953)
- typescript paper, 'Some facts to supplement memorandum on London's education' (3pp) (December 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on education' (first draft) (5pp) (17 March 1951)

- typescript paper, 'The Education Act today' (6pp) (4 June 1946)
- typescript paper, 'Minutes of the Social Services Committee', includes a note about the next Social Services Committee meeting (2pp) (27 March 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Matters to be discussed at the Social Services meeting, 9 February' (77pp) (January 1951)
- typescript letter, Jack Gaster to Kitty Cornforth regarding the final version of Eric Godfrey's pamphlet, includes.pamphlet (annotated) (20pp) (27 July 1951)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London Education, to the LCC [London County Council]' (Second draft) (4pp) (12 May 1951)
- typescript paper, 'London County Council [LCC] Elections - March 1931, note on the need for nursery schools', ILP [Independent Labour Party], London and Southern Counties Divisional Council (1p) (March 1931)
- typescript paper regarding education, includes details of decisions made at the Secretariat, 20 October 1954, draft open letter from the London District Committee, Communist Party to all London parents, summary of memorandum to trade unionists on London's schools (October-November 1954)
- typescript paper, 'The educational situation' (14pp) (n.d.)
- handwritten rough notes (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript letter, John Mahon (London District Committee, Communist Party) to Johnny, regarding draft notes on London government that Johnny had prepared for the Social Services Committee (1p) (n.d.)
- handwritten letter to Jack (Gaster) (1p) (n.d.)
- newspaper, 'The Londoner' no.251, includes reports regarding London local government reform and education (pp.8) (9 May 1961)
- typescript paper, 'Draft statement on London Government report', regarding the report of the Royal Commission concerning local government reform (2pp) (n.d.)
- printed paper, 'Draft resolutions', Communist Party of Great Britain, 27th National Congress, 31 March - 3 April 1961 (11pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on the report of the Royal Commission on local government in Greater London' (9pp) (n.d.)

- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on the report of the Royal Commission on local government in Greater London' (9pp) (n.d.)
- typescript note, Margaret Woddiss to Jack [Gaster] regarding Arnold requesting Margaret to send an attached document (1p) (15 June 1961)
- typescript draft paper, regarding the proposals of the Royal Commission on local government in Greater London (1p) (n.d.)
- printed paper, 'The future of local government: A statement issued by the Communist Party October 1948' (4pp) (October 1948)
- printed paper, 'Local government reorganisation: A memorandum issued by the Communist Party' (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript, 'Note on the government of London' regarding the establishment of a Royal Commission to consider local government reorganisation in London, by JG [Jacob Gaster] (4pp) (n.d.)
- printed newsletter, 'National Union of Teachers [NUT]: Education and the rates, the Government's White paper on grants' (4pp) (July 1957)
- handwritten rough notes (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The reorganisation of local government' (5pp) (20 November 1957)
- typescript circular letter, from the Local Government Department, regarding an extract speech from Hugh Dalton in the House of Commons 15 May 1946 concerning tax on site values, includes extract (Hansard 16 May 1946, Columns 2249/50) (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, regarding housing and slum clearance (1p) (n.d.)
- printed newsletter, 'Tenant's leader' no.92, National Association of Tenants and Residents (10pp) (September 1958)
- printed newsletter, 'The people's housing charter', National Association of Tenants (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight its old people' (5pp) (n.d.)

OPEN

GASTER/1/2 London

1948-1965

Includes:

- typescript paper, 'Key to map - USSR 1917' (1p) (n.d.)

- handwritten paper, rough notes (7pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Evidence from the Communist Party of Great Britain on the working of the Rent Act [1965]' (15pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, John Minchington 'Memorandum: New regulations for film shows', refers to The Cinematograph Act 1909, 1952, The Cinematograph (safety) Regulations 1955 and The Cinematograph (children) Regulations 1955 (p.3 missing) (5pp) (28 November 1955)
- typescript circular letter from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee), regarding the next Social Services Committee meeting, includes information regarding housing in the Metropolitan Boroughs (3pp) (3 August 1955)
- typescript letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee), regarding the next meeting of the District Social Services Committee, includes the minutes of the committee meeting held 28 October 1955 (2pp) (28 October-3 November 1955)
- typescript circular letter from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee), regarding the next meeting of the Social Services Committee, includes the minutes of the Social Services Committee held 5 August 1955, (5 August -17 August 1955) (3pp)
- typescript paper, 'Factual information on municipal elections for 1956' (11pp) (1 November 1955)
- printed newsletter, 'Bulletin' vol.15, no.3', London District Committee Communist Party (4pp) (20 January 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Information material for the Social Services Committee meeting, 25 January 1957', regards London education (25 January 1957)
- typescript paper, 'Londons health: the price of rearmament (facts to use in the fight for peace)', London District Committee, Communist Party (5pp) (24 May 1951)
- handwritten paper, rough notes (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Education today' (18pp) (3 January 1957)
- typescript paper, 'Leisure facilities for children in the Borough', National Children's Committee (4pp) (November 1955)
- typescript memorandum, 'Holiday and leisure facilities for children', Children's Committee

(3pp) (21 January 1954)

- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, Social Services Committee) regarding the next meeting of the District Social Services Committee, includes minutes of the Social Services Committee held on 30 December 1955 (4pp) (30 December 1955-4 January 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Education today' (17pp) (29 January 1957)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (5pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper 'The Labour Party's new extension scheme', Social Services Committee (for Political Committee, 14 March 1957) (3pp) (8 March 1957)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (13pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (7pp) (n.d.)
- handwritten paper, rough notes (1p) (n.d.)
- handwritten paper, rough notes (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Finsbury Borough Council and old people' (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee), regarding the next District Social Services Committee, includes minutes of the Social Services Committee held 25 November 1955 (3pp) (25 November-2 December 1955)
- typescript paper, regarding the Rent Bill (7pp) (n.d.)
- printed newsletter, 'Building what is wrong-how to put it right', London District Committee, Communist Party (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The Tory Rent Bill', London District Communist Party (6pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Notes and information on housing and rents' (8pp) (16 November 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Facts on London housing (use this information to help in fight for peace)', London District Committee, Communist Party (4pp) (24 May 1951)
- typescript paper, 'London's housing', Communist Party (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The case against differential rents', includes the issue of slum clearance (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Slum clearance' (30 April 1956)

- printed leaflet, 'The Tory Rent Bill: Higher rents and loss of security', Hampstead Communist Party (2pp) (n.d.)
- handwritten paper, rough notes (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The Tory Rent Bill', London District Communist Party (6pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Minutes of the Social Services Committee' held 27 July 1956 (2pp) (27 July 1956)
- typescript paper, 'The case against differential rents', Communist Party (2pp) (n.d.)
- printed leaflet, 'The Rent Bill. Let's put paid to it! A summary by the Haldane Society of Progressive Lawyers' (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Draft policy statement for LCC elections 1958', Social Services Committee', Communist Party (3pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Finance of Local Government, programme of reforms' (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Local Government finance' (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'London's Housing', Communist Party (4pp)
- printed leaflet, 'The London Labour Party special conference notice of motions' (1pp) (4 February 1961)
- printed newsletter, relating to the local elections in 1955 (4pp) (c.1955)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee), regarding the next meeting of the District Social Services Committee, includes minutes of the Social Services Committee held 2 September 1955 (2pp) (2 September-12 September 1955)
- typescript paper, 'The problem of smog' (7p) (4 January 1956)
- newspaper cutting, regarding housing, London District Committee, Communist Party (1p) (1955)
- typescript paper, 'Draft statement on LCC elections, 1958', J G [Gaster] (4pp) (1958)
- typescript paper, 'LCC elections, 1958' (pp7) (c.1958)
- typescript paper, 'Draft statement on LCC elections, 1958' (5pp), J G [Gaster] (n.d.)
- Map of London and Metropolitan areas showing distribution of gas, electricity and hospital boards, police service and the London passenger and transport areas (2pp) (August 1955)

- typescript paper, 'Draft policy statement for LCC elections', Social Services Committee (3pp) (1958)
- typescript paper, 'Draft policy statement for LCC elections', Social Services Committee (3pp) (1958)
- typescript paper, 'Building by direct labour' (4pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The alternative to rate increases' (2pp) (25 February 1953)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services District Committee), regarding the next meeting of the London Social Services Committee, includes information regarding housing in the metropolitan boroughs (3pp) (3 August 1955)
- typescript paper, 'The problem with smog' (7pp) (4 January 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (8pp) (n.d.)
- typescript letter, from Arthur Taylor (Area Secretary, West London Area Committee, Communist Party), regarding training sessions in election work, includes details of the syllabus (2pp) (29 January 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Notes on "foot the bill" in London' regards LCC finance and Communist policy, (6pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Draft election programme for the LCC' (2pp) (n.d.)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services District Committee, [Communist Party]), regarding the next District Social Services Committee meeting, includes minutes from the Social Services Committee held 27 January 1956 (3pp) (27 January -7 February 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Another Tory Blow!' (5pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'LCC elections, 1955: Policy on finance' (c. January 1955) (8pp)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services District Committee, [Communist Party]), regarding the next meeting of the Social Services Committee, includes information regarding the new rating valuation (4pp) (25 January 1956)
- typescript paper, 'Communist policy for the London Health Service', David Smith (7pp) (21 January 1953)

- newsletter, 'Bulletin', London District Committee, Communist Party (2pp) (7 April 1960)
- printed paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (8pp) (n.d.)
- printed paper, 'London's old people, the LCC elections 1958' (6pp) (1958)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (13pp) (n.d.)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Cornforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee, Communist Party), regarding the next District Social Services Committee, includes minutes of the Social Services Committee held 25 November 1955 (3pp) (25 November-2 December 1955)
- typescript circular letter, from Kitty Conforth (Secretary, London Social Services Committee, [Communist Party]), regarding the next Social Services Committee meeting, includes minutes from the Social Services Committee Meeting, 25 November 1955 (3pp) (25 November-2 December 1955)
- typescript paper, 'The aged', notes for the Social Services Meeting, 9 January 1951 (9 January 1951)
- newsletter, 'Social Services News', vol 10, no.11, The Labour Research Department (4pp) (November 1948)
- handwritten paper, rough notes, (1p) (n.d.)
- handwritten paper, rough notes, (1p) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'The old people' (5pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Policy for old people' (5pp) (n.d.)
- typescript paper, 'Memorandum on London's fight for its old people' (8pp) (n.d.)
- newsletter, 'Let the old folk live! The Communist party put forward an LCC policy for the old people of London', London District Committee, Communist Party (4pp) (n.d.)
- handwritten paper, rough notes (1p) (n.d.)

OPEN

GASTER/2 Press cuttings 1936-1987

Press cuttings collected by Jack Gaster for his own research or personal interest, including files on Poland, Afghanistan, British Guiana, Socialism, Communism, the Cold War, Judaism, Palestine and China (1936-1987)

OPEN

GASTER/2/1 Press cuttings: Guiana 1953

Newspaper cuttings collected by Jacob Gaster relating to colonial affairs in Guiana, including cuttings from the Daily Worker, The New Statesman and Nation, Daily Herald, The Times (approximately 17 cuttings) (October 1953)

OPEN

GASTER/2/2 Press cuttings: Poland 1981-1982

Press cuttings collected by Jack Gaster relating to Poland and martial law, includes cuttings from the Morning Star and Straight Left (approximately 36 cuttings) and typescript papers relating to Poland (21pp) (December 1981-February 1982)

OPEN

GASTER/2/3 Press cuttings: Afghanistan 1979-1980

Press cuttings collected by Jack Gaster relating to Afghanistan and revolution. Includes cuttings from the Morning Star, Soviet News, Soviet Weekly and the Sunday Times (13 press cuttings). Also typescript papers, 'Afghanistan, Imperialism, the USSR and the Construction of Socialism' (p.29) and a typescript report, 'Afghanistan: The Soviet Invasion and its consequences for British Policy', (21pp) (December 1979-July 1980)

OPEN

GASTER/2/4 Press cuttings: socialism, Judaism, Palestine and the Cold war 1945-1964

Press cuttings collected by Jack Gaster relating to Socialism, Judaism, Palestine and the Cold War. Includes cuttings from the Daily Worker, World News, the Bulletin, The Guardian, The Sunday Times (approximately 11 press

cuttings), (March 1955-March 1964)

OPEN

GASTER/2/5 Press cuttings: Soviet Union and the Cold War 1955-1981

Press cuttings collected by Jacob Gaster relating to the Soviet Union and the Cold War, includes cuttings from Soviet Weekly, Daily Herald, Daily Worker (approximately 4 press cuttings), (February 1955-February 1981)

OPEN

GASTER/2/6 Press cuttings: China 1959

Press cuttings collected by Jack Gaster relating to China, includes cuttings mainly from Chinese newspapers (approximately 10 cuttings) (1959)

GASTER/3 Miscellaneous

1920-2007

Miscellaneous papers and material relating to Jack Gaster's life and career, along with reel-to-reel tapes of Socialist songs and speeches originally distributed as gramophone records with Lansbury's Labour Weekly in 1927, (1920-2007)

OPEN

GASTER/3/1 Miscellaneous

1920-2007

Includes:

- selection of Communist and peace badges and stickers (9 items) (n.d.)
- correspondence between the Town Clerk, Metropolitan Borough of Poplar, to Dr Carl Knight Cullen, regarding Cullen's application for the position of Assistant Tuberculosis Officer, a curriculum vitae is included, (5pp) (30 March-9 April 1924)
- handwritten paper, rough notes relating to local government, (3pp) (2 August 1946)
- handwritten paper, rough notes relating to the future of L.G [Local Government], (6pp) (17 March 1947)
- typescript paper, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, 'Chinese Foreign Ministry protests against armed provocations by India', regards the Sino-Indian boarder disputes, (1p) (24 October 1959)
- typescript paper, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China , 'The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement on the second armed clash on the Sino-Indian border provoked by the Indian side', regards the Sino-Indian boarders disputes, (4pp) (27 October 1959)
- typescript paper, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, 'Report on Tibet by Panchen Brident', includes a reproduction of a map of the India Tibet frontier (McMahon Line) drawn on 14 March 1914, (9pp) (19-20 October 1920)
- typescript paper, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China

regarding Chinese Indian border disputes, issued by the Chinese Government, (4pp) (21 November 1962)

- 'Sketch map guides to the Chinese government proposal for the withdrawal of the Chinese and Indian Armed forces 20 Kilometres from the line of actual control', (2pp) (c.1962)
- typescript papers, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, 'Premier Chou En-lai's letter to Primeminister Nehru', regarding the Sino-Indian Border Disputes, (2pp) (30 November 1962)
- typescript papers, press release issued by the Press Department of the Office of the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, 'Chinese National Defence Ministry's statement on withdrawal of Chinese frontier guards along Sino-Indian boarder', (1p) (30 November 1962)
- typescript paper, 'A summary record of the OAU seminar on humanitarian law, held in Dar Es Sallam, Tanzania from 21-25 January 1974' (21pp) (n.d.)
- printed order of service for the funeral of Harry Pollitt, 9 July 1960, (2pp) (n.d.)
- photograph, black and white, of Frederick Hawkinson (n.d.)
- photograph, black and white, taken at Moses Gaster's 50th birthday, Selling, Kent, (1936)
- typescript circular letter from Ian McDonald (General Secretary, Britain Vietnam Association) regarding a meeting in the House of Commons, 17 January 1989 (1p) (December 1988)
- handwritten letter (photocopy), from Jack Gaster (Treasurer, British Soviet Friendship Houses Limited.' to M. Jacob regarding their share in the society, (2pp) (3 September 1993)
- typescript circular letter, from Hannah Vowles, (Honorary Secretary, British Soviet Friendship Houses Limited) regarding the next annual general Meeting (1p) (7 July 1987)
- Printed booklet, 'Festschrift, for Jack Gaster on his 95th birthday, 6 October 2002', tributes and reminiscence to Jack Gaster's life (2002)
- Printed order of service for the funeral of Jack Gaster, 21 March 2007, (2007)

OPEN

Includes reel-to-reel copies of four gramophone records originally distributed with Lansbury's Labour Weekly in 1927, and correspondence with the BBC regarding their conversion and transferral to tape (March 1975):

- 1) 'Hear a word, a word in season' by Rufus John/'A rebel song' by Rufus John (New Leader no. 4) (n.d.)
- 2) 'Talk by J Ramsay Macdonald, MP/'No master, high or low' by Norman Williams (New leader no. 7) (n.d.)
- 3) 'Talk by A J Cook/'Song of the Volga boatmen' by Rhys Tudor (New Leader no. 8) (c1925)
- 4) 'Talk by J Maxton, MP/'Jerusalem' by Rufus John (New Leader no. 9) (n.d.)
- 5) 'An Appeal for unity 1935' by W Gallacher, MP for West Fife/'The united front song' by Daily Worker Choir & Accordion, published by the Workers' Bookshop (Victory EB.193/4) (1935)
- 6) 'The march of the workers' by Rufus John/'Talk by George Lansbury' (Lansbury 836/8) (n.d.)
- 7) 'England arise', by Rufus John/'God save the people' by Rufus John (Lansbury 825/830) (1925)
- 8) 'The Red Army March' by Rufus John/'Lift up the People's Banner' by Rufus John (Lansbury 829/832) (n.d.)
- 9) 'What ho! my lads' by Rufus John/'Whirlwinds of Danger', by Rufus John (Lansbury 835/9) (n.d.)
- 10) 'The Internationale' by Rufus John/'The red flag' by Rufus John (Lansbury L.00816/00820) (1926)

Also:

- 1) CD containing digital audio files of the above tapes (2008)
 - 2) CD-rom containing digital copies of the above tapes in .wav format (2008)
- Typed transcript of all audio files (14pp) (2008)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

GASTER/4 Political Papers 1929-2007

Papers, pamphlets, press clippings, leaflets, correspondence and ephemera regarding Gaster's interests in local and global Communism, including events and issues in the former Soviet Union, North Korea and Palestine. Also local London and UK political campaigns and issues such as squatters' rights, [1929-2007]

OPEN

GASTER/4/1 Membership cards 1929-2007

Collection of members' cards for the ILP, CPGB and other political groups and parties, [1929-2007]

Includes:

- booklets recording membership contributions for Jakob (and, in some instances, his wife Moira) Gaster, Communist Party of Great Britain: 1935, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1953, 1960, 1964, 1967, 1970,
- membership card, National Unemployed Workers' Movement, 1932
- syllabus card, Independent Labour Party, 1929
- membership card, Independent Labour Party, 1930
- Communist Party General Election Fund booklet, n.d.
- membership card, Socialist Labour Party: 1998, 2002
- membership card, Liberation: incorporating the Movement for Colonial Freedom, 2004
- membership card, Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament, c.1978
- membership cards, Society for Co-operation in Russian and Soviet Studies (SCRSS): 2003, 2004, 2007

OPEN

GASTER/4/2 Correspondence with Anthony Howard 1994

Correspondence with Anthony Howard, Obituaries editor for The Times, arising from the published obituary for Albert McIntosh, regarding Gaster's and Harry Pollitt's reactions to the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939 and the Comintern pronouncement on the 'imperialist war', [1994]
- typescript letter to Gaster from Howard, saying

'... So far as your request is concerned I am perfectly prepared to publish a correction saying that you not only never resigned from the Communist Party over the Nazi Soviet pact of August 1939 but also publicly supported it ... the case of the late Harry Pollitt is, however, less clear-cut ...' [1p] [23 February 1994]

- typescript letter to Gaster from Howard, in which Howard continues to refuse to issue a retraction regarding H. Pollitt, who, he writes, '... Not only did he cease to be general-secretary of the CPBG in October 1939 but ... he wrote openly of his "differences with the party" ...' and suggests an alternative wording for the retraction, [1p] [03 March 1994]

- typescript letter to Howard from Gaster, saying that Howard is 'confusing two distinct issues' regarding the Nazi-Soviet pact and the CPGB policy towards the outbreak of the Second World War, [2pp] [08 March 1994]

- typescript letter to Gaster from Howard, expressing his continued 'reluctance to couple Pollitt's name with your own in any correction we might consider making', [1p] [15 March 1994]

- photocopy of handwritten letter to Howard from Gaster, suggesting a form of words that he hopes will satisfy both parties, [2pp] [23 March 1994]

- typescript letter to Gaster from Howard, thanking him for his courtesy throughout and suggesting the statement The Times were willing to publish, [1p] [25 March 1994]

OPEN

GASTER/4/3 Anglo-Soviet solidarity

1942-1944

Flyers, posters, leaflets and papers regarding Anglo-Soviet solidarity, fundraising events for Stalingrad Hospital and the activities of the Charlbury/Abingdon Communist Party, [1942-1944]

Includes:

- pamphlet, 'The Russian Glory' by William Gallacher, MP, [16pp] [1942]

- leaflets advertising anniversary meeting to commemorate one year of Russian resistance to the Nazis, the Anglo-Soviet alliance and 'the new 20-year Treaty', listing the speakers, held at the Abingdon Corn Exchange, [1p] [01 July 1942]

- leaflet for a demonstration to be held to encourage a second front, with speakers including the Abingdon Mayor and MP Sir Ralph Glyn, at Abingdon Corn Exchange, [1p] [04 September 1942]
- flyer for a showing of the film 'Chapayev' regarding 'Soviet guerillas' [sic], Abingdon Corn Exchange, [1p] [05 March 1942]
- card advertising 'Salute the Red Army at the next Great Anniversary Meeting. D. N. Pritt, K.C. M.P., Joe O'Farrell, messages from the Labour Movement, community singing', Corn Exchange, Abingdon; organised by the Abingdon Communist Party, [1p] [01 July 194?]
- flyer for a demonstration at which Jack Gaster is listed as speaking on 'The New War Situation', Charlbert Street, London, [1p] [13 August 1942]
- flyer for the National Conference on the Communist Party, held at Stoll Theatre, London, [1p] [23 May 1942]
- flyer for a lantern lecture, 'What I Saw in Russia' by Mrs Helen Dunman, at the Labour Party Rooms, Abingdon, [1p] [30 September 1942]
- flyer, 'Charlbury Salute the Soldier Week', [1p] [22-29 July 1944]
- booklet, 'The Work of the Movement for British-Soviet Unity', produced by the National Council for British-Soviet Unity, [4pp] [c. 1943]
- large printed labels, red, cream and black, marked 'Official Collecting Box No.' and 'for Russia medical supplies', produced by the Joint Committee for Soviet Aid, [1p] [5 copies] [c. 1943]
- press clipping, copy of the Daily Worker [very fragile], [19 August 1940]
- printed receipts and invoices for wool purchased for the Comforts Fund for Women and Children of Soviet Russia, [1944]
- typescript papers regarding measures taken by the people of Charlbury to help raise funds for Stalingrad Hospital, [1943]
- poster and three small coloured tickets for a showing of the film, 'Natasha: Adventures of a Red Cross nurse with the Red Army', at the Town Hall Cinema, Charlbury, [27 October, 194?]
- large poster for a public meeting called by the Abingdon Communist Party at the Corn

Exchange, at which Jack Gaster and Ernie Keeling would be speaking and taking questions, [1p] [1942]

OPEN

GASTER/4/4 The Palestine Question

1946-1947

Papers regarding the UK Communist Party's approach to the question of Palestine post-Second World War, [1946-1947]

- booklet, 'European Jewry and the Palestine Problem : statement submitted to the Anglo-American Committee of enquiry by the Communist Party', [16pp] [1946]

- press clipping, 'National Chairman Jewish Advisory Committee to Visit Lancashire and Cheshire', Lancashire and Cheshire News, vol. 10, no. 19 [07 June 1947]

- typescript 'Information for Speakers : Palestine and Britain', [4pp] [21 August 1946]

- typescript 'Supplementary statement submitted by the Communist Party to the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry on the Question of European Jewry and Palestine', [3pp] [02 August 1946]

OPEN

GASTER/4/5 Wartime and Post-war Communist Party

1941-1963

Papers regarding the Communist Party of Great Britain during and after the Second World War. Also leaflets and pamphlets regarding the Haldane Society, [1941-1963]

Includes:

- typescript statement on Communist Party of Great Britain letterhead, addressed 'to all districts and leading comrades', regarding the Parliamentary debate on Regulation 18B, and the Communist Party's assertion that 'certain Members of Parliament are out to exploit this [public] concern [for the safeguarding of democratic rights] in order to obtain more favourable treatment for the detained members of the Mosley organisation', [2pp] [28 November 1941]

- typescript letter from Jack Gaster to Stephen Murray regarding Gaster's memo on the Government's Defence Regulation 18B, [12 December 1941]

- typescript memorandum written by Jack Gaster

- regarding Defence Regulation 18B, [1p]
[December 1941]
- handwritten note from Stephen Murray to Jack Gaster asking Gaster to come to his chambers on 5th January to meet the Executive of the Haldane Society to discuss Gaster's 'memo on 18B', [1p] [28 December 1941]
 - typescript reply from Jack Gaster to Stephen Murray to say he only got Murray's note on the 29th and that he cannot make the meeting, [1p] [30 December 1941]
 - typescript memo on Haldane Society letterhead 'on the application of Regulation 18B of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939-1941', giving the Government 'power to detain persons without trial'. The Society expresses its feeling that 'this and other Regulations as now operated may be liable to abuse', and that 'safeguards and checks [listed in the memo] are required', [2pp] [c. 1941]
 - typescript 'Report on the Functioning of Regulation 18B of the Defence Regulations (1939)', [6pp] [n.d.]
 - leaflet, 'For Members of the Communist Party. 16th Congress Discussion Statement' [4pp] [January 1943]
 - booklet, 'The Communist Party and the National Front: Syllabus for Four Session School', [24pp] [April 1942]
 - booklet, 'The Communist Party: Its theory and action', [14pp] [1942]
 - leaflet, 'The Communist Party 17th National Congress: Discussion Statement' [4pp] [28-29 October 1944]
 - press clipping, entire issue of Labour Monthly: a magazine of International Labour, with articles by Harry Pollitt ('Communist Party Congress') and Jim Gardner ('Why These Strikes?'), [32pp] [January 1946]
 - campaign newsletter for Ted Bramley and Jack Gaster, running as Communist Party candidates in the LCC elections for Mile End, [4pp] [March 1946]
 - Report of the Stepney Borough Executive Committee Communist Party, [21pp] [May 1948-June 1949]
 - newsletter The Communist Party, with the headline, 'After the Elections', [4pp] [20 May 1949]
 - manuscript letter to Jack Gaster from

Councillor Phil Piratin, M.P., regarding a copy 'of the resolutions and finance report', [1p] [15 July 1949]

- typescript Resolutions and Finance Report from the AGM of the Stepney Borough Communist Party, [4pp] [17 July 1949]
- press clipping regarding Minister of War John Strachey, Evening Standard, [4pp] [03 March 1950]
- fundraising card for the Communist Party, [4pp] [1952]
- leaflet regarding the Commonwealth Immigrants Bill, [4pp] [c.1961]
- manuscript letter from Moira Gaster regarding the Second World War, [1p] [21 December 1961]
- typescript letter to Mrs [Moira] Gaster from Henry Brooke, regarding the Russians and disarmament, [1p] [26 February 1962]
- printed pamphlet, 'Who is to live in Hampstead?', produced by the Communist Party, [8pp] [c1960]

OPEN

GASTER/4/6 Problems in the Party

1957-1964

Papers and correspondence regarding problems within the Communist Party of Great Britain, [1957-1964].

Includes:

- typescript letter to John Mahon from Jack Gaster, [1p] [23 July 1957]
- typescript copy of 'A Reply to James Klugmann on "Peaceful Coexistence" in Marxism Today, October 1963', [20pp] [1963?]
- typescript, 'The Unity of the International Communist Movement: a reply to R Palme Dutt', [8pp] [n.d.]
- typescript, 'Peaceful Coexistence and the Class Struggle: remarks on the article by George Matthews in "Comment" No. 3, May 2nd, 1964', [5pp] [1964?]

OPEN

GASTER/4/7 Daily Worker advertising pennant

c. 1960

Vinyl advertising banner, 36cm wide by 50cm long, with the words (in capital letters) 'Daily Worker' (in black), 'On Sale Here' (in orange) and 'Threepence' (in black), [c. 1960]

OPEN

GASTER/4/8 Korean War

1952-1995

Pamphlets and papers regarding Jack Gaster's visit to Korea in March of 1952, together with a published report of the Commission of International Association of Democratic Lawyers, [1952-1995].

Includes:

The Korean war: pamphlets and papers connected with his visit to Korea in March of 1952, together with the full report of the Commission of International Association of Democratic Lawyers

- newsletter, 'For Peace in Korea Act Now – a call to action from John Mahon, London District Secretary', [4pp] [17 April 1953]
- on Communist Party letterhead, a typescript note 'Presented to Jack Gaster as a token of appreciation of his courage, fortitude, and determination in bringing to the attention of the British people the use of bacteriological warfare by the Americans in Korea', signed by 23 people (party members?), [1p] [28 March 1953]
- printed leaflet, 'Korea ... I saw the Truth', written by Jack Gaster, [4pp] [2 copies] [c. 1952]
- press clipping, transcript of a speech by A. A. Gromyko at a Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 'on the Question of the Murder of Korean and Chinese Prisoners of War by the American Authorities', [4pp] [08 January 1953]
- booklet, 'Stop U.S. Germ Warfare!', written by The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace, [41pp] [1952]
- booklet, 'Report on U.S. Crimes in Korea', by the Commission of International Association of Democratic Lawyers', [38pp] [31 March 1952]
- Report on the Crime of American Imperialists in Spreading Bacteria in Korea, by the Chinese People's Commission for Investigating the Germ Warfare Crime of American Imperialists, [22pp] [24 April 1952]
- Report of the International Scientific Commission for the Investigation of the Facts Concerning Bacterial Warfare in Korea and China, [60pp] [c.1952]
- Reports on Investigations in Korea and China, with an introduction by D. N. Pritt, Q.C.,

produced by the Commission of International Association of Democratic Lawyers', [56pp] [April 1952]

- typescript document (first page[s] missing), written by Gaster, regarding his journey to Korea, [2pp] [28 February 1955]
- manuscript letter to Gaster from Jon Halliday regarding Gaster's interview for a Korean War television series, telling him that his 'actual tape ... should be in the Imperial War Museum, where Thames TV, I believe, lodged them' (see also GASTER/5/2), [1p] [12 January 1995]
- typescript transcript of an interview of Jack Gaster regarding Korea, [22pp] [n.d.]
- Report of the International Scientific Commission for the Investigation of the Facts Concerning Bacterial Warfare in Korea and China (with Appendices), [667pp] [1952]

OPEN

GASTER/4/9 Local Politics, Marylebone

1934-1940

Leaflets, posters, pamphlets and papers regarding local politics in Marylebone (pre Second World War), [1934-1940]

Includes:

- flyer, 'What Are You Doing?' regarding joining the Communist Party, [1p] [2 copies] [n.d.]
- handwritten 'Nov 23rd campaign' notes addressed to 'Marylebone Cell' and signed D. Groves, [5pp] [14 November 194?]
- typescript 'Issued by the Paddington Group of the Communist Party: The Lesson of the Town-Ward By-Election', [1p] [February 194?]
- typescript letter from Marie [Moira] Lynd [Gaster] to a Dr Booyesen regarding a letter sent to all doctors in Marylebone, 'with the idea of raising funds for the British Medical Unit in Spain', [1p] [10 September 1936]
- typescript document from the London District of the Communist Party of Great Britain regarding a 'Mining Campaign', [2pp] [January 1936]
- handwritten letter 'To Marylebone Cell Instructor' and 'Dear B.J.' regarding new members and an anti-war meeting to be held at Forester Hall. It is signed 'David', [2pp] [27 February 194?]
- typescript report to members from the St John's Wood Tenants Defence League, [1p] [09 September 1936]

- typescript lessons 1-4 regarding 1) The Capitalist Class, the Working Class, the Labour Party and the Communist Party; 2) The Revolutionary Aims of the Communist Party; 3) The Tasks of the Communist Party and How Its Units Are Organised to Carry Out Its Tasks; 4) How the Party Leads the Workers into Activity, [15pp] [n.d.]
- flyer, 'The National Declaration on the League of Nations and Armaments', with ballot form regarding whether the UK should remain in the League. Also known historically as 'the Peace Ballot', [1p] [1934-1935]
- printed enrolment form for the British Anti-War Movement, [1p] [c.1938]
- flyer, 'Mosley at the Albert Hall', regarding a 'Great Protest Demonstration against Fascism' to be held outside the Hall, [1p] [2 copies] [28 October 1934]
- copy of 'The Rattle' (no. 3), 'the paper for St. Marylebone Wardens', [12pp] [February 1940]
- typescript letter to 'Comrade Smith' from (no signature) the Marylebone Communist Party, regarding 'the peace campaign' and working together, [1p] [30 April 1936]
- typescript Marylebone Election Report, [3pp] [05 December 1935]
- booklet, Communist Plan for Life in Marylebone, [16pp] [2 copies] [c. 1935]
- flyer for Municipal Elections for Ward 8, Marylebone, with Communist Candidates' statements, [4pp] [01 November c.1935]
- typescript Report on the extended Central Committee meeting of the Party, [2pp] [07 January 1936]
- typescript document regarding 'The Expulsions at the London School of Economics', [1p] [1934]
- leaflet for the Labour and Communist candidates (including Gaster) for Marylebone, [4pp] [01 November c.1935]
- list (typescript and manuscript) 'of writers whom M. Lynd could probably get for society of anti-fascist writers', [2pp] [c. 1936]
- typescript letter to M Lynd from Amabel Williams-Ellis regarding the list of writers, with another copy of the list, annotated by hand by A.W.E., [2pp] [05 March 1936]
- printed membership information regarding the National Union of Clerks and Administrative Workers, with envelope addressed to M Lynd,

[16 January 1936]

- typescript letter from the National Union of Clerks to M Lynd, regarding her application for union membership, [1p] [16 January 1936]

- typescript letter from the National Union of Clerks to M Lynd, regarding her transfer to the Western General Branch of the union, [1p] [10 February 1936]

OPEN

GASTER/4/10 Independent Labour Party and Communist Party publications 1928-1936

Leaflets, flyers and press clippings regarding (pre Second World War), [1928-1936]

Includes:

- typescript, on the back of The St. Marylebone Labour Party letterhead paper, information regarding the results of the election of London County councillors for Marylebone, which included Gaster among the candidates, and the votes gained by the winners Ernest Sanger and Dr Adeline Roberts, [4pp] [1931]

- press clipping, copy of the St. Marylebone Beacon, no. 8, with a piece regarding the Borough Council election, [December 1928]

- flyer for LCC elections, St. Marylebone Division, for which Gaster was one of the candidates, with Dr Elizabeth Jacobs. Speakers mentioned include George Lansbury, MP, [4pp] [2 copies] [1931]

- press clipping, copy of Controversy, the 'internal discussion organ of the Independent Labour Party', [24pp] [June 1935]

- press clipping, copy of Controversy, the 'internal discussion organ of the Independent Labour Party', [28pp] [September 1935]

- flyer issued by 'a group of Selfridge Employees' regarding overheating and employee headaches and illness caused by 'coronation decorations covering the windows', [1p] [1936?]

- flyer, 'To-night's Black Out', regarding a pact with Russia, [1p] [2 copies] [n.d.]

- flyer, 'If the animals in the zoo ...' regarding the rights of zoo catering workers, [1p] [n.d.]

- flyer, 'The Danger Is Real' regarding Hitler and the need for an Anglo-Soviet pact, [1p] [n.d.]

- flyer, 'Come Down To Earth! Before You Crash!' regarding rising up against 'the root

cause of war – capitalism!', [1p] [n.d.]

OPEN

GASTER/4/11 'The Week' and 'Counter' (journals)

1933-1934

Issues of Communist journal 'Counter' and newsletter 'The Week' (published by Claud Cockburn), as collected by Sigle (Sheila) Lynd Wheeler, the sister of Maire (Moira) Lynd Gaster, [1933-1934]

Includes:

The Week:

- No 53 [05 April 1934]
- No 70 [6pp] [01 August 1934]
- No 72 [6pp] [15 August 1934]
- No 73 [partial: pp 5-6 only] [22 August 1934]
- No 74 [6pp] [29 August 1934]
- No 76 [6pp] [12 September 1934]
- No 77 [6pp] [19 September 1934]
- No 78 [6pp] [26 September 1934]

Counter

- Vol. 1, No. 5, [16pp] [March 1933]

OPEN

GASTER/4/12 London Squatters 1946

1946-1989

Papers, flyers, pamphlets, press clippings regarding the Communist Party's post-Second World War campaign for squatters' rights, [1946-1989]

Includes:

- typescript (photocopied) transcript of the court proceedings against squatters' leaders, [5pp] [1946]
- printed (photocopied) extracts from the speeches given in court by Sir Walter Monckton and Ted Bramley, [16pp] [September 1946]
- typescript (photocopied) testimony in the case of the Minister of Works (Plaintiff) against Henderson, Ganning, Peel, Richardson and Wright. Also 'Cross-section of cases of squatters at Duchess of Bedford Mansions and Melcombe Regis Court, with the personal accounts of 5 women and 6 men, [23pp] [1946]
- press clipping (photocopied) account of the legal proceedings, The Estates Gazette, pp 265-266, [21 September 1946]
- typescript (photocopied) 'Extract from Home News Bulletin' regarding a demonstration by 400-500 squatters 'planned to the last detail by

the London Communist Party', [1p] [08 September 1946]

- photocopy of The Bulletin regarding a demonstration in Trafalgar Square scheduled for 22 September, [1p] [30 August 1946]
- photocopied extracts from the Weekly Letter regarding the Housing Problem, [5pp] [September-October 1946]
- copies of 'Labour Research': vol 35, no 5 (May) and vol 35, no 11 (November), [1946]
- Report of the London District Committee Communist Party, [24pp] [September 1946-August 1947]
- pamphlet, 'Houses for the millions' by William Rust, [16pp] [1945]
- leaflet, 'The Case for the Squatters', produced by the London District Committee, Communist Party, [1p] [n.d.]
- photocopy, newsletter, 'Communist Party Housing "Special": Up with the houses – down with the rents', [3pp] [August 1946]
- typescript memo issued by the London District Committee of the Communist Party, 'London's Housing Problem and a Policy to Solve It', [15pp] [1946?]
- pamphlet, 'St. Pancras, Homes or Slums?', St. Pancras Branch Communist Party, [16pp] [c.1946]
- typescript, draft letter to the press regarding an interview with Nye Bevan, [2pp] [n.d.]
- printed transcript of a speech by Harry Pollitt, 'The Squatters', made at the demonstration in London, [4pp] [12 September 1946]
- photocopied extract from 'Squatters: the Full Story', [1p] [n.d.]
- pamphlet, 'London's Housing' by Aneurin Bevan, [32pp] [1946]
- extract (photocopy) from Michael Foot's biography of Nye Bevan, pp 82-87 [5pp] [1973]
- 'Labour Monthly: a magazine of International Labour' (ed R Palme Dutt), 3 editions, [August, September, November 1946]
- typescript 'Notes on attitude of Daily Herald during Squatters movement 1946', together with photocopied contemporary press clippings from the Daily Herald, [8pp] [September 1946]
- pamphlet, 'How Many Houses?', Planning vol 21, no 386, pp 174-191, produced by PEP (Political & Economic Planning), [20pp] [03 October 1955]

- pamphlet, 'Housing in Greater London' by J. B. Cullingworth, Greater London Papers No. 4, London School of Economics and Political Science, [19pp] [1961]
- journal, 'Labour Research', vol 73 no 11, [November 1984]
- typescript 'Squatters – History Groups'; Jack Gaster's contribution to report of the Communist Party History Group, 'Notes re Squatting', a first-person account of the day of action that took place and the subsequent appearance before the magistrate, with correspondence and supporting notes [1984]
- 'Our History Journal', No 9, pp 4-9; report of Communist Party History Group seminar, by Noreen Branson, [March 1985]
- 'Our History: London Squatters 1946', pamphlet 80, ed Noreen Branson, [28pp] [August 1989]

OPEN

GASTER/5 Personal Papers**1916-2007**

Papers, photographs, CD recordings, press clippings, correspondence regarding Jack Gaster's family and personal history, interviews conducted with Gaster, obituaries at the time of his death, notes for speakers, and legal documents, [1916-2007]

OPEN**GASTER/5/1 Biographical material****1907-2007**

Biographical material: birth certificate (copies), photographs, Law Society documents, Army records and other papers, [1907-2007]

Includes:

- original birth certificate for Jacob [Jack] Gaster, born 06 October 1907, [1p] [13 November 1907]
- Certified copy of birth certificate for Jacob [Jack] Gaster, born 06 October 1907, (copy is dated 16 August 1939), [1p] [16 August 1939]
- Certified copy of birth certificate for Jacob [Jack] Gaster, born 06 October 1907, (copy is dated 13 August 1954), [1p] [13 August 1954]
- School report from South Hampstead Kindergarten and Preparatory School, Spring Term 1916 for Jack Gaster, aged 8, [1p] [03 May 1916]
- School report from South Hampstead Kindergarten and Preparatory School, Spring Term for Jack Gaster, aged 9, [1p] [01 May 1917]
- School report from Warwick House School, Christmas Term, [1p] [15 January 1923]
- Articles of Clerkship (duplicate), [17 December 1925]
- Law Society examination certificate, [1p] [21 November 1930]
- Law Society membership certificate, [1p] [03 March 1932]
- correspondence regarding rental of a furnished flat in High Holborn, [4pp] [August 1931]
- certification that Gaster is 'duly qualified to act as a Solicitor of the said [Supreme] Court ... and his name to be entered on the Roll', [1p] [12 January 1931]
- tenancy agreement for flat at 94 Baker Street, [3pp] [14 September 1938]
- marriage certificate of Jack Gaster and Maire Lynd, married 07 October 1938, [1p] [07 October

1938]

- Air Raid Warden card for the borough of St. Marylebone, [1p] [18 October 1939]
- typescript (photocopied) letter from Gaster's mother Lucy regarding the outbreak of the Second World War, [2pp] [03 September 1939]
- Post Office Savings Bank book, [1941]
- correspondence regarding a request for transfer to the Army Educational Corps, [6pp] [April-September 1943]
- official Army documents regarding Gaster's release to Class W(T) Reserve service, [5pp] [1945]
- various medical cards – for the First Labour Hospital; Blood Transfusion Service; Medical Aid Committee for Vietnam; Middlesex Hospital appointment card; Emergency Blood Transfusion Service; International Certificates of Vaccination, [1945-1967]
- Appointment to Commissioner for Oaths, [3pp] [January 1947]
- Law Society certificate commemorating Gaster's 60 years since admission as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court, [1p] [12 January 1991]
- Law Society application (completed) to keep one's name on the Roll of Solicitors, [3pp] [18 March 2006]
- collection of photographs: Socialist summer school 1938 [where he proposed to his wife Moira], his Second World War Regiment [1943]; visit to China and Korea [1952, some annotated on the back]; photograph of a portrait of Gaster painted by Sophie Dickens [c. 1995], [1938-2007]
- photograph, 8.5cm x 6cm, sepia, depicting Frieda Bosling, the German nurse who looked after the five youngest Gaster children. She is holding Jack Gaster, who in later years would tell his children about the sailor-suit he wears, and the baby is younger sister Ruth (known to the family as Lulu) – they were the 12th and 13th children of the very large family. The boy behind them is presumed to be one of the older brothers, but has not been identified.

OPEN

Biographical material: interview transcripts, CDs, notes for an autobiography, [1941-2007]

Includes:

- CD labelled 'Jack Gaster and Moira Gaster (Maire Lynd) Letters 1941-4', [1 disc] [2016]
- CD labelled 'Jack Gaster Memoir and misc. material', [1 disc] [April 2016]
- press clipping, letters to the editor, letter written by Jack Gaster given the title 'Haham-baiting', regarding Gaster's father Moses, Jewish Chronicle, [1p] [11 February 1977]
- correspondence between Gaster and the editor of The Jewish Chronicle, Geoffrey D. Paul, regarding an article about the Sephardic community, [6pp] [November-December 1982]
- typescript letter to Gaster from the Sound Archive of the Imperial War Museum, regarding their holding of the interview made with Conrad Wood in 1988 in which Gaster discussed his experiences in the Second World War, (see also GASTER/4/8), [1p] [30 September 2004]
- print out of a record from the National Archives regarding the scope and content of their holdings KV2, Communists, which includes open documents on Jack Gaster between 1934 and 1945, [1p] [13 March 2008]
- typescript letter to Gaster regarding the correspondent's father, Douglas (David) Benabu, 'a member of the Communist party, a lawyer and an Honorary Secretary of the Reichstag Fire Trial Committee' and asking if Gaster knew him, and about the chapter devoted to Gaster in Gidon Cohen's book 'Party People, Communist Lives', [1p] [02 February 2001]
- photocopies of pages 82-95 (chapter entitled 'Divided We Fall'), 130, and 170-173 (chapter entitled Pacifism, Wars and Internationals) from published book, 'The Failure of a Dream: the Independent Labour Party from Disaffiliation to World War II' by Gidon Cohen, (London: Tauris Academic Studies, 2007), [19pp] [2007]
- handwritten autobiographical notes/draft, [9pp] [c.1995]
- typescript transcript of interview by Roy Gore, labelled tapes 1-9 [165pp] [1994]
- typescript transcript of interview by Halliday for Octagon films regarding Gaster's visit to Korea

in 1952 (see also GASTER/4/8), [23pp] [1995]
- typescript transcript of interview labelled
'Interview 11. Draft 1' that begins with a question
regarding Gaster's father, [36pp] [n.d.]

OPEN

GASTER/5/3 Obituaries and letters of condolence 2007

Correspondence, press obituaries,
announcements and letters of condolence,
[1989-2007]

Includes:

- press clipping, Gaster obituary written by Liz Davies, Socialist Lawyer, [1p] [2 copies] [April 2007]
- press clipping, obituary, The Times, [1p] [11 April 2007]
- press clipping, obituary by Victoria Brittain, The Guardian, [1p] [13 March 2007]
- print-out of online version of The Guardian obituary, [2pp] [13 March 2007]
- press clipping, obituary by Nicholas Deakin, The Independent, [1p] [16 March 2007]
- press clipping, obituary by Dan Carrier and John Gulliver, Camden New Journal, [1p] [15 March 2007]
- press clipping, 'Style and substance which ran in this literary family' by John Gulliver, regarding Gaster and his father-in-law Robert Lynd, Camden New Journal, [1p] [15 March 2007]
- press clipping, obituary by John Haylett, Morning Star, [1p] [21 March 2007]
- press clipping, death announcement, Morning Star, [1p] [14 March 2007]
- photocopies of announcements of Gaster's death and memorial tributes in The Guardian, Independent, Morning Star, and other press, [2pp] [March 2007]
- typescript copy of obituary from the journal Proletarian, issue 17, [2pp] [April 2007]
- press clipping, poem, 'Jack Gaster in Memoriam' by Robert Ilson, printed in the Morning Star, [1p] [24 May 2007]
- photocopy of press clipping of poem by Robert Ilson, Morning Star, [1p] [24 May 2007]
- press clipping, 'Why Jack Gaster never went to war : secret files reveal how civil rights lawyer was kept from frontline battle and spied on by MI5', Camden New Journal, [1p] [13 March 2008]

- photocopy of press clipping, 'Jack Gaster remembered', Morning Star, [1p] [05 October 2007]
 - order of service booklet for funeral, Jack Gaster, 6th October 1907–12th March 2007, [6pp] [2 copies] [2007]
 - letters of condolence to Jack Gaster at the time of his wife Maire's death; related correspondence, [6pp] [1989-1992]
 - print-out of email from Thabo Mbeki to Polly Gaster on the occasion of Jack Gaster's death, [2pp] [17 March 2007]
- OPEN**

GASTER/5/4 Notes for speeches

1921-1979

Handwritten and typescript notes, chiefly from 1930-1932, by Jack Gaster for speeches he gave, with quotations he wanted to include and other aides-memoire. Includes speeches given regarding unemployment and Lloyd George (1921), London education (1930), 'The place of the I[ndependent] L[abour] P[arty] in Current Poliltics' (1931), 'The Jewish Question' (1956), China (1967) and Mozambique (1979), [1921-1979]

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GASTER/5/5 Collected by Gaster

1938-1993

Miscellaneous items of memorabilia, [1938-1993]

Includes:

- booklet, 'William S. Schlamm: spokesman for World War III' by Walter Bredendiek; issued by the German Peace Council, [16pp] [1959]
- booklet, 'Congress Ideology: a statement' by Humanyun Kabir; reprinted from vol 16, no. 1 of India Quarterly (New Delhi: Indian Council of World Affairs), [23pp] [1960]
- booklet, 'The Collaboration of Nations in the U.S.S.R.', by E. A. Dunayeva (Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House), [66pp] [1950]
- booklet, 'Harperbury Hospital "Then and Now"' by Dr Eileen Baranyay; for the hospital's golden jubilee, [39pp] [1978]
- typescript letter from Gaster to a Mrs Forbes, regarding his name 'going forward for consideration by the Regional Board for a further term of office on the H.M.C. [Hospital

Management Committee]', [3pp] [23 November 1964]

- handwritten note regarding the address of the Society for the Study of Labour History, [1p]

[n.d.]

- booklet, tributes to Wogan Philipps, Lord Milford (1902-1993), [7pp] [1993]

- booklet, 'European Jewry and the Palestine Problem: statement submitted to the Anglo-American Committee of enquiry by the Communist Party', [16pp] [1946]

- printed poster, advertising a talk at Seymour Hall, Seymour Place, London W1, at which W Gallacher MP, Ted Bramley and Jack Gaster would be speaking, [1p] [March 1938]

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GASTER/5/6 Legal documents

1989-2007

Personal legal documents, [1989-2007]

CLOSED