

Unity Theatre Provisional Box List (partial)

1937 - 1987

[NML Ref. Code: RH4
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NML: Updated by
Dawn Littler, Curator of Archives, February 2008
Additions catalogued by Charlotte Murray, North Street Project
Archivist, December 2016

Transferred to and accessioned by LJMU Special Collections & Archives in 2025. This box list is a provisional supplement while the collection awaits cataloguing. Please email archives@ljmu.ac.uk for all enquiries and appointments.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE,

1937 - 1987

Introduction

The archive of the Merseyside Unity Theatre was acquired in 1987 by the Regional History Department and some items were subsequently put on display in the Museum of Labour History. As a result of an internal reorganisation, care of the collection passed to the Department of Archives in 1992.

Further additions were made in 1991 and 1992, and these have been added to the list.

When the original list was prepared a series of notes were included, to provide a background to the material. These have now been put at the end of the catalogue.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE,

1937 - 1987

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MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE,

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MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE,
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Box 61	61/1 - 8	Writing by Merseyside Unity Theatre Members	1949 - 1985
Box 62	62/1	Left Theatre	n.d.
Boxes 63 - 64	63/1 64/1	Funding the Arts	n.d.
Box 65	65/1 - 4	Merseyside Unity Theatre in Hope Place	n.d.
Boxes 66 - 71		Leonard Peck	1931 - 1968
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MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE,
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Box 84	84/1 - 7	Folders of Notes, etc., re Plays	1967 - 1996
Box 85	85/1 - 5	Various	1949 - 1997
Box 86	86/1 - 6	I Got Friends: Edgar Criddle	2002
Box 87	87/1 - 10	Unity Theatre: Various	n.d.
Box 88	88/1 - 9	Various	n.d.
Box 89	89/1 - 13	Plays by Edgar Criddle	n.d.
Box 90	90/1 - 19	Plays by Edgar Criddle	n.d.
Box 91	91/1	Display files [Oversize]	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 1 1/1 - 9	<u>Minutes of Committee Meetings</u>	<u>1937 - 1987</u>
1	Minute Book.	19 Mar 1937 - 14 Oct 1937
2	Written Minutes.	3 Feb 1942 - 11 June 1945
3	Minute Book.	22 Aug 1945 - 23 Jul 1946
4	Typed Minutes.	22 Aug 1946 - 22 Dec 1950
5	Typed Minutes.	4 Jan 1950 - 27 Nov 1953
6	Typed Minutes.	11 Jan 1954 - 15 Dec 1960
7	Typed Minutes.	25 Feb 1961 - 7 Dec 1967
8	Typed Minutes.	17 Jan 1968 - 2 Dec 1979
9	Typed Minutes.	26 Jan 1980 - 13 Jan 1987

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 2 2/1 - 5	<u>Minutes of General Meetings: Reports, Accounts</u>	<u>1943 - 1987</u>
1	Written Minutes.	16 Apr 1943 - 11 Mar 1946
2	Typed Minutes.	26 Aug 1946 - 15 June 1977
3	Typed Minutes.	20 Mar 1979 - 13 Jan 1987
4	General Meeting Reports and Prospects.	Aug 1946 - Apr 1972
5	Accounts and Balance Sheets.	26 Apr 1945 - 13 Jan 1987

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 3 3/1 - 6	<u>Membership</u>	<u>1937 - 1983</u>
1	Card Index.	1937 - 1946
2	Book: Membership Addresses.	c.1960
3	Early correspondence with Members.	15 June 1937 - 20 Mar 1940
4	Later correspondence with Members.	15 Nov 1944 - 10 Feb 1983
5	Affiliated organisations.	25 Oct 1938 - 29 Aug 1940
6	Advisory Council and Patrons.	7 June 1938 - 28 Mar 1940

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 4 4/1 - 5	<u>Membership Bulletins</u>	<u>1938 - 1986</u>
1	Duplicated Bulletins.	1 May 1938 - 24 Feb 1946
2	Duplicated Bulletins.	Aug 1946 - Aug 1948
3	Printed Bulletins.	Sept 1948 - May 1957
4	Duplicated Bulletins.	June 1957 - Nov/Dec 1979
5	Duplicated Bulletins.	Jan 1980 - Jul 1986

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 5 5/1 - 4	<u>Left Book Club Theatre Guild</u>	<u>1937 - 1940</u>
1	Left Book Club Theatre Guild Bulletins / Theatre for the People / Recommended Play Lists.	May 1937 - June/Jul 1939
2	L.B.C.T.G. correspondence: National.	Oct 1937 - Oct 1940
3	L.B.C.T.G. correspondence: Regional.	June 1937 - Aug 1940
4	Recommended Play Lists.	1938 - 1939

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 6 6/1 - 5	<u>Unity Theatre Club / Unit Theatre Society Ltd.</u>	<u>1937 - 1947</u>
1	Correspondence.	May 1937 - Jan 1940
2	Foundation of National Society.	June 1944 - Apr 1947
3	Unity Theatre Society Campaign Bulletins / National Conference.	10 Jul 1946 - 9/10 Nov 1946
4	Correspondence.	8 May 1946 - 20 May 1947
5	Correspondence.	20 Apr 1946 - 4 Aug 1947

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 7 7/1 - 4	<u>Unity Theatre Federation</u>	<u>1947 - 1963</u>
1	Formation of Unity Theatre Federation.	9 Dec 1947 - 9 Apr 1951
2	Unity News / Unity Newsheet.	Jan 1947 - Jan 1951
3	Correspondence: National.	Nov 1947 - June 1960
4	Correspondence: Regional.	6 June 1947 - 1 Dec 1963

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 8 8/1 - 6	<u>Relations with Other Theatres / Associations</u>	<u>1937 - 1978</u>
1	Theatre Union / Workshop.	23 Mar 1940 - 24 Jan 1961
2	British Drama League.	Apr 1937 - May 1978
3	Merseyside Amateur Theatre Federation.	1 Jul 1939 - 21 May 1947
4	New Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.	1958 seq.
5	Everyman Theatre, Liverpool.	1965 - 1975
6	Adelphi, Century, Royal Court, etc.	1946 seq.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 9 9/1 - 6	<u>Serving the Labour Movement</u>	<u>1937 - 1979</u>
1	Correspondence: requests for performances.	16 June 1937 - 26 Oct 1944
2	Correspondence: requests for performances.	9 Oct 1946 - 24 Dec 1947
3	Correspondence: requests for performances.	3 Feb 1948 - 18 Dec 1949
4	Correspondence: requests for performances.	6 Jan 1950 - 29 Nov 1952
5	Correspondence: requests for performances.	6 Jan 1953 - 10 Apr 1979
6	Merseyside Community Relations Council.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 10 10/1 - 4	<u>Serving the Labour Movement: Liverpool Trades Council</u>	<u>1948 - 1973</u>
1	Liverpool Trades Council Centenary.	1948
2	Liverpool Trades Council and Liverpool Charter Celebrations.	1957
3	Liverpool Trades Council 125 th Anniversary.	1973
4	Thesis: Liverpool Trades Council and Politics, 1878 - 1918.	1959

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 11 11/1	<u>Serving the Labour Movement: Communist Party</u>	<u>1946</u>
1	Correspondence, Bulletins and Notices.	1946

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 12 12/1 - 2	<u>Scripts</u>	<u>1937 - 1944</u>
1	<p>Workers Theatre Movement, Clarion, ILP, etc.</p> <p>Slickers Ltd. (Workers Theatre Movement). The Last Act (Clarion Players). The First Ten Years (Daily Worker). Street Sellers (Daily Worker). The New Saint (Mary Paul, Merseyside). The Day of the Proletariat (Toller, provenance?). Second Storey Man (Upton Sinclair, from ILP). Pot-boiler (Upton Sinclair, from ILP).</p>	pre-1937
2	<p>Merseyside Left Theatre Material</p> <p>Spain, A Mass Declamation. Insurgents' Aid Committee, an improvisation. Before Guernica, a documentary, Bitter Enemy, a poem. Stop Those War Drums (Paull) Hunger March, a documentary. Strike Me Red, a comedy in three acts. If they Really Meant It, a musical. The People's Convention, a sketch. Various parodies, songs, sketches. The Tune is Called. Waiting for Lefty (Odets). I Can't Sleep (Odets). Where's that Bomb? (Roberts/Buckley-Hodge). Bury the Dead (Irwin Shaw). Requiem (Toller) Sword of the Spirit (Swingler) Calling Erna Kramer (Bishop/Willis). Freedom on Trial. Under the Iron Heel. Hymn to the Rising Sun (Paul Green). This Earth is Ours (Koslenko). The Skirmish (Desmond Greaves). Sometime - Never (Fred Ellison).</p>	1937 - 1944

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 13 13/1 - 2	<u>Left Book Club Theatre Guild and Play Service</u>	<u>1937 - 1947</u>
1	Left Book Club Theatre Guild Five Thousand Years of Poetry (Jack Lindsay). We Need Russia; mass declamation (Jack Lindsay). Enough of all This (Simon Blumenfeld). Dialogues for Children (Tolstoy/Joan Tuckett). Swelling the Labour Vote (John Allen/Tom Harrisson). Madrilenas (Carmel Haden Guest/Richard Orchard). Passing Unnoticed (Ruth Tucker). Private Hicks (Albert Maltz). Waiting for Lefty (Clifford Odets). I Can't Sleep (Clifford Odets). This is the Worst News (Nettlefold/Rathkey). Here in this County (Richard Parker). The Statesman's Dream (sketch). Passing the Buck (sketch). Flat to Let (sketch). Beyond the Deluge (sketch). The Art of the Act (Rapoport).	1937 - 1940
2	New Theatre Play Service 1. The Shoemaker's Wife (Lorca). 2. Winkles and Champagne (Rowbottom). 3. This Trampled Earth (Leeson). 4. Italian Love Story (Morris). 5. Bikini Fable (Morris). 6. What Happened to Love (Willis). 7. Great Expectations (Dickens/Alex Guinness) 8. Spare Time (Tomalin). 9. Enemies (Gorki/Bell). 10. According to Law (Houston). 11. Shrill Clarion (Irwin). 12. Black Magic (Collier). 13. Match Girls (Mitchell). 14. The World is in this Place (Willis). 15. Out of Liverpool (Slater). 16. Mak and the Shepherds (Merseyside Unity Theatre). 17. Dreamers in the Kitchen (Elstein). 18. Soldier of Truth (Gorki/Bernstein). 19. Starched Aprons (Stewart). 20. Rocket Range (Crawford).	1947 seq.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 13 13/1 - 2	<u>Left Book Club Theatre Guild and Play Service (cont)</u>	<u>1937 - 1947</u>
2	New Theatre Play Service (cont) 21. Plant in the Sun (Bengal). 22. Rehearsal (Maltz). 23. All Aboard (Bengal). 24. Fuente Ovejuna (Lope de Vega/Harrison). 25. Restricted (Corman). [1, 4, 5, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 24 are missing]	1947 seq.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 14 14/1 - 2	<u>Theatres, Mass Declamations, Ted Willis</u>	<u>1938 - 1939</u>
1	<u>Theatre Union, Manchester</u>	
	Fuenta Ovejuna (Lope de Vega/Theatre Union). The Good Soldier Schweik (Hasek/Piscator/Theatre Union).	
2	<u>Unity Theatre, London</u>	
	Convoy to Murmansk (Jack Lindsay). The Word of a King (Poulsen). Longitude 49 (Tank). The Russian for Yes (Tom Cobley/Gleeson). The Offshore Island (Laski). Candy Store. The Good Hope (Heijemans). The Star Turns Red (O'Casey). What's Left (revue). Miscellaneous Songs and Sketches from Revues. You Won't Always be on Top (Chapman?). Find me a Happy Man (Reid). In a Lunatic Asylum (Maltz). This Trampled Earth (Leeson). The Whole World Over (Simonov). Ragged Trousered Philanthropists (Tressell/Rowbottom). Fuenta Ovejuna (Lope de Vega/Green). Crossing the Frontier (Windsor). Three Russian Fold Tales (Dents/Lee). Stevedore (Sklar/Peter).	
(14.2)	<u>Mass Declamations</u>	
	On Guard for Spain. Agony of China. Who are the English? May the First. Summer Election. A Piece about Peace. We Need Russia (all by Jack Lindsay). A Song for the English (Willis). Requiem (Toller). The Day of the Proletariat (Toller).	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 14 14/1 - 2</p> <p>(14.2) (cont)</p>	<p><u>Theatres, Mass Declamations, Ted Willis (cont)</u></p> <p><u>Ted Willis</u></p> <p>The Bells Ringing. George Goes Home. A Home for George. Buster. What Happened to Love (13.2). The World is in this Place (13.2). Song for the English. Calling Erna Kramer (12.2).</p>	<p><u>1938 - 1939</u></p>

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 15 - 23 Box 23 23/1	<p><u>Scripts (cont)</u></p> <p><u>Material written by Merseyside Unity Theatre</u></p> <p>Mak and the Shepherds (Wakefield Cycle). Unity Fare, a revue. One Hundred Years Hard, documentary. [fragments] Man with a Plan, documentary. Free and Equal, song scene. Joe Hill, song scene. Cinderella, pantomime. Sweeney Todd, a version of the melodrama. Make that Future Now. The Great Money Trick from R.T.P. Gramsci. May Day Festival.</p> <p>Translations and versions made from Milière, Buchner, Lope de Vega, Pirandello, Beolco and the Jacobbeans will be found in the appropriate sections. Much material has disappeared, partly because it was "cannibalised", partly because it was borrowed by other groups.</p>	<p><u>1944 - 1979</u></p> <p><u>1944 - 1979</u></p>

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 24 24/1 - 4	<u>Playwrights</u>	<u>1947 - 1986</u>
1	Correspondence/Peck.	1947 - 1975
2	Correspondence/Irwin.	1949 - 1986
3	Correspondence/Frank Shaw, etc.	1950 - 1979
4	Correspondence/Playwrights' Agents.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 25 25/1 - 3	<u>Censorship</u>	<u>1938 - 1953</u>
1	Correspondence with the Lord Chamberlain.	1938 seq.
2	Philharmonic Hall Ban.	1953 seq.
3	General Censorship Material.	n.d.

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
*Boxes 26 - 32	<u>Productions</u>	<u>1937 - 1987</u>
Box 26 26/1 26/2 26/3 26/4 26/5	Correspondence arising from productions. Correspondence arising from productions. Correspondence arising from productions. Correspondence arising from productions. Correspondence arising from productions.	1937 - 1944 1945 - 1949 1950 - 1959 1960 - 1969 1970 -
Box 27/1-2 27/1	Photographs, Transparencies, Designs of Productions.	1946 - 1979
Box 28 28/1	Posters and Leaflets for Productions.	1937 - 1987
Box 29 29/1	Press cuttings of Productions.	1937 - 1987
Box 30 30/1	Programme of Productions.	1937 - 1987
Box 31 31/1	Publicity for Productions.	1960 - 1987
Box 32 32/1	General Publicity.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 33 33/1 - 9	<u>Lectures</u>	<u>1937</u>
1	Correspondence with Lecturers.	1937 seq.
2	Anthologies.	n.d.
3	Marxism and Culture.	n.d.
4	Shakespeare.	n.d.
5	Music and gramophone recitals.	n.d.
6	Page to Stage.	n.d.
7	Film and Television.	n.d.
8	William Roscoe.	n.d.
9	Miscellaneous.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 34 34/1 - 3	<u>Music</u>	<u>1938 - 1959</u>
1	Correspondence.	1938 seq.
2	Workers' Music Association Bulletins.	1947 - 1959
3	Topic Records: correspondence and publicity.	1941 seq.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 35 35/1	<u>Songbooks, Song Sheets and Scores</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Songbooks, song sheets and scores.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 36 36/1 - 4	<u>Film</u>	<u>1940 - 1963</u>
1	Correspondence with film distributors, etc.	1940
2	Correspondence with film distributors, etc.	1946 - 1956
3	Correspondence and minutes/New Shakespeare Film Society.	1957 - 1963
4	Correspondence with Regional Film Societies.	1946 seq.

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 37 - 44	<u>Film</u>	<u>1946 - 1983</u>
Box 37 37/1	Programmes/Merseyside Unity Theatre.	1946 - 1956
37/2	Programmes/New Shakespeare Film Society.	1958 -
37/3	Distributors' Synopses.	n.d.
37/4	Film Stills.	n.d.
37/5	Correspondence/Towards a Merseyside Film Theatre.	n.d.
Box 38 38/1	Federation of Film Societies/Federation News.	1965 - 1975
Box 39 39/1	Federation of Film Societies/Film News 27-75. National Viewing Sessions.	1957 seq. 1976 - 1980
Box 40 40/1	British Film Institute/Annual Reports, Pamphlets.	1953 - 1980
Box 41 41/1	British Film Institute/films on offer, catalogues.	1962 - 1980
Box 42/1-2 42/1	Press cuttings.	n.d.
42/2	Distributors' Publicity/Socialist Countries.	n.d.
42/3	Distributors' Publicity/General.	n.d.
Box 43 43/1	Catalogues/ Contemporary, Plato, Kino, Artificial Eye.	n.d.
43/2	Catalogues/General.	n.d.
43/3	Co-operative Society Film Journal. [complete]	1948 - 1953
Box 44 44/1	Miscellaneous Leaflets, etc.	n.d.
44/2	Latin-American Film Festival, Cuba.	1983

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 45 - 48	<u>International Links</u>	<u>1960 - 1961</u>
Box 45 45/1	West Germany/ Press Cuttings.	1960
45/2	West Germany/MUT performance in Mulheim/Dortmund.	1960
45/3	German performance in Britain.	1961
45/4	Correspondence/Berliner Ensemble, Mulheim, Leipzig.	1960 seq.
Box 46 46/1	Hronov Festival Delegation, Czechoslovakia.	n.d.
46/2	Correspondence/Pavel Fiala.	n.d.
46/3	Polish Delegation.	n.d.
46/4	School in Poznan, Poland.	n.d.
46/5	British Polish Friendship Society.	n.d.
Box 47 47/1	Hungary.	1956
47/2	German Democratic Republic/Len Jones.	n.d.
47/3	U.S.S.R. - Great Britain Society.	n.d.
47/4	Australia/China/Italy/France/America.	n.d.
47/5	International Collage/Material for LEFT THEATRE.	n.d.
47/6	West Berlin/Perpendicular Theatre.	n.d.
Box 48 48/1	Programmes from D.D.R./Soviet Union/Czechoslovakia.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 49 - 52	<u>Theatre: General</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
Box 49 49/1	Theatre Programmes: British.	n.d.
Box 50 50/1	Theatre Programmes: British.	n.d.
Box 51 51/1	Theatre Press Cuttings: General.	n.d.
Box 52 52/1	Theatre Press Cuttings: General.	n.d.

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 53 - 60	<u>Magazines</u>	<u>1936 - 1978</u>
Box 53 53/1	Left News, Nos. 5-29, and 49.	1936 - 1940
53/2	Labour's Merseyside Voice, Vol. I.1 - Vol. III.22.	1953 - 1959
53/3	Our History, Nos. 8-25.	1954 - 1955
53/4	Leisure for Living, TUC Policy for Arts.	n.d.
Box 54		
54/1	New Theatre, Vol. III.1 - Vol. V.13.	1946 - 1949
54/2	New Theatre Newsletter, Nos. 1-133.	1946 - 1951
54/3	Theatre Today, Nos. 1-6.	1946 - 1947
54/4	Scots Theatre/Glasgow Unity Theatre, 1-4.	1946
54/5	Million.	c.1947
Box 55		
55/1	Prompt, Tabs, Encore, Co-op Theatre Magazine, etc.	n.d.
Box 56/1-2		
56/1	British Drama League/DRAMA.	1946 - 1978
Box 57		
57/1	International/Czechoslovakia.	n.d.
Box 58		
58/1	International/Czechoslovakia, Poland.	n.d.
Box 59		
59/1	International/U.S.S.R. - Voks.	1946 - 1956
Box 60		
60/1	International/General.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 61 61/1 - 8	<u>Writing by Merseyside Unity Theatre Members</u>	<u>1949 - 1985</u>
1	George Garrett: Liverpool 1921-1922 - Out of Liverpool.	1949
2	Len Jones: Workers' Theatre Movement - Doctoral Thesis.	1964
3	Helen Oakley: American Workers' Theatre - Thesis.	1979
4	John Craig: Merseyside Unity Theatre - Essay.	1972
5	Jerry Dawson: Left Theatre.	1985
6	Members' Recollections.	n.d.
7	Communist Manifesto Programme.	1948
8	LTC Exhibition Catalogue.	1957

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Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 62 62/1	<u>Left Theatre</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Sources, Patrons, Bibliography, etc.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 63 - 64	<u>Funding the Arts</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
Box 63 63/1	Merseyside Arts Association.	n.d.
Box 64/1-2 64/1	House of Commons: Select Committee.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 65 65/1 - 4	<u>Merseyside Unity Theatre in Hope Place</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Negotiations for Building.	n.d.
2	Correspondence: General.	n.d.
3	Correspondence: Polemic.	n.d.
4	Miscellaneous Material.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 66 - 71	<u>Leonard Peck</u>	<u>1931 - 1968</u>
Box 66 1/1 - 3	<u>Novels: Published - Typescripts</u>	<u>1965 - 1968</u>
1	It's a Free County (published Longmans).	1965
2	Touch Pitch (published John Lane).	1967
3	A Case of Identity (published Hale).	1968
2/1 - 4	<u>Novels: Unpublished - Typescripts</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Death in Harness	n.d.
2	I've Got Influential Friends.	n.d.
3	The Right Hon. Gentleman.	n.d.
4	Who Cannot See the Sun.	n.d.
3/1	<u>Poems</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Typescript. [8 pages]	n.d.
4/1 - 5	<u>Short Stories: Typescripts</u>	<u>1936</u>
1	The Black Coat.	n.d.
2	A Country Visit.	n.d.
3	We Think We Are.	n.d.
4	Situation Vacant, theory and practice.	n.d.
5	More Geese than Swan (published Adelphi).	June 1936
Box 67 5/1 - 11	<u>Plays which were Produced: Typescripts</u>	<u>1938 - 1960</u>
1	East End.	1938
2	Means Test Trifle.	1938

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 66 - 71	<u>Leonard Peck (cont)</u>	<u>1931 - 1968</u>
Box 67 (cont) 5/1 - 11	<u>Plays which were Produced: Typescripts (cont)</u>	<u>1938 - 1960</u>
3	Green and Pleasant Land.	1946
4	The Townshends. Director's copy (R. Vernon Beste) interleaved with stage directions, with a photograph of the stage-set and quotes from newspaper cuttings.	1948
5	The Invisible Law.	1949
6	The Traitors.	1952
Box 68 7	The Shadow of the Swastika.	1954
8	The Shadow of the Swastika. Russian translation, inscribed to "The Author, dear Leonard Peck, from a humble translator of his splendid play, 'The Shadow of the Swastika', with best regards. 2.5.57 London".	n.d.
9	Double Cross. Another version, retitled, for the performance by the Repertory Players, Strand Theatre.	1956
10	The Big Screen.	1958
11	Puerto Franco.	1960
Box 69 6/1 - 8	<u>Plays which were not Produced: Typescripts</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	"The Girl Nobody Wanted".	n.d.
2	"Holiday from Home".	n.d.
3	"Flat to Let".	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 66 - 71	<u>Leonard Peck (cont)</u>	<u>1931 - 1968</u>
Box 69 (cont) 6/1 - 8	<u>Plays which were not Produced: Typescripts (cont)</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
4	"Land of My Fathers".	n.d.
5	"More Deaths than One".	n.d.
6	"A Passionate Pilgrimage".	n.d.
7	"Serpents in their Hair".	n.d.
8	"Holidays at Home". [revised version]	n.d.
Box 70 7/1 - 12	<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>1931 - 1978</u>
1	With literary magazines re short stories.	1939 - 1940
2	With friends.	1931 - 1978
3	With Ted Willis, London Unity.	1944
4	About staging of plays.	1950 seq.
5	About staging of plays.	1938 - 1956
6	About staging "The Townshends".	n.d.
7	About staging "The Big Screen".	n.d.
8	About staging "The Shadow of the Swastika"; includes Russian and Netherlands productions.	n.d.
9	With literary agent.	1963 - 1977
10	About publishing "Touch Pity".	1966 - 1969
11	About publishing "Case of Identity".	1968 - 1976
12	About publishing "It's a Free Country".	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 66 - 71	<u>Leonard Peck (cont)</u>	<u>1931 - 1968</u>
Box 71 8/1 - 5	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	n.d.
1	Drafts and notes for novels and plays.	n.d.
2	Draft notes for "Touch Pitch" and unnamed play.	n.d.
3	Theatre programmes, press cuttings.	n.d.
4	Typescript; a Dictionary of Literary Quotations.	n.d.
5	Papers which deal with Peck's suspension from Civil Service duties during the British version of the McCarthy witch-hunt, and his later reinstatement.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 72 - 73	<u>Leonard Irwin</u>	<u>1950 - 1986</u>
Box 72 1/1 - 2	<u>Plays: Printed Copies</u>	<u>1950 - 1953</u>
1	Land of the Living.	1950
2	The Bubble.	1953
2/1 - 7	<u>Plays: Typescripts</u>	<u>1952 - 1955</u>
1	The Wages of Eve.	1952
2	Enter Guests, Armed.	1955
3	Cranford, an evocation of Gaskell's Story.	n.d.
4	North Light.	n.d.
5	Conversations.	n.d.
6	The Choice.	n.d.
7	Daybreak at Evening.	n.d.
3/1	<u>Novel: Typescript</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Citizens Voices.	n.d.
Box 73 4/1 - 2	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>1950</u>
1	Programmes, press cutting, photographs.	n.d.
2	To the Aid of the Writer.	1950
5/1 - 5	<u>Theatre Writers' Union</u>	<u>1982 - 1986</u>
1	Minutes, notices, conference reports, Manchester Theatre Writers' Union.	1983 - 1986
2	Theatre Writers' Union newsletter.	1982 - 1986
3	Material on Contracts and Agreements.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 72 - 73	<u>Leonard Irwin (cont)</u>	<u>1950 - 1986</u>
Box 73 (cont) 5/1 - 5	<u>Theatre Writers' Union</u> (cont)	<u>1982 - 1986</u>
4	"Playwrights', an Endangered Species", think-tank report.	n.d.
5	Peace Play Register. Contains details synopses of "The Circling Dove" and "Enter Guests, Armed", with the comment that these were plays written in the fifties and remain remarkably relevant.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 74 - 77	<u>Scripts, Film and Magazines</u>	<u>1922 - 1980</u>
Box 74 1/1 - 13	<u>Scripts</u>	<u>1922 - 1946</u>
1	Malleson and Brooks: Six Men of Dorset (Gallancz).	1934
2	Barke: Major Operation (MacLellan).	1943
3	Martin: The Shepherd and the Hunter (Wingate).	1946
4	Atkinson: Operation Bowler (Sampson Low).	1946
5	Slater: Century for George (Bodley Head).	1946
6	Willis: God Bless the Guv'nor (New Theatre publications). [The back cover carries names of all London and Provincial, Unity Branch Group contacts and their addresses.]	c.1946
7	Robert Collis: Marrowbone Lane (Ruana Press).	1943
8	Malleson: D Company and Black E11 (Hendersons).	1925
9	Malleson: Youth (Hendersons).	1925
10	Philip Bull: A Tramp among the Tombstones (Portway).	1937
11	Lionel Britton: Space Time Inn (Putnams).	1932
12	Frank G. Layton: The Prophet (Daniel). [No. 18 of Plays for a People's Theatre, with list of earlier numbers on back cover.]	1922
13	Priestley: Four Plays (Heinemann).	1944
2/1 - 3	<u>Film</u>	<u>1952 - 1980</u>
1	British Film Institute NEWS, Nos. 1-45.	1972 - 1980
2	National Film Theatre: Critics Choice.	1952 - 1956
3	Film User. [various numbers]	1955 - 1961

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 74 - 77	<u>Scripts, Film and Magazine (cont)</u>	<u>1922 - 1980</u>
Box 74 (cont) 3/1 - 10	<u>Magazines</u>	<u>1941 - 1970</u>
1	<i>Jury</i> , Nos. 1-8.	1965 - 1966
2	<i>Theatre Arts Magazine</i> , Vol. 6, No. 3.	Jul 1922
3	<i>The Critic</i> , Vol. 1, Nos. 4 and 6.	1968
4	<i>Plays & Players</i> . [run incomplete]	1953 - 1970
5	<i>Theatre and Theatre</i> newsletter.	1951 - 1953
6	<i>Honesty</i> , Vol. II, Nos. 1-3 and Vol. III, No. 2.	1966 - 1968
Box 75 7	<i>Prompts</i> , Nos. 1-14.	1962 - 1969
Box 76/1-2 8	<i>Theatre Arts</i> . [run incomplete]	1941 - 1943
9	<i>Theatre Arts</i> . [run incomplete]	1949 - 1956
Box 77 10	<i>Plays and Players</i> . [run incomplete]	Oct 1949 - Apr 1964

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 78 - 79	<u>Education</u>	<u>1948 - c.1984</u>
Box 78 1/1 - 6	<u>Magazines</u>	<u>1948 - c.1984</u>
1	<i>English in Education</i> , Vols. 2-9.	1968 - 1975
2	<i>Forum</i> , Vol. 2, No. 2 - Vol. 18, No. 1. [run incomplete]	1960 - 1975
Box 79 3	<i>Socialism and Education</i> , No. 1 - Vol. 10, No. 3. [run incomplete]	c.1962 - c.1984
4	<i>Comprehensive Education</i> , Nos. 4-7.	1966 - 1967
5	<i>Educational Bulletin</i> , Vol. 1 - Vol. 6, No. 1.	1948 - 1953
6	<i>Education Today</i> , Vol. VI, No. 3 - Vol. 25, No. 4. [run incomplete]	1954 - 1973
2/1 - 3	<u>Association Brochures</u>	<u>1963 - 1967</u>
1	<i>Joint Matriculation Board</i> . [2 items]	1963 - 1967
2	<i>Socialist Educational Association</i> . [9 items]	n.d.
3	<i>National Association for the Teaching of English</i> . [5 items]	n.d.
3/1	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Bundle of leaflets and papers re education trends.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 80 - 82 80-82/1 - 4	<u>International Links</u>	<u>1940 - 1980</u>
1	Soviet Literature. [run not complete]	1946 - 1968
2	<i>Anglo-Soviet Journal</i> , Vol. I, No. 2 - Vol. XL, No. 2. [run not complete]	1940 - 1980
3	<i>Bulgaria Cultural News</i> . [run not complete]	1950 - 1951
4	Chinese Literature. [run not complete]	1951 - 1977

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 83 83/1 - 7	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>1943 - 1992</u>
1	Folder marked "G. Frood", containing newscutting and brochures on 'Setting Up and Art Centre'.	c.1967
2	File of correspondence on the acquisition of the MUT archives. [34 items]	c.1986
3	Folder of papers and documents, and a photograph of George Garrett.	c.1955
4	Leaflet to celebrate the 13 th Anniversary of the <i>Daily Worker</i> .	1943
5/1 - 4	<u>4 Scripts of Plays, presented by Dr. J.G. Neville, who produced and directed Nos. 2 and 3, see letter</u>	<u>1945 - 1992</u>
1	"Women Beware Women".	1992
2	The Witch of Edmonton.	1992
3	Dog in the Manger (presented as Marry Your Mistress).	1992
4	Oedipus Rex. All Annotated.	1945
6	MUT newsletters.	1973
7	Programmes for the Unity Theatre.	1992

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 83.1 83.1/1 - 11	<u>Folders on Plays</u>	<u>1939 - 1971</u>
1	Review re theatre for the people.	1939
2	Witch of Edmonton.	1968
3	And People all Around.	1968
4	King Lear.	1969
5	Folder of papers re "Open Air Productions in Calderstones Park".	1970
6	Medea.	1970
7	Bernada Alba and Others.	1970
8	Live Like Pigs.	1971
9	Mother Courage - lighting script.	n.d.
10	The Visit.	n.d.
11	The Changeling - lighting script.	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 84 84/1 - 7	<u>Folders of Notes, etc. re Plays</u>	<u>1967 - 1996</u>
1	Phedre.	1996
2	The Representative.	1967
3	City Madam.	1967
4	Galileo.	1967
5	Miss Julie and the Pot of Gold.	1969
6	The Balcony.	1970
7	When we Dead Awaken.	1971

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: **MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987**

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 85 85/1 - 5	<u>Various</u>	<u>1949 - 1997</u>
1	Display files of programmes and photographs of plays [12 items, smaller size]	n.d.
2	Copy of catalogue produced in 1987.	1987
3	Left Theatre, Merseyside Unity Theatre, a documentary record, by Jerry Dawson.	1985
4	Power to the People, the work of the Unity Theatre, 1929-1945, a thesis by A.E. Lambert.	May 1997
	Presented to National Museums Liverpool by Mrs. A.E. Lambert.	

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 86 86/1 - 6	<u>I Got Friends: Edgar Criddle</u>	<u>2002</u>
1	I Got Friends Scene 1	n.d.
2	I Got Friends Scene 2	n.d.
3	I Got Friends Scene 3	n.d.
4	I Got Friends Scene 4	n.d.
5	I Got Friends Scene 5	n.d.
6	I Got Friends correspondence & The Matchgirls' Strike props and background information	9 Jul 2002

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 87 87/1 - 10	<u>Unity Theatre: Various</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	'The Engineers' play	n.d.
2	'Tricks of Scarpa [?]' play	n.d.
3	'Spain' by Randall Swingler	n.d.
4	Various Unity scripts: plays and sketches (I)	n.d.
5	Various Unity scripts (II)	n.d.
6	Folder containing: NML (Museum of Labour History) catalogues of Merseyside Left/Unity Theatre and Spanish War Against Fascism Archives. Spain Before Guernica notes and correspondence. 2 copies of Garrett's 'Out of Liverpool'.	n.d.
7	Unity: Research, Revival	n.d.
8	Unity: Press Cuttings	n.d.
9	Unity Bulletins	n.d.
10	Unity: Miscellaneous	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 88 88/1 - 9	<u>Various</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	Edgar Criddle: 'Hit and Run'	n.d.
2	Edgar Criddle: 'Snow White'	n.d.
3	Plays by J. F. Criddle: Mr Blite's Tiger, Dinner Hour Dialogue: The Goose, Alice in Blunderland	n.d.
4	J. F. Criddle: 'Cardoon'	n.d.
5	J. F. Criddle: A Story	n.d.
6	J. F. Criddle: Various	n.d.
7	Unity Programmes	n.d.
8	Theatre Photographs & Cuttings Album: 1962-1964	n.d.
9	Miscellaneous Edgar Criddle correspondence and scripts (originally loose)	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 89 89/1 -13	<u>Plays by Edgar Criddle</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	3 Coasters – Criddle’s Treacle and Syrup	n.d.
2	Cassette Tape: Edgar Criddle: Hereford & Worcester local radio C.25-2-62	n.d.
3	Edgar Criddle: ‘Frankly Speaking’	n.d.
4	Edgar Criddle: ‘Potted MacBeth’	n.d.
5	Edgar Criddle: ‘Robinson Crusoe’	n.d.
6	Edgar Criddle: ‘Peter & Petal’	n.d.
7	Edgar Criddle: ‘Pudding Enough’	n.d.
8	Edgar Criddle: ‘Robin Hood & The Pieman’	n.d.
9	Edgar Criddle: Sketch – ‘Brush Up Your Shakespeare’	n.d.
10	Edgar Criddle: Songs: Sid Chaplin	n.d.
11	Theatre Photographs & Cuttings Album: 1940-1959	n.d.
12	Theatre Photographs & Cuttings Album 2: 1960-1962	n.d.
13	Miscellaneous Edgar Criddle correspondence, photographs & programmes	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 90 90/1 - 19	<u>Plays by Edgar Criddle</u>	<u>n.d.</u>
1	'Tea by the Bridge'	n.d.
2	'Sweeney Todd' (some pages missing)	n.d.
3	'Spring Morning Nightmare'	n.d.
4	'Man with a Plan'	n.d.
5	'Mak & the Shepherds'	n.d.
6	'Murder Most Ethical'	n.d.
7	'North [d/of] Mummers'	n.d.
8	'Wheatblade Explosion'	n.d.
9	'Daylight Robbery'	n.d.
10	'The Elixir [sic] of Life'	n.d.
11	'Cock, Crock, Candlestick'	n.d.
12	'High Stakes'	n.d.
13	'The Gypsy's Secret' or 'Playthings of Destiny'	n.d.
14	'Home to Roost'	n.d.
15	'Marriage of Convenience'	n.d.
16	'The Time & The Task'	n.d.
17	Edgar Criddle: Sketch – 'Humanesque'	n.d.
18	Unnamed script	n.d.
19	Unnamed script	n.d.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 91 91/1		<u>n.d.</u>
1	Display files of programmes and photographs of plays [Oversize]	n.d.

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Box 1	<p data-bbox="427 297 512 331"><u>Notes</u></p> <p data-bbox="427 365 1262 734">The earliest Minutes (1.1) are written in a hard-cover book which had already served for a nine page report on a meeting of Left Book Club convenors in London on the 7 February 1937, so underlining the political commitment of those who formed Merseyside Left Theatre (MLT) and anticipating the closer link which came with the formation of the Left Book Club Theatre Guild. They show how a small group of young people came together to campaign for the Spanish people in the fight against fascism and found, within six months, a wider role within the Labour Movement's struggle against unemployment and the threat of war.</p> <p data-bbox="427 768 1230 835">The Minutes of Meetings between 1937 and 1942 were a war casualty.</p> <p data-bbox="427 869 1257 1104">The Minutes from 1942 to 1946 (1.2 - 1.3) although often sketchy, provide a valuable record of wartime activities, with performances in Garrison Theatres, service sites and ordnance factories, and of a major contribution to the Liverpool Co-operative Society's Centenary Pageant in 1944 and to the City of Liverpool's Holidays at Home policy with entertainment in the Parks in 1945.</p> <p data-bbox="427 1137 1238 1272">The Minutes from 1946 to 1979 (1.4 - 1.8) record the development of the policy, changes in administrative structure and the expansion of activities into film, music, general education and international links.</p> <p data-bbox="427 1305 1246 1406">The Minutes from 1980 to 1987 (1.9) cover the period from the establishment of the Unity Theatre in Hope Place, Liverpool to the dissolution of the Merseyside Unity Theatre in 1987.</p>	

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 2</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Minutes of the earliest General Meetings are contained in 1.1. Minutes of General Meetings from October 1937 to April 1943, were a war casualty. The Reports and Prospects (2.4) presented to general meetings allow a quick assessment of how far proposals were translated into achievement - a necessary safeguard within movements where ambitions often outrun resources.</p>	

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Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 3</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Programmes over early years followed a policy of anonymity and gave no names of actors or backstage workers. LEFT THEATRE returned to this policy.</p> <p>A card index of members, made from addressograph stencils, was prepared shortly after the war with a record of performances given on the reverse of each card (3.1).</p> <p>There is a hand-written list of names compiled from memory in 1987, inevitable incomplete, so there is no comprehensive list of members.</p> <p>If researchers suggest that biographical notes would be helpful, these will be added to the archives.</p>	

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 4</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Pre-war Bulletins (4.1) provide a useful record of activities, with assessments of progress. They show that at an early stage MLT accepted music, film and general education, cultural and political, as an essential part of their work.</p> <p>Post-war Bulletins (4.2) make a re-assessment of policy, largely along earlier lines but taking into account the changed political situation and the firmer national organisation of left theatres.</p> <p>Printed Bulletins (4.3) are in themselves evidence of increased activity and membership.</p> <p>Later Bulletins (4.4 and 4.5) provide a quickly identified record of activities though often they are little more than publicity handouts.</p>	

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 8</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>MLT/MUT was part of a national organisation of left theatre groups; first of them the Left Book Theatre Guild, formed from co-operation between the Left Book Club and the Unity Theatre Club which, in 1937, claimed 250 groups in Great Britain; then in 1944, as a branch of a national Unity Theatre Society Ltd., with 50 groups, 2 of them professional; later still, of a looser Unity Theatre Federation.</p> <p>Researchers may well find that MLT/MUT archives contain the most complete collection of national and regional bulletins, publications and correspondence, not only with the London Office, but with local groups.</p> <p>Often MLT/MUT's regional experience casts doubts on larger national claims; a duplicated list from LBCTG in April 1939, in preparation for a North-West Conference, shows groups in Accrington, Birkenhead, Burnley, Chester, Manchester, Nelson, Oldham, Southport, Wigan and the Wirral, though letters (from Chester and Nelson) suggest a mere paper existence. On the other hand, national bulletins reveal real achievement in many areas, and Manchester and Tyneside bulletins give more detailed accounts.</p> <p>Relations with other theatres (8.1 to 8.6) were often conducted directly so that correspondence in the archives provides an inadequate account of links with Theatre Workshop/Union, before and after the war, the help given to touring companies visiting Liverpool, the care given to ensure that MLT/MUT programmes complemented the work of local professional companies, and the direct involvement with the short-lived Everyman Theatre (where, for many years, MUT shared the stage with the professional company).</p>	

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 9 - 11</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>The section "Serving the Labour Movement", in LEFT THEATRE (pp. 73-78) gives an account of the co-operation between MLT/MUT and the organised working-class. The archives support this account with evidence of day by day activity. They reveal something of the dedication and talent which so many in the Trade Union and Labour Movement brought to the fight for better wages and better working conditions, and to a wider concern for the quality of life and the fostering of creative ability among ordinary people.</p> <p>In this the Liverpool Trades Council and its Secretary, Simon Fraser, established a fine tradition, culminating in the 1973 celebration of the LTC's 125th anniversary (10.3).</p> <p>In a city where the struggle against racism was important, the MUT was often involved in performances with singers and actors from the black community, and was affiliated to the Merseyside Community Relations Council (9.6).</p> <p>Although there were only two C.P. members, and these recent recruits, among early MLT members, theatre activities were often so closely linked with Popular Front campaigns that the MLT was often attacked as a C.P. front and, after the war, McCarthy hysteria made MUT an easy target, despite its record. The leadership of the C.P. often insisted that Unity should firmly stress its independence, above all in its service to the broad Labour Movement.</p> <p>On the other hand, MUT had no hesitation in openly organising cultural activities, schools and lectures, in association with the C.P. and individual members undertook independent work for the C.P. in its own separate cultural activities (11.1).</p> <p>This section (9.1 - 11.1) calls for cross-reference with 2.5 - 2.6, and generally throughout LEFT THEATRE.</p>	

BUSINESS ARCHIVES

Title of Deposit: MERSEYSIDE LEFT / UNITY THEATRE, 1937 - 1987

Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 12 - 23</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Researchers often find difficulty in tracking down left theatre scripts, many of them ephemeral, written to meet immediate needs.</p> <p>Details of the contents of Boxes 15 to 21 have not been given because they are available for the most part in printed publications.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 25</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Correspondence with Peck and Irwin, and to a lesser extent with other dramatists, gives evidence of the close collaboration between a theatre group and dramatists in the progress of a play from stage to stage.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 26 - 32	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p><i>Left Theatre</i> (pp. 12-14) gives an account of the prosecution of the Merseyside Left Theatre for the presentation of unlicensed plays (pp. 28-29) and of the ban by the Liverpool City Council on the use of the Philharmonic Hall by the Merseyside Unity Theatre for the presentation of films; and of the campaign against the ban made with the help of the National Council for Civil Liberties. The correspondence with the Lord Chamberlain underlines the restrictions under which the theatres laboured until the abolition of his office in 1968.</p> <p>Production and Prompt Copies, where they exist, are contained in the Script Boxes. Few of them serve as guides to productions. Many productions have no photographic record, some no more than a publicity photograph taken by local press.</p> <p><i>Left Theatre</i> rigorously excluded quotation from press review, even when complimentary, largely because they seldom had any value.</p> <p>There are occasional transcripts made from shorthand notes of festival adjudicators, but even these must be viewed with caution (30.1).</p> <p>A list of programmes is enclosed in the box.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 33</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Lectures were a distinctive feature of MUT programmes (<i>Left Theatre</i>, pp. 70-71). The archives provide further evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a transcript of a wartime lecture by S.A. Dange, President of the All India Trade Unions, on the Indian People's Theatre; ▪ a letter from Tommy Jackson, detailed the support required from actors to illustrate his talk on <u>Penguin Island</u>; ▪ advice to another left theatre group on the structure and purpose of anthologies. <p>Requests from labour organisations and cultural societies for lectures and recitals to be provided for their members underline the wider services provided by MUT.</p> <p>In later years productions were often linked with one-day and weekend schools, usually in association with the Department of Extension Studies at the University of Liverpool. Many of the detailed notes of lectures throw more light on productions than that provided by prompt copies, even though as often they show how pressure of time involved last minute improvisation.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 34.1-35.1</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Researchers in the field of music and the working-class will find much material in MUT archives, which is not often available elsewhere.</p> <p>The archives of the Liverpool Co-operative Society in the Department of Regional History, have 78 rpm records of the Centenary Pageant of 1944, and also the record collection of MUT.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 36 - 44</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Film researchers will probably find much material here, even if much is ephemeral, which is not easily found outside London.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 45 - 48</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p><i>Left Theatre</i> (pp. 82-84) gives an account of MUT's international links. The archives provide supporting evidence of correspondence, posters and programmes.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 49 - 52</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>MLT/MUT preserved programmes and press cuttings of theatrical interest, often for use in preparing productions and lectures, more often from general involvement in theatre. They have been filed under genre (e.g. revolutionary theatre) or dramatists (e.g. Brecht, Arden).</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
Boxes 53 - 60	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p><i>Magazines: New Theatre</i> was part of the Unity Theatre Society nationally. It was not regarded as a house magazine (<i>Unity News</i> served this purpose) but as a general theatre magazine with a progressive view, with actors like Redgrave, dramatists like Priestley and directors like St. Denis among its many contributors.</p> <p><i>Theatre Newsletter</i> had a former business manager of Merseyside Unity Theatre as one of its co-editors and MUT undertook to cover all local productions. Its object was to present a fortnightly record of theatrical events and thinking. The two magazines were the driving force behind the convening of a British Theatre Conference in 1948.</p> <p><i>Theatre Today</i>, under Slater and Rattenbury, called upon much the same contributors and presented in lively form another contribution of the left to the world of theatre. Glasgow Unity's short-lived magazine <i>Scots Theatre</i> attempted much the same for the Scottish scene. Together they represent much of the optimistic approach of post-war theatre. The international magazines reflect MUT's links with other countries; some carry articles on MUT, others are evidence of exchanges.</p> <p>V.O.K.S. has important articles on the Soviet approach to culture in post-war years and provided the basis for examination, normally critical, within MUT.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 61</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>In 1948 MUT published <i>Liverpool, 1921-1922</i> as part of its contribution to the centenary of the Liverpool Trades Council. It was written by George Garrett, a leader of the unemployed struggles of those years who, as an acting member of MUT, played on stage the part he had lived. It was later republished under the title <i>Unemployed Struggles</i>, by Merseyside Writers, which also published <i>Out of Liverpool</i>, stories of sea and land by George Garrett.</p> <p>Len Jones' account of the Workers' Theatre Movement, 1917-1938, was a pioneer study and still remains the best examination of this period with a critical assessment of achievement and weakness.</p> <p><i>Left Theatre</i> is a firsthand account of the work of MUT, based on MUT archives. The programme for the Centenary Celebration and the Catalogue for the Liverpool Trades Council Exhibition for the Charter Celebrations of Liverpool serve as examples of the writing done anonymously for the service of the Labour Movement.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Boxes 62 - 64</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Merseyside Unity Theatre, with the University of Liverpool Department of Extension Studies, took the lead in the movement towards setting up a regional arts association on Merseyside. It set up the Merseyside Arts Centre Association as the first step (with a member of MUT as its Secretary).</p> <p>A member of MUT served on the Merseyside Arts Executive from its inception.</p> <p>A member of MUT was a specialist advisor on the House of Commons Select Committee - specifically as a representative of grass-root activity.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 65</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>Merseyside Unity Theatre in 1979 began a serious search for adequate rehearsal space. They found a building, a former synagogue in Hope Place, which had obvious possibilities as a theatre. They took it over and, not without controversy, established it as a base, not only for its own activities but as a venue for alternative theatre, and for the wider-ranging work of Hope Place Community Association which it set up.</p> <p>After seven years, in January 1987, Merseyside Unity Theatre officially went out of existence. It left Unity, Hope Place as a legacy, a venue for alternative theatre, and set up a Merseyside Left Theatre Trust. The object of the Trust is to support, with loans or in any other way, left theatre activities on Merseyside.</p>	

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Ref. Code.	Description	Date(s)
<p>Box 73</p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p> <p>This report on the Awards made by the Atlantic Awards in Literature, lists Leonard Irwin among them in 1948. The award has been based on previous productions of 'The Rolling Stone' at the Playhouse, Oldham, 1945 and of 'A Question of Status' at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, 1945.</p> <p>The award allowed Irwin to risk becoming a full-time writer and the report lists his subsequent productions of 'The Land of the Living' at the Library Theatre, Manchester and of 'The Circling Dove' by Merseyside Unity Theatre in Liverpool.</p>	

