



## Inventory

Acc.11177

Edinburgh & District Trades Council

National Library of Scotland  
Manuscripts Division  
George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1EW  
Tel: 0131-466 2812  
Fax: 0131-466 2811  
E-mail: [manuscripts@nls.uk](mailto:manuscripts@nls.uk)

© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

Minutes, annual reports (printed) and other records of the Edinburgh and District Trades Council, 1859-1981. It is probable that the Council was formed in 1853, some years before the earliest formal record of its proceedings, making it the oldest existing trades council in Britain after that of Liverpool, and references can be found from 1826 to the activities of earlier *ad hoc* committees of trade union delegates in the city. The main series of minutes of the Council are almost continuous from 1859, forming the earliest full series of trades council records in Scotland.

In the minutes for 1859-60 the Council described itself as 'The United Trades Delegates Association of Edinburgh & Vicinity'; its title was then altered to the 'Council of United Trades Delegates'; after re-organisation in 1867 it became the 'Edinburgh United Trades Council'. From 1888 it was being referred to as the 'Edinburgh and District United Trades Council', amended in the minutes from 1892 to the 'Edinburgh and District United Trades and Labour Council'; by 1912 the current title of the Council was established.

The *Minutes of Edinburgh Trades Council, 1859-1873*, have been edited, with an introductory essay, by Ian MacDougall for the Scottish History Society, Edinburgh, 1968, and there is a centenary essay on the history of the Council by Hamish MacKinven in the *Annual Report*, Edinburgh, 1959 (see no.51, below).

The Trades Council collection includes also a minute book and financial record, 1905-19, of the Scottish Workers' Representation Committee, later the Labour Party, Edinburgh Branch: for other Edinburgh and Leith Independent Labour Party and Labour Party records, see Deps.203 and 306, Acc.4977/16-18, and Acc.5241.

*Deposited on long term loan, 1995, by the Council.*

The collection has been arranged as described below:

- 1-34. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL: MAIN SERIES
- 35-46. ANNUAL REPORTS & BALANCE-SHEETS [PRINTED]:  
SERIES 1
- 47-51. ANNUAL REPORTS & BALANCE SHEETS [PRINTED]:  
SERIES 2
- 52. MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, 1899-1903
- 53. LOCAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, 1910-15
- 54. LEITH WORKERS' MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE; ANNUAL  
REPORT [PRINTED], 1902-3
- 55. POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, 1926-8
- 56. ORGANISING COMMITTEE MINUTES, 1937-45
- 57. PRESS-CUTTING BOOK, 1914-25
- 57-8. SCOTTISH WORKERS REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE,  
EDINBURGH BRANCH: MINUTES & LEDGER, 1905-19

59. MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS & PAPERS  
60-62. PRINTED BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

**Minutes of the Council: main series**

The minute books of the Council and its Executive Committee, bound uniformly in maroon buckram and arranged in chronological sequence, 1859-1981.

1. 1 Mar 1859 - 6 Aug 1867.
2. 14 May 1867 - 24 Oct 1881.
3. 7 Aug 1877 - 11 Oct 1881.
4. 25 Oct 1881 - 22 April 1884.
5. 20 May 1884 - 20 April 1886.
6. 4 May 1886 - 18 Oct 1887.
7. 1 Nov 1887 - 10 Dec 1889.
8. 24 Dec 1889 - 13 Oct 1891.
9. 20 Oct 1891 - 22 Aug 1893.
10. 29 Aug 1893 - 22 Aug 1895.
11. 5 Nov 1895 - 15 Aug 1899.
12. 22 Aug 1899 - 10 Nov 1903.
13. 31 July 1906 - 30 Nov 1909.
14. 14 Dec 1909 - 16 April 1912.
15. 30 April 1912 - 12 May 1914.
16. 20 May 1914 - 6 June 1916.
17. 20 June 1916 - 29 Jan 1918.
18. 12 Feb 1918 - 25 Mar 1920.

19. 6 April 1920 - 7 Nov 1922.
20. 21 Nov 1922 - 3 Feb 1925.
21. 7 Feb 1925 - 11 Feb 1927.
22. 15 Feb 1927 - 29 Mar 1929.
23. 2 April 1929 - 20 June 1931.
24. 23 June 1931 - 13 Nov 1936.
25. 17 Nov 1937 - 22 Nov 1939.
26. 26 Nov 1939 - 6 Sep 1946.
27. 10 Sep 1946 - 2 Sep 1949.
28. 6 Sep 1949 - 16 Mar 1954.
29. 16 Mar 1954 - 9 Feb 1960.
30. 19 Feb 1960 - 9 June 1964.
31. 19 June 1964 - 10 Mar 1970.
32. 10 Mar 1970 - 25 Oct 1974.
33. 25 Oct 1974 - 24 Oct 1978.
34. 24 Oct 1978 - 16 Oct 1981.

### **Annual Reports, etc, Series 1**

A series of printed annual reports and balance sheets/financial statements of the Council, 1868-1936, arranged by financial year and bound in a uniform series of volumes. The contents of 35 and 36 are photostats of the original reports. There is some overlap in the arrangement of the later volumes in the series.

35. 1868-86.
36. 1886-93.
37. 1907-11.

38. 1912-15.
39. 1916-19.
40. 1920-23.
41. 1924-26.
42. 1926-8.
43. 1927-29.
44. 1928-30.
45. 1931-33.
46. 1934-36.

#### **Annual Reports, etc, Series 2**

A second series of *Annual Report(s) & Balance-Sheet(s)* of the Council, 1921-74, uniformly bound and overlapping considerably with Series 1, above.

47. 1921-29.
48. 1930-38.
49. 1939-46.
50. 1947-54.
51. 1955-63.
52. 1964-74.

#### **Edinburgh & Leith Municipal Committee**

53. The minute book, 14 April 1899 - 6 Feb 1903, of the Edinburgh and Leith Workers' Municipal Committee. The remit of the Committee was to press for and promote working class representation on the public boards of both burghs.

### **Local Committee**

54. Minute book of the Local Committee of the Council, 12 May 1910 - 23 Oct 1915. The Committee was concerned with industrial relations and other more general local issues, eg public health.

### **Leith Workers' Municipal Committee**

55. A copy of the *Third Annual Report and Financial Statement* of this committee for Feb 1902 - Feb 1903, Leith [1903]. This organisation appears to have been constitutionally distinct from the Edinburgh and District Trades Council.

### **Political Committee**

56. Minute book, 21 April 1926 - 7 Nov 1928, of the Political Committee of the Council. The Committee's principal activity appears to have been to liaise with Labour city councillors on matters of mutual interest.

### **Organising Committee**

57. Minute book, 27 Aug 1937 - 3 May 1945 of the Organising Committee of the Council. The Committee's remit was to encourage and facilitate union organisation within workplaces.

### **Press-Cuttings**

58. A volume of press-cuttings, 1914-25, probably assembled by the Secretary of the Council, illustrating the public activities of the Council, and current local and national politics and industrial relations.

### **Scottish Workers' Representation Committee**

- 58-9. The minutes and income & expenditure record, 1905-19, of the Scottish Workers Representation Committee, Edinburgh Branch. Composed of representatives of trade unions and of the Independent Labour Party, it became, in April 1907, the Edinburgh Branch of the Labour Party (Scottish Section), the S.W.R.C. having earlier affiliated to the UK Labour Representation Committee, which had just re-titled itself as "The Labour Party".

58. Minute book, 8 Sept 1905 - 5 Feb 1911.

59. Income and Expenditure book, 1905-19.

## Miscellaneous Papers

60. Miscellaneous letters and printed ephemera, 1903-28, mostly concerned with local political organisation in Edinburgh and Leith, and previously loose in volumes.

## Printed Books & Pamphlets

Two volumes of pamphlets and a report, ca. 1873-1927, from the Council's office retained meantime with the archive, contents as listed below:

61. A volume, A21 in the former library of the Council, containing the following pamphlets:
- (i) *The [British] Trades Union Congress, Parliamentary Committee: Report for the year 1874*, London [1874].
  - (ii) *Report of the Sixth Annual Trades' Union Congress held at Sheffield*, Hanley [1874].
  - (iii) *Sheffield Trades' Congress, 1874; names & addresses of delegates...*, [1874].
  - (iv) *The Trades Union Congress, Glasgow, October 13th, 1875...a Memorial to the Right Honourable Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P.*, [1875].
  - (v) [T.U.C., Glasgow], *A Memorial to the Right Hon. Richard Assheton Cross, M.P.*, [1875].
  - (vi) [T.U.C., Glasgow], Henry Crompton, *Digest of the New Labour Acts* [1875].
  - (vii) [T.U.C., Glasgow], *Names & addresses of delegates attending the Congress*, etc [1875].
  - (viii) *Report of the Eighth Annual Trades' Union Congress held at Glasgow*, Wolverhampton [1875].
  - (ix) G. Howell (ed), *The Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee and the National Federation of Associated Employers of Labour* [?1874].
  - (x) *The Royal Commission on the Labour Laws and the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee* [1874].
  - (xi) H. Crompton, *The Law of Conspiracy* [?1875].
  - (xii) *Reform of the Magistracy: a speech...*, etc, London, 1876.
  - (xiii) *The Arbitrator: a Journal established to promote the principles of the Workmen's Peace Association*, nos.41 to 51, June, 1875 - April 1876.

62. Another volume of pamphlets, pressmarked A23:
- (i) *Laws for the government of the United Trades Council of Edinburgh*, Edin [1873].
  - (ii) *Report of St Martin's Hall United Kingdom Trades' Conference Committee on the Trades Union Inquiry Commission*, [?London, 1867].
  - (iii) *Women at Work: Chainmaking in the Black Country*, Walsall, 1875.
  - (iv) G. Howell, *Notes on Books and Reading*, London, 1875.
  - (v) Samuel Plimsoll, M.P., *Our Seamen: an Appeal*, London, 1873.
  - (vi) S. Plimsoll, *Our Seamen: Speeches and Facts*, London, 1876.
63. *Report of Proceedings at the 59th Annual Trades Union Congress held at Edinburgh September 5th to 10th 1927*, London [1927].