



Inventory

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**Papers, 1937-42, of David Murray,
Industrial Journalist, writer and broadcaster,
Relating to the Independent Labour Party and to the Spanish Civil War**

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

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SPANISH CIVIL WAR PAPERS (Boxes 1-2).

DM was involved on behalf of the Independent Labour Party in efforts to secure the release of ILP and other socialists imprisoned by elements of the republican police authorities following the street fighting in Barcelona (May 1937) and the subsequent suppression in June (partly through Comintern instigation) of the “Trotskyist” socialist party POUM, which had opposed the Catalan government during the May fighting and was affiliated to the ILP. Most of the papers in Box 1 are concerned with the detention in May of a young Scottish volunteer with the POUM, Bob Smillie, grandson of the miners' leader, and his death from peritonitis on 11 June while still in custody. This case, and those of other volunteers imprisoned, aroused considerable press comment in Britain; Smillie's case features in George Orwell's In Catalonia (1938). The papers touch also more briefly on the situation of the wounded Eric Blair [Orwell], on the Belgian socialist, George Kopp, and on several British volunteers. Material in Box 2 consists largely of correspondence with Spanish contacts exiled by the war or with family members divided by the conflict for whom DM seems to have acted as an intermediary.

- Box 1. 1. Correspondence and papers, 1937-8, relating to the case of Robert Ramsay Smillie: correspondents include Eileen, wife of Eric Blair [George Orwell]; John McNair then ILP representative in Barcelona; A Fenner Brockway; and James Maxton [1 letter].
2. Correspondence, 1937, concerning George Kopp and other socialists (largely Scots) imprisoned by the Republic.
3. Press cuttings, leaflets and other printed ephemera relating to the Smillie case, to other prisoners and to contemporary events in Spain.

Box 2. Correspondence chiefly with Spanish contacts, 1936-9:

1. Miguel Egidio (1, 1937).
Valentin Hernandez (1).
Antonio Ruiz (3, 1938).
M and Mme Jean Mallinger, Brussels (1, with reply 1939).
Camilo Valobra (4, 1938).
Sra Emilia Rolan Vicente (to her, 1937).
2. Jose Furquet, 1937-8.
Mario Furquet, 1936-9.
Transito Furquet, 1938.
3. Jose Ballester Gozalvo, 1938-9.

4. Indalecio Lozano and Pepita Morales [his wife], 1938-9.
5. Isidro Mendez, 1937-8.
6. Guillermo Neuman, Barcelona, and Enriqueta Brest de Miranda, Buenos Aires.
7. General correspondence and papers, 1926-9.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY (Box 3).

Correspondence and papers, including journalist material for the ILP New Leader and for other newspapers, of DM with members of the ILP. Much of the correspondence relates to his work for the party on the Spanish and other issues.

- Box 3. 1. Correspondence with:
 A Fenner Brockway, 1936-42.
 James Maxton MP (5 letters, including 2 of JM, and related papers), 1937-8.
 John McNair, General Secretary of the ILP, 1936-42.
2. General correspondence, largely with other party activists and arranged alphabetically 'A-W', 1937-89.
 3. Miscellaneous papers and press-cuttings, 1937-40.
 4. ILP Motherwell Branch papers 1937-8.
 'The Guide' Motherwell ILP local news bulletin nos.1-36, 15 Oct. 1937-8 July 1938.
 'The X-Ray', Carlisle ILP newsletter, vol.3 nos.32-33, 46, Oct. 1937 and Jan. 1938.
 'Spur', Larkhall ILP, no.137, 26 Nov. 1937.
 'Town Crier', Saltcoats ILP, vol.3, no.18, 13 May 1938.