

Merlin Press Archive

MS 5069

The Merlin Press archive contains draft copies, artwork files and reviews for a number of books including *English Popular Art*, *Protest and Survival: Essays for EP Thompson* and *Capitalism*. The collection also includes of certain titles, files on rejected books and accounts records. Correspondence in the collection comprises letters between Merlin Press and its authors and distributors, as well as the correspondence of Hungarian Marxist philosopher György [Georg] Lukács. There is also publicity material and catalogues, book lists and dustjackets. Some material relating to imprints Seafarer Books and Green Print is also included.

The Collection covers the year's 1956-2004.

The physical extent of the collection is 7 boxes.

Introduction

The Merlin Press emerged as a result of fractures in the British Communist movement after the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956. The Press' founder, Martin Eve, grew up surrounded by Socialist ideas and was keen to publish material that catered to the emerging New Left. The first book published by the company was *Folksong-Plainsong* by George Chambers, a founding member of the Communist Party.

After the publication of their first book, the Press began working on translations as a way to fill the gap between the first book and the second. The first translation they published was *The Life of Henry Brulard* in 1958, soon followed by *de L'Amour* in the same year. The Press also began publishing yearly volumes of drawings by BBC producer Hugh Barnett, which had a considerable effect on the company. Although they differed from the books the Press was used to printing, they gave them a foothold in bookshops, as well as providing a regular source of income. The first of these was released in 1960 titled *Top Sacred* and featuring monks in a variety of situations.

Across their history, they published works by a number of notable authors such as György [Georg] Lukács, Ernest Mandel, István Mészáros, Sheila Rowbotham, Hilary Wainwright and E P Thompson, a lifelong friend of Merlin Press founder Martin Eve.

One of the things they became best known for was the Socialist Register, a journal edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville. First published by Merlin in 1964, it became a key forum for the Left, providing an annual survey of movements and

ideas. The Socialist Register is still published annually today in the UK, USA and Canada.

In 1968, the Seafarer Books imprint of the Merlin Press emerged, beginning with the publication of *In Grandma's Wake* by Frank Mulville. It went on to publish numerous sailing narratives including Martin Eve's own *An Old Gaffer's Tale*, an account of his and his family's adventures on their boat Privateer. They also published 'green' books such as *Lands Alive* by Rene Dumont, a French environmentalist.

In 1998, the founder Martin Eve passed away and the company came under new ownership. Since 2000, it has been run by Anthony Zurbrugg and they continue to publish predominantly social & political titles to this day.

- MS 5069/1** File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Beware of the Abbot' by Hugh Burnett, published in 1965
1965
The file contains artwork

1 file
- MS 5069/2** File containing artwork by Hugh Burnett relating to the publication 'Beware of the Abbot'
c1965

1 file
- MS 5069/3** File containing bromides by Hugh Burnett for the publication 'Beware of the Abbot'
c1965

1 file
- MS 5069/4** File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Antonio Gramsci: Towards an intellectual biography' by Alastair Davidson, published in 1977 and 1987
1977, 1987
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/5** File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'English Popular Art' by Margaret Lambert and Enid Marx, published in 1989 (previously published by Collins 1946 and Batsford 1951)
1989

The file contains correspondence, reviews, photographs for illustrations and a cover design

1 file

MS 5069/6 File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Capitalism' by Costas Lapavitsos.
1991-1992
No evidence of publication. The file contains correspondence and a first draft of the book

1 file

MS 5069/7 File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'The Deli cookbook'.
1992
The Deli is a Youth Training Scheme for young people with a learning disability. The file contains draft pages of the book but no evidence of publication.
Faxes within this file, have begun to degrade

1 file

MS 5069/8 File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Journey without a destination: Is there a solution to the problem of Sri Lankan Refugees?'
1992, 1995
Eventually published by the Colombo Centre for Society and Religion in 1995. The file contains correspondence and a first draft

1 file

MS 5069/9 File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Small Change' by Marianne Frances, published by Green Print in 1993. First published by the Centre for Human Ecology in 1990.
1990-1996
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file

MS 5069/10 File relating to the Merlin Press publication 'Protest & Survival: Essays for E.P. Thompson', edited by John Rule and Robert Malcolmson, published in 1993
1991-1995
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file

- MS 5069/11** File relating to rejected books: 'Life on a mountain' by Anne Angus; 'Molotov Remembers'; 'Guide to Environmental Action' by Maureen Falloon; 'Women and Responsibility' by Alan Smith; 'Jack in Joe's Land - The Real Cold War' by Chris B.Tye; 'L'Avenir sera Rural' by Pierre Gevaert.
1994

1 file
- MS 5069/12** File relating to the Humanities Press, US distributors
1993-1999
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/13** File relating to Prologue inc., Canadian distributors
1991-1993
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/14** File relating to Prologue inc., Canadian distributors
1994-1996
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/15** File relating to the Inland Book Company, US distributors
1992-1994
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/16** File relating to the Inland Book Company, US distributors
1995-1999
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/17** File relating to Boobook Publications Pty. Ltd., Australian distributors
1991-1997
The file contains correspondence

1 file

- MS 5069/18** File relating to Kedros. Greek publishers, and 1992 Catalogue
1992, 1993-1996
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/19** File relating to Augustus Kelley, publishers, USA
1992-1993
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/20** File relating to the Softback Preview and the Good Book Guide
1994-1998
The file contains correspondence suggesting titles for these
companies to promote within their guides, including
'Mathematics for the Millions' by Lancelot Hogben.

1 file
- MS 5069/21** File relating to Wengrowe Agencies, South Africa
1993-1998
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/22** File relating to Green Print [an imprint of Merlin Press]
1990-1992
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/23** File relating to Green Print
1991-1994
The file contains reviews of publications published by Green
Print

1 file
- MS 5069/24** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1964-1988
The file contains reviews

1 file

- MS 5069/25** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1989-1990
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/26** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1990
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/27** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1991-1992
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/28** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1993-1995
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/29** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1996-1997
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/30** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1998
The file contains reviews

1 file
- MS 5069/31** File of reviews of books published by Merlin Press and Green
Print
1999
The file contains reviews

1 file

- MS 5069/32** File containing publicity and dustjackets for Merlin Press and Green Print publications including Publishers Catalogues 1990's

1 file
- MS 5069/33** File relating to rights and permissions in Merlin Press publications
26 September 1977-April 1994
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/34** File relating to rights and permissions in Merlin Press publications
May 1994-1998
The file contains correspondence
Faxes within this file have begun to degrade

1 file
- MS 5069/35** File relating to paperback rights and permissions in Merlin Press publications
1964-1971
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/36** File relating to paperback rights and permissions in Merlin Press publications
1972-1986
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/37** File relating to USA rights and permissions in Merlin Press publications
1968-1995
The file contains correspondence

1 file
- MS 5069/38** Martin Eve's correspondence file relating to the Merlin Press 1971-1999
The file contains correspondence with authors, Companies House, accountants, lawyers and Bryanston School. Includes

correspondence regarding Merlin Press business with Patricia Eve, following the death of Martin Eve.

1 file

- MS 5069/39** File relating to the Merlin Press containing various documents including an entry for the Merlin Press in the 'Dictionary of Literary Biography' 1957-1997
Includes Articles of Association for Merlin Press, dated 1957; an agreement between Martin Eve and Norman Franklin, dated 1988; a typescript entitled, 'Clandestine Communications'; a typescript entitled, 'A Contribution to the Natural History of Moles' by James (IFF) Klugman

1 file

- MS 5069/40** File relating to the Merlin Press containing various documents including copy of the Daily Mirror for 23 September 1938 and a booklet entitled, 'Appeal and last tribute of the central committee of The Viet Nam Workers' Party to Ho Chi Minh', (1969) 1938-1973
Includes a copy of President Ho Chi Minh's testament [in Vietnamese?], (Booklet, 1969) and a black and white photograph of Ho Chi Minh with children in Hanoi.

1 file

- MS 5069/41** File containing obituaries for: Fred Tonge, 1980; Kenneth Mellanby, 1994; Ralph Miliband, 1994; Ernest Mandel, 1995; Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, undated: and Martin Eve, 1998. 1980-1998

1 file

- MS 5069/42** File containing production figures and accounts for the Merlin Press and Green Print 1990-1991

1 file

- MS 5069/43** File containing Merlin Press balance sheets 1959-1969

1 file

- MS 5069/44** File containing Merlin Press balance sheets
1970-1979

1 file
- MS 5069/45** File containing Merlin Press balance sheets
1980-1988

1 file
- MS 5069/46** File containing various financial papers for the Merlin Press
including annual accounts
1981-1995
Includes documents relating to income tax and company tax and
correspondence with a bank

1 file
- MS 5069/47** File containing correspondence between Martin Eve and Dr.
Van Abbé
1963-1964
Regarding the translation of the 1953 Berlin Aufbau edition of
'Essays on Thomas Mann' by György [Georg] Lukács

1 file
- MS 5069/48** File containing correspondence between Martin Eve (Merlin
Press) and Grossett & Dunlap regarding the republication of
books by György [Georg] Lukács
1963-1971
Includes Royalty Statements

1 file
- MS 5069/49** File containing correspondence between Martin Eve (Merlin
Press) and Arthur D. Khan, Department of Classics, Brock
University, Ontario
1966-1971
Regarding Khan's translation of a György [Georg] Lukács'
manuscript 'Writer and Critic and other essays' and other
translations

1 file
- MS 5069/50** File containing correspondence between Martin Eve (Merlin
Press) and Lee Baxandall
1964-1965

About a proposed translation of a György [Georg] Lukács work for publication in the USA; includes a copy of Baxandall's CV

1 file

MS 5069/51 File containing correspondence regarding György [Georg] Lukács' publication entitled 'Goethe and his age' (1969), which is to be republished by Merlin Press
1968-1969
Includes an annotated biography of Lukács and a dust/book cover for the publication

1 file

MS 5069/52 File containing correspondence regarding the republication of György [Georg] Lukács', 'The meaning of the contemporary realism' in a Spanish edition
1965-1966

1 file

MS 5069/53 File containing correspondence between Martin Eve (Merlin Press) and Stanley Mitchell regarding his translation work into English of various Lukács' publications
1963-1977
Includes Agreements for publishing various György [Georg] Lukács publications into English

1 file

MS 5069/54 File containing correspondence regarding the publishing by Merlin Press of a translation of György [Georg] Lukács' Ontology
1991-1992
Includes agreements with György [Georg] Lukács' copyright holder; certificates of Renewal of Registration of Copyright (USA) for 'Studies in European Realism' by Lukács

1 file

MS 5069/55 File containing correspondence between various USA publishers and Merlin Press regarding the publication of Lukács' books into English
1962-1967
Including Alfred A Knopf, Harper and Row, McGraw-Hill Book Company and other American publishers regarding rights.
Includes Royalty statements

1 file

- MS 5069/56** File containing correspondence concerning rights to Lukács' publications in various languages, between Merlin Press and various publishers and authors
1963-1968
Includes correspondence between Merlin Press and potential translators of György [Georg] Lukács' works, and other enquiries. The file contains material in various languages.

1 file
- MS 5069/57** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1959
File includes 3 original letters and 1 photocopied letter from György [Georg] Lukács in German. There is also a memorandum of agreement between Merlin Press and Professor György [Georg] Lukács, which is unsigned; and correspondence with Stanley Mitchell and 2 typescripts in German

1 file
- MS 5069/58** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1960
File includes 9 original letters in German and 2 photocopied letters in French from György [Georg] Lukács, and 1 from C.P. Snow; and correspondence with Stanley Mitchell. Includes a copy of part of an agreement signed by Lukács and Merlin Press

1 file
- MS 5069/59** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1961
File includes 4 original letters in German from Lukács, 1 letter from C.P. Snow, and correspondence with Stanley Mitchell and American Publishers and Augustus M Kelley, Bookseller, New York
1 file
- MS 5069/60** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1962
File includes 16 original letters from Lukács and correspondence with American publishers, with Academics (regarding review copies), Stanley Mitchell and Dr Van Abbé
1 file

- MS 5069/61** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1963-1964
File includes 23 original letters from Lukács and correspondence with prospective translators including Stanley Mitchell, and with publishers. Includes Royalty Statements; newscutting about Lukács; a number of typescripts in English on pieces about 'Aesthetics' and a proof in German entitled 'Asthetik' plus translation

1 file
- MS 5069/62** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1965-1966
File includes 1 original letter from Lukács and correspondence with various publishers; translators; requests for permission to quote from Lukács' publications. Also includes newscuttings; royalty statements for Lukács and unsigned Memorandum of agreement between Lukács and Merlin Press

1 file
- MS 5069/63** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1967-1968
File includes 9 original letters from Lukács and correspondence with publishers; translators including Stanley Mitchell and requests for permissions to quote from Lukács' work. Includes Royalty statements for Lukács.

1 file
- MS 5069/64** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1969-1970
File includes 3 original letters from Lukács and correspondence from various publishers; translators and requests for permission to quote from Lukács' work. Includes Royalty statements.

1 file
- MS 5069/65** File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1971-1974
File includes 1 original letter from Lukács and correspondence from various publishers; translators and requests for permission

to quote from Lukács' work. Includes newscuttings and an agreement between artisjus and Merlin Press.

1 file

MS 5069/66 File containing general correspondence relating to György [Georg] Lukács' publications
1975-1994
File includes 1 letter from John Fowles and correspondence with various publishers; translators and requests for permission to quote from Lukács' work. Includes newscuttings and royalty statements.

1 file

MS 5069/67 Merlin Press Catalogue 1956-1991
c.1991
Listing books published by Merlin Press since 1956.

1 item

MS 5069/68 The Merlin Press Book List
1967
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item

MS 5069/69 The Merlin Press Book List
1969
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item

MS 5069/70 The Merlin Press Book List
Spring 1972
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item

MS 5069/71 The Merlin Press Book List
Spring 1973
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item

- MS 5069/72** The Merlin Press Book List
1975-1976
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies
- MS 5069/73** The Merlin Press Book List
1977
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies
- MS 5069/74** The Merlin Press Book List
1979
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item
- MS 5069/75** Merlin Press Catalogue
c1983
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

3 copies
- MS 5069/76** Merlin Press Catalogue
1989
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

3 copies
- MS 5069/77** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Spring 1994
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies
- MS 5069/78** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Autumn 1996
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies
- MS 5069/79** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Spring 1997
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies

- MS 5069/80** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Autumn 1997
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

4 items
- MS 5069/81** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Spring 1998
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

4 items
- MS 5069/82** The Merlin Press Catalogue
Spring 1999
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

1 item
- MS 5069/83** The Merlin Press Catalogue, 1956-1998 and The Merlin Press
Catalogue, 1956-1999
1998-1999
Catalogues of books published by Merlin Press, between 1956
and 1998 and 1999

4 items
- MS 5069/84** Booklet entitled, 'Thirty Merlin Years'
undated
Catalogue of books published by Merlin Press.

2 copies
- MS 5069/85** Seafarer Books Catalogue
2002-2003
Catalogue of books published by Seafarer Books.

1 item
- MS 5069/86** Seafarer Books Catalogue
2003-2004
Catalogue of books published by Seafarer Books.

1 item
- MS 5069/87** Merlin Press Catalogue of Augustus M Kelley Reprints
1990

1 item

