

## **SOGAT London Women's Branch Records**

### ***IDENTITY STATEMENT***

**title:** SOGAT London Women's Branch Records

**dates of creation:** 1917-1992

**extent:** 10 boxes + 3 oversize items

**level:** Fonds

### ***CONTEXT***

**Administrative / biographical history:** The origins of the Branch lie in the foundation of the Women's Printing and Kindred Trades Union in 1894. Various subsequent mergers are detailed in **References** below. The Women's Section of the London Branch of the National Union of Bookbinders and Machine Rulers was formed in March 1917. This Union merged with the National Union of Printing and Paper Workers in 1921 to become the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding, Machine Ruling and Paper Workers, later National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers. There were subsequent mergers with the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants [NATSOPA] to form the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades [SOGAT] and with the National Graphical Association to form the Graphical, Paper and Media Union in 1991. After further mergers, the GPMU is now [2016] part of Unite the Union. In 1948, the London Bookbinders' Branch Women's Section merged with the London Women's Branch. Following an Equal Opportunities Commission investigation in 1985, the London Women's Branch was renamed as the Greater London Branch, which then merged with the all-male London Central Branch in February 1987.

**Custodial History:** The books and papers listed below were deposited with the TUC Collections, London Metropolitan University in 2014.

### ***CONTENT & STRUCTURE***

**Accruals:** There will be no further deposits

**System of arrangement:** The SLWB deposit is arranged into 3 sub-fonds as follows: 1. Branch archives; 2. National union archives; 3. Miscellaneous publications

### ***CONDITIONS OF ACCESS***

**Legal Status, Access conditions, Copyright:** Rules for access are as for the TUC Library Collections Rules

**Physical Conditions:** Generally good, but any damage is noted in the Handlist.

**Finding Aids:** Handlist is available both in printed format and online.

### ***ALLIED MATERIALS***

#### **Related material in the TUC Library Collections:**

The TUC Collections hold various records and publications of SOGAT and its predecessor unions.

Evelyn Kingsland trade union and other membership cards in MUSCAT Collection, accession no. M0047

London Bookbinders and Paperworkers records

#### **References:**

The story of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers, by Clement J. Bundock. OUP, 1959.

A history of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, by John Gennard and Peter Bain. Routledge, 1995.

Women in trade unions, by Barbara Drake. [1920], Virago, 1984.

Historical directory of trade unions, by Arthur Marsh and John Smethurst: vol 5. Ashgate, 2006.

Some information provided by Ivy Smith, former Branch official.

### **NOTE**

**Note:** List compiled by Christine Coates, February 2016

## **1. BRANCH ARCHIVES**

### **RULES**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/A

**Title:** London Women's Branch Rules

**dates:** 1949-1955

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** series

**description:** 1949, 1955 [4 copies including a 1963 reprint] editions

### **BRANCH COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute books

**dates:** 1917-1987

**extent:** 17 volumes + 14 folders

**level:** series

**description:**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/1

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1917-1931

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee and General meetings from July 1917-May 1931. Also contains a number of loose papers in front wallet, including Branch circulars, Women's Section rules [undated], notices of meetings, correspondence, piece-work price lists and notes from meetings. Binding in poor condition.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/2

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1939-1940

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from June 1939-April 1940

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/3

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1942-1943

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1942-July 1943

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/4

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1943-1944

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from August 1943-July 1944

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/5

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1944-1946

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1944-June 1946

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/6

**Title:** London Branch Women's Section minute book

**dates:** 1946-1948

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1946-June 1948

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/7

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1948-1950

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1948-June 1950. Also includes minutes of M.O.Cs [Mothers of Chapels] meeting 21 June 1948

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/8

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1950-1952

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1950-June 1952.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/9

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1952-1954

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1952–June 1954

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/10

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1954-1956

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1954–June 1956. Loose papers in volume: minutes of the Cornwall Press Chapel meeting with the Branch Committee, 13 December, 1955.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/11

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1956-1958

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1956-June 1958

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/12

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1958-1960

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1958-June 1960

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/13

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1960-1962

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1960-June 1962

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/14

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1962-1964

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1962–June 1964

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/15

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1964-1966

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1964-June 1966

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/16

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1966-1968

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1966-June 1968

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/17

**Title:** London Women's Branch minute book

**dates:** 1968-1972

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Committee meetings from July 1968-December 1972

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/B/18-21

**Title:** London Women's Branch Committee minutes

**dates:** 1973-1987

**extent:** 14 files

**level:** series

**description:** Committee meetings from January 1973 – February 1987. Minutes of the final Branch meeting 2 February 1987 are missing.

### ***BRANCH DELEGATE MEETINGS MINUTES, ETC***

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/C

**Title:** London Women's Branch Delegate Meetings

**dates:** 1956-1987

**extent:** 4 volumes

**level:** item

**description:**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/C/1

**Title:** London Women's Branch Minutes of Delegate Meetings

**dates:** 1956-1966

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Six-monthly Delegate meetings from October 1956-April 1966. Loose papers in volume: 10 blank Unemployment Benefit record cards; 2 empty envelopes; Women's scales [dated 1956]; biographical note on the retirement of Miss Hogarth.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/C/2

**Title:** London Women's Branch Minutes of Delegate Meetings

**dates:** 1966-1976

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Six-monthly Delegate meetings from October 1966-April 1976. Some pages coming loose from ring binder.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/C/3

**Title:** London Women's Branch Minutes of Delegate Meetings

**dates:** 1977-1987

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Six-monthly Delegate meetings from January 1977-August 1986. Also includes attendance list for meeting February 1987

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/C/4

**Title:** London Women's Branch Delegate Meetings Agendas and Committee reports

**dates:** 1966-1970

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** series

**description:** Instructions to printers and galley proofs for London Women's Branch Delegate Meeting documents

### ***FINANCE***

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/D

**Title:** Cashbook

**dates:** 1927-1937

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** Includes weekly financial records July 1927-November 1937, six-monthly Box Makers balance Sheet 1930-1931, six-monthly Balance Sheet 1932-1937. Spine separated.

### ***REPORTS***

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/E

**Title:** London Bookbinders' Branch reports

**dates:** 1917-1942

**extent:** 2 volumes and 1 loose duplicate n.24

**level:** series

**description:** Volume 1 includes Branch Executive reports July 1917 [n.1] – October 1934 [n.81]: shown as London Branch Women's Committee 1917-1924, London Bookbinders' Branch – Men & Women 1923-1934. Numbering is erratic in the mid-1920s, but series appears to be complete. Typed index tags are torn and in poor condition.

Volume 2 includes Branch Executive reports January 1935 [n.82] - October 1942 [n.113]. Loose papers include manuscript notes and empty envelope for registered letter. Spine is loose.

### ***CORRESPONDENCE AND LOOSE PAPERS***

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/1

**Title:** File of documents relating to merger of London Bookbinders' Branch Women's Section and London Women's Branch

**dates:** 1948  
**extent:** 1 file  
**level:** item  
**description:**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/2

**Title:** File of documents relating to union membership at Freemans Mail Order Company, South London

**dates:** 1986-1987

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Includes several letters to the Greater London and other SOGAT branches from Chris Ball, Divisional Officer of ASTMS [Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs]

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/3

**Title:** File of documents relating to London Women's Branch mergers.

**dates:** 1985,1987

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Includes notes of a meeting between the London Central and London Women's Branches relating to an investigation by the Equal Opportunities Commission with a list showing all SOGAT staff and their salaries 1985. Also a 1987 letter from solicitors re. the amalgamation of the London Central and Greater London Branches.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/4

**Title:** File of mainly printed Branch documents.

**dates:** 1979-1992

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** London Women's Branch and London Central Branch/Greater London Branch outgoing circulars plus some incoming correspondence. Includes personal and ID cards for Christine Brazil.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/5

**Title:** Forms

**dates:** 1975

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** File of completed forms from individual members accepting voluntary redundancy from the NCR company [National Cash Registers]

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/6

**Title:** Membership cards

**dates:** 1984-1988

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Two blank membership cards for London Women's Branch, 1984-1986, and for the Greater London Branch, 1986-1988.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/7

**Title:** Legal document

**dates:** 1929

**extent:** 1 document

**level:** item

**description:** Underlease of property at 88 Blackfriars Road, London for the use of the London Women's Branch with manuscript signatures of George Isaacs and others.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/F/8

**Title:** Equality 88 Conference papers

**dates:** 1988

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Folder of papers for conference organised by the Greater London Enterprise Board with cover letter addressed to Ms C Brazil.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/G/1

**Title:** Learners' jobs

**dates:** 1955-1986

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** List showing date, name of employer/company, and number of learners engaged. Loose paper: blank Political Fund exemption notice form. Front cover loose. [From Ivy Smith: Learners entered the trade straight from school. The training period was three years with a further two years to gain experience. This extra two years was eventually scrapped and they became full card members on completion of the three years.]

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/G/2

**Title:** ?

**dates:** 1971-1987

**extent:** 1 volume

**level:** item

**description:** List showing date, name of employer/company, and name. Some columns headed 'adult trainees'. Columns with T, TJ, A, P and other signifiers. Loose paper: blank SOGAT membership nomination form. [From Ivy Smith: Adult trainees were women that entered the trade later in life and had to do two years traineeship before becoming full card members. These women were never viewed in the same way as someone who had done a learnership. There were not many indentured apprentices in the Women's branch. These were women that did higher skilled work and not just general print]

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/G/3

**Title:** History of the London Women's Branch

**dates:** 1987

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Draft history of the London Women's Branch, written by Sue Ledwith which was later published in the *SOGAT Journal*, May and June 1987.

**Reference code:** SLWB 1/G/4

**Title:** Presentation certificate

**dates:** 1925

**extent:**

**level:** item

**description:** Decorated coloured certificate presented to Miss J Eales, 17 September 1925 to mark c20 years as member / Chairman of the London Women's Branch. 42x29.5cms. There is some water damage and needs flattening.

## 2. NATIONAL UNION ARCHIVES

### *CONSTITUTIONS / RULES*

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/A

**Title:** National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers General Rules

**dates:** 1940-1956

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** series

**description:** 1940, 1948, 1952 [partial], 1956 editions

### *REPORTS*

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/B/1-3

**Title:** National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers balance sheets and reports of National Executive Council

**dates:** 1941-1955

**extent:** 3 volumes

**level:** series

**note:** These are annual reports.

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/B/4-9

**Title:** National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers reports of the biennial delegate council meeting

**dates:** 1923 [1<sup>st</sup>]-1930, 1937-1958

**extent:** 6 volumes

**level:** series

**note:** 2 copies of 1954-1958 volume. 1944 meeting held in 1945. Includes Special Interim Delegate Conferences 1926, 1929 and 1937 [superannuation funds].

### *PUBLICATIONS – MONOGRAPHS*

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/C

**Title:** SOGAT Pamphlets

**dates:** 1982-1990, individual dates indicated where present

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** series

**description:**

- One industry one union: SOGAT biennial delegate council 1990 report on amalgamation
- Women in SOGAT'82: report of a research project into the role of women in the union carried out by ....the Polytechnic of North London [Sue Ledworth and others]. 1985. 2 copies
- Industrial relations legislation: speech by ...W. H. Keys at the recall biennial delegate council. 1982
- Society of Graphical and Allied Trades 1975 and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel: proposed amalgamation. 1992
- SOGAT and the White Paper *In Place of Strife*. 1971?

### ***PUBLICATIONS – PERIODICALS***

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/D/1

**Title:** The Paperworker: organ of the National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers

**dates:** 1940-1959, 1963-1967

**extent:** 16 volumes

**level:** series

**description:** bound volumes start Vol 1, n.1 May 1940 and end Vol.28 no.1 January 1967 [last issue]. Duplicate volume 11, May 1950-April 1951. Loose duplicate issues: August 1966 and January 1967 – both include articles on the London Women's Branch.

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/D/2

**Title:** Sogat Journal

**dates:** 1972

**extent:** 1 file

**level:** item

**description:** Conference Special edition, July 1972

### ***PHOTOGRAPHS***

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/E/1

**Title:** SOGAT photographs

**Dates:** 1970

**Extent:** 1 file

**Level:** series

**Description:**

- SOGAT biennial delegate conference, Scarborough, 1970
- Conference?, undated

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/E/2

**Title:** Framed photographs

**Dates:** 1937?

**Extent:**

**Level:** item

**Description:**

- Black and white portrait. Evelyn Kingsland, first woman secretary , London Women 1937 written on reverse
- Black and white portrait. Miss Taylor, Bookbinders written on reverse

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/E/3

**Title:** Framed photograph

**Dates:** c1934?

**Extent:**

**Level:** item

**Description:** Sepia portrait with caption - G. C. Jones, Branch secretary for forty years. First secretary, London Women's Branch written on reverse. Frame damaged. George Jones was appointed as first secretary of the Women Bookfolders Union in 1894.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/F/1

**Title:** Framed newspaper

**Dates:** 1985

**Extent:**

**Level:** item

**Description:** Framed front page of special edition newspaper produced by workers at the *Sun* and *News of the World* newspapers in support of the miners' strike, March 1985, with hand-written message to the London Women's Branch, signed by Arthur Scargill. Metal frame damaged [by damp?]

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/F/2

**Title:** Poster

**Dates:** 1983

**Extent:**

**Level:** item

**Description:** Poster marks bicentenary of SOGAT 1783-1983 and shows family tree of SOGAT and its predecessor union

**Reference code:** SLWB 2/F/3

**Title:** Collection of memorabilia

**Dates:** 1982-1990

**Extent:** 1 box

**Level:** series

**Description:**

- 6 commemorative mugs – New International dispute 1986; London print workers' 1984 Miners' Strike children's appeal; SOGAT 82, biennial delegate conference

Scarborough 1986; SOGAT 82 bicentenary 1783-1983 [in presentation box]; GLC abolition 1986; Labour's jobs and industry campaign 1986

- 1 pewter tankard – Wapping dispute 1986, presented by the London Machine Branch G.L.B. [Greater London Branch?]
- 1 ceramic plate – South Wales Miners Relief Fund, strike 1984-85 to SOGAT London Women's Branch
- 1 glass plate – SOGAT 82 Scarborough conference 1990 [in presentation box]
- Pencil sharpener with caption 'Labour's jobs and industry campaign' 1986
- Pen holder [pen missing] with badge of London Machine Monocasters Branch, November 1985

### 3. MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

**Reference code:** These items moved to TUC Library Collections

**Title:** Miscellaneous books and pamphlets

**Dates:** 1942-1992

**Extent:**

**Level:** series

**Description:**

- Bulletin: the official journal of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation. Bound volume Vol V1 n1 March 1942 - Vol V1 n17 Nov-Dec 1944.
- The slavery of our times, by Leo Tolstoy. Printed by Briant Colour Printing Joint Chapels during their work-in June 1972.
- Liberation Christianity on the Wapping picket line, by Jean Sargeant. Jubilee Group, 1992.