

The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) Collection



An introduction to the Trades Union Congress Library holdings,
including the FWWCP Publications and
Administrative Documents

FWWCP Collection

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FWWCP Collection

Contents Overview

The FEDERATION OF WORKER WRITERS AND COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS
(FWWCP) COLLECTION

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Title: Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) Collection

Dates of creation: 1970s - 2007, with some publications continuing to present
Extent: 85 boxes

CONTEXT

Administrative/biographical history: The *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers* was a network of writing and publishing groups that began in 1976 in London, England. Eight original groups met at Centerprise bookshop in Hackney and formed the FWWCP which self-published working-class writing until 2007. These groups published testimony about working-class experience, including topics of migration, language, gender, vocation, sexuality, food, and more. After 2007, the FWWCP folded and reformed as the FED, which is currently still active.

Custodial History: The publications and administrative documents were donated by FWWCP members, including Nick Pollard, Ken Worpole, Roger Mills, Sally Flood, and more. The majority of the documents were deposited by Nick Pollard with the TUC Collections, London Metropolitan University in 2014.

CONTENT & STRUCTURE

Accruals: There may be further deposits.

System of arrangement: The collection is arranged in 85 boxes, with two main distinctions: Publications and Administrative Publications. The publications are arranged based on the region of publication. The Administrative Publications are arranged by type (ex: minutes; annual reports; magazines, etc.). See following information for more information on how to find specific contents.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Access conditions: open

Physical Conditions: generally good

Finding Aids: There are digital and printed Research/Reading guides based on important themes within the FWWCP Collection, such as Art, Food, Gender, Local London, Migration, Sexuality, War, Work, and more.

Description Notes: Entries compiled by Dr. Jessica Pauszek and Vincent Portillo

Date: June 2018

The following is a listing of the holdings included in the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) Collection. The holdings are organized into two main categories: first, the publications by the FWWCP; second, the administrative documents (meeting minutes; grant applications; funding applications; festival planning documents; annual reports; etc.).

Navigating the FWWCP Collection

Here we want to say a few words about the organisation of the holdings. The region of publication was important to members of the FWWCP. For instance, publications often showcase regional dialect, vocation, and cultural traditions. Therefore, based on the desire of the FWWCP/FED members, we have organised the holdings according to region of publication. Currently, the holdings are organised according to 14 regions, each of which is numbered this way:

- 01 NW (North West)
- 02 NE (North East)
- 03 Y (Yorkshire)
- 04 WM (West Midlands)
- 05 EM (East Midlands)
- 06 SW (South West)
- 07 SE (South East)
- 08 L (London)
- 09 NI (Northern Ireland)
- 10 S (Scotland)
- 11 W (Wales)
- 12 E (Europe)
- 13 US (United States)
- 14 I (International Publications)

Two boxes are marked RM in the collection, and these are publications from Roger Mills that represent some of the FWWCP's diversity. They are currently used for presentations and can be found in RM 1 and RM 2 boxes. Once organised according to region, a second set of numbers is used to identify the box where a document can be found. **Example holding:** FWWCP/ REGION #, REGION LETTER, BOX #. Take, for example, the following listing: FWWCP/ 08 L 02, which indicates a document – in this case, Sally Flood's *Paper Talk* – can be found in Region 8 (London) in box number 2.

The administrative documents of the FWWCP can be found in boxes beginning with the number 15. Each box contains different contents, including minutes, annual reports, in-process writing, festival planning documents, etc., and is labeled as such.

FWWCP Collection

Contents

FWWCP/ 01 NW 01 - 10

Publications from the North West Region

FWWCP/ 02 NE 01 - 03

Publications from the North East Region

FWWCP/ 03 Y 01 - 13

Publications from the Yorkshire Region

FWWCP/ 04 WM 01 - 03

Publications from the West Midlands Region

FWWCP/ 05 EM 01 - 02

Publications from the East Midlands Region

FWWCP/ 06 SW 01 - 05

Publications from the South West Region

FWWCP/ 07 SE 01 - 05

Publications from the South East Region

FWWCP/ 08 L 01 - 15

Publications from London

FWWCP/ 09 NI 01

Publications from Northern Ireland

FWWCP/ 10 S 01 - 02

Publications from Scotland

FWWCP/ 11 W 01 - 02

Publications from Wales

FWWCP/ 12 E 01 - 04

Publications from Europe

FWWCP/ 13 US 01

Publications from the United States of America

FWWC/ 14 I 01

Publications from International Groups (Including but not limited to Australia, Canada, New Zealand.)

ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**FWWC/ 15 AP 01**

Federation Magazine, FED News, Newsletters

FWWC/ 15 AP 02

Anthologies and Publications

FWWC/ 15 AP 03

Annual Reports (Beginning 1979-2005)

FWWC/ 15 AP 04

Constitutional Documents

(Includes copies of FWWC Constitution.)

FWWC/ 15 AP 05

FWWC Minutes (From 1976 - 2015)

FWWC/ 15 AP 06

Member Group Applications

(Includes applications with supporting documentation and correspondence.)

FWWC/15 AP 07

Member Group Applications, cont.

(Includes applications with supporting documentation and correspondence.)

FWWC/15 AP 08

Group and Individual Membership

(Includes names of members and correspondence.)

FWWC/15 AP 09

Budget and Finance

(Includes budgets, financial reports and FWWC development and event reports from 1977-1993. Also includes external financial documents such as FWWC insurance claims, plane ticket records, work order bills, etc., and co-operative forms, funding, and correspondence.)

FWWC/15 AP 10

Budget and Finance

(Includes budgets, financial reports and FWWC development and event reports from 1994-2004.)

FWWCP/15 AP 11

Business Accounts, 2001

FWWCP/15 AP 12

Fed Festivals, Workshops, Pamphlets, Advertising Information, and Feedback Forms

(Includes FWWCP flyers, calls for writers, advertisements, graphic logo.

FED Fest posters, flyers, meeting agendas, typed and handwritten notes. Also includes information about FED Fest workshops, descriptions of workshops, schedule of events, and course feedback. Fed magazine and leaflets, forms, and feedback.)

FWWCP/15 AP 13

Member Group Events, Workshops, and Publication. Advertising, Press Releases.

(Includes Individual groups within the FED: proposals, general information, meeting notes, workshop information. Posters from the TEC/CRRAC Conference in France, Press releases. Pamphlets and brochures. Publicity for FED events, publications, writing groups and more. Press releases and event information for individual member groups of FWWCP.)

FWWCP/ 15 AP 14

“Writing For A Change” Submissions

(Includes submissions to the writing FWWCP contest “Writing for a Change” and applications/requests for entry forms.)

FWWCP/ 15 AP 15

Misc Writing by Members

FWWCP/15 AP 16

Misc Documents About Pecket Well College

FWWCP/15 AP 17

Writing and Articles About the FWWCP/FED

FWWCP/15 AP 18

Various Educational and Adult Literacy Documents

FWWCP/15 AP 19

Multimedia tapes, CDs, and photographs featuring FWWCP events and/or groups

Introduction

The FWWCP Collection is rooted in the history of the FWWCP itself. The *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers* (FWWCP) originated in 1976 as a network of working-class writing groups, beginning in the London area but eventually spreading into other parts of the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and the United States. During its 40+ year history, according to some estimates, the FWWCP produced and circulated over one million publications. A long-term goal of the FWWCP was to create an archive to preserve the writing of FWWCP members, whose work recorded working-class life in the late 20th century.

The dream of an archive became a necessity, however, when the FWWCP was forced to fold up in 2007/2008. The collapse of the FWWCP prompted a move toward the preservation of the organisation's history. From the ashes of the FWWCP rose TheFED, which worked to establish an archive. This work was headed up by an international team consisting of FWWCP member Nick Pollard, University of Virginia member Steve Parks, and Texas A&M University - Commerce member Jessica Pauszek. This team was (and is) committed to working with TheFED to establish an archive. In doing so, the working team committed to two fundamental goals:

1. The archive collection should be housed in an institution which was aligned with the values of the FWWCP.
2. The FWWCP membership should have a leadership role in the organisation of the archival materials.

Beginning in 2013, Nick Pollard and the working team reached out to London Metropolitan University's Trade Union Congress (TUC) Library, directed by Jeff Howarth, to inquire about their interest in the materials. During this time, the working team also expanded to include Jennifer Harding, London Metropolitan University, who brings expertise in oral history projects. In 2014, the TUC acquired a deposit of FWWCP materials from Nick Pollard. This was the first step in creating a print collection at the TUC.

The next step was to develop a system for sorting and cataloguing. Through discussions with FWWCP (now FED) members at their annual FED Festival, workshops, and focus groups, it was collectively decided to sort the publications by region. The focus on regional location was important to FWWCP members because of the community that developed around the types of work they did in

those particular regions, and possibly the dialects they spoke there. These regions include the following: North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, South East, and London. Additionally, regions in the Collection also include Scotland; Wales; Ireland. As the FWWCP members and other volunteers began the sorting, however, these regions expanded to include other parts of Europe; United States; and other international publications.

For the past 5 years, this team has worked to establish a core collection of materials, working from the already existing collection of Nick Pollard. It has also sought out grant materials and institutional support to sponsor workshops at FED Festivals, yearly gatherings of membership writers and community publishers. Through Steve and Jess' work, Syracuse University sponsored the FED's annual festival for multiple years.

The archival work made up the foundation of multiple study abroad writing courses from 2015 - present. In 2015, as the archive/collection began to take shape, Jess Pauszek and Steve Parks created a London-based research course, in which undergraduate and graduate students helped sort and catalogue the materials. As part of the course, students met with FWWCP/FED members as a way of ensuring that the emerging collection continued to reflect the values of the organisation.

To date, over 2,300 unique publications (including chapbooks, magazines, meeting minutes, etc.) have been sorted and indexed. In 2018, Jess Pauszek and Vincent Portillo taught another course where students not only continued to organise the contents of the FWWCP collection, but also developed the Reading Guides that are now part of this publication. Importantly, during this course, we established a method, including holding numbers, for cataloguing each publication into a particular region and box. (These holding numbers are described in the FWWCP Collection Contents section.)

Throughout this process, FWWCP/FED members have been involved in choosing themes which merit representation. The Reading Guides represent some of the most important topics represented in the FWWCP Collection, including: Art; Design; Food; Gender; LGBTQ+; Literacy; Local London; Migration; Race; Sexuality; War; Work. The Reading Guides in this catalogue are just a beginning; we hope to produce more.

Activism

A Man to be Watched Carefully
Zinkin, Peter. People's Publications, 1985.
FWWCWP/ RM Part 2

A Woman's Right to Cues
Capstick, Sheila and Rachel Van Riel. Yorkshire
Art Circus, 1988.
FWWCWP/03 Y 07

Different Drums
Multiple authors. Lancashire Association of
Trades Councils, 1984.
FWWCWP/ 01 NW 02

**Greenham Common: Women's Peace
Camp: A History of Non-Violent
Resistance 1984-1995**
Junor, Beth. Working Press, 1995.
FWWCWP/08 L 10

**Gold under the Hammer: Passive
Resistance in Cornholme 1902-1914**
Multiple authors. Cornholme W.E.A. Branch,
1982.
FWWCWP/03 Y 12

**In Letters of Gold: The Story of Sylvia
Pankhurst and the East London
Federation of the Suffragettes in Bow**
Taylor, Rosemary. Stepney Books, 1993.
FWWCWP/08 L 07

**Innocent Blood: The Hexham Riot of
1761**
Multiple authors. Northern Voices, 1996.
FWWCWP/02 NW 02

Lightyears
Merseyside Women's Writing. Headland,
1992.
FWWCWP/01 NW 02

**May Day: 19th People's Gala, Rally &
Demonstration**
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC,
1996
FWWCWP/05 EM 01

**May Day: 20th People's Gala, Rally &
Demonstration**
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC,
May 1997
FWWCWP/05 EM 02

**May Day: 21st People's Gala, Rally &
Demonstration**
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC,
1997
FWWCWP/05 EM 01

**Nine Days 1926: The General Strike in
Southwark**
Union Place. Union Place Community
Resource Center, May 1976.
FWWCWP/ RM Part 4

Nineteen Eighty-Three
Multiple authors. Lancashire Association of
Trades Councils, 1983.
FWWCWP/01 NW 02

**One Life is Not Enough: A German
Woman's Antifascist Fight**
Wolf, Lore. Translated by Ilse Meyer. People's
Publication, 1982.
FWWCWP/ RM Part 3

**Rebels with a Cause: The History of
Hackney Trades Council 1900-1975**
Burke, Barry. Centerprise, 1975.
FWWCWP/08 L 03

Strike Songs
Rego and Polikoff Strikers. Centerprise, 1983.
FWWCWP/08 L 07

**Strikers of Hanbury Street and Other
East End Tales**

Smith, Derek. Rhapsody, 2002.

FWWCP/08 L 07

**THATCHERISM: The Jubilee Lent
Lectures, 1980**

Leech, Kenneth. The Jubilee Group, no date.

FWWCP/ RM Part 4

**Tough Annie: From Suffragette to
Stepney Councillor**

Annie Barnes in conversation with Kate
Harding and Caroline Gibbs. Stepney Books,
1980.

FWWCP/08 L 14

**To Struggle is to Live: A Working Class
Autobiography**

Benson, Ernie. People's Publications, 1980.

FWWCP/02 NE 03

**We Want Winns! The Story Behind A
School Strike, 1945**

Waltham Forest Workshop, 1993.

FWWCP/08 L 14

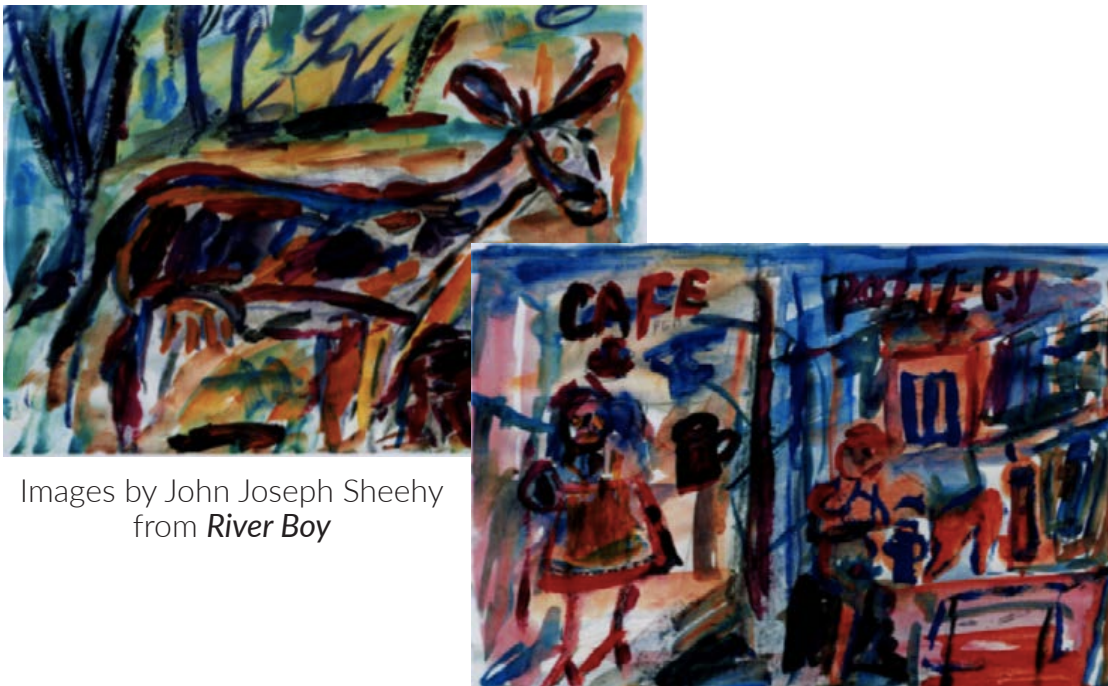
Worker Writer No. 1

Multiple authors. Leeds Community Press, no
date.

FWWCP/03 Y 13

Art

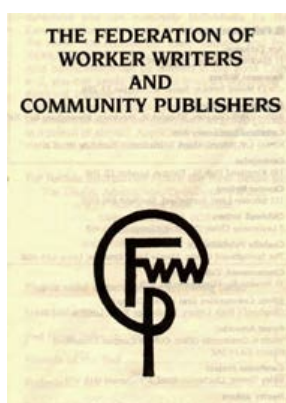
Visual art and creative writing made by disenfranchised groups is a common theme within the *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers* (FWWCP), now recognized under a new name, TheFED. Groups focused on these creative endeavors have been active within the FWWCP since its inception, and the network has, in turn, been active in publishing these works.



Images by John Joseph Sheehy
from *River Boy*

Such visual art by disenfranchised groups is in the monthly *Federation Magazine*, as well as throughout many publications by individual writers. Women writers and artists have traditionally been underserved and are represented here with several collections of poetry, short stories, and art.

One of the creatives now part of TheFED is John Joseph Sheehy, who came to the group via *The Big Issue* when he suffered from homelessness in his fifties, now nearly twenty years ago. Sheehy was assisted through art and writing workshops that *The Big Issue* held and has had several collections published. The FWWCP Collection also contains donated sketchbooks and journals of Sheehy's work.



Drowned in Overspill

Caroline Gilfillan, 2000

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This book cover is lavender with a graphic text title, and the back cover contains a black and white photograph of the author. This collection of poems won the Crocus North West Poetry Pamphlet Competition, 2007. The poems contain themes of marriage, illness, love, and loss.

Keywords: illness | loss | love | marriage | poetry | relationship | women

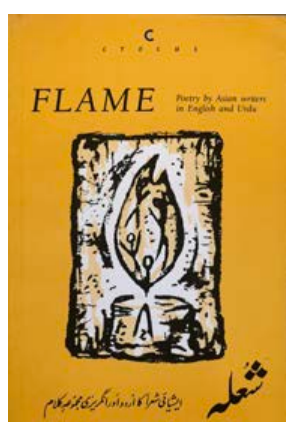
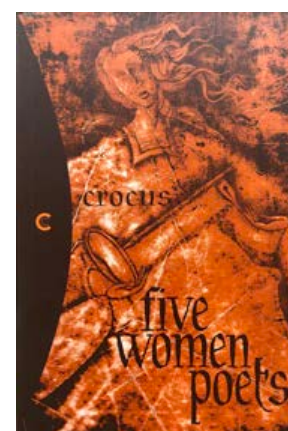
Five Women Poets: Poetry by Women Writers

Pat Winslow, et al., 1993

FWWCP/01 NW 07

The community publishing co-operative Commonword announced a call for submissions, resulting in this book of poems. The book is softbound with cover artwork in colour of a figure of a woman holding a key. The poems focus on themes from everyday life, hope, humour, optimism, childhood memories, and interpretations of historical moments. One poem, "Song of the Woman Past Forty," laments women who succumb to the societal pressures and associated costs of beauty treatments to retain a youthful look.

Keywords: ageism | body image | childhood | family | humour | poetry | women | working-class



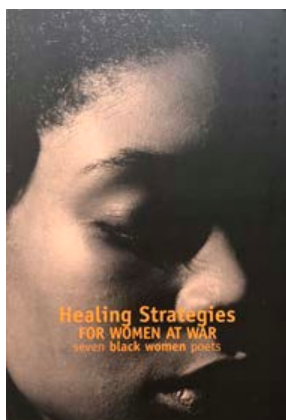
Flame: a Collection of Poetry by Asian writers in English and Urdu

Commonword, 1991

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This bilingual text is a small, bound book with a golden yellow cover which is inset with a work of art. The book contains a publisher's note, a translator's note, poetry, and then concludes with a few paragraphs about each of the fifteen contributors as well as the not-for-profit organisation, Commonword. The poems describe the difficulties faced by the writers in their home countries, as both refugees and as immigrants.

Keywords: anthology | art | bilingual | migration | poetry | refugee | Urdu



Healing Strategies for Women at War

Seven Black Women Poets, 1999

FWWCP/01 NW 07

Healing Strategies for Women at War is an anthology that gives voice to those who normally do not get published. It contains poems from five Black British women and includes themes of identity, displacement, family, and more. The cover of this book contains a greyscale photograph of a woman in shadow with downcast eyes.

Keywords: Black British | family | identity | immigrant | sexuality | war | women | working-class

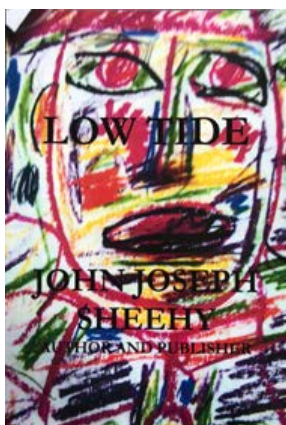
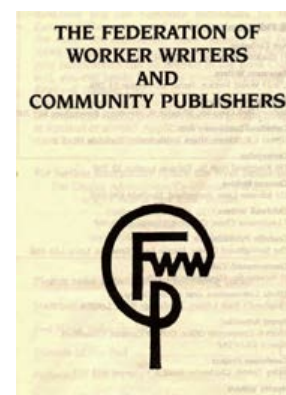
Home Truths: Writing by North West Women

HOME TRUTHS, no date

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This is a collection of poetry, short stories, drawings, and photographs by the Manchester-based women's writing group HOME TRUTHS, which was started by workers from Commonword. The cover of the book is a collage of black and white photographs by Phil Boyd, and the title in green text. Themes of domestic life, nature, emotions, and more from twelve women writers are included. A very brief biography is included in the back of the book.

Keywords: anthology | art | domestic | drawing | family | illustration | non-fiction | poetry | women



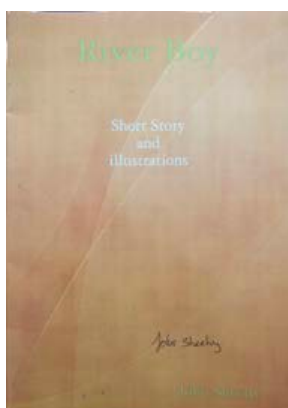
Low Tide

John Joseph Sheehy, no date

FWWCP/08 L 13

Low Tide is a softcover book of poetry and prose by John Joseph Sheehy. It was donated and signed by the author/artist. The book cover contains a colourful drawing of a figure done by the author/artist. The short book contains poetic themes of nature, celebrations of holidays, and moments from everyday life. An example of a poem is "I'm Writing Directly on the Computer Now," which blends stream-of-consciousness writing with a witty sense of humour.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | drawing | humour | painting | poetry | watercolour



River Boy: Short Story and Illustrations

John Joseph Sheehy,
2008

FWWCP/08 L 13

A softcover children's book written and published May 2008. There are multiple large, colourful illustrations contained within the pages to break up the large-sized text. The short book launches straight into the story of a little boy who lives in the Irish countryside with his mum, whom he observes milking the family cow. It is a coming of age story as the boy grows to learn how to milk the family cow using pop songs, instead of traditional songs.

Keywords: art | childhood | drawing | farm life | Ireland | story | watercolour

Sketchbook #1: paintings and drawings

John Joseph Sheehy, no
date

FWWCP/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and measures 29.5 cm x 21 cm. The sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media. Some images are abstract, and some are line drawings of people.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | drawing | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | watercolour



Sketchbook #2: paintings and drawings

John Joseph Sheehy,
2010

FWWCP/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and closes with an attached black elastic band. The book measures 30 cm x 21 cm. The inside cover contains a drawing of a pair of figures. The first page contains drawings of children, faces of adults and a donkey, all under a sun with rays shining through a cloud. The rest of the sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker, and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | painting | watercolour



Skylight Times Crisis Members Magazine, Issue 10

Multiple authors, Spring
2012

FWWCP/08 L 13

A small, stapled periodical produced quarterly by the Skylight Times staff. There are fourteen contributors to Issue 10. The cover features a colour painting by Christopher Orlowsky. Inside are essays and poetry with many companion photos or works of art, some of which are made by the contributing artist/author. The back cover contains a list of contributors and a colour photo of Keith Harris standing alongside a large painting he made.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | crisis center | disability | mental health | photography

Design

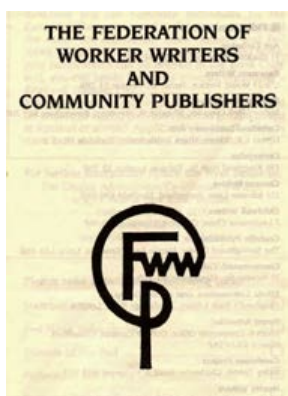
These examples were chosen to showcase different approaches to creative writing, image making, layout, design, typography, and photography. Words and images are both communicative forms in which one is able to express an idea. These texts use the interplay of language and visual form in order to communicate. Many of these texts were chosen from the groups London Voices or Working Press.



Images of FWWCP book covers

London Voices was a reading group which began before, but later became associated with, the FWWCP. This reading group eventually evolved into a writing group for Londoners who wanted to share their poetry and stories.

Working Press was an inclusive agency which promoted self-publication on art and culture by working-class people. Its aims were to celebrate and communicate the differences which take us further from the mythic and heroic 'class struggle' - toward understanding and representing the complex cultural identity which is often attached and overlaid but not destroyed by education and so-called 'upward mobility'.



Crossing Black Waters

Working Press, 1992

FWWCP/08 L 10

Published in 1992, this book was released in accompaniment to a touring exhibition displaying works of 13 South Asian Artists. *Crossing Black Waters* refers geographically to the oceans surrounding the Indian Subcontinent. To cross the oceans meant to cast yourself outside of tradition. The book contains drawings, photographs and text. The layout of the publication encourages the reader to reexamine previous pages as one goes along.

Keywords: class | exclusion | photography | Working Press

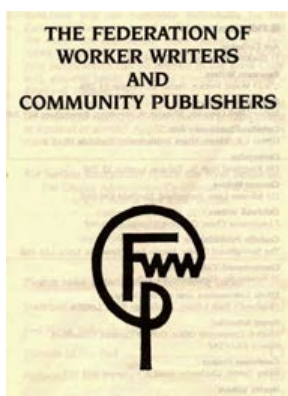
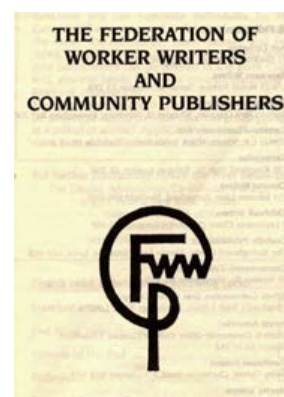
Flyposter Frenzy

Working Press, 1992

FWWCP/08 L 10

First published in 1992, this book is filled with posters from various individuals and groups who are on the fringes of society. Their powerful and witty infographics invite the reader to photocopy, edit and put up these posters around public spaces as they see fit, guiding the public voice in expressing these messages. The posters cover many issues of outrage and hypocrisy including; sexuality, economics, anti-establishment, patriotism, colonialism, feminism, strike action, work-life balance, social control and many more.

Keywords: class | economics | feminism | patriotism | sexuality | strike | working-class



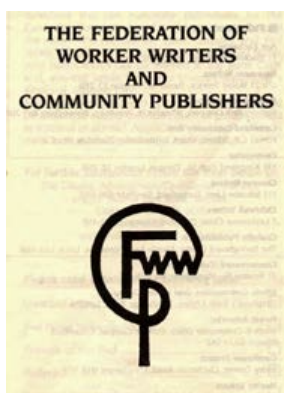
If Comix: "Mental"

Graham Harwood, 1991

FWWCP/08 L 10

Published in 1991 by Working Press, this publication uses a comic book style with vast amounts of graphic greyscale illustrations set in a storyboard format. The images are interspersed with text boxes and speech bubbles exclaiming feelings of despondency with society and criticising consumerism. Both text and images are highly emotive and aggressive at points. The zine, which contains a free poster and record, is written in vernacular slang.

Keywords: consumerism | emotions | illustrations



John and Other Stories

Graham Harwood, 1987

FWWCP/08 L 10

This publication tells a story almost entirely through pictures with just a short introduction. Published in 1987 and set against the backdrop of the 1985 riots, this series of collages interspersed with cut-out news text aims to connect being an artist and being working-class. The author states that inferiority is the mechanism which sustains capitalism. By making groups of people feel 'outside' of culture, they are forced to continue with a structure which does not understand or hold their interests.

Keywords: capitalism | class | culture | working-class

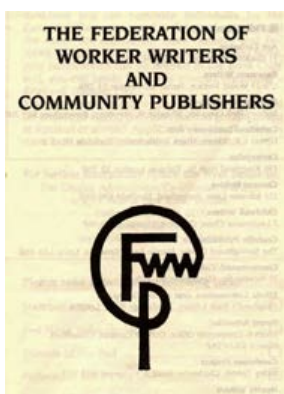
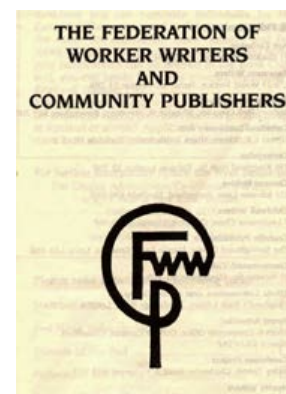
On the Roof

Graham Jameson, 1982

FWWCP/08 L 04

This publication was written by a South London school teacher. It tells a story of a day in a classroom and the interactions between the students, the teacher, and also some builders who were causing a distraction. It has a journalistic feel and raises some tough issues which are not exactly resolved, but rather simply played out for the reader. There is black and white photography throughout which is candid and unedited, matching the honesty of the story told.

Keywords: education | photography | London



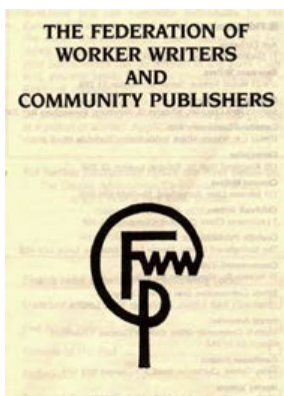
The Difference

A Mawuduku & A Burnham, 1994

FWWCP/08 L 10

Co-published in 1994, this monochrome publication tells a conversational story from the perspective of a working-class van driver. The narrative, almost entirely communicated through speech, is accompanied by sketched illustrations. The loose sketch drawing style is emotive and intensifies as the story moves forward matching the rise of the tempo of the story, the speed of the van and the roughness of the road.

Keywords: art | class | sketches | working-class



The 'Suspect Generation'

Gertrude Elias, 1993

FWWCP/08 L 05

This ring bound publication from London Voices contains short stories by members. On the first 100 pages, stories are told from themes as diverse as love and Ancient Egypt. In a loose style of writing, they express fact and fiction centered from working-class life. The final 50 pages are dedicated to illustrations which take the reader on a visual journey through intense themes of despair, sex, class, and inferiority.

Keywords: class | despair | love | sex | working-class

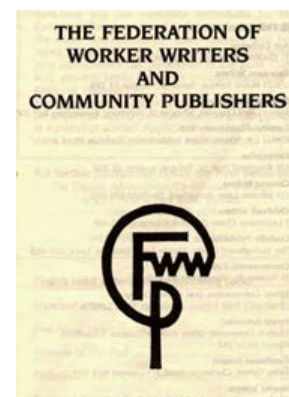
The Unknown Deserter

Clifford Harper, 2002

FWWCP/08 L 10

This small, A6 booklet by Working Press begins with a story about young Aby Harris, swept up in the fervour of patriotism in 1914, who is then severely injured on the front line at the start of the First World War. The 8 illustrations depict scenes of systematic abuse and a lack of regard for life from hierarchical structures. Line drawings, high in contrast and detail, encourage the reader to pause and think about the narrative as it unfolds before them.

Keywords: class | patriotism | war | World War I



Disability

And You a Gentleman: A Biography of Stanley Oscar Myers

Jones, Cambray, et al. Aldine Press Limited, April 1998.

FWWCP/04 WM 01

Disability Arts Magazine

Multiple authors. DAM Publishing, Winter 1992.

FWWCP/03 Y 13

Hidden Dragons: Writing by Disabled People in Wales

Sutherland, Allan and Elin ap Hywel. Parthian Books, 2004.

FWWCP/11 W 02

Labelled Disabled Collective

Multiple authors. The Labelled Disabled Collective, 1989.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Learning Disability: Working as Equal People

The Open University, no date.

FWWCP/03 Y 13

My Deaf Son

Nisa, Umtul. Gatehouse, 1998.

FWWCP/01 NW 03

No Restraints: an anthology of Disability Culture in Philadelphia

Gil Ott, editor. New City Community Press, 2002.

FWWCP/13 US 01

Pecket Well College

(Multiple documents)

FWWCP/03 Y 11

Ragged Edge: The Disability Experience in America

Multiple authors. The Avocado Press, 2000.

FWWCP/13 US 01

Rainbows in the Ice

Disabled Writers. Commonword, 1992.

FWWCP/01 NW 06

VAN Briefing: Disability Discrimination Act Part III

Voluntary ARTS Network, no date.

FWWCP/11 W 01

Food

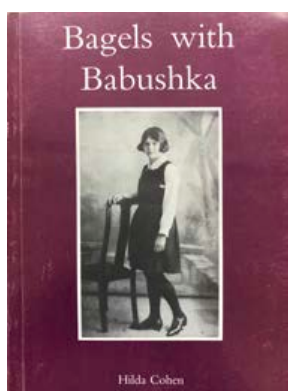
Food is an underlying theme within the texts of the FWWCP. The discussion about food within this collection is often found in texts that also focus on women and migration, as some writing groups used these topics to discuss similarities and difference of food, spices, utensils, and cooking practises between their homeland and a new country. Discussion about food also appears in memoirs about childhood or family, as members reflect on important home recipes, or the availability of various food during their lifetime. For instance, throughout the collection, both World Wars and the Great Slump play a significant role in the acquisition, consumption, and sale of food.



Images by Jessica Pauszek,
June 2018

Many food related titles in the collection include traditional recipes from the United Kingdom and abroad, particularly Indian and Caribbean countries. Note that the texts described here incorporate food to different extents. In some titles, food is more prominent, while in others, it is only briefly touched on throughout the writing.

Within the FWWCP more broadly, food has always played an important role in the group. Group meetings and writing groups are always held with tea and biscuits, cakes, and other snacks. Additionally, the annual FED Festival is a time to gather with friends to write and share those writings over lunch and at the pub. Just as these writers explain, food brings us together, allows us to share our varied cultures, and represents the comfort and welcome of being part of a community.



Bagels with Babushka

Hilda Cohen, 1989

FWWCP/01 NW 02

A Jewish woman's memoir during the period between both World Wars. Cohen recounts her young life with her grandmother and widowed father, moving to Manchester, and coming of age during the Great Slump. As a young adult, she becomes a teacher and shorthand typist, later joining The Youth Front Against War and Fascism, a Socialist social/political club. Cohen demonstrates how her social and personal upbringings helped develop her interest in the growing oppression against Jewish people.

Keywords: childhood | domestic life | fascism | Jewish | Manchester | socialism | war | women | work | World War I | World War II

Baking in Wales

S. Minwel Tibbott, 1995

FWWCP/11 W 02

A brief history on habits and customs surrounding bread and baking in Wales in the 19th and 20th centuries. *Baking in Wales* provides an overview of domestic traditions including practical learning of methods in the home and the later emergence of communal bake houses. Bake houses continued the customs of home baking into the mid-20th century, until commercial bakers were relied on during World War II. Recipes are included.

Keywords: baking | cooking | domestic life | Wales | women



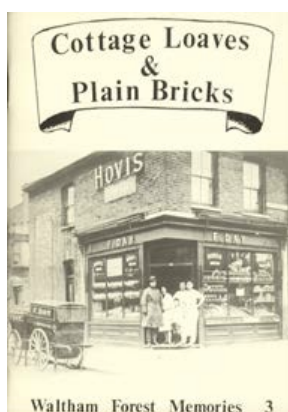
Captain Blackbeard's Beef Creole and other Caribbean recipes

Peckham Publishing Project, 1981

FWWCP/08 L 04

A collection of recipes from the Caribbean islands collectively written by immigrants of the West Indies. Illustrations are included by Collingwood Girls' School in Peckham. Publication includes an encyclopaedic list of produce and ingredients particular to this cuisine, recipes, poems, and memoirs. Authors describe physical characteristics of produce, how to select it, its use, and alternative names to ingredients in the United Kingdom. Traditional food preparation methods are discussed including those specific to holidays.

Keywords: Caribbean | cooking | domestic life | migration | West Indies



Cottage Loaves & Plain Bricks: Memories of bread and baking in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, 1986

FWWCP/08 L 14

This is the third publication by Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, which includes recollections of baking in Waltham Forest from 1913-1950. Oral histories recount the transition from family owned bakehouses to commercial bakeries. Topics discussed include baking methods, working conditions, business operations, and adapting to gas ovens and other machinery. Wartime shortages and their effects on industry are also explored. Vintage advertisements, maps, and photographs are included.

Keywords: baking | domestic life | industry | Waltham Forest | war | work | World War I | World War II

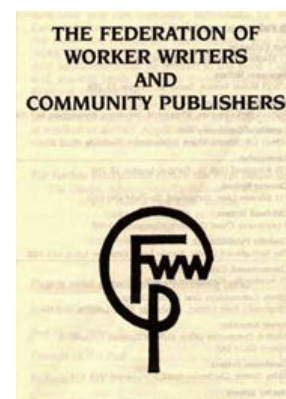
Nice Tastin' Life and Food in the Caribbean

Liz Bartless, editor, 1991

FWWCP/08 L 14

Written by immigrants from the West Indies, including Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Tobago, and Trinidad, who convene as the Pepper Pot Club, this collection includes poems, folk tales, and short histories describing local food culture. Writers explore tasks related to farming, cooking, going to market, finding Caribbean ingredients in London, medicinal uses, and the role of food in social occasions. The book also describes differences in island countries relating to vernacular for food and uses for food. Recipes are included.

Keywords: agriculture | Caribbean | childhood | cooking | cuisine | Dominica | farming | food | medicine | West Indies



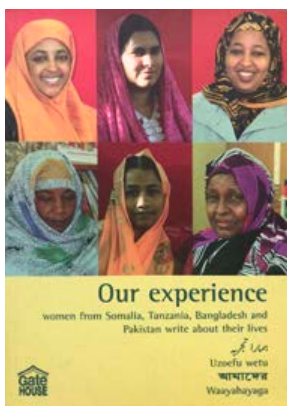
Open City: A Journal of Community Arts & Culture - Breaking Bread: The Food Issue

August Tarrier, 2000

FWWCP/13 US 01

This is the second issue of biannual magazine circulated in Philadelphia, which includes memoirs, poems, opinion editorials, interviews, and writings related to food. Cuisines discussed include Jewish, Spanish, Filipino, Mexican, and Cajun. Another major theme in this serial is agriculture in the city. Articles include stories on community gardening, food styling, the 'slow food' movement, and sustainable food sourcing. The issue focuses on food as it relates to everyday life and living in an urban area.

Keywords: agriculture | childhood | cuisine | domestic life | food | gardening | Philadelphia | slow food | sustainable food



Our Experience: Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan write about their lives

Gatehouse, 1996

FWWCPC/ RM 01

A collection of writings from emigres of Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan learning to write and speak English. The authors were involved in a parent storytelling workshop as part of a family literacy project. The stories were written in English then translated back to native languages. Memoirs and drawings of home countries involving childhood, daily life, food, traditions, and motherhood are inside. Recipes are included.

Keywords: Bangladesh | bilingual | childhood | folklore | food | literacy | motherhood | Pakistan | refugee | Somalia | Swahili | Tanzania | Urdu

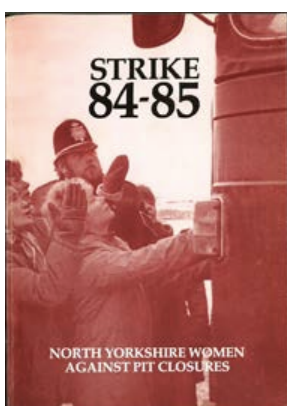
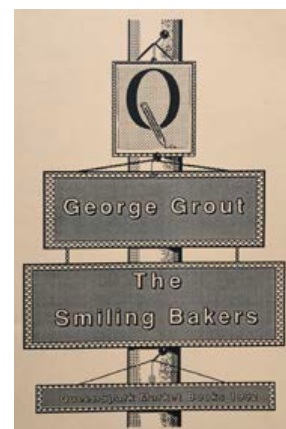
The Smiling Bakers

George Grout, 1992

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Author George Grout recounts childhood and family life with 10 siblings in the mid 1910s and 1920s. The main setting for these memoirs is the bakehouse owned by his father, attached to his childhood home. Grout describes his involvement in the family business at a young age, detailing his duties from age six through young adulthood. Major themes in this title include siblings, family, work, baking, and World War I. Baking processes and production methods are described in detail.

Keywords: army | Brighton | childhood | domestic life | food | holidays | war | work | World War I



Strike 84 - 85 North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures

Yorkshire Arts Circus,
1985

FWWCPC/03 Y 07

Published by North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures in 1985. Women of Yorkshire share their memoirs and poetry from the Miners' Strike of 1984. Chapters included focus on soup kitchens and rations, fundraising, family life, protesting, and national conferences for women against pit closures. The stories shared expose the level of hardship experienced with reduced wages. This book details the complexity of daily life, family, protesting, politics, and police brutality during the strike period.

Keywords: domestic life | food | miners | police | politics | protest | strike | violence | women | working-class | Yorkshire



Sweet and Sour

Bengali Women's Support Group, 1993

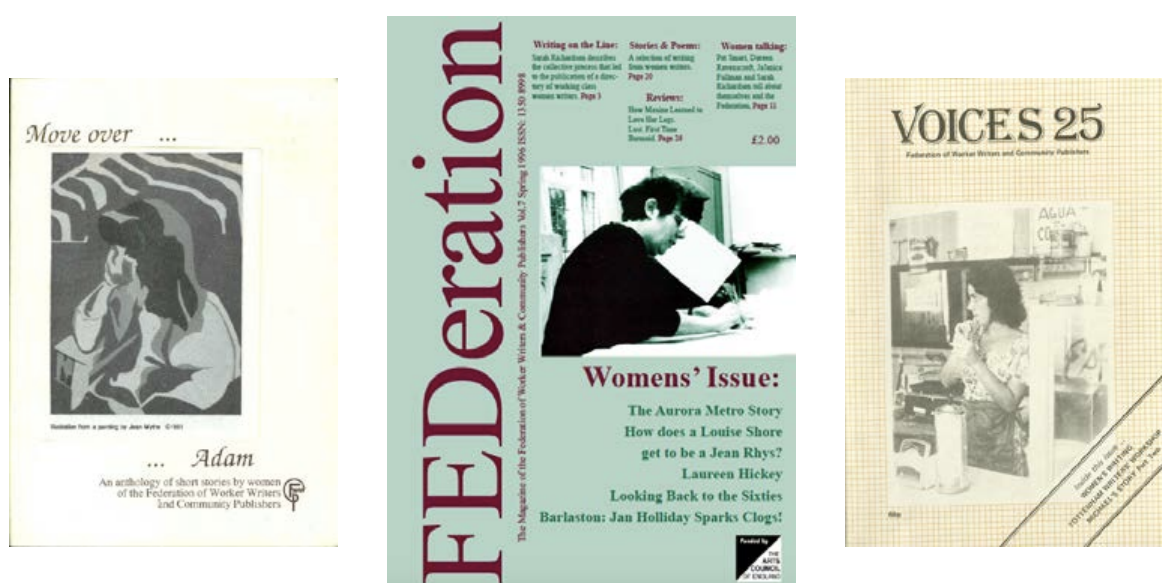
FWWCP/03 Y 01

This title is the second publication of the Bengali Women's Support Group in South Yorkshire. It explores the importance of food through memoirs, poetry, letters, folk tales, and stories. Recipes are prefaced with a personal story about the dish. Bengali women share the role cooking played in their lives. Together, the individual stories relay how cooking impacted the domestic, social, and professional situations of the women. Authors describe cultural traditions, medicinal uses for certain foods, and tips for Bengali cooking.

Keywords: Bengali | cooking | domestic life | migration | Indian cooking | recipe | Yorkshire | women

Gender

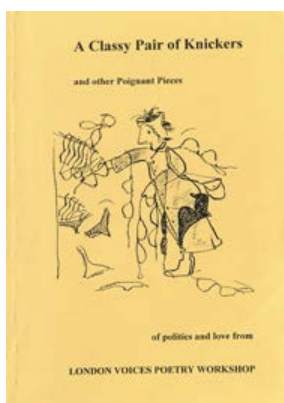
The specific readings listed in the FWWCP Gender Reading Guide are all written by women, with publication dates spanning from 1978 to 1991. In these pieces, some women were overtly rejecting the societal systems they lived in, while other were merely writing about their lives. Regardless, all of these women wrote about political and societal issues in one way or another through detailing their personal experiences with domestic life, motherhood, migration, race, politics, the working-class life, World War II, and more.



Images by the FWWCP

Stories about gender within the FWWCP collection not only discuss a variety of topics, but also span multiple generations, ethnicities, languages, and genres. The publications selected for this collection alone include essays, memoirs, poems, and short stories in many different formats, such as anthologies, magazines, books, and pamphlets.

Within the FWWCP materials, there are pieces written by individuals focused on gender issues and social concerns in their own lives. These might include gendered work, sexuality, masculinity, femininity, raising children, and family. In other cases, there are anthologies, such as *Move on Adam* that represent an organisation-wide publication written by women, in order to highlight women's voices. Even more, though, throughout the Collection, there are discussions about the role of gender in connection to class identity (see *Voices 25*).



A Classy Pair of Knickers and Other Poignant Pieces of Politics and Love #34

London Voices, 1996

FWWCP/08 L 05

This substantial collection has 81 pieces of creative writing from the London Voices Poetry Workshop. Topics cover feminist issues (“a woman,” “If love is the same”), economic issues about socialism and poverty (“I stifled a yawn,” “Unemployment balance sheet”), and sex (“A classy pair of knickers”). The poems range in voices from sentimental to unforgiving.

Keywords: class | feminism | gender | poverty | women’s writing

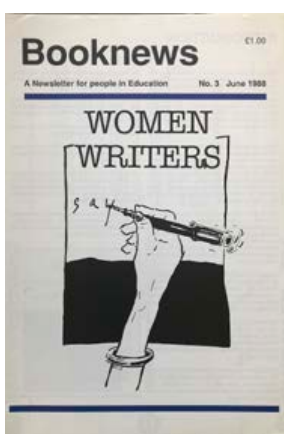
A Woman’s Work

Annie Spike, 1978

FWWCP/08 L 03

Annie Spike chronicles her life through her relationship to work in this short memoir. She describes her time working in Ireland and Hackney, London, as a factory girl, while also detailing her relationship with labour unions, her office jobs, her work as a cleaning lady, and time spent being a mother and wife. The story was originally written for a book about thirteen people who live and perform multiple work in Hackney, *Working Lives Volume Two*.

Keywords: autobiography | class | gender | factory life | family | London | memoir | politics | relationships | women’s writing | working-class



Booknews No. 3, Women Writers magazine

FWWCP, 1988

FWWCP/08 L 12

Booknews No. 3, Women Writers is an educational magazine focused solely on women’s writing groups within the FWWCP. It was primarily for “teachers who want to know about writing and publishing outside the mainstream and like to encourage active involvement by their students in the writing process.” By encouraging a range of works across the FWWCP, they hoped to showcase the rich tradition of women’s writing through a variety of forms and genres.

Keywords: autobiography | class | education | gender | London | school | women’s writing | working-class



Every Birth it Comes Different

Hackney Reading Centre, 1980

FWWCPC/08 L 03

This collection of writings is from the Hackney Reading Centre, a group that helps adult learners improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills. The stories, written with the help of tutors, vary in form, but all stem from the lives of multiple women and their experiences with childbirth. Compiling these stories allowed the women to explore the uniting theme of pregnancy and childbirth, and childbirth customs from London and beyond.

Keywords: autobiography | childbirth | gender | memoir | motherhood | London | relationships | women's writing | working-class

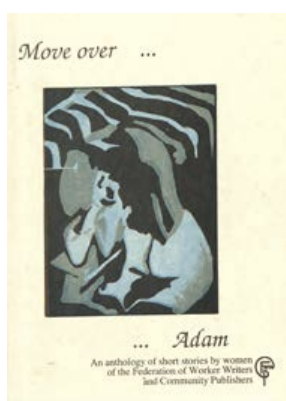
Guilty Secrets: Anthology of Women's Writing

Scarlet Women Writing and Publishing Group, 1989

FWWCPC/05 EM 02

Guilty Secrets was inspired by a feminist women's writing workshop that discovered most feminist writings fall into the category of "guilty" secrets. These selections include poetry and prose about the secrets women hold every day. The anthology is meant to empower women to tell the stories they previously felt they had to hide.

Keywords: family | feminism | feminist | gender | sexuality | women's writing



Move Over Adam: an anthology of short stories

Women Writers of the FWWCP, 1990

FWWCPC/ RM 01

This collection of short stories is noted for not only the quality of the stories, but the fact that the space was created specifically for women's writers. Although creating a space for one group within the Federation was controversial, *Move Over Adam* presents an important moment within the FWWCP's history to celebrate women writers.

Keywords: gender | London | Liverpool | relationships | women's writing | working-class



Paper Talk

Sally Flood, no date

FWWCPC/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Sally Flood describes life at her home in East London. Here, she writes about sleepless nights with family life, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

Keywords: class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | working-class | women's writing

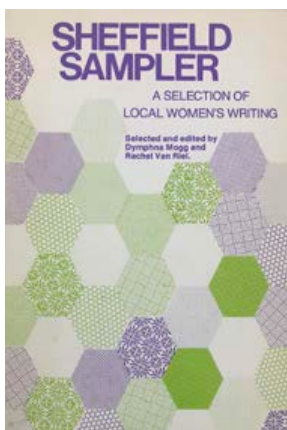
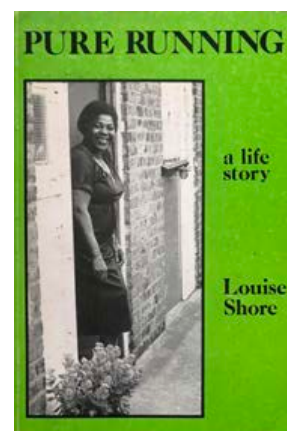
Pure Running

Louise Shore, 1982

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Pure Running is a memoir of a working-class woman, Louise Shore, and her migration to London from Jamaica in 1960. Her aspiration to write books was stalled by a lack of education and encouragement. Yet, when she began attending the Hackney Reading Centre, she worked with tutors to achieve her goal. Her story chronicles facets of her life including issues of migration, work, housing, and relationships, and navigating all of them as a Black woman.

Keywords: Black writers | class | gender | housing | London | memoir | migration | race | relationships | women's writing | working-class



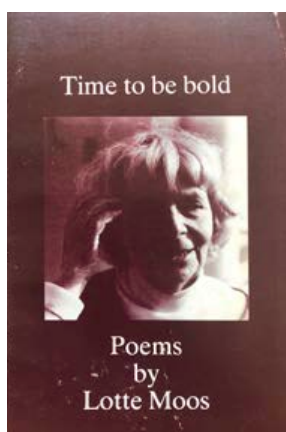
Sheffield Sampler, A Selection of Local Women's Writing

Mogg, Dymphna and Rachel Van Riel, editors, 1985

FWWCPC/03 Y 04

This anthology of women's writing was collected to coincide with International Women's Day in 1985. The anthology exists primarily to celebrate the tradition of female writing. This particular selection was chosen from over 100 texts sent to the editors, with the intent to represent a broad aspect of the female experience and "local women's responses to life," and, as such, touch on a variety of subjects.

Keywords: autobiography | domestic life | family | feminism | gender | memoir | motherhood | poetry | women's writing | working-class | Yorkshire



Time to be Bold

Lotte Moos, 1981

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Lotte Moos' collection of poems is a response to working-class life in Hackney, London. Lotte wrote poetry at a young age, but was interrupted by WWII when home and work responsibilities took precedence. When the urge to create was too strong, she began writing again, eventually joining the Hackney Writer's Group, where this volume was compiled. These autobiographical poems chart her life through her political views, labor, heartbreak, and relationship with family.

Keywords: domestic life | family | gender | Hackney | London | poetry | politics | relationships | women's writing | working-class | World War II

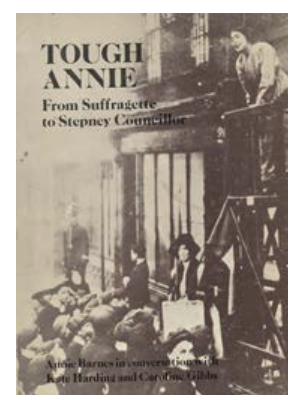
Tough Annie: From Suffragette to Stepney Councillor

Annie Barnes, Kate Harding, Caroline Gibbs, 1980

FWWCPC/08 L 14

Tough Annie was written through a series of taped conversations. Barnes tells about her involvement with the Suffragettes, her family life, her work in the Labour Party, and her eventual ascension to Stepney Councillor, where she fought for the rights of working-class people and other individuals.

Keywords: family | gender | Labour Party | London | memoir | politics | Suffragette | women's writing | working class | World War I



Voices 25: Magazine of the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers

FWWCPC, no date

FWWCPC/01 NW 08

Two pieces in this issue of *Voices* sparked conversations about gender within the FWWCPC. In the piece, "Feminist Groups," Jimmy McGovern argues that admitting feminist-focused group Women and Words to the FWWCPC would compromise the movement's focus on the working-class. Women and Words responded, expressing the value they bring to the FWWCPC.

Keywords: feminism | gender | Manchester | women's writing | working-class

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

An Independent Woman

Icilda. Centerprise, London, 1983.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6810>

Feel My Words

Goodman, Gwendolyn. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6843>

Herzone

Kkoullas, E.M., et al. Commonword, 1991.

FWWCP/01 NW 07

One Over The Bakers Dozen

Vodden, Betty. Centerprise, 1985.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Reminiscences of a Bradford Mill Girl

Newbery, Maggie. Libraries Division, 1980.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Scribe Sistren

Benji. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6812>

Upon Reflection. Women's Writing Group

Printed Resource Unit for Continuing Education, June 1987.

FWWCP/03 Y 07

Writing on the Line: 20th Century Working-Class Women Writers

Richardson, Sarah, et al. Working Press, 1996.

FWWCP/08 L 10

Jewish Life

Auschwitz and East London

Multiple authors. THAP Books, 1983.

FWWCPC/08 L 09

Keeping the Faith - The Polish

Community in Britain

Snow, Tim and Michelle Winslow. Bradford

Heritage Recording Unit, 2000.

FWWCPC/03 Y 13

The 43 Group: the untold story of their fight against fascism

Beckman, Morris. Centerprise, 1992.

FWWCPC/08 L 11

The Battle of Cable Street 1936

Cable Street Group. 1995.

FWWCPC/08 L 11

The Radical Bookseller Stop the Nazis

Issue 1/92 (78)

Multiple authors. The Radical Bookseller,

Winter 1992.

FWWCPC/08 L 08

Volla Volla Jew Boy

Spector, Cyril. Centerprise, 1988.

FWWCPC/08 L 03

We're Not All Rothschilds! The extraordinary lives of so ordinary Jews

Abrahams, Leila. Queenspark, 1994.

FWWCPC/07 SE 02

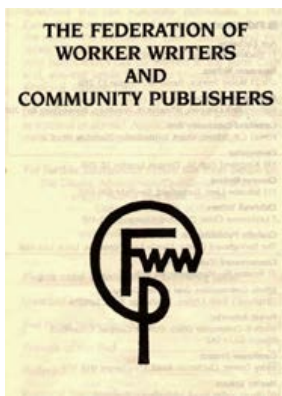
LGBTQ+

The readings in this collection highlight the life experiences of members of LGBTQ+ communities in various regions in England and beyond in the 1950-1980s. Many of the texts are collections of poems, memoirs, short stories, and illustrations.



As a whole, the collection draws attention to intersectional concerns related to living a meaningful life, including self-discovery, love, family, guilt, isolation, and violence. Furthermore, the collection describes darker tensions, including the ways in which some social groups are marginalized and persecuted, in public and in private life.

Overall, the collection seeks to draw the LGBTQ+ community away from the margins of society and into the fold.



Beyond Paradise

Lesbians and Gay Men
Poetry, 1990

FWWCP/ RM 01

This collection of poems is written by lesbians and gay men living in North West. The poems share a common theme of love, highlighting attending tensions within non-heterosexual communities. The poems also speak to social concerns, including, for example, prejudice and discrimination within the workplace and family life.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | love | sexuality

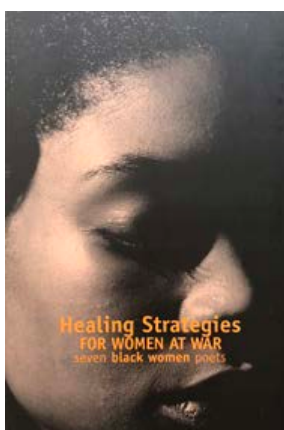
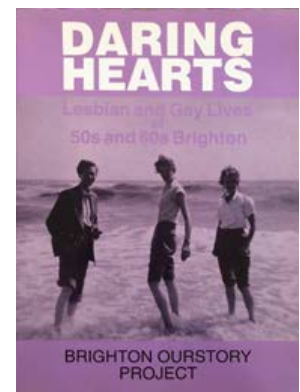
Daring Hearts: Lesbian and Gay Lives of 50s and 60s Brighton

Brighton Ourstory
Project, 1992

FWWCP/07 SE 03

This book is a compilation of interviews with members of the lesbian and gay community in Brighton in the 1950-60s. Despite being referred to as a "Gay Mecca," Brighton residents would still face discrimination and prejudice by neighbours. Thus, secrecy in public and private life is a recurring theme. Interviewees describe how physical presentation, including hair and dress, would draw unwanted attention. Many hid their affections from public view. Interviewees also describe the impact of their sexualities on families.

Keywords: body image | discrimination | gay | lesbian | sexuality



Healing Strategies For Women at War

Seven Black Women
Poets, 1999

FWWCP/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems written by seven women writers from Sri Lanka, India, China, and the Caribbean. This collection speaks to the experiences of first- and second-generation women living in Britain. Through poetry, the collection details the story of their individual journeys, with recurring themes of sexuality, racial stereotypes, and familial relationships underscoring a concern with survival.

Keywords: Black women | race | sexuality | stereotypes



Hermit Crab

Di Williams, no date

FWWCP/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems which strives to give voice to the underrepresented -- working-class, Black people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The poem that gives the collection its name speaks to the difficulty of fitting in and discovering identities. Recurring themes include family relationships, immigration, and identity.

Keywords: Black | gay | women | working-class

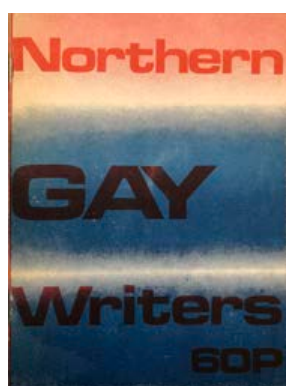
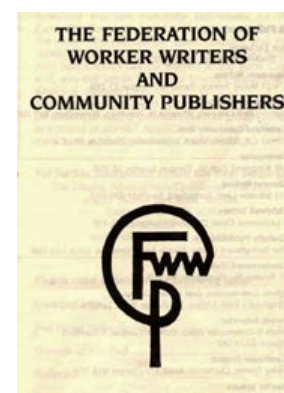
Nomad 14: The Gay Issue

Survivor's Press Scotland, no date

FWWCP/10 S 01

This book of poems and short stories describes the life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals in Scotland. The works, as they were written by over 10 people, all touch on different themes and topics, but are all held by a common thread, however, which is membership and diversity within the LGBTQ+ community.

Keywords: diversity | LGBTQ+ | transgender



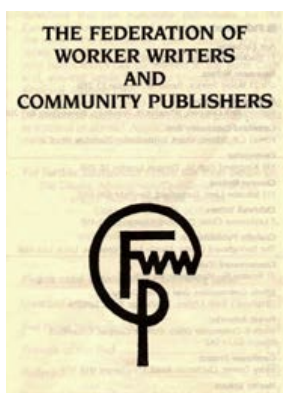
Northern Gay Writers

Commonword, no date

FWWCP/01 NW 06

The book is a collection of poetry and short stories. Writers discuss experiences with self-acceptance as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Guilt and self-hate are recurring themes. The narratives also focus on identity and self-discovery. For example, narratives describe how sexuality and gender identity, especially when intersected with other identities, like race and/or class, can cause a strain on mental health and hinder safety.

Keywords: intersectionality | mental health | self-discovery | self-reflection



Ridge Walking

Char March and Hilary Bichovsky, no date

FWWCP/03 Y 12

The book was written by two members of the The March Hares, a group of lesbian writers, performers, and visual artists. Recurring themes include larger categories of identity, gender, and race. Other topics of violence and rape may be triggering to some. The text includes poems and illustrations.

Keywords: gender identity | performance | race

Thoughts Feelings and Lovers

Elaine Okoro, 1985

FWWCP/01 NW 06

This collection of poems is split into three sections. The first, "Thoughts," focuses on women's health and family relations. The second, titled "Feelings," is concerned with self-reflection and analysis. It speaks to Okoro's experience with love and sexuality. "Lovers," the last section, which is mostly written in second person, centers around relationships and touches on desire. There are some instances in which the poems in one section are repeated in another section to show interconnection.

Keywords: health | poetry | relationships | sexuality



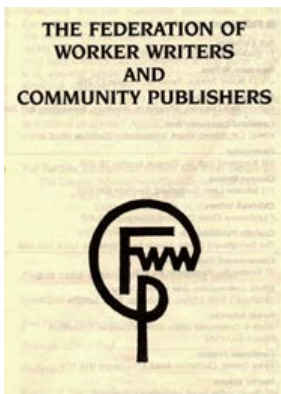
Turning Points

Northern Gay Writers, 1985

FWWCP/01 NW 06

Turning Points is a collection of poems and short stories. The collection explores prejudice within marginalized communities, conveying a deep understanding of the effects of discrimination. Most of the stories were written by members of the LGBTQ+ community, but not all. The collection also includes poems and stories written by allies of the community.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | prejudice



Words from the Women's Cafe: Lesbian Poetry from 'Word Up'

Word Up, 1993

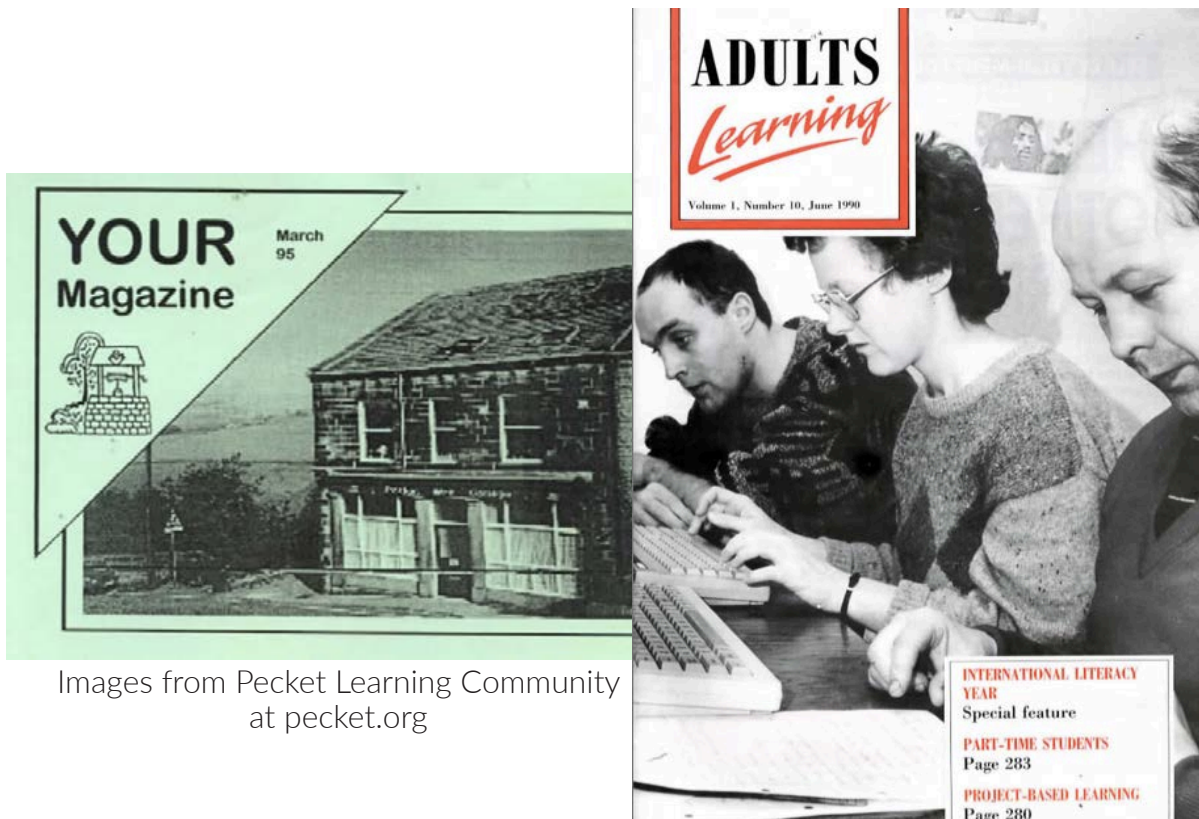
FWWCP/08 L 03

This booklet of poems and illustrations is by lesbian writers. Word Up is an innovative reading and performance space for all women. The poetry in this collection provides insight into the daily life of lesbian women. Topics include identity, childhood, familial relationships, which overlap with racial and social class identities.

Keywords: childhood | class | lesbian | race | women

Literacy

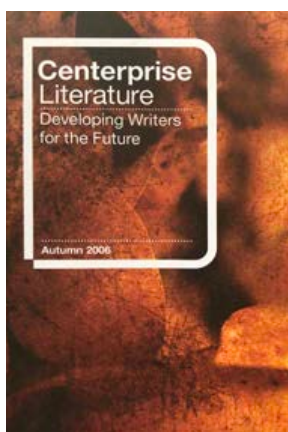
Literacy has a broad definition within the FWWCP archive, which is a direct reflection of its mission and members. Beginning in the 1970s, it is clear that each writing group strived to meet the individual needs of its members, whether by providing materials and resources in support of formal literacy or by embracing an alternative, living definition of literacy.



Images from Pecknet Learning Community
at pecknet.org

The following sample of texts from the FWWCP archive includes reference materials such as guides to basic reading and writing skills, as well as directories for local establishments that supported community beliefs in the realm of reading and writing.

Further, these texts demonstrate the FWWCP legacy of addressing member wants and needs, including collaborative writing, storytelling projects, publishing, and reading that reinforced member driven definitions of literacy.



Centerprise Literature: Developing writers for the future

Centerprise Trust Ltd.,
2006

FWWCP/08 L 03

This catalogue describes Centerprise Literature's "Developing Writers for the Future" courses: Creating Writing Courses, Writing Groups, and Professional Development. Descriptions include a summary of course objectives and a brief introduction of the instructor. Lastly, dates, meeting times and places, and the course fee are provided. The final portion of the catalogue is contact information for the Centerprise Literature Project, CLR James Library, The Resource Centre, and the Islington Central Library.

Keywords: course catalogue | creative writing | professional development

Get it right!: A Pocket Guide to Written English

Michael Temple, 1978

FWWCP/08 L 07

A guidebook for the intermediate adult learner, including sections on spelling, punctuation, and useful terms in the English language. This pocket-sized reference book provides its user with concise explanations of how to employ basic grammar, along with a small dictionary of frequently used words. With just 58 pages, the text quickly aids its users in addressing common grammatical errors, and ends with tips on writing essays and note-taking.

Keywords: composition | dictionary | literacy | note-taking | writing



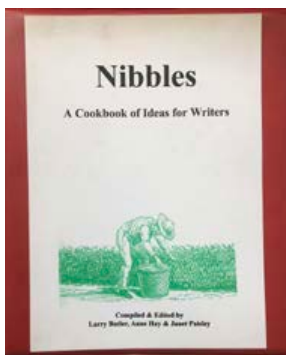
New readers start here

Margaret Redfern, editor,
1975

FWWCP/08 L 11

The text is an annotated bibliography of books and other learning materials such as phonic card games that aid beginner to intermediate adult learners in developing and practising literacy skills. This text can be used to locate materials related to teachers, librarians, tutors related to adult literacy. The descriptions are unique in that they also provide warnings for texts that may not work in some way or another for different types of learners or personalities.

Keywords: adult learner | career guidance | literacy | remedial



Nibbles: a cookbook of ideas for writers

Larry Butler, et al., no date

FWWCP/10 S 02

A cleverly written guide to the multifaceted processes of writing broken down into four sections: Starters, Writing Recipes, Chef's Specialties, and Other Ingredients. The Starters section, among other things, includes tips for planning workshops, games to break the ice, and writing exercises. The Writing Recipes section provides guidance on the techniques of writing poetry and developing a robust story. The Chef's Specialties section is compiled of eleven authors' tips on writing a novel, song, or poem. Tasty.

Keywords: how-to | story development | writing workshop

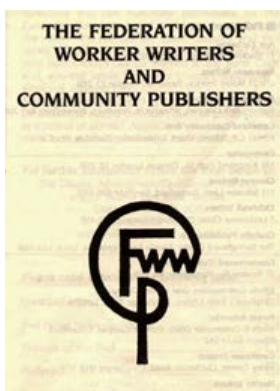
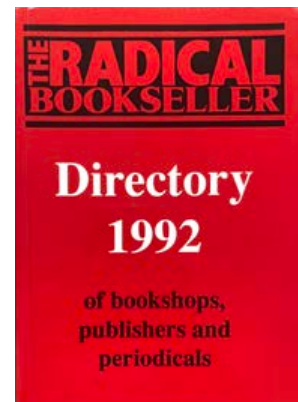
The radical bookseller directory

The Radical Bookseller, 1992

FWWCP/08 L 07

A directory to guide users to hundreds of bookshops, publishers, and periodicals that traditionally support the left-wing community. The bookshops are organised geographically along with contact information such as addresses, phone numbers, and hours of operation, and include brief descriptions of subject matters. The publishers are similarly listed in combination with radical distributors in the United Kingdom. Periodicals are listed according to subject along with details such as price and subscription rates.

Keywords: bookshop | directory | periodical | publisher | radical



The Radical Bookseller: Stop the Nazis

The Radical Bookseller, 1992

FWWCP/08 L 08

The Radical Bookseller supports left-wing communities, seeking to provide followers with information and writings that will encourage the development of community. This newsletter directory presents letters to the editor, current news or events, and a books of the month list. This newsletter also provides its readers with contact information for various establishments that provide services that align with left-wing communities.

Keywords: community | current event | directory | newsletter | radical



Rising in the East

Multiple authors, 1992

FWWCPC/08 L 11

Eastside Books, formerly Tower Hamlets Arts Project, is an arts education organisation that offers a range of community literacy education services. This book follows from a 1990s poetry award programme for children from the ages of six to sixteen. This book represents ninety hundred entries. These poems bring to life London's East End through the words of the children living there.

Keywords: early literacy | poetry | self-confidence | agency

Where do we go from here? Adult lives without literacy

The Gatehouse Project, 1983

FWWCPC/ RM 01

This book presents the experiences of eleven adults navigating language learning. Some narratives have been transcribed from interviews, and others have been written by the individual after acquiring literacy skills. Many of the stories begin in primary school as early sites of judgement and criticism, which, in turn, prompt defensive attitudes toward literacy. Further, storytellers also share their frustrations with navigating the job market with little to no literacy skills.

Keywords: adult literacy | reading | self-confidence | writing



Women Sharing Experiences

Darnley Street Family Centre, no date

FWWCPC/10 S 02

This book was the culminating project of the fourth summer school for improving English language skills at the Darnley Street Family Centre. For two weeks, ethnic minority women are provided a space with childcare to develop and practice their English reading and writing skills. Overcoming their inhibitions with the language, twenty-one women contributed short stories and poems in order to share insights into their experiences as women, mothers, wives, and immigrants.

Keywords: course | language development | literacy | skill



Written on the margins: Creative writing and adult education in Cleveland

Rebecca O'Rourke, 1994

FWWCP/03 Y 01

This text transcends a traditional how-to guide, particularly related to the navigation of complexities of being a creative writer and also the desire of being published. This book is broken down into a series of concerns related to the creative writing process, including research and community. The text acknowledges the tension between intimidation and the development of self-confidence through writing and publishing.

Keywords: adult education | adult literacy | publishing | self-guidance

Local London

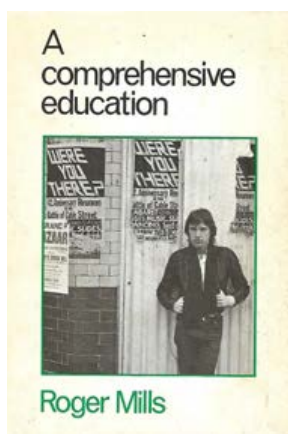
The Local London Reading Guide emerged as a way to document the various neighbourhoods, boroughs, and communities in London. Within the FWWCP, many writers write specifically about and from their specific location and emphasise how this space has affected their lives. The FWWCP has deep roots in the East End of London, particularly Hackney, because the inaugural FWWCP meeting was held at Centerprise Bookshop. From then on, London was where dozens of writing groups and publishing groups were founded. These groups include one of the founding FWWCP groups, the Basement Writers. Other groups in London, throughout the FWWCP's tenure, included Working Press; Black Ink; Centerprise; Stepney Books; Tower Hamlets Arts Project (THAP); Aldgate Press; London Voices; Hammersmith and Fulham's Ethnic Oral Histories Project, and more.



Images of FWWCP publications

Throughout the publications from London, we see writing about the shops on Brick Lane in the East End to the houses of Hoxton and Bethnal Green. We see stories of activists in Stepney and school children who went on strike to support their teacher Chris Searle. There is history about Old Poplar's churches and Kennington Park's political events. Finally, within many of the publications, we see how the various spaces of London are each unique and diverse in their own way from the types of work central to those locations to the dialects used among the community.

While the FWWCP reached at least 5 continents, London remained one of the key cities for the organisation's publishing and writing groups, its annual FED Festival, and now the location of the FWWCP Collection.



A Comprehensive Education

Roger Mills, 1978

FWWCP/08 L 03

Roger Mills recalls his childhood and education in East London. He discusses the disconnect between childhood teachings and their purpose later in life. Prompted by unemployment, Mills shares stories ranging in topics that include friends, bullies, and holiday plans. He begins with his first day of school and concludes with a reflection ten years later.

Keywords: childhood | East End | education | memoir

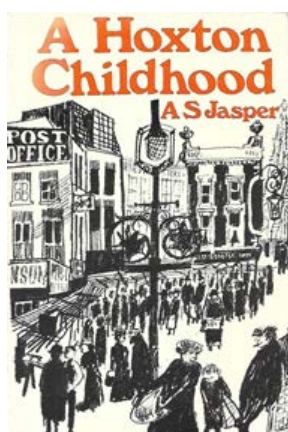
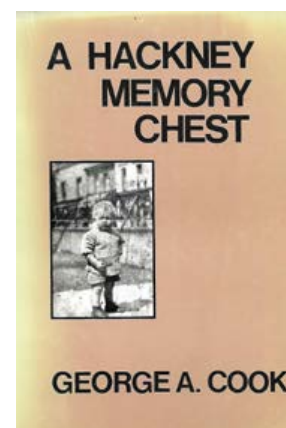
A Hackney Memory Chest

George A. Cook, 1983

FWWCP/08 L 03

As a child, George A. Cook spent much time in a tuberculosis hospital. Instead of lamenting his diagnosis and further isolation, Cook focuses on the positive memories. Even though his stories are the majority of the book, he takes time to think about why these stories are the ones he remembers. Cook emphasises the relationships throughout his memoir and their importance from childhood into adulthood.

Keywords: Hackney | hospital | memoir | tuberculosis



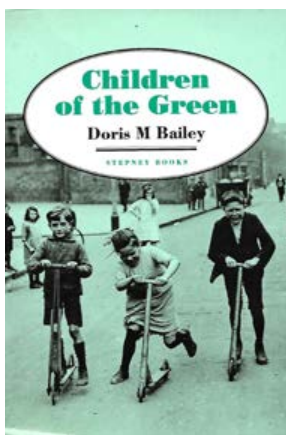
A Hoxton Childhood

A. S. Jasper, 1969

FWWCP/08 L 03

A. S. Jasper recalls his childhood in Hoxton. He describes his family, weaving the stories together rather than telling one at a time. Jasper focuses on how his family changes after his older sister learns of her pregnancy. He deals with issues such as how alcohol, poverty, and war shapes families.

Keywords: childhood | Hoxton | memoir | war | working-class



Children of the Green

Doris M. Bailey, 1981

FWWCP/08 L 07

Doris Bailey shares stories from her childhood in Bethnal Green from 1922 to 1937. She starts with a recollection of being checked for lice by the school nurse, an instance where she learned the futility of arguing with authority figures. She includes details about her home life, her friends, and her neighbourhood in order to paint a picture of life in the 1920's East End.

Keywords: childhood | community | East End | memoir | working-class

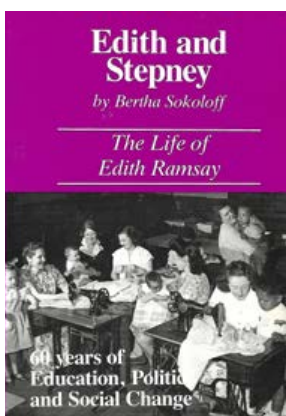
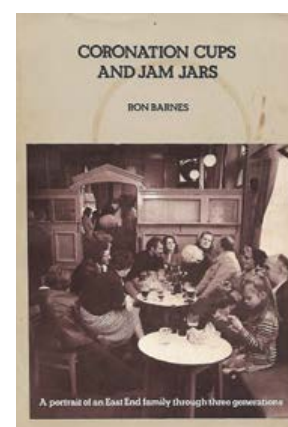
Coronation Cups and Jam Jars

Ron Barnes, 1976

No box

Ron Barnes chronicles three generations of his family in the East End. He collects the stories of his grandparents and his parents, dedicating a section of the book to each of their times. He stresses the importance of writing down these memories to create a sort of living history, complete with humour and hardship.

Keywords: class | family | East End | working-class



Edith and Stepney: 60 Years of Education, Politics and Social Change

Bertha Sokoloff, 1987

FWWCP/08 L 07

Edith and Stepney by Bertha Sokoloff tells the life story of Edith Ramsey and her work with the Women's Evening Institute. These historical accounts show how Edith impacts the lives of working women and migrants in the East End. A hero among the working class, Edith was interested in the relationships between people and how they shaped society. Through her work, she was able to help change the lives of East Enders of all backgrounds.

Keywords: activism | East End | gender | literacy | migration



In My World and Other Poems

Sally Flood, 1989

FWWCP/08 L 02

Sally Flood's collection of poetry looks at the cycles of life, beginning with birth and going through our confrontations with our own mortality. This collection emphasises the importance of experiences and writing, regardless of formal education. She shows that the working class has as much truth in writing as the academic elite.

Keywords: class | children | community | gender | poetry

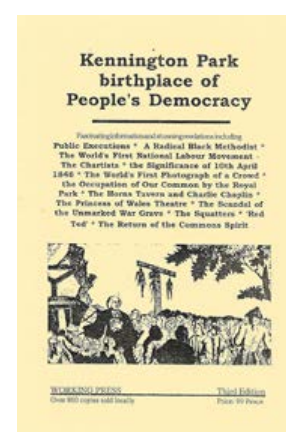
Kennington Park: Birthplace of People's Democracy

Stefan Szczekun, no date

FWWCP/08 L 10

This pamphlet chronicles the birth of British democracy in Kennington Park and its rise since the mid-1800s. There are short sections on various topics, including executions, radicalism, and war. In addition to historical information, it includes current events from the time of publication in the late 1990s. It looks at the history and contemplates the changes throughout the years.

Keywords: class | history | political conflict



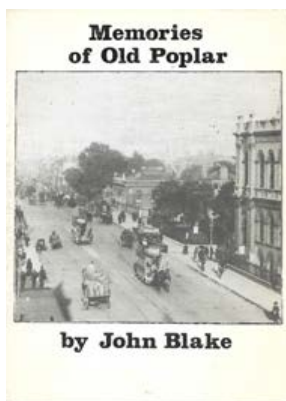
Memories

Paul George, 1977

FWWCP/08 L 14

Paul George's *Memories* is a reflection of his childhood. George uses both prose and poetry to tell his stories. After migrating to England from Grenada, he wrote this collection at the age of sixteen, shortly before he left school in 1976. He includes tales of working and having fun as a child in the prose section, and the poetry section focuses on more serious issues such as prejudice and oppression.

Keywords: childhood | migration | poetry | Southall



Memories of Old Poplar

John Blake, 1977

FWWCPC/08 L 07

John Blake's *Memories of Old Poplar* recounts his life in Poplar during Edwardian times. He realises that changes have happened and seeks to preserve the everyday memories of the past. In addition to his family, Blake describes churches, entertainment, and political events that stuck out in his mind. He remembers Poplar as a vibrant and thriving place in his youth, but he also remembers the decline in the dock working industry.

Keywords: activism | community | dock workers | memoir

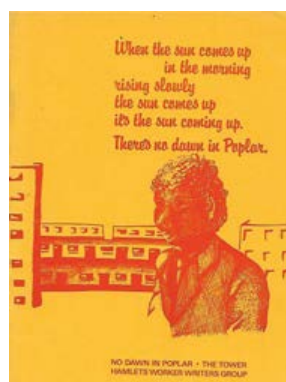
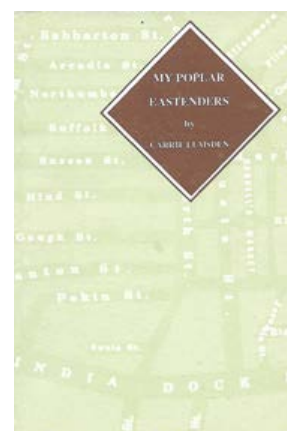
My Poplar Eastenders

Carrie Lumsden, 1991

FWWCPC/08 L 07

Carrie Lumsden reflects on growing up in Poplar and working in Aldgate. She chronicles events that happen before, during, and after World War I. Her memoir covers events from her birth in 1912 to the end of her employment in 1921. She includes stories of childhood entertainment, holidays, and education.

Keywords: adolescence | community | World War I



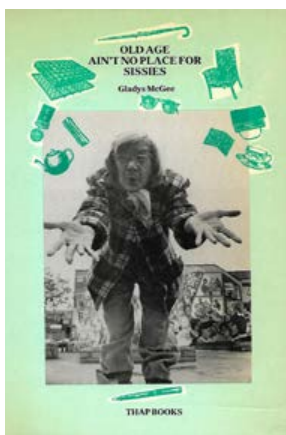
No Dawn in Poplar

The Tower Hamlets
Worker Writers Group,
1980

FWWCPC/ RM Part 1

Multiple authors contribute to this collection of creative writing. It includes prose, poetry, photographs, and drawings that reflect personal experiences. Many of the pieces place the writers in the role of an outsider, emphasising the details that alienate them from their surroundings. The pieces evoke a sense of desperation with little hope of escape.

Keywords: East End | poetry | prose



Old Age Ain't No Place for Sissies

Gladys McGee, 1986

FWWCP/08 L 14

Gladys McGee tackles the topic of changing times in her collection of poetry. She includes poems commenting on finances and class structure. Many of her poems include an element of humour and humility, showing both the positive experiences and the struggles of the working class.

Keywords: class | East End | old age | poetry

Paper Talk

Sally Flood, no date

FWWCP/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Flood describes life at her home in East London. Here, she writes about sleepless nights with family, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

Keywords: class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | work | working-class | women's writing



Scenes... from a Stepney Youth

Charles Poulsen, 1988

FWWCP/08 L 09

In this memoir, Charles Poulsen recalls growing up as a Jewish migrant in the East End during the 1920s and 1930s. He includes descriptions of his education and employment in a workshop, and he details his struggles with racism, economic diversity, and becoming "British." He goes on to describe entertainment and politics, featuring colourful characters of the time.

Keywords: adolescence | East End | Jewish | migration | working-class



Star Mum's: Poetry from Canning Town

Multiple authors, 1980

FWWCPC/08 L 07

This collection features poems by mothers that are unaltered by the publishing company, striving to be an example for other aspiring poets. Some of the topics include childhood nostalgia, motherly love, adulthood, and education.

Keywords: childhood | community | education | family | gender | motherhood | poetry

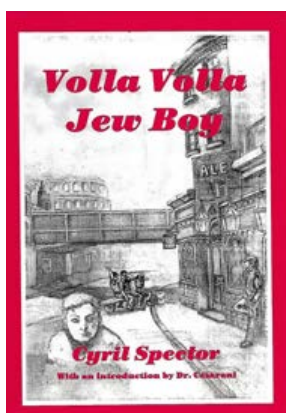
The Oak King

London Voices, 2000

FWWCPC/08 L 05

The Oak King collects poems and prose from multiple authors that celebrate the themes of strength and nature's wonders. Drawings accompany some of the stories. This anthology is divided into five sections, including hopes, trauma, love, and people. The remaining section is devoted to Bill Eburn, a founding member of London Voices.

Keywords: community | London Voices | poetry | trauma



Volla Volla Jew Boy

Cyril Spector, 1988

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Cyril Spector's memoir reflects on the history of Jewish life in London, from migration to establishing employment. Instead of the image shown in recent times, Spector shows the long journey that Jewish migrants and their descendants had from the early 1900s to the 1990s. Spector includes sections of his own education, family, and employment.

Keywords: East End | Hackney | Jewish | migration | racism

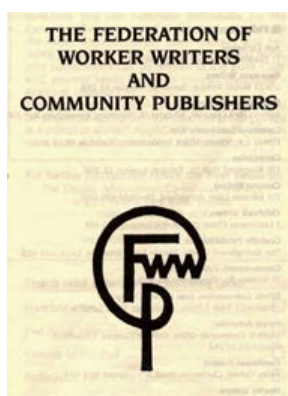
Mental Health

Tensions between empowerment and stigmatisation of those suffering from mental distress is a concern of the *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers/TheFED*. Numerous writing groups contribute to the discourse about mental health. Genres range from poetry and memoirs written by patients of mental institutions, to newsletters that provide resources for those released from the system and looking for community.



“Mental Health Word Cloud” by GDJ is licensed under CC BY 2.0

One organisation, Survivor's Poetry, is made up of dozens of groups that work to enable "survivors" of the mental health system to use creative writing as an outlet for self-expression. Other publishing groups work with similar intentions of rewriting the narrative of mental health stigma and marginalisation throughout the UK.



And the World Really Had Changed

Leeds Survivor Poets, 1996

FWWCP/03 Y 03

Leeds Survivor Poets had been called “the most active writing group in West Yorkshire.” *And the World Really Had Changed* is a collection of 99 poems written by the group created to help members recover from ‘mental health system involvement.’ The collection confronts the pain and stigma of their pasts, but mainly dwells on joy, irony, and “belly laughs.” It is their first publication as a group, and it features poems from as early as 1973.

Keywords: empowerment | institutionalisation | love | mental health | poetry

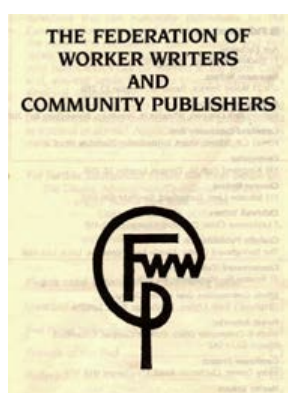
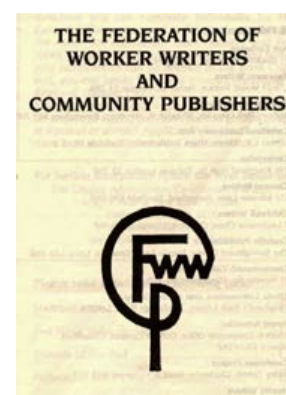
In and Out of a Psychiatric Unit

S5 7AU, 1990

FWWCP/03 Y 04

The book has two parts: in Part 1, “Let the People Speak”, survivors of the mental health system explore their experiences of rehabilitation and stigma through poetry, prose, opinion pieces, and newsletter articles (several are borrowed from other newsletters and publications). Part 2, “Help Yourself,” describes resources meant to benefit the mental health community in Sheffield.

Keywords: mental health | poetry | prose | Sheffield



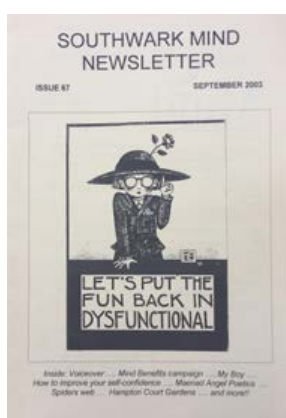
Shut Up and Hear What I've Got to Say!

Jenny Dixon, 1998

FWWCP/03 Y 03

Jenny Dixon’s collection of poetry was supported by Leeds Survivors Poets. Dixon, who struggles with manic depression, set up Doncaster Survivor’s Poetry in 1995 to create an avenue of self-expression for those, who, like herself, struggle with mental distress. Although she is not afraid to tackle melancholy subjects with sincerity, she addresses most of the topics with a great amount of humour.

Keywords: depression | Doncaster | empowerment | mental health | Yorkshire



Southwark Mind Newsletter Issue 67: Let's Put the Fun Back in Dysfunctional

Southwark Council, 2003

FWWCPC/08 L 08

The publication aims to raise awareness for disorders and illnesses, empower through poetry, and serve as a resource for local support groups and organisations. Much of this issue is devoted to advocacy and literacy as government forms are difficult to fill out for those with mental health issues. A 'Community Noticeboard' helps readers connect with advocates and allies. The newsletter concludes with some short prose.

Keywords: advocacy | community noticeboard | mental health | poetry

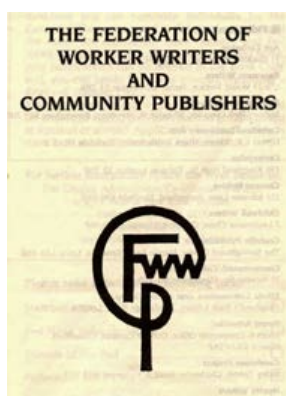
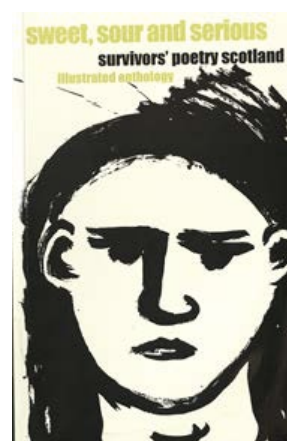
Sweet, Sour and Serious

Survivors' Poetry Scotland, 1996

FWWCPC/10 S 01

Survivors' Poetry Scotland defines a "survivor" as "a person with current or past experience of psychiatric hospitals, users of tranquillisers and other medication, users of counseling and therapy services, survivors of physical and sexual abuse, and other survivors who have empathy with our experience." This anthology features poetry and illustrations from survivors all over Scotland. Though certainly framed by it, most of the work included isn't really *about* mental illness.

Keywords: empowerment | mental health | poetry | Scotland



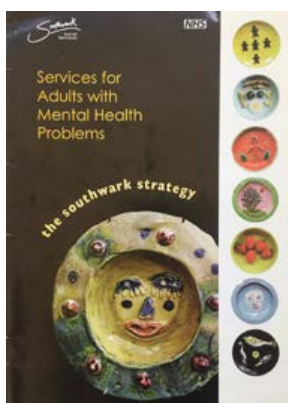
The House that Hope Built

Richard J. N. Copeland, editor, 2002

FWWCPC/08 L 11

Published in 2002 by the Stevenage Survivors poetry group, *The House that Hope Built* is a collection of poetry from Vale House, a drug and alcohol treatment centre in Stevenage. The poets don't hold back their thoughts about addiction and substance dependence. Reflecting upon their lives on and recovering from drugs and alcohol, residents of Vale House often come back to a sense of hope that allows them to truly find themselves in their writing.

Keywords: addiction | healing | poetry | recovery



The Southwark Strategy: Services for Adults with Mental Health Problems

Southwark Social Services, 2005

FWWCP/08 L 08

Services for Adults with Mental Health Problems was written as a resource for those in Southwark who may be affected by mental health problems. Published in 2002 by the Southwark Council, it contains twenty-three chapters that address concerns in the mental health community: employment, education, suicide prevention, etc. Most chapters end with an "Areas for Strategic Development" section that offers some suggestions to (and from) members.

Keywords: community planning/strategy | mental health | resource

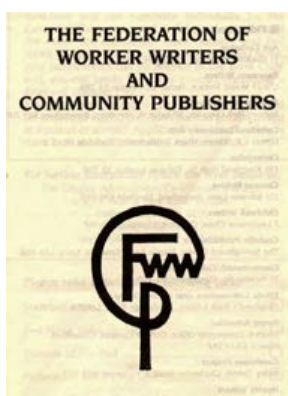
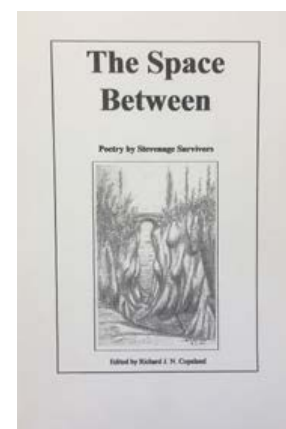
The Space Between

Richard J. N. Copeland, editor, 2002

FWWCP/08 L 11

After publishing the poetry of Vale House earlier in the year, Stevenage Survivors Poetry decided to print some of their own poems. Writers describe tensions between pain, institutionalisation, and empowerment. Many of the poems explore the beauty of nature, love, and the ability to write. Truly, this is just 'regular' poetry written by those brought together by life's many traumas.

Keywords: emotional distress | love | mental health | poetry



The Whirlwind Continues: Users Perspectives of Mental Health in Words and Pictures

Brendan Wilson and Sav Kyriacou, 1996

FWWCP/08 L 12

Through interviews and photographs, the text documents the lives of people in the psychiatric system. Brendan Wilson and Sav Kyriacou encourage people to tell their stories how they want to tell them. To get access to these stories, it seems the creators, Wilson and Kyriacou, 'snuck in' to some facilities to get 'guerilla interviews' with patients. Despite the questionable ethical methods, their actions yielded a personal look into the lives of those afflicted with mental distress.

Keywords: interviews | mental health | mental institutions | photography | storytelling



The World is Full of Laughter

Dolly Sen, 2006

FWWCP/08 L 11

The World is Full of Laughter is a memoir about Dolly Sen's experience with psychosis and manic-depression. The story describes Sen's troubling relationship with her drunk and verbally abusive father, a life complicated by auditory hallucinations, and raw, personal accounts of suicide attempts. However, Sen comes to terms with her personal troubles, fuelling her creative heart. Recurring themes include mental health, self-doubt and contentment, writing, and family troubles.

Keywords: abuse | hallucination | memoir | mental health | suicide

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

Am I Safe Yet?

Multiple authors. Women Asylum Seekers
Together, 2008.

FWWCP/01 NW 10

Out of Mind Out of Sight

Multiple authors. Yorkshire Art Circus, 1996.

FWWCP/03 Y 07

Psychopoetica Vol. 27

Multiple authors. University of Hull
Department of Psychology, no date.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Migration

Although the FWWCP began in London, England, the network has included writing/publishing groups from across the globe for multiple decades. Some groups were located throughout the North American, African, and Australian continents. However, FWWCP groups in England often published texts about coming to England as migrants from other places in the world. For instance, within the FWWCP Collection, there are bilingual stories detailing the journey from Poland, Bangladesh, Ireland, Iran, Jamaica, Greece, and more.



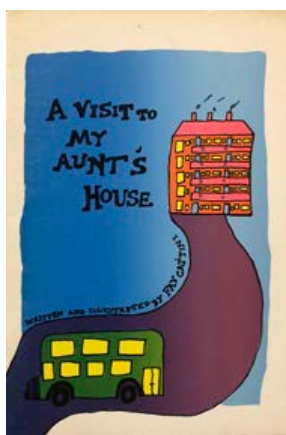
Above: Photo by Jessica Pauszek, London, June 2018

Right: "Borders" by saaste is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.



Each of the texts in this reading guide is concerned with migration, immigration, and emigration in the twentieth century. The publications appear as books, booklets, short stories, poetry, and anthologies.

Often written as a memoir or life history, writers offer reflections on their lives in their home countries, as well as obstacles to meaningful lives in England. Sometimes, writers describe differences between their hometowns and Britain in regard to housing, culture, food, identity, labour, and stereotypes, while others reflect more on politics and activism.



A Visit to my Aunt's House

Fay Cattini, 1982

FWWCP/08 L 09

Fay Cattini wrote and illustrated a book about her childhood for her two preschool-aged daughters. Cattini describes the people, locations, food, and games from her early years in India. The story is set in Cattini's childhood home and her aunt's house. Recurring themes of childhood memories, imagination, and culture are complemented with illustrations, which make it easy for a young child to follow.

Keywords: childhood | culture | family | short story | travel

Across Seven Seas and Thirteen Rivers: Life Stories of Pioneer Sylhetti Settlers in Britain

Catherine Adams, editor, 1987

FWWCP/08 L 12

Across Seven Seas and Thirteen Rivers: Life Stories of Pioneer Sylhetti Settlers in Britain was compiled and edited by Catherine Adams and published in 1987 by THAP Books. The book is a historical account of the relationship between Britain and the Bengal region of India in the 19th and 20th centuries. The first part of the book focuses on Bengali men who left home to work at foreign shipping companies (Calcutta Crews, Lascar Seamen) and who settled in London after their contracts expired. The second part of the book describes how those men learned how to live life in England.

Keywords: Bangladesh | employment | family | government | labour | laws | migration | World War II



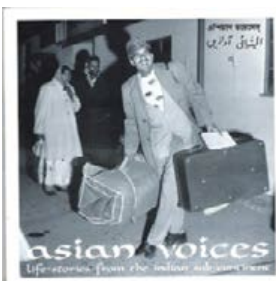
'Across the Irish Sea': An Age Exchange Publication Based on Memories of London Irish Pensioners

Pam Schweitzer, editor, 1989

FWWCP/08 L 12

Booknews No. 3, Women Writers is an educational magazine focused solely on women's writing groups within the FWWCP. It was primarily for "teachers who want to know about writing and publishing outside the mainstream and like to encourage active involvement by their students in the writing process." By encouraging a range of works across the FWWCP, they hoped to showcase the rich tradition of women's writing through a variety of forms and genres.

Keywords: family | labour | marriage | nostalgia | theatre



Asian Voices: Life stories from the Indian Subcontinent

Hammersmith and
Fulham Community
History Series, 1993

FWWCP/ RM 01

Asian Voices is a joint project between the Hammersmith & Fulham association, the Bangladesh Association for Culture and Education, and the Ethnic Communities Oral History Project in 1993. The book is a collection of memoirs and autobiographies from people from different regions of India. Many authors remark on the blissful simplicity of their childhood and their experience of immigration to England. Many also comment on the hardships that emerge from immigration. Stories are written in English, Bengali, and Urdu.

Keywords: childhood | family | housing | labor | memory | sports

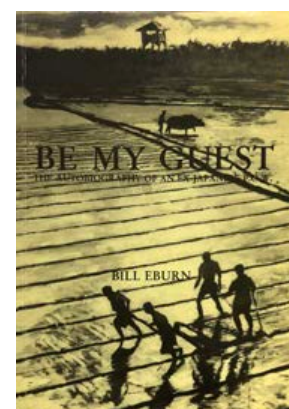
Be My Guest: The Autobiography of an Ex-Japanese Prisoner of War

Bill Eburn, 1985

FWWCP/08 L 12

Eburn's autobiography begins with his early childhood being raised by his aunt and uncle. He then focuses on his time in World War II, writing about his feelings surrounding the draft, following his time on the HMS Collingwood, being assigned to submarines, his capture and coming home. Perhaps most poignantly, he also details the contrast between the glory that comes from wearing a military uniform and the realities of war. This publication is written like a diary, with poetry included.

Keywords: childhood | poetry | war



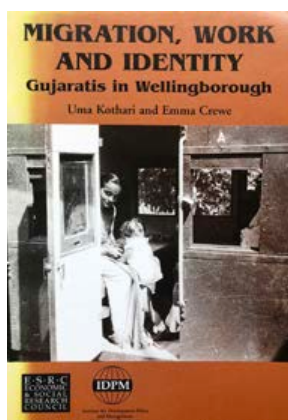
Home to Home: Reminiscences of Bangladeshi Women in Sheffield

Safuran Ara and Debjani
Chatterjee, 1995

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Home to Home is a collection of stories from Bangladeshi women compiled and edited by Safuran Ara and Debjani Chatterjee. Writers discuss cultural differences related to gender roles, language, appearance, and the maintenance of their gendered identity. Some writers reminisce on the difficulties of cooking in England, where the tools needed for their way of cooking are unavailable. Many of these writers discuss the loneliness that they feel in England. *Home to Home* is a bilingual text, in English and Bengali, with some images.

Keywords: education | family | gender | language | marriage



Migration, Work and Identity: Gujaratis in Wellingborough

Uma Kothari and Emma Crewe, 1997

FWWCP/03 Y 12

This publication recounts the journey of the Gujarati people coming to Britain beginning in 1833 and ending in 1950. The narrative traces the move from India to East Africa before settling in Wellingborough where the first Gujarati, Nagarbhai Patel, settled. The authors discuss feelings of acceptance in Britain, learning about British culture, maintaining their cultural identity, and eventually becoming active in British society by supporting Indian social and political initiatives.

Keywords: autobiography | education | Gujaratis | housing | racism | West Asia | work

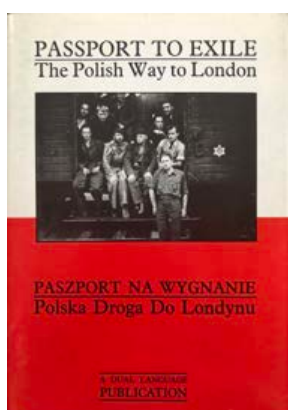
Our Experience: Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Pakistan Write About Their Lives

Gatehouse, 1996

FWWCP/ RM 01

Our Experience is a collection of stories written by women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan about their lives. These women talk about the differences in cultural expectations, including food, money, religion, school, and gender roles. Many focus on their first night in England and how they eventually came to consider England home. *Our Experience* represents some of the authors' first writings in English. Some stories are translated into Somali, Ki Swahili, Bengali, or Urdu, and have illustrations.

Keywords: childhood | education | gender | language | patriotism | religion | war



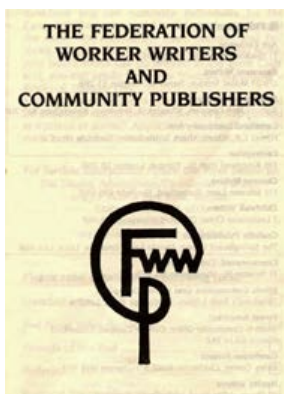
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London

Hammersmith and Fulham Community History Series, Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence Group, 1988

FWWCP/08 L 12

Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London is the second publication in the Hammersmith & Fulham Community History series. This bilingual publication was transcribed, translated, and edited by Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence group. The publication includes five autobiographies, which describe Poles coming to London in the 1940s, their lives in their new homes, and the reasons they chose to stay. Cultural expectations dominate discussion of bias and stereotypes. This publication continues into another called, *Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil*.

Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war



So This is England

Multiple authors, 1984

FWWCP/ RM 01

The memoirs in *So This is England* are mainly from people of African-Caribbean descent, while some Vietnamese, Italian, and Irish descendant stories are also included. Stories are divided and presented in five sections: coming to England, housing, work, schooldays, and memories. Many of the stories describe processes of migration, acclimation to daily life in England, and cultural assimilation.

Keywords: childhood | factory | family | labour | work

The Irish in Exile: Stories of Emigration

Hammersmith and Fulham Community History Series, no date

FWWCP/08 L 12

The Irish in Exile contains memoirs of Irish immigrants that came to Britain in the first half of the 20th century. Those who emigrated as children describe feeling very secure in Ireland, yet, once in England, recall great economic, social, and educational disadvantages. Others who came to London for work describe the impact of labour shortages in Ireland as drivers of immigration. Authors focus on the struggles of changing labour conditions and the daily impact of poverty.

Keywords: activism | childhood | emigration | housing | Irish | labour | short story



Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

A Bowl of Wisdom

Multiple authors. Eastside Books, London, 1997.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6816>

Brick Lane 1978: The Events and their Significance

Leech, Kennet. Sidelines, 1980.

FWWCP/ RM Part 4

Home from Home British Pakistanis in Mirpur

Imran, Irna and Tim Smith. Brandford Heritage Recording Unit, 1997.

FWWCP/03 Y 13

Just for Five Years? Reminiscences of Pakistani Senior Citizens of Sheffield

Iqbal, Mohammed, Safuran Ara and Rachel Van Riel. Sheffield City Libraries, Yorkshire, 1990.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Sailing on Two Boats: Second Generation Perspectives

Multiple authors. Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, London, 1993.

FWWCP/08 L 12

The Motherland Calls: African/ Caribbean Experiences

Multiple authors. Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, Hammersmith/Fulham Community History Series, London, 1992.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil

Multiple authors. Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, Hammersmith/Fulham Community History Series, London, 1989.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6864>

Xeni: Greek-Cypriots in London

Multiple authors. Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, London, 1990.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6863>

Mining

Bill of Bulwell

Cross, Bill. Plowright Press, 1995.

FWWCP/04 WM 01

But the World Goes On the Same

Durham Strong Words. Strong Words, 1979.

FWWCP/02 NE 02

City Pit: Memoirs of a Speedwell Miner

Moss, Fred. Bristol Broadsides, 1986.

FWWCP/ RM Part 4

Fighting Talk in Verse Song

Price, John. Geding Colliery Miners, no date.

FWWCP/05 EM 02

Hello, Are You Working?

Keith Armstrong. Strong Words, 1977.

FWWCP/

“Here We Go” with the Miners: Songs for Pickets and Street Collectors

Birmingham Trades Council Miners Support
Group. Turcprint Printers, no date.

FWWCP/04 WM 02

Means-Test Man

Brierley, Walter. Russell Press, 1983.

FWWCP/05 EM 02

More Valuable Than Gold

Striking Miners’ Children. Martin Hoyles,
1985.

FWWCP/01 NW 02

The Echo of Pit Boots: Pitwork, Politics & Poetry

Purdon, Jock. The Common Trust/Northern
Voices, no date.

FWWCP/02 NE 01

The Miners & Other Stories

Morgan, Robert. People’s Publications, 1986.

FWWCP/08 L 07

Where Explosions are no More

Keith Armstrong, editor. Durham Voices,
1988.

FWWCP/02 NE 01

Multi/Translingual Writing

A Song for Carrying Water: and other stories from Somalia

Gatehouse, 1997. Somali/English.

FWWCP/01 NW 03

Another Province: new Chinese writing from London

Multiple authors. Lambeth Chinese Communication Association, 1994. Chinese/English.

FWWCP/08 L 07

Changed Destinies: memoirs of the Spanish community in London

Christine Tweddle & Liz Bartlett, editors. Kensington & Chelsea Community History Group, no date. Spanish/English.

FWWCP/08 L 10

Circling Awhile

Sheehy, John Joseph. 2016. Gaelic, Greek, French, Italian, English.

FWWCP/08 L 08

Daughters of the East

The Common Trust, 1990. Urdu/English

FWWCP/02 NE 01

Dreams into Words: The Cleveland Writers' Project

The Artists' Agency. The Common Trust, 1990. Urdu/English.

FWWCP/02 NE 01

Flame: a collection of poetry by Asian writers in English and Urdu

Asian writers. Commonword, 1991. English/Urdu.

FWWCP/01 NW 07

Home to Home: Reminiscences of Bangladeshi Women in Sheffield

Ara, Safuran and Debjani Chatterjee, Bangladeshi Women's Training Group. Sheffield City Council, 1995. English/Bengali.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

Hum Log: Stories of Oldham's Asian Communities

Shakil Salam, Councillor Jawaid Iqbal, Tim Corum. Oldham Arts & Heritage, 1997.

Bengali/Urdu/English.

FWWCP/01 NW 07

Just For Five Years? Reminiscences of Pakistani Senior Citizens in Sheffield

Mohammed Iqbal, Safuran Ara and Rachel Van Riel. Sheffield City Libraries. Urdu/English.

FWWCP/03 Y 12

L'atelier typographique et pedagogique de Creafi

Bernard Lecointe. CREAFL, no date. French.

FWWCP/12 E 01

Mediatec Magazine (multiple)

TEC/CRIAC, 1994.

FWWCP/12 SE 02

My Deaf Son

Nisa, Umtul. Gatehouse, 1998. Urdu/English.

FWWCP/01 NW 03

Night Out

Chaudhuri, Vedaşree Pia. Mantra Publishing Ltd., 1993. English/Somali.

FWWCP/08 L 08

Oceans Apart

Akter, Kohinoor. Gatehouse, 1998. Bengali/English.

FWWCP/01 NW 03

**Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to
London**

Polish Reminiscence Group. Ethnic
Communities Oral History Project, 1988.

Polish/English.

FWWCPC/08 L 12

**Poetry in Text and Braille: A Crocus
Selection**

Poetry in Text and Braille: A Crocus Selection

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

Ri na Sioga

Sheehy, John Joseph. Gaelic.

FWWCPC/08 L 13

**Rencontres et ateliers/ meetings and
workshops**

CREAFI, 1998.

FWWCPC/12 E 01

Sonnets Under Full Moon

Sheehy, John Joseph. Southwark Council, no
date. Irish/Greek/English.

FWWCPC/08 L 08

Turkish Education Group Annual Report

Altan R. Koraltan, editor. Turkish Education
Group. 1987. Turkish/English.

FWWCPC/08 L 07

**Who Cares? Reminiscences of Yemeni
Carers in Sheffield**

Chatterjee, Debjani. Sheffield Carers Centre,
2001. Arabic/English.

FWWCPC/03 Y 12

Publishing

DIY Publishing

Pollard, Nick. FWWCP, No Date.

FWWCP/03 Y 11

Here is the Other News: Challenges to the Local Commercial Press

Multiple authors. Minority Press Group, 1980.

FWWCP/08 L 11

Hobnail Review: A Guide to Small Press & Alternative Publishing

Ade Dimmick, editor. Hobnail Review, January 2004.

FWWCP/08 L 12

Working Press 1987-1997

Szczekun, Stefan. Working Press, 1997.

FWWCP/08 L 10

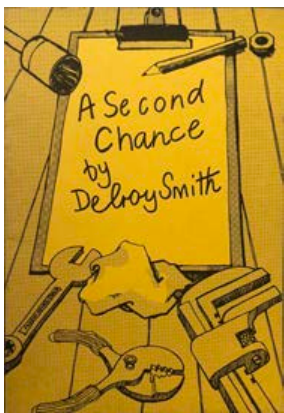
Race

During the years 1979-1994, groups of Black writers emerged, creating their own safe spaces to practise the written word. These writing groups worked to create an array of publications, despite social norms and mainstream publications working against them. While most of the groups were based in London, other English regions like Yorkshire and North West are seen.



"Brick Lane" by Stuart Chalmers is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The writing groups that focused their written work on race-based societal issues are Young Women's Writing Group, Black Ink, Chapelton Black Women Writers Group, and Black Anthology group. These groups addressed issues such as racism, inequality, and freedom. Most of the publications listed in this section are poetry books and anthologies.



A Second Chance

Delroy Smith, 1981

FWWCP/08 L 04

This short story is about overcoming obstacles to literacy, education, and labour. The topic of discussion is accessibility to education, especially for immigrants. Delroy left Jamaica, where he failed to get an education, when he was fourteen years old to come to England and rejoin his parents. This short testimony depicts the life of working-class immigrants.

Keywords: education | Jamaican student | labour | literacy | working-class

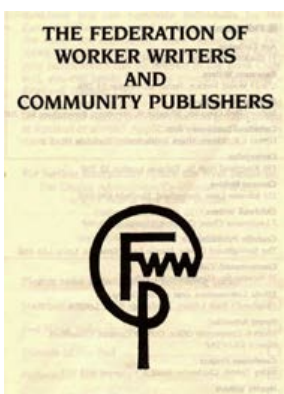
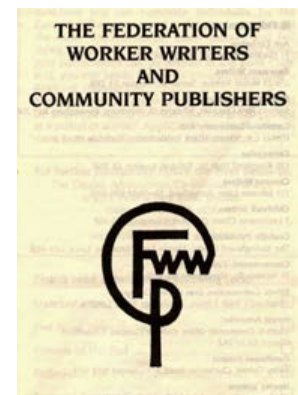
Black and Priceless

Black Ink, 1988

FWWCP/ RM 01

The book is an anthology written by Black writers. Much of the narrative in this publication deals with racism in one form or another, particularly how everyday lives are impacted, and how individuals are forced to justify their existence. The short poems and short plays share the themes of empowerment.

Keywords: activism | Black writers | empowerment | oppression | racism | society



Black and White On The Buses: the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol

Madge Dresser, 1986

FWWCP/ RM 01

The book offers a historical overview of the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol. As mentioned in the introduction, it was written with the intent to teach Black youth about the events their forebears experienced in their hometowns. Although this book was not written with intention to stir up controversy, or to promote boycotting, it exposes the racism and insensitivity of union and bus crews. In addition, this book may help individuals evolve their own policies against racism.

Keywords: Black history | boycotting | history | oppression



Black Eye Perceptions

Multiple authors, 1980

FWWCPC/08 L 02

In this anthology, young Black writers use their poetry to express their emotions of anger, hopelessness, and determination to overcome labelling. Writers describe the racism they face, feeling like strangers within the culture they were born into. Another common theme in this anthology is identity. Writers describe their journeys in seeking their identity and a sense of belonging, outside of European culture.

Keywords: Black writers | culture | identity | oppression | racism

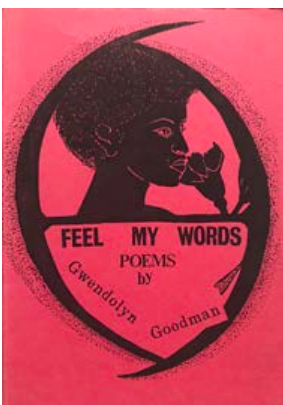
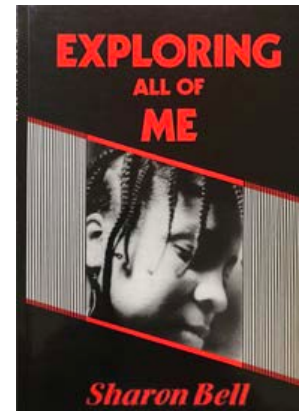
Exploring All of Me

Sharon Bell, 1987

FWWCPC/08 L 04

This anthology of poems is written by and for young women. Themes reflect the voice of Black writers coming to realise that their worth and ability are greater than what White culture would otherwise have them believe. Other topics include moving on from the past and living for the future, as well as optimism and remaining true to one's self. Included in the text are poems about tradition, kinship, and activism. This book ends with a powerful call to educate readers on histories of social and racial injustice.

Keywords: activism | Black writers | kinship | racism | women's writing



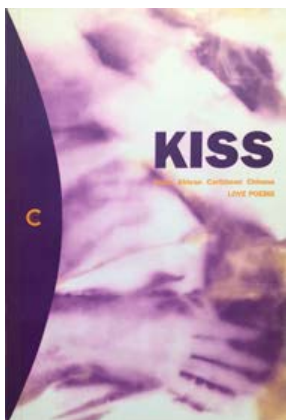
Feel My Words

Gwendolyn Goodman, 1987

FWWCPC/08 L 03

This is a short book of poetry. Goodman describes her experience of double oppression, a double fight as she describes it, of being Black and being a woman. She uses her poems as a way to tell the story of the suffering and plight that Black women face. She illustrates her life through the poems that have recurring themes of gender and oppression.

Keywords: Black women | double oppression | gender | plight | poetry | racism | suffering



Kiss

Multiple authors, 1994

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This book of poetry was written by Asian, African, Caribbean, and Chinese writers. Made up of 88 poems, each writer delves into the topics of love, heartbreak, and safe sex. With the diversity of cultural backgrounds, life experiences at school and work, the reader gets great insight into their lives. With all the external prejudices, bigotry, and injustices these women face, they still write about the recurring themes of culture, love, and strength.

Keywords: African | Asian | bigotry | Caribbean | Chinese | prejudice | women

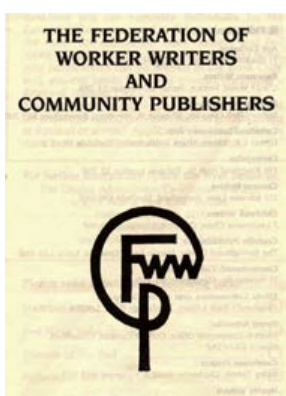
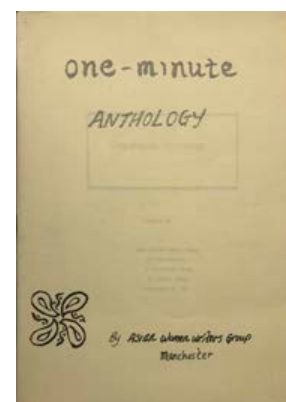
One-minute Anthology

Asian Women Writers Group, 1991

FWWCP/01 NW 06

This unique anthology of poetry and short stories offers insight into the lives of Asian women. One of the topics in the poetry is about the democratic protest in Tiananmen Square in China in 1989 that ended in the massacre of hundreds of civilians. Another dives into Indian culture and motherhood. Poets share a theme of compromising their long-cherished identity and native culture in exchange for finding a home in Britain.

Keywords: Asian studies | motherhood | poetry | short story



When Our Ship Comes In: Black women talk

Chapeltown Black Women Writers Group, 1992

FWWCP/03 Y 12

This book contains short stories and poems. It consists of multiple narrations, with topics of migration, oppression, and obstacles in the workforce and domestic life that older Black Caribbean women faced in England. Each author writes with the purpose and hope that their grandchildren and future generations will read and learn from their accounts. This book serves to demonstrate that Black voices matter, and the Black history needs to be preserved.

Keywords: Black women | Caribbean | domestic life | migration | poetry | racism | short story | working-class

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

As Good As We Make It

Multiple authors. Centerprise Young Writers, London, 1982.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6835>

Black Ink Publications No. 1

Multiple authors. Black Ink Collective, London, 1982.

FWWCP/ RM 01

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6993>

Going Where the Work Is

Gordon, Isaac. Hackney Reading Centre, Centerprise, London, 1979

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6820>

Scribe Sistren

Beji. Centerprise, London, 1987.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Somali Stories

Multiple authors. Somali Stories Creative Writing Group, Centerprise, London, 1982.

FWWCP/08 L 03

Digital Collection: <http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6832>

War

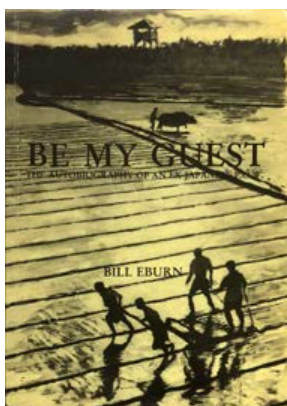
During the FWWCP's active years from 1976-2007, numerous members wrote about the impact of war on their lives. Often, this included growing up during World War I and/or II, the Korean War, and more. Some FWWCP members themselves were evacuated from London as children during World War II bombings.



"Cable Street" by astonishme is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

War also became an important topic for FWWCP members or groups who immigrated to England because of war in their homelands of Iran, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, and Bangladesh. Because of this movement between countries, many of the texts include languages from their homeland and their new home. These texts include poetry, memoirs, oral histories, and more, which detail the emotional, physical, and national impacts of war.

A note to readers: many writers describe the trauma and struggles they faced because of war, while documenting their paths of recovery and continued struggle. These texts might be emotionally difficult to read for some.



Be My Guest: The Autobiography of an Ex-Japanese Prisoner of War

Bill Eburn, 1985

FWWCP/08 L 12

Eburn's autobiography begins with his early childhood being raised by his aunt and uncle. He then focuses on his time in World War II, writing about his feelings surrounding the draft, following his time on the HMS Collingwood, being assigned to submarines, his capture and coming home. Perhaps most poignantly, he also details the contrast between the glory that comes from wearing a military uniform and the realities of war. This publication is written like a diary, with poetry included.

Keywords: childhood | poetry | war

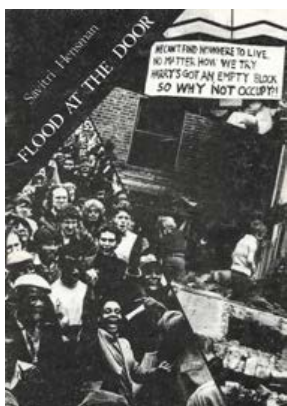
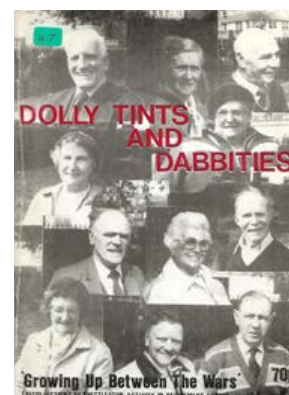
Dolly Tints and Dabbities

Workers Education Association, 1985

FWWCP/10 S 01

Eleven people recount their lives in Scotland and Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of the stories are from their childhood experiences, including working mothers, poverty following World War I, and family activities. The mothers often worked and took care of domestic duties while the fathers also worked. Some of the families were more privileged than others, but they all found ways to enjoy their childhoods.

Keywords: childhood | domestic life | family | Scotland | war



Flood at the Door

Savitri Hensman, 1979

FWWCP/08 L 03

Poet Savitri Hensman and illustrator Sarah Moriarty share their viewpoints on racism and nature. Half of the poems focus on racism, showing different aspects of the outcomes of racism, from prostitution to education, and the other half comment on the abuse of the earth at the hands of mankind.

Keywords: nature | poetry | race | racism | war



In Exile: Iranian Recollections

Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, 1989

FWWCP/08 L 14

Iranian migrants tell their stories of escaping the political turmoil of Iran only to be victims of racism in the United Kingdom. Many Iranians were torn between the better life offered in Britain and loyalties to their home country, despite the oppression and violence encountered in both places to different degrees. This book has two parts, one written in English and the other in Arabic.

Keywords: Iran | migration | refugee | revolution | war

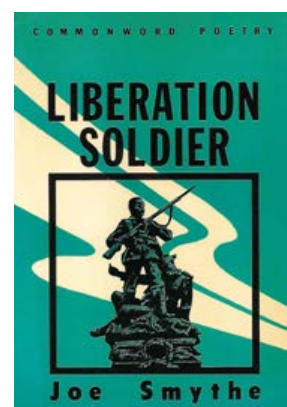
Liberation Soldier

Joe Smythe, 1986

FWWCP/01 NW 07

This collection showcases different styles of poetry to convey the political discontent and its resulting riots. Working-class poet Joe Smythe uses humour to address various concerns, including the apartheid in South Africa, and his poems encourage the reader to confront and challenge the assumptions society has of the working class.

Keywords: poetry | South Africa | war | working-class



Londoners Remember: Living Through the Blitz

Age Exchange, 1991

FWWCP/08 L 01

The beginning of World War II changed the lives of all, and London was bombed every night for several months. Following the food rationing in January, London was frequently attacked, an event that would later be known as the Blitz. This collection takes a look at the stories of the survivors of the 1940 bombings and shows the resilience of Londoners. Contributors share their first-hand experiences of close encounters with the bombs and their recovery from the trauma.

Keywords: recovery | survival | war | World War II



Moulsecoomb Days

Ruby Dunn, 1994

FWWCP/07 SE 04

Ruby Dunn's memoir looks both at her life and at her neighbourhood's reconstruction after World War I. Dunn describes how her family came to live in the suburb of Moulsecoomb, a public house-building programme, when the family outgrew their initial house. She also chronicles her family life, her social life, her education, and concludes with a section on her teaching career.

Keywords: family | education | post-war | war

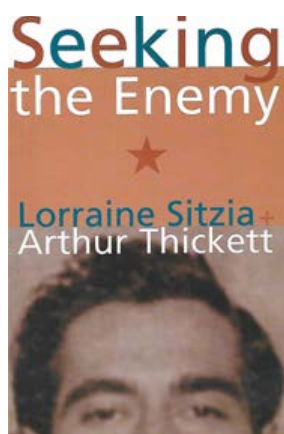
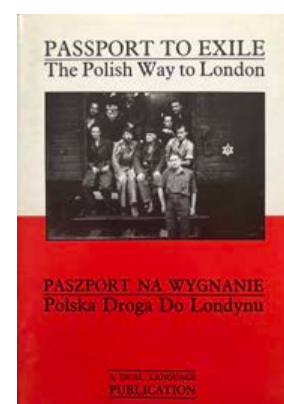
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London

Polish Reminiscence Group, 1988

FWWCP/08 L 12

Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London is the second publication in the Hammersmith & Fulham Community History series. This bilingual publication was transcribed, translated, and edited by Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence group. The publication includes five autobiographies, which describe Poles coming to London in the 1940s, their lives in their new homes, and the reasons they chose to stay. Cultural expectations dominate discussion of bias and stereotypes. This publication continues into another called, *Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil*.

Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war



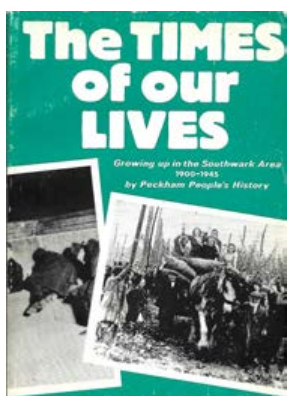
Seeking the Enemy

Lorraine Sitzia and Arthur Thickett, 2002

FWWCP/08 L 14

Straying from the typical military memoir, Arthur Thickett shares his stories of everyday life with Lorraine Sitzia. As a veteran of two wars, Thickett shows how his military experiences shaped his view of life and the choices he makes. This book also shows the impact war has on soldiers' lives, not just during the conflict, but also afterwards.

Keywords: Korean War | memoir | war | World War II



The Times of Our Lives

Peckham People's History, 1983

FWWCP/08 L 04

The Peckham People's History gathers the stories of Southwark citizens from the beginning of the twentieth century through the end of World War II. Contributors share experiences with family life, education, entertainment, and work. They use their memories to evoke a sense of nostalgia without glorifying the past because they understand that the past was full of hard times.

Keywords: Southwark | war | World War I | World War II

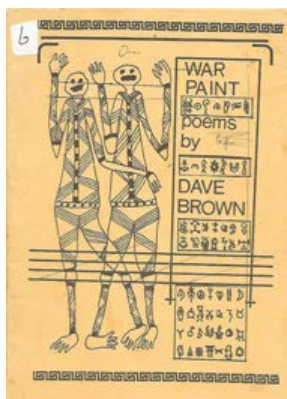
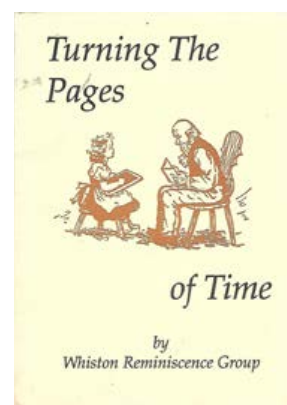
Turning the Pages of Time

Whiston Reminiscence Group, 1993

FWWCP/05 EM 02

The Whiston Reminiscence Group shares their memories through a combination of poetry, prose, and illustrations. Their tales include childhood outings, dating, and a run-in with a gangster. Some authors focus on the available entertainment of the 1930s, such as the royal news and reports of a monkey with a habit of escaping the zoo.

Keywords: community | poetry | memoir | war | work



War Paint

Dave Brown, 1990

FWWCP/02 NE 01

War Paint is a collection of poems and illustrations that covers several topics, including alcoholism, comic book characters, and death. Each topic represents a different aspect of life, such as the problems we bring upon ourselves, our personal dreams, and the loss of loved ones. Brown also demonstrates his frustration with the political unrest in the world.

Keywords: death | memories | poetry | war

Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

A License to Live: Scenes from a Post-War Working Life in Hackney
Barnes, Ron. Hackney Workers' Educational Association and Hackney Libraries Committee, 1974.

FWWCPC/08 L 14

A Matter of Time
Manchester Poets for Peace. Commonword, 1984.

FWWCPC/01 NW 05

Bill of Bulwell
Cross, Bill. Plowright Press, 1995.

FWWCPC/04 WM 01

Black Saturday: The First Day of the Blitz- East London Memories of September 7th 1940
Miller, Les and Howard Bloch. T.H.A.P. Books, 1984.

FWWCPC/08 L 14

Canary Girls
Hall, Edith. WEA Luton Branch Publisher. 1977

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Chinthe Women: Women's Auxiliary Service Burma 1942-1946
Jaffe, Sally and Lucy. 2001.

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

D is for Doris, V is for Victory
White, Doris. People's Press of Milton Keynes, 1991.

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Healing Strategies for Women at War
Seven Black Women Poets, Commonword, 1999.

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

Here is the Other News: Challenges to the Local Commercial Press No. 1
Minority Press Group, 1980.

FWWCPC/08 L 11

Hilda's War
Arnison, Jim. Lancashire Community Press (TU), 1996.

FWWCPC/01 NW 02

Hillfields in their own words III: Life and work in the home

Harris, Syd, et al. Hillfields History Group, no date.

FWWCPC/04 WM 02

Images of an Underground Manxman
Daughtery, Michael. Rivelin Press, 1984.

FWWCPC/03 Y 12

Lambeth at War
Rothwell, Stanley. SE1 People's History Project, London, 1981.

FWWCPC/08 L 12

Lewes Remembers: The Second World War (1939 - 1945)

Members of Lewes U3A Oral History Group. Lewes U3A Publication, 1993.

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

Many Struggles: West Indian Workers and Service Personnel in Britain (1939-45)

Sherwood, Marika. Karia Press, 1985.

FWWCPC/08 L 14

No Boots to My Feet

Clark, Bob. Student Bookshops Ltd. 1984.

FWWCPC/04 WM 01

No Heroes, No Cowards

Mundy, Hawtin. People's Press of Milton Keynes, 1981.
FWWCPC/08 L 14

One in a Thousand: Burton Upon Trent in the Second World War

Rowe, Mark. 1997.
FWWCPC/04 WM 01

Rations & Rubble: Remembering Woolworths

Bagnell, Lena et al. Deptford History Group, 1994.
FWWCPC/08 L 14

Telling the Truth: The Life and Times of the British Honduran Forestry Unit in Scotland (1914-1944)

Ford, Amos A. Karia Press, 1985
FWWCPC/08 L 14

The Caribbean at War: 'British West Indians' in World War II

Multiple Authors. The North Kensington Archive, 1992.
FWWCPC/08 L 11

The Hidden Army: Women in the Second World War

Metropolitan Borough of Stockport. Stockport Museums & Art Gallery Service, 1982.
FWWCPC/01 NW 02

The Irish in Exile: Stories of Emigration

Multiple Authors. Hammersmith/Fulham Community History Series, London.
FWWCPC/08 L 12

ToxCat Vol. 6 No. 2

Ralph Ryder, editor. Communities Against Toxics, no date.
FWWCPC/01 NW 01

War Times and Civil Matters, Volume 4

Fraser-Newstead, Brenda. The Book Castle, 1996.
FWWCPC/07 SE 03

What Did You Do in the War Mum?

Women Recall Their Wartime Work
Pam Schweitzer, Lorraine Hilton, and Jane Moss, editors. Age Exchange, 1985.
FWWCPC/08 L 01

"Where's Your Horns?" People of Spitalfields Talk About the Evacuation

Barber, Phyllis, et al. Spitalfields Books, 1979.
FWWCPC/08 L 14

Work

The *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers* began with a focus on working-class and Socialist writing and publishing. With this focus, many of the network's publications centred on themes of work, including the description of vocations such as mining, baking, dock work, embroidery, and more. Other times, people would write about the work they did at home or across countries as they immigrated. These descriptions of work and the labour involved were written by the workers themselves to emphasise the knowledge and skills needed to perform the work.



"The old streets of Saltaire Village" by Paul Stevenson is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

As the FWWCP Collection was being organised and sorted, one of the main conversations occurred around how work, labour, and vocations would be represented. Within the FWWCP, for instance, work was often impacted by the regions in which people lived.

In Yorkshire, the text could be about coal mining, while in places like London, there could be writing about working at the docklands. Work is central to the FWWCP and is represented by many members as they express what working-class labour means to them.



A Life Behind Bars

Marjory Batchelor, 1999

FWWCPC/07 SE 03

Marjory Batchelor tells the story of her life, from growing up in Brighton to her work as a barmaid. She details her childhood, including chores and hobbies, from cleaning and cooking, to marbles and hopscotch. She writes about the hardship during each of the World Wars and how they impacted her marriage. After starting to work as a waitress, she took over as a barmaid and was able to interact with others in the working class.

Keywords: autobiography | pubs | working-class | World War I | World War II

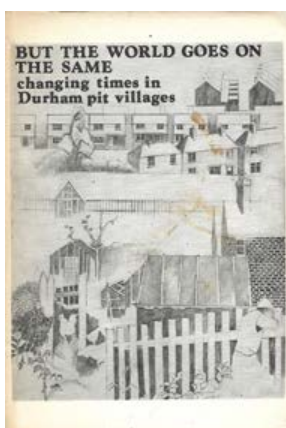
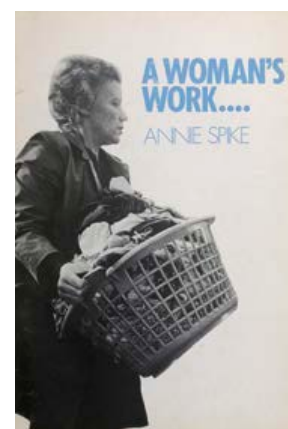
A Woman's Work

Annie Spike, 1978

FWWCPC/08 L 03

Annie Spike chronicles her life through her relationship to work in this short memoir. She describes her time working both in Ireland and Hackney, London, as a factory girl, while also detailing her relationship with labour unions, office jobs, and her work as a cleaning lady. She also writes about her time spent as a mother and a wife. The story was originally written for a book about people who live and work in Hackney, *Working Lives Volume Two*, where thirteen people describe the multiple work they perform.

Keywords: autobiography | class | gender | factory life | family | London | politics | women's writing | working-class



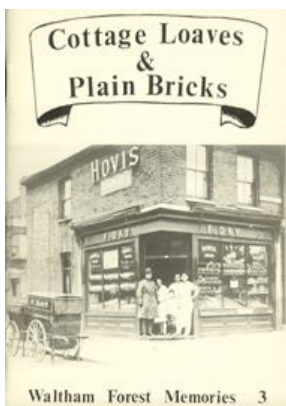
But the World Goes on the Same: Changing Times in Durham Pit Villages

Multiple authors, 1979

FWWCPC/02 NE 02

Multiple people from all backgrounds share their stories and show how big companies changed their lives. The selections explore how families, work ethics, and privileges were in the past compared to the 1970s. The authors understand that their sense of humour stemmed from shared hardships from the physical labour and the multiple strikes. The collection shows the duties expected of men and women during the early to mid 1900s.

Keywords: family | mining | socialism | working-class



Cottage Loaves & Plain Bricks: Memories of bread and baking in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, 1986

FWWCP/08 L 14

This is the third publication by Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, which includes recollections of baking in Waltham Forest from 1913-1950. Oral histories recount the transition from family owned bakehouses to commercial bakeries. Topics discussed include baking methods, working conditions, business operations, and adapting to gas ovens and other machinery. Wartime shortages and their effects on industry are also explored. Vintage advertisements, maps, and photographs are included.

Keywords: baking | domestic life | industry | war | work | World War I | World War II

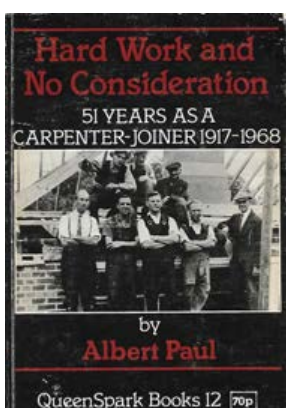
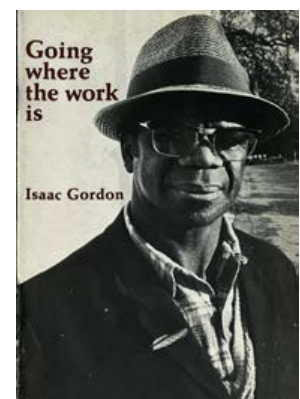
Going Where the Work Is

Isaac Gordon, 1979

FWWCP/08 L 03

Isaac Gordon tells the story of his life. He discusses his struggles with school and farm work in Jamaica, America, and England. He describes the differences between each country, including the church atmosphere, the environment, and the work opportunities. He focused on working throughout most of his life but eventually learned the importance of reading and writing. Once he started learning to read and write, he never stopped.

Keywords: literacy | memoir | migration | work | working-class



Hard Work and No Consideration: 51 Years as a Carpenter-Joiner 1917-1968

Albert Paul, 1981

FWWCP/07 SE 02

Albert Paul recalls his time as a carpenter-joiner, a career spanning over half of a century. He describes how, at age 14, his superiors taught him lessons about safety in the workplace in a strict manner. Paul then recounts how he met his wife, the life they made, and the dangers he encountered through his work, especially during the time of war. He acknowledges how having the right skills at the right time helped him survive.

Keywords: carpentry | war | working-class



Paper Talk

Sally Flood, no date

FWWCP/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Sally Flood describes her life at her home in East London. She writes about sleepless nights with family, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

Keywords: class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | work | working-class | women's writing

Pullman Craftsmen

Three Former Pullman Craftsmen, 1992

FWWCP/07 SE 02

Three men formerly employed by Pullman Car Company recount their experiences between the late 1940s and early 1960s. They tackle topics including strikes, women workers, workplace accidents, and entertaining themselves in the workplace. It is written in the form of a conversation with images of work documents and photographs of the workers inserted throughout.

Keywords: Brighton | craftsmen | memoir | work | working-class



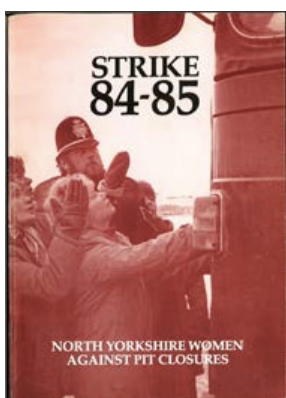
Shipyard Muddling

Ripyard Cuddling, 1997

FWWCP/02 NE 02

This collection of poems illustrates the everyday tasks performed by a welder in a shipyard as a means to bridge the gap between working-class people and the view of language as a privilege of the academic elite. It also contains encouragement for workers dreaming of a better life. The inclusion of hand-drawn illustrations enhances the message.

Keywords: class | language | poetry | shipyard | welding | work | working-class



Strike 84 - 85 North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures

Multiple authors, 1985

FWWCP/03 Y 07

Women of Yorkshire share their memoirs and poetry from the Miners' Strike of 1984. Chapters included focus on soup kitchens and rations, fundraising, family life, protesting, and national conferences for women against pit closures. The stories shared expose the level of hardship experienced with reduced wages. This book details the complexity of daily life, family, protesting, politics, and police brutality during the strike period.

Keywords: food | miners | politics | protest | strike | women | work | working-class | Yorkshire

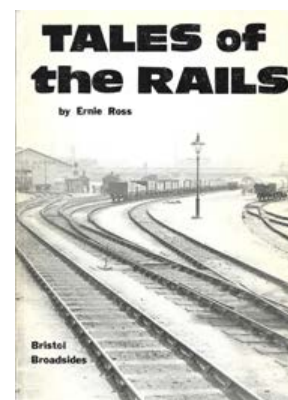
Tales of the Rails

Ernie Ross, 1982

FWWCP/06 SW 02

Railway worker Ernie Ross shares his stories of his career. He includes bits of humour while also discussing serious issues, such as the problems faced during war times as well as how constant changes in the railway system affect the safety of the passengers. He acknowledges that the changes in the railways may erase memories of the past.

Keywords: memoir | railway | war | work | working-class



Under Oars

Harry Harris, 1978

FWWCP/08 L 12

Harry Harris recounts his life as a dockworker, beginning with his childhood and continuing through his career as a waterman and, later, a lighterman on the River Thames. He started his apprenticeship at age thirteen, despite the dangers of his ideal jobs. Harris fondly remembers finding employment in the difficult times while highlighting the importance of dock workers.

Keywords: class | dock workers | memoir | work | working-class



Ways of Learning

Florence Agbah, 1987

FWWCPC/03 Y 11

Florence Agbah reflects on how she learned English. After migrating to Britain, she began working at a YMCA. Even though she did not speak English, she learned through listening to her coworkers talk. Later, she went on to work at a cafeteria. Many of the people there made fun of her for not speaking English, but she viewed every interaction as a learning moment.

Keywords: language | migration | work | working-class

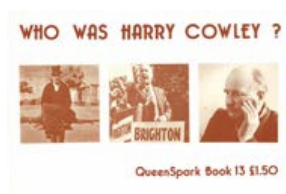
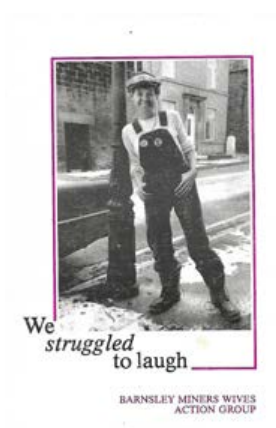
We Struggled to Laugh

Barnsley Miners Wives Action Group, 1987

FWWCPC/03 Y 13

Several women share their stories of the Miners' Strike of 1984. This collection includes poetry, prose, photographs, and an interview with one of the wives. The topics include organising soup kitchens, picket lines, how the strike impacted children, and how the miners and women overcame troubling times. There are short bits of humorous memories as well as photographs included.

Keywords: class | community | feminism | poetry | working-class



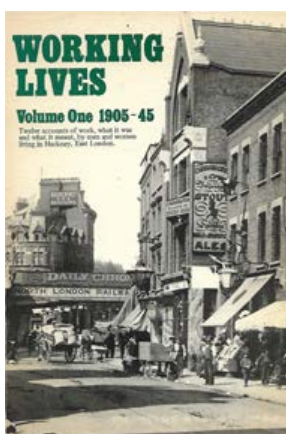
Who Was Harry Cowley

Multiple authors, 1984

FWWCPC/07 SE 04

This is a collaboratively written history remembering Harry Cowley, affectionately called "The Guv'nor." Cowley was a chimney sweep who fought for the homeless and unemployed. While many questions are still left about Cowley's life, those who knew Cowley pieced together--through testimonials, photographs, newspaper articles, letters--examples of his constant fight for the betterment of his community.

Keywords: class | homelessness | unemployment | work | working-class



Working Lives Volume One: 1905-45

Multiple authors, no date

FWWCP/08 L 03

This collection includes stories from twelve different professions from the early 1900s through World War II. The workers range from child labourers to soldiers, demolition workers to craftsmen. It shows the lives of men, women, and children making a living as members of the working class. The stories intend to showcase the dangers encountered by the working class and how much skill is required for the so-called unskilled.

Keywords: class | Hackney | work | working-class | World War I | World War II

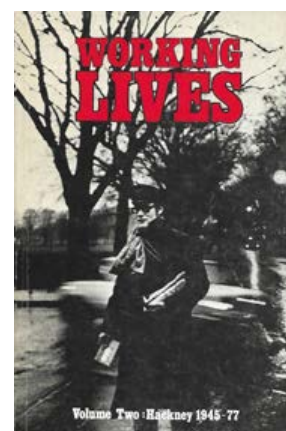
Working Lives Volume Two: Hackney 1945-77

Multiple authors, 1985

FWWCP/08 L 03

Following the stories of the first volume, citizens of Hackney recount the work done by men and women in the forty years since World War II. These tales once again concentrate on the dangers faced by the working class while emphasising their successes and importance to society. The contributions of these workers are a constant, creating a sense of community among the members.

Keywords: class | Hackney | work | working-class



These reading guides are only possible thanks to the work of multiple students, FWWCP members, and collaborators.

Editors:

Jessica Pauszek is the Director of Writing and an Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University - Commerce. She earned her PhD in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric from Syracuse University and taught the Civic Writing course for three summers in London. Her dissertation "Literacy and Labor: Archives, Networks, and Histories in Working-Class Communities" explores the history of the FWWCP through the collaborative curation of the FWWCP Print and Digital Collections. She has been involved with the FED for over 6 years now, and is the current magazine editor for the FED Executive Board.

Vincent Portillo taught the Civic Writing archive study abroad course as part of an international coalition of universities and libraries. He is a University Fellow and PhD candidate at Syracuse University in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric. His research interests are founded on a concern for immigrant and working-class students. He is completing his dissertation -- an archival project on the history of the Ford Motors English School in Detroit, Michigan.

New City Community Press Founder:

Steve Parks is the Founder and Director of New City Community Press as well as an Associate Professor in the University of Virginia's Academic and Professional Writing Program and Department of English. He has published two books, *Class Politics: The Students' Right To Their Own Language* (NCTE, 2000) and *Gravyland: Writing Beyond the Curriculum in the City of Brotherly Love* (Syracuse University Press, 2010), and is the current editor of the *Studies of Writing and Rhetoric* series. Parks is also Président de l'association Centre Vérité et Justice pour le Moyen-Orient.

Designer:

Ahnaliese Bell received her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and is currently working as a freelance graphic designer based in Commerce, Texas.

Collaborators:

Gabriela Isabel Arguindegui is a graduate student based in Austin, Texas. Currently, she is pursuing a degree in Library and Information Science at the iSchool of Syracuse University. Her focus in London was to further establish the FWWCP archive, improving access for future research. Gabriela's professional interests include archival preservation and historical materials. Gabriela authored the summaries for the Food Reading Guide.

Hannah Bennett earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fashion and Textiles from Cass School of Art and worked at the TUC library as a Graduate Intern. Hannah worked alongside the Civic Writing Course to create a Design and Illustration Reading Guide. Her interests are focused around the exchange which text and images have (such as on a page from a book). Hannah currently works as an assistant to an Art Department in a Secondary School and draws upon the influences from her time in the Archives and Library for personal and professional work to this day.

Ana Karen Gonzalez is an undergraduate student from Los Angeles, California. She is currently working towards her BA in Sociology with a Professional Writing Minor emphasis in Civic Engagement at the University of California Santa Barbara. Ana Karen enrolled in the Civic Writing course to expand on her studies of writing for civic engagement, from the perspective of a foreign culture. Ana Karen authored the Race Reading Guide.

Joshua Johnston is an undergraduate student from Fort Payne, Alabama attending Auburn University. He studies Sociology and English Literature. He came to London to explore theories of writing and their applications in regard to cultivating a more just and equitable society. In the archive, he focuses on the empowerment and agency of those stigmatised by the mental health system. Joshua authored the Mental Health Reading Guide.

Nancy Lee is an undergraduate student from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis studying English and focusing on Creative Writing. Lee was drawn to the Civic Writing program for the opportunity to work with artists and writers from London, to be involved in producing a publication, and to visit the many historical sights London has to offer. Lee authored the Art Reading Guide.

Andria Olson recently graduated with her M.S. in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Her focus is in Historical Materials and has work experience in the digitization of archival collections. Andria enrolled in the London Civic Writing course to contribute to and learn from the digitisation efforts of an international archival collection. Andria is now the assistant map librarian at the Branner Earth Sciences Map Library and Map Collections at Stanford University. Andria authored the Literacy Reading Guide.

Dr. Victoria Lynne Scholz graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2018, Bowling Green State University in 2011, and Cameron University in 2008. She specialises in young adult novels and fairy tale retellings, but she is also experienced in teaching first year composition. She has published an article on critical pedagogy in the Harry Potter series in *The Midwest Quarterly* and has presented at the annual conferences for the Midwest Modern Languages Association (M/MLA) and Children's Literature Association. Victoria worked on developing the FWWCP Reading Guides for *Local London*, *War*, and *Work*.

Trenna Soderling is a student from Lawrence, Kansas attending Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her areas of study are English with a concentration in Creative Writing and American Sign Language/English Interpreting. She came to London to explore writing and issues of social justice from a new perspective, in hopes that it could augment her work back home. Trenna authored the Gender Reading Guide.

Michelle Tiburcio is an undergraduate student from New York City. She currently attends Syracuse University where she studies Writing, Rhetoric & Composition with a minor in Information Management & Technology. Michelle enrolled in Civic Writing because of her desire to learn more about civic life in London, immerse herself in a new culture, and explore all of what the city has to offer. She hopes to use this new insight to improve her writing skills. Michelle authored the LGBTQ+ Reading Guide.

Brittney West is an undergraduate student from Los Alamitos, California who studies at Syracuse University. She is working to earn a degree in Writing and Rhetoric major, with minors in both Spanish and History. She enrolled in the London Civic Writing course because she was interested in studying its people and their unique histories. Brittney authored the Immigration Reading Guide.

What FWWCP/FED Members Are Saying About The FWWCP/FED Collection

“The written heartbeat of people for too long denied a voice, the archive is a social, educational, and creative resource of unique and immense value. An inspiration for everyone committed to ending intellectual and cultural apartheid, it reminds us that the purest aesthetic is a willing acceptance of collective humanity.”

— Roy Birch, FWWCP/FED member and past Chair

“The FED Archive/Collection has preserved and protected words, thoughts, feelings and experiences that are not recorded anywhere else. Memories have been given a reach and life beyond the wildest dreams of those who shared them, little thinking that anyone would be interested in the writing of ordinary, uneducated, working people, even at the time, let alone decades later. Digitisation and online access to the archive has opened a window into the past, an authentic and unfiltered peek into a world that is slipping out of living memory much faster than we ever thought it would.”

— Ashley Jordan, FWWCP/FED member and
Communications/Website Development Officer

“I’m incredibly excited about the archive. We wrote despite people sneering at us, and we created a community. So the FWWCP archive, for me, is my main connection to the FED at the moment... People working at the Federation, looking at Centerprise, Black activism, in that period, gay activism, feminism — that needs to be studied. It’s a sort of history lesson, so that’s why i’m hoping that the Federation’s archive will be a living archive where people will be able to look at it, school groups could go there, performances could take part. Readings and events, based around it — because it is such a wealth of information and wisdom and entertainment there.”

— Roger Mills, FWWCP/FED member and Executive Board member

“The FED was always about the way that we allow for a lot of diversity in the way that allowed people to take control of their identity... Being part of a community, in various ways, I mean meeting people, making new friends, but also getting to know a community of writers, artists, and musicians, that journey and that process is something I hope will never stop.”

— Brian Docherty, FWWCP/FED member