



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	EDMONDS, LLOYD
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	A.1983.0137
<b>CATEGORY ACTIVITY</b>	Labour, individuals
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1925-1982
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	42 cm. (4 archives boxes)
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Access: Open
<b>LISTED BY</b>	John Ellis
<b>DATE</b>	24 November 1994

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### LLOYD EDMONDS COLLECTION

#### HISTORICAL NOTE:

Lloyd Edmonds was born in London c.1906, the second child and first son of F.J. and Mollie Edmonds. The family migrated to Australia in 1912. Lloyd's father - 'Pop' - was a printer, trade unionist and socialist who joined Tom Mann's Victorian Socialist Party. Lloyd's father and uncle, H.C. 'Harry' Edmonds, later set up the Ruskin Press in Melbourne. Lloyd grew and was influenced by his socialist and pacifist surroundings of these years before the first world war.

Lloyd became a student-teacher in 1928 and completed his Arts Degree at Melbourne University in 1932. While there he joined the Labor Club and in 1931 he became Secretary of the Sandringham branch of the Labor Party. He and his brother Phillip helped form the Teacher's Industrial Union and Lloyd became its delegate to the Trades Hall Council in 1935. He was also a long time member of the Communist Party of Australia.

In 1935 Lloyd was expelled from the ALP for supporting Maurice Blackburn's stand in favour of sanctions against Italy after Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia. He subsequently decided to leave Australia and study in England at the London School of Economics. He sailed in 6 July 1936 and began a correspondence with his father which lasted through two years and his time as a truck driver in a United States unit of the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War. These letters form the substantial part of this collection of his records, and have been printed in an edited collection by Amirah Inglis.

The records in this collection also document other aspects of Lloyd's life, from the mysterious instruction for him to turn up at Victoria Barracks for revolver shooting practice in 1925, possibly Citizens Force training under the third phase of the universal training laws first introduced in 1911<sup>1</sup>, to his war time work in the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service. It also attests to his long term interest in Communism, pacifism and the environment.

Lloyd Edmonds died c.September 1994 at the age of 88. As John Lahey wrote in his obituary "It's a paradox that Edmonds, the civil warrior, was a calm, gentle man, widely loved, whose unassuming manner hid a dedication and passion for justice."

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<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth Yearbook, 1925, pp.602-3.

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**THE LIFE AND RECORDS OF LLOYD EDMONDS IN TIME:**

**(See full list of contents of the Collection from p.4 below.)**

- 1925:** Edmonds involved in revolver shooting practice. File C, Box 1.
- 1936:** Leaves for U.K. and commences writing regularly to his father. Letters range from 1936-1938 and cover his time in London and in Spain. File A, Box 1.
- 1936:** Applies for admission to the London School of Economics and Political Science. See File N, Box 4
- c.1936:** Volunteers for the Spanish Civil War. He maintains his interest in the war into the 1970s. File N, Box 4.
- 1942-55:** Employed with the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service; he is also an official in the Federated Clerks Union of Australia. Files K-L, Box 3.
- 1950s:** Becomes involved with the People's Hall Society Ltd., North Melbourne. File M, Box 4.
- 1956-77:** Collected the literature of the Communist Party of Australia. File G, Box 2.
- 1967:** Becomes involved with the Town Planning Research Group. File F, Box 1.
- 1967-77:** Collected magazines from various national parks and environmental groups. File E, Box 1.
- 1969:** Becomes involved in the 'Save the Kangaroo Campaign'. File D, Box 1.
- 1970s:** Becomes involved with Ruth and Maurice Crow in the 'Greater Melbourne Plan'. File B, Box 1; File H, Box 2.
- 1974:** Becomes involved in the Radical Ecology Conference (REC). File J, Box 3.
- 1976:** Invited to join the General Committee of the Western Region Council for Social Development (WRCSD). File I, Box 3.
- 1903-75:** Maintains interest in peace issues. File P, Box 4.
- n.d.** Lloyd enrolled in a Council of Adult Education (CAE) course on flora (notes and sketches, no dates).

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**DATE OF TRANSFER:** c.1983/1984

**TRANSFEROR:** Lloyd Edmonds, via the Baillieu Library. The original "letters to Pop" were photocopied for Archives and transferred back to Lloyd. It is believed they were later lost or destroyed.

**ACCESS:** Open

**SIZE:** 48cms.

**DATE RANGE:** 1936-1977

**RELATED COLLECTIONS:** Communist Party of Australia, Victorian State Committee Collection. CPA Photograph Collection.

**REFERENCES:** Edmonds, Lloyd, Letters from Spain, Amirah Inglis (ed), George Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1985.  
Lloyd Edmonds, Obituary, The Age, 27 September 1994, p.16.  
Edmonds, Lloyd, 'The International Brigade', Sixty Years of Struggle, Vol.2, red Pen Publications, Sydney, 1980.

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24 November 1994

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**FILE A: BOX 1**

- \* Letters from Lloyd Edmonds to his father (Pop) en route to England and Spain (July 6, 1936 to April 24, 1938). [Sixty-six letters, numbered by the archivist, including incomplete typed letters to LE's father.]
- \* International Brigade newsletters and post cards (photocopies).

**FILE B: BOX 1**

- \* Information, reports, etc. relating to the "Greater Melbourne" Plan; Melbourne Public Transport; Fitzroy Residents' Association; Committee for Urban Action (C.U.A.); Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Underground Loop 1970's); Finnish Housing Foundation.

**FILE C: BOX 1**

PERSONAL DETAILS:

- \* Two hand-written letters (unsigned).
- \* One Memo Book (1951).
- \* Newspaper cutting outlining LE's early history.
- \* Notice for LE to attend revolver shooting practice, 1925.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- \* Four pages from "The Australian Highway", August 10, 1928.
- \* "National Vanguard", September 1982.
- \* East Timor Publication.

**FILE D: BOX 1**

LE's involvement in "Save the Kangaroo" campaign:

- \* Letter from Uncle Ben's of Australia Pty. Ltd. re the ingredients in their pet food, March 12, 1969.

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- \* Notices, reports, newsletters newspaper cuttings, letters to the editor, brochures, petition, constitution, membership form, for Save the Kangaroo.

**FILE E: BOX 1**

INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL PARKS:

- \* Brochure - Warby Ranges, May 1967.
- \* Forest Commission, Victoria - Tree Price List, 1968.
- \* Brochures - Wyperfeld National Park and Little Desert, May 1969.
- \* Geelong Naturalist, August 1971; May 1977.
- \* Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) newsletters nos. 97-98, 100, June-September 1974.
- \* Friends of the Earth (FOE) bicycle leaflet, December 3, 1974.

**FILE F: BOX 1**

INVOLVEMENT IN TOWN PLANNING RESEARCH GROUP:

- \* Copies of The Irregular, nos. 2-51, August 1967-April 1973, incomplete series.

**FILE G: BOX 2**

COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA:

- \* English leaflet advertising The Plebs, organ of the National Council of Labour Colleges.
- \* Christmas Confetti Carnival leaflet.
- \* Summer Camp - Australian Labor Party; brochure, news cutting.
- \* Socialist Song book.
- \* Target, magazine of the Eureka Youth League.

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- \* Booklet - Australia, the Way Forward, June 1967.
- \* Chinese booklet on the dictatorship of the Proletariat, December 29, 1956.
- \* CPA Constitution, March 1970.
- \* CPA Constitution and Rules, April 1972.
- \* Maurice Crow, The Environment Crisis.
- \* Learning Network Information sheet.
- \* CPA - Information Bulletin, May 31, 1970.
- \* CPA - Left Challenge for the 70s.
- \* Henry Zimmerman, Left Wing Communism.
- \* Fascism - a Menace in Australia, December 1972.
- \* International Bulletin (CPA), no.3, June 1973.
- \* Twenty Years After Stalin, February 1974.
- \* Bernie Taft, A 'Crisis' in the Party?, January 1974.
- \* Praxis magazine, no.1, January 1974; no.8, March 1976; no.9, May 1976.
- \* State Committee Notice re Vietnamese Women's Delegation to Melbourne, February 25, 1975.
- \* Australian Left Review, three copies, no.61, September 1977.
- \* CPA Newsletter, October 1977.
- \* Tribune, September 14, 21, 1977.
- \* Soviet Union Magazine, no.9, 1977.

**FILE H: BOX 2**

- \* "Plan for Melbourne", in three parts, by Ruth and Maurie Crow. An Objection (Alternative) to the Melbourne Regional Plan Proposals.

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Published by the CPA, Part One, February 1969; Part Two, February 1970; Part Three, September 1972.

**FILE I: BOX 3**

WESTERN REGION COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WRCSD):

- \* Notices, newsletters, letters, notices of motion, submissions, reports, December 1975-November 1976.
- \* Invitation for LE to join General Committee of WRCSD, February 17, 1976.
- \* Minutes and notices of meetings, March 3, 1977-November 1976.

**FILE J: BOX 3**

RADICAL ECOLOGY CONFERENCE (REC):

- \* Brochures, sponsor list, Information Exchange Network, Nos. 3-4, notices letters.
- \* Learning Exchange, October 24, 1974.
- \* Radical Ecologist, two issues.
- \* REC Media Liaison Policy.
- \* Urban Environment Commission, discussion paper.

TRADE UNIONS:

- \* Letters seeking support from trade unions for REC, September 30, 1974. Also news releases, minutes, lists.

**FILE K: BOX 3**

TRADE UNIONS:

- \* Clerks Newsletter, organ of Progressive Clerks Committee, September 1952.



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- \* Federated Clerks Union of Australia, (FCUA) ballot results, 30 November 1955.
- \* International Labor Conventions - chart, January 1, 1963.
- \* Australian Railways Union (ARU) Information Handbook, 1079.
- \* FCUA - Public Service Report, 1950.
- \* FCUA - Commonwealth Section Rules.

**FILE L: BOX 3**

- \* Correspondence concerning Lloyd Edmonds employment with the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service, 1942-1955.
- \* Emergency Training Scheme Notice, August 1942.
- \* Letters, transfers, application for field officer, training course, statement of duties.

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE:

- \* Transcript of Lloyd Edmonds being interviewed on ABC radio 3LO, July 10, 1944.
- \* Application for position as Research Officer, Personnel Practice Branch, Industrial Welfare Division.
- \* Department book on Industrial Lighting, 1945.
- \* Lloyd's talk or paper on role of the Department of Labour and National Service re industrial efficiency.

**FILE M: BOX 4**

PEOPLE'S HALL SOCIETY:

- \* Brief history of the People's Hall Society from 1911 to 1951.
- \* Balance sheets, minutes of meetings, rules, agreements, letters from ACTU, letters from J.N. Zigouras and Co. (Solicitors) re operation of agreement between ACTU and People's Hall Society.

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**FILE N: BOX 4**

SPANISH CIVIL WAR:

- \* Civil War postcards, four.
- \* Australian postcard - Ambulance donated by the West Australian Branch of the Spanish Relief Committee.
- \* English postcards, two.
- \* The New Inn, Gloucester, booklet, 1450-1932.
- \* Application form for admission to the London School of Economics and Political Science, September 28, 1936.
- \* 'Food for Spain', leaflet.
- \* English newspaper cuttings and leaflets, includes pro-Fascist Union leaflets.
- \* 'The Volunteer for Liberty' - organ of the International Brigades, two issues: 4 October 1937, 8 November 1937.
- \* Letter from Prime Minister's Department asking Lloyd Edmonds to repay money to the Commonwealth Government for his repatriation from Spain to Australia, 16 October 1939.
- \* Petition to Spanish Embassy, Canberra re CARABANCHEL TEN.
- \* Two letters seeking support to set up a group to publish a bulletin 'Liberty for Spain', 20 May 1976.

**FILE O: BOX 4**

- \* Newspaper cuttings, overseas and local.

**FILE P: BOX 4**

PEACE ISSUES:

- \* History of conscription in Australia from 1903-1951.

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\* Two circulars from Australia for World Peace Assembly, 28 October 1955, 7 November 1955.

\* Three CICD leaflets.

**FILE Q: BOX 4**

\* CAE (Council for Adult Education) Flora Course Notes, n.d.

**LETTERS TO POP** - chemical duplicates.

John Ellis  
November 1994

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