

1976.0040 PAPERS OF TED TRIPP 1929-1970

Creator	Tripp, Edward Clavell (Ted)
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Teachers
<p>Biography: Edward Clavell (Ted) Tripp (1900-1979), political organizer, was born on 25 September 1900 at Acton, London. Ted was placed in a boarding-school and took the University of Cambridge junior entrance examinations, but his mother arranged an engineering apprenticeship for him. During World War I he worked in the locomotive shop of the Metropolitan Railways in London and was radicalized by the Russian Revolution in 1917. He later claimed that his desire to read Marx's <i>Das Kapital</i> was thwarted only by his inability to afford its purchase price. About 1924 Tripp came to Western Australia, then moved to Townsville, Queensland, where he worked as a fitter in the government railways and joined the militant Australian Railways Union and the State branch of the Communist Party of Australia. He attended the 1927 party conference, and in May 1929 stood for the Legislative Assembly seat of Mundingburra as an Independent (Communist) candidate. Later that year, after visiting Britain and Germany, he travelled to Moscow, where under his party pseudonym 'Clayton' he was a student at the International Lenin School. His experience predisposed him to Trotskyism, although student sympathizers of Bukharin at the university were already disappearing and Trotsky was persona non grata. He was back in Australia by August 1930.</p> <p>In January next year Tripp became the first C.P.A. candidate for the House of Representatives when he contested a by-election for the seat of Parkes, New South Wales; in December 1931 he stood for Darling. Appointed full-time national organizer of the Friends of the Soviet Union late in 1930, he lectured widely and set up successful branches in several States. In June 1932 he stood for the seat of King in the Legislative Assembly. He was, however, already out of favour with the party leadership and in July next year was removed from his F.O.S.U. post. In June 1934, described as 'a Right opportunist', he was expelled from the party. Next month he joined the Sydney Trotskyists—the Balmain branch of the Workers' Party of Australia.</p> <p>Tripp's conversion to Trotskyism was at first strategic, but soon became more theoretical. Subjected to C.P.A. harassment while working at the ammunition factory, he became the Workers' Party secretary in 1935, edited the journal, the <i>Militant</i>, and spoke regularly in the Domain. In 1937, falling out with the local Trotskyist leadership, he led a rival group, the League for Revolutionary Democracy (Independent Communist League), and edited the journal <i>Proletarian Review</i>.</p> <p>In 1938 Tripp moved to Melbourne, married, and ceased political organizing. He worked as a fitter at the Footscray munitions factory until 1965 and was a militant shop steward in the Federated Ironworkers' Association. In 1945 he was appointed tutor at the Victorian Labor College, teaching Marxism to trade unionists at the Trades Hall, and about 1956 succeeded May Brodney as the college's secretary, retaining the position until his death. In 1978, in a final gesture of solidarity with the Trotskyist movement, he joined the Socialist Workers' Party. Tripp died on 21 September 1979 at Footscray.</p>	

Reference Number	1976.0040
Collection/Series Title	PAPERS OF TED TRIPP
Date Range of Collection/Series	1929-1970
Size/Extent	3 boxes (0.36m)
Access Conditions	Access: Open
Scope and Content of Series	

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Diary on Russia recording observations of industry and politics, 1929-1930, also notes on a series of C.P.A. Central Executive meetings, circa 1929-1930; notebook on history of Russia/CCCP. 1905-1929; notebook on Dialectical Materialism with notes on Leninism, clippings from "Inprecorr"; lecture notes and papers on Marxism and social theory 1945- 1970.

Archival History

These records listed by Andrew Reeves in April 1976. Original typescript list converted to item data by Christine Elias in October 2019.

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To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.				
Unit/Box	Item number	Title	Date range	Description
1976.0040 Unit 1	1976.0040.00001	Notebooks	1930-1932	These notebooks represent the research and study undertaken by Mr Tripp as an Australian Communist student in Moscow between 1930 and 1932. In addition to defining the nature of subjects offered to foreign students in the USSR, they provide valuable information on the theoretical standards of ideological training during the Comintern's Third Period. The diary records observations of industry and politics in Russia during these years, as well as what appear to be cryptic notes on a series of Communist Party of Australia Central Executive Meetings, undated but probably 1929-1930. History of Russia/CCP 1605 - 1929 (includes notes on Trotskyism); Dialectical Materialism. Previous Control Number: 1/1
1976.0040 Unit 1	1976.0040.00002	Notebooks	1930-1932	Notes on Leninism, includes clippings from Inprecor relevant to the notes. Previous Control Number: 1/2
1976.0040 Unit 1	1976.0040.00003	Notebooks	1930-1932	An outline of Political Economy, taken from J Lapidus and K Ostrovityanov, includes clippings. Previous Control Number: 1/3
1976.0040 Unit 1	1976.0040.00004	Diary	1930-1932	Diary not kept chronologically. Previous Control Number: 2/1
1976.0040 Unit 2	1976.0040.00005	Publications	1950-1956	The New International, 1950 - 1956
1976.0040 Unit 2	1976.0040.00006	Publications	1934-1937	War Resisters International - Review of the International Movement, 1934 - 1937
1976.0040 Unit 3	1976.0040.00007	Publications	1935	Soviet Communism - A New Civilization? By Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Longman, Green & Co. Pty Ltd, London, 1935 (2 volumes)
1976.0040 Unit 3	1976.0040.00008	Notes	1935	Ted Tripp's notes on Soviet Communism - A New Civilization? By Sidney and Beatrice Webb

End of list