The Papers of Eric Baker. Interim Catalogue. August 2013

Archive reference: GB 0532 Cwl EB

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# Introduction

This archive is full of rich historic insight into the work of human rights campaigner Eric Baker, the Quaker and other groups with which he was involved, and the situations he encountered on his visits abroad, notably Cyprus.

It is one of the Commonweal Archives, an incredible collection of resources on nonviolent protest gathered by Commonweal Library, an independent peace library based at the University of Bradford.

The archive has been catalogued in a basic way to make it available as quickly as possible. The catalogue will be further refined in response to demand from researchers.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection Description

## Reference code

GB 0532 CWL EB.

## Title

The Papers of Eric Baker.

## Dates

1949-1976.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

0.78 metres.

## Name of creator

Eric Baker,1920-1976, Quaker, pacifist, and human rights campaigner.

## Biographical history

Eric Baker was born in London in 1920 and educated at Nether Edge Grammar School, Sheffield. Already a pacifist, he joined the Society of Friends while still at school. He was a conscientious objector during World War II, registering in 1941. At Downing College, Cambridge, from 1939-1942, his degree was in English and Moral Sciences. After taking a Diploma in Education from Leeds University, he became a lecturer, initially to the WEA in Yorkshire. He and his wife, Joyce, whom he met as a Young Friend in Sheffield, were appointed Joint Secretaries of the Quaker Centre in Delhi in 1946. The family moved to Edinburgh in the late 1940s, where Baker worked for the University and the Education Authority.

Baker made several visits to Cyprus, Greece and Turkey between 1958 and 1975 on behalf of the Friends’ Service Committee. His 1959 trip included a visit to Sicily to study the work of Danilo Dolci.

Lawyer Peter Benenson was a key contact in Cyprus; he and Baker found they shared concerns about those imprisoned for their beliefs. Eric Baker played an important part in the founding of Amnesty (later Amnesty International) by Benenson in 1961 following the overwhelming response to the latter’s article in the Observer. Baker was acting Director-General of Amnesty from 1967-1968, after Benenson’s resignation, and chairman of the British section of Amnesty International from 1965 to 1971.

From 1959 to 1963 Baker was study secretary of the Home Service Committee at Friends House. His later teaching career took him to the South-East Essex Technical College, Dagenham, as lecturer in Liberal Studies, then to the North-East London Polytechnic as head of the Department of Social Work, Health and Nursing. He had just left to take up a new post in Chelmsford when he died, in July 1976.

As Amnesty’s work progressed, Eric Baker became increasingly aware of the issue of torture. In 1973, he organised the Conference for the Abolition of Torture, held in Paris, following the publication of Amnesty's first report on the subject (*Report on Torture*. Duckworth, 1973). In 1974, he addressed the Friends Yearly Meeting at York on “The Contagion of Torture”. Following his death, a world gathering of Friends in Canada responded to the concern, commending it for action to all Friends in "The Hamilton Declaration”.

## Immediate source of acquisition

Donated to Commonweal in 1981 by Joyce Baker.

## Scope and content

The main sections of the Archive:

* Visits to Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Malta and Sicily (Danilo Dolci): correspondence, photographs, notebooks, reports and press cuttings.
* Amnesty International, mainly correspondence, and particularly with, or concerning, Seán MacBride.
* Campaign against torture, mainly correspondence, some press coverage.

## Appraisal

Published material has been removed from the Archive. It is probable that further weeding will be appropriate when more detailed cataloguing is carried out.

## System of arrangement

Eric Baker’s system has been retained where this can be ascertained. We have also retained the alphabetical arrangement for the material on Cyprus, Turkey and Greece created by Clifford Crellin, who used this part of the Archive to help research education in Turkey.

## Access conditions

Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation. Most sections of this archive contain personal data on individuals and access is therefore restricted under the Act. More detailed cataloguing may make it possible to refine this restriction. Researchers should contact the Special Collections Librarian for information about the status of the material they wish to view.

## Copyright/conditions governing reproduction

Copies may be supplied or produced at the discretion of Special Collections staff, subject to copyright law and the condition of the originals. Applications for permission to make published use of any material should be directed to the Special Collections Librarian in the first instance. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

## Language of material

English.

## Physical characteristics

Newspapers and press cuttings are fragile.

## Finding aids

Unpublished boxlist (below).

## Related units of description

The Archives of the Amnesty International International Secretariat are held by the International Institute of Social History.

## Publications

Baker, Eric. *Public Policy and the Use of Torture*. Quaker Peace & Service, in association with Amnesty International, 1980. Published as a tribute to Eric Baker.

## Archivist’s note

Described by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

## Date(s) of description

April 2010, minor edits June 2013.

## Indexing

### Persons

Baker, Eric.

### Corporate Bodies

Amnesty International.

Society of Friends.

Friends Service Committee.

### Subjects

Cyprus.

Turkey.

Greece.

Human rights.

Torture (International law).

# Box List

## 1 Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Malta and Sicily

### 1/A1 "Cyprus 1975 visit"

**Dates**: 1967-1976

**Content**: Visit to Cyprus on behalf of the Friends Peace and International Relations Committee with Michael Harbottle, March/April 1975, fact-finding for possible reconciliation role by Friends. EB visited North via Turkey, MH South via Greece, communicated via Dr Paul Hare. Report of the visit, and other reports on Cyprus by EB, MH and Ellen Wilkinson. Committee minutes. Correspondence concerning practical arrangements and contacts for the visit; correspondents include Cecil Evans, the British and Turkish embassies and the British Council. Correspondence following up the Cyprus findings, with Friends committees, Woodbrooke College and the Quaker Office at the United Nations.

**System of arrangement**: Original order of folder lost. Split into two for convenience of access.

**Restrictions**: Restricted under the Data Protection Act: personal addresses and information.

### 1/A2 "Cyprus 1975 visit"

**Dates**: 1967-1976.

**Content**: Information about Cyprus and Turkey including 2 Guardian articles by EB, press cuttings, pamphlets and memoranda.

**System of arrangement**: Original order of folder lost. Split into two for convenience of access.

### 1/B Cyprus articles and correspondence

**Dates**: 1949-1967.

**Content**: Correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, cuttings and publications concerning articles about Cyprus by EB in journals including *The Times Educational Supplement, Scotsman, New Statesman, Methodist Recorder, The Progressive, Wayfarer, The Spectator, The Friend, Irish Times, British Weekly, The Christian Century*.

### 1/C "Cyprus, articles 1958-64 and relevant correspondence"

**Dates**: 1958-1964.

**Content**: Press cuttings and publications containing articles by EB mostly on Cyprus and Turkey, including T*he Scotsman, Spectator, The Friend, Friends Quarterly*. Correspondence with Allen Skinner, copy of *Symposium on Dual Standards of Morality* annotated by EB.

### 1/D Newspapers Cyprus 1958

**Dates**: 1958

**Restrictions:** Fragile.

### 1/E "Letters inc. Makarios"

**Dates:** 1958-1961.

**Content:** Correspondence on Cyprus, including prison visiting. EB's press cards.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - contains personal data.

### 1/F "Greece. Turkey, Cyprus, Malta"

**Dates:** 1959-1960.

**Content:** Correspondence concerning Cyprus visit and issues including education in Greece. Correspondents include Sir Hugh Foot, embassies and consulates, the Colonial Office, and church and campaigning organisations including the Friends International Centre, Peter Hammond of the New Churches Research Group, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, American Friends Service Committee.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - personal data.

### 1/G "Cyprus, Greece, [Turkey] &c"

**Dates:** 1961-1976.

**Content:** Correspondence, mainly on elections in Greece and Turkey, inc EB's impressions of latter in 1961. Correspondents include the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, M. Lipton MP, Quaker School for Rural Girls and World Council of Churches.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - personal data.

### 1/H1 Notebooks

**Dates:** 1958-1975.

**Content:** 5 notebooks, diaries of visits to Cyprus in 1958, 1959, 1975.

### 1/H2 "Cyprus"

**Dates:** Mainly 1958.

**Content:** Correspondence concerning 1958 Cyprus visit and related matters, with embassies, individuals and Quaker and other campaigning groups.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - personal data.

### 1/I "Turkey"

**Dates:** 1961-1962.

**Content:** Correspondence concerning visit to Greece and Turkey in November 1961.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - personal data.

### 1/J "Dolci. Sicily (Italy) 59"

**Dates:** 1959.

**Content:** Correspondence with Danilo Dolci, Danilo Dolci Committee, minutes and bulletin of the Committee

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination of correspondence for personal data.

### 1/K "Malta 59”

**Dates:** 1955-1959.

**Content:** Xara Palace Hotel ephemera, letters to contacts in Malta concerning 1959 visit, pamphlets.

### 1/L "Journals, letters, reports on visits to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus etc."

**Dates:** 1958-1961.

**Content:** Reports and letters to Eric Tucker for circulation concerning 1958 and 1959 visits to Cyprus.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act - personal data.

### 1/M "Turkey"

**Dates:** 1959-1960.

**Content:** Correspondence, mainly research for articles and situation in Turkey including death penalty and education. Correspondents include embassies, Bob and Betty Avery of the American Board in Istanbul, Greek Orthodox Church, David Hotham of The Times and the British Council.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination of correspondence for personal data.

### 1/N "Cyprus" "Turkey"

**Dates:** ca. 1958.

**Content:** Photographs of buildings in Turkey (credit Turkish press department), correspondence concerning EB's visit, notes, curfew passes.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination of correspondence for personal data.

### 1/O "Cyprus illegible”

**Dates:** 1975-1976.

**Content:** Correspondence, press cuttings, articles, reports.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination of correspondence for personal data.

### 1/P Photographs.

Photographs probably taken by Eric Baker.

1/P1 "Greece"

1/P2 "Malta"

1/P3 "Rhodes".

1/P4 "Sicily".

1/P5 "Turkey".

1/P6 Album of negatives.

1/P7 "Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus 1958 on"

1/P8 Photographs.

1/P9 Loose photographs and postcards.

## 2. Amnesty International

### 2/1 "1 set of copies of correspondence between Eric Baker and Peter Benenson Founders of Amnesty International 1961"

**Dates:** 1961.

**Content:** Photocopies of correspondence. Made by Peter Hutchins of AI for Joyce Baker 1979.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/2 "Goran Clausson, HG Frank, C van den Vlies, Otto Frankenburg"

**Dates:** 1967.

**Content:** Correspondence.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/3 "Group 70"

**Dates:** 1970.

**Content:** Correspondence, press cuttings, reports.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/4 "Letters from SM" Seán MacBride

**Dates:** 1970s.

**Content:** Correspondence involving Seán MacBride.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/5 "Letters from Seán "

**Dates:** 1972-1973.

**Content:** Correspondence involving Seán MacBride.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/6 "C.O.s etc."

**Dates:** 1970s.

**Content:** Articles, reports, correspondence re conscientious objectors.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 2/7 "Miscellaneous - AI on torture"

**Dates:** 1972-1976.

**Content:** Minutes, reports, press cuttings, publications, correspondence.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

## 3. Quaker Campaigns against Torture

**Dates:** 1971-1976.

**Content:** 3 files of correspondence concerning Quaker anti-torture campaigns.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

## 4 Other material

### 4/1 "Psychological warfare"

**Dates: 1**956-1957.

**Content:** Correspondence, press cuttings.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.

### 4/2 "[Bradford] Chair of Peace"

**Dates:** 1972.

**Content:** Correspondence, publications, reports re University of Bradford Chair of Peace Studies Appeal.

**Restrictions:** Restricted under the Data Protection Act, pending further examination.