

THE NEW ATLANTIS FOUNDATION DIMITRIJE MITRINOVIĆ ARCHIVE : collection description

Special Collections, J.B. Priestley Library

Reference code

GB 0532 NAF.

Title

The New Atlantis Foundation Dimitrije Mitrinović Archive.

Dates

1907-2002.

Level of description

Fonds.

Extent

31 metres.

Name of creator

New Atlantis Foundation, charitable trust, 1954-

Administrative/biographical history

Dimitrije Mitrinović (1887-1953) was born in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As a young student he took a leading part in the movement to create a united Yugoslavia. Having studied art history in Munich, he came to England in 1914 and moved among influential cultural circles in the U.K. Between the wars he was concerned with organic world order, and was a major contributor to the radical journal *New Age*, writing a column on world affairs. Mitrinović held that there was a need for a new stage in human development, "From individual initiative, through personal alliance to the absolute collective". This required the recognition of the essential

complementary functions in the world of different ethnic, religious and other groups, the need for guidance through intermediation to solve conflicts in society, and the need for personal change to develop individuals as the mediators of society. Re-evaluation of the wisdom of the past meant the investigation of works from all periods of history on religion, philosophy, sociology, psychology, and the arts.

In 1927, Mitrinović founded the English Branch of the International Society for Individual Psychology (the Adler Society), lecturing on psychology and related subjects. The desire of the group to derive practical results from their psychological studies, and association with like-minded radical groups, led to the formation of The New Europe Group, aiming at European federation and a re-evaluation of European culture. From this proceeded the New Britain Movement in 1932, with proposals for national changes in society, federation and devolution, reform of the financial system, workers' control in industry through National Guilds, and a House of Industry and House of Culture to supplement the House of Commons. The movement was supported by the journal *New Britain* and its successor *The Eleventh Hour*. The *New Britain Movement* dissolved in 1935-36 but the *New Europe Group* continued to be active for many years and its cultural programme, the *Renaissance Club*, held lectures and concerts. Active members of the group included H.C. Rutherford, Violet MacDermot, Valerie Cooper, Ellen Mayne, Philip Mairet, David Shillan, and the Nobel prize-winner Frederick Soddy. The *New Atlantis Foundation* was started after the death of Mitrinović to continue his work and to spread his ideas. Annual lectures have covered various aspects of religion and philosophy, giving particular attention to thinkers whose work may have been neglected or misinterpreted. The Foundation continues to publicise the work of Mitrinović and other members of the Group.

Immediate source of acquisition

Presented to the University of Bradford in 2003-2004.

Scope and content

Writings of Dimitrije Mitrinović, published and unpublished. Documents and correspondence, published and unpublished, produced by members of Mitrinović's circle, members of the *New Europe Group* and by members of the *New Atlantis Foundation*.

System of arrangement

The original file division has been retained, but files have been re-arranged to reflect organisation and date.

Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment, subject to approval by the Foundation. Please contact the Special Collections Librarian in the first instance to obtain permission. 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.

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Language of material

English, with some German and Serbo-Croat.

Finding aids

Unpublished handlist.

Related units of description

The J.B. Priestley Library also holds the Mitrinović Library, a collection of 4,000 books from the library of the New Atlantis Foundation.

Archivist's note

Described by John Brooker.

Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

Date(s) of description

14 June 2004.

Indexing

Persons

Mitrinović, Dimitrije, 1887-1953
Rutherford, H.C., (Henry Christian)
Shillan, David
Soddy, Frederick, 1877-1956

Corporate Bodies

New Atlantis Foundation
New Europe Group
New Britain Movement

Special Collections
J.B. Priestley Library
University of Bradford
Bradford. BD7 1DP.

E-mail: special-collections@bradford.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 1274 235256

Fax: +44 (0) 1274 233398

Web site: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/special>

For further information, see web page for this Archive:
<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/special/mitrinovic.php>