Archive Reference: GB 0532 SIN

The Archive of Fred Singleton:

Interim Catalogue

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# Introduction

This large archive comprises the papers of former University of Bradford lecturer Dr Fred Singleton, covering his interests in Yugoslavia, Finland, Yorkshire, politics and peace. This catalogue is “interim”: it is published as part of our “First Sort” programme which aims to put basic information about new archives into the public domain as quickly as possible. We will refine and enrich it in response to user demand.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection description

## Reference code

GB 0532 SIN.

## Title

The Archive of Fred Singleton.

## Dates

Circa 1937-1987.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

16.5 linear metres.

## Name of creator

Dr Frederick Bernard Singleton, 1926-1988, academic .

## Biographical history

Fred Singleton was born in Hull on 13 October 1926 and educated at Hull Grammar School (1937-1944). His military service (1944-1947) with the Royal Navy included a period on the cruiser HMS Aurora. He studied Geography at Leeds University (1947-1952), receiving a B.A (Hons), Dip. Ed and M.A., with a thesis entitled “Kalevala and the Historical Geography of Finland”. Fred Singleton was active in student politics, becoming Vice-President of the Leeds University Students’ Union and of the National Union of Students (1951-1953).

His teaching career began at Carlton Grammar School in Bradford (history and geography, 1953-1955), then the Workers Educational Association, firstly teaching national servicemen at Catterick Camp (1955-1958) later as organising tutor for the West Riding (1958-1962). In 1962, he was appointed Lecturer at the Bradford Institute of Technology, which became the University of Bradford in 1966. With major research interests in Finland, Yugoslavia, and Yorkshire history, he became Chairman of the newly-established Research Unit in Yugoslav Studies in 1965, Senior Lecturer in Geography in 1968, and Reader in Yugoslav Studies in 1977. He retired in 1981, and served as Honorary Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the University until his death in 1988. He was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University in 1987 and his colleagues John B. Allcock, John H. Horton and Marko Milivojevic published a volume of essays in his honour: Yugoslavia in Transition (Berg, 1992).

Dr. Singleton combined his teaching and research with work as author, editor and public speaker. His many books included works on Yorkshire history, Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe, environmental issues, Finland, and socialism, including Saddleworth Story (1964), Twentieth Century Yugoslavia (1976), The Just Society (with Ken Coates, 1977), A History of Yorkshire (with Stuart Rawnsley, 1986), A Short History of Finland (1987), plus a school geography textbook published in 1966. He contributed many chapters and articles on these topics to reference works, newspapers and journals, such as the Annual Register of World Events, The World Today, and Osteuropa.

Dr Singleton was involved in academic societies, in particular the National Association for Soviet and East European Studies (NASEES), serving on the committee in various capacities from 1967-1978. He was active in peace campaigns and politics, including standing as Labour Party candidate for Harrogate in the 1959 parliamentary election and for the European Assembly in 1979. Other roles included Vice-President of the British Yugoslav Society and member of the Labour Party’s East-West Committee. Fred Singleton was married, with four children.

## Immediate source of acquisition

Donated to the University of Bradford between 1988 and 2000.

## Scope and content

Correspondence, notes, typescripts and manuscripts, conference papers, travel and political ephemera, plus a small quantity of photographic material. For more information, see the series description, below.

## Appraisal

Duplicates and irrelevant material have been weeded as seen; further appraisal will be carried out as the Archive is catalogued in more detail. Publications have been transferred to other collections or rehomed.

## System of arrangement

Original order of files cannot be ascertained, so we have roughly sorted the archive into an artificial arrangement of series based on Dr Singleton's areas of interest and activities, outlined below. We have retained original order within files. The archive includes many groups of loose papers which have lost their file identity and original order. To assist users, these papers will be organised into artificial files when the Archive is catalogued in more detail.

## Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment. 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. This Archive contains correspondence and other items containing personal data so access is restricted under the Data Protection Act pending further cataloguing. This will be carried out in response to user demand so individuals are encouraged to inform Special Collections of their interest in this material.

## 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. Special Collections staff will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

## Language of material

Most material in English, with some Finnish, Serbo-Croat, German, French.

## Physical characteristics

Parts of the archive show signs of historic water damage and mould. Newspapers, press cuttings and photographic formats are generally in poor condition.

## Finding aids

Building on initial sorting and listing carried out by John Brooker and Thomas Ellen in 2006, a basic file level spreadsheet has been produced to facilitate public access. The content of this document can be accessed via Special Collections staff. We will produce publishable finding aids for sections of the archive in response to user interest.

## Related collections

Published works by Dr Singleton and rare books and pamphlets belonging to him have been added to Special Collections University, Local and other printed book collections.

## Publication note

Yugoslavia in Transition (Berg, 1992) includes a personal memoir by Fred Singleton’s friend Tony Topham and a bibliographic review of his writings about Yugoslavia by John Horton.

## Note

The Biographical History is taken from a 1987 curriculum vitae and the sources listed in Publication note.

## Archivist’s note

Original description by Thomas Ellen, revised by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

## Date(s) of description

Original description, April 2006. Revised version, October 2015.

## Indexing

### Persons

Singleton, Frederick Bernard, 1926-1988

### Organisations

Workers Educational Association

National Union of Students

University of Bradford

Bradford Institute of Technology

National Association for Soviet and East European Studies

Labour Party

### Subjects

Finland

Yugoslavia

Yorkshire

Geography

# Series description

Dates: unless otherwise stated, material spans 1950s-1980s.

## Yugoslavia

Scope and content: Correspondence, articles, notes, including visits and field trips to Yugoslavia, Skopje connections, British Yugoslav Society.

## Eastern Europe

Scope and content: NASEES papers and correspondence, mainly relating to conferences, papers, notes and articles relating to economy, environment.

## Finland

Scope and content: Correspondence, articles, notes.

## Yorkshire

Scope and content: Campaign for the North, Yorkshire writings by Fred Singleton, WEA material.

## Geography

Scope and content: Mainly notes for teaching or writing, including National Parks information,

## Writings

Scope and content: Typescripts, drafts, notes etc re books and articles by FBS, including book reviews.

## Notes and correspondence with publishers

Scope and content: Correspondence with publishers of books and articles by FBS and organisers of lectures.

## University of Bradford

Date: circa 1962-1987

Scope and content: Yugoslav Studies department, area studies, geography, correspondence with academics.

## Conferences

Date: circa 1970-1987.

Scope and content: Correspondence, papers, notes etc for conferences attended by FBS, mostly on Yugoslav themes.

## Teaching other than Bradford

Date: circa 1950s-1970s.

Scope and content: Mostly relating to Workers Educational Association (WEA) activities. One file on Carlton Grammar School.

## Political and personal

Scope and content: Miscellany of papers, including Labour Party, election campaigns, National Union of Students activities.