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MARXIST HISTORY AND HISTORIANS IN THE
20TH CENTURY

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From translating Karl Marx...

British Online Archives' latest collection, *Marxist History and Historians in the 20th Century, 1883-1957*, contains the personal papers of Dona Torr, a prominent historian and member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB).

Torr was cited as a major influence by the likes of E.P. Thompson and Eric Hobsbawm.

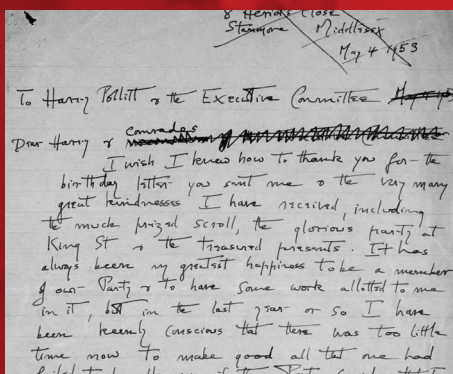


The collection is part of the wide-ranging *British Communism At Home and Abroad* series.

...to grassroots communist activism



Marxists of Torr's era believed that valuable lessons could be learned through the study of social history and be used to inform the development of socialism.



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Not detaching herself from this history, she was also a founding member of the CPGB and gained plaudits for her devotion to the communist cause.

The documents largely focus on the gritty and conflictual history of the labour movement in Britain, with particular emphasis on the life of labour figure Thomas Mann.



Professor David Renton, the great nephew of Dona Torr, has written a contextual essay for this collection.

Dona Torr Papers
Early Notebooks on
Miscellaneous Non-
Political & Non-
Historical Subjects

The documents also contain Torr's early philosophical musings, covering subjects such as love and marriage.

According to Dr. David Renton, “[s]he was decidedly strict over questions of party discipline...Torr’s break with her own family came at a cost. It was a surrogate to her.”

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