

**Biographical Background:**

Audrey Kathleen Jupp was born in Tonbridge, Kent, on 8 April 1914, the second child and only daughter of Reginald William and Daisy Lottie Jupp. Reginald was a schoolmaster, whilst before her marriage Daisy had worked in a draper's shop. Audrey later became Audrey Thomas when she married, and adopted the name Jupp-Thomas when her husband died.

Although she was a bright child (in 1924 she won a scholarship to Tunbridge Wells County School for Girls) she was unable to go to university as her parents' finances would not allow it. In 1935 she started work as a junior reporter on the 'Tonbridge Free Press'. In 1936 she left to become a secretary at a department store in Sevenoaks, but left after a year to look after her mother, who was in poor health. Audrey was quite active politically, and remained so for the rest of her life. She joined the Peace Pledge Union in 1935, later (in 1937) founding the Tonbridge Branch, of which she was secretary. Just before the outbreak of the Second World War she became the National Council for Conscientious Objectors' adviser to conscientious objectors. As a well-known pacifist she had considerable difficulty finding a job when she again sought work in 1941, being branded a security risk by the local superintendent of police. Eventually she secured a post as negotiating clerk for Ibbett, Mosely, Card & Co., a firm of estate agents in Sevenoaks, in which position she remained until 1946.

She joined the Independent Labour Party in 1942, largely because of its opposition to the War. Disillusioned with the ineffectiveness of the ILP, she moved to the Labour Party in 1945, acting as secretary to John Pudney when he stood unsuccessfully as Labour candidate for Sevenoaks. She herself also stood unsuccessfully as a Labour candidate in the local council elections in Sevenoaks in 1946.

It was through Pudney that she was appointed assistant secretary to the Union of Democratic Control, largely on the strength of her organisational skills. Established on the outbreak of war in 1914, the UDC at one time had over one million members and associates, but by the mid-1940s was in a fairly poor state. Its records and finances were chaotic, and membership subscriptions were rarely collected. The office was supposedly in the care of successive general secretaries, but they were usually very part-time and rarely available. It was Audrey Jupp-Thomas who pulled the organisation round and, with the likes of Basil Davidson and Ben Parkin, made a strong anti-colonial organisation of some note. She solicited donations to help eliminate the bank overdraft, created an accessible filing system, organised a subscription list and arranged for a newsletter to be sent to members. In 1948 she was made organising secretary with effective responsibility for the UDC's entire organisation and administration, including overseeing the production of numerous publications.

She was a tireless worker. In 1955, in addition to her responsibilities with the UDC, she became general secretary of the Socialist Medical Association, and also assumed responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Euthenasia Society. In 1960 she added to these the post of secretary of the London Office of the Malawi Congress Party and, in 1961, the administration of the Socialist Education Association. She also found time to write publications of her own, including the pamphlet 'Facing facts in Africa' (UDC, 1957). In 1962 she resigned from all her political organisations to become assistant liaison officer of the Nyasaland Students' Liaison Office. In 1964 Malawi became independent and she helped to

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set up its High Commission in London but left in 1970 to become finance officer of the Paddington Churches Housing Association. She retired in 1974.

In 1968 she married Clem Thomas, a friend from her SMA days. He died in 1979. Although retired, she acted as honorary treasurer of the SMA from 1976 to 1986. When she finally retired, she wrote several novels (all unpublished) and her memoirs. She later moved to sheltered accommodation near Crawley, where she died of cancer in 1994.

### **Custodial history:**

Bequeathed by Audrey Jupp-Thomas in her will and donated via her trustees, Christopher Jupp and Iain Paterson, 30 January 1995.

### **Description:**

The collection contains several significant items. Audrey Jupp-Thomas' memoirs [U DJT/5] are particularly important, although not always wholly reliable. Some of her other unpublished works also contain biographical material. The correspondence includes single letters from the cartoonist Vicky, Barbara Castle MEP, and two letters from the writer, historian, and fellow Union of Democratic Control member Basil Davidson. There is important correspondence with David Kitson, both during the later stages of his imprisonment by the South African regime for his anti-apartheid activities, and following his release in 1984 after serving a 20-year sentence [U DJT/29]. The photographs include one of Audrey Jupp-Thomas in the mid-1940s.

### **Arrangement:**

U DJT/1 - 7	Manuscripts, c.1985-c.1991
U DJT/8 - 29	Correspondence, 1936-1993
U DJT/30 - 35	Photographs, undated [1945-1961]
U DJT/36 - 41	Miscellaneous, 1946-1962

**Extent:** 6 boxes

### **Related material:**

Archives of the Union of Democratic Control [U DDC]  
Archives of the Socialist Medical Association [U DSM]  
Papers of Ben Parkin MP [U DBP]

### **Access conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader.

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U DJT/1	Ts. 'Audrey in India, October 1986'. Report on private visit to India by Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 9pp. 1 item	1986
U DJT/2	Ts. 'Another life'. Novel, by Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 325 pp. 1 item	Jul 1989
U DJT/3	Ts. 'The Son, a short story', by Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 6 pp. 1 item	c1985
U DJT/4	Ts. 'George', a novel by Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 125 pp. 1 item	Sep 1990
U DJT/5	Ts. 'Nor lose the common touch- the memoirs' of Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 396 pp. 1 item	25 Nov 1990
U DJT/6	Ts. 'A chip off old Harry'. Earlier draft of memoirs of Audrey Jupp-Thomas. 171 pp. 1 item	c1989
U DJT/7	Ts. 'Return to Edenborough', by Audrey Jupp-Thomas. Novel. 210 pp. 2 items	c1991
U DJT/8	Testimonials on behalf of Audrey Jupp-Thomas By: a) Arthur Doody, editor, 'The Tonbridge Free Press', 12 August 1936 b) Dr Alex Wood, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 20 December 1945 c) Humphrey R Wickham, of Ibbett, Moseley, Card & Co., 18 March 1946 d) Woodrow Wyatt MP, 12 March 1948 e) TS Mangwazu (formerly High Commissioner for Malawi in London), 23 April 1970 5 items	12 Aug 1936- 23 Apr 1970
U DJT/9	Letter. Frank Dilnot, 'Kent County Journal', to Arthur Doody, 'Tonbridge Free Press' Regarding articles by Audrey Jupp-Thomas 1 item	19 Jun 1937
U DJT/10	Photocopy. Letter. Vicky (Victor Weisz) to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Enclosing cartoon on the Health Service (photocopy) 1 item	18 Jan 1956

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U DJT/11	Letter (ALS). N. Jaeger, London to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Regarding her departure from the Union of Democratic Control 1 item	25 Jul 1962
U DJT/12	Letter (TL). Ben Parkin, Hon. Treasurer, Union of Democratic Control, to UDC members Regarding the departure of Audrey Jupp-Thomas from the UDC 1 item	Jul 1962
U DJT/13	Letter (ALS). Basil [Davidson] to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Regarding her departure from the Union of Democratic Control 1 item	[Jul 1962]
U DJT/14	Letter (ALS). H W Swann, London, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Regarding her departure from the Socialist Medical Association 1 item	3 Aug 1962
U DJT/15	Letter (TL). Dr LJ Ison to SMA Council members Regarding the departure of Audrey Jupp-Thomas from the Socialist Medical Association 1 item	7 Aug 1962
U DJT/16	Letter (TLS). May Gilchrist, Wanstead, London, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Regarding the latter's resignation from the Socialist Medical Association 1 item	20 Sep 1962
U DJT/17	Letter (ALS). 'Herbert', Walkhampton, Lymington, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Personal reminiscences 1 item	24 Nov 1962
U DJT/18	Letter (ALS). John Gill, Wimbledon, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Personal reminiscences 1 item	16 May 1968
U DJT/19	Letter (TLS). Joyce Neary, London, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Joyce Neary's resignation from the Socialist Medical Association 1 item	22 Jun 1979

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U DJT/20	Letter (TLS). Barbara Castle MEP to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Death of 'Ted' [Castle] 1 item	20 Feb 1980
U DJT/21	Letter (TLS). Gwyneth Dunwoody MP to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Latter's 70th birthday and Socialist Health Association meetings 1 item	19 Mar 1984
U DJT/22	Letter (TLS). Laurie Pavitt MP to Anne Weyman (Socialist Health Association) The SHA and Audrey Jupp-Thomas 1 item	11 Apr 1984
U DJT/23	Letter (TLS). Dr Andrew Short, London, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas The Lambeth Community Care Centre and the Socialist Health Association 1 item	15 Jun 1990
U DJT/24	Letter (TLS). Terry Davis MP to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Pamphlet by Denys Holland 1 item	10 Jul 1990
U DJT/25	Letter (ALS). Basil [Davidson], North Wootton, Somerset, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Latter's memoirs 1 item	28 Feb 1991
U DJT/26	Letter (TLS). Alan Bennett to Audrey Jupp-Thomas Dramatisation of the latter's memoirs 1 item	29 Dec 1992
U DJT/27	Copy letter (TL). Audrey Jupp-Thomas to Alan Bennett Her memoirs 1 item	31 Dec 1992
U DJT/28	File labelled 'Lawrence Housman' Containing: a) Biographical note on Housman by Audrey Jupp-Thomas b) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 7 May 1943 c) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 6 December 1943 d) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 23 October 1948	1943 – 1957

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U DJT/28 cont..	<p>e) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 8 June 1949</p> <p>f) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 1 July 1957</p> <p>g) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 10 September 1957</p> <p>h) Letter (ALS). Housman to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 13 September 1957</p> <p>i) Photograph. Lawrence Housman (?) 1 file</p>	1943 - 1957
U DJT/29	<p>File labelled 'David Kitson' Containing the following items:</p> <p>a) A biographical note on David Kitson by Audrey Jupp-Thomas</p> <p>b) Letter (TLS). David Kitson, Pretoria, South Africa, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 26 November 1975</p> <p>c) Letter (ALS). David Kitson, Pretoria, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 30 December 1975</p> <p>d) Copy letter (TL). Audrey Jupp-Thomas to David Kitson, 6 January 1976</p> <p>e) Photocopy. Article from The Observer on David Kitson, c.1985</p> <p>f) Copy letter (TL). Audrey Jupp-Thomas to Bishop Trevor Huddleston, 18 April 1990</p> <p>g) Letter (TLS). David Kitson, Harare, Zimbabwe, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 1 May 1990</p> <p>h) Copy letter (TL). Audrey Jupp-Thomas to David Kitson, 30 May 1990</p> <p>j) Letter (ALS). David Kitson, Harare, Zimbabwe, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 19 June 1990</p> <p>k) Letter (ALS). David Kitson, Harare, Zimbabwe, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 6 July 1990. Enclosing copy letter (TLS) from Max Mlonyeni (Chief Representative of the African National Congress in Harare) to David and Norma Kitson reinstating them as members of the ANC, 21 June 1990</p> <p>l) Letter (TLS). David Kitson, Harare, Zimbabwe, to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 11 May 1992</p> <p>m) Copy letter (TL). Audrey Jupp-Thomas to David Kitson, 15 June 1992</p> <p>n) Letter (TLS). David Kitson, Harare, Zimbabwe to Audrey Jupp-Thomas, 16 August 1993</p> <p>o) Christmas card. David Kitson to Audrey and Clem Thomas, December 1976</p> <p>p) Photograph. Lawrence Katilungu, Evelyn Jacobs, David Kitson and Audrey Jupp-Thomas at Dungeness, April 1952 1 file</p>	1952 - 1993

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U DJT/30	Photograph. Audrey Jupp-Thomas. Hand coloured 1 Photograph	[1945]
U DJT/31	Photograph. Audrey Jupp-Thomas 1 Photograph	[1955]
U DJT/32	Photograph. Delegation of the Socialist Medical Association to the Medical Workers' Union of the Soviet Union watching the May Day procession Group includes: Dr David Kerr (Hon. Sec.), T. Clem Thomas (later husband of Audrey Jupp-Thomas), and David Stark Murray 1 photograph	1 May 1958
U DJT/33	Photograph. MW Kanyama Chiume, author of 'Nyasaland Speaks' (published by the Union of Democratic Control) 1 Photograph	[Mar 1959]
U DJT/34	Photograph. London office of the Union of Democratic Control at the time of the publication of 'Nyasaland Speaks' Group includes: MW Kanyama Chiume and Audrey Jupp-Thomas 1 Photograph	[Mar 1959]
U DJT/35	Photograph. Dr David Stark Murray outside the London offices of the Socialist Medical Association and the Union of Democratic Control 1 Photograph	[1961]
U DJT/36	Press cutting from the 'Sevenoaks News' Includes report of speech by Audrey Jupp-Thomas (when standing as a local council candidate for the Labour Party) 1 item	14 Mar 1946
U DJT/37	Menu card, Socialist Medical Association annual dinner, held in the House of Commons Card signed by various guests, including Vicky (Victor Weisz) and David Stark Murray 1 item	12 May 1956
U DJT/38	Zulu wooden carving given to Audrey Jupp-Thomas by George Norton on his return to South Africa, Easter 1953 1 item	1948
U DJT/39	Wooden carving (from Northern Rhodesia) of antelope given to Audrey Jupp-Thomas by Lawrence Katilungu 1 item	c1952

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| U DJT/40 | Embroidered cloth skull cap<br>Presented to Audrey Jupp-Thomas at the Annual General Meeting of the Socialist Medical Association in 1958 by members of the delegation which had visited the Medical Workers' Union of the USSR in Moscow in May 1958<br>1 item                                  | 1958     |
| U DJT/41 | Presentation tray. Given to Audrey Jupp-Thomas on her departure from the Union of Democratic Control<br>The surface of the tray includes attached cuttings from letters which accompanied members' and organisations' contributions towards the honorarium given to Audrey Jupp-Thomas<br>1 item | Oct 1962 |