

U DX381

**Papers of Dr C J Bearman
relating to his research on the
Suffragette movement**

2002-2007

Biographical Background:

Christopher Bearman (published under the style C.J. Bearman) was born in Chelmsford, Essex in 1948. He boarded at Brentwood School, but left at 16 after a serious illness. However, he remained interested in studying and gaining knowledge for the rest of his life, particularly relating to English literature and Shakespeare, the ancient classics and the Bible. His main interest, though, was folk music, becoming a member of the Chelmsford Folk Club and several Morris dancing groups in Essex. In later life, he studied for his A Levels at night classes before reading English and History at Hull University. He graduated in 1994 with first-class honours. He completed his PhD entitled 'The English Folk Music Movement, 1898-1914' at Hull in 2002.

Despite his academic success, he never achieved permanent academic employment, instead undertaking several short-term research contracts. He also compiled entries for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and at the time of his death in 2013 he was working on a new biography of Cecil Sharp, the folk-song collector, in whom Bearman had long been interested and defended against the criticisms of other academics in the field, although Bearman himself was not entirely uncritical of Sharp.

Another area of interest for Bearman, was the Suffragette movement, inspired by his initial interest in the folk dance promoter Mary Neal. Bearman's focus was on the militant aspects of the movement and he argued, although heavily criticised by his academic contemporaries, that the violence used by the suffragettes was planned, not spontaneous and that other historians had relied too heavily on the propaganda and mythology created by the Women's Social and Political Union's leadership in their accounts. In his view, these apparently uncritical works had become the accepted account of the Suffragette movement and this had to be questioned.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Lewis W. Jones, Oct 2014

Description:

Research papers relating to the Suffragettes and the Suffragette movement. Includes mainly handwritten notes relating to newspaper articles, published articles and archival items. There are also index cards relating to specific newspaper articles and copies of three published articles by Dr Bearman entitled 'An Army Without Discipline? Suffragette Militancy and The Budget Crisis of 1909', 'An Examination of Suffragette Violence' and 'Confronting the Suffragette Mythology'.

Arrangement:

U DX381/1 Research notes

U DX381/2 Published material and related correspondence

Extent: 2 bundles, 4 files & 8 items

Related material:

Papers of Julia Varley [U DJV]

Note from Jessie Kenney Suffragette Movement [U DDSY2/1/33/68]

Newscuttings - 'Winifred Holtby Review of The Suffragette Movement' by Sylvia Pankhurst [L WH/1/1.13/06b]

Records of the Hull Folk Union [C DSHF – uncatalogued]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX381/1	Research notes Includes mainly handwritten notes relating to newspaper articles, published articles and archival items relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. 2 bundles, 3 files & 4 items	2002-2007
U DX381/1/1	Large notebook. Research notes Includes handwritten notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. There is also a copy of a review, before publication, of an article by [C.J. Bearman] entitled 'The Legend of Black Friday'. 1 item	n.d.
U DX381/1/2	Large notebook. Research notes Includes handwritten notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. There are also some notes relating to English folk music during the [19th century]. 1 item	n.d.
U DX381/1/3	Large notebook. Research notes Includes handwritten notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. 1 item	n.d.

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U DX381/1/4	Large notebook. Research notes Includes handwritten notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. 1 item	n.d.
U DX381/1/5	File. Research notes Includes handwritten and printed notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. There is also some material relating to a paper entitled 'The Violent Suffragettes' by C.J. Bearman presented to the Research Seminar, Department of History, University of Hull (Sep 2004) and copies of newspaper articles referring to Bearman's work on suffragette militancy. 1 file	2002-2007
U DX381/1/6	File. Research notes Includes handwritten notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. The file is divided by the headings PRO (Public Record Office), Press and Misc. 1 file	n.d.
U DX381/1/7	File. Research notes Includes handwritten and printed notes referring to specific newspaper articles, published articles and archival items, with references, relating to the suffragette movement and, in particular, to suffragette militancy. There are also copies of email correspondence between C.J. Bearman and Professor Leventhal about Henry Noel Brailsford and his role in the Conciliation Committee (1911). 1 file	c. 2007
U DX381/1/8	Index cards. Research notes Indexed by subject and date, includes a brief description of the event and references to related newspaper reports. The main subject headings are: arson, bomb and public reaction. 2 bundles	n.d.

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U DX381/2	Published material and related correspondence Includes copies of three of C.J. Bearman's published articles as well as correspondence and other material relating to his article 'An Examination of Suffragette Violence' and an unpublished article entitled 'The Pankhursts and Votes for Women: Confronting the Myths'. 1 file & 4 items	2004-2007
U DX381/2/1	Review of An Examination of Suffragette Violence by C.J. Bearman Review received before publication, includes specific criticisms of source material and points for development. 1 item	Mar 2004
U DX381/2/2	An Examination of Suffragette Violence by C.J. Bearman Printed copy of article published in the English Historical Review, Vol. 120 No. 486 1 item	2005
U DX381/2/3	File relating to an article by C.J. Bearman and D.A. Reid Includes a printed copy of the article entitled 'The Pankhursts and Votes for Women: Confronting the Myths' with correspondence relating to Bearman's attempts to have it published in the Historical Review. 1 file	Jan 2006
U DX381/2/4	An Army without Discipline? Suffragette Militancy and the Budget Crisis of 1909 by C.J. Bearman Printed copy of article published in The Historical Journal, Vol. 50 No. 4 1 item	2007
U DX381/2/5	BBC History Magazine, Vol. 8 No. 2 Includes an article by C.J. Bearman entitled 'Confronting the Suffragette Mythology' 1 item	Feb 2007