

**U DX84**

**Items donated by Dr Joyce Bellamy**

**1781-1972**

**Historical Background:**

The **Hull Dock Company** was created in 1773 through the joint efforts of the Hull Corporation, Hull Trinity House and Hull merchants. It was the first statutory dock company in Britain. The company was granted land containing Hull's city walls by the Crown and in 1774 construction began on Hull's first dock (the Old Dock later Queen's Dock). Between 1809 and 1829 two further docks were constructed Humber Dock and Junction Dock (later Prince's Dock). These three docks became known as the Town Docks. The Railway Dock was built in 1846 as an extension of the Town Docks and Victoria Dock, the first dock to be built east of the River Hull, was constructed between 1845 and 1850.

With rivalry from the new West Dock Company, established in 1860, the Dock Company proposed a larger dock at the same position suggested by the West Dock Company and ultimately won the right to build the new dock on the Humber foreshore to the west of the River Hull. This dock was initially known as Western Dock, but when it was opened in 1869 was named Albert Dock. An extension to Albert Dock, William Wright Dock, was opened in 1880. Another dock, St Andrew's Dock, was built in the same area in 1883.

Alexandra Dock was opened in 1885 and operated by the Hull Barnsley and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Company. Consequently, the Hull Dock Company no longer had a monopoly on the docks in Hull and a price war between the two companies broke out. Eventually the Hull Dock Company was operating at a loss and in 1886 sought to merge into the North Eastern Railway, which it did in 1891. King George Dock was completed in 1914 as a joint enterprise between the North Eastern Railway and Hull and Barnsley Railway.

**Edward Reynolds Pease**, born on 23 December 1857, was an English writer and a founding member of the Fabian Society. He was a successful stock-broker in London and in the 1880s became friends with Frank Podmore, Edith Nesbit and Hubert Bland with whom he founded the Fabian Society in 1884.

After receiving a sizeable inheritance in 1886, Pease gave up work at the London Stock Exchange and devoted his time to his socialist interests. In 1890 Pease was appointed secretary of the Fabian Society and also edited the Fabian News. With Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Pease was a trustee of the fund used to found the London School of Economics (LSE) in 1895.

Pease was also a member of the Independent Labour Party and in February 1900 was present at the meeting when the Labour Representation Committee (the forerunner to the Labour Party) was established and to which Pease was elected. Pease created the East Surrey Labour Party with his wife and they both served on the local council. Their home at Limpsfield became known as 'Dostoevsky Corner', because of the many Russian refugees they housed who had been forced to leave their country due to their socialist beliefs. He died on 5 January 1955.

**Fred Messer** was born on 12 May 1886 in London, the son of a Poor Law officer and workhouse master. Messer suffered from a spinal disability which worsened in later years but did not prevent him from leading an active life. His mother died when he was only young and soon after he started working in a factory, training to be a French polisher. Messer became

interested in trade union affairs and went on to join the French Polishers' Union. He led several strikes during the First World War and was on the union's executive for six years.

After the war, Messer became vice-chairman of the Industrial Orthopaedic Society, and this association heralded the beginning of a lifelong interest in hospitals. In 1925 he became southern area organiser for the Manor House Hospital, a position he held until his election to Parliament in 1929. Actively interested in Labour politics since 1906, Messer became chairman of the South Tottenham Labour Party in 1920 and became involved in several different areas of local government. Messer was also a very active Christian, attending Etherley Road Mission in Tottenham where he regularly preached. He was a staunch pacifist and did not register for, and managed to avoid, war service in the First World War. He later became a committed supporter of the No More War Movement.

Messer won the South Tottenham seat in the general election of 1929 but lost it in 1931. He was re-elected Labour MP in 1935. During the interim he had acted as Labour Party propagandist. In 1950 he became the MP for Tottenham and held the seat until he retired in 1959.

During the Second World War Messer's son, Eric, became a member of the Committee against Race Hatred and later, the Victory for Socialism Group (VSG). Fred Messer supported both groups. The VSG organised several national conferences but were treated with suspicion by the Labour Party which condemned the VSG on the basis that it constituted an unofficial group within the Party and that the authority of the Party executive was being usurped. In the mid-1950s Fred Messer was elected president of the VSG.

Messer was influential in obtaining concessions for conscientious objectors in the Military Training Bill of 1939 and between 1944 and 1945 he acted as parliamentary private secretary to the Minister of Labour, Ernest Bevin. He took a key part in the debates on the National Health Service Bill (1946) and in 1948 was appointed chairman of the Central Health Services Council which was created by the Labour Government to advise on health issues. Messer also held various positions on committees and boards for hospitals and other health associations.

He received a CBE in 1949 and was knighted in 1953. In 1955 he also received the Freedom of the Borough of Tottenham. Fred Messer died on 8 May 1971.

**George Henry Hall** was born on 31 December 1881 in Penrhiwceiber, Glamorgan. At age twelve, he began working at the local colliery. When he was twenty-one he was involved in a serious accident at the colliery and was confined to bed for the next thirteen months. During this time he considered entering the Church, influenced by the regular visits of the local vicar, but later chose politics.

Hall became the first Labour member for the Penrhiwceiber ward of the Mountain Ash District Council and in 1911 he was elected as checkweighman at Penrikyber Colliery. He became chairman of the Merthyr Tydfil Labour Party and won the seat for Merthyr Tydfil in the general election of 1922. Hall represented the constituency for the next twenty-four years.

In 1929 he was appointed Civil Lord of the Admiralty. After the resignation of the Labour Government in August 1931 and the following general election, Hall became a member of the greatly reduced Parliamentary Labour Party. He was appointed Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Churchill Government of Spring 1940 and in 1942 was given the office of financial secretary to the Admiralty. Later in 1942, Hall was made a Privy Councillor.

In 1943, Hall was made Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and developed a close friendship with Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary. After the return of a Labour Government in 1945, Hall became a member of the Cabinet as Secretary of State for the Colonies. He produced proposals for reforms but was prevented from seeing his plans implemented as he was persuaded by Prime Minister Attlee to accept a peerage. The Lords were in need of experienced Labour spokesmen and Hall became Viscount Hall of Cynon Valley. In October 1946 he was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty and became deputy-leader of the House of Lords in 1947. He held both these positions until he retired in 1951. After his retirement from Parliament he became involved in several businesses in Wales, including becoming a director of Aberdare Cables Ltd. George Hall died in Leicester on 9 November 1965.

**Custodial history:**

Donated by Dr Joyce Bellamy, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Hull, 1973 [U DX84/1-13], Jan 1976 [U DX84/14-17], Feb 1980 [U DX84/18-19], Oct 1989 [U DX84/20-25] and Feb 1990 [U DX84/26-31]

**Description:**

This collection contains records relating to various people, companies and interests, including George Henry Hall MP; Edward R. Pease, one of the founding members of the Fabian Society; the Hull Dock Company, the first statutory dock company in Britain; Frederick Messer MP and the Victory for Socialism Group. There are also files relating to economic surveys and schemes in Hull and a handwritten transcript of the stock accounts of Thomas Reckitt (including some wage accounts) between 1781 and 1810. There are also a few miscellaneous records including two copies of the Rockingham and Hull Weekly Advertiser; a list of British firms in the Middle East between 1800 and 1950; newspaper cuttings about the Hull Sunday Association; a drawing of ship owner Thomas Wilson and a letter, dated 1923, about the teaching at LSE which mentions Harold Laski.

**Arrangement:**

U DX84/1-12	Papers relating to George Henry Hall
U DX84/13	Transcript of recollections by Edward R. Pease
U DX84/14-17, 26. 29	Papers relating to the Hull Dock Company
U DX84/18-19	Papers relating to Frederick Messer
U DX84/20-25	Papers relating to economic surveys and schemes in Hull
U DX84/33	Papers relating to Thomas Reckitt

**Extent:** 165 items, 2 bundles, 1 volume & 1 file

**Related material:**

Papers of Benjamin Theaker Parkin MP [U DMP]  
Papers of Bernard Floud MP [U DFL]  
Papers of Somerville Hastings MP [U DSH]  
Papers relating to Hull Dock Company [C DMM/63]  
A Defence of the Rights of the Dock Company at Kingston upon Hull [C DMX/101/15]  
Case of the Hull Dock Company, 'with a Short Account of the Origin of the Undertaking for making a Dock and Legal Quay at Hull' [U DDSY/32/4]  
Records of Hull Fabian Society [U DX217]  
Archives of the Socialist Health Association [U DSM]  
Material relating to the Public Health Advisory Committee of the Labour Party [U DX142]  
Papers of Basil Norman Reckitt and family [U DX328]

Records of the Humber Ports of the British Transport Docks Board [C DPD]

Other repositories:

Main archive of the Fabian Society, London School of Economics Library: Archives Division

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX84/1	Printed list of papers of G.H. Hall, 1st Viscount Hall compiled at Nuffield College Includes an introduction from A Guide to the Papers of British Cabinet Ministers 1900-1951 about the compilation of a guide to the archives of politicians and political papers. 1 item	c.1970
U DX84/2	Photocopies of press cuttings relating to G.H. Hall Articles cover parliamentary elections for Aberdare, Hall's work in parliamentary office including as Colonial Secretary, events to mark his 22 years in parliament and his obituary and funeral. 1 bundle	29 Apr 1916- 20 Nov 1965
U DX84/3	Letters to G.H. Hall from: 1) Frank Hardy, 16 May 1924 2) Thomas Richards, Cardiff, 30 May 1924 3) Ramsay MacDonald, 24 Aug 1931 - about the resignation of the government 4) Marion Hyde (on behalf of the Queen), 26 Jul 1941 - passing on the Queen's sympathy [for the loss of his son] 5) J.S. Middleton, Transport House, 5 Jan 1942 - about the potential for reforms in the Colonies 6) A.C.C. Parkinson, Colonial Office, 4 Feb 1942 - about his leaving the Colonial Office and going to the Admiralty 7) A. Creech Jones, 8 Feb 1942 - about leaving the Colonial Office 8) Lord Moyne, 10 Feb 1942 - about leaving the Colonial Office 9) Winston Churchill (with copy reply from G.H. Hall), 21 May 1942 - about putting his name forward to be a member of the Privy Council 10) Sol Bloom, United Nations, 10 May 1945 11) Clement Attlee, 26 May 1945 12) Anthony Eden, 8 Jun 1945 13) Winston Churchill, 18 Jun 1945 - about a proposed knighthood 14) D.R. Prosser, Western Mail & Echo, 4 Oct 1946 - congratulations on his elevation to the peerage 15) Lord Mountbatten, 22 Nov 1946 16) 'Christopher', 26 Nov 1947 - about the National	16 May 1924- 15 Dec 1965

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U DX84/3 Cont.	Service and Statistics of Trade Bills 17) Lord Citrine, 10 Jul 1947 18) J. Chuter Ede, 30 Mar 1947 19) Clement Attlee (2), 22 May 1951 - about his retirement from ministerial office 20) Andrew (Lord) Cunningham, 22 May 1951 - about his retirement 21) Claud B. Barry, Director of Dockyards, 26 May 1951 - about his retirement 22) Emmanuel Shinwell, 28 May 1951 - about his retirement 23) Winston Churchill (with copy reply from G.H. Hall), 29 May 1951 - about his retirement 24) David Lloyd, 30 May 1951 - about his retirement 25) (Admiral Sir) Guy Russell, 31 May 1951 - about his retirement 26) (Sir) Alan Lascelles (on behalf of the King), 8 Nov 1951 - about his retirement 27) Vernon Young, 16 Jun 1955 - about the possibility of building nuclear power plants 28) Malcolm MacDonald, 29 Oct 1955 29) Anthony Eden, 28 Mar 1960 - mentions troubles in Africa 30) David Maxwell - Fyfe, 22 Nov 1961 - congratulations on his 80th birthday 31) Dr. W.J. Roche, Cork (3), 13 Mar 1961-17 Jun 1961; enclosing copies of letters relating to his research work on Miners' Nystagmus (6), 1932-1933 32) Lord Attlee, 2 Sep 1965 33) Lord Avon (Anthony Eden) to 2nd Lord Hall, 15 Dec 1965 - about his father's death 41 items	16 May 1924- 15 Dec 1965
U DX84/4	Photocopies of letters from G.H. Hall to: 1) His son Leonard, 10 Jun 1929 2) His son Leonard, 24 Aug 1931 - mentions the resignation of the government 3) Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, 09 Mar 1954 - about his visits to mines in Rhodesia 4) H.C. Short, 07 Jun 1956 - about his consultancy for International Combustion Ltd. 4 items	10 Jun 1929- 7 Jun 1956
U DX84/5	Election results for Aberdare Photocopy of the results of the Second Ballot for a Miners' Candidate for the Aberdare Division in 1920 in which G.H. Hall received a clear majority. Also includes the results of the elections between 1922 and 1924 and the results of elections at Aberdare in 1900 and for Merthyr Tydfil in 1924. 3 items	1900-1924

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U DX84/6	Election address of G.H. Hall In both English and Welsh. The election material incorporates a drawing and a photograph of Hall. 1 item	1929
U DX84/7	Photocopy of an essay entitled 'The Co-ordination and Extension of the Social Insurance Services', by G.H. Hall 1 item	[1939]
U DX84/8	Speech by Public Orator on presentation of honorary degree of LLD to G.H. Hall by University of Birmingham 1 item	16 Nov 1945
U DX84/9	Printed brief biography of G.H. Hall focusing on his parliamentary achievements 1 item	c.1953
U DX84/10	Typed speech by G.H. Hall at Church of England Men's Society Conference in Cardiff About what religion means to him. Includes handwritten annotations. 1 item	post 1954
U DX84/11	Typed transcript of the funeral oration for G.H. Hall 1 item	20 Nov 1965
U DX84/12	Black and white portrait photographs Including: a) G.H. Hall (6) – includes one of him making a speech b) Clement Attlee c) Ernest Bevin d) Labour Cabinet (2) 10 items	mid-20th cent.
U DX84/13	Typed transcript entitled 'Recollections for my Sons', by Edward R Pease With tables showing relationships between the people mentioned and 'Some Reminiscences of Edward R Pease', by his sister Marian F Pease 1 bundle	Mar 1930- Oct 1953
U DX84/14	Hull Dock Company. Receipts and disbursements of the money arising to the Dock Company at Hull, by the wharfage rates on goods and duties on shipping at Hull Includes a list of shareholders and the number of shares they own. 22 items	1789-1828

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U DX84/15	<p>Propositions for the extension of the dock (i.e. for Humber Dock)</p> <p>Agreed to by the delegates of the respective corporations of the Mayor and burgesses of Hull, Trinity House and the Dock Company. It was proposed to make a dock from Myton Gates to Hessle Gates to harbour seventy ships and to have an entrance onto the Humber large enough to admit a fifty gun ship.</p> <p>1 item</p>	10 Dec 1800
U DX84/16	<p>Report of the committee appointed to obtain additional dock room at Hull</p> <p>Includes proceedings at a public meeting held to consider the same. Relating to the building of a Junction Dock.</p> <p>1 item</p>	22 Feb 1819
U DX84/17	<p>Second Report of the committee appointed to obtain additional dock room at Hull</p> <p>1 item</p>	24 Feb 1820
U DX84/18	<p>Photocopies of press cuttings relating to the 'Victory for Socialism' group (chaired by Stephen Swingler)</p> <p>Includes an article designed to recruit new members as well as several articles about factional struggles within the Labour Party involving the Victory for Socialism group.</p> <p>21 items</p>	Feb 1958 – Jun 1961
U DX84/19	<p>Photocopies of correspondence, press cuttings and other material relating to Sir Frederick Messer</p> <p>Includes some details on Victory for Socialism; Frederick Messer's election addresses of 1929, 1945 and election material of 1950 as well as items relating to Messer's receiving of the honorary freedom of the borough of Tottenham, his work with the National Health Service and his death.</p> <p>21 items</p>	1929-1972
U DX84/20	<p>Miscellaneous papers and files relating to the Consumer Research Survey undertaken by staff of the Department of Economics and Commerce, University College, Hull</p> <p>This item is missing.</p> <p>18 items</p>	1947-1952
U DX84/21	<p>Economics Department File. Milk bar survey (Northern Dairies)</p> <p>Includes correspondence, notes and other documents relating to the survey.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1948

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U DX84/22	Economics Department File. Southwicks Dairies Grant Includes correspondence, notes and other documents relating to the Northern Dairies Fund and the Southwicks Dairies Grant. 1 file	1948-1951
U DX84/23	Economics Department File. Trade unionist survey (Hull & District Trades Council) Correspondence relating to a survey of trade union membership in Hull. 1 file	1949
U DX84/24	Economics Department File. BBC Third Programme and its impact on Hull University College Includes a booklet entitled 'A Review of Listener Research Methods' by the BBC, a report entitled 'An Enquiry into the Listening of a University Faculty', a report entitled 'An Enquiry into Undergraduate Listening', a copy of the questionnaire and related correspondence. 1 file	1949-1950
U DX84/25	Files relating to the Conditional Aid Scheme Including: a) Economics Research Projects. File 1 entitled 'Research (Conditional Aid Scheme)'. The research papers included in the file were submitted but not approved. Includes correspondence relating to the research and the research papers themselves, 1953, 1958 b) Economics Research Projects. Conditional Aid File 2 entitled 'Import and marketing of bulk foodstuffs, with specific reference to imports entered through Hull'. Includes correspondence from Professor Bowen, of the University of Hull, with the Board of Trade and some research related documents, 1953-1957 c) Contacts for dairy produce, 1953-1954. Includes lists of contacts and a summary of conclusions on preliminary study of imports of butter and cheese. There are also papers entitled 'the present position relating to government bulk purchase agreements for dairy produce, bacon and meat' and 'Proposed plans for future research into import and marketing of dairy produce (Butter, cheese, eggs) and meat (beef, lamb pork) and including bacon and ham'. d) Dairy produce and meat statistics, [1938]-1954. Includes statistical charts and tables organised by product or type of product. 4 files	1938-1958
U DX84/26	Photocopy. Hull Dock Company receipts and disbursements, with list of shareholders 1 item	1808-1809



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U DX84/27	Photocopy of 'The Rockingham and Hull Weekly Advertiser' 1 item	27 Oct 1810
U DX84/28	Photocopy of 'The Rockingham and Hull Weekly Advertiser' 1 item	17 Nov 1810
U DX84/29	Photocopy of 'The financial system of the Hull Dock Company, and suggestions for its alteration and improvement considered in two letters; one addressed to the directors, and the other to the members of the company', by Samuel Lightfoot, a proprietor 1 item	1846
U DX84/30	Photocopy of a transcript entitled 'A list of the location of records belonging to British firms and to British businessmen active in the Middle East 1800-1950', by ERJ Owen and Frank Dux Includes an introduction to the records and a contents table. The business records are arranged alphabetically by the town or city in which they are held. 1 item	c.1968
U DX84/31	Photocopy of a letter from M.A. Clay, London, to William Beveridge, London School of Economics Has concerns about the LSE producing students with socialist revolutionary ideas as well as 'foreigners', such as Harold Laski, teaching at the LSE. 1 item	7 Apr 1923
U DX84/32	Small notebook entitled 'Hull Sunday Association. Minute book no.2' Contains chiefly press cuttings (mainly from the 'Hull Critic') of reports of Sunday Association meetings. Includes some brief handwritten notes, between the cuttings, relating to the Sunday Association. 1 volume	1891-1892
U DX84/33	File entitled 'Thomas Reckitt: stock accounts 1781-1810; wages accounts 1787-1791' Includes handwritten transcripts of stock bought and sold for each year, giving the date, details of the stock and the price. The wage accounts provide the year, the name of the employee and their wages. 1 file	mid-20th cent.
U DX84/34	Photograph of a black and white [pencil] drawing of Thomas Wilson, ship owner 1 item	mid-19th cent.