

**U DJV**

**Papers of Julia Varley**

**1886-1977**

**Biographical background:**

Born in 1871, Varley began work at the age of thirteen as a sweeper in a Bradford woollen mill. A trade union organiser, her first experience of industrial conflict came during the Manningham Mills strike in 1890/91.

In 1909 she became secretary to the Birmingham Women Workers' Organisation Committee and four years later joined the Workers' Union as women's organiser for the Midlands. She served on several Government-sponsored labour and trade union organisations during the First World War, and on the General Council of the Trades Union Congress from 1921 to 1951.

In November 1936 she retired from her position as National Women's Officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union. She died in 1952.

**Custodial History:**

Deposited by Mrs MD Horwill, 3 Sep 1976

**Description:**

This is the only extant collection of Varley's papers and comprises letters from friends (including the Duke of York, Ernest Bevin and Ramsay Macdonald), manuscripts of poems, copies of articles by and about her, and many photographs (including of strikes, trade union delegations and conferences).

**Arrangement:**

U DJV/1 - 3	Correspondence, 1914 - 1953
U DJV/4	Invitations, 1921 - 1938
U DJV/5 - 15	Press cuttings and printed material, 1886 - 1974
U DJV/16	Articles, circa 1907 - 1930
U DJV/17 - 19	Poems, 1888 - 1912
U DJV/20 - 22	Photographs, 1907 - 1930s
U DJV/23 - 36	Miscellaneous, 1907 - 1977

**Extent:** 6 boxes (1 linear metre)

**Access Conditions:**

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

- U DJV/1      Various letters to Julia Varley      1914-1953
- (a) Letter. I.A. Vince, Birmingham Parliamentary Recruiting Committee: meeting to be attended by Mrs. Winston Churchill: 16 December 1914
  - (b) Letter. Louisa Garrett Anderson: dinner for Dame Adelaide Anderson: (2), 12, 19 October 1921 (see DJV/31)
  - (c) Letter. Albert, Duke of York: thanks for good wishes for Empire tour; good wishes to her on an operation; thanks for sympathy on death of George V: (3, one being a copy), 5 January 1927; 8 March 1928; 16 February 1936. With Christmas card, 1934
  - (d) Letter. P.K. Hodgson, Private Secretary to Duke of York: unemployment; an appointment; thanks for sympathy: (3), 5 December 1928; 1, 12 February 1929
  - (e) Letter. Lady Cynthia Coleville: thanks from Queen Mary for sympathetic letters: (3), 4 February 1929; 27 January 1936; 27 May 1937
  - (f) Letter. Sir Louis Greig: affectionate letters; Duke of York has signed her menu card, and enjoyed the dinner and her speech; Clarence Hatry 'a keen enemy ... we never had ... any part in his deals'; encouragement before her operation: (4), (1929 - 1948)
  - (g) Postcard. Mr. & Mrs. Nayler: thanks for talk on radio (a report on which, from 'The Record' of March 1931 is among the press cuttings at DJV/5a below): 16 January 1931
  - (h) Letter. C.P. Duff (secretary to Prime Minister?): offering Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.): 18 May 1931
  - (i) Letter. J.G. Paterson, Duke of York's Camp: congratulations on award of Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.), 3 June 1931
  - (j) Letter. Robert Hyde, Industrial Welfare Society: regrets illness prevents her attending a dinner: 2 December 1932
  - (k) Letter. Ernest Bevin, General Secretary, Trade & General Workers Union (T. & G.W.U.): appreciation of her work for the Union and Labour movement: (2), 24 September 1934; 31 January 1936
  - (l) Letter. J. Ramsey MacDonald: greetings: (2), 12 October 1934; 20 March 1935. With Christmas cards, (5), 1929 - 1933
  - (m) Letter. J. Crump, Area Secretary, Trade & General Workers Union (T. & G.W.U.), Birmingham: on her retirement: 5 May 1936
  - (n) Letter. Victoria Forester: thanks from Queen Mary for birthday wishes: 27 May 1936

Hull History Centre: Papers of Julia Varley

U DJV/1 cont..	<p>(o) Letter. E.C. (Mieville?): thanks from the King for Christmas card: 24 December 1937</p> <p>(p) Letter. Lady Margot Dawson: on Julia Varley's resignation from Council of Society for Overseas Settlement of British Women: 5 October 1945</p> <p>(q) Letter. Sir Alan Lascelles, Private Secretary to the King and Queen: transmitting thanks for Christmas and other greetings; enquiries about J. Varley's health; death of King: (7), 18 October 1944 - 11 February 1952</p> <p>(r) Letter. Gerald L. Parry, Industrial Welfare Society: news of the Society: 3 July 1947</p> <p>(s) Letter. H. Vincent Tewson, Trades Union Congress: greetings; news of old colleagues: 13 September 1949</p> <p>(t) Letter. Gladys Pott: greetings: 23 December (1949)</p> <p>(u) Letter. Robert R. Hyde, Industrial Welfare Society: greetings: 3 January 1950</p> <p>(v) Telegrams. Greetings telegrams on Julia Varley's 80th birthday (including Ernest Bevin, Vincent Tewson, [Arthur?] Deakin), 16 March 1951</p> <p>(w) Letter. Miss P. Bellars, Transport &amp; General Workers Union: asking for reminiscences of Black Country strike of 1913: 26 April 1952</p> <p>(x) Letter. Rev. J. F. Wedmore: sending a photograph: 15 September 1952 1 bundle</p>	1914-1953
U DJV/2	<p>Letter. Copy: Ernest Bevin to Walter Citrine General strike in case of war 1 item</p>	19 Dec 1933
U DJV/3	<p>Letter. W.E. Cossons to Mrs. M.D. Horwill Articles on Julia Varley in 'Bournville Works Magazine' 1 item</p>	6 Jan 1953
U DJV/4	<p>Invitations to Julia Varley</p> <p>(a) Invitation. General Meeting of the Domestic Service Branch of the National Alliance of Employers and Employed, 8 June 1921</p> <p>(b) Invitation. Marriage of Princess Royal and Viscount Lascelles with order of service, 28 February 1922</p> <p>(c) Invitation. Dinner at Russian Embassy, 15 September 1925</p> <p>(d) Invitation. Garden parties at Buckingham Palace, (5), 1928 - 1934</p> <p>(e) Invitation. Reception for Imperial Conference, 30 September 1930</p>	1921-1938

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U DJV/4 cont ..	(f) Invitation. Investiture at Buckingham Palace, 26 June 1931. With it the summons for Julia Varley to appear at Westminster Police Court, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting police, 21 March 1907 (g) Invitation. Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. With form of prayer, 6 May 1935 (h) Invitation. Reception for 85th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, 27 October 1938 1 bundle	1921-1938
U DJV/5	Press cuttings including: a) Press cuttings (c.70). Julia Varley, 1907-1952 b) Press cuttings. Burial of Joseph B. Alderson (reprint), 25 Mar 1886 c) Press cuttings. Appearance in court of suffragettes after demonstration at House of Commons, 14 Feb 1907 d) Press cuttings (7). Strike of Cornish clay - workers, Sep 1913 e) Press cuttings (c.50). Mary R. Macarthur, 1880-1921 f) Press cutting. Emmeline Pankhurst, 7 Jul 1958 g) Press cutting. Margaret Horwill, 7 Aug 1974 1 bundle	1886-1974
U DJV/6	Newspaper article 'Life in the Casual Ward', by 'Maggie Ann Thompson' [i.e. Julia Varley] 1 item	c. 1907
U DJV/7	'Bournville Works Magazine' (a) Vol.VIII, No. 13. ('Cradley and its chainmakers', by Julia Varley), November 1910 (b) Vol. IX, No. 5 ('Sweated needlework', by Julia Varley), May 1911 (c) Vol. XLIX, No. 6 (Reminiscences of the late Edward Cadbury, by Julia Varley), (3), Jun 1951 (d) Vol. XLIX, No. 9 (Further reminiscences of Julia Varley), (3), Sep 1951 (e) Vol. L, No. 12. (Obituary of Julia Varley), Dec 1952 7 items	Nov 1910- Dec 1952
U DJV/8	Handbook. Workers' Union Triennial Conference at Birmingham Includes portraits of officers and officials; copy of First Annual Report, 1898-1899; and articles on Birmingham and the Women's Movement there by Julia Varley 1 item	1916

Hull History Centre: Papers of Julia Varley

U DJV/9	'Short History of the General Union of Textile Workers', by Ben Turner (Heckmondwike) 1 item	1920
U DJV/10	'The Gateway'. Vol. 3, No. 14 Women's magazine including an article on Julia Varley by Joan Woolcombe 1 item	Jun 1930
U DJV/11	'The Record'. Vol. X, No. 114 Containing an article 'Yesterday and To-day', by Julia Varley 1 item	Mar 1931
U DJV/12	'Yorkshire Observer Centenary Supplement' Incomplete 1 item	6 Feb 1934
U DJV/13	'Seventy Years of Trade Unionism. 1868 - 1938' Publication of the Trades Union Congress 1 item	1938
U DJV/14	'Labour Women'. Vol. XLI, No. 1 Including obituary of Julia Varley 1 item	Jan 1953
U DJV/15	Parish Magazine of St. Francis, Bournville Including obituary of Julia Varley 1 item	Jan 1953
U DJV/16	Articles and notes by Julia Varley including: a) Ms. 'Tramping' (8pp. Incomplete), circa 1907 b) Ms. 'With the submerged tenth (or Life in an eightpenny kip)' (4pp. Incomplete), circa 1908 c) Ms. 'Wycliffe's place in History' (5pp. Incomplete), undated d) Ms. 'The work of the Friars' (6pp.), undated e) Ms. story. 'Frightening experience in a chapel' (9pp. Early page(s) missing), undated f) Ts. talk. 'Boys and girls at work' (6pp), 22 Sep 1930 6 items	[1907]- 22 Sep 1930
U DJV/17	Poems by Julia Varley 11 items	1888-1912
U DJV/18	Volume of poems by Julia Varley Manuscript and printed, includes brief articles by her: a) 'Mill Girls' b) 'A Larger liberty' c) 'Mill Girls' Visit to Cambridge' d) 'Women as Inspectors' 1 volume	c.1892-1896

Hull History Centre: Papers of Julia Varley

U DJV/19	Poems. Some transcribed by Julia Varley 7 items	20th cent.
U DJV/20	Portfolio labelled 'International Federation of Trade Unions' Containing photographs mainly of Julia Varley. Subjects: Julia Varley dressed as a suffragette in prison uniform, with women pickets during a Cornish clay workers strike in 1913, and as a member of various groups and trade union delegations (including to the IFTU in Geneva); also some family photographs 1 file	[1907-1952]
U DJV/21	Photograph album Groups and delegations 1 item	[1910-1939]
U DJV/22	Photograph album Groups and delegations 1 item	[1910-1930]
U DJV/23	Card for a public breakfast, organised by the Women's Social and Political Union To welcome the suffragists released from Holloway Prison 1 item	27 Feb 1907
U DJV/24	Notes on photographs of Julia Varley and Mrs Pat Barratt in prison dress Following a raid by suffragists on the House of Commons in Feb 1907 1 item	c.1907
U DJV/25	Newsvendor's placard for 'Reynolds News' 'Days in a Doss-house' by Julia Varley 1 item	20th cent.
U DJV/26	Handbook for dinner given by Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee to American delegates. Newcastle on Tyne 1 item	5 Sep 1911
U DJV/27	Manifesto to the Women's Social and Political Union From women members of the Independent Labour Party 1 item	early 20th cent.
U DJV/28	Pamphlet. 'The Bottom Dog's Struggle for Betterment' Minimum wages in Birmingham and South Staffordshire 1 item	20th cent.

Hull History Centre: Papers of Julia Varley

U DJV/29	Handbill Julia Varley to address a meeting outside Steven's Bucket Factory 1 item	early 20th cent.
U DJV/30	Block, print and translation of handbill in Chinese Julia Varley, Councillor Beard & G.E. Geobey to attend a meeting, organised by the Sino-British Trade Union, at the City Grammar School, Birmingham 1 bundle	20th cent.
U DJV/31	Seating plan Complimentary dinner in honour of Dame Adelaide Anderson 1 item	21 Oct 1921
U DJV/32	Seating plan for a dinner 1 item	[Jan 1923]
U DJV/33	Menu Signed by J. Ramsey MacDonald for a dinner at the Country Hotel, Blackpool 1 item	20th cent.
U DJV/34	Seating plan for Industrial Welfare Society Dinner 1 item	1 Dec 1932
U DJV/35	Obituary of Julia Varley by George Horwill 1 item	1953
U DJV/36	Copy. Revised draft biography of Julia Varley from the 'Dictionary of Labour Biography' With photocopy of handbill (at London School of Economics) signed by J. Beard and Julia Varley relating to strike at W.H. Moore & Co., Hednesford, Staffordshire 2 items	1977