

U DP219

Publications of 'The New Left' in Britain

1956-1959

Accession number: 2018/21

Historical Background: The New Left in Britain developed out of an internal controversy within the Communist Party of Great Britain. In 1956, the Communist Party's handling of the debate around Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary and Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' led many to question the Soviet Union's methods. Two party members, both academics, argued that there should be discussion of the issue and began to publish a discussion journal, 'The Reasoner' in contravention of Party wishes. These two academics, John Saville and E.P. Thompson, were given an ultimatum to cease publication or they would be expelled from the Party. They issued a joint statement resigning their membership. A number of likeminded individuals also resigned over the issue. Saville and Thompson went on to publish a sequel to 'The Reasoner', titled 'The New Reasoner' which became a rallying point for discussion amongst members of the British New Left. 'The Rhyming Reasoner' was a friendly satire of 'The Reasoner' which was created by W. McGonagall.

Custodial history: Purchased from the online bookshop, Left On The Shelf, by Hull University Archives in 2018

Description: Contains issues of 'The New Reasoner' [U DP210/1] and 'The Rhyming Reasoner' [U DP219/2], both of which were created by members of the New Left in Britain following the 1956 controversy within the Communist Party of Great Britain which arose over the question of free speech in the wake of the Hungarian Invasion and Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech'

Extent: 12 items

Related material: Records of Professor John Saville [U DJS]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Copyright: Estates of John Saville and E.P. Thompson (The New Reasoner)
Estate of W. McGonagall (The Rhyming Reasoner)

Language: English

U DP219/1	The New Reasoner	1957-1959
	<p>Contains published issues of the quarterly journal 'The New Reasoner' edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson in the period 1957-1959, which journal follows on from their work on 'The Reasoner' journal published in 1956. The journal was a discussion journal edited along Socialist Humanist principles, and had no particular political party line. 10 items</p>	
U DP219/1/1	<p>The New Reasoner Summer issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Hyman Levy; Peter Worsley; Tibor Dery; Jerry Dawson; Peter Fryer; Hamish Henderson; E.J. Hobsbawm; L. Hussey; Malcolm MacEwen; Bernard Stevens; Adam Wazyk. 1 item</p>	1957
U DP219/1/2	<p>The New Reasoner Autumn issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: A.H. Hanson; Nazim Hikmet; Paul Hogarth; Leopold Infeld; Doris Lessing; Christopher Logue; John Rex; Randall Swingler; John Hughes. 1 item</p>	1957
U DP219/1/3	<p>The New Reasoner Winter issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Bertolt Brecht; Joseph Clark; Jack Lindsay; Kenneth Muir; John Saville; Peter Worsley. 1 item</p>	1957
U DP219/1/4	<p>The New Reasoner Spring issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Tibor Dery; Cedric Belfrage; Gordon Cruikshank; Christopher Hill; N.W. Pirie; John Rex; Montagu Slater; M. Barratt-Brown; Malcolm MacEwen; Mervyn Jones; C. Rajagopalachari; Konni Zilliacus. 1 item</p>	1958

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U DP219/1/5	<p>The New Reasoner</p> <p>Summer issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Claude Bourdet; G.D.H. Cole; D.G. Arnott; Doris Lessing; Ralph Miliband; Christopher Logue; Peter Worsley; Jack Lindsay; Ronald L. Meek.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1958
U DP219/1/6	<p>The New Reasoner</p> <p>Autumn issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: John Berger; Barnett Stross; Harry Hanson; Adam Wazyk; David Ross; John St John; Royden Harrison.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1958
U DP219/1/7	<p>The New Reasoner</p> <p>Winter issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Ken Alexander; D.G. Arnott; V.G. Kiernan; Malcolm MacEwen; Alasdair MacIntyre; John Marshall; Ronald L. Meek; Tom Mboya; Iris Murdoch; J.T. Murphy; John Saville; Dora Scarlett.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1958
U DP219/1/8	<p>The New Reasoner</p> <p>Spring issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Dorothy Cole; Ronald Meek; Peter Thirlby; Claude Bourdet; Alasdair MacIntyre; Bernard Stevens; Mervyn Jones.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1959
U DP219/1/9	<p>The New Reasoner</p> <p>Summer issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: E.P. Thompson; Ronald L. Meek; Tibor Meray; F. Le Gros Clark; Roddy Barry; D.G. Arnott; Antonio Gramsci; David Ross.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1959

U DP219/1/10	<p>The New Reasoner Autumn issue of 'The New Reasoner', carrying the subtitle 'A Quarterly Journal of Socialist Humanism', edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson. Contributors include: Ken Alexander; John Hughes; H.A. Turner; M. Kidron; J. Corina; Ronald L. Meek; W. Woroszylski; R.W. Davies; Alison Ravetz; Paul Hogarth. 1 item</p>	1959
U DP219/2	<p>The Rhyming Reasoner Contains typescript issues of 'The Rhyming Reasoner' created by W. McGonagall, being a mock journal satirizing 'The Reasoner' journal edited by John Saville and E.P. Thompson prior to their work on 'The New Reasoner'. The issues were received in good grace by Saville and Thompson. 2 items</p>	1956
U DP219/2/1	<p>The Rhyming Reasoner: A Journal of Indecretion First Number, created by W. McGonagall, carries the statement 'The most effective antidote for the poison of self-alienation is self-laughter' which is attributed to 'K. Marx'. Contents is listed as follows: Editorial Statement; Hat Trick; The Comrades' One-Day School; Tail-Piece. 1 item</p>	Sep 1956
U DP219/2/2	<p>The Rhyming Reasoner: A Journal of Indecretion First Number, created by W. McGonagall, carries the statement 'The most effective antidote for the poison of self-alienation is self-laughter' which is attributed to 'K. Marx'. Contents is listed as follows: Comments on our First Number; Twentieth Congress Blues; The Marxist-Leninist's Song; Ode to Mr Krushchov; The Ballad o' The Reasoner; Song of the Permanent Party Man; Oil-less in Gaza; On the 21st Congress. 1 item</p>	Nov 1956