

U DX265

**Papers and photographs
relating to Leah Manning**

[1931-1991]

Accession number: 1993/18

Biographical Background:

Born Elizabeth Leah Perrett on 14 April 1886. When she was 14 her parents migrated to Canada but she decided to remain in the UK with her grandparents. She attended Homerton College, Cambridge and was working as a teacher in Cambridge when she met Hugh Dalton and joined the Fabian Society and the Independent Labour Party. She campaigned for free milk for the school children to improve their health.

In 1914 she married the astronomer William Henry Manning.

Manning joined the 1917 club after the Russian Revolution and became a speaker at Labour events around the country. She became headmistress of an Open Air School for under-nourished children in Cambridge. In 1929 she was organising secretary of the National Union of Teachers and became President the following year.

In February 1931 she was elected as MP for Islington East, only to lose her seat in the General Election when she decided not to support Ramsay Macdonald's National Government. She spent a year on the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party and stood as a candidate for Sunderland at the 1935 General Election but was unsuccessful.

She also began to move away from her previous stance as a pacifist to that of actively campaigning against fascism. At the 1936 Labour party conference she argued, along with Ellen Wilkinson and Aneurin Bevan, for military assistance to be given to the Popular Front of Spain in its fight against Franco. The appeal was unsuccessful and Labour supported the Conservative policy of non-intervention. Manning became Secretary of the Spanish Medical Aid Committee and was involved in organising the evacuation of 4000 children and 200 adults on the SS Habana which brought the refugees to Britain. Whilst in Spain she witnessed the bombing of the Basque town of Guernica on 26 April 1937.

In 1945 Manning was elected as MP for Epping and developed a reputation for her commitment to education. She lost her seat in the 1950 election and was unsuccessful in 1951 and 1955.

She was awarded the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1966 and remained active in the field of education including opposing the creation of comprehensive schools. Her autobiography *A Life for Education* was published in 1970.

She died on 15 Sep 1977. She was the subject of a posthumous biography in 1991 by Ron Bill and Stan Newens who were involved in the Leah Manning Trust.

Custodial history: Deposited by Mr Ron Bill, Honorary Secretary, The Leah Manning Trust in December 1993

Description: Papers and photographs (originals and copies) relating to Labour Party member Leah Manning, JP includes:

Papers re Public meetings during election campaigns undertaken by Leah Manning; Papers re Biography of Leah Manning by Ron Bill and Stan Newens; Papers re family history research into Leah Manning's family; Papers re material held by the Leah Manning Trust; Photographs and photocopies of images of Leah Manning and those associated with her.

Extent: 5 files

Related material: Research notes of Betty Vernon regarding Ellen Wilkinson [Ref U DX323]

Other Repositories:

Alison Oram, 'Manning , Dame (Elizabeth) Leah (1886–1977)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/45463>, accessed 2 May 2006]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Language: English

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U DX265/1	<p>File: Papers re Public Meetings at which Leah Mannings Spoke</p> <p>Contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Pamphlet advertising Leah Manning as Labour candidate for Epping in the 1945 General Election, 5 Jul 1945;ii) Photocopy of a ticket to film show of 'Land Without Bread' organised by the Spanish Medical Aid Committee, at which event Leah Manning was a speaker, 30 Mar 1938;iii) Photocopy of an advert for a public meeting organised by the Spanish Medical Aid Committee [to raise money for an ambulance], at which event Leah Manning was a speaker, 26 Feb [?]iv) Photocopy of an advert for a public meeting organised by the Spanish Medical Aid Committee to help Spanish relief work, at which event Leah Manning was a speaker, 2 Jun [?]v) Photocopy of an article about Leah Manning appearing in 'The Vote', 13 Mar 1931 <p>1 file (5 pieces)</p>	1931-1945
U DX265/2	<p>File: Papers re Biography of Leah Manning by Ron Bill and Stan Newens</p> <p>Contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Press release advertising forthcoming biography, c.1991ii) Dust jacket for biography with two photographs of showing a young and an old Leah Manning, c.1991iii) Photocopy of an article appearing in the Tribune reviewing the biography, 20 Sep 1991iv) Photocopy of an article titled 'A life devoted to freedom's cause' appearing in the Morning Star reviewing the biography, 18 Nov 1991v) Photocopy of a press release issued by the Leah Manning Trust re the forthcoming biography, c.1991vi) Issue of 'Harlow News' containing article relating to the live of Leah Manning and also reviewing the biography, Jun 1991 <p>1 file (6 pieces)</p>	1991
U DX265/3	<p>File: Papers re Research into Leah Manning's Ancestry</p> <p>Contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Photocopy of a manuscript Perrett family tree, c.1991ii) Photocopy of a printed Manning/Perrett family tree, c.1991iii) Photocopy of a manuscript table recording findings of research using directories re Perretts living in Bridgwater 1861-1931, c.1991 <p>1 file (3 pieces)</p>	1991
U DX265/4	<p>File: Papers re Material Held by the Leah Manning Trust</p> <p>Contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) List of items deposited with the Leah Manning Trust, which items were collected and created in connection with the writing of a biography of Leah Manning by Ron Bill and Stan Newens, c.1991 <p>1 file (1 piece)</p>	1991

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U DX265/5	File: Photographs and photocopies of images of Leah Manning and those associated with her Contains various black and white photographs and photocopies of photographs of Leah Manning and of people and places with which she was associated 1 file (48 pieces)	20th cent.
U DX265/5/1	Photograph: Leah Manning and Dorothy Edwards sat in outside swimming pool Caption on reverse: "Leah and Doll (Leah's sister) Dorothy Edwards. My home Toronto Canada. Doris Freeland" 1 piece	1959
U DX265/5/2	Photograph: Leah Manning sat under sun parasol Caption on reverse: "Leah Manning at my home in Toronto Canada Doris (Perrett) Freeland" 1 piece	1959
U DX265/5/3	Photograph: Leah Manning sat with two women in woodland garden Caption on reverse: "Stormy Lake [Ont] Canada 1959" 1 piece	1959
U DX265/5/4	Photograph: Leah Manning sat on verandah with girl Caption on reverse: "Doris and Leah. Leah Manning with Grandneice Doris Mary Perrett. Copy and return please" 1 piece	1959
U DX265/5/5	Photograph: Leah Manning sat between two women in woodland garden Caption on reverse: "Leah Manning Stormy Lake [Ont] Canada 1959 With me niece Doris (Perrett) Freeland Copy and return" 1 piece	n.d.
U DX265/5/6	Photograph: Group gathered at the side of outside swimming pool Caption on reverse: "Standing Mildred Dewey (friend) left to right Leah, Leahs brother. Chas Perrett Leahs sister Dorothy Edwards. Lad, grandnephew Kevin Perrett taken at my home in Toronto [Ont.] Canada Copy and return please" 1 piece	1959

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U DX265/5/7	<p>Photograph: Indoor posed family group in three rows Caption on reverse: "1920? Left to right back row Margaret Perrett Lawrence Sidney Perretts wife; Ivy Ulbright (sister); Dorothy Ollman (sister); Ada Perrett wife of William Perrett (Doris' father); Middle row Lawrence Sidney Brother; Charles William Perrett Father; Harriet Tappin Perrett Mother; Charles Wm Perrett Brother (Doris' father); Doris Grace Perrett Freeland; Ivy Violet Perrett Hurd" Attached to photo is a second photo of piece of paper giving further details to persons in photo 2 pieces</p>	c.1920
U DX265/5/8	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning stood next to man holding child and boy watching a deer at side of a road Caption on reverse: "Algonquin National Park [Ont] Canada Leah 1959 Copy and return" 1 piece</p>	1959
U DX265/5/9	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning watching a deer Caption on reverse: "Leah Manning 1959 Ontario (Canada) Algonquin National Park" 1 piece</p>	1959
U DX265/5/10	<p>Photograph: Posed group of three men Caption on reverse: "Left Lawrence Sydney Perrett (younger brother) Right Charles Wm Perrett (Doris' father) (older brother) Front Charles Wm Perrett Leah's father." 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/11	<p>Photograph: Drawing of head and shoulders of lady wearing a bonnet Caption on reverse: "Great Grandmother Susan Tappin A.L.F.E pp64 Reduce to 72mm (page 4)" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/12	<p>Photograph: Man stood behind hollyhocks Caption on reverse: "Uncle Walter Manning Professor Cambridge University Leah's husband Please copy and return" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/13	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning stood at door of thatched cottage Caption on reverse: "Leah at Willow Cottage Hatfield Broad Oak" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/14	<p>Photograph: Thatched cottage Caption on reverse: "Willow Cottage Hatfield Broad Oak March 1990" 1 piece</p>	1990

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U DX265/5/15	<p>Photograph: Thatched cottage with building work in progress Caption on reverse: "Willow Cottage 1990 Willow Cottage Hatfield Broad Oak March 1990 Reduce to 106mm 57.9% (page 26)" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/16	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning standing outside Kings College, Cambridge, England Caption on reverse: " At Kings College Chapel Cambridge 1959 Leah Manning Pictured outside Kings College Cambridge in 1959. Please return to Information Services Harlow Council, Town Hall, Harlow Reduce to 106mm (page 8)" 1 piece</p>	1959
U DX265/5/17	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning stood in front of Cambridge building Caption on reverse: "1957? 1959? Aunt Leah, Cambridge University" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/18	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning, J.P.as Jubilee President of N.U.T. Caption on reverse: "Jubilee President NUT 1930". Note: copy photograph used in "Bournemouth N.U.T. Conference Souvenir [page] vi " 1 piece</p>	1930
U DX265/5/19	<p>Photograph: Mrs Leah Manning, J.P. "Our Executive Member" Caption: "N.U.T. Conference Cambridge Souvenir 1928." 1 piece</p>	1928
U DX265/5/20	<p>Photograph: Head and shoulders of women wearing hat and glasses 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/21	<p>Photograph: Head of women wearing scarf and pearl earring Caption on reverse: "Michael Reto photo?" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/22	<p>Photograph: Photo ID card dated Bilbao 18 de Mayo de 1937, for Mrs Leah Manning, Ex Miebros Parlamentario del Partido Laborista Britanico Caption on reverse: "Permission to carry arms Bilbao 1937 A.L.F.E. pp96 Reduce to 106mm (page 18) 57.6%" 1 piece</p>	1937
U DX265/5/23	<p>Photograph: Leah Manning stood in doorway with uniformed brother, Charles W Perrett Caption on reverse: "Leah with brother Charles W Perrett (in Canadian army) England 1916 - Leah V.A.D. at First Great Eastern Hospital Cambridge Possibly house at 50 LAR Physics Lab? Reduce to 106mm (page 14) 80.3%" 1 piece</p>	1916

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U DX265/5/24	<p>Photograph: Copy of 3 small photographs of figures in a courtroom Caption on reverse: " Swearing in as J.P. 23/8/1920 and first case Cambridge." 1 piece</p>	1920
U DX265/5/25	<p>Photograph: 10 figures sat on bench in courtroom Caption on reverse: "J.P. hearing first case" 1 piece</p>	1920
U DX265/5/26	<p>Photograph: Burrish Street Droitwich. Leah Manning's birthplace Caption on reverse: "Burrish Street Droitwich March 1990 Leah's birthplace Reduce to 106mm (page 2) 57.6%" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/27	<p>Photograph: Shop front called, "Amateurs Ltd. For all your do it yourself goods" Caption on reverse: "31+33 St John Street Bridgewater (December 1990) former family shop (fathers family)" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/28	<p>Photograph: Row of teraced house with cars parked in street Caption on reverse: "Lodgings 1908 9 Grantchester St Cambridge March 1990" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/29	<p>Photograph: Stone plaque marking relationship of Homerton New College with New Street Undenominational School Caption on reverse: "New St School Cambridge March 1990" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/30	<p>Photograph: ADC Theatre Caption on reverse: " A,D.C. Theatre Cambridge 1990" 1 piece</p>	1990
U DX265/5/31	<p>Photograph: Miss Thelma Cazalet and Mrs L. Manning shaking hands Caption on reverse: "BBC Hulton Picture Library The General Election 1931 Nomination Day at Islington Miss Thelma Cazalet (on left) and Mrs L. Manning who are opposing each other for Islington East 16/10/1931" 1 piece</p>	1931
U DX265/5/32	<p>Photograph: Group photograph of young people with Houses of Parliament in background Caption on reverse: "House of Commons visit" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/33	<p>Photograph: Group photograph of women outside Houses of Parliament Caption on reverse: "Women MPs 1945" 1 piece</p>	1945

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U DX265/5/34	<p>Photograph: Group photograph of women with Mrs L. Manning sat next to Nancy Astor Caption on reverse: "Nancy Astors farewell party 1945 A.L.F.E. pp165" 1 piece</p>	1945
U DX265/5/35	<p>Photograph: Two women with beakers outside Caption on reverse: "Tea break in Spain Spanish Civil War (1937?) With Nan Green?" 1 piece</p>	c.1937
U DX265/5/36	<p>Photograph: House Caption on reverse: "Woodberry Piercing Hill Theydon Bois Epping Known in 1937 as Leash Manning House" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/37	<p>Photograph: Group photo of children with adults set against trees Caption on reverse: "Spanish refugee children (1937)? At Theydon Bois?" 1 piece</p>	c.1937
U DX265/5/38	<p>Photograph: Group of young people sat on grass Caption on reverse: "Leah with group of Basque children August 1937 at Theydon Bois A.L.F.E. pp164 Reduce to 106mm(page 20)" 1 piece</p>	1937
U DX265/5/39	<p>Photograph: Group of young people with L.Manning Caption on reverse: "Basque children at Theydon Bois 1937" 1 piece</p>	1937
U DX265/5/40	<p>Photograph: Homerton College Caption on reverse: "Homerton College Cambridge" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/41	<p>Photograph: People stood behind table of crockery Caption on reverse: "At Unity Theatre Unity Theatre first night A.L.F.E. pp188 Reduce to 106mm (page 32) [third figure from left] Kingsley Martin [Fourth figure] Leah [seventh figure] Kenni Zilliacus" 1 piece</p>	n.d.
U DX265/5/42	<p>Photograph: Leah with group with cake under Co-operative Party banner Caption on reverse: "With Donald Ford. Succssor candidates for Epping Constituency 1958? 1959?" 1 piece</p>	c.1958

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U DX265/5/43	Photograph: Oldfield Road School Caption on reverse: "Oldfield Road School Stoke Newington N16 1989" 1 piece	1989
U DX265/5/44	Photograph: Large group photograph Caption on reverse: "Leah with the Bedders Cambridge 1926 A.L.F.E. pp64" 1 piece	1926
U DX265/5/45	Photograph: Leah stepping into chauffeured car displaying "Manning again" posters Caption on reverse: "1931 C Times East Islington Campaign 1931" 1 piece	1931
U DX265/5/46	Photograph: Leah Manning Centre Caption on reverse: "Leah Manning Centre Harlow 4/4/90" 1 piece	1990
U DX265/5/47	Photograph: St Mary the Virgin Church, Hatfield Broad Oak Caption on reverse: "St Mary the Virgin Hatfield Broad Oak March 1990" 1 piece	1990
U DX265/5/48	Photograph: Building Caption on reverse: "LM111 Elstree Manor" 1 piece	n.d.