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Catalogue of the papers and correspondence of

**Arthur Kenneth Chesterton
(1899-1973)**



Title: Catalogue of the papers and correspondence of Arthur Kenneth Chesterton (1899-1973), critic, journalist and political activist.

Compiled by: Lizzie Richmond

Description level: Fonds

Date of material: ca 1880-2012

Extent of material: 6 boxes, ca 256 items

Deposited in: University of Bath Library

Reference code: GB 1128 Chesterton

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

PROVENANCE

The papers were donated to the University of Bath Library by David L. Baker via Professor Roger Eatwell in January 2009.

OUTLINE OF THE CAREER OF ARTHUR KENNETH CHESTERTON

Arthur Kenneth Chesterton was born at the Luipaards Vlei gold mine, where his father was mine secretary, in Krugerdorp, a few miles west of Johannesburg, South Africa, on 1 May 1899. Soon after his birth, to escape the Boer War, Chesterton was taken by his mother to live with his paternal grandfather in Herne Hill, London. His father was to join them there but contracted tuberculosis and pneumonia on the journey from Africa and died soon after his arrival in England. In 1904 Chesterton and his mother returned to Johannesburg and Luipaards Vlei where Ethel Chesterton married the mine supervisor, George Horne.

In 1911 Chesterton was sent back to England to attend school but he returned to South Africa in 1915 and signed up, at the age of 16, for Smut's East African Campaign. In appallingly unhealthy conditions, malaria, dysentery and other diseases killed huge numbers of British and South African troops. After fourteen months Chesterton became too ill to march and was left at the side of the road to die. He was discovered and cared for by a group of local Africans who eventually arranged his return to his parents. Still determined to fight, in 1916, Chesterton travelled to England where he was sent for officer training to Fermoy, Ireland, and later the same year he was posted to the Western Front. Chesterton served with distinction in France and, after showing exemplary courage and leadership during an assault on the Hindenburg line at Epéhy, was awarded the Military Cross in 1918.

Chesterton was severely disappointed by the failure of post-war peace time to live up to his idealistically patriotic expectations. This disappointment and an inability to assimilate his war time experiences with a return to 'normal' civilian life, led to a kind of culture shock that formed the basis of his developing social and political philosophy. Angry and disillusioned, Chesterton returned to South Africa in April 1920.

After failed attempts to earn his living as a diamond prospector and a mine supervisor, Chesterton took employment as a journalist with the *Johannesburg Star*. During this time Chesterton discovered his natural talent for journalistic writing but his alcoholism worsened and this may have been a contributory factor in a dispute with his employers. He left the paper to help in the management of his mother's chicken farm, before finally returning to England in 1924, where he successfully applied for the job of general journalist and festival critic on the *Stratford Herald*.

During the following years Chesterton was largely occupied with life, and particularly drama and the theatre, in Stratford upon Avon. He quickly established a reputation as an accomplished writer and excellent critic of contemporary and Shakespearean drama and, in March 1929, he moved to Torquay, Devon to become the editor-in-chief of the *Torquay Times* group of newspapers. He was soon a well-known member of the community and became involved in local theatre both as a critic and as an actor. It was at a meeting of a newly-formed amateur dramatic society that he first met, Doris Terry, who would later become his wife. It was at this time, also, that Chesterton began to become more actively involved in politics, with the formation of the Torquay Citizens' Defence League.

By early 1933, when he resigned his editorship and moved to London to pursue a career as a freelance journalist and writer, Chesterton was fully committed to extreme right-wing politics and in November of the same year he joined the British Union of Fascists (BUF). After proving himself a dedicated and capable activist for the movement whilst on assignment in the Midlands, Chesterton returned to London and became a member of the Policy Directorate. By the end of 1934 he was a leading spokesman for the Union and had established himself as one of its most vehemently outspoken anti-Semites. During 1936 Chesterton suffered a nervous breakdown brought on by overwork, exhaustion and a return to alcoholism. On Mosley's recommendation, he travelled to Germany where he spent six months mixing convalescence with observation of life under the Nazis. On his return, Chesterton was promoted to the position of Director of Publicity Propaganda and shortly afterwards he was also made editor of the BUF publication *Blackshirt*.

In 1938, frustrated by the increasing influence of the movement's bureaucrats and critical of the methods employed to attain its ideals, and of what he saw as weak leadership by Mosley, Chesterton resigned from the BUF setting out his grievances and justifying his decision in a pamphlet entitled 'Why I Left Mosley'. In March 1939, following Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia, Chesterton began to disassociate himself with German National Socialism and at the outbreak of war with Germany he once again joined the British armed forces. Despite being commissioned,

Chesterton was kept under surveillance by MI5 for several months on suspicion of being a potential 'fifth-columnist'. After finally receiving security clearance, Chesterton volunteered for foreign active service and was sent to northern Kenya. He was invalided out of the Army in 1943 with colitis and malaria.

On his return to civilian life Chesterton took up writing again contributing articles to anti-Semitic publications such as *London Tidings*, the *People's Post* and the *Patriot* and in 1944 he was offered a position as deputy-editor and lead writer of *Truth*, the long-established journal of ultra-right Toryism. Chesterton's association with *Truth* ended in 1953. He subsequently served briefly as 'literary adviser' to Lord Beaverbrook, ghost writing his autobiography, *Don't Trust to Luck*, before setting up his own views sheet, *Candour*, through which he was able to develop and advocate ideas of racial nationalism and anti-Semitic conspiracy theory. In 1954 Chesterton established the League of Empire Loyalists, a political pressure group whose direct action stunts and 'interventions' received widespread publicity and attracted the attention of a new generation of fascists, nationalists and right-wing extremists.

In 1967 when the League of Empire Loyalists merged with the British National Party, the Greater Britain Movement and the Radical Preservation Society to form the National Front, Chesterton became its first chairman. His active involvement was, however, always limited by periods of ill-health and in 1971, in opposition to the street violence and pro-Nazism endorsed by other National Front leaders, he resigned. He spent the remaining years of his life working on his autobiography.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

The material is presented in the order given in the contents list. It covers the period from ca 1880 to 1986.

Section A, Biographical, contains material relating to the research for and publication of David L. Baker's biography of Chesterton, *Ideology of Obsession: A. K. Chesterton and British Fascism*. It also contains a small number of biographical statements and tributes.

Section B, Writings, contains a very small but representative sample of Chesterton's literary, journalistic and political writings. Most importantly it includes several autobiographical works which were never published.

Section C, League of Empire Loyalists, documents the activities of the political action group founded by Chesterton in 1954. It includes scrapbooks compiled by League members and papers relating to the formulation and implementation of the League's protest tactics.

Section D, *Candour* and other political publications, contains several different political journals to which Chesterton contributed and subscribed. It includes, primarily, copies of Chesterton's own views-sheet, *Candour*.

Section E, Correspondence, contains letters and associated papers relating to various topics of interest to Chesterton. The correspondence is incomplete but records a broad range of subjects from Shakespearean criticism to the leadership of the National Front.

There is also an index of correspondents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to David L. Baker and Professor Roger Eatwell for their assistance in making this material available.

L. Richmond, University of Bath, 2009.

We are grateful to The A. K. Chesterton Trust for the donation of additional publications.

L. Richmond, University of Bath, 2014.

SECTION A

BIOGRAPHICAL

A.1-A.61

This section consists primarily of correspondence, notes, draft papers and photographs assembled by David L. Baker in the course of writing a biography of A. K. Chesterton. *Ideology of Obsession: A. K. Chesterton and British Fascism*, was published in 1996, but Baker began researching Chesterton as early as 1977 when he was a postgraduate student at the University of Sheffield. As part of his research he conducted a lengthy correspondence with Chesterton's widow, Doris, and she provided him with extensive notes on Chesterton's life, career and character. Baker also corresponded with several of Chesterton's colleagues and political associates, such as Rosine De Bouneville and Aidan Mackey, as well as journalists and commentators.

The section also contains a number of testimonials and tributes retained by Chesterton during his lifetime and passed to Baker by his widow during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

For Chesterton's autobiographical writings see Section B.

A.1-A.10 **TRIBUTES AND TESTIMONIALS**

A.11 -A.61 *IDEOLOGY OF OBSESSION: A. K. CHESTERTON AND
BRITISH FASCISM*

A.1-A.10

TRIBUTES AND TESTIMONIALS

ca 1939-ca 1973

This sub-section contains testimonials relating to various aspects of Chesterton's career, as a soldier, journalist, writer and political activist, received or compiled by Chesterton during his lifetime. It also includes a collection of tributes published shortly after his death.

- A.1 1p typescript confidential report on Lieutenant A. K. Chesterton, nd ca 1939.
- A.2 'King George V Praised his Work: *Leopard Valley* Author's Adventurous Career', *Southport Guardian*, 18 March 1944.
- A.3 Printed sheet entitled 'Points from Testimonials, A. K. Chesterton', nd ca 1950.
- A.4 2pp typescript entitled 'A. K. Chesterton: Extracts from Testimonials', nd ca 1954.
- A.5 2pp typescript with amendments entitled 'A. K. Chesterton: Extracts from testimonials', nd ca 1954.
- A.6 2pp typescript with manuscript amendments entitled A. K. Chesterton: Brief Details of Career', nd ca 1954.
- A.7 Printed sheet entitled 'A. K. Chesterton - One of the Great Englishmen of our times: A French Appraisal' by Pierre Hofstetter, nd ca 1957.
- A.8 Printed invitation to attend an address by A. K. Chesterton, 22 February 1960.
- A.9 *Arthur Kenneth Chesterton, M. C.*, nd ca 1973.
- A collection of tributes and extracts relating to A. K. Chesterton published by his friends after his death.

A.10 2pp manuscript draft entitled 'Introduction to "The Stone of Erech, in Memoriam of A. K. Chesterton" by G. T. Jones', by Doris Chesterton, nd, ca 1973.

A.11-A.61 IDEOLOGY OF OBSESSION: A. K. CHESTERTON AND BRITISH FASCISM 1880-ca 1986

This sub-section contains material relating to David L. Baker's biography of Chesterton, *Ideology of Obsession: A. K. Chesterton and British Fascism*, published in 1996. It includes transcripts of interviews with Chesterton's widow, Doris, and with G. R. Wilson Knight, notes, drafts and papers compiled by Baker and by Doris Chesterton, and correspondence with publishers. The sub-section also contains a small amount of photographic material assembled by Baker in the course of preparing his book for publication.

A.11-A.16 Interviews

A.17-A.42 Papers, notes and drafts

A.43-A.49 Correspondence

A.50-A.61 Photographs

A.11-A.16 Interviews 1978

A.11 8pp typescript transcript of a taped interview of John Tyndall conducted by David L. Baker, 4 April 1978.

A.12 8pp typescript entitled 'Text of an Interview with Mrs Doris Chesterton', 9 May 1978.

A.13 8pp typescript with manuscript additions entitled 'Text of an Interview with Mrs Doris Chesterton', 9 May 1978.

A.14 4pp typescript entitled 'Transcript of an Interview with Mrs Doris Chesterton', 18 July 1978.

A.15 2pp typescript entitled 'Transcript of an Interview with Professor G. R. Wilson Knight', 22 August 1978.

A.16 28pp typescript transcript of a taped interview of Rosine de Bounevialle conducted by David L. Baker, nd ca 1978.

A.17-A.42 Papers, notes and drafts 1979-ca 1986

A.17 23pp typescript (annotated) seminar paper entitled 'The Making of a Conspiracy Theorist. The Case of A. K. Chesterton' by David L. Baker, 21 February 1979.

A.18 3pp typescript entitled 'Notes from R. C. Thurlow: "Racial Prejudice in British Society", *Patterns of Prejudice*, 13(4), July/August 1979'.

A.19 8pp untitled manuscript notes *re* the life of A. K. Chesterton by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

A.20 10pp typescript (annotated) entitled 'Testimony of the Aunts. (Memories of Conversations with Older Members of the Chesterton Family)', by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

A.21 3pp manuscript notes entitled 'Kenneth with Kids and Animals' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

A.22 3pp manuscript notes entitled 'Kenneth on Holiday' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

A.23 6pp manuscript notes entitled 'Kenneth as Host & Father Figure' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

A.24 6pp manuscript notes entitled 'Kenneth and the "Lunatic Fringe"' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.

- A.25 1p manuscript notes entitled 'Mosley at the Albert Hall' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.
- A.26 1p manuscript notes entitled 'Mosley in Yorkshire' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.
- A.27 4pp manuscript notes entitled 'Torquay Days' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.
- A.28 4pp manuscript notes entitled 'Kenneth meets Rose Macauley' by Doris Chesterton, nd ca 1979.
- A.29 27pp typescript with extensive manuscript amendments entitled 'The Making of a British Fascist - the Case of A. K. Chesterton M.C.' by David L. Baker, November 1981.
- A.30 46pp typescript with manuscript amendments entitled 'The Phenomenon of Cultural Despair in Britain - A. K. Chesterton and G. Wilson Knight' by David L. Baker, nd latest bibliographical reference 1982.
- See also A.35.
- A.31 1p manuscript notes entitled 'A. K. Chesterton' by David L. Baker, 1984.
- A.32 8pp author's proof with corrections entitled 'A. K. Chesterton, the Strasser Brothers, and the Politics of the National Front' by David L. Baker, 16 August 1985.
- A.33 10pp typescript entitled 'A. K. Chesterton - Fascist by Nature or Nurture? A Debate Reopened' by David L. Baker, 27 August 1985.
- A.34 23pp typescript entitled 'A. K. Chesterton: Fascist by Nature or Nurture? Some Psychological and Ideological Models of Fascism Examined' by David L. Baker, nd latest bibliographical reference 1985.

- A.35 46pp typescript with manuscript amendments entitled 'The Phenomenon of Cultural Despair in Britain - A. K. Chesterton and G. Wilson Knight' by David L. Baker, nd latest bibliographical reference 1986.
- See also A.30.
- A.36 15pp typescript entitled 'A. K. Chesterton and the National Front', by David L. Baker, nd.
- A.37 6pp typescript book proposal entitled 'A. K. Chesterton: A Critical Biography. A Case Study in the Politics of Prejudice in British Society' by David L. Baker, nd.
- A.38 8pp typescript entitled 'A. K. Chesterton, 1899-1973: A Critical Biography. A Case Study in the Politics of Prejudice' by David L. Baker, nd.
- A.39 4pp untitled typescript *re* A. K. Chesterton and the National Front by David L. Baker, nd.
- A.40 3pp typescript (annotated) entitled 'A. K. Chesterton - David Baker - some notes', nd.
- A.41 2pp typescript notes entitled 'Nature verses [*sic*] Nurture. Are Fascists Born or Made? The British Evidence', nd.
- A.42 3pp typescript entitled 'A Brief Outline of the Main Events in A. K. Chesterton's Life' by David L. Baker, nd.

A.43-A.49 **Correspondence** **1977-1983**

Correspondence *re* research for David L. Baker's biography of Chesterton, *Ideology of Obsession: A. K. Chesterton and British Fascism,* and its publication.

Includes numerous letters from Chesterton's widow, Doris, in which she records facts and memories relating to Chesterton's life, work, and his political views and activities.

Six folders.

A.50-A.61 **Photographs** **1880-1973**

A.50 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton's father, Arthur George Chesterton, as a boy (seated extreme right) with his family, 1880.

A.51 Mounted black and white photographic portrait of A. K. Chesterton as a boy, nd *ca* 1902.

A.52 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton as a boy, nd *ca* 1911.

A.53 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton in military uniform when he received his commission, 1917.

A.54 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton and his wife, Doris, while on a camping holiday in Penshurst, Kent, UK, 1935.

A.55 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton and his wife, Doris, while on a camping holiday in the Lake District, UK, nd *ca* 1936.

A.56 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton and his wife, Doris, in a garden in Dorking, Surrey, UK, nd *ca* 1936.

- A.57 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton in army uniform prior to his departure for military service in Africa, nd ca 1940.
- A.58 Black and white photographic print showing A. K. Chesterton in Africa endorsed 'On the way to Addis Ababa', 1941.
- A.59 Colour photographic portrait of A. K. Chesterton, ca 1972.
- A.60 Black and white photographic portrait of A. K. Chesterton, 16 July 1973.
- A.61 Black and white photographic portrait of A. K. Chesterton, 1973.

SECTION B WRITINGS

B.1-B.26

This section contains a very small sample of Chesterton's published and unpublished writings. Chesterton was known as a writer, journalist and commentator long before his political activities came to overshadow his work as a theatre critic and literary reviewer. As early as 1920, whilst working for the *Johannesburg Star*, he demonstrated a natural talent for journalism and by the late 1920s, at the *Stratford Herald*, he had already acquired a reputation as a passionate, unflinching and polished writer.

For further writings see Section D.

B.1-B.10 AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL

B.11-B.23 POLITICAL AND JOURNALISTIC

B.24, B.26 DRAMATIC

B.1-B.10

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL

ca 1911-ca 1973

This sub-section contains some of Chesterton's autobiographical writings ranging from brief impressions recorded at the age of eleven or twelve on his arrival in England from South Africa, to the full draft text of his unpublished autobiography.

The presentation is chronological.

- B.1 3pp copy manuscript entitled 'My First Impressions of England' by A. K. Chesterton, nd ca 1911.
- B.2 2pp typescript broadcast entitled 'Calling South Africa: The Abyssinian Campaign with African Troops' by Lieutenant A. K. Chesterton M. C., 7 November 1941.
- B.3-B.7 139pp draft typescript entitled 'Blame Not My Lute', nd.
Chesterton's unpublished autobiography was written between 1966 and 1973.
5 folders.
- B.8 55pp typescript (incomplete) entitled 'All Aboard for Addis: A Personal Record of the Campaign in Abyssinia and Somaliland', nd.
Chesterton's unpublished memoirs of his experiences of the Abyssinian Campaign during World War II.
- B.9 3pp typescript with amendments entitled 'Notes on his early life by A. K. Chesterton', nd.
- B.10 23pp typescript (annotated) entitled 'A. K. Chesterton Bibliography', 1925-1963, nd.

B.11-B.23

POLITICAL AND JOURNALISTIC

1936-2013

This sub-section contains a small selection of Chesterton's political writings as published in various journals, newspapers and periodicals. It also includes copies of two of the books he wrote whilst a member and leading figure of the British Union of Fascists.

The presentation is chronological.

- B.11 'Democracy Produces a Five-Year Plan', *Fascist Quarterly*, **3**, July 1936.
- B.12 'Truth About the Jews: Are They a Menace to Britain?', *Action*, **38**, 7 November 1936.
- B.13 *Creed of a Fascist Revolutionary*, 1936.
See also B.23a.
- B.14 'The Apotheosis of the Jew', *The British Union Quarterly*, **1(2)**, April-June 1937.
- B.15 *Oswald Mosley, Portrait of a Leader*, 1937.
Annotated copy made and used by David L. Baker during research for his biography of Chesterton.
- B.15a *Fascism and the Press*, 1939.
- B.16 Draft open letter to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, requesting the release of Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, from internment, ca 1943.
- B.17 *Britain's Alternative*, 1946.
- B.18 'Beaverbrook's Split Mind', *Candour*, 30 July 1954.

- B.19 *Naming the Enemy*, nd ca 1954.
- B.19a *The New Unhappy Lords*, 1965 (The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint, 2013).
- B.20 *Joseph Leftwich: Messages and Tributes Received on the Occasion of his Seventy Fifth Birthday*, 20 September 1967.
- B.21 'Land Where the Lunatics Rule', *Facts, A National Front Publication*, nd ca 1970.
- B.22 *Common Market Suicide*, 1971.
- B.22a *Facing the Abyss*, 1976.
- B.23 'The Apotheosis of the Jew', *Christian Vanguard*, September 1979.
- B.23a *Creed of a Fascist Revolutionary and Why I Left Mosley*, The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint Series, **1**, 2010.
See also B.13.
- B.23b *What You Should Know About the United Nations*, The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint Series, **3**, 2012.
- B.23c *The Menace of the Money-Power: An Analysis of World Government by Finance*, The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint Series, **4**, 2012.
- B.23d *Sound the Alarm! A Warning to the British Nations*, The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint Series, **6**, 2012.
- B.23e *BBC - A National Menace*, The AK Chesterton Trust Reprint Series, **8**, 2013.

B.24-B.26

DRAMATIC

ca 1938, 2013

This sub-section contains copies of two of Chesterton's plays. 'Man Possessed' which Chesterton wrote between 1938 and 1939 was never published. 'Leopard Valley', written in ca 1943 was first performed in 1944.

B.24

80pp typescript play entitled 'Man Possessed', nd ca 1938.

B.25

80pp typescript play annotated by David L. Baker entitled 'Man Possessed', nd ca 1938.

B.26

Leopard Valley: A Play in Three Acts, The A. K. Chesterton Trust, 2013.

SECTION C

LEAGUE OF EMPIRE LOYALISTS

C.1-C.13

This section contains material relating to the League of Empire Loyalists, a right-wing political pressure group established by A. K. Chesterton in 1954. Founded primarily as a focus for opposition to the dissolution of the British Empire, the League was small in terms of membership but effective in using the national press to highlight its cause. Under Chesterton's leadership the League developed and implemented a direct action political tactic using stunts, such as gate-crashing a Lambeth Palace conference disguised as priests, to maximize disruption and profile-raising publicity. League activities documented in this section include painting slogans on buildings and in public places, interrupting political speeches and public rallies all around the country, and targeted acts of vandalism. It has been suggested that the League was the first UK political organisation to use this type of approach in a calculated and consistent way to promote a political agenda.

Despite enjoying some public support, particularly for its extreme views on immigration, the League of Empire Loyalists was never a viable political alternative to the Conservative Party - League candidates were only able to secure several hundred votes each in the 1964 general election - and by the mid 1960s it had declined in importance as a leading voice of ultra-right UK politics. In 1967 the League of Empire Loyalists merged with a number of other right-wing organisations to form the National Front.

C.1-C.7 SCRAPBOOKS

C.8-C.13 CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

C.1-C.7

SCRAPBOOKS

ca 1957-1964

This sub-section contains scrapbooks compiled by members of the League of Empire Loyalists. They mostly comprise newspaper cuttings, publicity material and campaigning literature. They also contain 'programmes' or lists of instructions for members engaged in orchestrated stunts. These usually took place at political meetings or events and involved various members of the League interrupting the speakers by means of pre-arranged actions such as emerging from beneath the speaking platform. They often resulted in League members being physically removed from the venue.

The presentation is chronological.

- C.1 Hardback scrapbook containing 5 pages of publicity flyers, campaign strategy and operation tactics, and black and white photographs *re* Leslie Greene, Independent Loyalist candidate for North Lewisham, nd *ca* February 1957.
- Contains photographic portrait of Leslie Greene seated with other members of the League of Empire Loyalists including, seated left, Austen Brooks and, seated centre, A. K. Chesterton.
- Leslie Greene, who lost her deposit in the North Lewisham by-election, gained a total of 1,487 votes.
- C.2 Hardback scrapbook containing newspaper cuttings *re* political demonstrations and other protest activities carried out by members of the League of Empire Loyalists, August 1957-July 1958. Loose material intercalated.
- C.3 Softback scrapbook containing newspaper cuttings *re* political demonstrations and other protest activities carried out by members of the League of Empire Loyalists, May 1958-October 1962. Loose material intercalated.
- C.4 Hardback scrapbook (damaged) containing newspaper cuttings *re* the campaigning activities and protests of members of the League of Empire Loyalists, including causing a disruption during Harold Macmillan's address to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool, October 1958.
- C.5 Hardback scrapbook containing newspaper cuttings *re* the protest activities and political demonstrations of members of the League for Empire Loyalists, October 1958-October 1962. Loose material intercalated.

- C.6, C.7 ‘General Election 1964.’ Contents of folder so inscribed divided into two for ease of reference.
- Publicity material, campaign literature, newspaper cuttings and two colour photographs *re* members of the League of Empire Loyalists, Austen Brooks, Leslie Greene and Rosine de Bounevialle, standing as Independent Loyalist candidates in the general election of 1964.
- The newspaper cuttings were affixed with multiple staples that showed signs of deterioration. To avoid further damage to the already fragile cuttings and to facilitate access, copies have been made for permanent preservation.
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- C.8-C.13 CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS ca 1954-1969**
- This sub-section contains correspondence and papers relating to the League of Empire Loyalists and their activities.
- The presentation is chronological.
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- C.8 Printed leaflet entitled ‘Policy for Patriots’ issued by the League of Empire Loyalists, nd ca 1954.
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- C.8a Printed leaflet entitled ‘The Menace of World Government’ issued by the League of Empire Loyalists, nd ca 1954.
-
- C.9-C.11 ‘Speeches, spiels and slogans.’ Contents of folder so inscribed divided into three for ease of reference.
- Manuscript and typescript notes, protest slogans and speeches used by members of the League of Empire Loyalists to disrupt political meetings and other gatherings collected and preserved by Rosine de Bounevialle, ca 1957.
- Includes hand-drawn map of Southampton docks and harbour area indicating possible locations suitable for slogan painting.
-
- C.12 Papers *re* a libel claim brought against the Times Publishing Company Ltd by members of the League of Empire Loyalists as a result of suggestions printed in the *Times Educational Supplement* that the League was responsible for an arson attack in London, March 1962.

- C.13 Papers *re* a libel claim brought against Faber and Faber Publishers Ltd by members of the League of Empire Loyalists as a result of statements made in a book by Sylvia Clayton entitled *Top C*, 1968-1969.

SECTION D

CANDOUR AND OTHER POLITICAL PUBLICATIONS

D.1-D.130

This section contains copies of political journals, newspapers and other publications to which Chesterton was a frequent contributor, mostly during the period immediately following World War II. Since Chesterton had been a writer before he became a political activist, advocating his political philosophy through the regular publication of his thoughts and ideas seemed to come naturally to him. So much so that when available publications failed to offer him the platform he desired, he established his own views-sheet entitled *Candour*.

For further writings see Section B.

D.1-D.108 *CANDOUR*

D.109-D.123 *PEOPLES POST*

D.124-D.130 OTHER PUBLICATIONS

D.1-D.108

CANDOUR

1953-1985

This sub-section contains an incomplete series of the publication, *Candour*.

From 1944 Chesterton worked as deputy editor of *Truth*, the long-established journal of ultra right-wing Toryism. He left this position in February 1953 to take up the post of literary adviser to Lord Beaverbrook and journalist on the *Daily* and *Sunday Express* newspapers. At the end of the same year, in response to the transfer of *Truth* into more mainstream Conservative ownership, Chesterton started his own views-sheet. He continued to publish and edit *Candour* until his death in 1973, when it was taken over by Rosine De Bounevalle.

The presentation is chronological.

- D.1a *Candour*, 1, 30 October 1953.
- D.1 *Candour Supplement*, 22 July 1960.
- D.1b *Candour*, **XVI(436)**, 2 March 1962.
- D.2 'The Last Reveille' by A. K. Chesterton, *Candour*, **XVI(440)**, 30 March 1962.
- D.3 *Report for 'Candour' Readers from A. K. Chesterton*, 24 April 1962.
- D.4 'Treason Trafficks in the Market Place' by A. K. Chesterton, *Candour Bulletin*, July 1962.
- D.5 *Candour Interim Report*, October 1962.
- D.6 *Candour Interim Report*, March 1963.
- D.7 *Candour Interim Report*, June 1963.

- D.8 *Candour Interim Report*, July 1963.
- D.9 *Candour Interim Report*, September 1963.
- D.10 *Candour Interim Report*, November 1963.
- D.11 *Candour Interim Report*, **11**, January 1964.
- D.12 *Candour Interim Report*, **12**, February 1964.
- D.13 *Candour Interim Report*, **13**, April/May 1964.
- D.14 *Candour Interim Report*, **14**, June/July 1964.
- D.15 *Candour Interim Report*, **15**, September 1964.
- D.16 *Candour Interim Report*, **16**, October/November 1964.
- D.16a *Candour Interim Report*, **17**, January/February 1965.
- D.16b *Candour*, **XVII(441)**, May 1965.
- D.17 *Candour*, **XVII(448)**, January 1966.
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- D.102 *Candour*, **XXVIII(4)**, May 1977.

- D.103 *Candour*, **XXVIII(5)**, June 1977.
- D.104 *Candour*, **XXVIII(8)**, October 1977.
- D.105 *Candour*, **XXVIII(9)**, November/December 1977.
- D.106 *Candour*, **XXIX(9/10)**, September/October 1978.
- D.107 *Candour*, **XXXV(11/12)**, November/December 1984.
- D.108 *Candour*, **XXXVI(1)**, January 1985.

D.109-D.123

PEOPLES POST

1950-1954

This sub-section contains a small number of copies of the publication *Peoples Post*.

In 1943 during his military service, Chesterton's health broke down and he was invalided out of the army with malaria and colitis. On his return to civilian life he put all his energy into political writing producing articles for various right-wing, nationalist and anti-Semitic journals one of which was *Peoples Post* edited by John Beckett, where his contributions appeared under the name of Philip Falconbridge.

The presentation is chronological.

- D.109 *Peoples Post*, **6(11)**, October 1950.
- D.110 *Peoples Post*, **7(8)**, November 1951.
- D.111 *Peoples Post*, **7(9)**, December 1951/January 1952.

- D.112 *Peoples Post*, **7(10)**, February 1952.
- D.113 *Peoples Post*, **7(11)**, March 1952.
- D.114 *Peoples Post*, **7(12)**, April 1952.
- D.115 *Peoples Post*, **7(14)**, June 1952.
- D.116 *Peoples Post*, **7(15)**, July 1952.
- D.117 *Peoples Post*, **7(17)**, September 1952.
- D.118 *Peoples Post*, **8(2)**, December 1952.
- D.119 *Peoples Post*, **8(3)**, January 1953.
- D.120 *Peoples Post*, **8(5)**, March 1953.
- D.121 *Peoples Post*, **8(6)**, April 1953.
- D.122 *Peoples Post*, **8(10)**, August/September 1953.
- D.123 *Peoples Post* (last issue), February 1954.

D.124-D.130

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1936-1947

This sub-section contains various right-wing publications to which Chesterton subscribed or to which, under the name Philip Falconbridge, he contributed articles.

The presentation is chronological.

D.124 *The Patriot*, **XXXI(766)**, 15 October 1936.

D.125 *The Right Bulletin*, **16**, September 1939.

D.126 *London Tidings*, **71**, 23 August 1947.

D.127 *London Tidings*, **72**, 30 August 1947.

D.128 *London Tidings*, **73**, 6 September 1947.

D.129 *London Tidings*, **74**, 13 September 1947.

D.130 *London Tidings*, **75**, 20 September 1947.

SECTION E CORRESPONDENCE

E.1-E.30

This section contains letters and associated papers sent and received by A. K. Chesterton during the period from 1931 up to his death in August 1973. The correspondence relates to a broad range of topics including literary criticism, Shakespeare, journalism, extreme right-wing movements in the UK, military service, the administrative management of the League of Empire Loyalists, the National Front, various legal proceedings and libel actions in which Chesterton was involved, including a dispute arising from the will of Robert K. Jeffery, the composition and circulation of *Candour*, the publication and sale of Chesterton's writings, issues of racial supremacy, anti-Semitism and other matters of nationalist political theory. Chesterton's correspondents included G. Wilson Knight, and Oswald Mosley.

The presentation is chronological.

E.1	1930, 1931.
E.2	1937-1939.
E.3	1941-1949.
E.4	1953-1956.
E.5	1957-1958.
E.6	1959.
E.7	1960-1961.

E.8	1962.
E.9	1963.
E.10	1964.
E.11-E.13	1965. Three folders.
E.14	1966.
E.15	1967.
E.16, E.17	1968. Two folders. Includes correspondence and papers <i>re</i> legal proceedings brought by Andrew Fountaine against A.K. Chesterton and the leadership of the National Front, 1968.
E.18, E.19	1969. Two folders.
E.20-E.23	1970. Four folders.
E.24	1971.
E.25	1972.

E.26-E.30

1973.

Five folders.

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