INTRODUCTION

What follows is the basis for a comprehensive listing of radical bookshops in Britain, plus a comprehensive bibliography. It has been compiled by Dave Cope and Ross Bradshaw. There are many gaps at the moment as we preferred to start with whatever information we had and put out something, even if sketchy in parts, rather than wait till the list was more complete. At least names of shops and any details can be added now by anyone by just sending an email.

If there is a certain bias towards CP bookshops, this is because a lot of the information was gathered for the background to Dave Cope’s little history on Central Books. This should be corrected as more shops are added.

There is the thorny problem of definition. Generally, the emphasis is on socialist bookshops. We are including anarchist, feminist, green, black, gay and some “community” bookshops. This grouping coincides roughly with the membership of the Federation of Radical Bookshops (till 1980 called the Federation of Alternative Booksellers, an organisation which excluded those shops not run on a co-operative basis and those run by political groups). The FRB was representative of radical bookshops at the time and reflected the upsurge of such shops in the 1970s/1980s. This was an important phenomenon in cultural politics and it would be silly to ignore it in a listing like this. However, there were members who could be described as radical more because of their structure than for what they sold. I have not included the following shops, which would certainly be in some people’s definition of “radical”: new age, alternative health, community, alternative literature/underground unless members of the FRB. Some of these shops did sell radical and socialist magazines. Compendium, for example, is included because of its size and importance as an outlet for radical books.

It is interesting to note, from an historical perspective, that Eva Reckitt who owned Collets had a broad policy on stock but drew the line at “those mysterious world religions” and “phoney psychology”. We have more information on many of the shops than appears here, but it is not practicable to enter it all – the document would be unwieldy – and we hope eventually to publish a book on the subject.

The date given is the earliest reference to a bookshop that we have traced. Ideally, we would like the month of openings and closures. The information listed is generally limited to dates, name, address, and speciality of the shops (if not clear from the name) plus names of key people who set up and worked in the shops. One of the aims is to retrieve and record the achievements of these individuals. But we welcome anecdotes and more detailed information.

Please send us any relevant information, including references in books, fiction and non-fiction, adverts, articles, potted biographies – anything.

There will be some errors, inevitably, as well as omissions. Please let us know!

** = Still in existence.
PREHISTORY

Halifax
Richard Milner’s shop in Halifax. 1820s

Huddersfield
Christopher Tinker established a book and periodical shop, with an attached circulating library, in Market Walk in 1822. It was an agency for most of the Liberal and Radical papers, and became a Radical centre. Tinker became an active Chartist, and was imprisoned three times for selling unstamped papers. When he emigrated to America in 1842, a group of local socialists tried to take it over but couldn’t raise the money. It was then sold to Joshua Hobson, who had also been imprisoned for the same cause. He was the publisher of the Voice of the West Riding, the Leeds Demagogue, and the famous Chartist paper Northern Star. In Leeds, he set up as a Radical printer and publisher, in Market Street, Briggate – “important in the history of radical, especially Owenite and Chartist publishing” (John Halstead The Voice of the West Riding in C Wrigley & J Sheppherd (ed.) On the Move: Essays in Labour and Transport History Presented to Philip Bagwell Hambledon Press, 1991).

Ipswich
The Ipswich Infidel Repository John Cook, a journeyman shoemaker, set up this shop in 1844 which apart from secularist literature sold Chartist and Owenite publications. (Royle Victorian Infidels)

Leeds
Mann, James & wife Alice Leading radical booksellers in Leeds. JM with John Foster led the movement for Parliamentary Reform. On JM’s death, Alice kept the business going & entered into partnership with Joshua Hobson in 1834 (who printed Owen’s New Moral World (between 1838 -1841), The Northern Star). Alice retained her own smaller press, printing The Black Book of the British Aristocracy, Memoir of William Cobbett and she acted as agent for the paper The Ten Hour Advocate (E & R Frow Women in the Early Radical & Labour Movement in “Marxism Today” April 1968). NB Halstead, in The Voice of the West Riding (see Huddersfield, above) argues there is no evidence of this partnership.

Norwich
Lot Hill was a radical bookseller, c1860. (Royle Victorian Infidels)

Nottingham
Susannah Wright's Republican and Freethought bookshop. No name is known for the shop, which was open, at various locations in Nottingham, in 1826 and which had to defend itself against violence and daily pickets from the Committee for the Suppression of Vice. (Christopher Richardson A City of Light: Socialism, Chartism and Co-operation - Nottingham 1844 (Loaf on a Stick Press, 2013)
London

1790s

Daniel Isaac Eaton (1752-1814). Newgate Street. Self-styled ‘Printer and Bookseller to the Supreme Majesty of the People’. Published the first radical working class journals: *Politics for the People* or *Salmagundy for Swine*, commonly known as *Hog’s Wash*. He had an image of a pig over his shop, as well as one of a cock. Imprisoned many times. He published the second part of Paine’s *Rights of Man* in 1793 and *Address to the Addressers* for which he was unsuccessfully prosecuted by the government; he later published a new edition of *The Rights of Man* and *Age of Reason*. [EATON OR SPENCE??]

An accomplished satirist, he wrote fables, sentimental tales, dramatic skits, songs, poems. He fled to America, returned and was imprisoned for 15 months. His wife kept his shop and publishing business open.

Richard Lee (Citizen Richard Lee). *The British Tree of Liberty*.
Published cheap tracts – *Citizen Guillotine, King Killing, The Happy Reign of George the Last*.

Thomas Spence. Bookseller and publisher from *The Hive of Liberty*.
Published *Pig’s Meat* (as riposte to Edmund Burke’s reference to participants in the French Revolution as ‘the swinish multitude’).


Nineteenth century

Farrah & Dunbar
Radical and secularist publishers, Booksellers’ Row, London. 1863. Farrah, Edward (and/or Frederick??) Chartist, Radical Bookseller.

Leno, John Bedford
As well as small printing business, he set up a second hand bookshop in Holywell Street. He wrote, printed and published “Drury Lane Lyrics” himself.

Truelove, Edward

Carlisle, Richard
Bookshop at 5 Water Lane, Fleet Street. Moved to the Strand.

Forder, Robert
28 Stonecutter Street, London, EC. Forder looked after bookshop and publishing business of the National Secular Society and acquired the business of the Freethought Publishing Company in 1890 from Charles Bradlaugh and Annie Besant when their partnership ended. G W Foote took over after Forder.
These premises had been the centre for the Malthusian League, NSS, and the *Freethinker* – till c.1899. The bookshop there must have been one of the largest ‘radical’ ones in London.
NON-CP BOOKSHOPS 1900 – 1960

England

Birmingham

1913 Reformers’ Bookshop, 100 John Bright Street. (Advert in Solidarity Oct. 1913). Fred Silvester was probably involved in this.

1923 26 Digbeth. In January 1923, Fred Silvester set up a bookshop called “The Bomb Shop” - the Labour Literature Agency, run by the Labour Party, ILP and Trades Council. Silvester had been in the CPGB but joined the Labour Party in 1922. The two Trades Council reps on the Management Committee were in the CP. This venture lasted less than a year and Silvestre then converted the bookshop into the Karl-Rosa Club as a “Birmingham Marxist Centre”. (A Wright & R Shackleton ed. Worlds of Labour: Essays in Birmingham Labour History p96).

Blackburn

1900s David H Astley, Discount Bookseller & Stationer, 12 Park Road, Blackburn. Advert in ILP International Bazaar Programme, 1908. “Socialist and other Literature kept in stock”.

Bradford

1920s Reformers’ Bookshop, 103 Kirkgate (there in 1923). Bookseller’s stamp states: “Wholesale & Retail Dealers in Progressive Literature”.

Bristol

1920s Had a “Bomb Shop” (Barnsby Socialism in Birmingham). Flynn’s “Bombshop” in the Horsefair referred to in The People’s Theatre in Bristol, 1930-45 by Angela Tuckett; Our History Pamphlet 72, 1979. Described as “a down-at-heel shop” by Bill Nicholas (Settling Accounts Bristol TUC & SWTUC, 2008 p21).

1937 Mrs Flynn, 19 Horsefair was a stockist of International Press Correspondence in Dec. 1937.

Flynn’s Bomb Shop is mentioned in D Chapple Grasshoppers, Stonkers and Straight Eights: George Massey and Bristol Office Workers. Massey recalls that it was run by an Irish family, whose men were not conscripted during WW1; “they sold a lot of left-wing literature”. He collected LBC books there every month and sold 12-20 copies in his sorting office. He also tried, in vain, to set up a small library in the restaurant at work.

Carlisle

1930s

The Wooden Horse – radical bookshop situated opposite the cathedral. Run by a CP member. About 1932?

Chopwell (Durham)

c1912

The Club George Davison (rich American, Director of Kodak) bought Matt Caisley’s shop in Derwent Street; was this just a club or a bookshop? (NB He also bought premises in South Wales and Stockport). Davison certainly sold pamphlets at meetings. See Gary Pattison Anarchist Influences in the Durham Coalfield Before 1914 in The Raven No.11, July-Sept. 1990. It later became the Communist Club.

Hastings

August 1907

“Alf Cobb: For years Mr Chubbs shop has been a kind of depot for Socialist Literature. If a Socialist wanted a copy of Justice, the Labour Leader, or the Clarion he was always sure of getting them from your correspondent. Mr Chubb: I supply my customers wants and honestly say that although I knew The Clarion to be Mr Blatchfords mouthpiece and he was an agnostic, I thought it was a Labour paper. The Labour Leader I fancied was to tell labourers where work was to be had and Justice I imagined was a paper devoted to police reports etc, until I was enlightened on the matter” pp36-7 Mike Matthews, “Alf Cobb” (Mike Matthews, Hastings 1991)

Liverpool

1906

Small & Dodd, 10 Islington “The “Advanced Book” Store” “Socialistic, Labour, Trade-Union, Freethought Books Literature…Reference Works on Labour and Socialism may be consulted free of charge”. Ad. in The Labour Annual 1906

1938?

E Cund, Book Shop, 1 Hilda Street. Trotskyist?

1940s

Odd shops or booksellers spring up in all sorts of places: e.g. Arnold Yates “Dealer in Progressive Literature” 9 Shotwick Street – almost certainly a CP literature agency/depot, even if based in a private house. In 1942, Morton’s Bookshop in Oxton Road, Birkenhead, sold tickets for a CP event but no other indication that it was a CP or even political bookshop.

Manchester

1921

Late 1920s
14 Downing Street. This was the ILP office, and was probably not a proper shop, but advertised “Books on Socialism, Fiction etc…Generous discounts to all working-class organisations”. (Ad. in “Northern Voice” 1927-30).

Archer’s
30s? Communist. A branch of the Archer’s chain.

early 1930s?
Books and Books corner of Great Ducie Street and Fennel Street. Bill Laithwaite provided the finance. Ted Ainley worked there 1933-4 (The CP in Manchester 1920-26 R & E Frow). Close to CP. Advert for this shop, then at 54 Victoria Street, Manchester 3, on back cover of F Casey’s “Method in Thinking” published by tutors attached to South Lancs Labour College, 1933; it served as agents for Intourist.

Morecambe
1938
Tom Platt and Son, 34 Queen Street.– Newsagents, Stationers and Tobacconists – “Progressive Bookshop”. (Listed in CP pamphlets as source of CP pamphlets e.g. The Colonies - The Way Forward, Nov 1944; till 1946).

Norwich
1946 & 1947

Nottingham
1930s
There was a freethought bookshop on North Sherwood Street in the 30s.

Oxford
c1918
Health Food shop near Magdalen bridge that sold socialist literature; Andrew Rothstein made contacts with other socialist students (Ralph Fox) and trade union secretaries and later formed a “Hands off Russia” group and a “Unity Group” for representation at CP foundation congress. (Note from AR in DC’s possession)
1935
Davenant Bookshop, 41 High Street stocked Left Review. Was it a left-wing shop??

Portsmouth
1939
Left Book Club Shop, 74 Sultan Road.

Reading

Redhill

1933  The Trade Union Bookshop 71 Station Road. Owned by J Conway. ILP and CP held joint meetings there. They had a lending library, charging 1d per week.

London

?? c1920  Len Cotton’s running a bookshop somewhere near old Street.

Camden Bar and Bookshop

1935  13 Eversholt Street, London.

Carters’ Bookshop

1930s-1940  in 19 White Church Lane, Whitechapel Road E1; two brothers ran this. Jack Carter did bookstalls at Unity Theatre. [CH] Display ad. in DW 13.11.1940: “The Progressive Bookshop 19 White Church Lane, E1, late Carter’s Bookshop, has been entirely re-organised and is now under new management. This shop will continue to be East London’s own centre for all LEFT BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS. Call and inspect our selection of New and Second-hand books at greatly reduced prices. Special terms in these lines to DW Bazaar Secretaries.” Did this mean it became an official CP bookshop? One manager worked for Workers’ Circle; Irish manager in I.B. Closed post-war. [Dave Bloom]

Clapham Socialist Bookshop

1937  79 Bedford Road, London SW4 ILP?? [ad. in Trotskyist Fight June 1937 & in International Sept 1938].

Clapton Book Store

1932  53 Lower Clapton Road E5 “All Workers’ Literature Stocked” ad. in Busmans’ Punch. Ad. In 1940s: “For books, pamphlets etc. on the Trade Union Movement”. CP??

H W Edwards [Lahr’s Bookshop]

The Progressive Book Shop, 68 Red Lion Street (ad. in Workers’ Dreadnought 29.3.19); “Dealers in Advanced Literature… Socialistic, Artistic, Literary…new and second-hand” (ad. in The Russian Soviet Constitution People’s Russian Information Bureau, July 1919); the anarchist bookshop later run by Charlie Lahr (ex-IWW, founder member
Lahr’s Bookshop listed in Red Flag Nov 1934 as an outlet. Later described as 68-69 Red Lion Street.

**Fabian Society**

1916


**Fox’s Book Stores**

1913

18 New Kent Road; 152 King Street, Hammersmith; Church Road, Barnes; 26 Aldgate. All in advert in Solidarity Oct. 1913.

**Freedom Bookshop**

1940?

Red Lion Passage, Holborn, London. Very small shop, opened on a voluntary basis. It was rented from Dr. Josiah Oldfield who had sold vegetarian produce there. Destroyed in air raid May 1941. 1941 July 27 Belsize Road, Swiss Cottage, London (first floor flat) – same address as Freedom Press, the publisher. Publisher moved to 27 Red Lion Street sometime after 1945.


1969 May 84b, Angel Alley, Whitechapel High Street, London E1. **

**The Ginger Bookshop**

1926? – July 1927

173 Hampstead Rd, NW1 Set up by the Ginger Club to sell Lansbury’s Labour Weekly [this was also the address of Plebs] “latest books on every subject” and “all Labour publications”. Lansbury incorporated his bookshop and record department into the ILP bookshop at the same time as he incorporated his paper into the New Leader.

**Henderson’s**

190?


Henderson’s of 16 Paternoster Row was listed as an outlet for The Social-Democrat of October 1906 but this may just be a newsagent.

**Housmans**

1945

26 October first shop opened in Shaftesbury Avenue.
1957 - 3 Blackstock Road, N4

? Moved to 5 Caledonian Road, N1 Anarchist; Pacifism

**ILP Publication Dept**
23 Bride Street, London. In 1910 at: 30 Blackfriars Street, Salford [they did supply books by any publisher]. E Hubert Johnson, 23 Bride Lane, Ludgate Circus, EC - was publisher for the ILP and had links with the Fabian Society. Fabian Society advert on one of his pamphlets (Socialism, Tarrifism and ‘Free’(? Trade by Leonard Hall) promotes “Book Boxes each containing about 25 books on Socialism & Social subjects, made up to suit the wishes of subscribers. Every ILP Branch, T.U. Branch or Co-operative Society should obtain one. Fee 10/- a year”.

ILP Bookshop

1940s?
Ludgate Circus. Managed by Jon Kimche, who later edited Tribune and Jewish Observer.
1956: ILP Bookshop, 6 Endsleigh St, WC1 - advertised in The Socialist Leader. This was the address of the ILP, and also of its printing business, the National Labour Press till about 1961 when moved to 197 King’s Cross Road, WC1. Sometimes referred to as ILP Bookshop & Literature Department.

Librairie Internationale

c1937
73 Russell Square, W.C. [ad. in Trotskyist Fight Jan, Sept 1937]

Librairie Internationale

c1937
Percy Street, W.C. (ad. in Trotskyist Fight Jan, Sept 1937)

The Modern Russian Bookshop

1932
Bush House, Aldwych, WC2. Registered as Kniga (England) Ltd. This was next to the Intourist office.

Museum Bookshop

1910-mid/late 1940s.
Museum Street Labour & radical books - 2nd hand? They issued a 2nd hand catalogue in 1911 with many Chartist items. Owner - Mr Kashoor. When died, stock went to an Australian university.

New Books

1936
obtained within 24 hours”. (1936 ad. in *Left Review*) Aug. 1936: “Café re-opened downstairs for Lunch and Tea”. (*Left Review*) Close to CP.

In June 1941, it relocated to 3 Vernon Place, nearby. It called itself “The Leading Bookshop”, (“Whatever You Want in Progressive Literature – We Have It” - ad. in *Challenge* July 1941).

**No More War Bookshop**

1928

11, Doughty St, WC1. Same address as the No More War Movement, but it does appear to be a proper shop. On one of their 1928 pamphlets: “We have a wide selection of novels, plays and poems, and can supply suggestions or a complete programme for socials, concerts and reading parties”. This was on top of books on Disarmament, The League, History, Foreign Affairs, War Resistance, Religion, Politics etc.

**Parton Bookshop**

1932

4 Parton Street, Red Lion Square “Archer and Abercrombie”. “In 1934 Archer’s partner took control of the shop, and poetry gave way to politics”. (A T Tolley *The Poetry of the Thirties* Gollancz 1975).

David Archer (also publisher as Parton Press of Dylan Thomas, George Barker, David Gascoyne). Famously uncommercial – customers borrowed books!

“Poetry: Marxism: Novels” (Ad. in *Left Review* Oct 1934)

See a) Cunningham *British Writers of the Thirties* OUP 1988 p109;
b) P Toynbee *Friends Apart* MacGibbon & Kee 1954 [p.18: “That shop! The archetype of all the ‘People’s Books, ‘Workers’ Bookshops’, ‘Popular Books’ that I was to know so intimately in the next five years”];
c) R Fraser *Night Thoughts: The Surreal Life of the Poet David Gascoyne* OUP 2012 [p51: “the closest London would come at the period to the gregarious and radical ‘librairies’ of the Latin Quarter…Part social club, part debating chamber, part dosshouse”];

By 1936 renamed **New Books**

Archer moved his shop to Glasgow (early wartime?)

**Peter’s Bookshop**

1934

75, Hammersmith Road, W14. Still there December 1937.

“Peter’s Bookshop, now moved to 3 North End Road, is still opposite Olympia”. (ad. in *DW* 30.12.39) Close to CP. Peter’s Bookshop in Hammersmith. Peter Murphy – a Cambridge friend of Lord Mountbatten & his advisor on Communism. Murphy supplied the capital and it was run by 2 CP members. [Charlie Hall]

**Phoenix Book Co.**

1938  66 Chandos St., WC1 (Ad. in Challenge 28.4.38) CP??

**Pioneer Bookshop (1)**

1920s (late?)  Woolwich. Labour Party. Manager: George Goodchild; later Eric Norris († 2000) was manager and then proprietor. It closed in 1960s, to become an office for the TGWU – but is this the same one from the 1920s?

**Pioneer Bookshop (2)**


**Progressive Book Society Ltd.**


**RWL Bookshop**  ? - 1940? Short-lived bookshop run by the Revolutionary Workers League. Trotskyist

**Socialist Book Centre**

c1943  158 Strand, WC2. ILP? (Ad. back cover of Kenyatta’s *Kenya: The Land of Conflict*) Also advertised on Common Wealth pamphlet of 1945 but slightly different address: 46-48 Essex Street, Strand SW2.

**Socialist Bookshop**


**H Straussberg**  10 Coptic Street, WC2. Listed in Red Flag Nov 1934 as an outlet for the Trotskyist paper.

**Students’ Bookshops Ltd.**  15 Bury Street, WC1. (Office at 16 Harpur St.). A co-op “originated with, and remain closely allied to, the WEA” (from advert in 68th Annual Report...
1927-27 London Trades Council). They specialised in WEA special offers, and also advertised “remainders” and would order any book in print.

Vanguard Bookshop
98 Park Street, Regents Park, NW1. (Stockist of International Press Correspondence in December 1937). No other references found.

Louis White
1937 - ??
122 Wellesley Road, Croydon. “Croydon’s new progressive bookshop. English, foreign and all left-wing books”. (Ad. in Left Review May 1937)

Women’s Social and Political Union
1910

Wales

Aberystwyth

Workers’ Bookshop
Glasgoed, Elm Tree Avenue. Published T E Nicholas in Welsh in 1938 but was it a bookshop?

Cardiff

Labour Literature Hall

Swansea

Reformers’ Bookshop / The Bomb Shop
1910 Siddall Buildings, 60 Alexandra Road. First reference – from street directory. 1913: Advert in Solidarity, October 1913 – refers to the Bomb Shop. Anarchist. The building housed various left-wing organisations including trade union offices. In 1913/1914 Edwin Wilkins Lewis ran the newsagents there (this could have been the bookshop). (Info. from descendant, Elizabeth Jones). 1921: Advert in The Commonweal, Feb. 1921.

Scotland

Edinburgh

The Socialist Bookshop
1930s  Run by Frank Maitland 1933-4 (Revolutionary History Vol.8 No.1 2001 p268). Maitland got Ernest Rogers to work in the shop in exchange for board and lodging. 1941 31 Lothian Street (on RSP Manifesto c1941). Is this the same? Could it be an ILP shop?

Glasgow

Union Publishing Co.

1921  93 Great Western Road, “Sellers of Stationery, Books, Roll Top Desks, Carbon Paper etc.” Publishers of Preobrazhensky Third Anniversary of the Russian October Revolution 1921

BSP Bookshop (name?)

1912  (“Glasgow South-Side branch led to a Tradeston branch and we even had our own bookshop McShane (p44). Lasted till 1919 (p112). Although we were one of the most active branches in Scotland, with forty members, we finally broke with the BSP in January 1920...We carried on our meetings and selling literature at the bookshop in 19 Morrison Street” (112).

Newsagents/Bookshop in Shuttle Street

1924+  Owned by old socialist W McGill (Dictionary of Labour Biography Vol.5 p141) (see Herald League Bookshop).

T Mercer

1938?  Book Shop, 52 Auldhouse Road, C3. Trotskyist? [Ad. in New International Sept. 1938]

Shettleston Road  Eastern Branch of Guy Aldred’s Anti-Parliamentary Communist Federation. The shop was also called The Red Spot in the East.

Bakunin Press Bookshop

?  Buchanan Street, Glasgow (A.P.C.F.) Run by Frank Leech ?

Archer’s

1930s?  A branch of the Archer’s chain. Close to CP

Herald League Bookshop

George Street. Run by Will McGill and his wife. HQ of Clyde Workers’ Committee. Meeting room at the back: February 1915: Gallacher and other Glasgow workers representatives met in the afternoon. “McGill, having
retired from foundry work, was devoting his remaining years to the sale of all kinds of revolutionary and progressive literature” (*Revolt on the Clyde*).

“At court cases, McGill was always there with the Herald and a selection of pamphlets, and used to go along the rows of seats selling his wares until the Sheriff came in”. (*Last Memoirs*) p72. Tom Mann also describes this shop in *Pioneering Days*.

“1912. In Glasgow, Willie McGill, an old anarchist who was very vocal and had great integrity, became the agent for the Daily Herald. He had a newspaper shop which became the centre for the Daily Herald League, and all kinds of meetings were held there. He stuck with the paper all the way through, even when in the thirties it became a quite different sort of paper and infamous for the things it said. Because of the Daily Herald, the ILP and the Labour Party decided to bring out their own daily paper, the Daily Citizen, but that soon died.” McShane *No Mean Fighter* Pluto (p51) 1913-1914: During the Dublin strike I ran into old Willie McGill taking a strike collection using a barrel-organ which was covered with Will Dyson cartoons. (Will Dyson was the official cartoonist of the Daily Herald.) I offered to help Willie; we went out with the barrel-organ every Saturday night, collecting money in the streets and all round the theatre queues, and every night we collected at least a couple of pounds”. McShane (p58).

**ILP Bookshop/ The Reformers’ Bookstall Ltd.**

? Wellington Arcade. Upper rooms were Editorial Offices of *The Labour Leader*; when *Labour Leader* moved to Manchester the book shop closed.

c1905 Reformers’ Bookstall opened in Bothwell Street. Annie Swan was manager, later helped by her daughter Nellie.

? Expanded and moved to 224 Buchanan Street (end of 1918 or Jan 1919); David Hardie (J K’s brother) was manager with Annie Paton as assistant. Started publishing in 1907. From the start, The Reformers’ Bookstall in Glasgow acted as a wholesale outlet for Scottish branches of ILP, Fabian Society, SDF, and Women’s Suffrage movement (Haddow *My Seventy Years*).

c1911 Shop closed. Much smaller one opened but that soon closed, too.

c1915: There was also a woman in charge of the Reformers Bookstall, the ILP bookshop in Gorbals Street McShane (*No Mean Fighter*, p34). Could this be Rose Kerrigan who describes working in a left bookshop during WW1, but refers to a SLP shop?

1935 at 548 London Road, Glasgow S.E.

**Strickland Press**

1939 – May 1968

106 George Street 1961 moved to Montrose Street. Guy Aldred’s United Socialist Movement had their printing press at 104 and bookshop at 106 George St. (see Caldwell, John Taylor *With Fate Conspire - Memoirs of a Glasgow Seafarer and Anarchist* Northern Herald Books,1999). Probably not a proper shop; very few refs in Caldwell’s book apart from the end: “I
tried to save it by stocking paperbacks in the biographical, historical and political ranges. That was of no avail”. Caldwell closed it in 1968: “Two walls of the shop were lined with books”; he sold the remaining stock at sixpence and a dealer bought what remained.
### CP BOOKSHOPS

“We are responsible for 44 shops, whereas in 1939 there were 12 shops throughout the country” [Central Books Ltd minutes]. NB In the 1930s Modern Books had a series of Local Agents – their stamps appear in pamphlets, their addresses are listed in them and it can be difficult to distinguish these from shops.

#### England

**Ashton-under-Lyne**

1933 The Workers’ Bookshop 150 Old St, (CP premises) from back of *An Industrial Town Under Capitalism*, CP 1933

**Birmingham**

1925 Birmingham District acquired a bookshop (G Barnsby *Socialism in Birmingham and the Black Country*).
1934 Workers’ Bookshop 115 Bradford Street
1937 Workers’ Bookshop 42 Holloway Road, Birmingham 15 (Ad. in *International Press Correspondence* 15 Dec. 1937).
1940 Modern Books 42 Holloway Head [Ad. in *DW* 20.11.1940 – “Sole suppliers for the Midland District”]

In late 1941 changed name to **Key Books** (still at Holloway Head). NB in Jan 1942 there was also a shop (called Key Books??) at Colonnade Passage, New Street. (see *Why You Should be a Communist*).
1943 at 115 Dale End, Birmingham 4. (Lena Alexander worked there; Iris Walker started 1946, manager 1948-56; Lena Alexander Manager in 1958). 1948 divided shop into 2 – one half was sold to Estate Agents but shop was still big! Address changed to 116 Dale End.
1946: “For over 5 years we have been the only bookshop in Birmingham which has specialised in political literature for the working people. We have distributed in that time over two million pamphlets and periodicals, and a total of well over £50,000 of political literature…And remember Key Books Ltd are the only booksellers in Birmingham employing 100% Trade Union Labour”.
1967: 6 Well Lane, Allison Street, B5
1970: moved to 25 Essex Street, Birmingham B5.
1987: moved to 136 Digbeth, Birmingham B5. (Esme Barnsby)

**Bradford**

? 59 Infirmary Street
1941 The People’s Bookshop, 60 Thornton Road Closes 1946.

**Brighton**

1941 New shop set up
c1943- 1956 May 161a, North Street. (Roland Mason manager; Betty Whittenbury assistant manager for 2 years). “There was left wing bookshop run by a committee, most of whom were members of the CP complemented by representatives from other left wing organisations plus some individual radically minded people” – c 1945 (Vida Henning Woman in a Shabby Brown Coat Green Cottage Publishing, 2000)

Closed when lease ran out and moved temporarily to premises in Trafalgar St.

1965: People’s Bookshop Ltd, 15 Gloucester Road.

Bristol

a) 1941

West of England’s Peoples Bookshop, 28 Ellbroad Street
1943 at 8 West Street.
(The People’s Bookstore at 7 Midland Road, run by a Polish family, is mentioned by Bill Nicholas (Settling Accounts Bristol TUC & SWTUC, 2008). Is this another shop?)

1946 (mid) moves to 27 (or 28) Upper Maudlin Street , Bristol 2. Closes 1949? Betty Sinclair worked there before moving back to Belfast to work for Belfast TC.

b) Kingswood Bookshop, 45 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol.

1949 Changes name to People’s Bookshop (other shop with this name had closed). By 1951 changed name back to Kingswood Bookshop (at Regent Street). This shop was sold in 1953. Arnold Rattenbury had been Manager there.

1967: Literature Department, 10 Lawford Street.

Cambridge

Mid-1930s

G C MacLaurin opened a CP Bookshop in All Saints Passage; replaced by Lon Elliott in 1936.

1941 MacLaurin’s Bookshop Ltd, 1 Rose Crescent. Closes 1950. (G C Maclaurin died in Spanish Civil War)

Carlisle

1946 – 1949

Cumberland Books, 3 Earl Street.

Chatham

1941 -

Progressive Books, 88 Luton Road.

1943 Chatham Progressive Bookshop, 227 High Street Chatham Bookshop.

1946 Jan bought by Central Books; sold in 1947 Nov.

1949 Kent Bookshop 227 High Street.

1967 Kent Bookshop Ltd, 48 Luton Road, Kent. (1989 still there)

Cheltenham
1943 – 1948? People’s Bookshop, 80 High Street Closes 1948?

Coventry
1941 [set up] – late 1946? The People’s Bookshop 39 Jordan Well

Derby
1934 Workers’ Bookshop, 12 Park Street. There in 1935.

Exeter
1941 set up People’s Bookshop, 8 New Bridge Street. Closes late 1946?

Gloucester
1941 The Left Bookshop, 124 Barton Street. By 1943 called People’s Bookshop. By 1951 name changed to The Gloucester Bookshop (still at Barton Street).

Ilford

Ipswich
1943 Commerce Chambers, 14 High Street. 
1945 at 16 High Street. Closes late 1946?
1965 Literature Department, 14 Willoughby Road Gone by 1969.

Keighley
1930s 27 Bridge Street

King’s Lynn
1943 Modern Bookshop, 7 Tower Street

Leeds
1930s (c1933?) Workers’ Bookshop, Hunslet Road (Rent £8 per month incl. Rates. Initially set up & run by Ernie Benson; after few months Jack Kline, a tailor, took over as paid manager). Probably best CP provincial bookshop in the 1930s. (See E Benson To Struggle is to Live Vol.2.)
1937 Progressive Bookshop 85, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2
1941 moved to 45 Woodhouse Lane. Still there in 1944. Mr Kline (?) manager. Leslie Silver worked there in 1940s as a volunteer – later became Chairman of Leeds United (info. from Jeffrey Sherwin).
1957 April: sold to Collets.
In 1984 trading as Beshire Ltd. from this address.

**Leicester**

H Packer, 1 Bland Road, New Park. (Listed on back of CP pamphlet 1949, 1950, but not in 1952. Was this a shop or a private address?)

**Liverpool**

1934
50 Ashfield, off Wavertree Road, Wavertree. Almost certainly a private house, but figures in a small list of communist bookshops/suppliers at back of *The Great “Scales of Diet” Scandal*, Workers Bookshop Ltd., 1934 (and elsewhere).

1938
19/20 Old Haymarket CP office address - was there a shop?

1941
Progressive Bookshop 18 Norton Street, Liverpool 3 was set up [Pat Walker, Stan Coulthard].
From April 1945 to May 1950 owned by Central Books who bought the shop from the Lancashire District.
1956 – Dec 1968 Progressive Books 113 Mount Pleasant. The official opening with William Gallacher was postponed due to the Hungarian uprising. (Les Parrington was part-time manager in 1958 and may have been there till the mid 1960s). Shop was on ground floor, CP offices upstairs. Still there in 1967.
Jan 1969 – May 1975 12 Upper Duke Street, L3 (Eric Caddick)

**Luton**

1943
The Bookshop, 38 Castle Street. Closes 1945?

1967 Literature Department, 8 Crawley Green Road

**Manchester**

1932 (1934)
Workers’ Bookshop, 45 Rochdale Road
In 1943 Gwen Olinsky worked in the shop (O Bernard *Getting Over It*).
1945 - 1949 Progressive Bookshop (Manchester) Ltd, 7 John Dalton St.
1967 Progress Bookshop Ltd, 94 Rusholme Road.
1969 Progress Books, 28 Hathersage Road, Manchester 13. Still there in 1980. (Gerry Leversha). In 1986 shop re-established in CP offices at this address – Rob Menzies as volunteer worker.
Middlesbrough

1943 June – 1948? Modern Books, 61 (or 64) Borough Road. “It is a sign of the virility of a town when such a shop is opened” - Dean of Canterbury on opening the shop on June 9.

Newcastle

1931 Workers’ Bookshop 213 Westgate Road. By 1937 called People’s Bookshop.
1941 People’s Bookshop at 118 Westgate Road. In 1943 moved to 122 Westgate Road.
1946 at 118-120 Westgate Road. (Maggie Airey became Manager & Literature Organiser in 1948 replacing Frank Graham, International Brigader, who later became a successful publisher).
1950 Moves to 117 Westmorland Road - but was this a shop??
1941 People’s Bookshop at 118 Westgate Road (Bob Carr c1987)
c1988 People’s Bookshop, 1st Floor, 65a Heaton Road, Heaton, Newcastle NE6. (at this address in 1989).

Northampton

1941 Small branch bookshop/premises opened. Organised by Francis Goodman: “With a loan of £20 with which to buy us stock and put the shop in good condition, and with plenty of enthusiasm, we managed to make quite an attractive bookshop” in Party Organisation - Weapon for Victory March (?) 1943.
1946 (late) – 1948? People’s Bookshop at 133 Wellingborough Road.

Nottingham

1941 set up The Bookshop, 189 Huntingdon Street.
1944 at 90 Upper Parliament Street Closes 1948?
1948 People’s Bookshop was at 4 Fletcher Gate on 2nd Floor. John Peck appointed manager in Sept. 1948. From May 1949 Peck was full-time Area Secretary and a part-timer was appointed to the shop.
1965 People’s Bookshop, 65 Castle Boulevard (Still there 1978)
1989 People’s Bookshop, 26 Newcastle Chambers, Angel Row. CP office; not open to public.

Oxford

22
1965 Literature Department, 15 Oxford Road, Cowley. Between 1970 and 1973 changed name to Progress Books. It was not a proper shop, but had a fair range of stock.

**Plymouth**

1937? There is a fine photograph of G Stefantos, manager of The People’s Bookshop, outside the shop. Probably December 1937. The shop number is 71, but the street unknown. Owner of photo thinks it may be Davenport but I can find no trace of a CP shop there.
1941 The Bookshop, 7 Clifton Street.
1943 at 3 Whimple Street (sometimes Whymple)

**Portsmouth**

1944 People’s Bookshop, 338 Fratton Road. Run by the Russells.
1946 (mid) moves to 15 Lennox Road North, Southsea. Closes 1948?

**Reading**


**Sheffield**

1938 Workers’ Bookshop, 105 Queen Street - probably local agent only as this was the CP office.
1940 Workers’ Bookshop, 6 Jessop Street, The Moor (Burton’s Corner) [ad. in *DW* 7.12.1940]
1941 The Sheffield Bookshop, 85 Carver Street
1948? moves to 20 Matilda Street
1965 Sheffield Bookshop, 93 The Wicker

**Southampton**

1947 Jan The People’s Bookshop set up at 133 St Mary’s Street, registered under the name of Trinity Investments. Later (1950) at 133a? Later called The Left Bookshop.
1965 Peoples Bookshop, 25 St Mary’s Road, Southampton 9.

**Stockton-on-Tees**
1941 People’s Bookshop, 14 Nelson Terrace

**Stroud**

1943 – late 1946? People’s Bookshop, 45a High Street

**Swindon**

1938? Unity Bookshop, Corporation Street. Ike Gradwell worked here and then when it moved to Commercial Road. Did the name change then? (Angela Tuckett *Ike Gradwell 1906-1979*)

1941 Progressive Books, 73d Commercial Road. (1952)

1951 at Market Halls. [Edith Stevens Manager in 1953]

1969 Literature Department, 1 Bridge Street.

**Weymouth**

1947 or 1948 Weymouth Bookshop, 38 St Thomas Street

By 1949 name changed to Southern Times Bookshop at same address.

**Worcester**

1941 – late 1946? Modern Books, 29 Lowesmoor

**CP BOOKSTALLS**

**Coventry**

1941 The People’s Bookstall, Market. Open Saturdays 10.00 – 6.00.

**Rugby**

1941 The People’s Bookstall, Market.

**London**

**Main London bookshop**

1921 **Communist Bookshop** 16 King Street. May 7, 1921 raided by police – pamphlets and books removed.

By 1924 sales of CP literature reached £200 per week.

1927 name changes to **Workers’ Bookshop**

1934 (early) Workers’ Bookshop (wholesale) opens in Clerkenwell Green (but King Street shop kept open)

1937 Jan moves to 49 Farringdon Road, EC1. In 1938 described itself as: “Wholesale & Export Booksellers & Publishers”.

1939 July Workers’ Bookshop wound up and new company, Central Publications, based at King Street, was set up

1939 Dec **Central Books Ltd** set up, incorporating Central Publications.

1941 July Central Books opens shop at 2 Parton Street, Red Lion Square.
1933 (late) **Workers’ Bookshop** 649 High Road, Tottenham Clive Branson set up shop (incl. second hand books). Noreen Branson served in the shop, Clive collected and sorted the books; they served tea & sandwiches at the back of the shop as lots of people came in during lunchtime; popular with young people and students. Helped by local comrades. For short time Clive & Noreen lived above the shop, then moved back to Edmonton. Shop closed shortly after they moved to Battersea (Clive got job in Education Dept. at King St.) (Noreen Branson in conversation with DC).

1934; 1940 People’s Bookshop, 115 Lavender Hill, SW11. Lease bought by David Guest in 1934, who ran the shop; later it was managed by Wally Pritchard, a former meat porter in Smithfield. Rooms above the shop were used for meetings (CP, NUWM, Left Book Club Group). Still there in Dec. 1940. Probably closed during Blitz, lease ran out.


1930s (mid) Mrs Morgan had occasional bookstall in Marx House (got books from Charlie Hall at Workers’ Bookshop on ground floor)

1934 (Feb) Workers’ Bookshop 31 Dudden Hill Lane, Willesden NW10, (in Feb 1934 this shop, called the “Unthanks Bookshop”, acted as publisher for *Inprecorr*; later in 1934 it moved to 370 High Road, Willesden)

? Workers’ Bookshop 8 Goldhawk Mews, Hammersmith

? Workers’ Bookshop Salway Road, Angel Lane, Stratford Broadway

? Workers’ Bookshop 4 Tanner’s Hill, SE8

? Workers’ Bookshop 26 York Road, Battersea

? Workers’ Bookshop 157 Seven Sisters Road, N7

? Workers’ Bookshop 249 King St, Hammersmith

? Workers’ Bookshop 387b High Road, Wood Green N22 [previously called “Red Front Bookshop” 1929?]
Workers’ Bookshop 156 Whitechapel Road E1

1937
People’s Bookshop, 1a Browning Street, SE17 (ad. in *International Press Correspondence* 15 December 1937).

1938
Modern Bookshop 123 Lambeth Walk SE11 (Ad. in *Challenge* April 28, 1939)

1938
Heath Bookshop, 76 Heath Street, Hampstead. [ad in “Challenge” 28.4.38] CP??

1940
Prospect Bookshop 121 Drummond Street NW1 Incl. lending library. July 1941: moves to 45 Park Way, Camden Town.

1967
High Street, Collier’s Wood, SW19. Surrey District Literature Department

1967
61 South Road, Southall. West Middlesex District Literature Department. 1974 Atlas Books, 221 The Broadway, Southall. West Middlesex District. Ted Ainley manager 1951-4 (see *DLB* 10) so there was a shop earlier.


1941
a) Acton: 2 Church Road, High Street W3
1941
b) Camden: 45 Parkway NW1 (gone by Feb 1949)
1941
c) Peckham: 91 Peckham High Street SE15 (Replaced by better shop in Lewisham at 165 High Street SE13 - pre-1946. Manager: Harry Jackson in 1946)
1941
d) Hayes: 83 Station Road [later **Progressive Bookshop**] gone by 1949?
1941
e) Tooting: 28 Mitcham Road SW17 Closes 1949.
1941
f) Stepney: 19 Whitechurch Lane, E1. Moved by 1943 to 20 Whitechapel High Street ,E1 (gone by Aug 1949).
1943
g) Harrow: 360 Station Road gone by 1949??
Feb 1946
h) Kingston: 29 Fife Road Kingston on Thames, Surrey
Feb 1949
i) 174 Royal College Street, NW1 Closes 1950.
Feb 1949
Nov 1949
k) 100 Woolwich High Street SE18
Nov 1949
l) 363 Cambridge Heath Road E2
Nov 1949
m) 1 Datcheler Place, SE5
Nov 1949
n) 23 Mason’s Avenue, Wealdstone
Aug 1950
o) 421 Garrett Lane, SW18
Aug 1950
p) 75 Farringdon Road, EC1
Wales

Aberystwyth

Workers’ Bookshop (or Workers’ Book Service), Glasgoed, Elm Tree Avenue. This was the house of T E Nicholas, the famous preacher, poet and Welsh Communist so was probably not a proper shop.

Cardiff

1940 South Wales Bookshop at 62 Charles Street.
1942 Jan. South Wales Bookshop Ltd registered at 119a Queen Street, (took over business belonging to Hayden Sprague?). First manager (?): Archibald Holborn.
1949 closed.

Bangor

1949
E S Jones, I Mount Pleasant

Caerphilly

Progressive Bookshop, 66 Cardiff Road see back cover of Forward to a New Life for S Wales 1944

Neath

? 
Progressive Bookshop, 17 Alfred Street. Ditto

Newport

? 
Progressive Bookshop, 81 Commercial Street Ditto

Wrexham

1943
The Bookshop, 30 Temple Row.
1949 Mr R V Eattell, 23 Beechley Road. Shop??

Scotland
Airdrie 1937 Workers’ Bookshop. (Mentioned in 1937 Scottish CP Congress Report p27). Gone by 1943. There was an unnamed outlet (not clear if a shop or not) for International Press Correspondence at 136 Graham Street in Dec. 1937.

Dundee


Edinburgh

1942/3 c1948 The Progressive Bookshop, 37 Lothian Road

Falkirk


Glasgow

1931 – c1934/5 Workers’ Bookshop 258 High Street. Harry McShane mentions Willie Joss working there (1931?) (No Mean Fighter p166) Gone by Aug 1935.

1935 ILP Bookshop 548 London Road. Mentioned in Left Review August 1935 as a stockist of the journal.


1945 Caledonian Books 68 West Regent Street. Shop or printers or publisher?

Clyde Books Ltd

1943 Spring set up at 3 Bothwell St, Glasgow. 1948? 1949 308 Argyle St., Glasgow. [George Hamilton] There in 1956. “The day after Krushchev was removed from office everything he had ever written was removed from the shelves of the Communist Party bookshop in Glasgow. Harry McShane in Harry McShane - No Mean Fighter (Pluto Press, 1964 p253);
c1960 moved to 544 Argyle St, Glasgow (Anderson Cross) (Bob McIlhone) 1967 292 High St (David & Margaret McDowall; other staff: Mrs Sweeney; Bill Cowe) There in 1977 1983? moved to 15-19 Parnie St. Later just 19 Parnie Street. (Neil & Mary McIntosh; 1991: Seb Fischer) Closed 1993?
Kirkcaldy

1930s  Kirkcaldy Bookshop. (Mentioned in 1937 *Scottish CP Congress Report* p27). Gone by 1943.

Lumphinnans

1930s  Workers’ Bookshop. (Mentioned in 1937 *Scottish CP Congress Report* p27). Gone by 1943.

In *Organise to Mobilise Millions* March 1943 there is a reference to projected shops in Aberdeen and Dundee. No trace. Didn’t exist by 1945.

Perth

1937  Workers’ Bookshop  12 Bridge Lane. There in Dec. 1937.
COLLETS

1934 – June 1985

**London.** Eva Collet Reckitt took over Henderson’s “Bomb shop” at 66 Charing Cross Road, WC2. Later took over No. 64 as well. Managers: Bill Norris (who had worked at Central Books) took over from Tom Russell. Later staff included: Ludi Simpson, Steve Mason, Phil Walden.

1934 Dec

**Glasgow** opens on 19 December at 229 High Street.
1936 still there. 1939 & 1941 at 1a Dundas Street, Glasgow 1 (see L&W Spring Catalogue. 1941). 1944 at 15 (?) Dundas St. *Colonies - the Way Forward* Nov. 1944). Gone by 1949? A Mr. Brodie worked there in late 1930s.

1935 April

**Manchester** opens at 13 & 15 Hanging Ditch. Frank Allaun, aged 22, was Manager – he’d trained as an accountant – and his wage was £2 per week. As part of his training he worked in the Glasgow and London shops first. Leslie Preger also worked here. Allaun described his time there as “one of the best experiences of my life”. The shop served as a meeting place for socialists. *(H Davies Frank Allaun 1913-2002 WCML 2003).*
Still there spring 1941. 1948 at 36 Deansgate.

1936 Oct

**Cardiff** at 26 Castle Arcade Feb 1938. Not mentioned in list of Collets shops in March 1941 ad. in Challenge.
“Originally run by a breezy individual known as Archie…” *(in W H J Fair & H G A Hughes Pontypridd Communists in the 1930s in Welsh Workers’ History No.3 1994).*

1938

Collets Foreign Dept. 67 Great Russell Street, **London** WC1. This branch also called Special Mail and Book Clubs Dept. **NB all these existed in 1946 but had closed by mid 1950s.**

194?

9 Southampton Place, London WC1 Gone by 1949??

194?

193 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 Managed by Edgell Rickword from 1954; 2 other members of staff at least, including Peter Chalk. Closed c1959.

194?

62 Carr Lane, **Hull** (1952)

1958

Record Shop, 72 Heath Street, NW3

Bookshop, 193 Haverstock Hill, NW3

Early 1960s

Russian Shop, 44 & 45 Museum Street, London WC1. Also Head Office.

Scientific Bookshop, 23 Museum Street, London WC1

Chinese Shop Bookshop, 40 Great Russell Street, London WC1
c1957  Record Shop, opens at 70 New Oxford Street, London WC1 Also Subscription Import Dept.

1959 Autumn  Second Hand Dept opened in Charing Cross Road basement with Edgell Rickword as manager till May 1965 when it closed.

Early 1960s  Arts and Handicrafts Centre, 67 Great Russell Street, London WC1


1968  Library Supply Service started from Wellingborough head office.

1976  Collets International Bookshop opens at 129/131 Charing Cross Road - incorporated the Russian Bookshop and Record Shop (mainly folk music & E. European ). At this time the following existed: Wellingborough; Collets Bookshop 64-66 Charing Cross Road; Chinese Bookshop 40 Great Russell Street.
RADICAL BOOKSHOPS 1960s – Present

“There are more than 100 radical bookshops” [Radical Bookseller Oct 1980].

England

Basildon
1970s  CPB (ML) had a market stall on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Bath

Belper
Pentrich Books  c1970-c1977 11a Knowle Ave, Mount Pleasant. “A private house but one could go there and buy books imported from Cuba, Vietnam and North Korea”.

Birmingham


Birmingham’s Other Bookshop  1980 – March 1987 137 Digbeth, Birmingham. IMG. Owned by Mick Archer?


Progressive Books and Asian Arts  1974 – 1981? 624 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29 Pro-Albanian shop set up by the RCPB (ML) after a split from the CPB (ML). Run by Jansee, prominent in Indian Workers’ Association. Run by Jagmohan Joshi, a leading member of the IWA(GB). He was also not pro-Albanian but pro-Chinese. (Info. from Paul Cooper) (Last appearance in Directory of Big Red Diary 1981).


632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak. Left, community bookshop.


Women’s Bookshop and Café Collective.
198? 1986: moved to c/o 119 Anderton Park Road, Moseley.

Blackburn


Bradford

The Fourth Idea Bookshop 1975? – 1982 14 Southgate. Andy Swinson, co-founder, died 1980 aged 30; obit. in Peace News, 27 June 1980. Reuben Goldberg, Ellie Owen. Charlie Unsworth worked there in late 1970s – “It was a radical, hippyish bookshop and all of us were ideologically opposed to the concept that business was something to be taken seriously” (1998 Interview on Sheila Markham Rare Books website).

Bridgewater


Brighton


Give Peace a Chance
1984?? – ** 28 Trafalgar Street, Brighton.
1988? changes name to Brighton Peace Centre. (Duncan Blinkhorn) At 43 Gardner St. Peace

Bristol

*Black River Books
1995 Black culture.

Full Marks
1976? – c1990 110, Cheltenham Road, Bristol. SWP?

Green Leaf
? – ** 82 Colston Street. (Jan Broom; Kay?).

Main Trend Books
Open Wed. 4.45–6.00; Fri & Sat afternoons. Saturdays only in 1975. Still open in early 1978.

*Women’s Books

Bury

Metro Books
1980 – c1990 159 The Rock. (Dave Parrish).
c1985 moved to 34 Market Street. Co-op.

Cambridge

Student Bookshop
Closed late 1973/early 1974? Owned by WEA?
Part of a chain (Student Bookshops, based in Hanley, which folded in 1997) that gave some independence to local managers. Frank Edwards was manager in early 1970s; he was told that the previous manager stocked too much alternative material, but he carried on that tradition, employing an IS member who was a friend and who ordered the political books.
One of the directors of Student Bookshops was Cecil Scrimgeour, an active WEA lecturer (and historian of the WEA) in Cambridge area. (Info. from Mike Weaver).

Land of Cokaygne
1975 Alternative

Last Exit
1974. 54 Mill Road. Alternative.

Grapevine
1979 opens at 41 Fitzroy Street.
1981 moves to 186 East Road.
1983 shop demolished: carried on doing stalls. Re-opened 1984 in Dales Brewery, Gwydir St.
1991 Closes.
New Era

New Era distribution moved here in 1960s, to 47 Glisson Road – they did not have a shop but individuals did go there to buy the Chinese imports.

Channel Islands

Modern Books & Advice Centre

197?/8? – 199? 3 St James Street, St Helier, Jersey.

Corby

Bookplace

1980 Dec – c1983 1 Henley House, Corporation Street. Community

Coventry

IS Books

1974 Started as the Left Centre 65 Queen Victoria Road, before becoming IS books. By 1977 called TU Books. International Socialists.

Wedge Radical Bookshop

197? – 1995. 13 High Street (John Goodman; Andy Swinson ?) (Co-op)

Workshop Books

1971

Croydon

*Webster’s

1975 “Alternative, general, left”

Derby

*Bookstall Services/Forum Books

Radical bookshop, which then became a social work specialist bookshop, in turn becoming an African-Caribbean shop. Main worker in the first two phases was Roy Umney

Doncaster


Durham

Ivan Corbett


Durham Community Bookshop

1978 14 Railway Street, Langley Park.
1981 ? moved to 85a New Elvet.
1985? changed name to Alleycat Books.
1990 Jan: moves to 28b Sutton Street (described itself as “hidden away” and difficult to make itself known).
In 1980s there were 10 workers part-time, all unpaid.
(Jan Durham).

Hartlepool

The Other Bookshop

1986 – 199? 102 Grange Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland.

35
1988 no premises; doing bookstalls from c/o 35 Raby Road, c1990 moves to The Labour Hall, Park Road.

**Huddersfield**


**Peaceworks** 197? – c1983 54 (or 58) Wakefield Road, Apsley.

**Hull**


**Hull Peace Shop.** Late 50s/early 60s? Operated by the Yorkshire Region of the Peace Pledge Union.


**Ipswich**


**Lancaster**

**Books and Things** Left, alternative, women’s liberation

**Single Step** 197? – c1988? 78a Penny Street, Lancaster. Associated with a wholefood shop by the same name, which continued after the bookshop closed. (Mark ?; Steve Miller, Frances ? 1987).

**Leamington**

**The Other Branch** 1972 July – 1988 June 42 Bath Street. 1981: Moves to 12 Gloucester Street. c1987 changes name to The Independent Bookshop. Libertarian and community. Run by volunteers. (Mike Hargest; Siân Williams 1980).

**Leeds**

**Anarchist Bookshop** 1971

**Books** 1971


The Other Bookshop

**Leicester**


Blackthorn Bookshop 1977 May – Aug 1995 74 Highcross Street. General radical. When started, had 4 unpaid workers with no book trade experience. Windows broken regularly in early days. 1981 moved to 70 High Street, shared premises with Bread & Roses café, and got an Arts Council grant. (Alan Ross)


Raddle Books 197? 70 Berners Street. Shop closed in late 90s. Black

**Leigh**


**Liverpool**

*Atticus 1975 Literary.


News from Nowhere 1974 May – ** 48 Manchester Street. (Set up by Bob Dent. Became a Women’s Collective in 1981. Mandy Vere, Madeleine Broderick, Sally, Erica, Julie)

In 1977 moved to 100 Whitechapel. March 1989 moved to 112 Bold Street; 1996 moved to 96 Bold Street.


1975? at 4b, Temple Court, Liverpool 2 From 1976 run by the Communist Workers’ Movement, a split from the CPB (ML), before merging with the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, who took on the shop’s debts. Ian Williams. Following this split, Liverpool members loyal to the CPB(ML) raided October Books and seized much of the stock. This exacerbated its financial problems and it did not last for long after that. (Info. from Ross…)

Closed 1980.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bookshop/Location</th>
<th>Year/Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lowestoft</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clock Bookshop</td>
<td>1987 138 High Street. With Vegetarian Café and art gallery. (Christine Willison, Rupert Mallin).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Luton</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partisan Books</td>
<td>c1974 – c1977 Dallow Road (Brian Douieb, Liz Durkin, John?). Anarchist, feminist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manchester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Party Bookshop</td>
<td>197? Chorlton.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathfinder Bookshop</td>
<td>1995 Trotskyist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TU Books</td>
<td>c1974-80 Basement, 260 Deansgate, M3 IS/SWP. Shelves and benches came from sympathetic clergyman whose church was being refitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Film Association Bookshop</td>
<td>c1984 – ** 9 Lucy St, Old Trafford, Manchester M15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Middlesbrough</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Milton Keynes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakleaf Books</td>
<td>197? – 1985 Dec 109 Church St, Wolverton. (Jane Scullion; Ben Plumpton; Andrew Bibby).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Newcastle</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Days of Hope 197? – 1986 115 Westgate Road
1986 Feb moves to 62 Thornton Street, Newcastle 1.
General radical/libertarian. Known locally as “Haze of Dope”, perhaps a bit unfairly as the staff were serious committed socialists! Key workers included Martin Spence; Andy McSmith, later a LP Press Officer, political correspondent at Daily Telegraph. Mo Mowlam was a volunteer here.

Katalyst Bookshop c/o 25 Fenham Road, Fenham. In 1988 requested information from FRB, but not clear if ever established.


Well Read 1988? c/o Newcastle Poly Students’ Union, 2 Sandyford Road.

Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire

Kermase Food & Books, c1981 – 1990 64 Liverpool Road; later at 9 Market Arcade

Northampton

Blackcurrent 1987 opens in private house at 15 Squire’s Walk, Spinney Hill.

Doorway Bookshop Co-op 1980-1985? 3–7 Hazelwood Road. Roy Noon, Stevie Lishman, Robin Bowles, Jan Naylor and Gail (?) were founder members of this co-op. Started by selling second-hand books, alternative books and mags, badges etc. on Tuesday market stall, and these sales continued run by Marion (?) after the co-op folded. Info. from Robin Bowles.

Norwich


Freewheel 197? – c1988 56 St Benedict’s Street.
c1982 moved to 52-54 King Street.

Norwich Paperbacks Centre 1979 –1988 96 Magdalen Street. WRP.

Nottingham

Concord Bookshop ? Peace movement/political/vegetarian. Closed as a bookshop in 1978/9, but continued as a vegetarian and green book wholesaler for several years. Sole proprietor: David Lane.

Jordan’s International Bookshop (sometimes International Bookshop)
1961? – late 1960s? 4 Dane Street. Fronted by a general second-hand bookshop. International mail-order business. Trotskyist. Run by Pat Jordan, who paid the mortgage with Ken Tarbuck. There was an argument as to whether it was a personal business or belonged to the RSL. Tarbuck took over the running of the shop, and journal publishing, when Jordan moved to London (mid/late 1960s?). Apparently Jordan’s knowledge of the second hand book trade and comics / soft porn market financed the business. See Ken Tarbuck autobiography and Obit. of Jordan by Steven Cohen on Revolutionary History website. Mentioned in a 1965 pamphlet.

Mushroom Bookshop 1972 – 2000. Opened in Arkwright Street. Mid-1970s moved to Heathcote Street. Collectively run radical bookshop with a strong anarchist history. In the early to mid-90s was a very successful business, supplying many libraries. Published a number of peace movement pamphlets (eg The Anti-Nuclear Songbook) in the mid-80s. Key members included Keith Leonard, Chris Cook, Tom Wilson, Sue Mather, Ross Bradshaw (who later set up Five Leaves Publications) Kate Marsden, Hilary Trengrouse, Mo Cumming (who had earlier worked at Peace News).


Ujamma ? Black bookshop, stocked fiction and political material. 80s?

Oxford


Plymouth

In Other Words 1982 – ** opens at 38 Mannnamead Road, Mutley. 1986 moved to 72 Mutley Plain. (Prudence de Villiers; Gay Jones).

Reading

Acorn Books 197? – 199? The Emporium, Merchants Place. c1983 moved to 17 Chatham Street. (Carole Skilbeck; Marke Downe; Maggie ?)
Reading International Support Centre Bookshop (RISC)  

Redruth


Rochdale

*Beautiful Stranger 1971

Rochester


Sheffield


Sheffield Peace Shop 198? 51 Leopold Street, Sheffield 1

Ujammaa 1979 – c1998  
Changed name to Independent Books (341 Glossop Road, Sheffield 10)  
1986 Oct moves to 69 Surrey Street.  
(Dave Walton; Roz Eve).

Unity Books 1971 Black.

Southampton

*The Bookshop 1971

In 1992 had 2 full-time workers (one had been there 15 years, the other 6) and 1 part-time (one day) worker (2 years), plus 5 collective members and 4 volunteer workers.  
(Sarah, Ian).


Southsea
Labour Party Bookshop  1979 – c1990  99 Fawcett Road. Only open Saturdays? Was this a proper shop?

Skinner & Craddock  ? – 1990  Grove Road. Tom Craddock. Sold textbooks to Portsmouth Poly but Tom, old-fashioned Fabian, tried to push left-wing books. (Info. from Peter Saracino)

Stoke

Cactus Community Bookshop  1986 – 199? 104 College Road, Shelton.  Aug 1988 moved to 104 College Road.  c1990: moved to 2b Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke.  [Related to The Other Bookshop??]  (John Maddocks, Neil Dawson, Jan ?).

The Other Bookshop  1979 June – c1982 4 Mollart Street, Hanley. (Phil Parker).

Todmorden

Bear Bookshop  197?/8? - 1981?.  23 Water Street also 17 Water Street.

Wellington

Bookstore  1975 Alternative/left/general

Wigan

IS Books  also known as Wigan Books  1971 – 1975  43 Darlington Street. International Socialists

Woodside (Shropshire)


Worcester


York

York Community Books  1977 Oct – 1985 May 73 Walmgate. Played a key role in the FAB/FRB. Nick Wright (email 3.9.2010) remembers starting at York University in Autumn 1977 and joining a “student book society” at the Freshers’ Fair that organised a weekly stall of radical books from YCB that were kept in a storeroom on the campus; he thinks the stall may have pre-dated the
shop. There was some conflict between the stall and Blackwells, the official campus book shop, so the stall steered clear of selling set texts. (Tony Whelan).

London


121 Bookshop 1981 Feb – early 1990s 121 Railton Road, Brixton, SE24. Started with 8 workers all voluntary and part-time. About 40% of stock was not books or magazines. They had a vegetarian meal on Friday nights for the collective. Shop was used as meeting place and advice centre on squatting. In Jan 1992 opening hours were: Wed/Thu/Sat 1-5, Fri 2-5, Sat 3-5 Anarchist. (Alex ?)

Africa Book Centre 1987 – ** 38 King Street, London, WC2. Third World Publications takes over management. (Tony Zurbrugg)

Agitprop Bookshop 1972 248 Bethnal Green Road, E2 Anarchist

Archers Bookshop 1930s? Branches in Parton Street and in Soho. Owned by David Archer. Communist. The Parton Street shop was renowned for its poetry stock and as a meeting point for young poets and other literary figures, including Randall Swingler, Ralph Fox, Jack Lindsay, John Cornford et al.

Balham Food and Book Co-op

1981 moved to 92 Balham High Road. 1986: stopped selling books.

Banner Books 1971 – 1975 90, Camden High Street. Independent Maoist. Run by an Indian, G V Bijur, who had young women dressed as Young Pioneers serving in the shop. In the early days he slept on the floor in the shop. Shop destroyed by fire, which also injured Bijur. A premature obituary to him appeared in Struggle March 1984. He returned to India on the basis of the insurance money and set up a shop in Khan Market, New Delhi importing books from China.

“A dark and forbidding former bank…Overseen by Reg Birch’s wife,
Dorothy…She was always spectacularly rude to anybody who ever came into the shop – partly it was because of her abrasive character, but also perhaps she knew the stock to be so dreary that anybody browsing must be a member of the Special Branch or a rival group” (Alexei Sayle Stalin Ate My Homework).

**Bethnal Rouge**

1974. 248 Bethanl Green Road, E2. *(Big Red Diary 1974)*.

**Better Books**

?

**Black Cultural Archives**

1995 Coldharbour Lane. Black.

**Bogle L’Ouverture**

1974 Summer – Dec 1989 Initially at 141 Coldershaw Road, W13 then 5a Chignell Place, Ealing, W5. 1980 changed name to **Walter Rodney Bookshop**. (Eric and Jessica Huntley). Black. Also publisher - started in 1969, still continues publishing. Shop served as community advice centre

**Book Junction**


**Bookmarks (see IS Books)**

1973 – ** 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. 199? Moved to Bloomsbury Street. SWP.

**The Bookplace**


**Books for a Change**


**Books Plus**


**Bookshop 85**


**Brent Bookshop Co-op**

1983- ?

**Brixton Books**

c1974 – 1981 Run by the Chartist Group, managed by Geoff Bender. Then moved to Wandsworth Road for a few months before becoming a pro-Albanian shop (Info from Mike Davis).

**Carila**


**Centerprise**


1970s: Robin Simpson, Ken Worpole. 1980s: Rebecca O’Rourke, Rosie

**CND Bookshop**  1982 – early 1990s 227 Seven Sisters Road, N4. (CND head office).


**Deptford Bookshop & Literacy Centre**  1979 – 1997 151 Deptford High Street. Started as a mobile bookstall. Charity aiming to increase literacy by selling books and running literacy classes. Did sell left, feminist, Black and gay magazines and publications. Partially funded by the ILEA, and later, by Lewisham Council. Funding ended in 1997. Staff: Jane Mace, Christine Shearer. (Info. from Jacqueline Armour).

**East Asia Books and Arts**  ? - c1982 277 Eversholt Street, NW1

**East End Bookshop/Eastside** see Tower Hamlets Arts Project

**Four Provinces Bookshop**  1966 – 2011 (?) 242 Gray’s Inn Road, WC1. Previously at 244 Gray’s Inn Road. Irish (Connolly Association) Previously called Irish Democrat Book Centre (?) Managed by Peter Mulligan, Brian Crowley, Toni Curran, Noel Moynihan, Stella Bond, Sally Richardson.

**Freedom Bookshop** see 1900-1960

**Friends’ Book Centre**  Euston Road. Quaker Bookshop with large peace movement coverage.

**Gay’s the Word**  1979 Jan – ** 66 Marchmont Street, WC1. Started as mail-order business in 1978. (John Duncan).

**Grassroots Storefront**  1975 – ? 51 or 61 Golbourne Road, W10. Black. (Malik ?). 1981, 1982 at No.61


Housmans Bookshop
Opened initially at 124 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (c1945?) - with Geoffrey Gilbert as manager, and Eileen Ager - under the auspices of the Peace Pledge Union and ran for two years before continuing as the mail order division of Peace News. Resumed as a bookshop in 1959 when Peace News Moved to Caledonian Road from Blackstock Road. Published many peace movement pamphlets including material by Paul Goodman, Gene Sharp and Allen Ginsberg, and, since 1943, an annual Peace Diary. Managed for many decades by Harry Mister, and long associated with Peace News and the War Resisters International. See also Housmans Distribution
(Mia Moseley, Brian Moseley).

IDAF Bookcentre

Index Bookcentre see Paperbacks Centre

Intermediate Technology
197? – ** 9 King St, London, WC2. Moved to Tottenham Court Road. Green

I.S. Books
1971 Cotton Gardens International Socialists office
1974 at 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Changed name to Bookmarks.

John Buckle Books.
1979 (?) - ** 170 Wandsworth Road, SW8. Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). Pro Albanian. Given this name in 1983 after the founder of the RCPB (ML).

Karnak House
1995 Black Culture. Publisher.

Kilburn Bookshop
1982 – ** Commercial independent. Good on politics, feminism and Ireland.

Labour Party Bookshop
197? – ? Transport House, Smith Square, SW1 then 144–152 Walworth Road, SE17. ** (Felicity Fuller)

Libertaria Bookshop
Existed in 1971. Till mid 1970s? 95 West Green Road, N15. Shop and Mail order new and second hand anarchist books. Open 11.00 to 19.00 (closed Thursdays and Sundays).

Libro-Libre
Theobalds Road. Third World and Cuban. Publishes as Stage 1.

Marram

Marcus Garvey Bookshop 1981 38 Shakespeare Road, SE24. (Big Red Diary 1981 but not 1982)


New Era Books 1975? – 1992/3 (lease ran out). 203 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Maoist. Communist Federation of Britain (ML), then Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). It began in Bath as a distributor of Chinese publications, then moved to Cambridge and finally to London in 1974. The shop survived on the back of this wholesale business. Managed on a voluntary basis by Betty Paterson from c.1976 to 1987. Betty had been in the CPGB, supported China over the split, and became a mainstay of SACU, then the CFB (ML). “Betty would arrive early, work until one o’clock, take off exactly half an hour for a pork pie, an apple, a cup of coffee and a brief read, then get back to work until six” (obituary in Class Struggle February 1990).


Operation Headstart (see Headstart)

Other Bookshop see Red Books. IMG.

Page One Bookshop 1980? – c1987 53 West Ham Lane, E15
“Page One Community Bookshop is based in Stratford at The Whole Thing. Apart from being a bookshop the group run a cafe and open the building to various community projects”. Benjamin Zephaniah, the poet, worked there. Publisher.

Paperbacks Centre later Index Bookcentre WRP
b) Paperbacks Centre, 10-12 Atlantic Road, Brixton, SW19 ? Mid-1988: closes; Dec 1988 – re-opens as Index Bookcentre.
c) Paperbacks Centre, 389 Green Street, E13 There in 1984 Closed 1988

Poland Street Bookshop 1982 Shop at the headquarters of Friends of the Earth, SERA and many campaign groups which shared this address. Ecology.

Progressive Books and Periodicals

Reading Matters 1980 Dec – 1991 10 Lymington Avenue, Wood Green, N22. 1989?: moved to 187 High Road, Wood Green N22. Community. (Jane Oxburgh; Dave?).

Red and Green Books 1987 – 1990 144 Churchfield Road, W3. “General shop with radical leanings”.

Red Books / The Other Bookshop c1970 – 1972 In 1974 at 24 Boundary Road, NW8; 1975 at 97 Caledonian Road, N1; then 182, Pentonville Road N1 [1st mention of Red Books May 1972?]. First manager Pat Jordan? Various stories circulate about this shop (and the IMG shop in Glasgow) obtaining stock by theft from other left shops. 1970: Open Tue to Sat, 10.00 to 18.00. 1976 – Moved to 329 Upper Street. Sheila Coxhead was attacked by fascists while working there. 1982: Open - Mon, Tue, Sat: 10.00 – 18.00; Wed 12.00 – 19.00; Thu, Fri 10.00 – 18.00 Closed & mail order only from 1985? to c1990. IMG.

Red Light Books 196?

Response 197? – c1988 300 Old Brompton Rd, SW5


Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10.30 - 6.30.
Feminist. (Jane Cholmeley, Sue Butterworth, Jane Russell).


Studio 200 1975 Railton Road. Gay.


Third World Bookshop 1982 Sackville Street. Third world, economics and politics.

Tower Hamlets Arts Project (THAP)
1977 – ** 178 Whitechapel Road, E1. c1987: changes shop name to Eastside/East End Books. Community bookshop. Left-wing. Local publisher. Stocks books in Bengali and other local languages. (Mandy?).

Ujamaa Centre 198? 14 Brixton Road, SW9. Black.


Walter Rodney Bookshop see Bogle L’Ouverture

Wooden Shoe Bookshop Anarchist

A Woman’s Place 1975 – 1982? Feminism


Wales

Bethesda

New radical material subsidised by sales of toys and second hand books! (Viv Chandlish).

**Cardiff**


SWP Books 1977 58 Bridge Street. Open Wed–Fri afternoons and Sat.

**Machynlleth**


**Swansea**

Alternative Newsagent mid 1980s 10 Benthall Place, St Thomas, Swansea

Emma’s Community Book and Coffee Shop 1987 – 1990 19 Bryn-y-Mor Road, Brynmill.


**Scotland**

**Aberdeen**

Willie’s Bookshop Run by Willie Leech or (Leitch). Late 1950s to mid 1960s? He was given money by CP to set up a shop in Aberdeen, but there was never any contract. He sold contraceptives, porn and political books, was disowned by the CP, joined the Liberals and became a councillor. (Info. from Willie Thompson. See also S Hobbs & W Thompson *Out of the Burning House* Cambridge Scholars, 2011 p63).

Boomtown Books 197? – 1991 167 King St, Aberdeen (Julia, Alison)

**Dundee**

Angle Books 1981 (?) - mid 1980s 4 Roseangle. SWP

**Edinburgh**

First of May, Edinburgh (Edinburgh Books Collective).  
197? – 1987  1981 at 45 Niddry Street. 1982 at 43 Candlemaker Row (Ian Dunn; Deidre ?; Joyce ?).

Lavender Menace  
cAug 1987 changes name to West and Wilde and moves to 25a Dundas Street, Edinburgh 3. Gay.

Smiling Sun Bookshop  

Wordpower  

Woman Zone  

Glasgow

Centrepeace  

Changes  

Glasgow Bookshop Collective  
1981: moved to 488 Great Western Road, G12. (Norman Mackenzie).

Hope Street Book Centre  
1978? 121 Hope Street, Glasgow G2. Closed Jan 1988 (RB 59) – Renamed as Paperback Centre, in line with the WRP’s small chain, early 1983(?). WRP

SW Books  
1977? – mid-1980s Top Floor, 65 Queen Street, Glasgow 1 Literature depot rather than shop. SWP.  
IMG and IS/SWP shared premises upstairs in about 1975; they were separated by a partition. IS thought the door was secure, but IMG members went through and nicked books. Vice-versa?!

Vanguard Books  
1981 270 Paisley Road, Glasgow 5. Maoist.

Workers’ Bookshop  

Paisley

Paisley Community Bookshop supposed to open in Sept 1984 (RB34).
LENDING LIBRARIES/CLUBS etc
including book stalls and mobile shops

Libraries

Collets, Manchester had a “Twopenny Lending Library – Politics and Fiction” in 1936.
Collets also had a “Travelling Library of Left Books” in 1936.
Fabian Library In 1930s (and before?) had c 5,000 volumes. Organisations subscribed and for 10
shillings a month could borrow 20 books for 3 months.
Merseyside Trade Union & Unemployed Resource Centre, Hardman Street. 1980s. Large reference
library.
New Books, Parton Street, London set up a library in 1937 organised by Left Review. New books could
be obtained by post at 3d. a week (there was a returnable deposit of 3/6d.). See Left Review March 1937
pp 127–8.
Nottingham TC & NUWM set up a special library for the unemployed in June 1937 [Peter Wyncoll
The Nottingham Labour Movement L&W 1985]
Parton Bookshop had “Lending library of English and foreign books”. (Left Review Nov 1934)
Peter’s Bookshop had “A Marxist Library – 2d per vol. for 7 days”. (Left Review Oct 1934). Their new
Bloomsbury branch had a “Marxist Library Section” when opened in 1935.
Key Books, Birmingham had one in 1946.
The New Worker’s Bookshop Library 157 Seven Sisters Road 1934.
Socialist Book Club (Incorporating The Labour Book Club) 46 Southampton Row, London. First
book issued April 1938. Had to take monthly choice costing 2/6 for minimum of 6 months (postage
Nevinson, J Griffiths MP, E R Pease etc. (Left Review April 1938).
South Hackney Labour League of Youth set up the Red Circle Circulating Library. 1930s. This
library included fiction.
South Normanton Workers’ Lending Library
St Pancras Workers’ Library Wolsey Mews, Gaisford Street, London NW5 1934.
Women’s Liberation Bookbus 1970s/80s?? (See Spare Rib Diaries)

Stalls

Blackburn ILP Bookstall Every Saturday in the market (1908).
## DISTRIBUTORS/TRADE ORGANISATIONS etc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK Distribution</td>
<td>Anarchist, alternative, provocative and left. Based in Edinburgh, London and San Francisco. The distribution wing of AK Press. Also sell CDs, T-shirts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Books</td>
<td>1939 – ** Set up by the Communist Party. See D Cope <em>A Brief History of Central Books 1939–1969</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco-Logic Books</td>
<td>Green books of all descriptions, practical and theoretical. Based in Bath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation of Alternative Booksellers</td>
<td>Set up in 1975 with some 50 members, none of which had existed before 1972. Open only to “non-aligned/collective, non-hierarchical, non-profit shops/projects”; became the Federation of Radical Booksellers in Sept 1980 open to any radical shop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Time Distribution (mags). 197?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housmans Distribution</td>
<td>Distributor of pamphlets and books from the far left, peace and anarchist movements. Distributed Black Rose (Canada) and Gandhian books from India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News From Neasden</td>
<td>Starts 1975 (publishers’ own reviews of radical books). 12 (?) issues to 198?.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnaround Distribution</td>
<td>Set up at 27 Horsell Road, London N5 (Bill Godber, Kingsley Dawson, Clare)</td>
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SECOND HAND RADICAL BOOKSELLERS

Annexe Bookshop 51 Essex Road N1 (ad. in Daily Worker 1930).

Collets (see above)

Canon, C 36 St Martin’s Court, Charing Cross Road, London W C. Advertised in A R Orage’s The New Age in 1907 as successor to D J Rider. “Good prices given for all books on Socialism, Art, Philosophy, Drama”.


Forder, Robert. Teacher who took up selling Freethought books on retirement. His interest arose from family connections: his father and grandfather both sold second hand books for a while, and his great grandfather, also Robert Forder, was a close associate of Charles Bradlaugh and publisher and bookseller for the National Secular Society then the Freethought Publishing Committee.

Green, George and Nan (both CP activists) sold second hand books from a barrow in London’s Caledonian Market in the mid 1930s (DLB 10 – ’George Green’).

Hammersmith Bookshop 1948-2000. In 1963 the Hammersmith Bookshop moved from Hammersmith (William Morris House, Beadon, London W6) to High Street, Barnes, London, SW13 changing its name to Hammersmith Books. It also changed from being a shop open to the public to a warehouse specialising in selling collections on the labour and liberation movements. They produced the first catalogue on the Spanish Civil War. They also reprinted a few titles: History of the Pan-African Congress; The Labour Party Foundation Conference And Annual Conference Reports 1900-1905; Thomas Hodgskin Labour Defended; The First Congress of the Toilers of the Far East. Ron and Anita Gray. Stock sold to Kennys of Galway.

Left on the Shelf Set up Feb 1992. Dave Cope bought the second hand stock from Central Books on closure of shop at Gray’s Inn Road. Mail order. **


Museum Bookshop, Museum Street, London 1910 – mid/late-1940s. Labour & radical books – second hand? They issued a second hand catalogue in 1911 with many Chartist items. Owner – Mr Kashoor. When died, stock went to an Australian university. (Details from Ron Heisler.)

Northern Herald Books Bob Jones Bookstalls; Mail order **
**Porcupine Bookcellar** Set up 1991 at 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 (basement of Housmans). Barry Buitekant, Andrew Burgin, Sandy Donaldson. They went their separate ways, with Andrew Burgin selling under his own name and also under Porcupine.

**Red Star Books** Conor Pattenden till August 2011. Specialising in anarchism. In 2015 he resumed his second hand bookselling as **Zetetic Books**

**Socialist Book Centre**, Aldwych – new and second hand books.


**Walden, Phil** Mail order. **