

Radical Bookshop History Project

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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). Published the first radical working class journals: <i>Hog's Wash</i> , and <i>Politics for the People</i> . He published the second part of Paine's <i>Rights of Man</i> in 1793 and <i>Address to the Addressers</i> for which he was unsuccessfully prosecuted by the government; he later published a new edition of <i>The Rights of Man</i> and <i>Age of Reason</i> . He fled to America, returned and was imprisoned for 15 months. His wife kept his shop and publishing business open.
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	Chartist, radical bookseller and publisher. He published a series "Reformers' Library and Library of Freethought". Temple Bar, Strand, London.
18?	Richard Carlisle's bookshop at 5 Water Lane, Fleet Street. Moved to the Strand.

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.
- 1944, 1946 Freedom Bookshop opens at 132 Cheltenham Road. Anarchist.

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 Oxtan Road, Birkenhead, sold tickets for a CP event but no other indication that it was a CP or even political bookshop.

Manchester

1921 Reformers' Bookshop, 24-26 New Brown Street. (Advert in *The Commonweal* Feb 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 (<i>The CP in Manchester 1920-26</i> 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. <i>The Colonies - The Way Forward</i> , Nov 1944; till 1946).
Norwich	
1946 & 1947	G R Clark, Augustine Steward’s House, Tombland. “The Only Shop in Norwich where you can buy the Latest Books on the Trade Union, Co-operative and Socialist Movements”. (Advert in <i>Our City Norwich</i> CP, 1946). New & 2 nd hand. Close to CP.
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 <i>Left Review</i> . Was it a left-wing shop??
Portsmouth	
1939	Left Book Club Shop, 74 Sultan Road.
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 Books

1937 79 Bedford Road, London SW4 ILP?? [ad. in Trotskyist *Fight* Sept 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

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 & in CP till 1921). Described then as 68-69 Red Lion Street.

Fabian Society

1916 25 Tothill Street, Westminster. In existence in 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.

Based at printers in 84a, Angel Alley, Whitechapel High Street. Early 1945 – 1960 Shop in Red Lion Street, Holborn. Run by Lilian Wolfe and later Jack Robinson (from Birmingham). (A Meltzer *The Anarchists in London, 1935-1955*).

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?

66 Charing Cross Road, London. “The Bomb Shop” (Advert in *Solidarity*, Oct. 1913; early 1934 taken over by Collets). 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

1908

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.
Shop in basement of building where Militant rented an office near King’s Cross, about 1964. (P Taaffe in *The Rise of Militant* 1995 p11). This would be 197 King’s Cross Road.

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 4 Parton St, Red Lion Square. Previously **The Parton Bookshop**. Culture and politics. “Agents for the Left Book Club”. “Any book not in stock 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

1934 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 ‘libraries’ of the Latin Quarter...Part social club, part debating chamber, part dosshouse”];
d) George Barker *Coming to London* in *The London Magazine* Jan. 1956. Advert in *Daily Worker* 30.12.39: “Also best second-hand book bargains offered”.
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]
1935 new Bloomsbury branch opened at 70 Millman Street, WC2 (*Left Review* Sept 1935). Run by Bill Keele.
“West London Comrades, Get Your LEFT BOOK and all other Left Literature and Pamphlets from US)” - ad. in *DW* April 24 1937.

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)

1929. 1939 ? 268 Upper St, London N1. Trotskyist. Advert in *Workers' Weekly* May 1939 (“We specialise in 4th International literature, including French and German books and papers”).

Progressive Book Society Ltd.

1932 2&3, Hind Court, Fleet Street, EC4. Outlet for *New Masses* in Sept 1932 issue.

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

c1934 3 Amen Corner, EC4. 1935 at 35 St Bride St., EC4. Owned by ILP London Division (Advert in *May Day 1935: Official Souvenir Programme*).

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)

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 1913/14 Cardiff Market. Run by Gillett. (Advert in *Solidarity*, Oct 1913 & May 1914). Anarchist. **The Labour Hall** at 49 Charles Street is mentioned in *The Commonweal*, Feb. 1921

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 (Hadow *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

1965 South Essex Bookshop, 335 Ley Street.
Later called C A B Books. Closes early 1990s.

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**.
1967 Yorks CP Lit. Department, 5 Westminster Buildings, 31 New York
Street, Leeds 2.
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?
? Marmaduke Street
- 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)
June 1975 – Feb 1992 12 Berry Street, L1 (Dave Cope; other staff part-
time/voluntary: Eddie Martin, Linda Croker, John Gibson).

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??
1965 People’s Bookshop, 189 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

1934 Progressive Bookshop, 24 North Sherwood Street. Existed in 1937 – stamp on pamphlet from Sept 1937 “A J Statham, The Progressive Bookshop...”
This shop published a pamphlet *Revolutionary Unity*
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

1937? – 1948? The Bookshop, 36 Hythe Bridge St. “Over 300 Stalin Calendars have been sold by the Oxford bookshop” (*Forward!* 1943, South Midlands District Cttee. Bulletin). Arthur Excell remembers selling “Forever Amber” to attract American servicemen!
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 Stefanos, 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 Whimble Street (sometimes Whymple)

Portsmouth

1937 Modern Books, 215a Arundel Street (Ad. in *International Press Correspondence* 15th Dec.1937).
1944 People’s Bookshop, 338 Fratton Road. Run by the Russells.
1946 (mid) moves to 15 Lennox Road North, Southsea. Closes 1948?

Reading

1941 – 1950 People’s Bookshop, 83 London Street. (1943: new manager Nellie Johnson).

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.

1957 Feb Central Books distribution business moves to 37 Grays Inn Road.

1959 April Central Books shop moves to 37 Grays Inn Road.

1978 June Central Books distribution moves to 14 The Leathermarket, SE1

1990 Sept Central Books distribution moves to 99 Wallis Road , E9

1992 March Central Books shop closes.

- 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.
- 1934 New Books 12 Argyll Gardens, Burnt Oak. Advert in London District CP Rally Programme, 1934.
- 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.

Thames Bookshops Ltd. (London District CP) Set up in 1941 (see: L Slade "How Thames Began" in *Lit News* Nov. 1946; *Why You Should be a Communist* Jan 1942. *Men and Ships* 1943. *The Colonies - The Way Forward* CP Nov 1944):

- 1941 a) Acton: 2 Church Road, High Street W3
- 1941 b) Camden: 45 Parkway NW1 (gone by Feb 1949)
- 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?
- 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 j) Moorgate: 151 Moorgate EC1. Closes later in 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.
Later at 4 Tudor Street (There in 1967; 1983). (Lena Alexander was Manager in 1958. Ann Macmillan replaced Kath Hitchings as Bookshop Organiser in October 1980).

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**
- 1935 **Workers' Bookshop** Unity Hall, Dundee. Mentioned in *Left Review* August 1935 as a stockist of the journal. There in Dec. 1937.
- Edinburgh**
- 1942/3 c1948 **The Progressive Bookshop**, 37 Lothian Road
- Falkirk**
- 1927 **The Communist Bookshop** Cow Wynd, High Station Rd. (Advert in *Lansbury's Labour Weekly* March 5, 1927). Gone by 1943.
- 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.
- ? Gorbals Bookshop (Mentioned in 1937 *Scottish CP Congress Report*).
- 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
1958 Bookshop, 193 Haverstock Hill, NW3
- Early 1960s Russian Shop, 44 & 45 Museum Street, London WC1. Also Head Office.
Early 1960s Scientific Bookshop, 23 Museum Street, London WC1
1958 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
1958	Chinese Gallery, 52 Charing Cross Road, London WC2. Later became Collet's Penguin Bookshop. Closed 1986.
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** ? – 198? 1985 Community Books (sic), Longacre Hall, London Road. In *Big Red Diary* Directory 1981-4
- 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**
- Action Centre 1974 – 1983?. 134 Villa Road, Handsworth. (*Big Red Diary* 1974 & 1982).
- Birmingham’s Other Bookshop
1980 – March 1987 137 Digbeth, Birmingham. IMG. Owned by Mick Archer?
- Harriet Tubman Bookshop 197? – 199? 27–29 Grove Lane, Handsworth . Still there 1995.
African-Caribbean
- The Peace Centre 1975 – c1986 18 Moor Street, Queensway. Supported the Third Way in Vietnam Group - in support of Vietnamese Buddhists.
- 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).
- Progressive Books and Periodicals
1980 (May?) -1981. 229 Rookery Road, Handsworth. Very short lived shop. Info. from Sam Richards.
- Prometheus Bookshop 1974? – 1983 134 Alcester Road, Moseley. Alternative, Feminist, Therapy. (John & Libby Dennis).

- 632 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak. Left, community bookshop.
- Socialist and TU Books 197? – 1981 224 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham. Firebombed in March 1981. SWP. Manager: Sheila McGregor.
- Tree of Life/Culture Shop 1985? – 199? 147a Heathfield Road, Handsworth. Black.
- Women’s Bookshop and Café Collective.
198? 1986: moved to c/o 119 Anderton Park Road, Moseley.

Blackburn

- Amamus 1971? – 1981? Market Street Lane. Later at 2, Barton Street. “Radical community centre within a bookshop” ; predominantly anarchist, later mystical, new age.

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

- Unity Books 1985 – c1988 Unity House, Dampiet Street. Shared building with Labour Club. Set up by David Hanna.

Brighton

- Brighton Workers Bookshop 1973? – 1981? 37 Gloucester Road. CPB (M-L) Maoist. Open mornings plus Sat. Last entry in *Big Red Diary* 1981.
- Cowley Club 2007? 12 London Road. Volunteer run libertarian social centre with bookshop & café (and social club in evenings).
- Unicorn Bookshop 1965/1966 to 1970s(?) Gloucester Road. The country’s first underground bookshop?
Set up by Bill Butler. Richard Cupidi. Famous for exterior psychedelic painting by John Upton. A 1968 police raid took much of the stock.
- The Public House Bookshop 1974 – mid-1990s. 21 Little Preston Street. Set up by John Kieffer and Richard Cupidi. Hippy/literary.

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 1973 – ? 17 Midland Road, Old Market. CPB(M-L) Maoist.
Open Wed. 4.45–6.00 ; Fri & Sat afternoons. Saturdays only in 1975. Still
open in early 1978.

*Women's Books 1974. Mail order.

Bury

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

Cambridge

Student Bookshop Closed c1974/5? Owned by WEA?

Land of Cokayne 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.
Clare Greenwood, Mike Weaver.
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 1974. Proletaria, 289 Station Road, Dunscroft. (In *Big Red Diary* for 1974 and 1975).

Durham

Ivan Corbett 1974. 89 Elvet Bridge. (In *Big Red Diary* for 1974 and 1975).

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

Huddersfield

Greenhead Books 1974. Carlton House, Whitestone Lane. (In *Big Red Diary* for 1974 and 1975).

Peaceworks	197? – c1983 54 (or 58) Wakefield Road, Apsley.
Hull	
Bogus	1974. 21 Princes Avenue. (In <i>Big Red Diary</i> for 1974 and 1975).
Hull Peace Shop.	Late 50s/early 60s? Operated by the Yorkshire Region of the Peace Pledge Union.
John Sheridan Ltd	1974? – 199? 19 Anlaby Road. Alternative. (“Good political stock”)
Socialist Books	1975? – Oct 1981 238 Spring Bank, Hull. SWP. No paid staff – all volunteers, mainly SWP members. Geoff Collier.
Ipswich	
Orwell Books	1966 (?) – 197? Alternative. (In <i>Big Red Diary</i> for 1974 and 1975).
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
Corner Bookshop	1976 – c1987 162 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2 (Erika Dwek).
Northern Star Bookshop	Late 1970s 18a Leighton Street off Great George Street CPB(M-L). Maoist. Open in 1977 – back of CPB(M-L) pamphlet.
The Other Bookshop	
Leicester	

Black Flag Bookshop	1971? – 1974? Anarchist. Key workers included Alan Ross. In
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)
Frontline Books	200? – ** 73 Humberstone Gate.
Raddle Books	197? 70 Berners Street. Shop closed in late 90s. Black
Leigh	
LAMP	1980 Jan – 199? 22 Church Street. Leigh Alternative Media Project. c1988: moved to 91 Bradshawgate. Community.
Liverpool	
*Atticus	1975 Literary.
Mersey Books	1977? – 1988 34 Manchester Street, Liverpool. WRP.
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.
October Books	1973 at 99 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3 CPB (M-L) Maoist. 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.
IS Books	1975 July (?) opened on Berry Street. Closed c1977.
Source Books	1986 – 1995? 3, Myrtle Parade, Liverpool 7. Black.
Lowestoft	
Clock Bookshop	1987 138 High Street. With Vegetarian Café and art gallery. (Christine Willison, Rupert Mallin).

Luton

Partisan Books c1974 – c1977 Dallow Road (Brian Douieb, Liz Durkin, John?).
Anarchist, feminist.

Manchester

Grassroots 1971 Sept opens in 178 Oxford Road
1976 became workers' co-op.
1976 opened branch in 1, Newton Street, Piccaddilly.
1979 closed Oxford Road shop. Largest radical shop outside London.
1990 Summer: closes.
1991 Nov re-opens as **Frontline Books**. (Collective: Mauve O'Connor,
Rick Seccombe, Neil Swannick, Hilary Wainwright).
Jan 1999 moves to 255, Wilmslow Road, Manchester M14.
2000 closes.

Labour Party Bookshop 197? Chorlton.

Pathfinder Bookshop 1995 Trotskyist

TU Books c1974-80 Basement, 260 Deansgate, M3 IS/SWP. Shelves and benches
came from sympathetic clergyman whose church was being refitted.

Workers' Film Association Bookshop
c1984 – ** 9 Lucy St, Old Trafford, Manchester M15

Middlesbrough

Red and Black Bookshop 198? – 1987 Aug 120 Victoria Road.

Milton Keynes

Oakleaf Books 197? – 1985 Dec 109 Church St, Wolverton.
(Jane Scullion; Ben Plumpton; Andrew Bibby).

Newcastle

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.

Ultima Thule 1971 – 1975 Arcadia, Percy Street. Alternative

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.
1988? opens at 54 Craven Street. Closes 1989.

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

*Bristow's 1974 Commercial alternative bookshop. Had consistent trouble with authorities under the Obscene Publications Act. (In *Big Red Diary* for 1974 and 1975).

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*).

Pathfinder Book Centre 1975 (?)– c1977 93 Goldsmith Street. Short-lived Trotskyist shop, staffed by members of the International Marxist Group. (In *Big Red Diary* 1975).

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

Oxford

EOA Books 1971 East Oxford Advertiser Books opens at 33-35 Cowley Road. Initially community newspaper/woodworking firm and jumble plus books. Few months later newspaper and bookshop moved to 24 Cowley Road (Shelter has office at back) (Jon Carpenter) Closes June 1988 – taken over by **The Inner Bookshop** (still in existence in 2001 at 111 Magdalen Road).

Worldwise c1985 – 199? 72 Cowley Road. Third World.

Plymouth

In Other Words 1982 – ** opens at 38 Mannamead 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)
1988? – ** 103 London Road.

Redruth

*Books and Things 1971 6 Penryn Street. (In *Big Red Diary* 1974 & 1975).

Rochdale

*Beautiful Stranger 1971

Rochester

Book To Basics 1988? – c1990 Fagin’s Alley, 23 High Street. Late 1988: moved to Featherstone House, 375 High Street. (Graham Moody).

Sheffield

I & I Bookshop Trust 197? – c1990 446 London Road. Black.

One One Nine 1975 – 1981? 119, Spital Hill, Sheffield 4. “Maoist and other left books.”

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

October Books 1977 – ** 4 Onslow Road. Originally an International Socialists bookshop, then run by an independent collective. Became a co-op in 1981. April 2003 moved to 243 Portswood Road and increased its mainstream stock. 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).

Red Light Books 202 Derby Road. Very short lived - in *Big Red Diary* 1974 but not 1975.

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)

Woody Books 1979 – c1984 84 Wolverly Court. Community.

Worcester

Worcester's Other Bookshop 1988? – c1990 11 The Hopmarket, The Foregate. (Derek Fearnside).

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

56a Info Shop 1984? – 1988? 56 Crampton Street, SE17. Inside Fareshares Food Co-op. Coffee. Anarchist.

- 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. (A lex ?)
- 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**
197? 2-16, Culmore Cross, SW12. Politics, childrens.
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.
- Bellman Books** 1968 March – early 1990s. 155 Fortress Road, NW5. Maoist. Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) HQ.
Initially shop was only open on Saturdays, later daily 10.30 – 16.30. “The ‘Marxist-Leninist’ stocking policy precluded their development (or survival) as a mainstream bookshop” Sam Richards.
“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 Bethnal 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	1978? 84 Dalston Lane, London E8. Closed 1988. WRP
Bookmarks (see IS Books)	1973 – ** 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4. 199? Moved to Bloomsbury Street. SWP.
The Bookplace	1977 Nov – 1987 Nov?? (see RB55 p6) 13 Peckham High Street, SE15 Black, Feminism. Community publishing.
Books for a Change	1986 – c1995 52 Charing Cross Road, WC2 (site of Collets Penguin Bookshop) Third World/Green/Peace. (Adrian Howe).
Books Plus	1981,1982 23, Lewisham Way, SE14. Feminist/socialist.
Bookshop 85	1970 85 Regents Park Road, NW1. Anarchist. There in 1975 (<i>Big Red Diary 1975</i>).
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	1981 – early 1990s 29, Islington Park Street, N1. Latin America.
Centerprise	1971 May – Nov 2012 Dalston Lane, Hackney. Moved to: 136 Kingsland High Street E8. Community. Resigned from FRB in 1988 “we can no longer put energy into it”. 1970s: Robin Simpson, Ken Worpole. 1980s: Rebecca O'Rourke, Rosie Ilett, Zahid Dar, Lola Meze 1988. Community bookshop and publisher, with cafe. Became a Black Bookshop & Community Centre in last years (Emmanuel Amevor).
CND Bookshop	1982 – early 1990s 227 Seven Sisters Road, N4. (CND head office).
Compendium	1968 Aug – 2000 Sept. 240 Camden High Street, NW1. 1972 moved to no. 281 Camden High Street Politics, imports, “Beat” material, psychology.

(Nicholas Rochford & Diana Gravill).

Corner House 1981,1982 Endell Street. Radical education, feminism and race, children's books.

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

Green Ink 1985 – 1995? 8 Archway Mall, N19. Irish.

Headstart Books & Crafts 197? – ?? 25 West Green Road, N15
Later called **Operation Headstart**. Still there in 1995 Black.

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** 1984 March? opens at 64 Essex Road, N1.
Closes June 1991 ? – moves back to South Africa. (International Defence and Aid Fund – an anti-apartheid organisation)
- 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** mid 1970s? 95 West Green Road, N15. Mail order new and second hand anarchist books. Not known if proper shop.
- Libro-Libre** Theobalds Road. Third World and Cuban. Publishes as Stage 1.
- Marram** 1982 Kilburn Square. “Most radical subjects.” Run by pro-Khmer Rouge Chinese.
- Magills [or McGills]** 1974. 149 Kilburn High Road, NW6. Irish (Sinn Fein). (*Big Red Diary 1974 & 1975*).
- Marcus Garvey Bookshop** 1981 38 Shakespeare Road, SE24. (*Big Red Diary 1981* but not 1982)
- Meridian** 1987 – 199? 58 Railton Road, SE24. Black.
- New Beacon** 1966? – ** beginning of New Beacon Books. 76 Stroud Green Road, N4. (John La Rose) Black. Publisher. Sarah White (CPGB member).

- 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).
- New Times Books** 198? 228b Morning Lane, E9. Run by Turkish revolutionaries.
- Newham Parents’ Centre** 1988? – ** 743–7 Barking Road, E13. Community.
- One World Shop** 1982 Eversholt Street. Third world, human rights.
- 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
- a) Paperbacks Centre, 28 Charlotte St, W1. 1974? – ? mid-1988: changes name to **Index Bookcentre**.
- 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
- Pathfinder Bookshop** 1988 Oct – ** 47 The Cut, SE1. Open part time. Trotskyist.
- 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**
1971 – 198? 569 Old Kent Road. Moved (1975?) to 170 Wandsworth Road, SW8. (*Big Red Diary* 1981-4 – though they state No.172 not 170 – as does an early leaflet). Maoist. Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) – later RCP of Britain (ML) (pro-Albanian). These premises were renamed the John Buckle Centre, and still have a small mail-order book service.

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 [1 st 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
Rising Free Bookshop	1974–1981? 197 Kings Cross Road, WC1; later at 182 Upper Street, Islington, N1. Anarchist. Famous for supposedly stealing books from other bookshops to sell in theirs.
Sabarr	197? 121 Railton Road, SE24 in 1981. 1982 at 378 Coldharbour Lane, SE11. Black.
Shakti	197? – c1994 46 High Street, Southall. Black.
Silver Moon Women’s Bookshop	1984 May – ? 68 Charing Cross Road. Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10.30 - 6.30. Feminist. (Jane Cholmeley, Sue Butterworth, Jane Russell).
Sisterwrite	197? – c1990 192 Upper Street, London. Britain’s first feminist bookshop of this period.
Soma Books	197?/1982? – ** 38 Kennington Lane, SE11. (Minnie Kumria). Black.
Studio 200	1975 Railton Road. Gay.

- Sunpower** 1982 – early 1990s? Blackstock Road. Ecology
- 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.
- Village Books** 1974/5 at 7 Shrubbery Road, SW16 then 1975 Vassall Road. 1981,1982 at 17 Shrubbery Road. Alternative/left.
- Virago Bookshop** 1984 Dec – 1987 64 Long Acre, WC2. Feminist.
- Walter Rodney Bookshop see Bogle L'Ouverture**
- Wooden Shoe Bookshop** Anarchist
- A Woman's Place** 1975 – 1982? Feminism
- World Books / World Socialist Books** In 1970s at 375 Cambridge Heath Road, E2.
 198? – ** 3–13 Hepscoth Road, London, E9. Militant's mail order business. (Tony Aitman; Keith Dickinson)
 2000 cFeb Changes name to **Socialist Books**; moves to 841/3 High Road, E11.

Wales

Bethesda

- Word Games** 1980 Jan – 1987 38 High Street, Bethesda, nr Bangor, N Wales.
 New radical material subsidised by sales of toys and second hand books!
 (Viv Chandlish).

Cardiff

- 108 Community Bookshop** 1975? – 1986 108 Salisbury Road.
- SWP Books** 1977 58 Bridge Street. Open Wed–Fri afternoons and Sat.

Machynlleth

Quarry Bookshop 1976? Llwyngwern Quarry. National Centre for Alternative Technology.
(Andy Rowland) Green.

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.

Neges 197? – 1986 31 Alexander Road, Swansea.

Revolt Books 1974 – ? 44 The Groves, Uplands, Swansea (Anarchist collective; open
9.30–5.30 Mon–Fri)

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

Bookmarx 1977? – ? 130 Morrison Street SWP

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 1982 Aug – ?? 11a Forth Street, Edinburgh 1. (Stalls since 1981). (Bob
Orr; Sigrid Nielson).
cAug 1987 changes name to **West and Wilde** and moves to 25a Dundas
Street, Edinburgh 3. Gay.

- Smiling Sun Bookshop 197?/8? – c1986 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh.
- Wordpower 1994 Dec. – ** Political, women's books, Scottish writing, cultural studies. Owner: Elaine Henry.
- Woman Zone 1983? – 1986 117–119 Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh. EH8.
- Glasgow**
- Centrepeace 198? – 199? 143 Stodewell Street, Glasgow, G1. Peace.
- Changes 1970 – 1989 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G4.
- Glasgow Bookshop Collective 1980 Nov – 1984 Decourceys Arcade, Cresswell Lane, Glasgow. 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 1981 (?) - mid-1980s 81 George Street, Glasgow 1. Maoist.

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 extra outside London). Club sponsored by: Will Thorne, Conrad Noel, Noel Baker, C E M Joad, H W 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

Basildon Bookstall 1973 Market Place. Maoist. Open Tue, Fri, Sat. Not a shop.

Blackburn ILP Bookstall Every Saturday in the market (1908).

DISTRIBUTORS/TRADE ORGANISATIONS etc

“A” Distribution	Set up Aug 1980 at 182 Upper St, London N1. Anarchist.
AK Distribution	Anarchist, alternative, provocative and left. Based in Edinburgh, London and San Francisco. The distribution wing of AK Press. Also sell CDs, T-shirts.
Central Books	1939 – ** Set up by the Communist Party. See D Cope <i>A Brief History of Central Books 1939–1969</i> .
Eco-Logic Books	Green books of all descriptions, practical and theoretical. Based in Bath.
Federation of Alternative Booksellers	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.
Full Time Distribution (mags). 197?	
Housmans Distribution	Distributor of pamphlets and books from the far left, peace and anarchist movements. Distributed Black Rose (Canada) and Gandhian books from India.
<i>News From Neasden</i>	Starts 1975 (publishers’ own reviews of radical books). 12 (?) issues to 198?.
Publications Distribution Co-op	Set up 1975. Split ? into PDC North and PDC Scotland; merged into a new co-op in August 1979 (?) called Scottish and Northern Books (with offices in Manchester (Stella Dawson; Pete Hampson) and Edinburgh (Kingsley Dawson). Southern Distribution continued in the south. Full Time Distribution handled magazines. PDC went into voluntary liquidation early 1984. 1986:S & N Manchester closed. Scottish branch became Bookspeed.
Turnaround Distribution	Set up at 27 Horsell Road, London N5 (Bill Godber, Kingsley Dawson, Clare)
<i>The Radical Bookseller</i>	Pilot issue Nov 1979. Editors: Dave Berry, Fergus Nicol.
Third World Publications	Birmingham. 151 Stratford Road, B11. 1972? – end 1989/beginning 1990.

SECOND HAND RADICAL BOOKSELLERS

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

Collets (see above)

C Canon 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".

F Douglas 70 Broughton, Edinburgh. "Second-Hand Books / Socialist Literature" – advert on cover of 1931 pamphlet by Edinburgh Friends of the Soviet Union.

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 William Morris House, Beadon, London W6 then High Street Barnes, London, SW13. Ron Gray. Closed 1990s.

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. **

Libris, Boundary Road, NW8. Second hand progressive/ banned German books. Owner – Pepi. Closed 1971. (Gertrude Elias *The Suspect Generation* London Voices 1995, p.67).

The Little Bookshop, Covered Market, Oxford. (Phil Gilbert – CP member). Closed 1990s.

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. **

Red Star Books Conor Pattenden till August 2011.

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

Spurrier, Nick Started 1978. Shop in Folkestone 1997–2000. Mail order. **

Walden, Phil Mail order. **