

Ron's Collection & the SolFed Collection

General Information

Ron's Collection is an amazing treasure trove of leaflets, newspaper cuttings and (most numerous and interesting) letters, **providing fascinating insights into the history of syndicalist groups and individuals**, active in Britain and around the world.

The documents primarily record activities of the **Anarchist Federation of Britain** (AFB), which subsequently became the **Syndicalist Workers Federation** (SWF), between the 1940s and the early 1960s. The collection therefore provides researchers with unique source material on a period often overlooked in the history of radical politics, the years between the end of the Spanish Civil War and the iconic events of the late 1960s.

Part of the collection's importance is that it not only contains information on British syndicalists, but on groups and people from all over the world and with very different politics.

Ron's Collection is now complemented by the archive of the Solidarity Federation (SolFed Collection). Whereas Ron's Collection contains many internal documents, the SolFed Collection includes many of the AFB/SWF's publications, such as papers and pamphlets.

Be it out of curiosity or academic interest, the documents provide researchers with **fascinating information regarding historical struggles** (e.g. numerous strikes, the Civil Rights Movement, anti-nuclear protests), the **personal lives and motivations** of people involved in the AFB/SWF (or in correspondence with them), records of **internal debates and splits, confrontations with opponents** (be it police, fascist groups or landlords trying to evict the printing press) and **current affairs of the day** (e.g. the Cuba Crisis or the Hungarian Uprising).

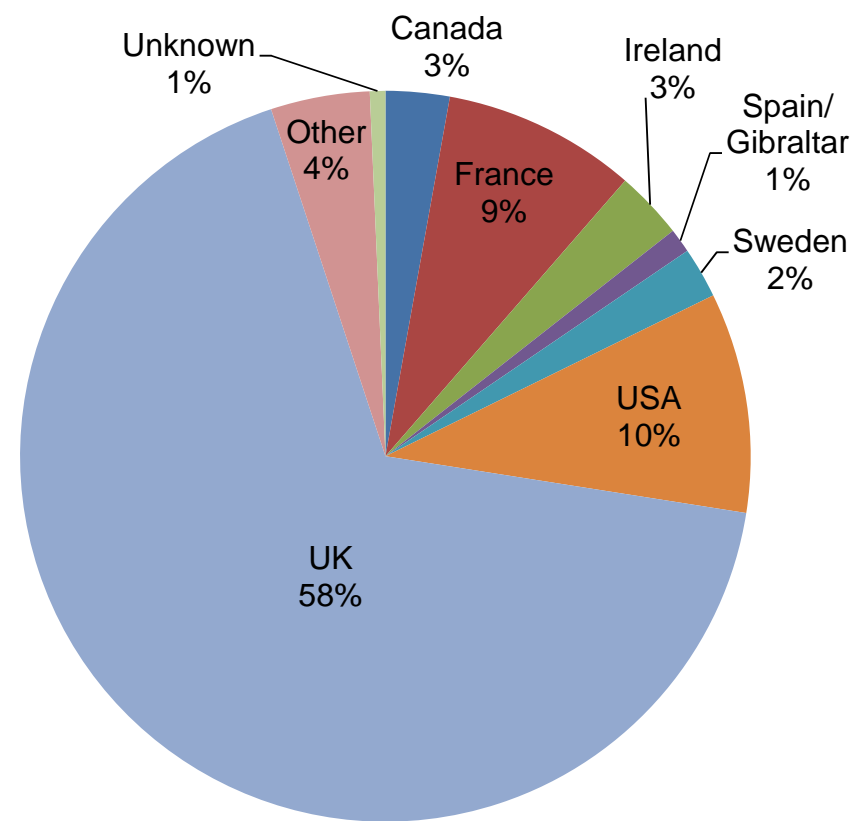
Ron's Collection & the SolFed Collection

The database

Ron's Collection has almost been completely processed* (i.e. sorted, preserved, digitalised and catalogued) and the catalogued information as well as the scanned materials can be accessed via a database.

Currently (July 2012) a **total of 1,164 documents** have been processed, consisting of 2,013 individual files (one file usually equals one page of a document).

The **vast majority** of the processed documents (88%) **are letters**; others were classed as cheques, leaflets, invoices, newspaper cuttings etc.

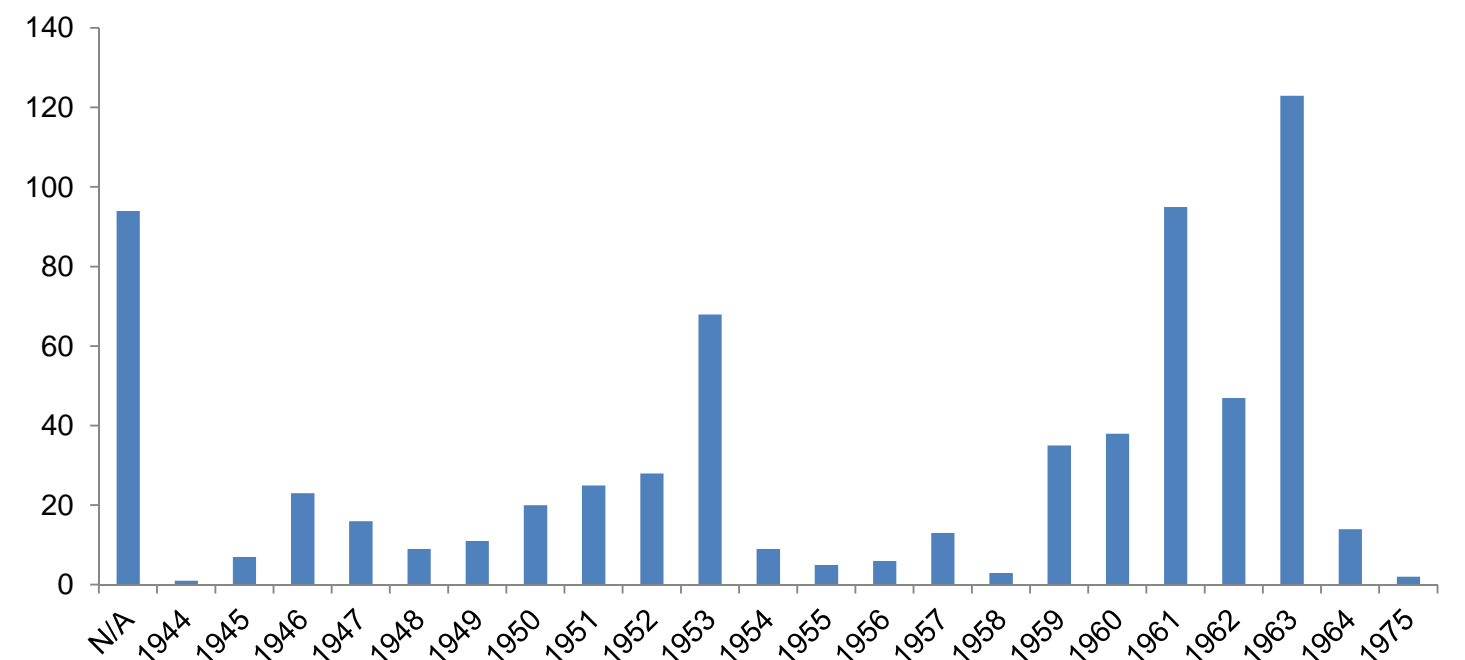


The processed documents were **sent to and from 25 different countries** and feature six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish.

Origin/destination of letters

Argentina	5	India	1	Spain	11
Austria	2	Ireland	31	Sweden	23
Belgium	1	Italy	4	Switzerland	2
Canada	29	Japan	5	Uruguay	2
Hong Kong	1	Mexico	1	USA	100
Cuba	1	Morocco	1	Zimbabwe	1
Denmark	1	Netherlands	3	UK	692
France	88	Norway	4	Unknown	7
Germany	9	South Africa	1		

Within the largest sample of documents, the correspondence sent within the UK, there are documents for every year between 1944 and 1964, but the **majority of documents originate during the years 1950-3 and 1959-63.**



* Ron's kind donation of materials also contained numerous books and pamphlets. Aside a few very fragile pamphlets these were not digitalised.