

**University of Sheffield Library. *Special Collections and Archives***

Ref: **MS 10**

Title: **The People's College, Sheffield, Archive**

Scope: *Records of the People's College, Sheffield, together with later information about the College, 1848 to 1912*

Dates: 1848-1912

Level: Fonds

Extent: 1 box

Name of creator: The People's College, Sheffield

Administrative / biographical history:

The Archive includes records of the College, some published text books, and John Derby's note books, essays, correspondence, notes and papers. Also included are some post-closure documents: correspondence, notes, press cuttings and pamphlets relating to the College, assembled by G. C. Moore Smith, Professor of English Language and Literature in the University of Sheffield from 1896 to 1924.

The People's College, Sheffield, was founded by the Rev. Robert Slater Bayley, Minister of Howard Street Chapel, in 1842. Opening in George Street, the College moved in the following year to larger premises in Orchard Street; John Derby was its Secretary in the early years. At that time a large proportion of the poorer children of the nation grew up without the benefit of schooling. Bayley, who in his earlier years in Sheffield had frequently lectured at the Mechanics' Institution, which provided adult instruction in elementary subjects at evening classes, determined to give working youths and young men from the age of 13 upwards the higher education enjoyed by the youth of the leisured classes, for which they would make some payment. It was further decided that young women should be admitted from the outset. The scheme proved popular, and in 1844 fifty classes per week were enrolled. Subjects taught were not only the "Rudimental" Reading, Writing and Arithmetic but, in addition, Geography, Moral Knowledge, English and General History, English Composition, Science, Logic and Algebra, Philosophy and Natural History, English Literature, Latin and Greek. Much of the labour involved fell to Bayley, the College's Principal, though other staff were employed. At first this revolutionary institution stood alone in the country, but its example soon gave rise to similar institutions elsewhere, notably the Working-Men's College in London which itself gave rise to many imitators.

Bayley was born in Lichfield, probably in 1801, and baptised as an Anglican. After being trained for the Congregational ministry at Hoxton and Highbury Colleges he worked as a minister from June 1828 at Lane End, Longton, Staffordshire, moving in 1830 to the

pastorate of the Independent Chapel at Louth, Lincolnshire, where he made his mark by his eloquence, interest in education, and decided views on political questions, amongst which was an abhorrence of war, and where he was one of the founders of the Louth Mechanics' Institute. In 1836 he moved to Sheffield to assume charge of the Howard Street Chapel, in the same year becoming a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Perhaps his strong views led to the schism which developed in 1846 within the Howard Street Chapel congregation, as a result of which Bayley and others seceded but continued to hold services in the People's College. This divisive episode led to a decline in the College's fortunes, and in 1848 Bayley left to take charge of a Congregational Chapel in Ratcliff in the East End of London.. He died in Hereford in 1859.

After Bayley left Sheffield the College, on the point of collapse, carried on under a Committee of young enthusiasts under the Chairmanship of Mr Wilson Overend, a prominent physician, for some years with considerable success. By 1870, when Forster's Education Act finally established a national system of education its fortunes were again declining, as other educational institutes were now operating in Sheffield. In 1874 the Corporation ordered the demolition of the Orchard Street premises for new road construction and the College classes were closed, although the Day-school survived until 1878. On 7th May 1879 a farewell gathering of students was held in the Cutler's Hall, the year of the founding of Firth College, an institution which ultimately evolved into the University of Sheffield.

The history of the College is recounted in G.C. Moore Smith: *The Story of The People's College, Sheffield, 1842-1878*, Sheffield, 1912.

Related collections: Sheffield Educational Settlement Archive

Source: Donated by John Derby and Thomas Rowbotham (date unknown)

System of arrangement: By category

Subjects: Education, Elementary - Great Britain; Labor and laboring classes - Education - Great Britain; Sheffield, Eng.

Names: People's College, Sheffield; Bayley, Robert Slater, ?1801-1859; Derby, John; Smith, George Charles Moore, 1858-1940

Conditions of access: Available to all researchers, by appointment

Restrictions: None

Copyright: University of Sheffield Library

Finding aids: Listed

Associated material: Issues of *The People's College Journal* are in Sheffield City Library

**MS10            The People's College, Sheffield, Archive**

Arrangement of the records

- 1-13    People's College records
- 14-24    People's College text books
- 25-46    John Derby's note books and essays
- 47-53    John Derby's correspondence, notes and papers
- 54        Photographs and drawing
- 55-59    Professor G.C. Moore Smith's correspondence, notes, press cuttings and pamphlets relating to the People's College

**1-13    People's College Records**

- |     |  |                                 |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|
| 1-2 | Subscription books   | 1842                            |
| 3   | Cash book  | 1842                            |
| 4   | 'Questions and hints as to the forming of a Library for the People's College. By a Friend' and 'General rules of order etc.'    2 items  | 1845                            |
| 5   | <u>The substance of a lecture on national education delivered on the evenings of the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, in Howard Street Chapel, Sheffield. By the Minister</u> (Sheffield: Robert Leader at the Independent Office, High Street, 1837). 28pp. Stamped 'PEOPLE'S COLLEGE' | 1837                            |
| 6   | <u>First Annual Report of the Students of the People's College, Established in Sheffield, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 1842. By the Rev. R.S. Bayley, F.A.S. [sic]</u> (Sheffield: Printed at the People's College, 1843)   | 1843                            |
| 7   | <u>First Annual Report of the People's College</u> (Sheffield: Leader, Independent Office)   | 1849                            |
| 8   | <u>First Ten Annual Reports of the People's College, Sheffield, from the year 1849 to 1858 inclusive</u> (Sheffield, Leader, 1849-1855, Pawson 1858)   | 1849-1858                       |
| 9   | <u>Annual Reports of the People's College for 1859, 1860 and 1861</u> (Sheffield, Leader & Sons, Independent Office, 1862)   | 1862                            |
| 10  | Annual Report for 1863 [1862]  | Publ. in 1863                   |
| 11  | Examination papers, syllabus and report of public examination  | 4 items 1843-1845               |
| 12  | Class lists  | 3 items                    n.d. |

- 13 Appeal by the Committee (1843) (1), proposal for testimonial to the Rev. R.S. Bayley (1845) (2), list of members of the Committee (3), admission ticket to classes (4), and to Annual Soiree (5), and the Rev. R.S. Bayley's London address (6)  
6 items 1843-1849

#### 14-24 People's College Text Books

- 14 The Text Book of the People's College on Elocution for the Use of Students by R.S. Bayley, F.S.A. (Sheffield, Printed at the People's College, 1843) 34pp. 1843  
Inscribed on inside front cover "J. Radley, Doncaster St. Sheffield" and containing pencil notes at back "On Comets"
- 15 The Text Book of the People's College on Latin Grammar for the Use of Students by R.S. Bayley, F.S.A. (Sheffield, Printed at the People's College, 1843)  
24pp. 1843
- 16 The Text Book of the People's College on English Grammar for the Use of Students by R.S. Bayley, F.S.A. (Sheffield, Printed at the People's College, 1843)  
34pp. 1843
- 17-19 The Text Book of the People's College on Composition for the Use of Students by R.S. Bayley, F.S.A. (Sheffield, printed at the People's College, 1844).  
3 copies 32pp. 1844
- 20 The Text Book of the People's College on the French Language containing the Grammar and Reading Lessons for the Use of Students by R.S. Bayley, F.S.A. (Sheffield, Printed at the People's College, 1845) 24pp. 1845
- 21 Herodotus, edited by G. Long of London University (London, 1838).  
6pp. Incomplete 1838
- 22-23 The People's College Journal, a monthly periodicals chiefly devoted to the cause of popular education, edited by the Rev. R.S. Bayley, F.S.A.  
No. 2, Dec 1846 and No. 3, Jan 1847 1846-1847
- 24 Handbills relating to the Rev. R.S. Bayley's controversies with Messrs. Rimington and Yonge and the congregation of Howard Street Chapel. Including manuscript resolution rebutting the charges made in the Howard Street Chapel dispute (5)  
6 items 1843-1846

#### 25-46 John Derby's Note Books and Essays

- 25 Note book containing thoughts on religion, an account of a "lecture by Mr. Montgomery on 'Poetry of Dryden and Pope'" and poem "The Ranter" 1838-1843

26	Note book inscribed '1 <sup>st</sup> Lectures of the People's College Commencing August 29 <sup>th</sup> 1842' and note annexed by Derby, 3 Feb 1892	1842-1843
27	General note book	1842-1843
28	Note book inscribed 'History of England No. 1'	1842
29	Note book inscribed 'Tuesday Evening Lectures del'd in the People's College 1843-1844'	1843-1844
30	Latin grammar note book, containing also exercises in Greek from Herodotus	1844
31	Syllabus of examination, 8 Aug 1844	1844
32	Definition book	1845
33	German grammar note book	n.d.
34-35	Greek grammar note books	n.d.
36-37	History note books	n.d.
38	'Humanity' note book [refers to human biology]	n.d.
39	Language note books	n.d.
40	Note book of 'Quotations from some of the Most Eminent Writers'	n.d.
41-42	General note books	n.d.
43	Essays, translations and notes for lecture. <u>Including</u> essays: 'On Comparison between the Syllogistic and Inductive Modes of Reasoning' (1), 'On the Influence of Poetry' (2), 'On Prejudice' (3), and 'On the Superiority of Moral to mental Greatness' (4)	7 items 1843-1844
44	Note book recording People's College itinerary of visit to Roche Abbey and Kirkstall Abbey	n.d.
45	Note book containing draft of John Derby's book, <u>Sheffield and its immediate vicinity</u> [published in 1863 under pseudonym "Johann Zimmermann"]	n.d.
46	Note book with label of 'Fifteenth Commercial Funding Society' on cover, containing note on a portrait	n.d.
<b>47-53 John Derby's Correspondence, Notes and Papers</b>		
47	Correspondence	10 items 1843-1850

- 48 Notes and papers on Phrenology. Including circular letter from Derby inviting subscriptions for course of lectures on Phrenology by the Rev. D.G. Goyder and the formation of a Phrenological Society in Sheffield (1), 'Phrenological Character of Mrs. Derby as given by E.J. Craig' (6), and Syllabus of the course of the Philosophical Institution, Huddersfield (7) 7 items
- 49 Miscellaneous lecture and essay notes made by Derby as a student. Including notes relating to Greek grammar (1-3), Hebrew (4-5), History (6-7), Latin (8-11), Logic and Philosophy (12-32), Oratory (33), Physiology (34), Political Economy (35-36), Religion (37-39) and 'How to discover and torment a witch' (40) 49 items n.d. [1840s?]
- 50 'The Founder of the First People's College. By an old Student' [Derby's manuscript history of the People's College] 1866
- 51 Proof sheets of Derby's 'History of the People's College'. Chapters 1-5, published in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph 6 sheets & annex 1878
- 52 Miscellaneous pamphlets, press cuttings and advertisement. Including: The Temptation of Young Men in Towns: A sermon preached in the parish church of St. Jude, Moorfields, Sheffield, on Sunday evening, November 2, 1862 by Greville J. Chester, B.A., incumbent of Moorfields, late rector of Farndish (London and Sheffield, 1862) 16pp. (1) and Thoughts on the Divine Judgement [incomplete, anti-Roman Catholic tract, c.1849] (2) 6 items 1862 & n.d.
- 53 Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 30 Sep 1859, containing account of the origin and progress of the People's College by Mr. Rowbotham, reprinted from The Working Men's College Magazine and Supplement to the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent 26 Jul 1862 2 items 1859-1862
- 54 Photographs and Drawing**
- 54 Photographs of the Rev. R.S. Bayley, F.S.A., founder of the People's College (1-6) and of James Wilson (7), and drawing of lecture room at People's College, Orchard Street (8) 8 items 1842 & n.d.
- 55-59 Professor G.C. Moore-Smith's Correspondence, Notes, Press Cuttings and Pamphlets relating to the People's College**
- 55 Correspondence, notes and press cuttings. Including report of Moore-Smith's lecture on the People's College from the Sheffield Independent, 14 Feb 1910 (1-2) and letters from James Moorehouse, former Bishop of Manchester (3), Thomas Rowbotham (4) and Thomas Brown, hon. secretary of the Vaughan Working Men's College, Leicester (5) 8 items 1910-1912

- 56 A Survey of Working-Class Educational Movements in England and Scotland by Albert Mansbridge. Publication No. 10. Workers' Educational Association (Printed at Manchester, 1906) 40pp. 3d. 1906
- 57 A Chapter in the History of Voluntary Educational Effort Being a Record of the First Year's Work of the Rochdale Education Guold, a Branch of the Workers' Educational Association. Publication No. 11 (London, 1906) 8pp. 1d. 1906
- 58 The Workers' Educational Association, Third Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1906. Publication No. 12 (London, 1906) 32pp. 6d. 1906  
[Proof copy]
- 59 Arnold Toynbee by Albert Mansbridge. The Pioneer Biographies of Social Reformers No. 5 (London, C.W. Daniel and Leicester, Leicester Co-operative Printing Society Ltd., n.d.) 16pp. 1d. n.d.