Conscientious Objectors and the Peace Movement in Britain 1914-1945

This is a selective guide to archive, manuscript and printed material collections in the Library. It is not exhaustive, particularly in relation to pamphlets and articles. There is also some overlap between subjects and timescales; some secondary sources cover the period from the 17th century onwards. Related material on organisations such as Friends Ambulance Unit and other Quaker relief work are not included in this guide.

Please visit our online catalogue to search both printed collections and archives and manuscripts: www.quaker.org.uk/cat. There may be some material which has not yet been catalogued, please contact the library to find out more

Unpublished Sources: Archives and Manuscripts

Archives
London Yearly Meeting minutes (the annual Proceedings have been printed since 1858)
Meeting for Sufferings (its standing executive committee): manuscript or typescript minutes

Minutes and papers of the following committees are also relevant
- Peace Committee, 1888-1965
- Friends Service Committee, 1915-1920
- War & Social Order Committee, 1915-1928
- Visitation of Prisoners Committee, 1916-1920
- Wartime Statistics Committee, 1917-1922
- Present Situation Committee, 1939-1940
- Conscription Committee, 1939-1945
- Friends Home Service Committee: Prison Ministers Subcommittee, 1940-1949

Manuscripts
It is advisable to consult the finding aids to manuscripts in the Library reading room first, as some of the manuscript collections are extensive.

Barritt, Cornelius: (sentenced to death, 1916) account of experiences Temp MSS 62

Brocklesby, John: (sentenced to death, 1916) account of experiences Temp MSS 412

Central Board for Conscientious Objectors: records 1939-1944 (List available) Temp MSS 914

Colchester & Coggeshall Monthly Meeting: reminiscences 1939-1945 Temp MSS 687
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Davies, Russell V.: papers on registration as a CO in World War I

Dryderdale log: logbook kept by a house-party of former COs and families, 1919

Ewan, George Alfred: prison memories of a World War I CO

Harvey, T. Edmund: correspondence with COs from 1916-1920: Pelham Committee papers

Lane, Terence: collection of material about World War I COs

Murfin, Frederick J: account of prison experiences of a World War I CO

No-Conscription Fellowship: duplicated papers, 1914-1919

No More War Movement: minute book, 1932-1939

Philcox, Rowland: personal papers of World War I CO

Plummer, Hubert: account of experiences as World War I CO

Rowntree, Arnold: papers

Rowntree, Maurice L.: papers of World War I CO

Sainty, Frederick B: notebook of Quaker prison visitor, 1917-1919

Tait, Frederick: diary of World War I CO

Wild, H. E: personal papers of World War I CO

Williams, Joan: account of experiences as a CO in World War II:

Winchester Whisperer: clandestine prison magazine & manifesto circulated by World War I COs

Published Sources: Printed books & theses

Most items will be on the open shelves in the Reading Room, but some will be on closed access, and you will need to fill in a call slip. The library call number is given on the right of each entry. Please note this is a select bibliography. Further items may be located via our online catalogue www.quaker.org.uk/cat

Adams, R.J.Q. and Poirer, P.P.: The conscription controversy in Great Britain 1900-1918, 1987

Asher, John: Conscientious objectors in Settle 1914-1919, 2014 Box L 240/23
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Ayles, W.: *Why I am a conscientious objector*, 1916  
051.54 [War 12/62] and 051.54 [peace 29/1]

Barker, Rachel: *Conscience, government and war*, 1982  
051.57 BAR

Baxter, Archibald: *We will not cease: the autobiography of a conscientious objector*, 1939 and reprints 1968 & 1980  
051.57 BAX

Bell, Julian H, ed.: *We did not fight: 1914-1918 experiences of war resisters*, 1935  
051.57 BEL

Bibbings, Lois S.: *Telling tales about men: conceptions of conscientious objectors to military service during the First World War*, 2009  
051.59 BIB

Brock, Peter: *Pacifism in the 20th century*, USA, 1998  
051.59 BRO

Brock, Peter: *These strange criminals: an anthology of prison memoirs…*, 2004  
051.599 BRO

Box 552/14 & 15

Boulton, David: *Objection overruled*, 1967  
051.57 BOU

051.57 BUR

Catchpool, Corder: *Letters of a prisoner for conscience sake*, 1941  
051.57 CAT

Catchpool, Corder: *On two fronts*, 1918  
051.57 CAT

Ceadel, Martin: *Pacifism in Britain 1914-1945*, 1980  
051.59 CEA

051.57 CHA

Chamberlain, W.J.: *A C.O. in prison. *, 1917  
051.54 [peace 26/22];  
Box 223/2 and Box 276/13

Cole, Clara G.: *The objectors to conscription and war*, 1936  
051.57 COL

Cortright, David, Peace: a history of movements and ideas, 2008  
051.59 COR

Ellsworth-Jones, Will: *We will not fight: the untold story of the First World War's conscientious objectors*, 2007  
051.57 ELL

Francis, Thomas W.: *The tribunal manual*, 1917  
051.57 FRA

Goodall, Felicity: *A question of conscience: conscientious objection in two World wars*, 1997  
051.59 GOO

Graham, John W.: *Conscription and conscience: a history 1916-1919*, 1921  
051.57 GRA
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Hayes, Denis: *Conscription conflict: the conflict of ideas in the struggle for and against military conscription between 1901 and 1939, 1949*  051.57  HAY

Hayes, Denis: *Challenge of conscience: the story the conscientious objectors of 1939-1949, 1949*  051.57  HAY

Hayes, Will: *My life in gaol, 1932*  Box 496/17

Hinton, James: *Protests and visions: peace politics in Britain in the 20th century, 1989*  051.59  HIN

Hirst, Margaret E.: *The Quakers in peace and war, 1923*  051.59  HIR


Hobhouse, Mrs. Henry: "I appeal unto Caesar": the case of the conscientious objector  [1917?]*  051.59  HOB

Hochschild, Adam: *To end all wars: how the First World War divided Britain, 2011*  051.59  HOC

Hopkins, Mary R.: *Men of peace: World War II conscientious objectors, 2010*  051.599  HOP

Hughes, William R *Indomitable Friend: Corder Catchpool 1883-1952, 1964*  092.3  CAT/HUG

Imperial War Museum: *The anti war movement 1914-1945* (Dept. of Sound Records), 1985  L 051.59  IMP

James, Stanley B: *The men who dared, 1917*  051.59  JAM

Kennedy, Thomas C.: *The hound of conscience: a history of the No-Conscription Fellowship 1914-1919* USA, 1981  051.59  KEN

Knowles, G. W.: *Quakers and peace, 1927*  051.59  KNO

Kramer, Ann: *Conscientious objectors of the First World War: a determined resistance. 2014*  051.59  KRA

Kramer, Ann: *Conscientious objectors of the Second World War: refusing to fight. 2013*  051.59  KRA

Mason, E. Williamson: *Made free in prison, 1918*  051.57  MAS

McDermott, James: *British military service tribunals, 1916-1918: "a very much abused body of men", 2011*  051.57  MCD

Moorehead, Caroline: *Troublesome people: enemies of war 1916-1986, 1987 and reprints*  051.59  MOO

Morton, Vanessa. *Another kind of war: conscientious objectors in Norwich and Norfolk in World War II c. 2010* Theses 051.59 MOR
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Murfin, Frederick J.: Prisoner for peace: account by Fred. J. Murfin of his experiences as a conscientious objector during the 1914-18, 2014


No-Conscription Fellowship: The No-Conscription Fellowship: a souvenir of its work during the years 1914-1919, 1920

The Oxford international encyclopedia of peace (4 vols), 2010

Peake, Arthur S.: Prisoners of hope, 1918

Pearce, Cyril: Comrades in conscience: the story of an English community’s opposition to the Great War, 2001

Rae, John: Conscience & politics: the British government and the conscientious objector to military service 1916-1919, 1970

Smith, Lyn, Voices against war: a century of protest, 2009

Tucker, Leigh: The English Quakers and World war 1- PhD, USA, 1972

Vellacott, Jo: Bertrand Russell and the pacifists in the First World War, 1980

Pamphlets

The Library holds peace pamphlets, catalogued by author or corporate body, including:
Central Board for Conscientious Objectors
Fellowship of Reconciliation
National Peace Council (National Council for the Prevention of War until 1928)
No Conscription Fellowship
Northern Friends Peace Board
Peace Committee (of London YM)
War Resisters International
Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting Literature committee

Many of these collections have been catalogued onto our online catalogue www.quaker.org.uk/cat

Periodicals

For a full list of periodical titles and their holdings please the Library’s online catalogue www.quaker.org.uk/cat. Among the titles held are:

CO’s Hansard 1916-1919
Central Board for Conscientious Objectors Annual reports 1942-1956
Central Board for Conscientious Objectors Bulletin 1940-1947 [Later The Objector]
The CO’s Hansard 1940-1947
Conscientious Objectors and the Peace Movement in Britain 1914-1945

*The Christian Pacifist* (Fellowship of Reconciliation) 1939-1951
*The Friend* 1843-
*The Objector* 1947-1957
*Peace* (National Peace Council) 1933-1944
*Peace Aims* (National Peace Council) 1944-1946
Northern Friends Peace Board *Annual Reports* 1913-
*Peace News* 1936-
*The Peacemaker* 1911-1914
*Reconciliation* (Fellowship of Reconciliation) 1936-1939 [Later *The Christian Pacifist*]
*The Seed* (Friends Anti-War Group/ Quaker Socialist Group) 1935-1939
*Spiceland News sheet* 1940-1944
*The Tribunal* (No-Conscription Fellowship) 1916-1919
*The War Resister* 1937-1962
*War Resistance* 1962-1968

Further information

**Library opening hours:**
Tues.- Fri. 10.00am - 5.00pm

Please note the Library closes for one week in the spring and in the autumn. It is advisable to telephone or email prior to visiting. New readers will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website [www.quaker.org.uk/library](http://www.quaker.org.uk/library) or requested from the Library.

For further information or help in using this Library please contact us by either emailing [library@quaker.org.uk](mailto:library@quaker.org.uk), telephoning 020 7663 1135 or writing to:

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Friends House,
173 Euston Road,
London. NW1 2BJ
[www.quaker.org.uk/library](http://www.quaker.org.uk/library)

January 2009
Revised April 2016

Quaker Strongrooms blog
[https://librarysocietyfriendsblog.wordpress.com/](https://librarysocietyfriendsblog.wordpress.com/)
‘The C.O. in Prison’ - Postcard issued in 1917 (assumed to be one of series produced by G.P. Micklewright in 1917) [Library Ref: 86/ AL 11]

For details of other items in the Library’s picture collection connected to the peace movement and conscientious objectors please contact the Library.