



### The Collection

The autobiographies were collected by Professor John Burnett, David Vincent and David Mayall whilst compiling their three-volume annotated bibliography, *The Autobiography of the Working Class* (Harvester Press, 1984-1989), a further 103 autobiographies were added to the collection by Brunel University Library Staff.



## Brunel University London Archives and Special Collections

### Contact us

- Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9:30–3:30, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Appointments outside of this time may be available on request.
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# Burnett Collection of Working Class Autobiographies

The Burnett Collection of Working-Class Autobiographies held at Brunel consists of 246 autobiographies (c.1791–1945).

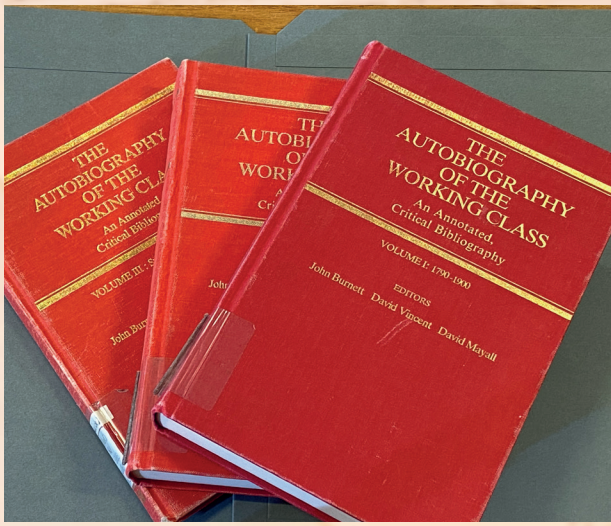




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1:181<sup>r</sup>

Grandpa Cooper	1836 - 1895	lost at sea
Grandma Cooper	1850 - 1930	Port Sunlight
Willie	1871 - 1900	Cape Town
Agnes	1874 - 1963	Port Sunlight
John (Jack)	1876 - 1947	Vancouver
Fred.	1878 - 1919	Liverpool
Charlie	1880 - ?	?
Ernest	1883 - 1938	Seattle
Harry (Jimmy)	1885 - 1939	Fiji
Herbert	1888 - 1972	Dunoon
Daisy (Dorothy)	1890 -	

Burnett sought to identify not only the large numbers of printed works scattered in various local history libraries and record offices, but also extant private memoirs, many of which remain hidden in family attics, known only to the author and a handful of relatives.



The Burnett collection now forms part of the University's archives and special collections and has recently been re-catalogued in CALM, our online catalogue.

**John Burnett**

Professor John Burnett (1925 - 2006) was a social historian and a professor at Brunel University from 1972 to 1990. His research examined the day-to-day lives of ordinary British people in the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection was donated to Brunel University London, 1984 - 1989.

**Holdings in brief**

- 349 autobiographies - the catalogue is available online from <https://archivesearch.brunel.ac.uk/calmview/Record>.
- The Autobiography of the Working Class (Harvester Press, 1984 - 1989), Volumes 1 - 3.

*\*Some items within this collection reflect the prejudices of the era in which they were created, and include language which is offensive and may cause upset. The use of this language is not condoned by Brunel University London, but we preserve and provide access to these items.*

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- Please bring pencils or a laptop, pens are not permitted.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the reading room.