

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD.

Correspondence of Robert Owen and George Holyoake, 1830-1905

Reel M865

**Co-operative Union Ltd
Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester M60 0AS**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1980

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Co-operative Union, originally known as the Co-operative Central Board, was founded in 1869 with the aim of creating and organising cooperative societies and providing advice and education on cooperative principles. It was originally concerned with both worker cooperatives and consumer cooperatives, but after about 1880 it predominantly dealt with retail cooperative societies. Following the death of George Holyoake in 1906, the cooperative movement decided to commemorate him by building a permanent headquarters for the Co-operative Union. Holyoake House in Manchester was opened in 1911. Since 1919 the building has also housed the Co-operative College. As well as organising the annual Co-operative Congress, the Co-operative Union has been closely linked with the Co-operative Party, which was founded in 1917.

The Co-operative Union was re-named Co-operatives UK in 2003.

Robert Owen (1771-1858) was born in Newtown, Wales, and was apprenticed to a cloth merchant at the age of ten. Within ten years he was managing a mill with 500 employees and in 1800 he became manager of the New Lanark cotton mills near Glasgow. They soon became a model of philanthropic management, with reduced working hours, communal housing and educational facilities. Attempts were made to create communities based on Owen's socialist ideals and in the 1820s hundreds of cooperative societies were formed throughout Britain. In 1835 he founded the Rational Society and its newspaper *New Moral World* preached the virtues of cooperation as against the evils of competition.

George Jacob Holyoake (1817-1906), who was born in Birmingham, became interested in the ideas of Robert Owen in the 1830s. In 1839 he started lecturing for the Owenite Central Board in Worcester and later, as the editor of *The Movement* (1843-45) and *The Reasoner* (1846-61), he expounded his views on cooperation and secularism. He presided over the Cooperative Congress in 1887 and wrote *The history of co-operation in England* (1875) and *Co-operation today* (1891).

Two of Holyoake's brothers, Henry and Horatio, as well as his sister Eliza, migrated to Victoria in the 1850s. Six letters of Henry and Horatio Holyoake held by the Co-operative Union were filmed by the Australian Joint Copying Project on reel M392. The same letters can be found on reel M865.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD

Reel M865

George Jacob Holyoake Collection

Select:

- 462 William Hornblower (Birmingham) to Holyoake, 3 Feb. 1852: family news; John Hornblower now doing well in Australia.
- 502 W.J. Birch to Holyoake, 2 June 1852: disgusted with article in *Leader* on Patagonian missionaries; Dr Birch is going to Australia; possibility of a branch in Australia.
- 576 W. MacCall (Woolwich) to Holyoake, 28 June 1853: thanks for £5 advance on his 'Spinoza'; [Ebenezer] Syme's ship had a good voyage; suggests *Reasoner* and Holyoake's works should be advertised in *Inquirer*.
- 627 Pencil drawings of 147 Fleet Street. On the verso of the smaller drawing are details of shipping to Australia and New Zealand.
- 713 Horatio Holyoake to his mother Catherine Holyoake, Nov. 1854: has been in Australia for twelve months and has not struck rich; Mr Nicholls has dysentery; Henry has opened a store at Ballarat.
- 758 Henry, Horatio and Eliza Holyoake (Ballarat) to Catherine Holyoake, Nov. 1854: Betsy's marriage to William Bottomley; he is a digger; his fight with the troops; life on the goldfields.
- 890 J. Watson (London) to Holyoake, 18 Feb. 1857: introduces John Frost who wants a publisher for his pamphlet on Van Diemen's Land and transportation.
- 892 Robert Parkes (Beeston, Notts.) to Holyoake, 5 March 1857: queries Holyoake's statements in *The Times* about emigration and Thomas Malthus on mothers.
- 1477 Henry Holyoake (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 25 March 1863: has been married 14 days to Jane Phiddian of Woolwich; asks if their mother is alive; family news; is now a master saddler.
- 1748 Horatio Holyoake (Blackwood, Victoria) to Holyoake, 26 Nov. 1867: hopes they can keep in touch; description of Victorian parliamentarians; family news.
- 1806 W. Morrison (Malham Tarn) to Holyoake, 10 Aug. 1868: working of ballot in America and Australia; ballot is needed to simplify, not purify, voting.
- 1863 Holyoake to John Bright [1869?]: his plan to obtain details of working class conditions in foreign countries to aid emigration and supply knowledge so as to avoid strikes such as the one at Preston.
- 1918 Gerald Supple (Dublin) to Holyoake, n.d.: thanks for introduction to people in Melbourne.

- 1956 Newspaper cutting from Melbourne *Argus* on Gerald Supple case, 21 May 1870.
- 1957 Newspaper cutting from *Argus* on Gerald Supple case, n.d.
- 1958 E.J. Williams (London) to Holyoake, n.d.: sends news from Melbourne on Supple's case and seeking support.
- 1959 E.J. Williams to Holyoake, n.d.: account of Gerald Supple in Australia; believes he was mad.
- 1960 Holyoake to Lord Clarendon, 25 May 1870: suggestions for improving information in and layout of *Blue Books* on conditions abroad.
- 1963 A.J. Otway (Foreign Office) to Holyoake, 2 June 1870: thanks for suggestions about *Blue Books*.
- 1968 W. Morrison (London) to Holyoake, 6 July 1870: Holyoake's wire-pulling to have additional information included in *Blue Books*.
- 1969 Holyoake to A.J. Otway, 9 July 1870; further references to *Blue Books*, including a resolution of the Co-operative Congress at Manchester.
- 1970 Affidavit by Holyoake on mental health of G.J. Supple, 28 July 1870. (copy)
- 1974 Colonial Office to Holyoake, 3 Aug. 1870: acknowledges Holyoake's affidavit on Supple's mental health.
- 1979 Lord Canterbury (Melbourne) to Lord Kimberley, 7 Sept. 1870: mental health of G.H. Supple.
- 1982 Gerald Supple (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 4 Oct. 1870: his emigration to Victoria; Ebenezer Syme; Australia and its gold; its lawlessness; his reprieve on a charge of murder; London days.
- 1985 H.T. Holland (Colonial Office) to Holyoake, 17 Nov. 1870: sends a despatch from Governor of Victoria.
- 1988 Holyoake to H.T. Holland, 11 Jan. 1871: gratitude of Gerald Supple.
- 1999 H.T. Holland to Holyoake, 2 Feb. 1871: Lord Kimberley has read extract sent by Holyoake from *Birmingham Evening Post*.
- 1992 A.J. Otway to Holyoake, 6 Feb. 1871: acknowledges letter of 9 July; Spring Rice has spoken of Holyoake in generous terms.
- 2011 H.T. Holland (Colonial Office) to Holyoake, 20 June 1871: as no steps have been taken on Semple's appeal to Queen against Supreme Court of Victoria, appeal is dismissed.
- 2025 G.H. Semple (Melbourne Gaol) to Holyoake, 11 Aug. 1871: gratitude for reprieve on capital murder charge; forthcoming second trial; imprisonment.
- 2027 Horatio Holyoake (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 4 Oct. 1871: news of their brother Henry; Horatio and his family; inquires after family at home.
- 2058 G.H. Supple (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 21 March 1872: introduces Mr and Mrs Easton; refers to *Blue Book* which Holyoake secured.
- 2152 Newspaper cutting of a letter to the *Argus* from Henry Holyoake defending the character of his brother, 27 Feb. 1873.

- 2162 Henry Holyoake (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 18 May 1873: his defence of George Holyoake in the *Argus*; high esteem of Holyoake in Australia; details of his children; queries about home.
- 2464 Newspaper cutting from the *Argus* on release of Gerald Supple, 2 Oct. 1878.
- 2465 H. Clinton (Royston) to Holyoake, 10 Oct. 1878: thanks reference in *Brighton Guardian* to Clinton's collection of letters; 'Peace with Honour'; William Cobbett and the Tichborne Case.
- 2479 Gerald Supple (Auckland) to Holyoake, 3 Feb. 1879: release from prison; thanks Holyoake for his kindnesses; description of Auckland and the Maoris.
- 2695 Holyoake to J.E. Thorold Rogers, 6 March 1882: history of the idea of an Emigrant's Guide; costs involved; seeks a government grant from Foreign Office.
- 2932 Newspaper cutting on Sir Charles Gavan Duffy and G.H. Supple, 18 April 1884, annotated by Holyoake 'This shows my Affidavit was nearer the truth than I was aware'.
- 2968 Notes on Whalley Case of 1884 and the Tichborne Case.
- 2993 Sir Henry Parkes (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 4 May 1885: news of J.C. Hornblower in Australia; his own reception; life in Parliament; the Egyptian affair.
- 3051 Sir Henry Parkes (Sydney) to Holyoake, 20 Aug. 1886: sends Australian publications; free trade debate in Australia and rejection of Customs Bill; he reads Holyoake's journal *Present Day*.
- 3126 Report and balance sheet of half yearly meeting of Mutual Store Ltd., Melbourne, 16 March 1888.
- 3187 Sir Henry Parkes (Sydney) to Holyoake, 19 Aug. 1889: need for a change in attitude of Imperial Parliament towards Australia, especially over Western Australia Bill.
- 3194 Sir Henry Parkes (Sydney) to Holyoake, 12 Nov. 1889: prospects of creating a Federal Australia.
- 3413 Sir Henry Parkes (Sydney) to Holyoake, 27 May: comments on *Sixty years of an agitator's life*; disturbed state of British politics; dismemberment of the old Liberal Party.
- 3518 Emma Hornblower (Melbourne) to Holyoake, 5 Aug. 1895: deaths of J.G. Hornblower and Lady Parkes.
- 3570 Holyoake (Brighton) to Joseph Chamberlain, 26 July 1896: appeal on behalf of Gerald Supple and his two sisters, who are starving in Auckland.
- 3575 H.F. Wilson (Colonial Office) to Holyoake, 8 Aug. 1896: application on behalf of Misses Supple sent to Prime Minister.
- 3598 Gerald Supple (Auckland) to Holyoake, 6 March 1897: pension.
- 3623 John Plummer (Sydney) to Holyoake, 21 May 1897: congratulations on Holyoake's 80th birthday, referred to in *Co-operative News*.
- 3635 Cutting from *Westminster Gazette* on action sought by Holyoake to relieve Gerald Supple and his sisters, 4 Dec. 1897.
- 3636 Notes by Holyoake on the death of Gerald Semple and on his two sisters in Auckland.

- 3841 Goldwin Smith (Toronto) to Holyoake, 17 Dec. 1900: Boer and Philippine wars, both supported by Christians; dismal result of British election.
- 4119 Lord Grey (Ottawa) to Holyoake, 18 March 1905: has requested a copy of *Bygones worth remembering*; Holyoake's letter in *Co-operative News*; regrets that cooperative movement cannot raise money for the quarries.
- 4386 Endorsement by Holyoake of the Australasian Land and Emigration Company, n.d. (printed)

ROBERT OWEN COLLECTION

Select:

- 207 Resolution of a meeting in London to consider formation of a society for affording relief to pauper labouring classes by means of systematic colonisation, 13 March 1830.
- 223 Robert Gouger (London) to Owen, 4 April 1830: proposal for cooperative rent.
- 270 Robert Gouger to Owen, 21 June 1830: notice of a meeting of Committee of National Colonisation Society.
- 284 Robert Gouger to Owen, 12 July 1830: hopes Owen will be present at next meeting.
- 288 Robert Gouger to Owen, 19 July 1830: notice of committee meeting.
- 314 Lord Melville to Owen, 20 Sept. 1830: declines to serve on committee.
- 673 William Panton (Montpellier, NSW) to Owen, 2 Jan. 1834: a convert to Owen's views. (4pp)
- 723 Sir Robert Peel to Owen, 17 Feb. 1835: remission of sentences responsibility of Home Secretary, not the First Lord of the Treasury.
- 724 Henry Goulburn to Owen, 20 Feb. 1835: requests that Owen communicate in writing.
- 725 Samuel Phillips (Home Office) to Owen, 27 Feb. 1835: Owen's appeal on behalf of six prisoners convicted at Dorset Assizes of administering false oaths [Tolpuddle Martyrs]. With memorandum of Owen's reply.
- 726 Samuel Phillips (Home Office) to Owen, 6 March 1835: refuses Owen's appeal for pardons.
- 740 Memorial of the Working Classes to King William IV for remission of penalties imposed on six Dorsetshire convicts, 23 June 1835.
- 1140 James Lindsay (Edinburgh) to Owen, 11 Aug. 1839: suggests cooperation with for better colonisation of New Zealand.
- 2123 Ernest Haug (London) to Owen, 27 Feb. 1853: praises Owen; wishes to see him before Haug goes to Australia.
- 2330 R.P. Hall (Sydney) to Owen, 25 Jan. 1855: has written a reply to an article about Owen in *Sydney Morning Herald*.

- 2382 Thomas Cauldery (London) to Owen, 14 April 1855: forwards communication from a friend in Australia.
- 2387 Thomas Cauldery to Owen, 24 April 1855: will send Owen's present to R.P. Hall in Australia.