



**S. A. Rochlin Collection of South African Political and Trade Union Organizations  
C009**

Fonds and series level description

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Concordia University Libraries  
Special Collections

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## **S. A. Rochlin Collection of South African Political and Trade Union Organizations**

1912-1960, predominant 1920-1950

0.73 m of textual records

**Biographical history:** Samuel Abraham Rochlin was born in Cape Town July 9, 1904 to Isaac Gershon Rochlin and Dora Rochlin (nee Daniller). His parents moved from Rostov on Don in South Russia to Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1896. They later moved to Cape Town where Samuel and his brothers Harry and Israel were born.

Rochlin, a historian, archivist, and researcher, witnessed the development of socialist and labour movements and the formation of the Communist Party of South Africa. Rochlin was a member of the Young Communist League in South Africa in the 1920s. Later he was involved in the Zionist movement, working for the Zionist Federation in Johannesburg and on the Zionist Record in the 1930s. He was also the first archivist of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), where he worked from 1947 to 1961. Rochlin is renowned for his research into South Africa's Jewish settlers and was the chief research specialist of the South African Jewish Historical Society. Rochlin died November 14, 1961. In 1986 the SAJBD archives was renamed the S.A. Rochlin Archives in his honour.

**Sources:** Appleby, Judy (2008). Description of the collection. S.A. Rochlin Collection of South African Political and Trade Union Organizations Database. Retrieved at <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/rochlin/>

Musiker, Reuben (2012). The importance of the SAJBD library and archives. *Shemot*, 20(2). Retrieved from [http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/index-a&c-source/Shemot-August\\_2012.pdf](http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/index-a&c-source/Shemot-August_2012.pdf)

Samuel A. Rochlin, South African Jewish Historian, Dead; Was 57. (1961, November 15). *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*. Retrieved from <http://www.jta.org/1961/11/16/archive/samuela-rochlin-south-african-jewish-historian-dead-was-57#ixzz31iZ8cnfG>

**Custodial history:** The material was moved to the private home of an unnamed individual affiliated with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies after Rochlin's death in 1961. It is likely that some of this material was then offered to Frank Thorold Booksellers in Johannesburg. The collection was purchased at a cost of £250 from Frank Thorold Booksellers by Donald Savage in 1965 for the Vanier Library at Loyola College, which merged with Concordia University in 1974.

**Scope and content:** This collection contains documents collected by S.A. Rochlin in the course of his activities as a historian, archivist, and researcher. The documents in this collection were mainly created in South Africa between 1912 and 1960. This collection contains the documents of communist and labor organizations active in South Africa during the 1920s through the 1940s, including the Communist Party of South Africa, United Communist Party, South African Labour

Party, Industrial Socialist League, South African Trades Union Congress, and South African Association of Employees Organizations. This collection also contains the papers of Cecil Frank Glass, a member of the Industrial Socialist League in Cape Town and the Communist Party of South Africa. C.F. Glass's documents were given to Rochlin around 1939 by Glass' first wife Fanny Klenerman.

Collection consists of 607 documents, including 90 pamphlets, 46 newspaper or periodical titles, and folders containing 471 miscellaneous documents, including minutes, accounts, flyers, news clippings, correspondence, and handbills. Many of the documents in this collection are unique. As a result of their ephemeral nature it is unlikely that they are to be found elsewhere.

This collection is organized according to the following series:

- C009 / A. Pamphlets
- C009 / B. Periodicals and newspapers
- C009 / C. Folders
- C009 / D. Microfilm reels

**Variations in title:** The collection was identified by Frank Thorold Booksellers as the *Rochlin collection relating to left wing political movements in S. Africa.*

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the content of the collection and the name of its collector.

**Statement of responsibility:** Compiled by S.A. Rochlin.

**Physical description note:** 607 total textual records, including 90 pamphlets, 46 newspaper and periodical titles, and 471 miscellaneous textual documents.

**Physical condition note:** Documents are extremely fragile. Many records are yellowed and faded. Other records are torn, discolored, and foxing. Brittle documents are cracked and flaking.

**Conservation note:** Documents were placed in acid-free file folders, envelopes, and archival quality boxes.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** Purchased for the Vanier Library by Donald Savage in 1965.

**Arrangement note:** Original order of the material has been maintained.

**Language:** Documents are mostly in English.

**Rights:** Copyright held by the creator(s).

**Terms of reproduction note:** Reproduction for scholarly purposes is permitted.

**Terms governing publication note:** Use of material in a publication is only possible with the authorization of the copyright owner.

**Finding-aid:** Box and item listings available.

All 607 items from this collection are catalogued in the CLUES Library Catalogue (records include PDFs when available): <http://clues.concordia.ca/search/j?SEARCH=Rochlin+Collection>. 90 pamphlets have been digitized and are available in CLUES and in the S.A. Rochlin Collection of South African Political and Trade Union Organizations Database: <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/rochlin/>.

**Accruals note:** No further accruals expected.

**Boxes:** C009-001, C009-002, C009-003, C009-004, C009-005, C009-006, C009-007

**C009 / A. Pamphlets**

1912-1960

90 textual records

**Scope and content:** Series documents the early years of the communist movement and contains 90 pamphlets dated between 1912 and 1920 collected by S.A. Rochlin and published by or on behalf of various organizations, committees, and unions. Organizations, committees, and unions include: Communist Party of South Africa, African Workers' Club, Building Workers Industrial Union of South Africa, Workers' International League, African National Congress, National Union of South African Students, Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union, South African Native Congress, South African Native Delegation, International Socialist League, All African Convention, and United Party.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the format of the material within the series.

**Box numbers:** C009-001

**C009 / B. Periodicals and newspapers**

1919-1957

46 textual records

**Scope and content:** Series contains 46 periodicals and newspapers dated between 1919 and 1957 collected by S.A. Rochlin published by the Communist Party of South Africa, South African Labour Party, the Socialist Workers' League, Labour League of the Youth of South Africa, Anti-Nazi Vigilance Committee, League for the Maintenance of Democracy, Industrial Socialist League, South African Labour Defence, Youth League of South Africa, Young Communist League of South Africa, and Young Communist International, among others.

Newspapers and periodicals include: Labour's Voice, Socialist Action, The Revolutionary Communist: a journal, of Marxist-Leninism, Anti-Nazi, The Democrat, The Bolshevik: official organ of the Industrial Socialist League of South Africa, Umvikeli-Thebe/The African Defender, The African World: the mouthpiece of the Cape African National Congress, South African Young Communist, organ of the Young Communist League, The Torch: the organ of the unemployed of South Africa, The Workers' Dreadnought for International Communism, and The Workers' Voice, among others.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the format of the material within the series.

**Box numbers:** C009-002, C009-003, C009-004, C009-005, C009-006

**C009 / C. Folders**

1915-1954

471 textual records

**Scope and content:** Series contains 471 documents of all types dated between 1915 and 1954 organized into folders, probably by S.A. Rochlin. Documents include minutes, agendas, accounts, manuscripts, poems, leaflets, flyers, pamphlets, posters, newspaper clippings, manifestos, petitions, reports, speeches, constitutions, telegrams, press releases, applications, invitations, correspondence, and handbills. Documents concern the South African Labour Party, Workers' International League, South African Labour Defence, Irish Republican Association of South Africa, South African Labour Defence, African National Congress, Communist Party of South Africa, African National Improvement Movement, Congress of the People, United Communist Party, United Communist Party of South Africa, South African Section of the Communist International, International Socialist League, Communist Propaganda Group, and Youth League of South Africa, among others.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the format of the material within the series.

**Box numbers:** C009-002, C009-003, C009-004, C009-005

**C009 / D. Microfilm reels**

1912-1960

2 microfilm reels

**Scope and content:** Series contains microfilmed copies of pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, flyers, broadsides, manuscripts, press clippings and other miscellaneous documents in this collection.

**Source of title proper:** Title based on the format of the material within the series.

**Box numbers:** C009-007