

FILMS

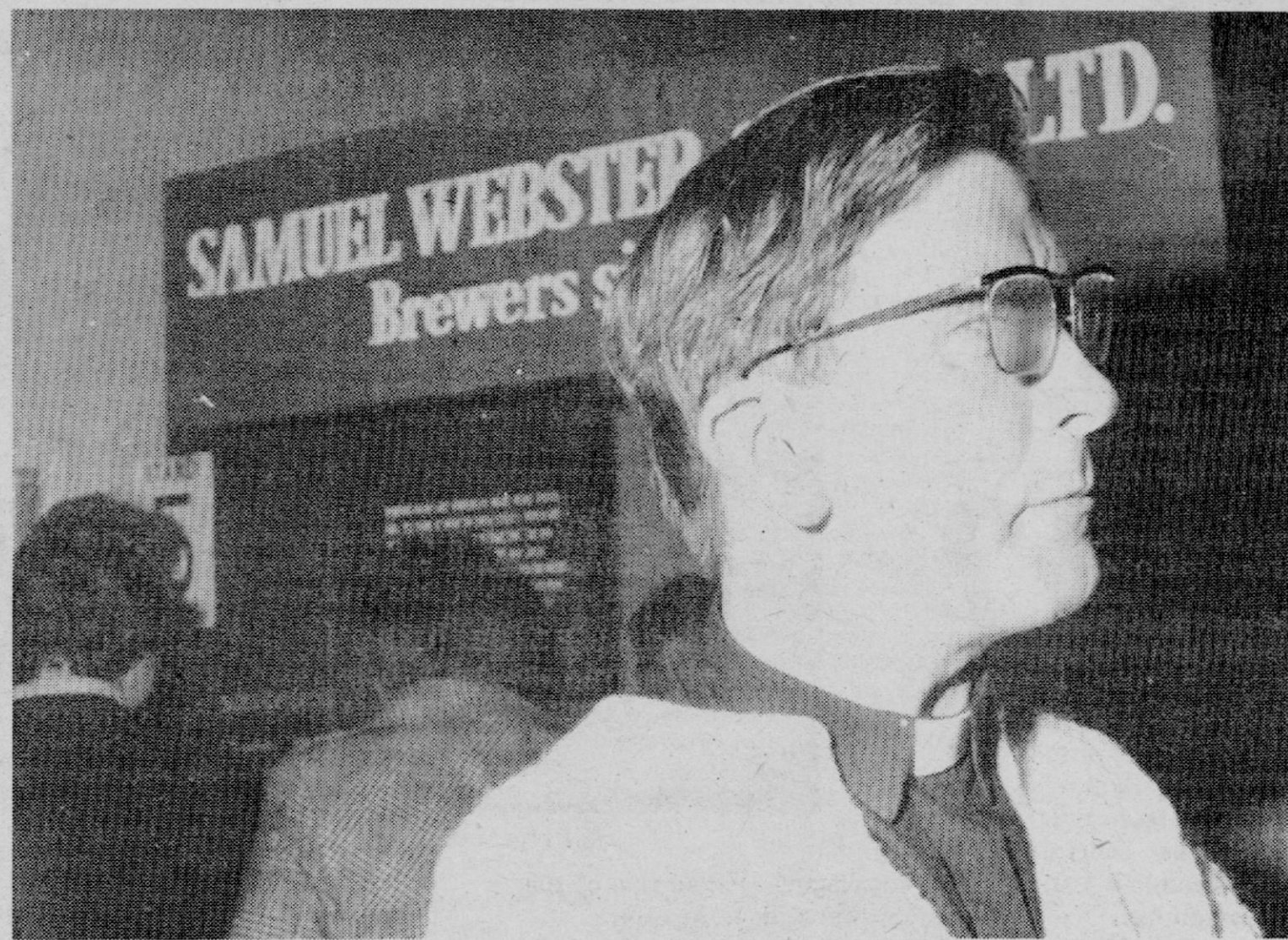
What to see . . .

- Mon 6 Dec. **THE ENIGMA OF KASPAR HAUSER.** (W. Germany 1974) Dir: Werner Herzog. Kaspar Hauser appeared in 1828 in the streets of Nuremberg after a childhood shackled in a dark cellar. The innocent without a past or future confronts the settled life of regulations, hypocrisies and unquestioned habits. —MFIS.
- Mon Dec 6. **UMBERTO D.** Vittorio de Sica creates an atmosphere of realism and vitality in this film about a lonely pensioner. Italy 1952. —Crosby International Film Society.
- Tue 7 Dec. **THE ENIGMA OF KASPAR HAUSER.** See Mon for details. —MFIS.
- Wed 8 Dec. **THE ROMANTIC AGONY.** Holland. Dir: Guido Pieters. Astonishing feature debut of a new Dutch film maker. "Considering the surprising revival of interest in the area of Tolkein-type fantasy, it is surprising how few films have succeeded in evoking this kind of magic, although it is an exceptionally difficult film to make. Pieters succeeds admirably" — Ken Wlaschin. —Open Eye Film Society.
- Fri 10 Dec. **THE CREMATOR.** (Czechoslovakia, 1968). Dir: Jurav Herz. Tour de force in horror. A black comedy that carries the viewer along with its obsessional imagination to its final awesome conclusion. —MFIS.
- Fri 10 Dec. **THE GO-BETWEEN.** "The past is a foreign country here brilliantly delineated by the Losey-Pinter partnership in their adaptation of L.P. Hartley. Plus an extract from the Losey-Pinter ACCIDENT and Franju's LA PREMIERE NUIT. —Ellesmere Port Library Film Society.
- Mon 13 Dec. **CABARET.** Dir: Bob Fosse. Liza Minelli and Joel Gray take the honours in Bob Fosse's splendidly choreographed re-creation of early 1930s Berlin. An outstandingly commercial success that is also a noteworthy artistic achievement. —MFIS.
- Mon 13 Dec. **SCROOGE.** Dir: Ronald Neame. Starring Albert Finney. Also **THE RED BALLOON**, a prize-winning short by Albert Lamorisse. Southport Arts Centre, Lord Street, 7.30.
- Tue 14 Dec. **CABARET.** See Monday for details. —MFIS.
- Tue 14 Dec. **LANCELOT OF THE LAKE.** (Robert Bresson, France, 1974). Stripped of its aura of romance and chivalry, the Arthurian legend retains its power and fascination in this recent version by a veteran film maker. Southport Film Guild, Southport Arts Centre, 7.30.
- Wed 15 Dec. **THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS.** (USA, 1942). Orson Welles continues the analysis of megalomania that he began in Citizen Kane. —MFIS
- Wed 15 Dec. **SANSHO DAYU** (Japan). Dramatic reconstruction of a Medieval Japanese legend about the separation of a family, their individual enslavements and subsequent searching for reunion. —Open Eye.
- Thur 16 Dec. **HITLER: THE LAST TEN DAYS.** (GB/Italy, 1973). Dramatic reconstruction. Guinness magnificent as Hitler. —Birkenhead Library Film Society.
- Thur 16 Dec. **SANSHO DAYU.** See Wed for details. —Open Eye.
- Fri 17 Dec. **STAVISKY.** France, 1974. Dir: Resnais. Featuring Jean-Paul Belmondo, Charles Boyer. Stavisky was Robin Hood in reverse — a swindler who robbed the poor and lived it up on a ritzy stage. —MFIS.
- Fri 17 Dec. **CABARET.** Heswall Film Society.
- Sat 18 Dec. **THE AMAZING MR BLUNDEN.** The amazing thing about Mr Blunden, the kindly old man on whose coat no snow falls and whose shoes never get wet, is that he is a ghost. —MFIS. 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8.15p.m.
- Mon 20 Dec. **CABARET.** Your last chance! This time it's at Crosby International Film Society.

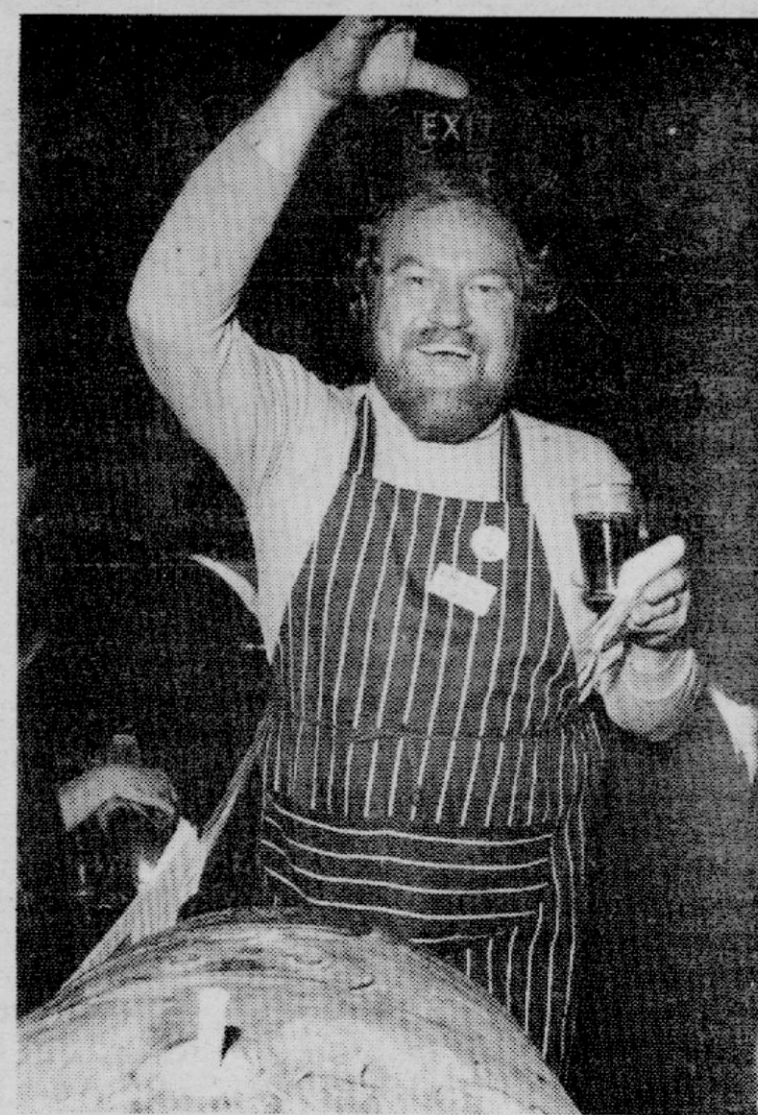
where to see it

- BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY FILM SOC.** 7.30 p.m., Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Road, Birkenhead. Membership 85p plus 35p admission, or season subscription £2.75. Guests 40p.
- CROSBY INTERNATIONAL FILM SOCIETY.** 7.30 p.m., Crosby Library. Membership £1.50 (OAPs, students 75p), admission 20p (10p), guests 50p (25p).
- MERSEYSIDE FILM INSTITUTE SOCIETY (MFIS).** 6.00 and 8.15 p.m. 45 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool 1. 50p, membership 75p.
- HESWALL FILM SOCIETY.** 7.45 p.m., Alexander Hall, Heswall. Season subscription £5, or membership £1 plus 60p admission. Members' guest tickets available.
- ELLESMERE PORT LIBRARY FILM SOCIETY.** Library, Civic Way, 7 p.m. 25p (membership 50p).
- OPEN EYE FILM SOCIETY.** 90 Whitechapel (former Grapes Hotel). 8.00 p.m. 50p (membership 75p).

● Our thanks to the Merseyside Arts Association for their help in compiling much of the information on these pages.



A sober face at the Beer Festival (above), and (right) our correspondent Tony Wilson guards a barrel.



BEER

THE DRAUGHT Bass has finally arrived at the 'Bay Horse' and 'Royal' in Formby, and seems to be doing well — let's hope so! And let's hope Tetleys, Whitbreads etc will take note that there is a market for real ale in the dormitory belt of suburbia.

The 'Ship' in Cable Street, Southport, has also received Draught Bass on a trial basis. (This in place of the 'Rabbit', which had previously been understood to be the venue for this fine beer.)

YET MORE Draught Bass, this time in Liverpool, on the Dock Road, at the 'Victoria' (otherwise known as 'Oily Joes'). This traditional dockland pub is currently selling a superb pint, well worth trying, especially on Saturday nights when folk sessions, led by fellow Free Press contributor Frank McCall, take place in the back room.

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THE SOMEWHAT unlikely surroundings of the Hofbrauhaus on Mount Pleasant are the latest place on Merseyside where real draught beers can be sampled. Sam Smith's Old Brewery Bitter and Theakston's Bitter can be sipped every lunchtime (Mon-Sat), while Sherée dances and an assortment of young ladies take off their clothes.

Beware the handpump handles, which activate free flow electric pumps, but there's no pressure involved; the only pressure being on the bar staff who have to cope with immense queues every session.

MARKS & SPENCER are selling some new bottled beers: Scottish Pale Ale brewed by Belhaven, London Bitter (Fullers) and Northumberland Bitter (Northern Clubs Federation). Not real ales, but with plenty of taste, even through the CO₂.

THE ONLY real ale pub to go over to fizz lately has been 'The Ship' in Rainhill, where the draught Higgs has been replaced by the same firm's 'bright' products due more to the preference of the new landlord than to customers' wishes. When will someone ask the customers first?

SOME BEAUTIFUL old Walkers paper drip mats have recently been unearthed and put into use at the 'Lamb' in Wavertree, thus bringing back happy memories of the days when 733 phone codes were 'Sefton Park' and beer was beer!

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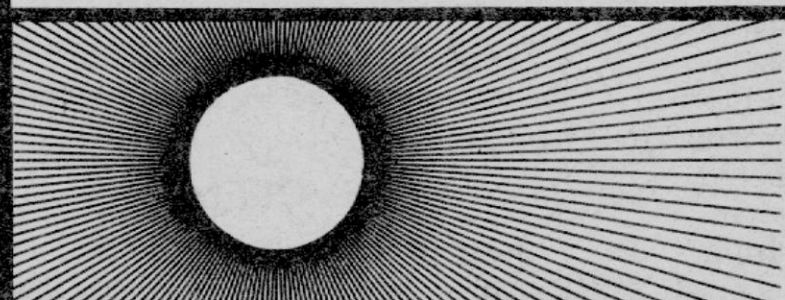
LIVERPOOL University Students' Union received Thwaites mild and bitter at the start of the autumn term, but delivery problems have led to these beers being withdrawn; all is not lost however, for breweries in Masham and Salford are said to be interested in supplying.

CAMRA Merseyside's Third Beer Exhibition at the University Catholic Chaplaincy was a great success, over 50 different brews (25 bitters, 18 milds, 6 strong ales, 2 bottled beers) to be sampled to the tune of 16,000 pints and close on 2,500 satisfied (stupified) customers.

A mystery beer competition (it was Brew 10) drew 109 different wrong answers. A lone Wolverhampton customer was the only person with enough sense of taste left to correctly identify it. Entertainment was provided by Liverpool Phil Brass Ensemble, Southport Swords (Morris and sword dances), Merseyside Jazz Band, City of Chester Band, Frank Robinson, Liverpool Barbershop Harmony Club and the Mersey Mummies with a hilarious beer play. Here's to next year!

Further details, comment, correspondence, orders for 'Jars' (revised edition now out, 30p including postage) to the writer at 9 Hooton Road, Aintree, Liverpool 9. Tel: 521 5967.

TONY WILSON



INFORMER

PURITY — is being currently worshipped in reggae review circles. Bunny Livingstone, and his recent LP on Island, 'Blackheart Man', has been covered with this arrogant horsehit.

Though this album, for me, is not the classic touted by some, it remains a singular vision. Self-pity, as it patters through many a track, helps to amplify the better songs, like the re-titled 'Battering Down Sentence'.

Yet I feel that the condemnations of Wailers and ex-Wailers reveal something deeper. As reggae changes dramatically, and as artists grow rich, as rock-steady seems due for a revival, and as Dub whines into terrifying destinations, the nostalgia for the 'old' days, when reggae was unpolluted, as was as clear as the artists' poverty, now wistfully decrees what is 'pure' and what is not. Reggae has a wide enough spectrum to cope with 'roots', 'crossover' and pap.

MAX ROMEO, doing well locally with his LP, 'War in Babylon', has an earlier album I can't recommend strongly enough. 'Revelation Time', on Soundtracs (pre-, but at English prices), has surged back in the Midlands after five months.

First released early this year at the time of 'Sipple Out There', this album remains, as when I first heard it, brilliant. The hard, clear words Max sings so well are no fancy trapeze that swings into the roof raising ridyms. I'm writing this as Sir Geoffrey Howe, or one of his mimics, is bawling into the zoom lens, about the state of 'condiments', I think. "The taste of our land (sic),"/... "The flavour of our lives..." The morning after Enoch has seen armies marching down the chamber pot he hasn't the guts to empty for himself. I turn off that shebang and play 'Warning, Warning', the first track on the second side. Max sings in chorus...

Heads a go roll down Sandy Gully, one of these days,
Heads a go roll down Sandy Gully, that's what Marcus say...

Me too, for Sandy Gully in Westmoreland JA., is where revolt became a reality, long ago. And Max goes on, into a verse,
Them upon the Hill, eat of bone steak an' drink upon flesh,
While poor people in the ghetto rake an' scrape to get a cake...

How, Geoffrey? Howe, Sir? Play this masterpiece on the systems, brothers and sisters, listen hard to China's amazing guitar on 'Blood of the Prophet', and as the man says... 'Open up the Iron Gates'...

I'M A JUNIOR BYLES freak. 'Weeping' on 'The Thing', yes, is another masterly song, from the bleak balladeer. That voice, probing with the note, the quaverings controlled, no relief that might blur the note unreached, covers his own simple lyrics yet again. A great record, and the flip, by the Ethiopian Eunuchs, is on the grand scale. When, oh when, can we expect a long overdue album from this major artist?

REMEMBER the Merseyside People's Yellow Pages? It was a useful little booklet listing addresses and phone numbers

Unfortunately it's now hopelessly out of date, but there are plans to bring out a second edition.

Groups who want to be included should send their name, address, phone number, and a few words about themselves to:

Mandy Vere, 48 Manchester Street Liverpool 1. (227 2514).

REGGAE Ken

LEO GRAHAM is a singer I've been enjoying for some time. 'Pompous Judas,' 'Not Giving Up', and on pre-now, 'Perilous Times'... Check him out, his voice is like elastic under great stress, but he holds up the lot with skill and feeling. That pre-single is on Gibbs.

DUB has continued to screw up the avant garde of rock. I'd suggest 'King Tubb's Prophecy of Dub' on that Prophet label. And further suggest — for those without it — 'Ram A Dam', by Vivian Jackson's brilliant Prophets so you can play both these records until you realise precisely why Dub is a strong new art form, with roots in producers' penny-pinching, and at its best shatters European concepts of musical structures.

Space, the world's ears, filled, or left desolate, space partially filled, then emptied rapidly, and then totally refilled by a bass line, a loved voice, or an elephant's fart, has you wondering if you should fall down the little cliff you are, smash on your boots, and call it quits.

Full volume, Dub is the current musical experience. Stay by the speakers too, unless you're sure a leak is worth shattered kneecaps from the bass lines, emergent.

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PABLO MOSES is my man. 'We Should Be In Angola', on Lizzard, should please those who bitch about reggae singers reworking Rasta phrases. His highly articulate lyrics, calling softly over horn and steady bass, are appeals for a real political direction. His best selling pre-album, 'Revolutionary Dream' from Studio One, has his two classic singles on it, 'Blood Money' and 'I Mon a Grasshopper'. The title song announces desire, wish, dream and pervading reality. Play this against some of the 'political' songs after demos, and they'll topple into their sentimental middens.

PROBE now has regular landings from the Black Wax moon. A new shop in Button Street, too, and more reggae than before. A centre, there, where over coffee, you and me can bullshit about reggae and any crap you think I write. Where what is going on in this town can be explained, where we can tell how certain club owners "don't want the lads in tea cosy hats", and where we can all keep track of the furtive discos we've kept going for some time.

The fight for reggae in this place can begin to count small victories. A radio show promised on City, stressing roots, with pre-, and what Mr Eagle calls 'musical' damage. The Mighty Diamonds will be here in the New Year, and Ras Michael will be back in the land, hopefully calling on us.

ROCKNOTE

MIKE EVANS, our rock columnist, has gone to work in London.

We're looking for a volunteer to take his place. We need someone with a good knowledge of the local scene. The job's unpaid but there are a few perks like free records and tickets.

If you're interested, drop us a line at 48 Manchester Street or phone 227 2514.

SMALL ADS

Rate: 3p per word

COMMUNITY ACTION (Manchester) require long/short term workers, full/part time. Salary low, drivers preferred. Write to C.A., Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester.

RADIO FREEDOM disco like to do work in colleges and youth clubs all over Liverpool. Tel: 498 4248.

LENIN Sweeps the World (V. Denl). Large 3-colour litho. Printed and published by CPB(M-L). Only 30p each from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

FREE YOGA classes. Tues: relaxation Yoga postures. Wed: open spiritual conference (introduction to meditation). Thurs: philosophy (theory of Yoga). All at 7.30. Ananda Marga, 8 Ullet Road, Liverpool 8. (708 7335).

THE WORKER. Fortnightly newspaper of CPB(M-L). Obtainable from October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

ONE-TON van and 11-stone driver for hire. Very reasonable. Distance no object. Andy: 708 0860 or 708 7174.

SILK-SCREEN printing. Pretty cheap. Especially for community and Left groups. Posters, banners, T-shirts, cards. Anything unusual considered. Billy, Andy, Rick 708 7174; 708 0860.

PHOTO-COPYING. A4 and foolscap. 10 copies 30p; 25 copies 75p; 60 copies £1.20; 100 copies £1.60.— Impact Resource Centre, Waterloo Building, Cases Street, Liverpool 1. (051-708 7172)

ARTWORK from China. Posters, book-marks, handcrafts, greetings cards. Obtainable only at October Books, 4b Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

Events are listed free of charge on these pages. Will organisers please send details to Liverpool Free Press, 48 Manchester St, Liverpool 1 or phone 227 2514. Details of community events especially welcome.

POLITICS

MERSEYSIDE People's History. We're using tapes to record people's memories of experiences in the past. Further information: 25 Tumilty Ave, Bootle (521 5763).

LITTLE BIRD. Monthly pack of information from a wide variety of sources. "To be ignorant of Little Bird is to be ignorant of life" (Dr Johnson). By post, 50p for 6 issues. News From Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

P.S. If you have leaflets or handbills to distribute, get 70 copies to Little Bird by 3rd Monday in the month.

RADICAL EDUCATION NETWORK meets Thursdays, 128c Shiel Road. Send sae for details or phone 263 2880. We're compiling a list of specialised libraries in Liverpool on subjects relevant to radical politics. If you know of any, or have a private collection you are willing to let people use, please let us know.