6-1-1987

Labor Developments in Japan During the Late 1940s and Early 1950s: The Papers of Richard L. G. Deverall in the Catholic University of America Archives

Chiyono Sata

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1987/iss81/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN DURING THE LATE 1940S AND EARLY 1950S: THE PAPERS OF RICHARD L.G. DEVERALL IN THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA ARCHIVES

Chiyono Sata

The Catholic University of America

The Catholic University of America (CUA) Archives has, among other archival materials, some twenty-two collections of papers related broadly to national and international labor history, social welfare in America, and immigration and ethnic studies. Among them, the papers of Richard L.G. Deverall are a resource of interest to scholars in East Asian studies, especially those who are concerned with the labor movement in Japan during the Occupation period and the period immediately thereafter. The papers were restricted until Deverall's death on December 28, 1980, but are now available for public use in the CUA Archives.

Mr. Deverall was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 20, 1911, as the eldest son of George Lawrence and Josephine Grace Deverall. He went to work as a machinist apprentice at age fourteen, continued his education at night school, and later worked his way through college. He was educated at Newark Institute of Technology in 1930; at Columbia University, 1931-34; and at Villanova College (B.S. in sociology), 1935-38. From 1935 to 1937, he taught socio-economics at Villanova as a graduate assistant. In 1936, he became co-editor of The Christian Front, a Christian radical monthly that later became Christian Social Action.

Subsequently, he moved to Detroit and became the first Executive Secretary of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, while teaching labor history and socio-economics at Assumption College in Ontario. In 1940 he joined the staff of the United Auto Workers, CIO, Detroit, and shortly became Chief of the Labor Education Department of that union. Deverall next went to Washington, joined the Office of War Information as a labor analyst, and later played a role in the Coal Strike of 1943, as a special advisor to Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior. He said he resigned his post “in disgust” and entered the Army as a private in mid-1943.

He was eventually commissioned a second lieutenant, and at the end of the war he was stationed in Japan as a military government officer. First assigned as an MP to the 11th Airborne Division in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, he was transferred to Nara, and then stationed with the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) in Tokyo where he became Chief of the Labor Education Branch, Labor Division, Economic and Science Section (ESS), GHO. He designed and supervised a labor education program for the workers, employers, and government of Japan. Deverall resigned his post in Tokyo in August 1948, he claimed, because of a leftist/anti-Communist fight inside SCAP.

In 1949 Deverall became an Asia representative of the A.F. of L. Free Trade Union Committee (FTUC) and was stationed in India until June 1952. From July 1952 to 1955 he had the same responsibility in Tokyo. Later he became Special Assistant to the Assistant General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and worked in Brussels, Belgium.
The collection of Deverall papers can be divided roughly into five periods and designated as follows: 1) Pre-Japan period (before 1945); 2) Occupation period (1946-1948); 3) India period (1949-1952); 4) Post-Occupation period in Japan (1952-1955); and 5) ICFTU period (1956-1959).

Deverall's papers from the early years of the Occupation, 1946-1948, deal with Army life in Japan, life in Japan, notes on the labor movement, and many trade union pamphlets that were published in English and translated into Japanese and Korean. Deverall wrote numerous reports, kept field notes, and corresponded with many friends.

His papers from the India period, 1949-1952, focus on life in India, but include notes on Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as China, Japan, and Korea. Deverall, as Asia representative of the A.F. of L., corresponded with Jay Lovestone, Executive Secretary of the FTUC, A.F. of L., New York. Deverall kept notes as he did in Japan, and sent Lovestone weekly or monthly reports which deal with politics and the labor movement in Asia.

Deverall moved from India to Japan in July 1952, also as Asia representative of the A.F. of L. His main correspondence was with Jay Lovestone as was the case during the previous period. He faithfully sent Lovestone monthly reports as well as memos on politics and labor movements in Japan and in other parts of Asia. He also sent Lovestone translations from Japanese of press articles, movie reviews, and labor-related publications. During this period, Deverall was very active in writing articles for magazines, newspapers, etc., publishing booklets, and editing news bulletins; he was encouraged to do so by Lovestone.

From 1956 to 1959 Deverall's papers contain correspondence with and reports to Lovestone and George Meany. Even during his stay in Brussels, he continued to write about labor matters in Japan and Asia, transmitting to Lovestone and Meany information that he received from his informants in Asia.

Among Deverall's prolific writings were some informal letters to his friends from the field marked "confidential." He asked recipients not to release his letters to the public because he intended to develop them for publication. He eventually wrote articles and books based on his reports and field notes. While he was in India and in Japan from 1949 to 1955, Deverall published many booklets, books, and articles in various magazines on such subjects as communist activities in Asia, labor movements, trade union education, and drug trafficking. Due to the articles on communism and drugs, he was called to Washington, D.C., to testify in hearings before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956. Some of these articles were published in the Congressional Record and in House Document, no. 227, pt.2.

As yet, there is no index or finding aid to the papers though it is my intention to create a finding aid and make it available for future researchers. Appended is a list of the volumes in this collection, with brief annotations.

Solomon B. Levine, in his Industrial Relations in Postwar Japan (1958: 25), divides the labor movement during the seven years of the Occupation into three phases: 1) from 1945 to 1948, a period of open encouragement and enormous expansion of organized labor; 2) from 1948 to 1951, a period of restrictive revision in the Occupation's attitude and policy toward organized labor; and 3) a period of
stabilization in preparation for Japan's attainment of independence through the peace treaty of April 1952.

Deverall was in Japan during the first phase of the labor movement as Chief Field Officer, Labor Division, Economic and Sciences Section (ESS) (from 5 February to 31 July 1946) and Chief, Education Branch, Labor Division, ESS (from 1 August 1946 to 8 October 1948). He made numerous field trips to trade unions throughout the country and had opportunities to talk not only to employers and union leaders but also to workers and employees. After each trip, he made a lengthy report to his superior and recorded personal notes based on information gathered from his contacts in various unions and the places he visited. Deverall made his first major field trip from 10 March to 13 April 1946. He visited fourteen military government units and many newly-formed company unions in twenty-five of the forty-six prefectures. His second major field trip was made between 21 May and 25 July 1946 to Kobe, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Nagano, Maebashi, Urawa, Utsunomiya, Chiba, Yokohama, and other parts of Kanagawa Prefecture.

A recurrent theme in the interviews Deverall conducted at this time is that Japanese trade union members identified the union as a device to increase productivity, to create harmony with the management, and to secure their food and clothing. Another theme was that the Japanese workers had no notion of a contract with the management. The Japanese perceived worker-employer relationships on the basis of oyabun-kobun (parent-child) relationships. In this type of employment relationship emotional feelings were also prominent. Workers were not considered wage earners created by an employment contract; their well-being depended on the employer.

Deverall, after these field trips, concluded that management was frequently represented in the union and had actively encouraged or led in the formation of unions. The management dominated the unions, especially those whose membership was mostly young girls and boys. These practices did not seem to preclude the existence of independent trade unions even under such circumstances according to Deverall.

Deverall felt that ignorance of the essential elements of trade union principles seemed to be almost universal. None of the union officials made a distinction between union interests and the interests of management. Deverall also felt that the phenomenon of company unionism, which predominated at this time, was unhealthy. To Deverall, the essential elements of trade unions are independence, autonomy, egalitarianism, and contractual relations. Trade unions should be free from interference by management, and also free from government, police, and political parties.

By 15 July 1946, Deverall, by this time a first lieutenant, had completed his initial field trips and was convinced that the Japanese trade unions lacked a democratic structure and labor education programs. He seemed to have no doubts that, to build a new democratic country, Japan had to avoid any labor dictatorship on the part of large companies, gumi (or kumi), bureaucrats, militarists, or totalitarian political parties. In order to accomplish this goal, democratic workers' education had to be geared to enhance further worker participation in trade unionism.

Deverall was partly self-educated and nurtured in the tradition that saw education as a means of social mobility for the masses of American workers, and the education of wage earners as a powerful weapon for bringing about a new social
order. He saw the Japanese trade unions as social organizations that were undemocratic and tended to be dictated to by management and by totalitarian political parties as in pre-war Japan. He recommended that a SCAP program be designed to stimulate, encourage, and guide the education of workers, and also aid in the provision of the basic techniques and methods to be used for implementing a system of democratic trade unions and workers' education.

Deverall was strongly opposed to labor racketeering for money or for power, railroading the membership, union bosses, company unions, central control, sabotage, red-baiting, and puppet unions. He saw that these were not in accord with democratic procedure in a social organization. He saw these tendencies in Japanese trade unions, as mentioned above, and started to write labor education pamphlets in November 1946. His first pamphlet, entitled "Trade Union Schools," was prepared for a conference of education directors of the National Japanese Trade Unions in Tokyo on 6 November 1946. Deverall continued to write pamphlets about trade unions until he resigned from his post in 1948. Those trade union pamphlets were translated and published by many different organizations throughout the country.

In such volumes as "Life in the Army" (1946), "Notes on Japan" (1946-1948) and "Japan," Deverall describes events, people's behavior, and economic conditions that he witnessed while he cycled through the countryside and cities. This collection of papers provides not only information about the labor movement in Japan but also ethnographic data from the Occupation period in Japan.

For further information, please contact:

Archivist
Dept. of Archives and Manuscripts
Catholic University of America
Washington, D.C. 20064
Phone: (202) 635-5065
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection &amp;</th>
<th>Volume Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pertaining to Asia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8-1 (Folder A-H)**  
Deverall-Lovestone Correspondence and Reports, 1956-1959  

**8-2 (Folder C)**  
Miscellaneous printed material  
2. Stalin's prize: Japanese prisoners of war (Pamphlet)  
3. *Hara kiri*: occupied Japan's trade with Soviet China (Pamphlet)  
5. Basic labor legislation in USA, USSR, and Japan (Pamphlet)  
8. China's liberated workers: what happened to the trade union movement (Pamphlet)  
10. Communism: as conceived by Marx, Engels, V.I. Lenin, Joseph Stalin & Mao Tze-tung, interpreted by Deverall (pub. in Karachi, May 1952)

**8-3**  
Published articles, 1946-1949

**8-4**  
Publicity, 1950-1951  
Approximately 86 newspaper/magazine articles by and about Deverall

**8-5**  
Yamagiwa letters, 1947-1952  
Correspondence from Yamagiwa Shogo, Deverall's roomboy in  
Dai-Ichi Hotel in Tokyo during summer of 1947

**8-6**  
General correspondence, 1950-1952  
Correspondence between Jay Lovestone and Deverall

**8-7**  
Letters, Yamagiwa to Deverall, 1949-1950

**8-14**  
*Life in the Army* vol. 2, Japan, 1946.

**8-15**  
*Life in the Army* vol. 3, Japan, 1946.

**8-16, 8-17**  
*Life in Japan* vol. 4, 5  
Reports and special letters Deverall wrote in 1946-1948

**8-18**  
*Life in the Army* (11 Aug. 1943-11 Nov. 1944)

**8-23**  
Reports on Asia: Burma, Ceylon, Indochina, Korea, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of the Philippines, and Thailand  
Reports and letters to and from Jay Lovestone, from 22 June 1951 to 9 July 1957

**8-24**  
*Notes on India and Asia* vol. 5  
Reports and letters to from Jay Lovestone from 18 Feb. to 11 Sept. 1951

**8-25**  
Reports on India  
Deverall's reports to Jay Lovestone, from 11 June to 12 Aug. 1951

**8-26**  
Reports on Asia, China and Japan  
Deverall's reports to Jay Lovestone, 10 April to 8 Aug. 1951
8-27 Notes about India and Asia vol. 4
Correspondence between Jay Lovestone and Deverall, during the period 18 Nov. 1950 through 8 Oct. 1951

8-28,8-29,8-30 Reports on Asia vol. 1-3
Deverall's reports to Jay Lovestone during the period 31 July through 31 Dec. 1949

8-31 through 8-34 Notes on Japan vol. 4-7
Notes on the labor movement, communist activities, etc., in Japan 1946 and 1947

8-35,8-36 Labor Education Bulletins for the Japanese Trade Unions
vol. 1 (in Japanese and English)
Labor education materials prepared by Deverall and published in Japanese during the period 6 Aug. 1946 through 31 Nov. 1946

8-37 Japan: "History of Labour Officer in the Occupation Army during the period 26 Nov. 1945 until 29 March 1946"
Memos written to Chief of Staff, Commanding General, Labor officer, etc.

8-38 Japan: II "History of a Labour Liaison Officer in the Occupation Army during the Period 1 April 1946 until 15 June 1946"
Memos and reports on the labor movement in Japan

8-39 Notes on Japan vol. 3 "Collected during the period 23 June 1946 until 8 Oct. 1946"
Informal letters reporting on the labor movement in Japan from 23 June to 8 Oct. 1946

8-40,8-41 Workers Education in Japan vol. 2, 3 Tokyo, 1947 and 1948
Mimeographed trade union pamphlets and press statements in English

8-42 Trade Union Pamphlets from Japan vol. 4 Tokyo, 1948
"Published in Japan by Japanese sources. Prepared by R.L.G. Deverall, Chief, Labour Education Branch, Labour Division, ESS.

8-43 Trade Union Pamphlets from Japan and Korea vol. 5
"Published in the Japanese and Korean languages. Prepared by R.L.G. Deverall, Chief, Labour Education Branch, Labour Division, ESS.

8-44,8-48 Trade Union Pamphlets from Japan vol. 4, 6
"Published in Japan by Japanese sources. Prepared by Richard L.G. Deverall..."

8-45,8-46,8-47 Japanese Trade Union Pamphlets vol. 1-3
"Published in Japan by Japanese sources, prepared by Richard L.G. Deverall..." Tokyo, 1947, 1948

8-49 Collective Bargaining, Grievance Machinery and Six Other Labour Essays Tokyo, 1948
Deverall's essays (8) were translated and published by the Ministry of Labour, Japan

8-50 through 8-53 Notes on Japan vol. 8-11
Notes and reports on press conferences and the labor movement from 1945 to 1948

8-56 Pamphlets in Asia Bombay, 1949
Nine mimeographed essays on trade unions

8-57,8-58,8-59 Correspondence Tokyo, 1953-1955
Correspondence with Jay Lovestone and others during the period 1953 to 1955
Correspondence Tokyo Office of the A.F.L., 1954
Correspondence with contacts other than Lovestone from 1 Jan. to 28 Feb. 1954

8-62
Personal Notes and Publicity Tokyo, 1955

8-63,8-64
Correspondence Tokyo Office of the A.F.L., 1955

8-65
Correspondence AFL Free Trade Union Committee (FTUC) Tokyo Office (13 May-June 1955)

8-66
Correspondence Tokyo Office of the A.F.L. (31 May-Aug. 1955)

8-67
General Correspondence Free Trade Union Committee Tokyo Office (25 Dec. 1954 to 15 Oct. 1955)

8-68
Letters to Lovestone (May-26 Dec. 1952)

8-69
Letters, Lovestone, Deverall and so forth Tokyo, 1953 (Dec. 1952-May 1953)

8-70
Correspondence: Tokyo-New York
Correspondence between Lovestone and Deverall from 13 June to 18 Oct. 1955

8-71
Reports 1955
Reports to Lovestone for the period 8 Aug. through 15 Oct. 1955 re the labor movement in Japan

8-72,8-73,8-74
Deverall's Reports to FTUC
Reports to Lovestone and press translation, 1953-55

8-75,8-77
Press Translations and Reports of the AFL Tokyo Office 1953

8-76
Free Trade Union Committee: Reports from 4 January 1953 to 26 July 1953; Financial Reports from 1 Nov. 1951 to 31 Dec. 1952

8-78
Press Translations: Japan 1952 (30 July-Nov. 1952)

8-79
Reports on Asia to Free Trade Union Committee of the American Federation of Labour
Reports to Lovestone from 28 March to 22 Aug. 1952

8-80
Reports and References
Reports and press translation during the period 1 Feb. to 28 July 1955

8-81
Public Relations (March 1952-July 1953)
Newspaper clippings from English and Japanese language publications re Deverall

8-82
Weekly Reports to the Free Trade Union Committee of the American Federation of Labour 13 April-28 Dec. 1952
Weekly reports to Matthew Woll, Pres., to FTUC and to Lovestone from Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, and Tokyo

8-83
Letters from Tokyo to New York
Correspondence with Lovestone during the period 3 Jan. to Aug. 1954

8-84
Correspondence
Correspondence with contacts other than Lovestone from 16 Nov. to 31 Dec. 1954

8-85
Correspondence: FTUC, New York-Tokyo
Correspondence with Lovestone during the period 2 July 1954 to May 1955

8-86,8-87,8-88
Correspondence: Tokyo Office
Miscellaneous correspondence in 1954

8-89
FTUC Tokyo Office Letters
Miscellaneous correspondence from 17 Feb. to 30 June 1954
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-90</td>
<td><em>Tokyo Office Correspondence-AFL Free Trade Union Committee</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous correspondence from June to July 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-91, 8-92, 8-93</td>
<td><em>Notes on Japan 1953-1954</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-94, 8-95</td>
<td><em>Sohyo News</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English language news bulletin published by the International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Affairs Dept., Nihon Rodo Kumiai Sohyogikai, 1953-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-96</td>
<td><em>Rodo Pacific</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>no. 1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese language publication of the AFL, FTUC in Tokyo, edited by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deverall &amp; Harry Kanematsu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-97, 8-98</td>
<td><em>Rodo News</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>労働ニュース, a Japanese language publication, edited by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deverall, Nishio and Miyojo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-99, 8-100</td>
<td><em>People's China: Sweat Shop Arsenal</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A booklet by Deverall, printed by International Literature Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-101</td>
<td><em>Down the Tokaido by Cycle: 1954</em> By Deverall and Kazumi Hamanaga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tokyo, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-102, 8-103</td>
<td><em>Mao Tse-tung: stop this dirty opium business!</em>  &quot;How Red China is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>selling opium and heroin to produce revenue for China's war machine*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>by Deverall. Printed by Toyoh Printing &amp; Bookbinding Co., Tokyo,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-104, 8-105</td>
<td><em>The Great Seduction</em> Part 1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original mss. by Deverall, Tokyo, 1953, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-106</td>
<td><em>The History of the Labor Movement in Japan</em> By Kishimoto Eitaro.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publisher: Kobundoh; in Athenee Shinsho Series, no. 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English translation (mss.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-107</td>
<td><em>Announcement to soldiers</em> By Kaneharu Fukumoto. Tokyo, Yamato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shobo, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Translation of Fukumoto's <em>Hei ni tsugu</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-127</td>
<td><em>Notes on Labour Education in Japan</em> Tokyo, 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly activities reports of the Labor Education Branch from 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March to 4 Sept. 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-128</td>
<td><em>Principles of Democratic Trade Unionism</em> By Deverall; published by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dept. of Labor Research, Hyogo Pref., 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese title: 民主的労働組合への道</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-129</td>
<td><em>Principles of Democratic Trade Unionism</em> 9 trade union pamphlets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>written by Deverall and translated by ESS, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo, 1948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>