
Editorial

Three of this issue's contributions are biographical studies of individuals who each played a unique role within the British socialist movement. Stephen Williams and Tony Chandler open with a historical reassessment of the circumstances surrounding the suicide of Karl Marx's youngest daughter, Eleanor, in 1898. Central to this was the profoundly amoral figure of her common-law husband, Edward Aveling. Besides his bigamy and serial philandering, Williams and Chandler consider how other allegations concerning Aveling – including accusations of child sexual abuse – may have driven Eleanor Marx to her untimely death.

Ian Beckwith explores the seemingly incongruous link between Anglicanism and leftist politics in his study of the Reverend Edward Maxted and his ministry in the village of Tilty in rural north Essex from 1908 to 1918. In contrast to his mostly Oxbridge-educated peers, notably Conrad Noel, the Christian Socialist 'Red Vicar of Thaxted', Maxted's humbler origins granted him a greater sense of class consciousness. His inflammatory style of preaching and vigorous campaigning on local issues not only drew the ire of the district's wealthy elites but also earned him the reputation as the 'Socialist Vicar of Tilty'.

Christian Høgsbjerg's article on 'Arthur Leslie Morton and the Poetics of People's History', was originally presented at *Socialist History's* 'People's History?' conference in Norwich in February 2020. Høgsbjerg's analysis emphasises Morton's pivotal work *A People's History of England*, originally published in 1938, and its influence as a founding text of the Communist Party Historians' Group, which he himself chaired from 1946. It also considers Morton's writing in relation to the wider historical context and how it served as an early articulation of the imaginative theoretical and literary strategies that inspired what Høgsbjerg terms 'the poetics of people's history'.

Yiannos Katsourides' article, also presented at 'People's History?', concludes this issue by tracing the origin and evolution of socialist politics in modern Cyprus. Founded in 1926 as part of the wider struggle against British colonial rule, the Communist Party of Cyprus helped reshape Cypriot society, first by fostering the growth of the trade union movement, and then by founding a front, AKEL, the Progressive Party

of Working People, in 1941. In this unique case, the front completely absorbed the CPC, flourished, and remains to this day a mass party of the socialist left.

Samuel Foster