

# The World in the Basement

Cover picture: A library section in one of our basement stores. Photo by ARAB.

Labour Movement Archives and Library & the authors

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**Labour Movement Archives and Library**

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**International Material in Archives and Collections**

**Stockholm 2002**

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# FOREWORD

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From its earliest beginnings the Swedish labour movement has had many contacts, close relations and collaboration with the labour movement in other countries and the Scandinavian and international organisations held in common. This exchange and collaboration has left its marks on both the archives and collections of books preserved at the Labour Movement Archives and Library that social history research and, in particular, the historiography of the labour movement have been able to exploit over the years.

Living archives and living libraries reflect what is going on in our own country and the world about us. This applies to a very high degree to the Labour Movement Archives and Library (ARAB) which is now in 2002 celebrating its hundredth birthday. The anniversary is a natural occasion for presenting part of the institution's material in more detail, particularly that of international import.

The 150 years over which the Swedish labour movement has developed and, in particular, the dramatic century during which the institution has existed have left many impressions on the collections. In them we can find material on the Spanish solidarity movement, particularly in the 1930s, and on those for Vietnam and Chile including the 1960s and '70s, on refugees during the Nazi period, on relations with the Soviet Union, African countries and Swedish emigrants in the USA. There is a large quantity of documents that shed light on Swedish involvement in Scandinavian and international collaboration, in disarmament and peace, union rights and vocational education. Contacts with authors in many countries can be documented using ARAB's material as can the international activities of prominent Swedish personalities, particularly those of the social democratic and trade union movements, from Hjalmar Branting via Arne Geijer, Alva Myrdal and Olof Palme to Ingvar Carlsson. What is more, there is also unique material on, for example, the progress of the revolutions of 1848 with their various features, both immediately original and highly topical.

The articles in this presentation, written by archivists and librarians at ARAB, are grouped into three main sections: foreign archives – subject oriented presentations – internationalism in some Swedish archives and collections. Each article is followed by a list of relevant articles and collections and a selection of works based on such material. The research potential in this material and elsewhere that has not found a place in the articles is tremendous and it should be even better exploited than has been the case hitherto. We hope that this presentation – as a kind of sampler – will serve this end.

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*Karin Englund*  
Director