1938 *The Communist International* USA version complete

(and two representatives of the British versions of 1938 CI)

As noted on many other of these Marxists Internet Archive pages that present this relatively complete run of *The Communist International* 1919 - 1940, for the years 1934 (starting February) and through December of 1939 (when British publication of *The Communist International* ceased, though American publication continued through December 1940) there were published two different versions of *The Communist International*. One by the CP USA in New York City, and one by the CPGB in London. These differed in cover art, page numbering, and to some extent in what articles are to be found in one vs the other. However, most of the articles were the same (same title and author, anyway... and about the same size... that’s as far as I’ve checked them at this point), with only a small fraction of the content being truly different articles not present in one or the other version. Often, however, the same article appears in a different issue number when comparing content of the USA and British versions.

I have been able to make or get digital images (often from original issues) of all but 10 early English language issues of CI sold in the USA. In that sense, the presentation here is very near “complete”.

For 1934 through 1939, I’ve been able to purchase some original issues of the British versions (my only means of getting scanning access to them) from booksellers. Notably Left on the Shelf Books in England, and Kenny’s Books in Ireland. Some I was able to buy from my good friends at Bolerium Books, of San Francisco. Unfortunately, to date, I know of NO library or special collection that holds extensive runs of this publication that has any plans to digitize their holdings and make them freely available to the public world wide, as we are doing here.

For most of 1934 through 1939, I have in doing this project been able to present a substantial fraction of those CI issues printed in Great Britain. Roughly from 1/2 to 2/3 of the issues published in a given year. What one can reasonably call a “representative sample”.

However, 1938 is, at the time of my writing this note, “a bad year for buying 1938 British CI issues”. After a year of looking at issues for sale on Bookfinder.com and Abe Books, and with a year of standing “want lists” sent to various of my friends among the good people who own and run specialty book stores that carry this sort of material, I’ve been able to purchase ONLY 2 issues of the British version out of the 12 that were printed that year. These issues are presented here, below the presentation of the 12 “printed in USA by the CP USA in New York City” versions.

Note, too (as we’ve observed on others of these CI presentation pages) that for reasons unknown to us, the British decided to skip the number “15” in their series of volume numbers for CI. After Volume 14, 1937, they assigned “Volume 16” to 1938 and “Volume 17” to 1939. Their American comrades, apparently, had no issues with the number “15”, so 1938, 1939, and 1940 American version issues of CI are volumes 15, 16, and 17, respectively.

WE at Marxists Internet Archive... would warmly welcome any who can help us obtain digital images of “printed in London by the CP GB” issues of *The Communist International* currently missing from the presentation on the pages here. Be they the “missing” British version issues in the period of 1934 - 1939, or the (frankly more important, in our opinion) “lost” 10 English language issues from the first (“Old”) series of CI, published 1919 - 1923, which currently we present here only in German language versions.

---marty

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(who personally scanned most of the thousands of pages of CI presented here, meticulously one by one, manually adjusting framing and exposure for each individual page presented here of *The Communist International*.)