



## **Guide to the Keith Tribe papers, 1984-2023**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Keith Tribe papers, 1984-2023

**Creator:**

Tribe, Keith

**Source:**

Economists' Papers Archive

**Abstract:**

Keith Tribe (b. 1949) is a British economic historian and academic translator whose work covers topics such as political economy, the history of economic thought, the development of economics as a discipline, historical figures Adam Smith and Max Weber, and agricultural economic history. Collection consists of materials documenting Tribe's work as an economic historian, particularly as it relates to British economists and the development of economics as discipline in Great Britain. Materials include subject files on and audiocassettes containing interviews with British economists. Other materials in the collection, comprising electronic files, document select publications, teaching, and other professional activities of Tribe. Acquired as part of the Economists' Papers Archive.

**Extent:**

2.5 Linear Feet  
7 Gigabytes

**Language:**

Materials in English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.13148

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1jt9x>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Keith Tribe papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

Collection consists of materials documenting Tribe's work as an economic historian, particularly as it relates to British economists and the development of economics as a discipline in Great Britain. The Interviews with Economists series consists of subject files, project papers, audiocassettes, and electronic files containing and related to his interviews with British economists, mostly men, originally conducted for his 1997 book *Economic Careers*. Subject files, project papers, and electronic files contain biographical information about the interviewees, correspondence, and transcriptions, including edits to transcriptions made by the interviewees before publication. In the interviews, economists discuss their academic studies of economics, detailing the courses they took, works they studied, who their classmates and professors were, and more. They also discuss their careers as professors, providing insight into the development of economics as a discipline in Great Britain, as well as their careers in civil service, from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The Writings series contains electronic materials related to the research and publication of three of Tribe's books, *Constructing Economic Science* (2021), *A Critical Bibliography of Adam Smith* (2002), and *Political Reason and the Language of Change* (2022), as well as files related to an article by Tribe. Materials are largely document files and consist of sources, correspondence with publishers and editors, notes, drafts, and proofs, as well as other relevant materials.

The Teaching, Conferences, and Professional Projects series consists of electronic materials related to an economic history course co-taught by Tribe, select conferences he attended, and other professional activities and projects.

### Biographical/Historical

Keith Tribe (b. 1949) is a British economic historian and academic translator. He attended Essex University and then pursued graduate studies in social and political sciences, focusing on economic history, at Cambridge University, receiving his PhD in 1977. From 1976 to 2002, he taught sociology (1976-1985) and then economics (1985-2002) at Keele University. From 2019 to 2023, he was Associate Professor of History at the University of Tartu (Estonia), and since 2024, he has been working on a grant-funded project entitled "De-Centering Eighteenth-Century Political Economy: Rethinking Growth, Wealth and Welfare in the Swedish Empire." The project is based at the Department of History and Ethnology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, where he is currently a Senior Researcher in History. He has published numerous books, articles, and translations related to topics including political economy, the history of

economic thought, the development of economics as a discipline, historical figures Adam Smith and Max Weber, and agricultural economic history.

Source: Keith Tribe's [personal website](#), "About" and "CV" pages, accessed 2025 August 08.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged into three series: Interviews with Economists; Writings; and Teaching, Conferences, and Professional Projects.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

### Access Restrictions

Access note. Some materials in this collection are fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### Acquisition Information

The Keith Tribe papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library as a gift from Keith Tribe in 2024.

## Processing Information

Processed by Leah Tams, August 2025.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2024-0172.

## Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Economics -- Great Britain -- History
- Economics -- Philosophy
- Economics -- Study and teaching
- Economics historians
- Economists -- Great Britain -- Interviews
- Audiocassettes
- electronic records (digital records)
- Economists' Papers Archive
- Smith, Adam, 1723-1790

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## Collection Inventory

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### Interviews with Economists, 1984-2023

#### Access Restrictions:

Access note. Some materials in this series are fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Access note. Some materials in this series are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

#### Scope and Contents

Series consists of subject files, project papers, audiocassettes, and electronic files containing and related to Keith Tribe's interviews with British economists, mostly men, originally conducted for his 1997 book *Economic Careers*. Subject

files, project papers, and electronic files contain biographical information about the interviewees, correspondence, and transcriptions, including edits to transcriptions made by the interviewees before publication. Not all interviews were included in Economic Careers, and those that were included were heavily edited. Some of the subject files also have photographs of the economists, and in the cases of Michael Kaser and Marjorie Tivey, copies of their manuscript notes from the 1940s are included as well. Original recordings of the interviews are contained on audiocassettes.

In the interviews, economists discuss their academic studies of economics, detailing the courses they took, works they studied, who their classmates and professors were, and more. They also discuss their careers as professors, providing insight into the development of economics as a discipline in Great Britain, as well as their careers in civil service, from the 1920s to the 1960s. The interviews also contain biographical information about each subject.

Other materials related to Tribe's interviews with British economists can be found in the Podcasts file of the Teaching, Conferences, and Professional Projects series, and in the Constructing Economic Science file of the Writings series.

### **Subject Files and Project Papers, 1989-2002, 2019-2022**

Daphne Archibald, 1996	Box 1
Tibor Barna, 1993-1995	Box 1
Wilfred Beckerman, 1993-1997	Box 1
Michael Beesley, 1993-1994	Box 1
R.D.C. "Bob" Black, 1993-1997	Box 1
Arthur J. Brown, 1993-1997	Box 1
Henry Phelps Brown, 1989, 1993-1995	Box 1
Alec Cairncross, 1992-1999	Box 1
Charles Carter, 1994-1997	Box 1
Dennis Coppock, 1994	Box 1
Bernard Corry, 1994-1997	Box 1
Barrie Davies, 2000-2001	Box 1
Walter Eltis, 1993-1994	Box 1

Jack Gilbert, 1994-1996	Box 1
Sam Goldman, 1997	Box 1
Douglas Hague, 1994-1995	Box 1
Henry Hardman, 1993-1997	Box 1
Bryan Hopkin, 2000-2003	Box 1
Terence Hutchison, 1993-1997, 2007	Box 1
Michael Kaser, 1944-1945	Box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Contains photocopies of Kaser's manuscript notes from Joan Robinson's lectures on money.	
Richard Lipsey, 1958, 1994-1996	Box 1
S.G.E. and Charlotte Lythe, 1994-1995	Box 1
Sarah Orr, 1994-1995	Box 1
Alan Peacock, 1989-2000	Box 1
Glyn Picton, 1993-1994	Box 1
Sigbert Prais, 1994-1995	Box 1
Brian Reddaway, 1993-1997	Box 1
Lord Eric Roll, 1995	Box 1
Christopher Saunders, 1995-1996	Box 1
Hans Singer, 1994-1997	Box 1
Albert Sloman, 1994-1997	Box 1
Marjorie Tivey, 1940s, 2000-2002	Box 1

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

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**Scope and Contents**

Contains correspondence, interview transcripts, and photocopies of materials from the 1940s, including Tivey's manuscript notes from lectures.

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Ronald Tress, 1995-1997	Box 1
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Bruce Williams, 1994-1995	Box 1
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Tom Wilson, 1994-1997	Box 1
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David Worswick, 1995-1996	Box 2
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Biographical material, other, 1980s-2000s	Box 2
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**Physical Description:** 2 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Contains photocopies of biographical material related to other economists not represented in the subject files.

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Correspondence, other, 1994-1995, 2000	Box 2
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**Scope and Contents**

Contains correspondence from other economists not represented in the subject files, mostly letters declining to be interviewed, as well as from Barbara Bowers, who transcribed the interviews.

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Digitization and permissions correspondence, 2019-2022	Box 2
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Economic Careers introduction, circa 1997	Box 2
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Financial and travel files, 1994-1996	Box 2
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Planning notes, 1994-1996	Box 2
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**Audiocassettes, 1984, 1994-2001**

**Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Subseries contains fragile audiovisual formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

- 
- Tibor Barna, Sussex, 1994 June 09  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0001, RL13148-  
CS-0002
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes
- 
- Wilfred Beckerman, Oxford, 1994 July 19  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0003, RL13148-  
CS-0004
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes
- 
- Michael Beesley, London, 1994 June 23  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0005, RL13148-  
CS-0006
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes
- 
- R.D.C. "Bob" Black, Belfast, 1994 October 16  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0007, RL13148-  
CS-0008, RL13148-CS-0009
- Physical Description:** 3 audiocassettes
- 
- Arthur J. Brown, Leeds, 1994 May 24  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0010, RL13148-  
CS-0011
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes
- 
- Henry Phelps Brown, Oxford, 1994 November  
14  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0012
- 
- Charles Carter, Seascale, 1994 November 28  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0013
- 
- Alec Cairncross, Oxford, 1994 July 18  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0014, RL13148-  
CS-0015
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes
- 
- Dennis Coppock, Stockport, 1994 April 29  
Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0016, RL13148-  
CS-0017
- Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Bernard Corry, London, 1995 January 10 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0018, RL13148-  
CS-0019

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Barrie Davies, Ealing, 2001 March 14 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0020

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Walter Eltis, London, 1994 November 01 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0021

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James Foreman-Peck, Oxford, 1996 November  
29 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0022

---

Jack Gilbert, Sheffield, 1994 June 17 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0023

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Sam Goldman, Surrey, 1997 July 22 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0024, RL13148-  
CS-0025

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Douglas Hague, Oxford, 1995 May 15 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0026

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Henry Hardman, Brighton, 1994 June 09 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0027

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Bryan Hopkin, Bedford, 2000 December 13 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0028

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Terence Hutchison, Birmingham, 1994  
February 01, 1995 August 17 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0029, RL13148-  
CS-0030, RL13148-CS-0031

**Physical Description:** 3 audiocassettes

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Michael Kaser, Oxford, 1999 September 22 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0032, RL13148-  
CS-0033

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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William Keegan and Alec Cairncross,  
Economics Then and Now, 1984 September Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0034

---

Richard Lipsey, London, 1994 November 01 Box 3 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0035

---

S.G.E. and Charlotte Lythe, Broughty Ferry,  
1995 July 05 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0036, RL13148-  
CS-0037

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Sarah Orr, Glasgow, 1994 July 04 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0038

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Alan Peacock, Edinburgh, 1995 October 23 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0039, RL13148-  
CS-0040

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Glyn Picton, Birmingham, 1994 March 29 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0041

---

Sigbert Prais, London, 1995 February 14 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0042

---

Brian Reddaway, Cambridge, 1994 September  
06 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0043, RL13148-  
CS-0044

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Lord Eric Roll, London, 1995 June 20 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0045

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Christopher Saunders, Hove, 1995 July 04 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0046, RL13148-  
CS-0047

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Hans Singer, Sussex, 1994 June 08 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0048

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Albert Sloman, London, 1995 March 20 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0049

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Marjorie Tivey, Birmingham, 2000 October 11 Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0050

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Ronald Tress, Molesey, 1995 June 06

Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0051, RL13148-  
CS-0052

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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Tom Wilson, Bristol, 1995 April 04

Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0053, RL13148-  
CS-0054

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

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David Worswick, Oxford, 1996 September 13

Box 4 > Audio-cassette  
RL13148-CS-0055, RL13148-  
CS-0056

**Physical Description:** 2 audiocassettes

### **Electronic Files, 1994-2023**

**Physical Description:** 10 Megabytes

**Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Subseries contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

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Briefings, 1994-2001

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Document files consisting of biographical, contextual, and other relevant information about each of Tribe's interviewees. Much of this information is also present in the physical Subject Files and Project Papers subseries.

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Letters, 1994-2003, 2010, 2013

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Document files mostly consisting of letters written by Tribe to the various economists he interviews. Also includes a proposal for the interview project, lists of interviewees, and bibliographic references to Alan Peacock.

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Reddaway, 2002

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

**Scope and Contents**

PDF file of an article by Alex Millmow about W. Brian Reddaway, written shortly after Reddaway's death.

Transcriptions, 1995-2023

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Document files that contain transcriptions of Tribe's interviews with different economists.

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**Writings, 1992-2021**

**Physical Description:** 2.85 Gigabytes

**Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Series contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

**Scope and Contents**

Series contains electronic materials related to the research and publication of three of Tribe's books, *Constructing Economic Science* (2021), *A Critical Bibliography of Adam Smith* (2002), and *Political Reason and the Language of Change* (2022), as well as files related to an article by Tribe. Materials are largely document files and consist of sources, correspondence with publishers and editors, notes, drafts, and proofs, as well as other relevant materials.

*Constructing Economic Science* draws heavily upon Tribe's interviews with economists and their resulting book, *Economic Careers* (1997), so these electronic files also contain interview materials (correspondence, transcripts, etc.) and text from *Economic Careers*.

*Constructing Economic Science*, 1992-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains mostly document files (but also containing some spreadsheet, still image, and audio files) related to the research, writing, and production of Tribe's 2021 book entitled *Constructing Economic Science: The Invention of a Discipline*. Materials include sources, notes and drafts, revisions, manuscript proofs, and interviews with economists from Tribe's earlier projects. The interview materials contain transcripts, biographical information about interviewees, and text from Tribe's book *Economic Careers* (1997). Also included in the *Constructing Economic Science*

materials are files related to a 2021 conference of the History of Economic Thought Society in Chester, England.

**Processing Information:**

These materials were recovered from deleted files and retained with donor permission.

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A Critical Bibliography of Adam Smith,  
2000-2005

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains largely document, spreadsheet, and database files, related to the research, writing, and production of Tribe and Hiroshi Mizuta's 2002 book entitled A Critical Bibliography of Adam Smith. Materials include correspondence, planning documents, sources, a database, the content of the manuscript, and a couple of unfavorable reviews of the book.

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Political Reason and the Language of Change,  
2016-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains largely document files related to the research, writing, and publication of Tribe's 2022 co-edited volume entitled Political Reason and the Language of Change: Reform and Improvement in Early Modern Europe. Materials include proposals, sources, notes, drafts, final versions of chapters, and other related editorial materials.

**Processing Information:**

These materials were recovered from deleted files and retained with donor permission.

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The "System of Natural Liberty", 2017-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains largely document files related to Tribe's 2021 article "The 'System of Natural Liberty': Natural Order in the Wealth of Nations," including

secondary sources, notes, drafts of the article, and other related materials. Also includes other materials related to Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations, including another article by Tribe entitled "Framing the Wealth of Nations" (2022).

**Processing Information:**

These materials were recovered from deleted files and retained with donor permission.

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## **Teaching, Conferences, and Professional Projects, 2019-2023**

**Physical Description:** 4.05 Gigabytes

**Processing Information:**

Materials in this series were recovered from deleted files and retained with donor permission.

**Access Restrictions:**

Access note. Series contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

**Scope and Contents**

Series consists of electronic materials related to an economic history course co-taught by Tribe, select conferences he attended, and other professional activities and projects.

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Birmingham teaching, 2019-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains document, spreadsheet, and presentation files related to a "History of Economic Thought" (HET) course taught by Keith Tribe, Joseph Bromfield, and Roger Backhouse in the 2020-2021 academic year. Files include course outlines, teaching plans, resource lists, and assignments, as well as presentations, notes, materials, and sources for the first five weeks of the course.

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Cambridge, 2019-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains document files related to a two-day workshop at Cambridge's Center for History and Economics. Documents include workshop proposals, information, notes, and presentation drafts, as well as sources related to the workshop's topic.

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Copenhagen, 2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains a document file of an article written by Michael Wu and Gregory Moore entitled "Rhetoric during the Golden Age of the Economics of Bureaucracy."

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Economic History Conference, 2019-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains two sets of materials related to the 2021 Economic History Society Annual Conference. Materials are largely document files with a smaller number of spreadsheet and still image files. Materials include conference information, session and paper proposals, notes, sources, and versions of the paper that Tribe presented with Gauthier Lanot, "Market Regulation and Grain Prices in England during the Long Eighteenth Century."

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Lingg, 2020-2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains two document files, one containing notes on a 2021 German language work by Andreas Lingg, possibly Lingg's dissertation. The other file contains doctoral degree regulations from Witten/Herdecke University.

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Podcasts, 2021-2023

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001

Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains digital materials likely used in podcast episodes that Tribe was a part of. Materials are predominantly audio recordings of some of Tribe's interviews with British economists. Also includes a small amount of document, image, and spreadsheet files related to the recordings and their subjects.

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Report CUP Valdez, 2021

Box 4 > Item RL13148-  
USB-0001  
Digital-materials RL13148-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

Contains a document file of a report with notes about a work by Damian Valdez entitled The Young Max Weber: Rural Freedom and the Nation State.

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