

Mao badges as gifts in Dublin

First Published: *Irish Times*, 1968

[EROL note: A 1968 *Irish Times* report on the opening of 'Progressive Books and Periodicals', Dublin's Maoist bookshop]

Mao badges as gifts in Dublin

Irish Times Reporter

Mao badges and colour portraits of the Chinese leader are given away to those who buy books at Progressive Books and Periodicals, the new bookshop opened by Trinity Internationalists at 143 Townsend street, Dublin.

A variety of Maoism and Marxist Leninist literature, most of it printed and supplied by the Peking Foreign Language Press, is being sold at prices which, the students claim, only allow them sufficient profit to cover their overheads.

The bookshop opens from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days-a-week, and the students themselves operate it on a "Shift basis."

Mr. Nick Muller, one of those connected with the project, explained that they had come out of the confines of the university in order to reach a wider cross-section of the public - "mainly working class people". Their decision was, he said, also prompted by the "persistent refusal" of the college authorities to grant them "reasonable facilities".

He stressed that the object of setting up the bookshop was to fight "anti- Communist propaganda by providing Marxist Leninist literature.

"We want to combat the 'arrogance of ignorance' being perpetuated by the bourgeois super-structures in this country. The beliefs of most people are based solely on hearsay and too few of them have access to literature which will, at least, give them the chance to formulate their own opinions."