

THE HISTORIES OF
RAPHAEL SAMUEL
A PORTRAIT OF A PEOPLE'S HISTORIAN

THE HISTORIES OF
RAPHAEL SAMUEL
A PORTRAIT OF A PEOPLE'S HISTORIAN

SOPHIE SCOTT-BROWN



Australian
National
University

PRESS



Published by ANU Press
The Australian National University
Acton ACT 2601, Australia
Email: anupress@anu.edu.au
This title is also available online at press.anu.edu.au

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Creator: Scott-Brown, Sophie, author.
Title: The histories of Raphael Samuel : a portrait of a people's
historian / Sophie Scott-Brown.
ISBN: 9781760460365 (paperback) 9781760460372 (ebook)
Series: ANU lives series in biography.
Subjects: Samuel, Raphael.
Historians--Great Britain--Biography.
Marxian historiography.
Historical materialism.
Social history.
Dewey Number: 907.202

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

The ANU.Lives Series in Biography is an initiative of the National Centre of Biography at The Australian National University, ncb.anu.edu.au.

Cover design and layout by ANU Press. Portrait of Raphael Samuel by Lucinda Douglas-Menzies.

This edition © 2017 ANU Press

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Introduction	1
1. The Ingrained Activist: Communism as a Way of Life, the Communist Party Historians' Group and Oxford Student Politics	17
2. Reinventing the Organiser: Anti-authoritarianism, Activist Politics and the First New Left	55
3. The Workshop Historian: Ruskin College and the Early Years of the History Workshop	95
4. The Secret Life of Headington Quarry: People's History in the Field	131
5. The Socialist Historian?	163
6. Stranger Memories of Who We Really Are: History, the Nation and the Historian	201
Afterword: The Historian's Work in Progress	231
Select Bibliography	235