



## **Inventory**

**Acc.12088**

**Joseph Hislop (1884-1977)**

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Joseph Hislop was born in Edinburgh on 5 April 1884. At the age of 10 he became a chorister at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Subsequently he studied with Dr Gillis Bratt in Stockholm and during this time he joined the School of Opera attached to the Royal Opera House, Stockholm. He made his debut in Stockholm as Faust in 1916.

During his international career he sang at Covent Garden 1920-28, Chicago, 1920, and in all the major European and international opera houses – including New York and in the Argentine - between the Great and Second World Wars. He enjoyed a distinguished career as a teacher both in Stockholm and in London; his pupils included Birgit Nilsson. He also painted with some distinction and was commissioned to paint the distinguished surgeon Ivor Griffiths. He was Professor of Singing at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, 1952-64, and Adviser on Singing to Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells Theatre, 1948-54.

He married, firstly, Karin Asklund of Gothenburg; the marriage – of which the issue was one son and two daughters – was dissolved. He later married Agnes Fraser, daughter of Walter Passmore, London (see item 4 of this collection). In later life he retired to Fife (many of the press cuttings in item 3 relate to his retirement) and died on 6 May 1977.

1. Letters to, and copies of letters of, Joseph Hislop; mostly letters of congratulations or requests for autographs, 1948-74 (mostly 1950s).
2. Concert programmes for performances involving Hislop, mainly 1920s & 1930s; a number of the programmes are in Swedish from the time Hislop spent in Sweden during his first marriage.
3. Newspaper cuttings, 1920s-70s, relating to Hislop's career, performances and reviews; many relate to performances in Sweden where Hislop lived between the Wars.
4. 'The Birthday Pocket Book' belonging to Nancy Hislop (nee Passmore), given by her father on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1917.
5. Loose photographs of Hislop, of his siblings, and of his wife and family, late 19<sup>th</sup>-cent-1970s; with some negatives.
6. Framed photographs of Hislop (i) with one of his children (ii) as Falstaff.
7. Drafts of talks, n.d., *ca.* 1940s-50s, by Hislop on (i) his life (ii) his musical career (iii) his singing techniques (iv) method of teaching; with photocopied extracts of articles concerning voice training etc for singers.  
(1 exercise book, sets of notes)

**MISCELLANEA, 8 – 17: Individual notes and papers arranged in no particular date or thematic order.**

8. TS, 1968, of Hislop's *Some Reminiscences of my life*, which includes 'a Discography' & discussions of the singer's work and output.
9. Reminiscences, n.d., ca. ?1970, by an unidentified writer giving his impressions of Hislop.
10. Illuminated greeting card in Swedish, 1944, presented to Hislop on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.
11. Letter to Hislop, 1932, concerning the arrangements for a concert in Brussels during the following year, with related paper-work.
12. TS reminiscence, n.d., ca. ?1970, of Hislop – possibly for use on a record sleeve – by Grenville Eves, Rococo Records Ltd, Canada.
13. TS extracts taken from Dr T H Collinson's notebooks in the National Library of Scotland (Acc.8985/66 & 67) relating to Hislop.
14. TS. 'Extract from the report of the Social Gathering held after the Free Gardeners' Centenary Walk 1922' with reference to Hislop.
15. MS, n.d., biographical notes about [?by] Hislop.
16. TS, n.d., ca. 1930s, 'List of English Songs continued ... & Songs in English'.
17. Financial notes, in Hislop's hand, relating to [?] fees for concert performances for years 1922, 1924 & 1929.
18. Miscellaneous notes, n.d.