

Acc. 13461

December 2013



Inventory

Acc. 13461

Papers of James Ramsay Macdonald

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Correspondence, photographs and papers of James Ramsay Macdonald and Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow.

1895-1970s

Fonds

0.43 m (28 items)

The papers provide an insight into the personal and political relationship between James Ramsay Macdonald (1866-1937) and Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow (fl.1860-1942) over a period of nearly three decades. They also illustrate the development of the early Socialist movement in Scotland, trade unionism and Glasgow local politics. As well as letters of James Ramsay Macdonald, the archive includes correspondence of prominent Socialists such as John and Katherine Bruce Glasier and leading figures of the Labour movement such as Ernest Bevin.

All the items have been retained.

The papers have been arranged into the following series:

1-12 James Ramsay Macdonald

13-17 Early Socialism

18-26 Papers of George Kerr

27-28 Miscellaneous

Bought, December 2013.

1-12 JAMES RAMSAY MACDONALD

1. Letters and telegrams, 1911-1939, of James Ramsay Macdonald and other members of his family to Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow, mostly concerning personal matters.
2. Six typescript letters, 1917-1937, of James Ramsay Macdonald to Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow, mostly concerning personal and political matters.
3. Photograph portraits, c. 1920, of James Ramsay Macdonald, including a portrait with his children Ishbel, Joan and Malcolm.
4. Photographs, 1921, of a Macdonald family outing to Loch Katrine including views of the family aboard the steamer *Walter Scott* and another of James Ramsay Macdonald playing the bagpipe.
5. Two postcards, 1922-1924, of James Ramsay Macdonald to Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow, mostly concerning personal matters.
6. Three autograph letters, 1922-1925, of James Ramsay Macdonald to Bailie George Kerr of Glasgow, mostly concerning personal and some political matters.

7. Invitation cards, 1924-1931, to receptions and lunches in honour of James Ramsay Macdonald.
8. Christmas cards, 1928-1937, of James Ramsay Macdonald.
9. Christmas cards, 1931-1938, of Ishbel and Alister Macdonald.
10. Postcards, 1932-1937, of James Ramsay Macdonald and Ishbel Macdonald to Mr. and Mrs. Kerr sent from Lossiemouth, Newfoundland, Belgium, France and Ceylon.
11. Photographs, c.1930s, of James Ramsay Macdonald and others, including photographs of his daughter Joan Macdonald's wedding.
12. Papers and ephemera, November 1937, relating to James Ramsay Macdonald's funeral at Westminster Abbey and Golders Green Crematorium. Including Order of Service, entry tickets, typed letter of Ishbel Macdonald thanking Mr and Mrs Kerr for their condolences, and another addressed and signed by Ishbel inviting them to attend the two services.

13-17 EARLY SOCIALISM

13. Letters, 1900-1902, of John Bruce Glasier and Katherine Bruce Glasier concerning public meetings, suggested routes and arrangements for the Clarion van and political matters. Some of the letters refer to George Baillie.
14. Photographs, c.1900, of the Clarion Fellowship and other Socialist groups.
15. Postcards, 1905-1911 and undated, showing the Clarion van, staff and students at Ruskin College, Oxford, and early Socialist meetings.
16. Original black and white pen-and-ink on card caricatures, c.1916-1918, by W. Milne of politicians and Glasgow Corporation office-bearers including Bailie George Kerr, Sir Robert Gordon, John Wheatley, and others.
17. Letter, c.1931, of J. Beard, president of the Transport and General Workers' Union to Ethel Smith outlining the 1931 collapse of the Labour government and the formation of the National Government.

18-23 PAPERS OF GEORGE KERR

18. Letters, 1895-1938 and undated, mostly to George Kerr concerning matters of the Transport and General Workers' Union, his role as Bailie of Glasgow and other personal matters. Including a letter, 21 April 1924, of George Kerr.
19. Pamphlets and other ephemera, 1916-1925 and undated, mostly relating to the Workers' Union.
20. Football memorabilia and photographs, 1923-1936, of George Kerr mostly relating to Clyde Football Club and Rangers Football Club. Including programmes, tickets, menus and postcards.

21. Menu cards, 1924, for various Glasgow societies. Includes an invitation, 17 January 1930, to the launch of the steamer 'Prince Henry' by Miss Ishbel MacDonald.

22. Miscellaneous invoices and receipts, 1926-1939, of the Kerr family.

23. Christmas cards, c.1930s, sent to the Kerrs by family members and friends including Lord Ambrose, Sir Alexander and Lady Grant and Alexander Stewart.

24. Photographs, 1938, of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their visit to Glasgow for the 1938 Empire Exhibition.

25. Memorabilia, 1938, of the 1938 Glasgow Empire Exhibition.

26. Letters, 1941-1942, to Mrs Kerr expressing sympathy for the death of her husband Bailie George Kerr. Including a letter, 25 February 1942, of Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service and former secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

27-28 MISCELLANEOUS

27. Miscellaneous photographs and memorabilia, 1932-1970s, including portraits of various Glasgow Corporation Officers and a caricature of Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and National Service and former secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

28. Books on Socialism, some dedicated to Bailie George Kerr by John Bruce Glasier and James Ramsay Macdonald.