



Inventory

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William Matheson Papers

National Library of Scotland
Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131-466 2812
Fax: 0131-466 2811
E-mail: manuscripts@nls.uk

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A preliminary box list of the papers of the Rev William Matheson, Reader Emeritus in Celtic, Edinburgh University (hence forth WM), relating largely to his collection and interpretation of Gaelic tradition in verse, prose and music, and his work on the family and general history of Lewis and Harris, Uist and Wester Ross.

The papers are arranged meantime as follows:

Boxes 1-6	Collections, 18th-20th cents, Acquired by WM
Boxes 7-8	WM: Lewis Collections
Box 9	WM: Uist Notes
Boxes 10-11	WM: Song Collections
Box 12	WM: Lectures
Boxes 13-14	WM: Various Notebooks and Papers.

COLLECTIONS 18TH-20TH CENTS

BOX 1

1. 'The Genealogie of the Surname of Mackenzie' written by John Mackenzie of Applecross, 1707 and stated by him to have been collected in 1667; with a(?part) copy of John Mackenzie's genealogy, mid-18th cent (2, in 1 envelope).
2. Style Book of Donald Macdonald, Balranald, 1754.
3. MSS (in disbound notebooks) of early 19th cent religious and other poetry attributed to or inscribed by Donald Cameron, 1815-36, and John Morrison, Harris [?Gobha na Hearadh], 1836.
4. The music and verse collection [ca. 1860?] of William Ross, Inspector of Gaelic Schools, containing fiddle and other music and verse, some of the latter of Lewis provenance.
5. An account, 1870, of 'The Howe of Cromar', Deeside, by John Stuart, HM Register House.

BOX 2

1. A copy, ca. 1850 of the 'History and Genealogy of the Mathesons of Lochalsh by Roderick Matheson of Immar' [Iomaire].
- 2-4. The 'Dornie MSS' being the Gaelic song and verse collections mid-19th cent of Captain Alexander Matheson, Dornie.

5. Notes on the 'Lineage of the Matheson Family' as given in the supplementary volume of Burke's Landed Gentry (1848).
6. A manuscript note on the Macdonalds, Lords of the Isles, late 19th cent.

BOX 3

- 1-2. The Gaelic song collection of Miss Any Murray (ca. 102 songs and airs) in 2 vols (formerly penes W J Watson).
3. A workbook of Professor W J Watson, Edinburgh, relating to his studies of Gaelic place-names.

BOX 4

- 1-3. A press cutting collection (3 vols) of Gaelic verse, prose and related articles from Highland newspapers and periodicals, late 19th-early 20th cent.

BOX 5

- 1-6. Collections of the Rev Dr Duncan M Campbell, Minister of Cumlodden.
1. Notebook, ca. 1878-1912, including, many songs, stories, proverbs, cuttings, pamphlets (2), etc.
2. Notebook containing DMC's collection of proverbs, n.d.
3. Article [‘for Translations of Gaelic Society of Inverness] on ‘Gaelic Proverbs’, 1927.
4. Notes on place-names, etc, n.d.
5. Address to the Gaelic Society of Inverness by Rev A Boyd delivering a paper of DMC on ‘Place Names in the Parish of Strath, Skye’.
6. Typescripts of traditional material collected by DMC.
7. Neil MacInnes, Glasgow, collection of Gaelic songs (1 notebook).
8. Verse and song collection, ca. 1935, of the Rev Angus Macmillan.

BOX 6

- 1-7. Collections [typescripts] of Major Norman Macleod, relating to Alexander Cameron, the Poolewe bard, and to Arnol, Brue and Bragar, Lewis, 1951-8.
1. 'Puirt Danns', list, 1951, of titles originally compiled by Alexander Cameron, 'Bàrd Thurnaig', Poolewe.
2. Typed copies, 1951, of verses left by Alexander Cameron, 'Bàrd Thurnaig'.
3. Arnol, 'Sinnsireachd ages Slionnirreachd', village genealogies, 1870-1910.
4. Brue village genealogies collected [?1951] from Alexander and Mary Macleod, 21 Brue.
5. North Bragar, village genealogies ca. 1900, 1910.
6. South Bragar, 1900 and 1910 (and rent roll, 1787), compiled by Donald MacPhail, 41 South Bragar.
7. Copies of letters on local genealogies, 1956, of Roderick Campbell [Ruairidh Thormoid Chaluum], 43 North Bragar, to Norman Macleod.
8. Letters and papers on local genealogy sent by Major Macleod to WM, 1954-61.

WILLIAM MATHESON: LEWIS COLLECTIONS

BOX 7

1. Notes from the 'Annals of Lodge Fortrose', Stornoway, and from other sources relating to Lewis families. (1 vol).
2. 'Lewis Notes' (on Census, 1841, and various sources). (1 vol).
3. 'The Tenantry of Lewis, 1700-1800' compiled from various sources by WM (1 vol).
4. Detailed notes from printed transactions of litigation relating to the march between Lewis and Harris, 1804-56. (1 vol).
5. Notes from the Gillanders of Highfield Papers, mostly relating to Lewis. (1 vol).

6. 'Genealogies', mostly of Lewis families (1 vol).

BOX 8

- 1-2. Two volumes of cuttings of 'Mac Gille Chaluim' [ie WM's] articles on 'The Families of Lewis' in Stornoway Gazette, 1950-77; with extensive alterations and annotations.
3. Further notes on Lewis families, mostly based on 18th and early 19th century rent rolls.
4. Correspondence, with Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, Oxford, 1979-80, and notes relating to the Morrisons of Ness.
5. John W Morrison, Edinburgh, collection sent to WM relating to the Morrisons, Mackenzies and Maclennans in Lewis.
6. 'Abstract of Genealogical Notes' by the Rev Dr Duncan Macleod on Lewis families, with additional notes of WM.
7. Letter and notes on the Mackays of Crulivig of Kenneth J Smith, 1 Earshader, to WM.

WILLIAM MATHESON: UIST NOTES

BOX 9

1. 'Uist Note Book Vol.1'.
2. 'Uist Note Book Vol.2'.
3. 'Uist Note Book Vol.3'.
4. 'Uist Note Book Vol.4'.
5. 'Uist Gaelic: Uist Note Book Vol.5'.

WILLIAM MATHESON: GENERAL NOTEBOOKS

BOX 10

1. Notes on An Clarsair Dall, Ruairidh Morison (his works edited by WM).
Returned to WM 29.5.87.
2. Notes on:
 - Maclagan MSS.
 - Carmichael MSS.
 - Dornie MS.I.
 - Song by Matheson bard.
 - Smaller Urquhart MS, etc.
3. Notes from the Killearnan MSS.
4. Notes from the MacNicol MSS.
5. 'Extracts', notes from original sources mostly relating to Skye and Lewis.
6. Notes from the Urquhart MSS, Vol.I.
7. Notes on John MacCodrum (his verse ed by WM).
8. WM's 'Lochalsh Note Book', being notes on Matheson family history.
9. Notes on:
 - MacPherson MS.
 - Islay Proverbs.
 - Mackay of the Rhinns.
 - Irvine MSS.

WM: SONG COLLECTIONS

BOX 11

1. WM's 'Collection of Gaelic Songs, Traditions, etc' Vol.1.
2. WM's 'Collection of Gaelic Songs, Traditions, etc' Vol.2.
3. WM's 'Collection of Gaelic Songs, Traditions, etc' Vol.3.
4. WM's 'Collection of Gaelic Songs, Traditions, etc' Vol.4.

BOX 12

- 1-2. WM's Mull song collection (1950's). 2 vols.
3. 'Skye Songs' collected by WM.
4. 'Orain Luaidh'.
5. Song Notebook, octavo, untitled.
6. 'Orain', recent collection.

WM LECTURES (EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY) SPEECHES, REVIEWS, ETC

BOX 13

1. Gaelic Elementary Class notes.
2. 'BGh' ie Bardachd Ghaidhlig.
3. 'McC', ie John MacCodrum.
4. Ir[ish].
5. Danta Grádha.
6. Compeart Con Culainn/Buile Suibhe.
7. Seminar, 1952-3.
8. Serglige Con Culainn.
9. General Lectures I.
10. General Lectures II.
- 11-12. The Lordship of the Isles (2 vols).
13. History as Transmitted in Gaelic Oral Tradition.
14. 'Some Traditional Hebridean Pedigrees'.

15. Stories from Keating's History of Ireland.
16. Scottish Verse from the Book of the Dean of Lismore.
17. Lecture and papers on oral tradition with review of E Sutherland, Prophecies of the Brahan Seer and a draft on the Morisons of Lewis.
18. 'Gaelic Verse, Old and New, in the Light of Oral Tradition'.
19. Beul-Aithris agus Litreachas anns a' Ghaidhlig.
20. Various lectures, reviews or addresses including a genealogical account of the MacIvers of Uig (Lewis), a review of A Campsie, The MacCrimmon Legend, a paper on 'Names and Surnames', notes on Coinneach Odhar, 'the Brahan Seer' and on 'The Rise to Power of the Mackenzies'.
21. Donnchadh Ban.
22. Various notes and speeches (in small blue octavo notebook).
23. A folder of miscellaneous notes including a typescript copy of 'Gaelic Verse Old and New' (no.18).

WM: VARIOUS

BOX 14

1. 'North Uist Songs': typescript (?A J Macdonald, Australia) with notes, amendments and additional material of WM.
2. 'Old(?) North Uist Verse': notebook with detailed critical comments on the verse.
3. WM, correspondence with Hugh Barron, Secretary of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, 1975-81.
4. Correspondence, 1973-82, with Dr J L Campbell of Canna.
5. Notes (not WM) on the Macleans in Skye and the Uists, n.d.
6. Copy of paper on the Beaton medical family by D C Murray, 1979.

- Transcript of article in F C Monthly Record March 1934 on John Matheson, 'Dall Aird Thunga'.
7. Copy of 'Notes on Breton for the Celtic Conference' [by Professor K H Jackson].
 8. Professor Angus Matheson, typescript lecture on 'The Professional Gaelic Bard and his Work'.
 9. Professor Angus Matheson, corrections and suggestions on Scottish Verse in the Book of the Dean of Lismore.
 10. WM Correspondence, 1977, on Matheson family history.