Reference number: MS 1662

Guide to the Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore

National Library of Australia

Canberra
2000

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Summary
Creator: Gilmore, Mary, Dame, 1865-1962
Title: Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore
Date range: 1893-1960
Reference number: MS 1662
Extent: 3cm. (5 folders)
Repository: National Library of Australia Canberra
Location: Manuscript Reading Room

Scope and Content
The collection comprises drafts of poetry, letters to W.A. Woods, Mrs Gollan Lewis, Mrs W.A. Woods, correspondence received by W.A. Woods from A.G. Stephens and Rose Webster concerning Mary Gilmore and press cuttings concerning Mary Gilmore.

Biographical Note
Mary Cameron, poet and journalist, was born at Mary Vale, Woodhouselee, near Goulburn, NSW, on 16 August 1865. She was educated at Brucedale, near Wagga Wagga, and later at Wagga Wagga Public School. Between 1877 and 1895 she taught in a variety of schools in New South Wales. She became involved in the New Australia movement and on 31 October 1895 resigned from teaching and sailed to Paraguay on the Ruapehu. Cameron remained at the Cosme settlement in Paraguay until 1899. She married fellow colonist and Victorian shearer William Alexander Gilmore (1866-1945) in 1897 and their only child William Dysart Cameron Gilmore (1898-1945) was born at Villarica, near Cosme. Before returning to Australia in 1902, she taught English in Rio Gallegos in southern Patagonia and wrote for Buenos Aires papers.

Gilmore's verse first appeared in the Australian Worker in 1902, and from 1908-31 she edited the women's page of this newspaper. Her first published volume, Marri'd and other verses appeared in 1910. Other publications include The passionate heart (1918), Hound of the road (1922), The tilted cart (1925), The wild swan(1930), The rue
tree (1931), Under the wilgas (1932), Battlefields (1939), and Fourteen men (1954).

In 1937, in recognition of her contribution to Australian literature, she was made a Dame of the British Empire - the first woman to receive this award for services to literature. Dame Mary was a founder of the Lyceum Club, Sydney, a founder and vice-president in 1928 of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, an early member of the New South Wales Institute of Journalists and life member of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Dame Mary Gilmore died on 3 December 1962.

**Administrative Information**

**Access**
Collection is available for reference.

**Restrictions on Use**

**Preferred Citation**

**Provenance**
The collection was donated to the Library by Mrs Gollan Lewis in 1966.

**Additional Information**

**Related Material**

Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore are also held at MS 727, MS 1695 and MS 8766; diaries of Mary Gilmore, 1940-49 are held at MS 614 (copies: originals held by Mitchell Library, Sydney). Small collections of letters by Mary Gilmore are held at MS 633, MS 1728, MS 1888, MS 2685 and MS 5644.

Other collections containing letters and papers of Mary Gilmore include the following:

Kate Baker (MS 1533); W.P. Bluett (MS 4714); J.H. Catts (MS 658); Alec Chisholm (MS 1880), M. Condon (MS 2375); Ralph De Boissiere (MS
Harold W. Eather (MS 2015); Edward Findley (MS 2111); Annie Louise Green (MS 8574); Elioth Gruner (MS 8965); Clement Hosking (MS 2680); Norman Jeffery (MS 1948); Marie McNiven (MS 2012); and W. Farmer Whyte (MS 970).

The Library also holds records of the Mary Gilmore Centenary Committee, 1964-65 at MS 1696.

**Separated Material**
Other papers of Dame Mary Gilmore are held by the Mitchell Library, Sydney; the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra; and Charles Sturt University Regional Archives.

**Access Terms**

**Personal Names**
- Woods, W.A.
- Woods, W.A., Mrs
- Lewis, Gollan, Mrs
- Stephens, A.G. (Alfred George), 1865-1933
- Webster, Rose

**Series List and Descriptions**

**Series 1: Drafts of poetry, 1893-1898**

Folder 1

Item 1-2: 'Aye he's dee'in, our boy is dee'in', n.d.

Item 3: 'Here's wishin's', n.d.

Item 4: 'The cows kep' flying' up, boys', 2 Sept 1893

Item 5: 'A sin is sin, whoever sins', 1 Sep 1894

Item 6: 'The tide is at the full', 30 Nov 1895
Item 7: 'I don't know whether 'tis well to love', 2 Dec 1895
Item 8: 'It's gettin' in an' gettin' out', 7 Dec 1895
Item 9: 'My love is great as the ocean', 9 Dec 1895
Item 10: 'Give us a kiss, sweet heart', 5 Feb 1898
Item 11: 'Us is out, her an' me', 6 Feb 1898
Item 12: 'Us ain't made to snap and snarl', [6 Feb 1898?]
Item 13: 'O, singer in brown', 1 July 1903

Series 2: Letters of Dame Mary Gilmore, 1909-1960

Subseries 2a: Letters to W.A. Woods, 1909-1936
Folder 2
Item 14-15: Letter, n.d.
Item 16: 30 Nov 1909
Item 17: 15 Jan 1910
Item 18-20: 1 Mar 1910
Item 21-23: 26 Nov 1911
Item 24-25: 14 Nov 1936
Subseries 2b: Letters to Mrs Gollan Lewis, 1939-1960
Folder 2
Item 26: Letter, n.d.
Item 27-29: 9 Mar 1938 [ie.1939]
Item 30-31: 9 Feb 1940
Item 32: 4 June 1940
Item 33-34: 5 Apr 1949
Series 3: Letters concerning Dame Mary Gilmore, 1897-1899

Subseries 3a: Letters from A.G. Stephens to W.A. Woods, 1897-1899

Folder 3
- Item 49: 2 Dec 1897
- Item 50-51: 3 Apr 1899
- Item 52: 14 Apr 1899
- Item 53: 25 Sep 1899

Subseries 3b: Letters from Rose Webster to W.A. Woods, 1897-1899

Folder 3
- Item 54-55: 30 Sept 1899
- Item 56-57: 15 Oct 1899
Series 4: Press cuttings concerning Dame Mary Gilmore, 1895-1953

Folder 4

Item 58: 'Then she went' *Bulletin*, n.d.

Item 59: 'In the city', n.d.

Item 60: 'Goodnight, beloved!' *Democrat*, n.d.

Item 61: 'Because of the daughters' *Women's Voice*, n.d.


Item 63: 'The wrong breed', n.d.

Item 64: 'The little ones' *Clipper 21*, 1895

Item 65: 'Because of the daughters' *Women's Voice*, 10 Aug 1895

Item 66: 'Honey-sweet, de babby' 8 Apr 1903

Item 67: 'Poets do honor to a poetess' *Sunday Sun*, 13 Aug 1933

Item 68: 'My fleece is white as snow' *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 June 1949

Item 69: 'Wind and wars will swamp police state' *Tribune*, 29 Jul 1953

Item 70: 'Cities, universities in U.S.S.R. 'dead heart'' *Tribune*, 29 Jul 1953

Series 5: Miscellaneous, 1942-1943

Folder 5

Item 71: Photograph of Mary Cameron, n.d.

Item 72: Hegmonay card, 1942-43