Reference number: MS 1695

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: 1837-1962
Reference number: MS 1695
Extent: 28cm. (9 folders)
Repository: National Library of Australia Canberra
Location: Manuscript Reading Room

Scope and Content

Poems; original notes of "Arrows"; correspondence, including letters from John Hargrave, Mrs. Kathleen Murchie, Clem Christesen, Karol Boyar, and Helen Cameron Roberts; two postcards; several periodicals; corrected proofs of the The tilted cart; and miscellaneous press clippings on a wide variety of subjects of interest to 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
See http://www.nla.gov.au/ms/howtoms.html#access

Preferred Citation

Provenance
The papers were donated to the Library in 1966 by Mrs B. Ovenden and include some photocopies of papers held at MS 1662.

Additional Information

Related Material

Other papers of Mary Gilmore are held at MS 727, MS 1662 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
8402); 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**
- Hargrave, John
- Murchie, Kathleen, Mrs
- Christesen, C.B. (Clement Byrne), 1911-
- Boyar, Karol
- Roberts, Helen Cameron
- Niemann, Frederick Raymond, 1906-

**Series List and Descriptions**

**Series 1: Miscellaneous papers, 1837-1962**

Folder 1
Photostats of letters, poems, press clippings, and a photograph, 1897-1957.

Folder 2
Correspondence, poems, photographs, postcards, press cuttings, and notes on various subjects of interest to Mary Gilmore, 1837-1954

Folder 3
Author's corrected proofs of *The tilted cart*
Folder 4
Original notes of "Arrows", 1 April 1933 to 20 June 1962

Folder 5-6
Miscellaneous press cuttings on a wide variety of subjects of interest to Mary Gilmore, cut mainly from metropolitan and country newspapers, c.1936-1954

In general they contain no reference to Gilmore.

Folder 7
Copy of a song: a tribute to the memory of Gilmore. The poem was written by her, and the music was by F.R. Niemann.

Folder 8-9
Miscellaneous press cuttings on a wide variety of subjects of interest to Mary Gilmore, c.1932-62

In general they contain no reference to Gilmore.