



**Inventory**

**Acc.11234**

**Mabel Ross**

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Correspondence, diaries, notebooks, and working papers, 1939-95, n.d., of Mabel Ross, handspinner and weaver.

After graduating from Edinburgh University in 1934, Mabel Ross worked in meteorological research; she later taught mathematics and music. Mabel Ross learned to weave and spin in her retirement. After the death of her husband in 1978 she started to give courses in handspinning and weaving and developed her acclaimed method of precise handspinning. Her spinners' manual, *The Essentials of Handspinning*, was first published in 1980. This was followed in 1983 by *The Essentials of Yarn Design*. *The Encyclopedia of Handspinning* was published in 1988, and *The Handspinners' Workbook: Fancy Yarns* in 1989. Mabel Ross's workshops and lectures took her to North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as throughout the United Kingdom. At the time of her death in 1995, she was internationally respected as a teacher of weaver and spinning.

Mabel Ross's filing system has been retained.

For the papers of Mabel Ross's father, William Baird Ross, organist and composer, see Acc.11235. The papers of her husband, William Ross, Head of Radar, R.R.E., have been listed as Acc.11236.

*Deposited, 1995.*

1-3	CORRESPONDENCE
4-58	SUBJECT FILES
59-106	JOURNALS AND DIARIES
107-54	NOTEBOOKS
155-76	SPINNING AND WEAVING COURSES
177-224	LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS
225-7	MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

### 1-3 CORRESPONDENCE

Letters, 1973-1994, n.d., to Mabel Ross, with some draft replies, largely concerning her handspinning and weaving activities. Much of Mabel Ross's correspondence is to be found in her subject files and these should be checked for letters of and to any given individuals (see Acc.11234/4-58).

1. 1973-85
2. 1986-87
3. 1988-94, n.d.

#### 4-58 SUBJECT FILES

Correspondence, notes, photographs, programmes, press cuttings and printed ephemera mostly relating to textile-based subjects, but also to Mabel Ross's musical interests.

There is some overlap between the subject areas represented in each file and also with the general correspondence (see Acc.11234.1-3).

4. American correspondence, 1984-94
5. Angora, 1986-7
6. Australian correspondence, 1980-90
7. Antwerp, 1992-4
8. Ashford, 1986-93
9. Colin Baxter, 1980-1
10. Birmingham Polytechnic Industrial Experience students, 1981-3
11. Cashgora, 1987
12. Cashmere and alpaca, 1985-92
13. Charles Casselman, 1982-4
14. *Convergence*, 1984-90
15. Dartington Hall Summer School of Music, 1968-
16. Dyeing, 1983-8, n.d.
17. *Euro Spinners and Weavers*, 1993-4
18. Fancy Yarn uses, 1992, n.d.
19. Guilds, 1983-94
20. Japanese spinners, 1986-93
21. Knee cloths, 1988
22. Local spinners, 1987-92, n.d.
23. Loom design, n.d.
24. Jean McDonnell, New Zealand, 1984
25. Martha Marcus, Oregon, 1989-92
26. Meadowlark, 1992
27. Mailing lists, course lists, and miscellaneous information, 1984-91, n.d.
28. National Association of Weavers Spinners and Dyers. National Exhibition, York, 1986
29. National Library of Scotland, 1993-4
30. New Zealand spinners, 1983-92
31. Robin and Russ Handweavers, 1986-92
32. 'Round The World Tour', 1984-5
33. Peter Royle and the definition of friction, 1992
34. Royal School of Music, 1971-81
- 35-6 Thea Gabra-Ryder

- 35. Correspondence and notes, 1987-91, n.d.
- 36. Fibre prints and photographs, n.d.
- 37. Schacht Spindle Co., 1987-8
- 38. Scottish College of Textiles, 1984-8
- 39. Genevah Sharples, 1983-88
- 40. *Shuttle, Spindle, Dyepot*, 1984-5
- 41. Nina Shuttlewood, 1981-90
- 42. Silk, 1980-92, n.d.
- 43. Slides, 1982, n.d.
- 44. South Africa and the Middle East, 1986-9
- 45. Advanced spinning, n.d.
- 46. Spinning wheels in Great Britain, 1983-5
- 47. *The Spinning Wheel Sleuth*. 1993-4
- 48. Stirling Summer Schools, 1984-9
- 49. Margaret Stove, 1986-93
- 50. *Threads*, 1986-94, n.d.
- 51. *Threads*, 1988-9. Drafts of article on 'Controlling Twist in Handspun Yarn' and related correspondence
- 52-5 Video
  - 52. Notes and drafts of text, n.d., for video. With related letters, 1987.
  - 53. Script for video, and related correspondence, 1987-8.
  - 54. Victorian Video Productions, Nancy Harvey, and Glimakra Looms, 1987-93.
  - 55. Video promotion, 1989-90.
- 56. Weaving and looms, 1967-80
- 57. Westbury Wheels, 1982-3
- 58. Worcestershire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, 1981-93, and the Welland Arts and Craft Group, 1981-93.

## 59-106 JOURNALS AND DIARIES

- 59. Diary, 1939-40
- 60. Engagement diary, 1944
- 61. Engagement diary, 1946
- 62. Engagement diary, 1947
- 63. Engagement diary, 1970
- 64. Typescript journal of a visit to Canada, 1971
- 65. Engagement diary, 1972
- 66. Engagement diary, 1973
- 67. Engagement diary, 1974
- 68. Engagement diary, 1975
- 69. Engagement diary, 1976
- 70. Engagement diary, 1977
- 71. Engagement diary, 1978

72. Diary, September 1978
73. Journal of a visit to Australia, November 1978. With typescript copy
74. Engagement diary, 1979
75. Journal and typescript journal of a visit to North America, 1980
76. Engagement diary, 1980
77. Engagement diary, 1981
78. Engagement diary, 1982
79. Engagement diary, 1983
80. Diary, February - April 1983
81. Engagement diary, 1984
82. Journal, 1984-5
83. 'Diary: Round the World', January - May 1985
84. Journal of 'Round the World Trip', 1985 (3 vols.)
85. Engagement diary, 1985
86. Engagement diary, 1986
87. Engagement diary, August 1987 - July 1988
88. Journal, May - June 1988
89. 'Video making', June 1988
90. July 1988
91. Diary, 1988
92. Diary, 1988-9
93. Journal, September 1989
94. Diary, 1989
95. SOAR, November 1989
96. Engagement diary, 1989
97. Journal, 1990
98. Engagement diary, 1990
99. Journal, Australia, September - October 1991
100. January 1991 - August 1992
101. Engagement diary, 1992
102. Diary, 1992
103. Journal, Antwerp, 1992
104. Diary 1993
105. August 1993 - January 1994
106. Transcript, 1994, of taped reminiscences of the Ross family and visits to North America, 1984 and 1988, and to Australia in 1985. With related correspondence

#### **107-54      NOTEBOOKS**

107. Hand Work, 1957-71, n.d.
108. Weaving notebook, 1967-77
109. 'Spinning course', ca.1969
110. 'Craftsmanship in Weaving', 1971

- 111-14 Day Books, 1972-84, consisting largely of weaving patterns and notes
- 111. 1972-5
  - 112. 1973
  - 113. 1975-9
  - 114. 1979-84
115. 'Spinning record', 1973, n.d.
116. 'Handspinning: art and technique', ca.1973
117. Notebook, 1973-9, on textiles and talks to Guilds
118. Miscellaneous notebook, 1973, n.d. (With log of car, 1959)
- 119-24 Weaving notebooks, 1976-7, n.d.
- 119. 1976, n.d.
  - 120. 1977
  - 121. n.d.
  - 122. n.d.
  - 123. n.d.
  - 124. n.d.
125. 'Summary of Yarn Design courses', 1983
126. Notebook, 1978, concerning preparations for visit to Australia
127. Miscellaneous notebook, 1979
128. Miscellaneous notebook, 1980
129. Miscellaneous notebook, 1980
130. Notebook, 1980
131. Notebook, 1982, 'Wool Notes'
132. Spinning notebook, 1982, n.d.
133. Wool notebook, 1982, n.d.
134. Miscellaneous notebook, 1982-3
135. Spinning notebook, 1983, n.d.
136. Stirling Summer School, 1984
137. Convergence 84, Dallas
138. Miscellaneous notebook, 1984, including African Textile notes
139. Miscellaneous notebook, 1984-5
140. Miscellaneous notebook, 1985-6
141. Notebook, September - December 1986
142. Notebook of miscellaneous notes, 1988
143. Dartington, 1988
144. General notebook, 1989
145. Notes taken on a lecture given by Peter Collingwood, 1989
146. General notebook, 1990
147. Threads, 1990
148. Australia, 1990
149. Australia, 1991
150. Summer School Farnham, 1991; Fibre Forum USA, 1991; Scotland, 1992
151. General notebook, 1991-2
152. Notes on Fleece and Wool Grading and Use, n.d.

- 153. Stock of materials bought, 1967-85
- 154. Notebook, 'May', n.d.
- 155. Notes for blue jacket, n.d.

**156-76 SPINNING AND WEAVING WORKSHOPS**

**156-60 Programmes, lecture notes and handouts for lectures and workshops**

- 156. Notes, 1977-83, for 'Early talks and workshops'
- 157. Drafts, 1982-92, of lectures
- 158. Notes, drafts of talks, and handouts, 1983-93, n.d, for workshops and lectures on handspinning
- 159. Drafts of talks, and handouts, 1985-9, n.d., for Yarn Design and Fancy Yarn courses
- 160. Miscellaneous notes on courses, 1986, n.d.

**161-76 Agreements, correspondence, bookings, and class lists for lectures and workshops, 1973-93.**

- 161. 1973-80, n.d.
- 162. Great Britain, 1982-7
- 163. Great Britain, 1986-7
- 164. North America, Canada, and Great Britain, 1988
- 165. USA Tour, Autumn 1989
- 166. England, Spring 1990
- 167. Australia, Autumn 1990
- 168. England, 1991
- 169. Pre-Bradford Diploma Course, Crook of Devon, 1991
- 170. USA Tour, 1991
- 171. USA Tour, 1991
- 172. USA Tour, 1992
- 173. United Kingdom, 1992
- 174. Convergence, 1992
- 175. SOAR Fibre Forum, Australia, 1992
- 176. United Kingdom and proposed Australian Tour, 1993

**177-224 LECTURES AND PUBLICATIONS**

**177-80 *The Essentials of Handspinning*, 1980**

Notes, drafts, typescripts and copies of *The Essentials of Handspinning*.

- 177. Notes, drafts and corrected typescripts, n.d. With drafts of related letters

- 178. Corrected drafts, n.d. With a related letter
- 179. Annotated typescript, n.d.
- 180. Annotated copies of the 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1986 editions. With notes of free copies sent

**181-9        *The Essentials of Yarn Design, 1983***

Correspondence, notes, drafts and typescripts of *The Essentials of Yarn Design*.

- 181. Correspondence, 1980-4
- 182. Notes on fibre properties, n.d.
- 183. Analysis of handspun records, n.d.
- 184. Counts, diameters, rough work for tables, n.d.
- 185. Notes on yarn design, n.d.
- 186. Drafts, artwork and related letters, 1983, of Winifred Mainwairing. With copies of *The Essentials of Handspinning* and *The Essentials of Yarn Design*
- 187. Annotated typescript and notes, 1983
- 188. Corrected proof copies, 1983
- 189. Covers, photographs and artwork, 1983

**190-219     *The Encyclopedia of Handspinning, 1988***

Correspondence, research notes, drafts, annotated typescripts, and photographs, 1984-9, n.d., of and relating to *The Encyclopedia of Handspinning*. Many of the files include material added after publication.

**190-3 Correspondence**

- 190. Museums and libraries, 1984-7
- 191. General, 1984-8
- 192. Batsford, 1985-8
- 193. Post publication, 1987-9. With lists of permissions granted

**194-208     Research notes**

- 194. Correspondence, notes, photographs, and pamphlets, 1980-91, on spinning wheels.
- 195. Notes, pamphlets, and promotional literature, 1981-4, n.d., of and relating to Australian wool
- 196. Correspondence, notes, and pamphlets, 1984, n.d., on Japanese textiles
- 197-8 Correspondence, notes, pamphlets, photocopied articles and samples, 1984-5, n.d., of and relating to Bast fibres (2 folders)
- 199. Correspondence, notes, pamphlets and promotional literature, 1984-6, n.d., of and relating to British and European wool



- 200. Wool, 1984-6, n.d.
- 210. Notebook, 1985: Pre-publication notes
- 201. Notebook, 1985: Illustrations
- 203. Alphabetical list of subjects, 1985, n.d., With notes and accounts, 1981, n.d., probably for *The Essentials of Handspinning*
- 204. Notes, pamphlets, samples and promotional literature, 1985, n.d., of and relating to cotton
- 205. Miscellaneous notes, n.d., on fibres
- 206. Miscellaneous notes on textiles
- 207. Notebook, n.d., of miscellaneous notes
- 208. Folder labelled 'Enquiries Required', n.d.

### **209-16 Drafts**

- 209. Drafts, notes, corrections and line drawings, n.d.
- 210. Line drawings, n.d. With letter of Winifred Mainwaring, n.d.
- 211. Line drawings, n.d.
- 212. Typescript, n.d.
- 213-16 Annotated typescripts
  - 213. 1986. With related letter
  - 214. 1988
  - 215. A-K, 1988
  - 216. K-Z, 1988

### **217-19 Photographs**

- 217. 1986
- 218. n.d.
- 219. Promotional information, figures, acknowledgements, notes, n.d.

### **220-1 Successful Handspinning of Fancy Yarn**

Correspondence, notes, patterns and typescripts, 1986-92, of and concerning Mabel Ross's proposed collaboration with Nina Shuttlewood, 'Successful Handspinning of Fancy Yarn'

- 220 Annotated typescripts, 1989, n.d.
- 221 Letter, patterns and notes, 1986-92, n.d., concerning knitting

### **222-4 *Handspinners' Workbook: Fancy Yarns***

- 222. Correspondence, drawings, notes and annotated typescript, 1989, n.d.
- 223. Spinning recipes, letter, notes, drafts, and drawings, 1989, n.d.

224. Annotated typescript, May 1989. With related notes

**225-7            Miscellaneous papers**

225. Miscellaneous typescript drafts of articles, letters and reviews and notes for radio broadcasts, 1983-91, for Ashford's *Wheel*, *The Journal*, *The Australian Handweaver and Spinner* and other publications. With related correspondence

226. Press cuttings and book reviews, 1981-90, n.d.

227. Biographical papers, 1983-93, n.d.