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Inventory

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Robert Blair Wilkie (1913-1998)

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Correspondence, publications and papers of Robert Blair Wilkie.

1870–2001

Fonds

5 boxes containing 42 folders

The collection consists of correspondence, publications and papers of Robert Blair Wilkie (1913–1998) and his family. Robert Blair Wilkie was the curator of the Old Glasgow Museum 1965-1998 (formerly known as the People's Palace Museum). Active member of the Scottish Nationalist movement (joined Scottish Nationalist Association under John MacCormick in 1937), in 1945 he was the SNP candidate in West Renfrewshire, and in the following year he was appointed editor of the Scots Independent (1944–1946), with Roland Eugene Muirhead. He established the Scottish Resistance Committee which provided the support for MacDiarmid's Independent candidature at Kelvingrove in the 1950 election in opposition to the Secretary of State, Walter Elliot. He was appointed Lecturer D'Anglais at the University of Clermont Ferrand in France (1949–1952). He was also a polymath, publishing poems, limericks, cartoons, plays, and wrote essays on Scottish history. Along with his close friends Molly Urquhart and Duncan Macrae he was involved in the Rutherglen Repertory and Curtain Theatres.

The collection contains Organisations, Literary and Personal papers relating to Robert Blair Wilkie's cultural involvement in the development of Scottish Nationalism, spanning the late 1930s to his death in 1998. The collection includes a large amount of correspondence, the largest of which can be found within Personal Papers (29–35), and are mainly family letters between RBW and his wife (29). There is also a large volume of correspondence addressed to Mrs Helen Wilkie (31–34). The collection includes family documents: such as Mr. and Mrs Wilkie's marriage certificate (1946), their daughter Janet's birth announcement (1952) and Mrs Helen Wilkie's wartime unemployment book (1941–1942) – all found in file 37. Also to be found in Personal Papers are RBW's testimonials – for various professional appointments (40) and papers relating to National Service and Conscientious Objection (39). Personal Papers also contains detailed inventories of the Wilkie's property, their furniture and their literary collection (38) and RBW's personal diaries spanning from 1943–1971 (42).

The Literary Papers (20–28) contains sketches, drafts and copies of RBW's various plays and theatrical productions. This includes "Faur Croun" (23), "A Season to Find to Sing" (24), "Everyman" (24), "Dukedom Nat Large Enough" (26), "Les Sentiers de la Glorie" (26) and "I shall Rebuild" (26). Much of RBW's Literary Papers are autographed scripts, though many of which are undated.

The Organisations series (1–19) spans RBW's varying political, business and cultural involvement with Scottish Societies, Political Parties and Clubs, as well as his professional engagement as curator of the Old Glasgow Museum and as Editor of the Scot Independent Newspaper. A large amount of papers relating to the Old Glasgow Museum (formerly the People's Palace) can be

found in files 1–4. His business correspondence, which includes letters as editor and academic can be found in file 5. Publications, documents relating to RBW's involvement with Scottish Nationalism can be found in Club and Societies Papers (6–8); Scottish Nationalism and SNP Papers (9–15) and Scottish History Papers (16–19) which contains research materials including a publication from 1870.

The collection has been arranged into three series which reflect Robert Blair Wilkie's engagement with Organisations: such as political parties and historical societies, his Literary Works: as a prolific playwright, and his Personal Papers: which include a large amount of correspondence with both RBW's family and his wife's family. The arrangement of which is outlined below:

- 1-19 Organisations, 1870–1998.**
 - 1-4 Old Glasgow Museum 1966-1978**
 - 5 Business Correspondence, 1963-1978**
 - 6–8 Clubs and Societies Papers, 1945-1998**
 - 9–15 Scottish Nationalism and SNP Papers, 1945–c.1990s.**
 - 16–19 Scottish History Papers, 1870–1987**
- 20–28 Literary Papers, 1938–1975**
- 29–42 Personal Papers, 1935–2001**
- 29–35 Family Correspondence Papers, 1939-2001**
- 36–42 Family Papers, 1935-1972**

No further accruals to this series are expected.

Duplicates have been weeded.

Files 7 and 42 are restricted due to Data Protection Principles.

Collection mainly containing papers in good condition, some partial tearing to documents dated pre 1940, otherwise collection in good condition.

Robert Blair Wilkie RBW
Helen Chambers Wilkie (nee Wilson) HCW
Scottish National Party (henceforth referred to as SNP)
Scots Independent Newspaper (henceforth referred to as SI)

Presented 2007.

- 1-19 Organisations, 1870 – 1998.**
 - 1-4 Old Glasgow Museum (formerly “People’s Palace Museum”), 1966–1978.**

1. Correspondence, also containing correspondence addressed to RBW in his curator role, 18 August 1967 – 19 December 1977.
2. Publications, including journals, posters, leaflets, photographs (bound together – which are mainly n.d.), 1966–1978.
3. Press Cutting, including newspaper articles relating to history research done as curator, newspaper articles of the Old Glasgow/People's Palace Museum and articles about RBW, 15 September 1944 – 12 November 1978.
4. Old Glasgow and People's Palace documents: internal correspondence and reports, c.1968 – November 1977.

5 Business Correspondence, 1963 - 1978

5. Business correspondence, including letters to RBW as acting Scot Independent editor, also correspondence as a club and society member, 2 October 1963 – 1 September 1978.

6–8 Clubs and Societies Papers, 1945-1998

6. Publications, including club membership booklets, cards and leaflets, 4 June 1950 – March 1989.
7. Clubs and societies documents, including report and list of members' addresses [*DPA Principles Apply*], c. 1945–1998.
8. Arts clubs and societies papers, including programmes, flyers and tickets of productions, 16 January 1943 – 25 March 1953.

9–15 Scottish Nationalism and SNP Papers, 1945–c.1990s.

9. Press cuttings, including The Scotsman, Glasgow Herald, March 1967 – September 1969, and containing [SNP] Committee Meeting Minutes, 17 June 1961.
10. Press cuttings, relating to Scottish History and nationalism, 1952–1962, including SNP publications, c. 1950s–1960s.
11. Political papers, including notes, notebooks and SNP materials relating to politics and Scottish nationalism, c. 1945–1972.
12. Political papers, including notes, letters, publications, minutes, newspaper cuttings and newsletters relating to RBW's involvement in Scottish politics, 1952–1993.
13. Press cuttings, including Glasgow Herald newspaper articles relating to RBW's interest in Scottish politics and nationalism – with some miscellaneous materials, c.1990s.
14. Business and newspaper papers, including correspondence, cuttings, publications, drafts – relating to SI and Scottish nationalism (1945–1981).
15. Business and political correspondence relating to Scottish politics, 1941–1952.

16–19 Scottish History Papers, 1870-1987

16. Research papers and publications relating to Scottish History – containing original ‘Scottish Masonic Directory’ for 1906 – other materials dated from c.1930 and onwards, 1906–1987.
17. Miscellaneous research papers relating to Scottish History, including publications (1870–1970), reports and notes about ‘Proven Hall’ c.1970s, 1870–c.1970s.
18. Framed autograph sketch of Prince Charles Edward Stewart, n.d.
19. Framed colour-pencil drawing with the autograph “His grace, the regent deeply”, n.d.

20–28 Literary Papers, 1938-1975

20. ‘Record of Work’ Onslow Drive Secondary School Notebook (June 1964), including photographs (1953) – kept separately in accompanying folder.
21. Notes, sketches and drafts, 1938–c.1950s (though mainly n.d.)
22. Materials relating to play, including manuscripts of scenes and notes with reference notes, research materials for play. Some manuscripts written on the back of school documents, n.d.
23. Manuscripts and drafts of scripts for the play “Faur Croun”. Bundle – late draft version of entire script with detailed character and scenery and a Musical Manuscript Book, including “Theme: The Faur Croon”, “Brocks and Waves”, Cockle Catherer’s Song”, “Highlanders Stirring” and “The Mist covered Mountains”, n.d. including a letter from Andrew Johnston, 16 April 1964.
24. Manuscripts and drafts of “A Season to Fin[d] to Sing” and “Everyman”, n.d.
25. Manuscripts of drafts and drawing, including poetry and works, n.d.
26. Manuscript of “Dukedom Not Large Enough”, typed copy of “Les Sentiers de la Glorie” 28 February 1953, and typed copy of “I Shall Rebuild”, n.d.
27. Literary correspondence with Andrew Johnston, 30 June 1952 – 25 July 1975.
28. Notebook, containing manuscripts of copied out poetry by HCW, n.d.

29-42 Personal Papers, 1935–2001

29-35 Family Correspondence Papers, 1939-2001

29. Letters between Robert Blair Wilkie and his wife Helen Chambers Wilkie (née Wilson), 26 April 1939 – 16 May 1953.
30. Letters form HCW to ‘Aunts’ Misses Auld, Paisley. Auld, 2 October 1950 – 1 June 1957.
31. Letter to Helen Janet Wilkie from her parents (Mr and Mrs Wilkie), 19 October 1972 – 28 April 1973.
32. Letters to HCW form ‘Auld Aunts’ at 15 Well Street, Paisley address, 7 November 1950 – 13 December 1953.

33. Family correspondence, including letter to HCW from the following addresses: 205 Neilston Road Paisley (6 November 1950 – 9 January 1951), Ayrshire Central Hospital and 'Netherby' 18 Lofts Kelso Roxburghshire (27 October 1950 – 12 September 1951) Maria, Université de Grenoble (15 November 1951 – 12 June 1952), 52 Auchmannoch Avenue Ralston Paisley (7 November 1950 – 23 January 1951), Kirkmaideu Manse Drummore (10 August [1952] – 14 May 1953).
34. Letters to Helen from miscellaneous correspondents (1945–2001). This includes a letter from D.H. Wallace with a rose bud dated 25 August 1945.
35. Letters to RBW from miscellaneous correspondents, 1932–1987.

36–42 Family Papers, 1935-1972

36. Certificates (with original postal tube): degree diploma and teacher's certificate (1945), with sending note from W Baird to RBW dated March 1960.
37. Miscellaneous collection of family materials including:
 - Framed photograph – glass missing from left top corner – of Wallace Demonstration (1955)
 - Family photographs n.d.
 - Unsent postcards (c.1950s-1969)
 - Biographical timelines written by RBW, n.d.
 - Sketch book with inscription to daughter, n.d.
 - Press Cuttings, including Glasgow Herald (25 August 1952) and Paisley Daily Express (26 August 1952) – daughter's birth announcement
 - Open-reel audio tape recording of "Marjory of Carrick by Robert B. Wilkie" Marriage Certificate between RBW and HCW (23 July 1946)
 - HCW's Unemployment Book (1941-1942)
 - Copy of SNP Election Campaign for RBW (1950)
38. Family materials including:
 - Inventories of Household Furniture (18 October 1950)
 - Valuation of property (1950)
 - Inventory of Library Collection (February 1962)
 - Maternity scrap book containing family documents including RBW
 - National Insurance details in French (c.1949-c.1952)
 - "Carnet de Maternite" n.d.
 - Savings account pass book and statement for Clydesdale and North of Scotland Limited 9c.1950s)
39. Correspondence and official documents relating to National Service and conscientious objection (1941-1945)
 - Glasgow Training Report (1935-1937)
 - Correspondence (1947)
 - Receipt of £1 from City of Glasgow Police (13 January 1957)

40. Testimonials 1938, 1941, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1955, including report on Scottish National Film Studios (1945). Also includes a testimonial for HCW (28 May 1950)
41. Correspondence (1945-1972), spanning teaching career and involvement with BBC, includes (at the start) a letter concerning Robert S. Wilkie's application for the position of Clerk to the Health Insurance Committee for Paisley dated 1912.
42. Address book, n.d.
Personal and Student Diaries, containing notes and correspondence, dated 1943, 1948, 1951, 1954-1957, 1963, 1966, 1957, and 1971.
[DPA Principles Apply].