

Acc.9736
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Inventory

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Malcolm MacFarlane

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A preliminary, draft list of the correspondence, and literary, lexicographical and musical papers of *Calum MacPhárlain*, Malcolm MacFarlane (1853-1931). Born in Dalavich, Argyll and resident for most of his life in Paisley and Elderslie where he was in business as a surveyor, MacFarlane was a notable Gaelic activist and writer from the late 1880s. He played a prominent part in the early years of *An Comunn Gaidhealach* (particularly in the production of its magazine, *An Deò-Gréine*, later *An Gaidheal*) while, as a radical in politics, taking issue with what he regarded as the *An Comunn* leadership's over-deference to aristocratic patronage and influence. His correspondents include very many of the writers and scholars active in Gaelic life during this period: Henry Whyte ("Fionn", 1852-1913), is a particularly regular correspondent. MacFarlane's contacts with Douglas Hyde and other members of the Gaelic League of Ireland, and with other pan-Celtic organisations, is also represented in the correspondence. His musical compositions, arrangements and re-arrangements are very well represented as is his work on Gaelic dictionaries. The papers include some manuscripts of friends, presumably submitted to him for comment, notably work of the Mull-born John MacCormick (d.1947), author of short stories and of the first substantial novel in Gaelic. A significant proportion of the correspondence is in Scottish Gaelic, and there are some letters in Irish Gaelic.

The papers came originally to the Library in association with the archive of the Scottish National Dictionary. After further enquiries as to their provenance it was established that they had been deposited in offices occupied by the SND and the School of Scottish Studies in George Square, Edinburgh, by the late Dr Sorley Maclean, Skye, and the late Rev William Matheson, Edinburgh, as literary trustees for the family of Malcolm MacFarlane. By agreement with the trustees the papers were presented to the Library in 1988.

I-36 Correspondence: a series of files of general correspondence of MacFarlane, arranged in chronologically, 1891-1930, n.d.

1. 1891.
2. 1893.
3. 1895.
4. 1897.
5. 1898.
6. 1899.
7. 1901.
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26. 1920.
27. 1921.
28. 1923.
29. 1924.
30. 1925.
31. 1926.
32. 1927.
33. 1928.
34. 1929.
35. 1930.
36. n.d.

37-58 A series of letters and papers originally in bundles: description of contents is very summary.

- 37 Correspondence, 1892-3, with some notes and music.
- 38 Correspondence, 1903-4, including legal & financial papers relating to An Comunn Gaidhealach, newsletters, and mock-up of the *Celtic Quarterly*, 1901.
- 39 Correspondence, 1905, mostly from Henry Whyte.
- 40 General correspondence, 1905.
- 41 Further letters, 1905-6, including many relating to An Comunn business.
- 42 Additional correspondence, 1905.
- 43 Correspondence, 1905-8, mainly from Katherine Whyte Grant (translator and author of children's playlets, 1845-1928), some from Australia.
- 44 Correspondence, 1906, mostly relating to Ruairidh Erskine of Marr's accusations against *An Deò Gréine*.
- 45 General correspondence, 1906.
- 46 General correspondence, 1906-15.
- 47 Papers, 1907, mostly on proposed reforms to An Comunn.
- 48 General correspondence & papers, including some music, 1907-8.
- 49 General correspondence, 1909-10.
- 50 General correspondence, 1910-11, including letters from Ruairidh Erskine of Marr.

- 51 General correspondence, 1911.
- 52 Correspondence, 1911, mainly from H Cameron Gillies.
- 53 Letters and papers, 1911, from Cameron Gillies and Lachlan MacBean, including the latter's circular advocating the establishment of a Gaelic Institute or Academy.
- 54 Correspondence, 1913-15: includes material relating to An Comunn and to Litreachis na h-Albann.
- 55 Papers, 1915, relating to MacFarlane's work with the National Registration Canvass (wartime recruitment).
- 56 A manuscript with covering, 1922, letter from Donald Macphie (editor of *An Gaidheal*, 1912-22); & proof of a Gaelic article for the *Stirling Journal*.
- 57 Letters, and literary & musical papers, 1924.
- 58 Miscellaneous correspondence and papers, 1927-9.
- 59-66 Literary papers, including essays, articles, etc, various dates (in 1 box).
- 67-72 Music MSS (in 1 box).
- 73 Proofs of various articles and magazine columns, various dates.
- 74 Proofs of a Gaelic dictionary.
- 75 Proofs of *Song of Lorn*.
- 76 Proofs of *An t-Eileanach*.
- 77 An Comunn printed ephemera, ca. 1891-1914.
- 78 Miscellaneous An Comunn papers, 1914, n.d.
- 79 Printed ephemera, mostly musical, relating to various Gaelic societies, 1893-1909, n.d.
- 80 Irish Text Society (printed matter), ca. 1897-1905.
- 81 A file of catalogues, prospectuses and order forms for various Gaelic or Celtic publications.
- 82 Political leaflets and information sheets, many in Gaelic: includes a Gaelic translation of the Crofters' Act, 1886, addresses for Paisley Parish Council elections, and Scots National League material.
- 83 Miscellaneous printed ephemera.

- 84-122 Pamphlets and books, mostly musical, various dates (in 1 box).
- 123 A small file of photographs (in box with above).
- 124 Surveying papers relating to George L Johnstone, Paisley, 1882-99.
- 125 A file of engravings collected by MacFarlane.
- 126-128 Loose press cuttings (in 3 boxes).

The papers listed below have not been arranged in any detail: reference is to box level only.

- 129-136 Correspondence, various dates, not yet opened out or arranged (8 boxes).
- 137-139 Correspondence and papers relating to An Comunn Gaidhealach (3 boxes).
- 140 Gaelic dictionary papers (1 box).
- 141 A box of prose writings of Malcolm MacFarlane.
- 142-146 Music MSS (5 boxes).
- 147 Prose manuscripts of various persons acquired by MacFarlane (1 box).
- 148 Prose MSS of John MacCormick (1 box).
- 149 Business papers (1 box).
- 150-155 Loose press cuttings (6 boxes).
- 156-161 Press cutting albums (6), with many musical pieces.