

MS18 Waddell Collection

About the collection:

Papers of the Ulster writer and scholar, Helen Waddell (1889-1965). The collection consists of notes, translations, holograph and typescript manuscripts of published and unpublished works by Waddell, c 1909-47, and an extensive series of correspondence with the critic and historian George Saintsbury (1845-1933), c 1914-33.

Also includes collection of 133 manuscript and typescript letters from 34 correspondents to Otto Kyllmann (d. 1958), senior partner of the publishing firm, Constable & Co., with typescript copies of 16 of his letters to various correspondents, and one note in his hand; the whole collection spanning the period 1900-1957 and arranged chronologically.

A detailed [calendar](#) compiled by M Kelly is available in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Helen Waddell, a daughter of the Rev. Hugh Waddell of Co Down, was born in Tokyo on May 31st 1889. She came to Northern Ireland in 1900 where she was educated at Victoria College and Queen's University, Belfast. She continued her studies at Somerville College Oxford. She was appointed Cassell Lecturer for St Hilda's in 1921, and lectured at Bedford College, London, during 1922 and 1923. The award of the Suzette Taylor Fellowship from Lady Margaret Hall allowed her to spend the next two years in research in Paris. On her return she settled to work in London, writing, lecturing, broadcasting and later joining the publishing firm of Constable and Co. as a literary advisor and reader, and the editorial staff of *The Nineteenth Century*. During this period she was awarded the A.C. Benson Silver Medal by the Royal Society of Literature, and became its first woman fellow; she was elected to the Irish Academy of Letters, became a fellow of the Mediaeval Academy of America, and received the honorary degree of D.Litt. from the universities of Durham, Belfast, St Andrew's and Columbia. Helen Waddell retired in 1945, but delivered the W.P. Ker Memorial Lecture at the University of Glasgow in 1947. She died, after a long illness, on March 5th 1965.

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MS18/1 **Notebooks**

Five holographic manuscript notebooks, two from H.W.'s undergraduate days at Queen's University Belfast, three, probably from later periods, containing notes and quotations (possibly relating to her reading), rough translations, and some personal memoranda.

MS18/1/1

Notebook

1909-1910 MS. notebook, 204pp. on 189 leaves, plus 1 loose, folded leaf (2pp) 17.8cm x 11.4 cm; wanting 4 written pages between 114-115 and 162-163. Bound in blue-green limp cloth covers.

This note-book is used from both ends; at one, it bears the inscription on the first leaf "Helen Waddell Q.U.B. 1909-10", the title *The Romantic Revolt* and contains (?) lecture notes under various headings, notes for essays, and bibliographic references. The other end has a list of (?) class-mates and marks, and begins with notes on *The Lyrical Ballads*. The loose leaf relates to Carlyle.

MS18/1/2

Notebook

1910 MS. notebook, 208pp. on 181 leaves, plus 1 loose leaf (2pp) 17.6cm x 11.3 cm. Bound in blue-green limp cloth covers.

The first leaf bears the inscription "Helen Waddell Queen's 1910", and the title *The Elizabethans*. There is a poem and some notes on two pages beginning at the other end, and the loose leaf is a list of Shakespeare's Plays divided into four periods. The notebook contains (?) lecture notes, reading lists and personal comments on the Elizabethan age in literature.

MS18/1/3

Notebook

c.1911-1912 MS. notebook, 184pp. on 154 leaves. 19.9cm x 16.2 cm. Bound in ¼ red cloth and dark blue watered-silk grained paper boards.

Includes notes under headings: J. R. Synge, J. M. Synge, *The Roman de la Rose*, Christine de Pisan, and a section copied from an account by Uh. Sakamoto of his father's speaking at Ueno. The middle section is blank and then follow various draft translations of poems, most of which later appear in *Lyrics from the Chinese* (1913). The last entry is a translation of a lyric by Christine de Pisan.

MS18/1/4

Notebook

n.d. MS. notebook, 318pp. on 174 leaves plus 2 lose leaves (2pp.) and a coloured (?) Japanese sketch. Appears to lack some pages. Bound in ¼ black cloth and sea green paper boards. Used from both ends, end-papers also annotated. Includes notes under headings: The Dark Ages, Ker, Saintsbury on the Romances, Froissart, The Paston Letters, The Canterbury Tales, Chambers' Mediaeval Stage, Celestina, Rabelias, and a section, some of which later

appears in *The Wandering Scholars* (1927). The loose leaves relate to Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* as a tragedy of love.

MS18/1/5

Notebook

- c. 1928-1930 MS. notebook, 71pp. on 36 leaves. 15.3cm x 8.8cm. Spiral bound; black leather covers. First and last section only used. Contains jottings and rough drafts for translations of Latin Poems, and a few personal memoranda.

MS18/2 Lyrics from the Chinese

Lyrics from the Chinese (1913). Lyrics transposed into verse by H. W. from the prose translations of James Legge in *The Chinese Classics* (HongKong: The Author & London: Trübner, 1861-1972).

MS18/2/1

- n.d. Draft, in HW's hand, of 13 of the lyrics later printed by Constable & Co. in 1913, with notes (?presumably addressed to George Saintsbury). MS. 17 leaves. 26cm x 20.4cm

MS18/2/2

- n.d. Complete holograph manuscript. MS. 170pp. 25.3cm x 20.2cm.

MS18/2/3

- n.d. Typescript, with author's corrections. 190pp. 25.3cm x 19cm. Bound in charcoal-gray paper wrappers.

MS18/3 The Wandering Scholars

The Wandering Scholars (1927). Incomplete holographic draft. MS. 366 pp. on 189 leaves 25.6cm x 20.4cm.

MS18/4 John of Salisbury

John of Salisbury (1928). Fragment of holographic draft. MS. 2 pp. on 1 leaf 25.3cm x 20.3cm.

MS18/5 Mediaeval Latin Lyrics

1. Incomplete holographic draft in four sections.
2. Single MS. Leaf 33cm x 20.6cm, written on both sides, headed The Cambridge Songs, and containing a partial list of sources, authors and mss.: a draft translation of a lyric beginning 'Life of the world, woe betide thee!'; and the beginning of a biographical note headed The Archpoet (unused).

MS18/6 The Abbé Prévost: A play in a prologue and three acts.

The Abbé Prévost: A play in a prologue and three acts (1931). Complete holographic draft. MS. 66 leaves 25.4cm x 19.6cm. Author's foliations: 1-65; the first leaf not numbered.

MS18/7 **For the Bi-centenary of the first printing of Manon Lescaut at Amsterdam in 1731**

For the Bi-centenary of the first printing of Manon Lescaut at Amsterdam in 1731 (1931). Holographic manuscript draft of an unused version of the translator's note. MS. 3 leaves 25.5cm x 20.2cm.

MS18/8 **Peter Abelard**

Peter Abelard (1933). Two incomplete holographic drafts. MS. 515 leaves 25.4cm x 20.4cm.

MS18/9 **Historia Calamitatum (Peter Abelard)**

Historia Calamitatum (Peter Abelard). Incomplete manuscript draft, in H.W's hand, of a translation into English of chapters 2-4. MS. 8 leaves 25.3cm x 20.2cm.

MS18/10 **Beasts and Saints**

Beasts and Saints (1934). Stories translated from various Latin sources by Helen Waddell. Holographic manuscript drafts comprising one partial translation of a source, two complete stories, and two fragmentary stories. MS. 10 leaves. 25.5cm x 20.4cm

MS18/11 **New York City**

New York City (1935). Poem by H.W. first printed by the Greynoy Press in 1935, and later included in the Appendices of More Latin Lyrics, edited by Dame Felicitas Corrigan and published in 1976. Incomplete holographic draft. MS. 5 Leaves. 25.4cm x 20.4cm

MS18/12 **The Desert Fathers**

The Desert Fathers (1936). Translations from various Latin sources by Helen Waddell. Incomplete holographic manuscript drafts for H.W's Introduction, her note prefacing one section, and a fragment translated from one source. MS. 26 leaves 25.4cm x 20.4cm

MS18/13 **Poetry in the Dark Ages**

Poetry in the Dark Ages (8th W. P. Ker Memorial Lecture, 28th October 1947). Lecture delivered in the University of Glasgow by Helen Waddell, and printed: Glasgow: Jackson. Son & Company, publishers to the University 1948. (Glasgow University Publications, LXXV). Several incomplete holograph manuscript drafts, interspersed with notes in a cash ledger book. Some drafts written on leaves apparently torn from the same book. MS. 178pp. on 82 leaves 31.6cm X 20.3cm. The ledger bound in ¼ red buckram and blue-green paper boards.

MS18/14 **More Latin Lyrics**

More Latin Lyrics (1976). A collection of translations prepared by H.W. for a second book of Latin Lyrics, put together and edited after her death by Dame Felicitas Corrigan and published as: More Latin Lyrics: from Virgil to Milton. Translated by Helen Waddell. Victor Gollancz Ltd. 1976. Ms 168pp. on 91 leaves 26.3cm X 20.4cm (average size).

See also Ms 18/11

MS18/15 **Eginhard, abbot of Seligenstadt.**

Eginhard, abbot of Seligenstadt. Incomplete manuscript draft of a translation by H.W. of Epistola LXIII: Ad Lupum amicum sum. MS 2 leaves 25cm X 20.4cm.

MS18/16 **Miscellaneous**

MS. 16pp. On 11 leaves. 26cm X 20.2cm (average size). Rough, holographic drafts and working-notes.

MS18/17 **Letters from George Saintsbury**

A series of holographic manuscript letters and 17 fragments from Professor George Saintsbury to Helen Waddell written over the years 1914-1932.

MS18/18 **The Pig Book**

Anthology of poems compiled by Professor George Saintsbury for Helen Wadell, and referred to in their correspondence as 'The Pig Book'. MS. 414 pp. on 41 leaves (many blanks unopened) 22.3cm X 14.4cm

Bound in blue boards with Spine title: The Peace of the Augustans. Saintsbury, obviously a publisher's mock-up for Saintsbury's book of the same title published 1916, and covered in a brown yapp-edged chemise with 'Helen' in guilt lettering on the front.

MS18/19 **Otto Kyllmann Correspondence**

Collection of 133 MS and typescript letters from 34 correspondents to Otto Kyllman, senior partner of Constable & Co, and friend of Helen Waddell, with typescript copies of 16 of his letters to various correspondents, and one note in hand; the whole collection spanning the period 1910-1958.

Five groups of miscellaneous papers relating to Charles Whibley, Henry Spencer Wilkinson, Walter Simons and Robert Gilbert Vansittart, with three Reuter News sheets.

MS18/20 **George Meredith: Poems, London: John W. Parker and Son, (1851).**

George Meredith: Poems. London: John W. Parker and Son, (1851). First edition bound manuscript copy, by an unknown hand. MS. 220 leaves 20.7cm X 12.9cm. Bound in sand-coloured buckram boards.

Appendix 1

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