The Megaw Collection includes papers, notebooks, clippings books, drafts and editions of works by Arthur Stanley Megaw (1873-1961). Arthur Stanley Megaw (ASM) graduated from Queen's University in 1894 and trained as a solicitor. In middle life he gave up the law to pursue his literary interests and established a reputation as an anthologist publishing under the name Arthur Stanley. His anthologies include the 'Bedside Book', 'Fireside Book', 'Bedside Shakespeare' and 'Bedside Bible'. ASM also published a detective novel, 'The Monkhurst Case'. Megaw was prominent in the Belfast Literary Society for over 50 years and was Honorary Secretary for 30 years.

The archive covers most of ASM's literary life from around 1890 to 1961 and extends across twelve archive boxes.

Select bibliography


**Sources:**

*Annual Record of the Queen’s University Association, 1961-62*, p.45

*The Times*, Tuesday, Sep 26, 1961; pg. 13; Issue 55196; col A

Diarmaid Kennedy 2010

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1. Box 1

Newspaper clippings, off-prints, articles, notes, speeches and scripts by ASM (c. 1911-1960)

Brown envelope addressed to ASM contains unbound proof copy of “The Seven Stars of Peace” (marked up in pencil)

Brown envelope address to ASM marked “The Battle of the Ford” and “A Man’s Hand” – contains typescripts of 2 short stories (?)


Bundle of press notices for “The Bedside Book” (c. 1933)

Bundle of press notices for “The Out of Doors Book” (c. 1933)

Bundle marked “Press cuttings etc.”

Folder marked “The Golden Road/Press Opinions” (1938)

Folder marked “The Out of Doors Book 1933/Special Correspondence” includes letters from Baden Powell, JB Priestley and Vita Sackville-West.

Set of folders marked “Britain at War” – notes, permissions (?)

Brown envelope marked “Covent Garden”. Contains typescript of paper/article.

7 terracotta notebooks (c.1894 - 1899) most marked “Irish stories, studies, sketches etc.”

1 black notebook (1950s)

2. Box 2

3 account ledgers (c. 1938 – 1960)

1 green cutting book (containing much loose material) includes typescripts, manuscript material, cutting and some publications (c. 1890-1918). The cuttings includes one of ASM’s earliest appearances in print (Bangor Gazette, October 1890).
3. Box 3

Folder dated 29/06/1940 and marked “I The House of Tranquillity/Correspondence”. Contains permission requests, includes a letter from HE Bates.

Folder dated 02/07/1940-30/11/1941 marked “II The House of Tranquillity”. Includes letters from Joseph Campbell, David Keir etc.

Folder dated 12/1941 marked “The House of Tranquillity III”. Includes letters from Kenneth Povey and the Duke of Abercorn.

Clipped bundle of papers relating to “The Bedside Book” (dates “from 1st January 1937”). Correspondence, reviews, royalty statements etc.

Clipped bundle of papers dated 15/09/1932 marked “The Bedside Book/Special Correspondence”. Includes letters from Amanda McKittrick Ros, George Russell, Helen Waddell.


Green file marked “The House of Tranquillity” dated 1940. Mostly typescript drafts.

Folder dated 1930 and marked “The Bedside Book/USA”. Mainly correspondence with publishers.

Folder dated “from 26th September, 1939” and marked “The Bedside Book & The Testament of Man & Good Company”. Mainly correspondence with publisher (Victor Gollancz).

Loose typescript papers marked “MSS.not used in B. Bk.”

Typescript marked “A Tea Party in the Dingle”

Typescript marked “Ghosts”
4. Box 4


Folder marked “Diary of Celia Fiennes”. Correspondence relating to an abandoned book [?].

Envelope marked “T. of M. [Testament of Man]/Press and opinions”

Folder dated 1937 and marked “Testament of Man/Correspondence”. Includes a letter from Ramsay MacDonald.

Bundle of notes and a purple notebook all marked T. of M. [Testament of Man].

Large Bundle dated “Begins 20th August 1936” and marked “The Testament of Man/IV/Correspondence”. Includes letter from Helen Waddell, Ramsay MacDonald etc.


Folder marked “Literary Account” and dated 1955. Contains clippings, account statements, correspondence etc.

Folder marked “Literary Account” and dated 1950. Contains correspondence, drafts etc.

Folder dated 3/10/1941 – 06/08/1942 and marked “Literary Correspondence”. Contains clippings, account statements, correspondence etc.

Folder dated 1940 and marked “Literary Correspondence”. Contains clippings, account statements, correspondence etc.

Folder dated 1936 to end of 1939 and marked “Literary Correspondence”. Contains clippings, account statements, correspondence etc.
5. Box 5

Folder marked “Honorary Degree/A.S.M./at Queen’s University, 1952”. Contains correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings, a photograph and a copy of the QUB Annual Review.

Envelope marked “Papers re “Under Italian Skies””. Contains 5 notebooks and a bundle of notes.

Folder marked “The Golden Road”. Contains correspondence, financial documents and some press notices.

Envelope marked “Bedside Bunyan”. Contains 2 notebooks and a bundle of notes.

Envelope marked “The Seven Stars of Peace”. Contains notes relating to fees, indexing etc.

Folder marked “In Quest of King William/Notes”.

Folder marked “In Quest of King William/drafts of chapters/copied”.

Folder marked “In quest of King William” (typescript label). Contains typescript.

File dated “1952:” and marked “In Quest of King William”. Contains correspondence, mostly from publishers.

Bound typescript marked “In Quest of King William/by/Arthur Stanley”. 181pp.

7 notebooks marked F.B. [Fireside Book], numbered I-IV, IX-X

4 notebooks marked “The Testament of Man”, numbered VIII, X-XII

7 notebooks marked “The Excellence of Man”, numbered I-VII
6. Box 6

Folder marked “The Fireside Book/Press Notices”. Contains newspaper clippings.

Envelope marked “M de S [Madame de Sevigne]/unmarked proofs”. Contains unbound and incomplete (?) proofs.


Envelope marked “Good Company/Contents with note of permissions and fees”.

Folder dated 8/8/1941 and marked “II/Good Company”. Contains correspondence.

Folder dated 1941 and marked “Good Company/Press Notices”. Contains newspaper clippings.

Folder dated 1938 and entitled “Kate the Queen/(Caterina Cornaro)”. Contains research notes and drafts/papers about Caterina Cornaro “The Last Queen of Cyprus”. Includes paper delivered to the Belfast Literary Society entitled “Kate the Queen (1454-1510) and something about her kingdom”.

Large bundle of typescripts pages marked “G.C.” [Good Company]

Folder dated 08/08/1941 marked “I/Good Company”. Contains correspondence relating to publication, including telegrams and notes from Leonard Woolf, Kenneth Povey and J.B. Priestley.

Folder dated 1954/1955 and marked “The New Bedside Book: Peace at the Close/Correspondence”. Contains newspaper clippings, notes and correspondence including one from Oliver St. John Gogarty.

Envelope marked “Reviews of The New Bedside Book”. Contains newspaper clippings.

Envelope marked “The S. S. of P.” [The Seven Stars of Peace]. Contains unbound proofs, marked throughout in black ink. Dated 1940.

Folder dated 01/02/1940 and marked “III/The Seven Stars of Peace/Correspondence”. Contains correspondence and some newspaper clippings.

Set of typescripts:
I   The House leaves Home
II  The king of Ireland’s Son
III A Visit to an Old Castle
VI  On the Coast Road
VII Mac Datho’s Pig
VIII The Mystery of Usheen’s Grave
IX  Up to the Moorland
X   Cuhoolin has Troubles
XI  A Fair, the Casueway and the White Rocks
XII A Visit to Tara
XIII The Making of the Causeway
XV  In sigh of Saint Patrick’s Mountain
XVI The Four Swans
II       The Making of Ireland (originally numbered XIV)

The Doings of Finn MacCool
The House on Wheels
7. Box 7

Bundle of notes and typescripts. Appear to relate to “The Monkhurst Case”

Envelope marked “M. de S.” (Madame de Sévigné) dated 30/06/1945. Contains black and white photographs/illustrations.

Typescript of “Madame de Sévigné”, pp.440.

Envelope marked “Mme. de Sévigné/illustrations and negatives/(used and unused)”.

Envelope marked “M. de S./Press Cuttings”. Press clippings but also includes a letter from Lilian Spender.

Folder dated 29/06/1945 and marked “Correspondence/re/Mme. de Sévigné/II”.

Folder marked “Mme. de Sévigné/Illustrations etc.”

Folder marked “I/ Mme. de Sévigné”. Contains correspondence and some clippings.

Folder marked “The House on Wheels”. Contains around 17 fastened bundles/chapter drafts(?), related to typescripts in box 6(?).

Folder marked “The House on Wheels/Correspondence”. Describes the work as “a children’s story of moderate length with an Irish background introducing legends and adventures of ancient Irish heroes”.


Envelope containing library request slips


14 exercise/copy books marked “The Bedside Book”
8. Box 8

Folder dated 1948 and marked “II/An Ulster Anthology”. Contain notes and correspondence.

Folder marked “An Ulster Anthology/Notes etc.” Large bundle of manuscript and typescript notes relating to proposed anthology, includes poems etc. intended for use in work.

Folder labelled “MS. with/ Wm. Mullan/for publication/An Ulster Anthology”. Detailed notes on contents and chapters of proposed anthology. Megaw draft forward to the work is also included.

Folder marked “I/An Ulster Anthology”. Includes notes and correspondence, including letters from S.R. Praeger, Robert Greacan, Helen Waddell, Colin Middleton, Michael McLaverty, Roy McFadden, Forrest Reid, Lynn Doyle, Richard Rowling etc.

Bundle of papers relating to Bruges. Notes for paper?


Envelope marked “The Charms of County Down”. Contains 2 typescripts.

Envelope marked “Eyes”. Contains typescript marked “Titus in Undis: Eyes”.


Envelope address to “W. Arthur S. Megaw”. Contain letter from Belfast Newsletter (1900) and newspaper clippings.

Notebook, dated 1929 and marked “The Out of Doors Book”.

Envelope marked “Impossible Adventure”. Contains typescript entitled “The Light thrown by ‘Impossible Adventure’ on how People should live together”, c.18pp. (1954?)
9. Box 9

Notebook marked “Proposal Book”.

Small bundle of pinned notes marked “Notes/Garden Anthology”.

Envelope marked “ASM/Misc. Lit. notes/etc.”. Contains typescripts and manuscripts of poems/stories.

Folder dated 31/07/1936 and marked “Henrietta Frances/Countess of Bessborough/I/Correspondence”. Contains correspondence regarding a proposed life of the Countess of Bessborough.

Envelope marked “Two’s Company”. Contains notebooks, typescripts and correspondence relating to ASM’s play (and other works?).

Loose notes and typescripts (Box 8 contained a quantity of apparently loose pages, these were gathered together in a single folder in 2009) including:

- Typescript dated 13/04/1937 and marked “Nelson Classics Competition/Introduction/to/ Persuasion/by/Jane Austen”.
- Typescript dated 21/04/1937 and marked “The Epilogue”. 10pp. (plus 2 other versions).
- Typescript “A tight little island”. 5pp.
- Typescript, “At Bosom’s Inn”
- Bundle of notes/correspondence relating to a proposed anthology entitled “Things seen in England”.

Folder marked “A Harrowing of Hell”. Contains notes for a paper(?) based on the 13th century poem.

Notebook marked “Balfour”

Envelope marked “A man’s hand”. Contains typescripts “A man’s hand” (10pp.) and “The Jewels” (11pp.).

Envelope marked “B.L.S. [Belfast Literary Society]/Notes of speeches”. 1920s
Bound typescript marked “The Bride of Lammermoor”, 130pp. Contains “cut up” version of the Scott novel, described as being “abridged for 20th century readers”.

Envelope marked “Proposed Garden Lover’s Anthology”. Contains typescripts.

Envelope dated 1948 and marked “re proposed book/A Pastoral Symphony”. Contains notes and typescripts for “an anthology of country life”.

Notebook marked “How it strikes”. Contains notes for an anthology entitled “How it strikes a contemporary” described as “showing the different reactions to everyday matters at different ages”.

Envelope marked “An Ulster parson”. Contains notes/typescript for an article/story.

Envelope marked “People and places”. Notes and typescripts.

Envelope addressed to ASM. Contains c.20 short typescript pieces submitted to the Belfast Telegraph (?) – related to previous envelope (?)..

Folder marked “Unfinished short pieces”. Contains typescripts and notes.

Envelope marked “How it strikes a contemporary”. Notes for proposed anthology.

Folder marked “Discarded or unfinished”. Contains notes, notebooks etc.

Address book. Marked A.S. Megaw, 16 Donegall Sq. South”.

Envelope marked “Misc. prelim. Mss. & typescripts, unsorted”.
10. Box 10

Folder marked “ASM - MSS Early essays verses etc”. Contains undergraduate and
school (?) essays as well as early poems. Also includes newspaper clippings and
letters. Dates from c.1888-1899

Folder marked “ASM – MSS Early papers”. Includes versions/drafts of papers on
“Patriotic Song” (c.1900), “Shakespeare and Human Life” (c. 1901), “Some remarks
on Sir Philip Sidney” (1898) etc.

Envelope marked “Samples”. Contains offprint newspaper cuttings.


Folder marked “Talk on Anthologies” (dated 1945). Contains typescript with copious
amendments and notes.

Typescript “The Heyday of Romance”, pp.33. Paper delivered to the Belfast Literary
Society, 3rd November 1925 (programme enclosed).

Typescript marked “Belfast Literary Society/1925-6/President’s Address/THE BIRTH
AND HEYDAY OF ROMANCE/Tuesday 3rd November, 1925”, 35pp.

Typescript marked “Belfast Literary Society, 3rd April, 1911./Browning’s Optimism”,
21pp.

Envelope marked “Landmarks: an Ulsterman looks back/by Arthur Stanley/B.B.C.
Home Service N.I./4/9/51. Contains a preview clipped from the Radio Times and a
typescript, 6pp.

Envelope marked “ASM/Letters/Patriotic Song”. Contains correspondence, clippings
and a notebook (dated 1892). Correspondents include Arthur Conan Doyle, WB
Yeats etc.

Typescript of “Landmarks”. Broadcast copy, dated 04/09/1951.

Typescript marked “Belfast Literary Society/Monday 1st December, 1930/The
Canadian Poets”. Text of paper delivered to the BLS.

Bundle of newspaper clippings/offprints of series of articles entitled “A Holiday in the
Eastern Alps”.

Manuscript of speech on Tennyson. Note in pencil reads “A paper on Tennyson read
to the Holywood YMCS, February 29th 1893”. 36pp.

Typescript marked “Belfast Literary Society/Thursday 12th April, 1917/An Apology for
Mountains”. 45pp.

Typescript marked “The Little Flower of Lisieux”. 14pp.

Typescript marked “An Apology for Mountains”. 34pp.


Envelope marked “Queens 1947/Anthologies”. Contains typescript marked “Queen’s University English Society/2nd December, 1947/Anthologies”, 10pp.

11. **Box 11**

“Something about Cave Hill”. Clipping from Ulster Review (January, 1925).


12. **Box 12**

Signed by ASM.

Dust wrapper. Contain publisher's bookmark which notes that 20,000 copies were sold within six months of publication.

Proof marks, bookmarks, pages removed etc. throughout. Draft for abridged version?


Bundle of unbound choirs
Madame de Sevigne proofs.

Bundle of unbound choirs
Labelled as “Marked Proofs” (Seven Stars of Peace).

Envelope marked “The Jewels”/”The Doings of Finn McCool”.
Contains 2 typescripts and a rejection slip from the New Yorker.

Dust wrapper for “The bedside book”

Notes (clipped together) and marked “Monkhurst Case”
Notes for novel.

Envelope marked “Bedside Bible”
Contains unbound choirs.

Dust wrapper for “The Bedside Book for Children”

Envelope containing unbound choirs

Miscellaneous notes/correspondence
Mostly corrections and correspondence.
13. **Box 13**


Bundle of articles marked “Introduction to the study of Latin America/A tourist in Latin America.”
Typescript for book (?) on Latin America.

Envelope marked “personal correspondence extracted from files destroyed 1938-61” (envelope is addressed to Mrs. Helen Megaw).
Contains letters from Angela Antrim, J.C. Beckett, James Edward Caulfeild (eighth Viscount Charlemont), Sir George Hill etc.

Large collection of notebooks, typescripts and correspondence relating to “The Bedside Bible”.

Address book marked “Belfast Literary Society/Roll of Members” (1928-1941)

Notebook marked “Belfast Literary Society” and dated 1938. Almost entirely blank.

Folder marked “Belfast Literary Society”, dated 1943.
Contains correspondence, notes, receipts and financial statements relating to the BLS dating from 1943-1947.

Box containing numbered copy (206) of Belfast Literary Society 1801-1901 (Belfast: The Linenhall Press) and a menu from the centenary dinner (23/10/1901)
14. **Box 14**


