

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 062
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1909 to 1953
EXTENT	3 folders
CREATOR	Mary Gilmore 1865-1962
RELATED ENTITIES	John Le Gay Brereton 1871-1933 Hugh McCrae 1876-1958 Mary Gilmore 1865-1962
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore
ACCESS POINTS	Poets

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Gilmore

Mary Gilmore, nee Cameron, was born near Goulburn, New South Wales, on 16 August 1865. She was educated at Brucedale, near Wagga Wagga, and later at Wagga Wagga Public School. Between 1877 and 1895 Gilmore taught in a number of schools in New South Wales. In 1896 she joined William Lane's 'New Australia' movement in Paraguay. She married fellow colonist and Victorian shearer William Alexander Gilmore (1866-1945) in 1897, and their only child William Dysart Cameron Gilmore (1898-1945) was born at Villarica, near the Cosme settlement. Before returning to Australia in 1902, Gilmore taught English in Rio Gallegos in southern Patagonia and wrote for Buenos Aires newspapers.

In 1903, A. G. Stephens featured Gilmore's poetry in the Red Page of the *Bulletin*, and in 1908 she became the first editor of the women's page of the *Sydney Worker*. Gilmore's first volume of poems, *Marri'd and other verses*, appeared in 1910. Other publications include *The passionate heart* (1918), *Hound of the road* (1922), *The tilted cart* (1925), *The wild swan* (1930), *The rue tree* (1931), *Under the wilgas* (1932), *Old days, old ways* (1934), *Battlefields* (1939), *The disinherited* (1941) and *Fourteen men* (1954).

In 1937, Gilmore was made a Dame of the British Empire in recognition of her contribution to Australian literature. She was the first woman to receive this award for services to literature. Gilmore was a founder of the Lyceum Club, Sydney, a founder and vice-president in 1928 of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, an early member of the New South Wales Institute of Journalists and a life member of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Dame Mary Gilmore died on 3 December 1962.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Dame Mary Gilmore Papers feature a volume of annotated manuscript drafts of Gilmore's poems. Most of the poems in this volume were published in her first book *Marri'd and other verses* (1910). There are also two volumes of correspondence, including letters to John Le Gay Brereton (1909-1933) and correspondence with Hugh McCrae (1930-1951).

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

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SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

The collection was acquired from Tim McCormick in 1986.

RELATED ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Separated Material

Further papers relating to Dame Mary Gilmore are held by the National Library, the State Library of New South Wales, the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives, the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, and the University of Sydney Library, University of Sydney.

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Dame Mary Gilmore (MSS 062)

1909 to 1953 (Inclusive date(s))

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Series 1 Correspondence, 1909-1951 (MSS 062.1)

1909 to 1951 (Inclusive date(s))

The first item in this series contains correspondence between Gilmore (17 letters) and Hugh McCrae (9 letters, mainly fragments), written between 1930 and 1951. The correspondence reflects Gilmore's affectionate regard for McCrae, who was one of her dearest friends. There are also three letters from George Mackaness to McCrae, referring to Gilmore and her work.

The second volume contains a more comprehensive series of letters to John Le Gay Brereton (34 letters), spanning the period 1909 to 1932. There is also a letter of condolence from Gilmore to Mrs Brereton after Brereton's death in 1933. In the letters Gilmore discusses her writing and other activities, including references to her work with Brereton on the Censorship Appeal Board. Gilmore also comments on literary figures such as John Shaw Neilson, George Robertson and Bernard O'Dowd. The volume includes manuscript drafts of various poems by Gilmore (12 p.), together with a draft of a long poem written as a memorial to J. F. Archibald (3 p.).

Volume 1 (MSS 062.1.1)

Correspondence with Hugh McCrae, 1930-1951, including letters of George Mackaness

Volume 2 (MSS 062.1.2)

Letters to John Le Gay Brereton, 1909-1933, including manuscript drafts of poems by Gilmore

Series 2 Poetry (MSS 062.2)

This series comprises a volume of handwritten drafts of poems, annotated by Gilmore with criticisms and other comments. This collection of poems formed the basis for Gilmore's first book *Marri'd and other verses* (1910), published by George Robertson of Melbourne. The verso of each page is signed by Gilmore. Many of the poems are annotated with the date of their first publication, together with the name of the newspaper or magazine in which they appeared, including *Bookfellow*, the *Bulletin*, the *Hobart Clipper*, the *Wagga Wagga Express* and the *Sydney Worker*.

Volume 1 (MSS 062.2.1)

Manuscript drafts of poems, inscribed 'Mss a present from Dora Wilcox [who bore] cost of binding by Collins 13/11/53'
