

RECORDS OF H J MASSINGHAM (1888-1952)

Accession no: DX225
Catalogue mark: D MASM

The records were deposited in April 1997 as a gift by Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury.

List compiled April 1997.

Introduction

Harold John Massingham was born in 1888 and spent his early life in London where he received a conventional middle class education at Westminster School. This was followed by Queen's College Oxford at which he first read history, later transferring to English literature but he failed to graduate due to illness.

Massingham returned to London to follow a career in journalism where he worked for the 'Morning Leader', 'National Press Agency', and the 'Athenaeum' 1912-14. He made weekly contributions to the 'Nation' and 'Athenaeum' 1916-24. He also contributed to the 'Field' 1938-51 and the 'Spectator' in 1951.

As a precursor to the modern ecological movement and a major contributor to English rural literature he encompassed all facets of English rural life from pre-history to the twentieth century. Massingham's interests in literature, art, ornithology, archaeology, anthropology, geology, topography, agricultural and rural history were all brought to bear on his subject of England and its countryside. He died in 1952.

Record types

A1-5 Biographical and personal information
B1-2 Correspondence
C1-3 Research material
D1-5 Reference material
E1-5 Published works
F1-7 Draft copies of work
H1-12 Photographs

A BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

A1	DIARY.	1928
A2	REVIEW by Edwin Herrin on 'Tree of Life'.	1943
A3	REVIEW on 'Tree of Life'.	1943
A4	REVIEW of 'Men of Earth'.	1943
A5	FILE of letters and reviews related to H. J. Massingham's books the 'Tree of Life' and 'Men of Earth'.	1943-44

B CORRESPONDENCE

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| B1 | LETTERS, Miscellaneous (four items) | 1938 |
| B2 | LETTER from H. L. Haynes. | 1938
(May 6) |

C RESEARCH MATERIAL

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|----|--|---------|
| C1 | FILE of anecdotes. | c1930's |
| C2 | NOTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS on archaeological finds and sites. | c1930's |
| C3 | NOTEBOOK. | c1930's |

D REFERENCE MATERIAL

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|----|--|---------|
| D1 | MAP of Gloucestershire. | c1930s |
| D2 | MAP showing 'The Old Way from Basingstoke to Salisbury Plain'. | c1930's |
| D3 | FILE of articles relating to agriculture, correspondence, draft articles by other writers and a booklet entitled 'Soil Fertility as the Basis of Public Health'. | 1942-57 |
| D4 | FILE containing periodicals eg, 'Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries County Garden Produce Central Committee', 'The Inland Waterways Association', 'Rural Economy' and 'Growers' Gazette'. Also booklets eg, 'The Full Development of Agriculture' and 'The Manure Notebook'. Also draft articles by other writers, articles, leaflets and correspondence. | 1943-47 |
| D5 | BOOKLET 'Dry Stone Dyking' by Colonel F. Rainsford-Hannay. | 1944 |

E PUBLISHED WORKS

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|----|---|---------|
| E1 | FILE of articles. | 1918-23 |
| E2 | FILE of articles. | 1922-23 |
| E3 | SCRAPBOOK of articles and draft articles. | 1924 |
| E4 | ARTICLE 'Birds and Civilization'. | c1930's |
| E5 | ARTICLE 'The Great Grey Seal'. | c1930's |

F DRAFT COPIES OF WORK

F1	FILE of draft stories entitled 'The Country Comedy'.	c1930's
F2	ARTICLE 'The Carrion Crows of London'.	c1930's
F3	FILE of stories.	c1930's
F4	ARTICLE 'The Desolation of Africa'.	c1930's
F5	ARTICLE 'World of Books'.	c1930's
F6	FILE of stories and correspondence.	c1930's
F7	ARTICLE 'The Season of Silence'.	c1930's

H PHOTOGRAPHS

H1	PHOTOGRAPH of Langford Oxon, Gloucestershire.	c1940's
H2	PHOTOGRAPHS, miscellaneous, relating to agriculture eg, ploughs, people at work. (Some by C.F. Snow).	c1940's
H3	PHOTOGRAPHS of Cotswold Crafts.	c1940's
H4	PHOTOGRAPH possibly from Massingham's house Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.	c1940's
H5	PHOTOGRAPH of a cottage in Broad Campden, Gloucestershire.	c1940's
H6	PHOTOGRAPHS of the 'Eight Bells' in Chipping Campden, (three items).	c1940's
H7	PHOTOGRAPH of cottages at Bibury, Gloucestershire.	c1940's
H8	PHOTOGRAPH of 'Fish' memorial stone, Blockley.	c1940's
H9	PHOTOGRAPHS relating to flax.	c1940's
H10	PHOTOGRAPHS of Fontmell Magna and Fontmell Down (two items).	c1940's
H11	PHOTOGRAPHS showing landscapes (seven items).	c1940's
H12	PHOTOGRAPHS of archaeological objects and sites eg Avebury, Bratton Castle and Merlin's Mount, Marlborough.	c1940's

Associated Material

Museum objects 51/13M - 51/258M (agricultural hand tools and other agricultural objects).

Books by Massingham in Rural History Centre Library.

'The Wisdom of the Fields', 1945.

'Where Man Belongs', 1946.

'A Mirror of England: An Anthology of the writings of H.J. Massingham', (edited by E. Abelson), 1988.