

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

### UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)

R.W. Macan (1848–1941) attended Charterhouse from 1864–7, before becoming a scholar of University College in 1868–1872. He got a First in Classics in Michaelmas 1871. In December 1872 he became a Senior Student at Christ Church. After holding a Hibbert Travelling Scholarship from 1873–5, he became a Tutor at Christ Church in 1876–81. He had to resign his Fellowship there on his marriage, but was not re-elected, allegedly on the grounds of religious unorthodoxy. He then worked as a lecturer at both Brasenose and University College from 1882–4, before being elected as a Tutor and Fellow at University College in 1884. He was a classicist, and his most famous published work was a commentary on Books IV–IX of the *Histories* of Herodotus. In 1906 Macan was elected Master. Macan was a layman, and his election marks a turning point in College history: before 1906 only one layman had served as Master (Antony Gate in 1584–97), but since 1906 only one clergyman (John Wild in 1945–51) has held the post. He retired in 1923, and lived at Boars Hill until his death in 1941. See further Robin Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), pp. 422-47.

In 1881 Macan married his second cousin Mildred Healey, and they had five children, Basil (1882–1915), who was killed in the First World War, Agatha (b. 1884), Dorothea (b. 1886), Eric (1888–1900), and Norah (b. 1890). The evidence of some of Macan's poems suggests that he had been courting her for several years before their marriage.

The following papers include translations of classical texts, poems, and addresses given in University College Chapel. There are also some diaries kept by both Macan and his wife. There are also a few papers from Macan's grandson (and father of the depositor), Denis Vidler, who was at University College in 1933–6.

The greater part of this collection was given to the archives by his great-granddaughter. in April 2004 as Accession No. 511. The only items not from this deposit were **UC:MA43/X1/1**, which were found in the Archives in the summer of 1993, **UC:MA43/MS1/1–8**, which, according to a note on the front page of **UC:MA43/MS1/1**, had been given by Macan to A.S.L. Farquharson, and then passed on to the College Library in 1943, before being transferred to the Archives in February 1996, **UC:MS43/C2/1–4**, which was found in the Bursary Tower, and transferred to the archives in August 2001 as part of Accession No. 275, and **UC:MA43/N1/3** which was again given by Macan's great-granddaughter in January 2016 as Accession No. 1178.

Recatalogued in January 2016.

### UC:MA43/C1 - LETTERS FROM MACAN

#### UC:MA43/C1/1–4

Jan 1888–Apr 1926

Four letters from Macan, respectively to his wife (dated 1 Jan 1888, from 36 St. Margaret's Road), to an unidentified addressee concerning a poem written by Macan to his wife (dated 7 Dec 1909), a letter of recommendation for Gerald Crole (dated 14 Jun 1920), and to "Sylvia" and "Joan" thanking them for a birthday present (dated 1 Apr 1926).

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**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)****UC:MA/43/C2 - LETTERS TO MACAN****UC:MA43/C2/1–4****25 Jul–4 Dec 1922**

Three letters to Macan from J. B. Buckton. Buckton writes concerning an engraving of a portrait of Alfred which was used in “Alfred: A Poem” by John Fitchett, published between 1808 and 1834. The poem is more than 131,000 lines long, and described in the “Oxford Dictionary of National Biography” as a “prodigious monument of misapplied learning and mental energy”. Buckton noted that this engraving was reported as being based on an image at University College. Enclosed with the set of correspondence is a set of ten engravings (others were sent by Buckton, for distribution among the Fellows), made by M. Haughton, and based on a print by George Vertue. These show that the engraving is indeed based on the imagined portrait of King Alfred commissioned by Master Thomas Walker in the 1660s (and reproduced as the frontispiece to “A History of University College, Oxford”, by Robin Darwall-Smith (2008).

**UC:MA43/J1 - DIARIES OF REGINALD AND MILDRED MACAN****UC:MA43/J1/1****27 Jul 1881–5 Dec 1907**

Diary kept by Macan. He began by recording his life in some detail, but by early 1882 he used it merely to record important events in his life, not least his failure to be re-elected to a Tutorship at Christ Church in 1881/2. Over half the book is unused.

**UC:MA43/J1/2****9 Feb 1883–Feb 1895**

Diary in a notebook with “R. B. M.” embossed on the cover, used by Mildred Macan to record the birth and progress of the Macans’ eldest son, Robert Basil Macan, who was born in 1882. Most of the book is unused.

**UC:MA43/J1/3****Dec 1886–Feb 1893**

Diary in a notebook with “D. T. M” embossed on the cover, used by Mildred Macan to record the birth and progress of the Macans’ second daughter, Dorothea, in a similar manner to **J1/2** above. Most of the book is unused.

**UC:MA43/J1/4****Apr 1890–Dec 1897**

Diary in a notebook with “N. M” embossed on the cover, used by Mildred Macan to record the birth and progress of the Macans’ youngest daughter, Norah, in a similar manner to **J1/2** above. Most of the book is unused.

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**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)**

**UC:MA43/J1/5** **15 Dec 1899–23 Sep 1915**

Diary kept by Macan to record the illness and death of his second son Eric in January 1900, with his reflections on the event. Macan also wrote some reflections in it following the death of his other son, Basil, in 1915. Most of the book is unused.

**UC:MA43/J1/6** **1915 & 5 Apr 1918–5 May 1922**

Notebook into which Macan copied two of his poems, one titled "Eucharisteria", dated 13 Jun 1915, and written in memory of the fallen at Ypres. The volume was then used by Mildred Macan as a diary from 1918 until 1922.

**UC:MA43/J1/7–10** **4 Sep 1939–22 Nov 1940**

Four volumes of a "War Diary" kept by Macan during the Second World War to record his reactions to the events around him. He began five volumes, and started a sixth: the second and third volumes are missing. The extant volumes are as follows:

**J1/7:** Volume I (4 Sep–30 Nov 1939).

**J1/8:** Volume IV (17 Jun–18 Aug 1940).

**J1/9:** Volume V (21 Aug–5 Nov 1940).

**J1/10:** Volume VI (7–22 Nov 1940). This volume is unfinished, and has no more entries after 22 Nov 1940, although Macan did not die until March 1941.

**UC:MA43/MS1 -NOTEBOOKS OF MACAN**

**UC:MA43/MS1/1** **14–18 Aug 1882**

Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar I*, containing a prose translation by Macan of Pindar's *Olympian Odes I–VII*. Each translation is dated.

**UC:MA43/MS1/2** **18–26 Aug 1882**

Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar II*, containing a prose translation by Macan of Pindar's *Olympian Odes VIII–XIV*, and *Pythian Odes I–II*.

**UC:MA43/MS1/3** **2–20 Sep 1882**

Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar III*, containing a prose translation by Macan of Pindar's *Pythian Odes III–IX*.

**UC:MA43/MS1/4** **20 Sep–4 Oct 1882**

Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar IV*, containing a prose translation by Macan of Pindar's *Pythian Odes X–XII* and *Nemean Odes I–IX*.

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**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)**

- UC:MA43/MS1/5** 5–10 Oct 1882  
Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar V*, containing a prose translation by Macan of Pindar's *Nemean Odes X–XI*, all the *Isthmian Odes*, and some of fragments 1–76 (Bergk's numbering).
- UC:MA43/MS1/6** 13 Oct 1882  
Notebook inscribed on the cover *Pindar VI*, containing a prose translation by Macan of extracts from the remaining fragments of Pindar's poetry.
- UC:MA43/MS1/7** n.d. (1880s?)  
Notebook inscribed on the cover *Hesiod*, containing notes by Macan on Hesiod's *Works and Days* and *Theogony*.
- UC:MA43/MS1/8** 1880  
Notebook inscribed on the cover *Greek History Lectures*, containing (very rough) lecture notes by Macan upon Greek history in general.

**UC:MA43/MS2 - POEMS BY MACAN**

- C:MA43/MS2/1–15** 1876–1940  
Individual poems of Macan's in manuscript. Most are addressed to his wife.  
**MS2/1:** Poem titled "My Queen", dated 25 Feb 1876.  
**MS2/2:** Poem titled "A merrie sad conceit on Rumble Moor. Easter Day 1878" [i.e. 21 April 1878]  
**MS2/3:** Untitled poem, beginning "Eight suns have made the darkness & the light".... dated 14 Oct 1878, and dedicated to M. E. H. (Mildred Healey).  
**MS2/4:** Poem to Mildred Macan accompanying a cookery book. Dated 25 Mar 1896.  
**MS2/5:** Poem titled "Charterhouse Chapel", dated 2 Apr 1905. It seems to refer to a memorial there erected in memory of one of his relatives.  
**MS2/6:** Letter to Mildred Macan, dated 6 Oct 1905, enclosing a poem he had written the previous night.  
**MS2/7:** Untitled poem, titled "If Satan in a dream appeared to me...", dated 9 Jan 1910.  
**MS2/8:** Poem titled "Weimar 25 July 1911 To MEM!" [ie Mildred Macan]  
**MS2/9:** Poem addressed to a couple whose name is illegible, opening "Oh lover of the mountain and the view", dated 20 Dec 1912.  
**MS2/10:** Untitled poem, opening "O Bury! with what cruel skill...", dated 12 Dec 1925.  
**MS2/11:** Poem titled "William Blake", written following a lecture given by John Masefield on 21 Nov 1929.

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**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)**

**MS2/12:** Poem written by Macan on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, 1 Apr 1930.

**MS2/13:** Poem addressed "To E. W.", dated 1 Apr 1939.

**MS2/14:** Poem titled "Exsurgat Deus", dated 28 May 1940.

**MS2/15:** Untitled and undated poem, opening "Christ heralds me, a pilgrim-band".

**UC:MA43/MS2/16–20****1931–9**

Printed copies of poems by Macan. He seems to have permitted some of his verses to be printed individually, presumably for private circulation.

**MS2/16:** Printed pamphlet containing two sonnets written by Macan to mark his golden wedding on 25 Jul 1931 [found in **UC:MA43/N1/2**].

**MS2/17:** Printed copy of poem titled "Holidays at Harlech" (dated 1932).

**MS2/18:** Printed copy of poem titled "Sunningwell" (dated 1935).

**MS2/19:** Printed copy of poem titled "What one needs" (dated 1939).

**MS2/20:** Printed copy of poem titled "Grace" (undated).

**UC:MA43/MS2/21****1877**

Notebook with hard covers inscribed "Mildred 29 April 1877" on the inside cover, and containing copies of Macan's love poems to Mildred Healey, his future wife, written between 1871 and 1877. An index of first lines has been placed in the front of the book. It is not clear in whose hand these poems have been copied out, because it does not bear much resemblance to Macan's hand.

**UC:MA43/MS2/22****n.d. (after 1933)**

File containing a typescript of Macan's poems written between 1871 and 1933. Many of them are love-poems addressed to his wife Mildred either before or after their marriage. The typescript is continuously paginated (to page 166), so was presumably carried out after 1933 either by or for Macan.

**UC:MA43/MS3 - ESSAYS BY MACAN****UC:MA43/MS3/1–2****Oct–Nov 1872**

Two Essays (or speeches?) by Macan, titled respectively "Reserve" (dated 8 Oct 1872) and "On Friendship" (dated 7 Nov 1872).

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)****UC:MA43/MS4 - ADDRESSES BY MACAN****UC:MA43/MS4/1-19****1906-23**

Texts of addresses delivered by Macan in the College Chapel, as follows. Each address has been put in an envelope, which has been dated. Most of them were delivered at the start of the academic year, and are pieces of advice on the nature of College life, and how to live it to the best.

**MS4/1:** 22 Apr 1906 (on his election as Master).

**MS4/2:** 14 Oct 1906 (given on the first Sunday of the academic year).

**MS4/3:** 13 Oct 1907 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/4:** 26 Apr 1908 (on the British and Foreign Bible Society.).

**MS4/5:** 11 Oct 1908 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/6:** 10 Oct 1909 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/7:** 13 Feb 1910 (on a collection for the building fund of the English Cathedral at Khartoum, and on General Gordon).

**MS4/8:** 8 May 1910 (on the death of Edward VII. A note with this sermon suggests that it was at least intended for publication).

**MS4/9:** 16 Oct 1910 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/10:** 22 Jan 1911 (on the death of Samuel Henry Butcher Fellow 1876-82). With this address is a letter to Macan from F. C. Conybeare, Old Member (matr. 1876) and Fellow 1880-1887, with his memories of Butcher, from which Macan read extracts in his address.

**MS4/11:** 15 Oct 1911 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/12:** 13 Oct 1912 (as in **MS4/2** above, on the theme of Sunday Observances).

**MS4/13:** 12 Oct 1913 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/14:** Feb 1914 (on a forthcoming Mission to the University).

**MS4/15:** 27 Apr 1919 (on the end of the First World War).

**MS4/16:** 16 Jan 1921 (given on the first Sunday in the calendar year).

**MS4/17:** 16 Oct 1921 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/18:** 16 Oct 1922 (as in **MS4/2** above).

**MS4/19:** 11 Mar 1923 (given on his retirement as Master).

**UC:MA43/N1 - PUBLICATIONS OF MACAN****UC:MA43/N1/1****1877**

Printed booklet containing testimonials collected by Macan for an (unsuccessful) application to become Principal of Bristol University. Referees include G. G. Bradley, Master of University College 1870-81, and James Franck Bright, Master 1880-1906.

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**UC:MA43 Papers of Reginald Walter Macan (Master 1906-23)**

**UC:MA43/N1/2** 1928

Copy of Macan's translations into Latin verse of the Collects used in the liturgy of the Church of England. This was Macan's own copy, and has been annotated by him.

**UC:MA43/N1/3** n.d. (1925)

Printed Christmas Carol titled "Carolette", words by Macan, and music by Haldane Campbell Stewart, Organist of Magdalen College 1919–38 & 1941–2. The work is dedicated to Magdalen College. It was published by Oxford University Press in 1925.

**UC:MA43/P1 - PHOTOGRAPH OF MACAN**

**UC:MA43/P1/1** n.d. (1920s?)

Booklet from Elliott & Fry, photographers, containing three photographs of Macan (a fourth one has been removed).

**UC:MA43/X1 -DINNER MENUS**

**UC:MA43/X1/1** 25 Mar 1924

Four copies of a menu for a dinner to mark the presentation of a portrait of Macan by M. Greiffenhagen (which still hangs in the Hall).

**UC:MA43/X2 - COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**

**UC:MA43/X2/1** c.1915

Commemorative medal given to Macan's family by the Government in memory of Robert Basil Macan, Macan's son who was killed in 1915.

**UC:MA43/X3 - EPHEMERA CONCERNING MACAN'S DEATH**

**UC:MA43/X3/1** Mar 1941

Proof (corrected) of order of service for Macan's funeral in University College Chapel on 29 Mar 1941 [found in **UC:MA43/N1/2**].

**UC:MA43/X3/2** Summer 1941

Copy of *Oxford Vol.* VII no. 3, containing an obituary of Macan by A. S. L. Farquharson.

**UC:MA43/X4 - PAPERS FROM DENIS VIDLER**

Denis Vidler (1914–99), father of the depositor of Acc. 511, and a grandson of Macan, was at University College in 1933–6, where he got a Second in History. From 1937–53 he worked in the Sudan, and then joined the Personnel Department of Courtaulds.

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- UC:MA43/X4/1-2** **24 Jun 1936**  
Dinner menu and dance card for the 1936 Commemoration Ball.
- UC:MA/43/X4/3** **9 Mar 1936**  
Handwritten menu for a private dinner, signed by some of those present.
- UC:MA43/X4/4** **1979**  
Typescript of an article by Vidler published in the *University College Record* of 1979 as "The Last Master but Six", a memoir of Macan based on some of the items in this collection, especially the addresses in **UC:MA43/MS4** above.