

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

### UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)

Michael Ernest Sadler (1861–1943) is best known for his work as an educationalist. While a Student of Christ Church, he was deeply involved in University Extension, and he went on to work in the Education Department. He was Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, and for a while president of the Calcutta University Commission. Outside his work, he took a great interest in contemporary art. He was well acquainted with many leading artists of the day, and collected their work extensively.

Before becoming Master, he had had no links with University College, and it has been suggested that he was elected as a compromise candidate between A.B. Poynton and A.S.L. Farquharson.

Several papers of Sir Michael now remain at University College, but the great majority are to be found in the Bodleian Library. Those preserved here consist of correspondence concerning the re-allocation of professorial chairs in the 1920s, papers concerning the General Strike of 1926, historical notes on University College, correspondence with Sir Ninian Comper, papers on a lecture delivered in Greek by A.B. Poynton, notes for an unfinished life of Obadiah Walker and correspondence on the gift of the Robert Ross Memorial Collection.

The Walker papers were given to the College after Sadler's death, but it is not known how or when the rest came into the archives. They were all found in the archives in summer 1993, with the exception of **UC:MA44/7/C1/1**, which was found among the papers of the Estates Bursary in December 1993, and transferred to the archives in the summer of 1996, **UC:MA44/8/C2/1**, which was transferred to the archives in July and August 2001 as part of Accession No. 275, and **UC:MA44/9/MS1/1**, which was transferred to the archives in May 2006 as Accession No. 666. The resulting collection seems to be a random sample of Sadler's working papers whilst he was Master of the College, and there is no indication of why these papers should have been preserved at the expense of others.

#### Bibliography:

- R. Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), Chapter 18.  
 L. Grier, *Achievement in Education: The Work of Michael Ernest Sadler 1885–1935* (London, 1952).  
 O.S. Pickering. *Sir Michael Sadler; A Bibliography of his Published Works* (Leeds 1982).  
 Michael Sadleir. *Michael Ernest Sadler; A Memoir by his Son* (London 1949).

Recatalogued in October 2020.

### UC:MA44/1 - PAPERS CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF PROFESSORS AMONG THE COLLEGES, 1924–1926

In the mid-1920s, it was decided to re-allocate professorial chairs among the colleges, to ensure a more even distribution, especially among the newer colleges. There was, unsurprisingly, much debate about how this should be done. Sadler took much interest in these plans (in particular he campaigned successfully for the College to get the Chair of Jurisprudence), and these papers show the depth of his involvement.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

- UC:MA44/1/C/1–15** **12 Mar 1924–26 Feb 1926**  
 Various letters to and from Sadler concerning the allocation of professorial chairs, with especial reference to the Chair of Jurisprudence.
- UC:MA44/1/MS1/1–8** **17 Mar 1924–27 Feb 1926**  
 Typed memoranda expressing the views of Sadler and the Fellows of University College concerning the allocation of professorial chairs. There is also a list of all the Stowell Law Fellows from 1837 to 1920.
- UC:MA44/1/MS2/1–12** **22 Mar 1924–26 Feb 1926**  
 MS memoranda by Sadler on the allocation of professorships, including drafts of some of **MA44/1/MS1** above.
- UC:MA44/1/MS3/1–10** **17 Mar 1924–1 Mar 1926**  
 Miscellaneous rough notes by Sadler on the professorships, including his notes of meetings which he attended on the matter. One of these was the meeting where the Chair of Jurisprudence was at last given to University College.
- UC:MA44/1/P/1–9** **28 May 1924–31 Oct 1925**  
 Printed circular letters from the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford concerning drafts of allocation of professorial chairs.

**UC:MA44/2 - DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE  
 AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

Although there is no specific indication of this, it seems most probably that these documents were assembled by Sadler himself; aside from his own diary of the strike, there are several letters addressed to him, and several items which would most suitably have been sent to him. This collection is therefore listed here.

Readers should compare **UC:P34/14–15** and **17**, in which Old Members set down their memories of the General Strike many years later.

- UC:MA44/2/MS/1** **3 May 1926**  
 Typed Circular from the Oxford Trades & Labour Council appealing to undergraduates not to break the strike.
- UC:MA44/2/X1/1–2** **May 1926**  
 2 Printed Notices from the Vice-Chancellor concerning the enrolment of undergraduates wishing to do voluntary work during the Strike.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

- UC:MA44/2/X2/1-2** **May 1926**  
2 Notices from the L.M.S. Railway, one containing instructions concerning driving trains during the strike, the other giving a timetable of emergency train services for 11-13 May.
- UC:MA44/2/X2/3** **2 Jun 1926**  
Printed Circular from the L.M.S. Railway concerning the effects of the General Strike on its services. Enclosed with it is an covering letter from the Chairman of the L.M.S.
- UC:MA44/2/X3/1** **May 1926**  
Pamphlet prepared by the Mayor of Oxford concerning the Emergency Organisation which took place in Oxford during the General Strike.
- UC:MA44/2/X3/2** **27 May 1926**  
Leaflet with copy of a notice in the *Oxford University Gazette* from the Vice-Chancellor acknowledging the many letters of thanks he had received for the work done by Oxford undergraduates during the General Strike.
- UC:MA44/2/MS2/1** **11 May 1926**  
List of the undergraduates left in College after all the others had gone off on service duty during the strike.
- UC:MA44/2/MS2/2** **3-16 May 1926**  
6 notices from D.L. Keir, Dean of University College, concerning arrangements for undergraduates going on national service.
- UC:MA44/2/MS2/3** **n.d. (May 1926)**  
List of members of University College, with the National service numbers which they were assigned.
- UC:MA44/2/J/1** **May 1926**  
Typescript diary kept by Sadler during the General Strike, describing in detail the reactions to it among both the College and the University. Included among his diary are several circulars addressed to heads of colleges, Sadler's notes on a meeting of heads of colleges.
- UC:MA44/2/C/1** **10 May 1926**  
Letter to Sadler signed by F.F. Fawcett, A.J.C. Hoskyns-Abrahall, Francis R. Lovell and G.H. Bateman, on their work as dockers in Southampton, with a copy of Sadler's telegram sent in reply.
- UC:MA44/2/C/2** **13 May 1926**  
Letter to Sadler from T.D. Trouncer about his work as a special constable during the General Strike.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

- UC:MA44/2/C/3** 18 Jun 1926  
Account by Baron Perenyi of his work during the General Strike as a docker at Hays Wharf.
- UC:MA44/2/C/4** 1926  
Account by B.T. Squires of his journey from Oxford to Hull during the General Strike.
- UC:MA44/2/C/5** 1926  
Detailed account by B.G. Fell of his work on the trains during the General Strike.

**UC:MA44/3 - HISTORICAL NOTES ON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

- UC:MA44/3/MS/1** n.d. (c.1920s?)  
Draft guide to University College written by Sadler. Date unknown. Typescript with MS corrections by Sadler.
- UC:MA44/3/MS/2** 8 Oct–20 Oct 1927  
Notes (with correspondence with G.H. Stevenson and A.S.L. Farquharson) concerning the roles of Tutors and Praelectors at University College (5 items).

**UC:MA44/4 - CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR NINIAN COMPER**

- UC:MA44/4/C/1/1–7** 11 Nov–28 Nov 1927  
Seven letters between Sir Michael Sadler and Ninian Comper, concerning the possibility of altering Gilbert Scott's window in the College Chapel. Since Sadler's letters are originals, and Comper's only carbons, these letters may have come from Comper, but there is no explanatory document with the letters.

**UC:MA44/5 - PAPERS CONCERNING A GREEK LECTURE DELIVERED BY A.B. POYNTON IN JANUARY 1928**

On 25 Jan 1928, A.B. Poynton (later Sadler's successor as Master of University College) delivered a lecture in Greek on Isocrates at University College. Such a lecture was highly unusual, and Sadler, who seems to have been instrumental in persuading Poynton to give the lecture, preserved this collection of papers about the event.

- UC:MA44/5/C/1** 1927–1928  
Five letters from Poynton to Sadler, all concerning preparations for the lecture.
- UC:MA44/5/C/2** 6 Nov 1927–2 Feb 1928  
10 letters to or from Sadler to various correspondents (the Vice-Chancellor, Gilbert Murray, Reginald Macan, Cyril Bailey,

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

C.M. Chilcott, P.S. Allen, A.S. Barnes, A.W. Pickard-Cambridge and J.L. Garvin), all concerning the lecture.

- UC:MA44/5/C/3** **31 Jan–9 Feb 1928**  
Four letters to Sadler from the Greek Ambassador, N. Butler, Lord Chief Justice Hewart and on behalf of Stanley Baldwin, all thanking him for printed copies of Poynton's lecture.
- UC:MA44/5/MS/1** **n.d. (1927)**  
Notes by Sadler on the order of establishment of Greek studies at Oxford Colleges, and the pronunciation of Greek.
- UC:MA44/5/MS/2** **27 Jan 1928**  
TS and MS of article written by Sadler for the Observer.
- UC:MA44/5/N/1–10** **20 Jan–4 Feb 1928**  
Cuttings from *The Times* (20/1/28, 26/1/28 [two parts], 30/1/28, 1/2/28 and 4/2/28), *The Morning Post* (20/1/28 and 26/1/28), the *Daily Telegraph* (20/1/1928) and the *Manchester Guardian* (20/1/28), all concerning Poynton's lecture.
- UC:MA44/5/X/1** **10 Nov 1927**  
Circular from Sadler to the Fellows of University College asking their opinion on the planned lecture.
- UC:MA44/5/X/2** **25 Jan 1928**  
Formal notice of A.B. Poynton's Lecture.

**UC:MA44/6 - PAPERS CONNECTED WITH SADLER'S PLANNED LIFE OF OBADIAH WALKER**

Obadiah Walker was Master of University College in 1676–1689, and was one of the most prominent Roman Catholic supporters of James II. Walker's own papers (left behind when he had to flee the College after James' fall) may be found at **UC:MA30**. Sadler planned to write a biography of his predecessor, but work on it had not progressed beyond a few notes and transcripts by the time of his death. The exact date of their transfer to the College is unknown, but the correspondence **6/C2** below suggests that it had arrived by 1951.

**UC:MA44/6/C1 - SADLER'S CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING HIS WORK ON WALKER**

- UC:MA44/6/C/1** **4 Nov 1927–13 Dec 1941**  
Letters to, and copies of letters from Sadler concerning his work on Walker. Topics covered include attempts to find traces of his Catholic chapel in the college, searches for books published by Walker on his printing press (including ones by Walker himself and Abraham Woodhead) and obtaining

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

transcripts of documents concerning Walker or Woodhead [93 items].

**UC:MA44/6/C/2****13–20 Oct 1930**

Correspondence concerning meetings of Stone's Hospital (with which Walker was once involved) [6 items].

**UC:MA44/6/C2 - LETTERS CONCERNING SADLER'S WORK ON WALKER****UC:MA44/6/C2/1****6 Feb 1951–4 Apr 1952**

Correspondence concerning Sadler's work on Walker after its arrival at University College [15 items].

**UC:MA44/6/MS - NOTES BY SADLER FOR HIS LIFE OF WALKER****UC:MA44/6/MS/1–3****n.d. (c.1930–1940?)**

Three notebooks containing transcripts (not by Sadler) of manuscripts in the Bodleian Library connected with Obadiah Walker. Most of them are transcripts from the Ballard MSS, which contain many letters to Arthur Charlett, Master of University College in 1692–1722.

**UC:MA44/6/MS/4****n.d. (c.1930–1940?)**

Notebook containing a chronology of Walker's life by Sadler, and lists of books published by Abraham Woodhead and Walker.

**UC:MA44/6/MS/5****4 Nov 1927–17 Dec 1941**

Collection of notes by Sadler on Obadiah Walker. Some are very scrappy, others are fuller, but none of them amount even to draft sections of his planned biography. Some, but not all, of these notes are dated exactly by Sadler [86 items].

**UC:MA44/6/MS/6****n.d. (c.1930–1940?)**

Transcription in an unknown hand of Obadiah Walker's will, dated 27 Jun 1698 and proved 4 Nov 1700.

**UC:MA44/6/MS/7****n.d. (c.1930–1940?)**

Typescript of extracts from "An Account of the General Nursery or Colledg of Infants set up ... for the County of Middlesex" by R. L'Estrange, published in 1686.

**UC:MA44/6/MS/8****n.d. (c.1930–1940?)**

Typescript of an extract from Macauley's *History* in which he mentions Obadiah Walker.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)**

- UC:MA44/6/MS/9** n.d. (c.1930–1940?)  
Typescript of extracts from William Pittis, *Dr. Radcliffe's Life and Letters* (4th ed. 1736), which concern Radcliffe's relations with Walker [6 items].
- UC:MA44/6/MS/10** 1941–1942  
Correspondence and transcripts of some of William Smith's transcripts of Obadiah Walker's papers (see **UC:MA30**), and the Abraham Woodhead manuscripts of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society [99 items].
- UC:MA44/6/MS/11** n.d. (c.1930–1940?)  
Transcript of Vol. X of the Journal of the House of Commons, recording the trial of Walker in 1689.
- UC:MA44/6/MS/12** 1933–1934  
Transcript of an extract from Joseph Glanvill's *The Vanity of Dogmatizing*, containing a passage concerning the "Scholar Gipsy", with correspondence about the same.
- UC:MA44/6/MS/13** n.d. (after 1943)  
List of Sadler's papers relating to Obadiah Walker, all of which was found during cataloguing [2 pages].

**UC:MA44/6/PR - PRINTED BOOKS CONNECTED WITH WALKER**

- UC:MA44/6/PR/1** 24 Jan 1927–18 Jan 1937  
Newspaper cuttings and other ephemera (including a concert programme) collected by Sadler in his work on Walker [19 items].
- UC:MA44/6/PR/2** Sep 1929–Oct 1939  
Collection of antiquarian booksellers' catalogues, annotated by Sadler where there were books connected in some way with Walker (including books possibly printed in his press) [11 items].
- UC:MA44/6/PR/3** 1930–1937  
Editions of journals containing articles thought relevant by Sadler to his work on Walker [4 items].
- UC:MA44/6/PR/4** 1781  
Copy of *La Civilité qui se pratique en France parmi les honnêtes gens*, published in Orleans. It is not clear why this booklet came to be among these papers.



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

### UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)

#### UC:MA44/7 - PAPERS ON THE ROBERT ROSS MEMORIAL COLLECTION

The Robert Ross Memorial Collection is an extensive collection of books by and about Oscar Wilde. The collection was assembled, not by Robert Ross, but by a certain Walter Ledger, a friend of Ross. It seems that the collection had been offered to Magdalen College (Wilde's old college), but was refused. On Ledger's death in December 1931, he appointed as executor a friend called Donald Cree, instructing him to give the collection to some body of a semi-public nature, and to keep the collection together.

Cree, who was an old Member of University College, and wrote to Sadler, as Master, asking whether the College was interested or not. Eventually, after much thought, Sadler (who knew Ross himself) accepted the gift on behalf of the College, and then had it deposited with the Bodleian Library.

The Robert Ross Memorial Collection (the name was given by Ledger) is one of the most important collections of its kind on Wilde, and Sadler's willingness to accept it for the College, at a time when Wilde's reputation was still under a cloud, reflects very well on him.

In 2013 the Robert Ross Memorial Collection was returned to the Library of University College. All enquiries about the contents of the Collection, or about access to it, should be addressed to the Library.

See further R.H. Darwall-Smith 'An Oscar for Master Sadler: the Acquisition of the Robert Ross Memorial Collection', *University College Record*, Vol. XII no. 1 (1997), pp.46–54.

#### UC:MA44/7/C1/1

13 Jan–29 Mar 1932

File of letters and papers collected by Sadler connected with the gift of the Robert Ross Memorial Collection to University College. The letters are all addressed to Sadler, or are copies of his replies. Correspondents include Donald Cree, and the Bodleian Library. Other papers include Ledger's conditions for the bequest, memoirs of Ledger by Cree and a copy of the announcement of the gift which was included in the *University College Record*. This last item is notable for its careful omission of any mention of Oscar Wilde (49 items).

#### UC:MA44/8 - OTHER PAPERS RELATING TO SADLER'S WORK AS MASTER

[Note: some copies of tutorial lists annotated by Sadler between 1926 and 1932 were originally listed here, but it was found that they ought to be included with the other tutorial lists at **UC:J7**]

#### UC:MA44/8/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE ON A COLLEGE SQUASH COURT

In 1924, James Terry gave money to University College because of his son, another James, who had matriculated there in 1922, to build a squash court in the College grounds. It was decided to erect a court to the east of Durham Buildings 2 & 3, and the court was opened in 1926. The court was demolished in the early 1960s to make way for the Goodhart Building, which was designed to include a new squash court in its basement.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952





## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)****UC:MA44/8/C1/1****9 Dec 1924–27 Apr 1926**

Folder of correspondence concerning the gift of money from James Terry for the construction of a new squash court in the College. It was built on part of the site of a yard leased by the College to Walford and Spokes. It is not clear who actually designed the court, but the architect A. S. G. Butler was consulted during this process. Correspondents include Sir Michael Sadler, Mr. Terry, A. B. Poynton, A. S. G. Butler, and Walford and Spokes [36 items]

**UC:MA44/8/C1/2****n.d. (c. 1925)**

Plan of the yard to the east of Durham Buildings, used by Walford and Spokes  
**Draughtsman:** Unknown; presumably Walford and Spokes  
**Scale:** Not given  
**Size:** 330 by 210 mm  
**Inscribed:** [Uninscribed, but surrounding buildings are labelled]  
**Signed:** [Unsigned]  
**Dated:** [Undated]  
**Medium:** Pencil, with blue, pink, grey and brown washes  
**Support:** Headed and lined notepaper of Walford and Spokes  
**Format:** 1 sheet  
**Notes:** Part of this yard was to be the site of the squash court.

**UC:MA44/8/C2 - CORRESPONDENCE ON THE HORACE WADDINGTON COIN COLLECTION****UC:MA44/8/C2/1****19 Jun 1932–21 Nov 1933**

Correspondence file relating to the donation to University College of the coin collection assembled by Horace Waddington (matr. 1853). The letters are mostly between Sadler himself, Waddington's widow Ruth, and members of the Ashmolean Museum. Waddington had served as an inspector in the Education Department, and in retirement, assembled this collection (more on his life may be found in the *University College Record*, 1929/30 pp. 30–1). On his death in 1930, he endowed a Classics Scholarship to the College, but also bequeathed his collection of coins. This was then placed on revocable loan with the Ashmolean Museum. [26 items]

**UC:MA44/9 - PAPERS ON THE SADLER CONVERSATION PIECE**

By the time that Sadler retired as Master in 1934, it had become customary for Fellows and Old Members to join together in subscribing for a portrait of a Master either just before or at the point of his retirement. Sadler, however, did not want a portrait of himself, and instead requested a conversation piece of himself and the Fellows. This was done, and the picture now (2006) hangs in the Winter Common Room. In addition, a bronze bust of Sadler was made, which now (2006) lives in the Hall.

Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: [Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk) T: +44 (0)1865 276 952



## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA44 Papers of Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923-34)****UC:MA44/9/P1 - REPRODUCTIONS OF THE CONVERSATION PIECE****UC:MA44/9/P1/1-4****1934**

Four black and white reproductions of the conversation piece of Sir Michael Sadler and the Fellows of University College, by F. H. Shepherd. The Master and Fellows are seen seated in the Winter Common Room, and are distributed as follows: Back row, left to right: David Lindsey Keir (Fellow 1921–39), Ernest Ainley Walker (Fellow 1899–1938), Arthur Gardner (Old Member (matr. 1903) and Fellow 1927–48), George Cole (Fellow 1925–44), John Maud (Fellow 1932–9, and later Master 1963–76), Arthur Goodhart (Fellow 1931–51 and later Master 1951–63), and John Wild (Fellow 1933–45 and later Master 1945–51).

Front row, left to right: Edmund Bowen (Fellow 1922–65), Arthur Poynton (Fellow 1894–1935 and later Master 1935–7), Sir Michael Sadler (Master 1923–34), Arthur Farquharson (Old Member (matr. 1890) and Fellow 1899–1942), Edgar Carritt (Fellow 1898–1945), George Stevenson (Fellow 1906–49), and Kenneth Leys (Fellow 1908–42).

A bust of King Alfred (now in the Library), and the engravings of William Jones and Samuel Johnson (still in the Room) can also be seen in the picture.

**MC:MA44/9/MS1 - DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE CONVERSATION PIECE****UC:MA44/9/MS1/1****1934**

First page (in poor condition) of the list of subscribers to the conversation piece. Only names from A–K are preserved.

**UC:MA44/10 - PORTRAIT SKETCH OF SADLER****UC:MA44/10/P1/1****1920s–1930s?**

Pen and ink drawing (or print), identified on the back as being an portrait of Michael Sadler by Powys Evans (1899–1981). Evans was well-known as a caricaturist, under the pen name “Quiz”, but did some more serious sketches in the 1920s and 1930s.

It is not known whether this portrait was owned by Sadler himself, or came to the College by some other means.