

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

### UC:MA46 Papers of Sir William Henry Beveridge (Master 1937-45)

#### INTRODUCTION

William Henry Beveridge (1879–1963) had been an undergraduate at Balliol College, but in 1902 was elected to a Stowell Law Fellowship at University College, tenable for seven years. Although his Fellowship was in Law, Beveridge quickly developed a greater interest in social welfare and the social sciences, becoming involved with Toynbee Hall, and he always remained grateful to University College for permitting him to retain his Fellowship despite this change of career.

On the expiry of his Fellowship, Beveridge joined the Civil Service, where he worked during the First World War, receiving a knighthood. From 1919 until 1937 he was then Director of the London School of Economics.

In 1937 he returned to University College as Master. Not long after his arrival there, Beveridge was joined by his long term colleague and companion, Jessy Mair, who had been his Secretary at the LSE. In 1942, on the death of her husband, Mrs. Mair married Beveridge, and became Janet, Lady Beveridge. Unfortunately the testimony of former Fellows, students, or staff suggests that they found Lady Beveridge overbearing and interfering, and she was not popular with them.

Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, Beveridge tried to return to Whitehall, not wholly successfully. However, he was eventually put in charge of writing a report into the co-ordination of social services. The Beveridge Report, published in 1942, proved an unexpected and popular success, for its optimistic vision of a postwar Britain with a comprehensive social security system, and it made Beveridge a national figure for the first time in his life.

In 1944 Beveridge stood for Parliament for the constituency of Berwick-upon-Tweed. The Fellows of University College had for some time been unhappy that Beveridge's London responsibilities had taken him away from his College duties, so that for much College business came to be handled by a Vice-Master. Beveridge's decision to enter politics was for them the last straw, and they therefore told Beveridge that he had to choose between being an MP and remaining as Master of the College. Beveridge chose to resign the Mastership, but then lost his parliamentary seat in 1945. He was, however, made a peer, as Baron Beveridge of Tuggall.

During their last years, the Beveridges were tenants of the College, occupying a flat in 104 Woodstock Road. Beveridge's sometimes very disputatious correspondence with the Estates Bursary of the College about his tenancy can be found at **UC:EB7/50/C1/1-2**.

The greater part of Beveridge's papers are to be found at the LSE. This collection forms a mixture of papers about his College work, some material from his time in Northumberland, a few papers from his time at the LSE, and some material relating to Lady Beveridge. There are no papers here relating to the Beveridge Report of 1942.

At this date the College Secretary dealt with the Master's correspondence as well as general College correspondence, and therefore there are some correspondence files which include

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letters from Beveridge among the papers from the College Office (see **UC:CO1/1/A1-A2**, **UC:CO1/8/A1/1-3**, **UC:CO1/14/A1/1-4** and **UC:CO1/15/A1/1**).

Further Reading:

Jose Harris, *William Beveridge: A Biography* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford, 1997).

Robin Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), pp. 452-74.

The papers in this collection were given to the archives at various times:

**UC:MA46/A1/1-10** were given to given to the archives at an unknown date.

**UC:MA46/MS1/1-2** and **UC:MA46/F1/1-4** were found by the Librarian and the Archivist among some of Beveridge's books and transferred from the Library in November 1999 as Accession no. 186.

**UC:MA46/P1/1-2** were part of a collection of papers transferred from the Works Department in September 2000 as Accession No. 276.

**UC:MA46/P2/1** and **UC:MA46/N1/1-2** were found in the cellars under the New Building in the 1980s, and transferred to the archives in August 2014 as Accession No. 1108.

Catalogued in January 2020.

### UC:MA46/A1 - MASTER'S FILES ON COLLEGE BUSINESS, 1940-3

These files were found in a box file inscribed *Closed Files 6. College Papers M. T. 1940-M. T. 1943*. They form a series of files on College meetings and related papers which had been prepared for Beveridge, presumably by Lucia Turin, then College Secretary, in 1940-3. They mostly comprise papers about College meetings, especially agendas and some agenda papers, lists of College members, and Tutorial Lists, with candid comments by Beveridge on individual students. There is some correspondence, most of which arises from College meetings. There is also material within these papers on life in the College and the University during the Second World War.

#### UC:MA46/A1/1

**Michaelmas Term 1940**

File inscribed "College Papers M.T. 1940". Extra subjects discussed here include the St. Simon and St. Jude's Feast, air raid protection, and members of Merton and Keble living in the College.

#### UC:MA46/A1/2

**Hilary Term 1941**

File inscribed "College Papers H. T 1941". Extra subjects discussed here include the St. Cuthbert's Day Feast (with a letter from J. B. Priestley), and correspondence with the Lord Chancellor (Lord Simon) about dispensing Beveridge from residency duties.

#### UC:MA46/A1/3

**Trinity Term 1941**

File inscribed "College Papers T.T. 1941".

#### UC:MA46/A1/4

**Michaelmas Term 1941**

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File inscribed "College Papers M.T. 1941". Extra subjects discussed here include the offering from Eton of a cast of a bust of Percy Shelley (including letters from Hugh Cecil, Lord Quickswood).

**UC:MA46/A1/5****Hilary Term 1942**

File inscribed "College Papers H.T. 1942".

**UC:MA46/A1/6****Trinity Term 1942**

File inscribed "College Papers T.T. 1942". Extra subjects discussed here include the death of Richard Holdsworth in a flying accident.

**UC:MA46/A1/7****Michaelmas Term 1942**

File inscribed "College Papers M.T. 1942". Extra subjects discussed here include plans for the Master's activities on the completion of his report.

**UC:MA46/A1/8****Hilary Term 1943**

File inscribed "College Papers H.T. 1943". Extra subjects discussed here include the creation of a post of Vice-Master or Pro-Master.

**UC:MA46/A1/9****Trinity Term 1943**

File inscribed "College Papers T.T. 1943".

**UC:MA46/A1/10****Michaelmas Term 1943**

File inscribed "College Papers M.T. 1943".

**UC:MA46/MS1 - FILES OF NOTES ON THE COAL INDUSTRY AND FOOD AND PRICES****UC:MA46/MS1/1****n.d. (1920s?)**

Small loose-leaf file, owned by Beveridge when he was at the London School of Economics. They contain very rough notes on food and food prices during and immediately after the First World War.

**UC:MA46/MS1/2****n.d. (1925/6)**

Small loose-leaf file, used by Beveridge, according to a note on the front, when he was a member of the coal industry commission, which took place in 1925/6. The file contains detailed notes on various aspects of the coal industry.

**UC:MA46/F1 - ACCOUNTS AND RELATED PAPERS CONCERNING TUGGAL HALL, 1940s****UC:MA46/F1/1****1930-4 & 1945-7**

Notebook inscribed "Telephone Book" on cover. The first part of it appears to record letters sent to Beveridge at the LSE between July 1930 and November 1934. Then the book was reused in 1945 to record telephone numbers, once, it seems, the Beveridges had taken up residence in Northumberland. At the end of the book is a list of telephone calls made between October 1946 and June 1947. Most of the book is unused.

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**UC:MA46 Papers of Sir William Henry Beveridge (Master 1937-45)****UC:MA46/F1/2** 1945-7

Exercise book inscribed "Housekeeping Book" on cover, in the same hand as the inscription on **UC:MA46/F1/1** above.

**UC:MA46/F1/3** 1948-50

Notebook used first to record sales of fruit and vegetables from the Beveridges' garden, and then to record the payment of wages to their staff.

**UC:MA46/F1/4** 1949-50

Papers concerning staff employed by the Beveridges at Tuggal Hall. These comprise records of hours worked by staff, and correspondence on the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Squires [21 items]

**UC:MA46/P1 - PHOTOGRAPHS OF BEVERIDGE****UC:MA46/P1/1-2** 1959?

Two black and white photographs of Lord Beveridge, one showing him with Arthur Goodhart on the presentation of his portrait in 1959, the other showing him sitting in a chair with a cat on his lap.

**Photographer:** Unknown.

**Size:** 160 by 230 mm and 230 by 165 mm.

**UC:MA46/P2 - PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM, PRESUMABLY OF LADY BEVERIDGE****UC:MA46/P2/1** n.d. (Late 19<sup>th</sup> century)

Photograph album. This is uninscribed, and almost all the sitters unidentified, but many of the photographs are taken by photographers based in Dundee or Edinburgh. Also, at least two of the people are identified on the back as belonging to the Mair family. It is therefore thought that this album belonged to David or Jessy Mair around the time of their marriage and early life together.

**UC:MA46/N1 - SCRAPBOOKS APPARENTLY COMPILED BY LADY BEVERIDGE**

On account of their contents, and the appearance of Beveridge in one of them, both these scrapbooks appear to have been kept by Mrs. Mair.

**UC:MA46/N1/1** 1914-15

Scrapbook containing press cuttings on the treatment of prisoners of war in the early years of the First World War.

**UC:MA46/N1/2** 1921-3

Scrapbook containing press cuttings relating to Beveridge's intervention in the coal dispute of 1921 and articles by and about him, mainly in the *Glasgow Herald*, on the state of Austria in 1923.

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