

## UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

**UC:MA45 Papers of Arthur Blackbourne Poynton (Master 1935-7)**

Arthur Blackbourne Poynton (1867–1944) read Classics at Balliol College, winning a First both in Mods in 1887 and in Greats in 1889. In 1887 he was also awarded the Hertford Scholarship. On completing his Finals, he was elected a Fellow of Hertford College in 1889, but in 1894, he migrated to a Fellowship at University College, where he remained for the rest of his working life.

Poynton's main post at University College was as Praelector in Greek, and his pupils (who included E. R. Dodds, a future Regius Professor of Greek) wrote of his remarkable understanding of both Greek and Latin, especially in his skills in translating into and writing in both languages. His greatest contribution to the College, however, lay in his work as Bursar. He was elected Bursar in 1900, handling both the estates and domestic duties of this post, until 1926, when the separate post of Domestic Bursar was created, leaving Poynton as Estates Bursar.

Poynton had hoped to be elected Master in 1923, and there are many hints that he was disappointed to lose to Sir Michael Sadler. In 1935, however, Poynton was at last elected Master. Aged 68, he was elected in the knowledge that he would have to retire after two years, and his election appears more than anything else to have been a gracious compliment to his great contribution to the College. Poynton was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College on his leaving the Mastership in 1937. He died in October 1944 after being knocked down by a car when crossing the High Street.

In addition to his College work, Poynton was Senior Proctor in 1902, a Curator of the Bodleian Library from 1912–37, and Public Orator from 1925–32. Like many Oxford dons of this time, he published little apart from some of his official speeches, an edition of Cicero's *Pro Milone* (1892; reprinted several times), and *Flosculi latini, tam filo quam colore praestantes* (1920; reprinted 1922), an anthology of Latin texts intended to help students in writing Latin Prose Composition.

Poynton's retirement occurred when the College's Library was undergoing a major renovation, with the installation of an upper storey. At the request of the major benefactor to the project, John Burn (matr. 1883), the new room thus created was called the Poynton Reading Room, and a portrait of him by William Rothenstein hung there.

Poynton's presence is all-pervasive through the College's archives during the first four decades of the twentieth century. In particular, there are a great many papers created by or for him in his capacity as Bursar from this time which may be found in various places in **UC:BU**, **UC:EB**, and in various of the collections of individual properties. The few papers brought together here about Poynton, however, relate to his activities as a Fellow, as a Classics tutor and as a Master.

Poynton also presented some of his papers to the Bodleian Library, namely a fair copy of his notes towards an edition of the *Scholion* of Joannes Siceliota on Hermogenes, *On ideas* (MS. Gr. class. c. 101), and a duplicated typescript of an article by Poynton on 'Gregory of Nazianzus and the Greek rhetoricians. (A supplement to the index of Walz, *Rhetores graeci*, ix)' (MS Gr. misc. d. 5).

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Of the papers in this collection, **UC:MA45/A2/1–2**, **UC:MA45/C1/1**, **UC:MA45/C2/1–5**, **UC:MA45/N1/1** were transferred from the Estates Bursary to the archives in July and August 2001 as part of Accession No. 275. All other material was found in the archives during the stocktaking of 1993.

Further reading:

Robin Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), pp. 416–17, 447–8, 451, and 452–4.

Catalogued in February 2021.

**UC:MA45/A1 - GOVERNING BODY PAPERS****UC:MA45/A1/1** **1893–1930**

Guardbook containing Poynton's papers for Governing Body meetings. These comprise printed agendas (often heavily annotated by Poynton), and, after he became Bursar, reports on College finances which he used for presentations to the Master and Fellows. These papers form important additions to the official Governing Body minutes.

**UC:MA45/A2 - PAPERS ON CLASSICS****UC:MA45/A2/1** **1908**

Book (covers now lost) with names of exam candidates, each one with marks awarded for Latin and Greek Prose Composition by A. B. Poynton, often with his blunt comments on their quality. Undated, but internal evidence shows it almost certainly refers to the candidates for Classics Mods of 1908.

**UC:MA45/A2/2** **1910**

Printed lists of candidates for the Literae Humaniores exams of 1910. Poynton has written a Greek letter by each name. These do not match the degree classes given, and their meaning is unclear.

**UC:MA45/C1 - POYNTON'S PERSONAL LETTER BOOK****UC:MA45/C1/1** **1918–31**

Letter book of A.B. Poynton, 1918–31. This book was reserved by Poynton for personal and non-Bursarial matters, including his own finances, and his activities as a tutor and as Public Orator. The book contains some copies of his speeches delivered at Encaenia, and also some of his versions of Greek and Latin prose and verse composition. Most of the book is unused. The Bursar's papers include letter books kept by Poynton for his Bursarial business.

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**UC:MA45 Papers of Arthur Blackbourne Poynton (Master 1935-7)****UC:MA45/C2 - MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS TO POYNTON****UC:MA45/C2/1** **1865 & c. 1901–11**

Letter from H. M. Burge (F. 1890–1900; address, the College Winchester), dated 10 May (year not given) to Poynton, enclosing the MS of a poem, "Alfred's Avatar", by Richard Crawley (matr. 1861), which he has just found. The poem, which is here dated 1865, is a satire on the Fellows of University College from the early 1860s, has been printed in the "University College Record", 1983, pp. 275-9. Another contemporary copy of the poem, which dates it to 1864, may be found in the photograph album and scrapbook of John Horsfall, at **UC:P167/P1/1** fols. 5v and 6v. Burge was Headmaster of Winchester from 1901–11, and so his letter will date from around then.

**UC:MA45/C2/2** **6 Nov 1922**

Letter from R. W. Macan (address, University College) to A. B. Poynton expressing his concerns about the financial risks involved in admitting Rhodes Scholars and other students from the Dominions.

**UC:MA45/C2/3** **14 Jun 1923**

Letter from Sir Michael Sadler (address, Leeds University) to A. B. Poynton on various matters, including ideas for remodelling the Shelley Memorial and Encaenia.

**UC:MA45/C2/4** **Apr–Aug 1923**

Three letters from potential applicants to University College or from their parents.

**UC:MA45/C2/5** **21 Mar 1925**

Letter from C. K. Allen to Sir Michael Sadler on the question of how many undergraduates should be admitted each year to the College.

**UC:MA45/C3 - CORRESPONDENCE FROM POYNTON'S MASTERSHIP****UC:MA45/C3/1** **1935–7**

Poynton's correspondence file (as Master), later used by William Beveridge on the painting of the conversation piece of Sir Michael Sadler the Fellows of University College, 1935–7. The file includes letters from the artist, F. H. S. Shepherd, Sir Michael Sadler, A. D. "Duncs" Gardner, and Arthur Goodhart, and a list of subscribers.

**UC:MA45/C3/2** **1936–7**

Poynton's correspondence file (as Master) on the bust of Sir Michael Sadler by Loris Rey presented to the College by Lady Sadler

**UC:MA45/C3/3** **1936–7**

Poynton's correspondence file (as Master) concerning the erection of a memorial panel in the Hall to Prof. Joseph Thomas Cunningham (F. 1882–9). Correspondents include Ernest Ainley Walker.

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**UC:MA45 Papers of Arthur Blackbourne Poynton (Master 1935-7)****UC:MA45/N1/1 - NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS****UC:MA45/N1/1****24 Nov 1914**

Copy of *Yale News*, 24 Nov 1914, with an article by Poynton on life at Oxford since war broke out.

**UC:MA45/N1/2****c. 1917–30**

Scrapbook inscribed on the front "Scrap Book of clippings re Univ College from the 'University Gazette'". The book does indeed contain press cuttings concerning University College, as compiled by Poynton. Many of them are notices taken indeed from the *Oxford University Gazette*, but there are cuttings from other newspapers. Most of the book is unused.

**UC:MA45/P1 - PHOTOGRAPHS****UC:MA45/P1/1****1937**

Photograph of the portrait of Poynton by William Rothenstein.