



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Masson, David Orme - Family Papers
ACCESSION NO	80/80 and 106/54
CATEGORY	University Individuals
ACTIVITY	Academics - Chemistry
DATE RANGE	1853- 1977
SIZE OF COLLECTION	2.5 Metres
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>David Orme Masson (1858- 1937). Masson was the second child and only son of David Mather Masson and his wife Emily Rosaline Orme. Masson had three sisters, Helen, Flora and Rosaline Orme Masson. He was educated at Edinburgh University, where he obtained M.A in 1878, B.Sc in 1880, D. Sc. in 1884. He held a lectureship for one year under Professor William Ramsay at University College, Bristol and Resident Fellowship at Edinburgh from 1884 to 1886.</p> <p>In the same year Masson was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, holding it until his retirement in 1923. In addition to his University duties, Masson made a significant contribution to the advancement of science, he took a leading part in the Foundation of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry (later known as CSIRO) and at various times presided over a number of national scientific and research organizations.</p> <p>Masson married Mary Struthers in 1886 at Aberdeen in Scotland. His first born son was (Sir) James Irvine Orme Masson who married Flora L. Gulland. Masson's wife, son and his daughter, Flora Marjorie (Marnie) wife of Sir Walter Bassett, survived him. He was predeceased by his daughter Elsie Rosaline, wife of the anthropologist Bronislaw (Bronio) Malinowski. (ADB, Vol 10 1891-1939)</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	9 April 1980. Some material was transferred earlier but not accessioned until 2006 as 106/54.
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	Correspondence, photographs, certificates, receipts, journals, published material and medals.

NOTE ON COLLECTION	This collection consists of the correspondence of David Orme and Mary Masson with their families: correspondence from Orme Masson's sisters, Flora and Rosaline; to and from his children, Irvine, Marnie and Elsie, their spouses and children; and from others to the family on the death of its members. There is a small collection of documents from the working life of David Orme Masson in Series 13.
NOTE ON LISTING	<p>This collection consists of correspondence of David Orme Masson with family members which were arranged by Masson's Biographer, Len Weickhardt during his research for <i>Masson of Melbourne</i>.</p> <p>Correspondence was arranged by Weickhardt according to correspondent and in chronological order in most cases, and each letter was described in detail. This current listing follows the order established by Dr Weickhardt and his descriptions of individual letters are held on lists within files. Not all files contain such a detailed list. The term "[no list]" signifies that the Weickhardt has not provided a sheet which describes each of the letters within the file. Notes are included where what is in the file deviates from what is on Weickhardt's lists.</p> <p>When this listing project commenced, the correspondence had been considerably disordered since Weickhardt's time, partly due to Weickhardt's research itself during which his photocopies of correspondence had been inserted back into files and correspondence moved around between files. Photocopies were checked against originals and removed, except where originals could not be found, and every attempt was made to place originals back according to the original lists or to note deviations from the lists.</p> <p>Some names of correspondents have been abbreviated by the biographer in his lists, these include David Orme Masson which has been shortened to DOM and Mary Masson to MM. Confusion is sometimes introduced by the habit of reusing family names, for example, Flora which was the name of DOM's sister, his daughter and coincidentally, his daughter-in-law. Within the family, nick names were used to help clarify this situation: DOM was always Orme, and Mary Masson was called 'Molly' by her sisters-in-law. Orme and Mary's daughter, Flora Marjorie was always Marnie, and J. Irvine Masson was always Irvine. Bronislaw Malinowski was shortened to Bronio. All other names are provided in full.</p> <p>Copies of family tree diagrams by Prof. Richard Selleck are attached for clarification.</p> <p>Related Collections: Bassett, Flora Marjorie "Marnie".</p>
LISTED BY	Christine Kousidis
DATE	July 2006

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
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Index of Series

Series No.	Title	
1	Correspondence from Flora Masson & Rosaline Masson to David Orme Masson	1927-1938
2	Correspondence from Flora Marjorie (Marnie) Masson to her parents	1916-1941
3	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson and Flora L. to David Orme Masson and Mary Masson	1930-1937
4	Correspondence from Elsie R. Masson to Marnie Masson	1922-1937
5	Correspondence from Elsie R. Masson to Orme and Mary Masson	1912-1939
6	Correspondence on the death of Elsie R. Masson/Malinowski to the Masson family	1935-36
7	Papers and correspondence on the death of Orme Masson to Mary Masson	1936-1941
8	Correspondence from Orme and Mary Masson to J. Irvine Masson	1926-1938
9	Correspondence from Orme Masson to Marnie Masson	1917-1918
10	General correspondence to Marnie Masson/Bassett re DOM, family history and DOM biography	1865-1977
11	General correspondence to Orme and Mary Masson	1910-1937
12	Correspondence of the Masson Family including that of Prof. David Masson	1881-1961
13	Papers of David Orme Masson	1883-1955
14	Photographs of Masson Family friends and colleagues	1878-1940
15	Photograph albums	1886-1913

Objects not originally on list, added 17/01/2017 Georgina Ward:

Object 114 - 'Captain Scott's pipe found in his last tent in the Antarctic' and presented to Masson by Scott's widow. A note accompanies the pipe recording the gift to Masson.

Object 115 - a Tantalus (decanter holder) commemorating the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE), 1914, presented to Masson. Engraved with emblem: AAE and pictorial penguin .
N.B. original annotated swing tag label attached to object records 'Australian' in the title rather than the official 'Australasian'.

OSBB Box 6 - Black and White Photograph, 'S.Y. Aurora, of the Ross Sea Rescue Expedition, January, 1917'. On verso 'Given me by J. K. Davis and by me to F. M. M. 22/4/17'.
(The Steam Yacht 'Aurora' was commanded by Captain John King Davis; F. M. M. is Masson's daughter, Flora Marjorie (Marnie). Flora was married to Sir Walter Eric Basset)
N.B. Item 115 - Tantalus, was most likely aboard 'Aurora' during the AAE

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
1	1	Correspondence from Flora Masson & Rosaline Masson to David Orme Masson	1927-1938
1	1/1	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	4 May 1927- 4 Jan 1928
1	1/2	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [Some letters included in file do not match the dates in the list]	11 Jan 1928 – 26 Dec 1928
1	1/3	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [23 Oct 1929 letter not listed but present in file. 2 Nov 1929 letter not listed but found in file 25 Dec 1929 letter not listed but found in file]	2 Jan 1929- 18 Dec 1929
1	1/4	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM & MM	1 Jan 1930- 24 June 1930
1	1/5	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	2 Jul 1930- 31 Dec 1930
1	1/6	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM & Molly (Mary) [letter from the 19 Feb 1932 appears to be missing, only 19 Jan 1932 letter is in the file April 22 nd 1931 letter- listed but not found in file. Letter from 30 th Sept 1931 found, but not listed. 27 th -30 th Dec letters attached to Jan 28 1931 letter]	7 Jan 1931- 19 Jan 1932
2	1/7	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [most about the publication of Flora Masson's book.] [Includes photographs, bundle of letters in envelope to DOM] [Sept-Nov 1931 consist of "Letters of appreciation to Flora about her book"] [Dec 20 th 1931 & Jan 5 th 1932 letter found but not listed in file.]	13 Jan 1932- 21 Dec 1932
2	1/8	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	4 Jan 1933- 16 Oct 1933
2	1/9	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	25 Oct 1933-27 Dec 1933
2	1/10	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	31 Jan 1934- 30 Dec 1934

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
2	1/11	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM & MM [Photo & Valentine letters included amongst material]	1 Jan 1935- 26 Dec 1935
3	1/12	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [Documents not listed but found in file include: Notes on the families of Orme & Andrews by Flora M, Sept 1936 Testimonials given to Flora M Sept 1888, 22 nd July 1936 letter]	1 Jan 1936- 25 Aug 1936
3	1/13	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline & Helen (Nell) Masson & George Gulland to DOM	22 June 1936- 28 Jan 1937
3	1/14	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [Two letters missing from file, listed but not included]	16 Dec 1936- 7 April 1937
3	1/15	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	Sept 1936- 8 Dec 1936
3	1/16	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM [Two letters appear to be missing from file, 3 March 1937 & 24 March 1937] Filed in box 3	13 Jan 1937- 4 July 1937
3	1/17	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM	13 April 1937- 30 Jul 1937
3	1/18	Correspondence from Flora & Rosaline to DOM & MM [Included the photocopies of two original letters which are much deteriorated by silverfish as a second option for reading]	20 Jan 1937- 19 Aug 1938
	2	Correspondence from Flora Marjorie (Marnie) Masson to her parents	1916-1941
3	2/1	Letters from Marnie F. Masson to home/family. Typescript in form of a diary letter-book, pp.1-570. [Extra material found in file includes, Newspaper article, Obituary Lady Masson, 2 Feb 1980; Letter of Arabia Wreck- edited by DOM, 20 Jan 1914; photocopy of letter from MM to Elsie.R Malinowski, 6 Dec 1921 an original copy has not been found] [No list]	6 Dec 1916- 18 Nov 1918
3	2/2	Correspondence from Marnie F. Masson to	11 Jan 1928- 3 Feb 1941

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		DOM & MM.	
	3	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson & Flora (his wife) to David Orme Masson & Mary Masson	1930-1937
4	3/1	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson to DOM & MM [Nov 1963 Irvine -Biographical memoir booklet not listed but found in file]	1 Jan 1930- 18 Dec 1932
4	3/2	Correspondence from Irvine to DOM	31 May 1930- 27 Oct 1936
4	3/3	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson to DOM & MM	5 Feb 1933- 17 Dec 1933
4	3/4	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson & Flora G [Irvine's wife] to DOM & MM	23 Jan 1934- 19 Jan 1936
4	3/5	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson & Flora to DOM & MM [Not listed but found in file, postcard & published material in the chemical society journal by Irvine, given to DOM, Jan 1933 & Nov 1935]	1 Dec 1935- 29 July 1937
4	3/6	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson & Flora to DOM & MM	26 Mar 1936- 27 Mar 1937
4	3/7	Correspondence from J. Irvine Masson & Flora to DOM & MM	16 May 1937- 21 Jul 1937
	4	Correspondence From Elsie R. Masson to Marnie F. Masson.	1922-1937
4	4/1	Correspondence from Elsie. R Masson to Marnie F. Masson [Also includes some correspondence from other family members to Marnie] [Includes bundle of newspaper cuttings & postcards/letters to Elsie]	18 Dec 1922- 13 Aug 1937
4	4/2	Correspondence from Elsie. R Masson to Marnie F. Masson, DOM & MM [Includes document, 14 April 1983 to Weickhardt from Royal Melbourne Hospital re early nursing training of Elsie Masson.]	9 Apr 1924- 27 Dec 1926
	5	Correspondence from Elsie R. Masson to David Orme Masson and Mary Masson.	1912-1939
4	5/1	Elsie. R Masson, correspondence from Elsie to David Orme Masson and Mary Masson during her visit to Darwin. [No list]	7 June 1912- 12 Jul 1912

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
5	5/2	Correspondence from MM to Elsie R Masson	6 Dec 1921
5	5/3	Correspondence from Elsie. R Masson to DOM & MM	9 Jan 1927- 20 Dec 1927
5	5/4	Correspondence from Elsie R. Masson to DOM & MM	1 Jan 1928- 29 Oct 1929
5	5/5	Correspondence from Elsie R Masson to DOM & MM	1 Jan 1930- 28 Dec 1931
5	5/6	Correspondence From Elsie R Masson to DOM & MM	19 Jan 1931-27 Nov 1931
5	5/7	Correspondence from Elsie. R M & Bronio K. Malinowski [Elsie's husband] to Aunt Tina (C.S) & DOM & MM [6 postcards included in file]	21 Jan 1932- 27 Dec 1934
5	5/8	Correspondence from Elsie. R Masson & Bronio K. Malinowski to Aunt Tina (C.S) & DOM & MM [Photocopy included of letter in a different language to Wanda? Could not locate the original copy]	2 Jan 1935- 5 May 1939
	6	Correspondence on the Death Of Elsie R. Masson/Malinowski to the Masson Family	1935-1936
5	6/1	Correspondence on Death of Elsie Malinowski from Bronio M to MM & Marnie	18 Sept 1935- 10 Dec 1935
5	6/2	Miscellaneous letters of condolence on death of Elsie Malinowski to DOM & MM [2 Photographs of head stone & Obituaries Included]	19 Sept 1935- 6 Jan 1936
5	6/3	Correspondence on Death of Elsie Malinowski mainly from Rosa Decall & various to MM & Marnie.	23 Sept 1935- 15 April 1936
	7	Papers & Correspondence on the Death of David Orme Masson to Mary Masson	1936-1941
6	7/1	Journals - Obituaries & Tributes following death of DOM [No list]	1937 21 June 1941
6	7/2	Correspondence from family just before 10 August 1937. Includes letters from Flora and Rosaline. [No list]	August 1937
6	7/3	Correspondence to MM on the death of	9 Aug 1937 - 1 Feb 1938

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		DOM [Part list]	
6	7/4	Lists of letters after 10 August 1937. Replied. [List of letters replied to by MM]	c. Aug 1937
6	7/5	Copy of Journal obituaries & tributes following death of DOM [Includes Extract from University of Melbourne Council Minutes, 23 Dec 1915] [No list]	13 Nov 1937
6	7/6	Journal tribute to DOM by S.Sewell sent to MM [No list]	25 May 1940
6	7/7	Correspondence to MM from Australian Chemical Institute re the "Masson Memorial Scholarship". [No list]	July 1937- 1941
	8	Correspondence from David Orme Masson & Mary Masson to J. Irvine Masson	1926-1938
6	8/1	Correspondence from DOM to Irvine	4 Nov 1926- 30 Dec 1931
6	8/1	Correspondence from DOM to Irvine	Jan 1932- 12 Jan 1936
6	8/3	Correspondence from DOM & MM to Irvine	6 Feb 1936- 5 Nov 1936
6	8/4	Correspondence from DOM & MM to Irvine & Flora	12 Jan 1933- 28 Oct 1938 Approx
	9	Correspondence from David Orme Masson to Marnie F. Masson	1917-1918
6	9/1	Correspondence from DOM to Marnie .F Masson [Includes Letter to Marnie from J La Nauze, 10 Sept 1964]	16 Jan 1917- 19 Feb 1918
	10	General Correspondence to Marnie F. Masson/Bassett re DOM, family history and DOM biography	1865-1977
6	10/1	Correspondence to Marnie Bassett regarding DOM and between Marnie and Len Weichardt re a biography of DOM. [Includes Letter from DOM, 7 yrs of age to his Aunt Mrs Charles Fox, no date but possibly 1865.] [No List]	1865 -1977

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
6	10/2	Correspondence from Irvine to Marnie F. Masson [Lady Bassett]. [Includes letters concerning the presentation of a portrait of DOM to the University of Melbourne 1960; and notice of the death of J. Irvine Masson] [Letters which have not been listed, but have been found in file include: 28 March 1961, 8 March 1961, 26 March 1961, 17 April 1961, 1 June 1961]	10 Oct 1960- 5 Feb 1964
7	10/3	Correspondence & Material relating to the Struthers & Masson Family [Includes many photographs and some photocopy material that could not be matched to their originals] [No List]	Approx 21 June 1891- 1961?
7	10/4	Material relating to Masson Family history: includes X ray photos of DOM's foot, newspaper clippings and DOM's Order of the British Empire, letters to Rosaline Masson from her father David Masson. Also includes photocopy material of chapters from a book. [No list]	Approx 1924- 1934
7	10/5	Household Lists made 1886. Text book titled 'Household Lists' containing lists of household linen, sheets, pillow cases, blankets and so on. Possibly a list of household effects gathered on the marriage of DOM and MM. Rear of book contains list of wedding presents and items of clothing: 'Dresses' and 'Personal Linen and Dress'. Rear of book also contains a daily diary from 5 August 1886 to 4 September 1886. Some pages removed. [No list]	1886
	11	General Correspondence to David Orme Masson & Mary Masson	1910-1937
7	11/1	Correspondence to DOM and MM [Letter dated 19 Nov 1915 not found in file, only the photocopy]	13 Oct 1910- 29 June 1934
7	11/2	Correspondence to DOM From the Prime Ministers Department Canberra & The American Geographical Society. [No list]	14 Nov 1922- 20 Oct 1932

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
7	11/3	Correspondence to DOM & MM from family and friends during their overseas visit, 1924. [6 th Nov 1924 & 7 th Nov 1924 letters not on list but found in file, bundled with postcards, science & chemistry material] [10 Oct 1924 Letter from Irvine to DOM]	27 Jan 1924- 5 Nov 1924 Approx
7	11/4	Correspondence to DOM & MM [Relating to Overseas trip by DOM/MM]	23 April 1924- 15 Dec 1924
7	11/5	Correspondence to DOM	14 March 1928- 30 Aug 1933
7	11/6	Correspondence to DOM & MM	11 Oct 1935- 10 May 1937
7	11/7	Correspondence to Masson Family re overseas trip.	22 Mar 1924-21 Oct 1924
	12	Correspondence of the Masson Family including that of Professor David Masson	1881-1961
7	12/1	Correspondence relating to David Masson [Father of DOM]	13 May 1881- 20 June 1907
7	12/2	Correspondence and papers relating to the Struthers Family to MM [Mary Masson nee Struthers] from the Struthers Family	21 Jun 1891- Jun 1939
7	12/3	Correspondence to DOM re his sister Flora Masson's publications. Photocopies of publications included. Correspondents include Walter Murdoch and A. C. D Rivett. [Photocopies] [No list]	1910- 1935
8	12/4	Correspondence of Grandchildren to DOM & MM including David Irvine Masson & various Masson family	1928- 6 Feb 1936
	13	David Orme Masson Papers [Papers relating to DOM's career, not listed by biographer]	1883-1955
8	13/1	DOM University & Chemistry Papers, including his thesis for the degree of Doctor of Science, and a biography of David Masson, Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature. [photocopies] [Includes- Photos of the Massons at Chanonry.]	12 Sept 1883- 1916?
8	13/2	DOM Certificate of membership of Speculative Society	5 Feb 1884- 12 Feb 1884

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
8	13/3	Royal Sanitary Commission: Appointment to.	1888-1889
8	13/4	DOM Suggestion for synthesis of Azoimide	18 Jan 1893
8	13/5	Fellow of the Royal Society, appointment as.	12 Jun 1903
8	13/6	DOM Correspondence with University of London, University College re Chair of Chemistry 1912	29 May 1912-7 Jun 1912
8	13/7	University College London, Chair of Chemistry Correspondence, including correspondence with Irvine Masson.	Jun 1912
8	13/8	DOM Speech, Application & Testimonials for position as principal at Edinburgh University 1916. Also includes speech by DOM as Chair of the dinner to celebrate the 350yr anniversary of the University of Edinburgh, 1933.	1916; Oct 1933
8	13/9	Papers relating to DOM 's Order of the British Empire; two King's Jubilee Medals and a Coronation Medal. Includes an 'Anglers Lament'.	13 Dec 1922- 6 May 1935
8	13/10	Correspondence from the University of Melbourne on retirement	15 Feb 1922-6 Mar 1924
8	13/11	DOM notes for Addresses. One to Hobart Rotary Club 1925; one unidentified.	14 Dec 1925
8	13/12	Receipts and subscriptions belonging to DOM	1928-1955
8	13/13	Birthday Celebrations arranged by C. R. Merrillees	10 Dec 1933-6 Apr 1934
8	13/14	Published articles by DOM. Sir David Orme Masson, 'Letter from the first senior president', <i>The Student</i> , Edinburgh University Magazine, November 1934; Sir David Orme Masson, The organization of scientific research in Australia, 1935.	15 Nov 1934- 1935
8	13/15	DOM handwritten article: Suggested future organization of the Chemistry Department.	Date unknown
8	13/16	Combined Chemical Societies Dinner	25 Jul 1937
8	13/17	Notes by DOM on Thomas Carlyle; Lord Kelvin; R.L. Stevensen; William Ramsay. Notes for AAAS Meeting Jan 1921 on Constitution of the Atom. Chart of family connections from the 18 th Century.	1920- Jan 1921 Approx

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
	14	Photographs of Masson Family's Friends and Colleagues	1878-1940
9	14/1	Photographs of Masson Family's Friends/places [Includes Magazines & Newspaper cuttings, contents very mixed]	1878- 1935 Approx
9	14/2	University photographs	?- 1926
9	14/3	University Postcards & portraits of Professors	1905- 1940 Approx
9	14/4	Portraits of University Professors [Includes newspaper clippings & pageant program]	Approx 1926- 1930
	15	Photograph Albums	1886-1913
9	15/1	Photo Album of Scotland dedicated to 'Mrs Orme Masson with Prof and the Misses Forbes's best wishes, August 1886'. Framed photograph of Jack [otherwise unidentified]	5 Aug 1886
OS1	15/2	Photograph Album dedicated to 'Dr. Struthers. A mark of esteem and gratitude, 23 December 1887'. [Commercial images of Scotland]	1887
OS2	15/3, 15/4	Postcard Albums (two) [Scottish & English scenes and portraits]	Date unknown.
OS2	15/5	Mounted portrait of DOM	1913

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