

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ARCHIVES

WILLIAM MCTAGGART FAMILY COLLECTION c.1880 – c.1986

GB584/WM

Name of Creator: William McTaggart RSA (1835-1910) and family

Physical Description: 9 boxes or 12 square metres

Biographical history: William McTaggart RSA (1835-1910) was one of the most celebrated Scottish painters of the late nineteenth century. He is regarded as one of the great interpreters of the Scottish landscape and is often described as the 'Scottish Impressionist'. McTaggart was skilled in the use of both oil and watercolour, and in addition to Kintyre seascapes he also painted landscapes and seascapes in Midlothian and East Lothian. McTaggart was twice married: first to Mary Brochlan Holmes (1837-1884), with whom he had six children; and secondly to Marjory Henderson (1856-1936), with whom he had another nine children. William McTaggart lived at Dean Park house in Bonnyrigg between 1889 to his death on 2 April 1910.

The collection also contains material specifically relating to his fifth daughter by his second marriage, Eliza or 'Betty' McTaggart (1896-1986). Betty became an accomplished artist in her own right and seems to have worked at Canongate nursery school, Edinburgh in the early 1950s. An article about Betty McTaggart's sketchbooks of children at Cowgate nursery school appeared in the *Edinburgh Evening News* in January 2012. Several responses were received from former pupils at the nursery who are named in some of Betty McTaggart's sketches. They confirmed that they attended the school in the early 1950s which suggests that Betty McTaggart worked there at that time.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of 4 photograph albums and 51 photographs of William McTaggart RSA and his family, 3 miscellaneous photographs, and c.200 monochrome photographic reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart. Also included are photographs of Betty McTaggart and children at Canongate nursery school, Edinburgh; sketchbooks, notebooks and drawings by Betty McTaggart, including drawings of children at Canongate nursery school, family portraits and sketches of ministers at Bonnyrigg parish church; a leather suitcase with newspaper obituaries for William McTaggart; 2 brass nameplates with fittings for 'W. McTaggart'; 2 items of jewellery belonging to Betty McTaggart; 2 boxes of display material created by the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society for an exhibition based on the collection; and two video-cassettes of the BBC Television programme 'The Bigger Picture' (1993) which used images from the collection.

Archival History: This collection was donated to the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society in the 1990s by Neil McTaggart, the grandson of William McTaggart, on behalf of the McTaggart Family Trust. The material was owned by Betty McTaggart who latterly lived at Longniddry in East Lothian. The McTaggart family expressed the wish that the collection should remain in Bonnyrigg as William

McTaggart had once lived in the town. The collection is owned by the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society but is stored on their behalf by Midlothian Council.

Access: There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Conditions governing use: Requests to use the collection should be made to the Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society.

Allied materials:

Per Kvaerne *Singing Songs of the Scottish Heart: William McTaggart 1835-1910* (Atelier Books, 2007)

McTaggart's Children: a Centenary Celebration (Fife Council Libraries and Museums, 2010)

Both of these publications use images from the McTaggart Family Collection.

Website:

<https://bonnyrigglasswadelocalhistory.org/family-history/william-mctaggart-rsa-1835-1910/>

<https://bonnyrigglasswadelocalhistory.org/family-archive-of-william-mctaggart-rsa-1835-1910/>

System of Arrangement

Ref	Description	Dates
WM/1	Photograph albums	1890s –
WM/2	Mounted photographs	c1884 – c1890
WM/3	McTaggart family photographs	c1880 – c1930
WM/4	Photographs of Canongate Nursery school, Edinburgh	c1930
WM/5	Photographic reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart	Undated
WM/6	Sketchbooks and drawings belonging to Betty McTaggart	c1910 – c1986
WM/7	Newspaper obituary notices for William McTaggart	Apr 1910
WM/8	Objects and artefacts	c1900 – 1892
WM/9	Exhibition material	

WM/1	Photograph albums Photograph albums belonging to the McTaggart family, mainly family groups and portraits. 4 items	1890s
/1	Photograph album with silver clasp containing 28 sepia photographs of the McTaggart family, portraits and family groups 1 volume	1890s
/2	Green photograph album, 12 leaves, smaller photographs of McTaggart family including beach holidays and picnics. 1 volume	1890s
/3	Green photograph album, 22 leaves, McTaggart family groups and reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart. 1 volume	Undated
/4	Blue photograph album, 18 leaves, McTaggart family groups and reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart. 1 volume	Undated

WM/2	Mounted Photographs Mounted <i>carte-de-viste</i> type photographs of William McTaggart and his family including individual studio portraits and family groups. 34 items	c1884 – c1890
/1	'Jean & Mysie' [Jean and Mysie McTaggart] 1 item	c1890
/2	'Uncle Duncan & family' Photograph of William McTaggart's brother and family 1 item	c1880
/3	'Dugald McTaggart': studio portrait by J G Tunny, 93 Princes Street, Edinburgh of Dugald McTaggart, William McTaggart's brother 1 item	c1880
/4	Studio portrait of William, Hugh and John McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1890
/5	'Friend of Willies, Jean, John, Mysie, Willie, Annie, Father, Mother' Photograph of unidentified family friend, Jean, John, Mysie, Willie, Annie, William and Marjory McTaggart. 1 item	c1890
/6	'Mother, Joe, Mysie, Babbie' Photograph of Marjory, Joe, Mysie and Barbara McTaggart 1 item	c1892
/7	'Willie McTaggart': studio portrait of William Dugald McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1885
/8	Portrait of Willie Dugald McTaggart by Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh ,same as WM/2/7 1 item	c1885
/9	'Willie': studio portrait of Willie Dugald McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1885
/10	'Hugh Holmes McT': studio portrait of Hugh McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1885
/11	'John': studio portrait of John McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1885
/12	'John Pettie McTaggart': studio portrait of John McTaggart by John Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1885
/13/1 & 2	'Annie, Mother': studio portrait of Annie McTaggart and Marjory McTaggart née Henderson by T & R Annan, 153	c1885

	Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (two copies) 1 item	
/14	'Jean' Photograph of Jean McTaggart 1 item	c1890
/15	'Jean & Florence Stewart' Photograph of Jean McTaggart and Florence Stewart 1 item	c1890
/16	'Jean & Mysie': studio portrait of Jean and Mysie McTaggart by Moffat, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1888
/17	'Annie' Photograph of Annie McTaggart 1 item	c1885
/18	'Annie' Photograph of Annie McTaggart 1 item	c1885
/19	'Grandpapa Joseph Henderson': studio portrait by T & R Annan, 153 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow 1 item	c1890
/20	'Bessie & Mary Henderson': studio portrait of Marjory Henderson's sisters by Warneuke, 153 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow 1 item	c1890
/21	'Mr & Mrs Peter Hunter': studio portrait by Alex Ayton, 43 N. Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1890
/22	Studio portrait of William McTaggart by W Crooke, 103 Princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1890
/23	Photograph of unidentified group with dog 1 item	c1890
/24	'Picnic Mackrihanish': photograph of family group at Machrihanish 1 item	c1890
/25	Photograph of family group at Machrihanish 1 item	c1890
/26	Photograph of family group at Machrihanish 1 item	c1890
/27	Photograph of family group at Machrihanish 1 item	c1890
/28	Studio portrait of unidentified group of children by John Moffat, 125 princes Street, Edinburgh 1 item	c1884
/29	Photograph of William McTaggart with group in garden 1 item	c1890
/30	Photograph of William McTaggart and Jean McTaggart with group interior 1 item	c1890
/31	Photograph of Marjory McTaggart in historical costume portrait by George Shaw, Bruntsfield Links, Edinburgh 1 item	c1890

/32	Photograph of unidentified garden and shed possibly at Dean Park, Bonnyrigg. 1 item	c1890
/33	Photograph of unidentified garden and shed in snow possibly at Dean Park, Bonnyrigg. 1 item	c1890

WM/3	McTaggart family photographs Photographs of the McTaggart family, mainly family groups and portraits. 20 items	c1880 – c1930
/1	Large mounted photograph of William McTaggart and family in the studio at Dean Park. 1 item	c1897
/2	Photograph of unidentified group of art students with William McTaggart. 1 item	c1880
/3	'Willie' Photograph of William Dugald McTaggart 1 item	c1890
/4	'At Golf Villa, Mackrihanish 1908: L to R Ivor, Mysie, Willie, mother, father' 1 item	1908
/5	'Babbie, Nelly, Gladys, Muir, Betty, Wee Hugh' Photograph of children of William McTaggart and friends 1 item	c1910
/6	Photograph of five McTaggart women at seaside 1 item	c1910
/7	Photograph of unidentified woman in nurse's costume 1 item	c1914
/8	Portrait of Marjory McTaggart 1 item	Undated
/9	Photograph of two unidentified schoolboys in uniform, one in Edinburgh Academy uniform. 1 item	Undated
/10	Photograph of William McTaggart seated with painting. 1 item	Undated
/11	Photograph of William McTaggart with seascape painting in background. 1 item	Undated
/12	'Ian and Hamish' Christmas greetings card with photograph. 1 Item	Undated
/13	Photograph of unidentified young man 1 item	Undated
/14	Photograph of unidentified child with dog in garden 1 item	Undated
/15	Photograph of William McTaggart painting on beach. 1 item	Undated
/16	Photograph of William McTaggart in studio with paintings 2 items	Undated
/17	Photograph of children on beach 2 items	Undated
/18	Mounted photograph of gallery interior with McTaggart paintings	Undated

	1 item	
/19	Mounted photograph of garden in snow possibly at Dean Park, Bonnyrigg 1 item	Undated
/20	Photograph of fishing boats at unidentified harbour 1 item	Undated

WM/4	Photographs of Canongate Nursery school, Edinburgh This series contains photographs of [Eliza] Betty McTaggart and the children of Canongate Nursery school 9 items	c1930
/1	Photograph of an unidentified child with Betty McTaggart at piano. 1 item	c1930
/2	Photograph of Queen Mary and dignitaries with spectators in Edinburgh. 1 item	c1930
/3	Photograph possibly of Betty McTaggart with children crossing street: Edinburgh Evening Dispatch photograph. 1item	c1930
/4	Photograph possibly of Betty McTaggart with children on Royal Mile, Edinburgh: Edinburgh Evening News photograph. 1 item	c1930
/5	Photograph of children in playground of Canongate Nursery School: photograph by Photo Illustrations, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1930
/6	Photograph of children in beds at Canongate Nursery School with teacher: photograph by Photo Illustrations, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1930
/7	Photograph of children in playground of Canongate Nursery School: photograph by Photo Illustrations, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1930
/8	Photograph of children in dining room at Canongate Nursery School: photograph by Photo Illustrations, Edinburgh. 1 item	c1930
/9	Photograph of children and teachers on beach. 1item	Undated

WM/5	<p>Photographic reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart</p> <p>This series contains a large collection of photograph reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart, mainly black & white and sepia, some mounted. Includes a handlist. Among the photographs are reproductions of famous works like <i>the Storm</i> and also untitled seascapes and portraits of local views and family members.</p> <p>1 box, 195 items</p>	Undated
/1	Photographic reproductions of paintings by William McTaggart 195 items	Undated

WM/6	Sketchbooks and drawings by Betty McTaggart This series contains works by Betty McTaggart. These mainly focus of sketches and drawings of children but also feature animals and landscapes. They contain drawings in many formats including pen, pencil, charcoal, crayon and watercolour. 29 items	c1910 – c1986
/1	Envelope addressed to 'Miss McTaggart, Devaar, King's Road, Longniddry' and dated 12 Oct. 1960? Contains 45 sketches in pen, pencil, charcoal and crayon, mainly character sketches of children, animals and landscapes. 46 items	20th century
/2	Envelope addressed to 'Miss McTaggart, Davaar, King's Road, Longniddry' and dated 15 Nov. 1961. Inscribed 'Ministers in supply before Mr Dryer came'. Contains 46 sketches in pencil, pen and charcoal, mainly character studies and portraits, some individuals are named. Four birthday cards and letter dated 10 August 1984 from Betty and addressed 'Summerfield Lodge, (61) Belhaven Road, Dunbar'. Note: the Reverend Oliver Dyer was Minister of the Church of Scotland at Bonnyrigg Church, High Street from 1929 to 1947 52 items	20th century
/3	One leave with six studies of a child, some coloured. 1 item	20th century
/4	Sketchbook. 23 x 15 cm. 35pp. Inscribed 'Betty McTaggart' on cover and 'B. McTaggart, Dean Park, Bonnyrigg' on inside pastedown. Mainly sketches of people, some named. 1 item	20th century
/5	Bushey Sketchbook. 18 x 23 cm. 72pp + 1 loose leave. Inscribed 'Betty McTaggart' on rear pastedown. Pencil sketches of adults and children and some anatomical drawings., 2 items	20th century
/6	Bushey Sketchbook. 18 x 23 cm. 130pp + 1 loose leave. Mainly pencil and ink sketches of children. 2 items	20th century
/7	C. Roberson & Co Sketchbook. 18 x 23 cm. 86pp + 2 loose leaves. Mainly pencil sketches of children, artists' models and dogs. 3 items	20th century
/8	C. Roberson & Co Sketchbook. 23 x 18 cm. 14pp (all detached) + 6 loose leaves. Mainly pencil sketches of children.	20th century

	20 items	
/9	Sketchbook. 18 x 23 cm. 102pp (some loose) + 3 loose leaves. Mainly pencil sketches of adults and children. 4 items	20th century
/10	Windsor & Newton Solid Sketch Block. 20 x 26 cm. 12 sheets of watercolour sketches by Jean McTaggart: children (3), flowers (3), landscapes (6) including views of Andenne and Dinant, Belgium; 3 sheets of pencil sketches of children and small packet of colour postcards (4) of York. 19 items	20th century
/11	Sketchbook. 19 x 14 cm. 32pp + 1 loose sheet. Inscribed 'Betty McTaggart' on cover and inside pastedown with monogram of Betty McTaggart on back cover. Mainly pencil and ink sketches of people and children but also including historical scenes, and football players. 2 items	20th century
/12	Reeves' Sketch Book. 18 x 13 cm. 48pp. Mainly pencil and ink studies of children, some coloured and named. 1 item	20th century
/13	Reeves' Sketch Book. 18 x 13 cm. 42pp + 2 loose leaves. Inscribed 'Cowgate Nursery School' on front pastedown. Mainly pencil and ink studies of children, some colour and named. 3 items	20th century
/14	Whatman Sketch Book. 18 x 13 cm. 42pp. Inscribed 'Betty' on front cover and 'Betty McTaggart' on front pastedown. Mainly portraits, some colour. 1 item	20th century
/15	Sketch Book. 18 x 13 cm. 52pp. Watercolour sketches including landscapes, children. 1 item	20th century
/16	Fine Cartridge Sketch Book by Geo. Rowney & Co. 13 x 9 cm. 42pp + 1 loose leave. Inscribed 'Betty McTaggart' on front pastedown. Pencil sketches including children, figures and boats. 1 item	20th century
/17	The Press Sketch Book. 8 x 9 cm. 90pp approx. Mainly pencil sketches, and portraits, some people are named. 1 item	20th century
/18	Sketcher's Note Book. 10.5 x 13.5 cm. 60pp approx + 4 loose leaves. Mainly pencil sketches and portraits. 5 items	20th century
/19	Sketchbook. 24 x 30 cm. 59 loose leaves. Pencil, pen, watercolour sketches, mainly children and figures, some named; 1 invitation from Mr Joseph Henderson to Mr McTaggart and family, no date; Catalogue of paintings by Betty McTaggart DA. 61 items	20th century
/20	Drawing Tablet. 21 x 29 cm. Includes letters, receipts, drawings, exhibition plans and patterns.	20th century

	21 items	
/21	Sketchbook. 26 x 18 cm. 24 loose leaves. Pencil, pen and water-colour sketches of children, figures and portraits, some named; 1 newspaper cutting 25 items	20th century
/22	Whatman Sketchbook. 28 x 18 cm. 26 loose leaves. Pencil, pen and water-colour sketches including children, figures and portraits; and Edinburgh College of Art timetable. 27 items	20th century
/23	C Roberson & Co Sketchbook. 18 x 23 cm. 43 leaves, some loose. Pencil sketches including children, portraits and figures.	20th century
/24	Sketchbook. 23 x 14 cm. 9 leaves, some loose. Pen, pencil and water-colour sketches. 9 items	20th century
/25	'Canvas Cover' sketchbook. 23 x 14 cm. 20 leaves. Pen, pencil and water-colour sketches of people. 20 items	20th century
/26	Cartridge Sketch Block. 15 x 21 cm. Ink sketches of people, and portraits. 1 item	20th century
/27 1,2,&3	Lion Brand Memo Books. 8 x 13 cm. Ink notes and sketches 3 items	20th century

WM/7	Newspaper obituary notices for William McTaggart Leather suitcase containing numerous newspaper obituaries for William McTaggart died 2 April 1910. Obituaries from a variety of national and local newspapers. 104 items	Apr 1910
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WM/8	Objects and Artefacts	20th Century
	<p>A collection of objects and artefacts related to the McTaggart family.</p> <p>8 items</p>	
/1	<p>Silver Maltese Cross. Inscribed to 'BMcT' and dated on rear 'July 26th 1905' with hallmark and 'GL'. Property of Betty McTaggart</p> <p>1 item</p>	26 Jul 1905
/2	<p>Gold coloured nurse's pin with enamelled red-cross. Inscribed 'Kingsknow 1915-1919'. Property of Betty McTaggart</p> <p>1 item</p>	1919
/3 1& 2	<p>Two brass name plates with fittings for 'W. McTaggart'</p> <p>2 items</p>	Undated
/4	<p>Address label to 'Mrs McTaggart, Dean Park, Broomieknowe, Bonnyrigg' from Drummond, Young and Wilson, Photographers, 82 George Street, Edinburgh</p> <p>1 item</p>	Undated
/5	<p>Small box 'Shaving Silkashave Soap Dubarry [London]' with three glass plate negatives of paintings by William McTaggart: 'Landing of St Columba', 'Milkmaid' and two unknown figures</p> <p>4 items</p>	Undated
/6	<p>Four birthday cards to Betty McTaggart</p> <p>4 items</p>	Undated
/7	<p>The Royal Society of Edinburgh Yearbook 1982: includes obituary to Sir William MacTaggart.</p> <p>1 items</p>	1982

WM/9	Exhibition material The series contains reproduction photographs and text prepared for an exhibition by Bonnyrigg and Lasswade Local History Society about the McTaggart archive. 119 items	20th century
/1	Mounted reproductions of photographs and text captions for exhibition. Includes reproductions of William McTaggart's art works and sketches by Betty McTaggart 117 items	20th century
/2	2 video cassettes of the BBC television series 'The Bigger Picture', which featured items from the collection. 2 items	20th century