



Papers of Duncan MacLean

Reference: ATH/DM

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1948-
1977

Papers collected by the athlete and coach Duncan MacLean. The collection includes a small number of athletics programmes relating to veterans' meetings in which MacLean participated during the 1970s when in his late 80s and early 90s. There are an extensive volume of newspaper cuttings referring to MacLean's athletics successes in old age as well as a number of photographs. The collection also includes a small number of certificates and badges awarded to MacLean.

Administrative history: Duncan MacLean [surname is spelt McLean on his birth certificate] was born in Gourrock, Scotland on 3 December 1884. His father, also called Duncan, was a merchant seaman and the younger Duncan's first five years were spent at sea. His mother, Barbara, was a champion Highland dancer. For a brief period the family lived in South Africa when Duncan's father became an agent for Lloyd's Shipping Company.

In the late 19th century, following in the footsteps of his mother, Duncan became a Scottish juvenile dancer champion. He won a number of prizes, joined a troupe and took part in a concert at Greenock Town Hall when Harry Lauder had his first big success. Shortly afterwards Harry Lauder asked Duncan to join his touing company. A career in music hall entertainment followed and, as well as Harry Lauder, his colleagues and friends included Marie Kendall, Gus Elen, Charles Coburn, Little Tich, Will Fyffe, Ella Shields and Florrie Forde. Duncan later continued working on the vaudeville circuit including a stint as Harry Lauder's understudy during an American tour. His stage persona was 'Dan O'Scott', a Scotsman who danced in an all-white outfit, including kilt. He wrote many of the songs he sang and newspaper cuttings contained within his papers suggest that he once worked alongside Charlie Chaplin.

Throughout his music hall days, Duncan kept sprinting. His uncle had been a Scottish sprint champion and he himself had achieved great success in South Africa between 1904 and 1906 as three-times sprint champion for both the 100 and

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220 yards. During this time his 100 yards had been recorded as 9.9 seconds and his 220 yards at 21.3 seconds. During the First World War he was an instructor with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He worked with ENSA [Entertainments National Service Association] during the Second World War, providing entertainment for British armed forces personnel.

He began competing in the Masters division and helped to form the Veterans' Athletic Club in 1931. During the 1960s, when in his 80s, he was coaching at Crystal Palace and regularly training himself. At age 90 he competed in the First World Masters Track and Field Championships in Toronto in 1975, running the 100 and 200 metre sprints. He performed again aged 92 at the Second World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1977. He set single-age records in the 100 metres from ages 87 to 92. He ran 16.3 seconds, aged 88, at the US National Masters Championships in San Diego in 1973; and at 92 he ran 21.7 seconds at the World Games in Sweden. In 200 metres he set records from ages 88 to 91, recording 41.1 seconds, age 87, in London in 1972 and 51.5 seconds, age 91, in 1976. MacLean composed songs for each of the World Championships he entered, entertaining the throng with his singing and clowning. He was familiarly known as 'The Tartan Flash' due to the tartan shorts he wore throughout his career.

Duncan married Elsie Hawkes in 1926 and the couple had seven children: Ailsa (b 1927), Iona (b 1928), Jura (b 1933), Isla (b 1936), Vrecha (b 1940), Shuna (b 1942) and Duncan (b 1946). Duncan MacLean died in December 1980, aged 96.

Sources: papers of Duncan MacLean; obituary included in The World Association of Veteran Athletes newsletter, March 1981, accessed 9 October 2014 from:
<http://www.mastershistory.org/newsletter/wava4.pdf>
; 'Masters Track and Field: A History' by Leonard T. Olson.

Arrangement: These papers have been arranged into the following two series: athletics programmes and results; personalia.

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1 large box (comprising 3 files and 9 items)

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Notes: Old references: DM; NCAL XXV.A5

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Language: English

Creator name: MacLean, Duncan (1884-1980), athlete and coach

Custodial history: This collection was previously in the custody of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL).

Archival notes: Papers arranged and described by Mark Eccleston, October 2014, in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description (ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; and in-house cataloguing guidelines.

Related material: Other archive collections, formerly held as part of the National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL), are catalogued as collections distinct from this collection. They comprise both institutional archives and collections of personal papers of athletes, athletics administrators, journalists and others associated with the athletics world.

Catalogues of the institutional archives available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1880-1992.
Finding No: AAA;

Midland Counties Amateur Athletics Association:

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papers, 1900-1982. Finding No: MCAAA;

Midland Counties Cross Country Association:
papers, 1898-1985. Finding No: ATH/MCCCA;

Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association:
papers, 1958-1983. Finding No: SCAAA.

Catalogues, or collection descriptions, of personal papers available on the online archive catalogue are as follows:

Abrahams, Harold Maurice (1899-1978), athlete, administrator, commentator and journalist: papers, 1902-1989. Finding No: ATH/HA;

Adam, George Mair (1898-1989), athlete, coach and athletics administrator: papers, 1909-1989. Finding No: ATH/GA;

Binks, Joseph (Joe) (1874-1966), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [1920s-1950s]. Finding No: ATH/JB;

Cardew, Martin H. (b 1927), athlete: papers, 1964-1988. Finding No: ATH/MHC;

Cullum, Dennis Noel Johnson (1913-1985), athlete and coach: papers, [1930s]-1985. Finding No: ATH/DC;

Ives, Bert (1890-1975), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, [1920s-1970s]. Finding No: ATH/BI;

Jewell, John Christopher (1912-2001), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, 1897-2002. Finding No: ATH/JJ;

Lloyd-Edgley, Ralph: scrapbook, [c 1924]-[c 1931]. Finding No: ATH/RLE;

Monk, Walter Harry (Wal) (1896-after 1965), athlete: papers, 1918-1961. Finding No: ATH/WHM;

Morgan, Wilf (b 1935), athlete and athletics historian: papers, 1937-2012. Finding No: ATH/WM;

Newton, Arthur Francis Hamilton (1883-1959), athlete: papers, [c 1904]-[1990s]. Finding No:

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Payne, Howard (1931-1992), athlete: papers, 1899-[c 1975]. Finding No: ATH/HP;

Percy, Joe W. (1912-2001), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1910-1997. Finding No: ATH/JWP;

Powell, Edgar Robert Leslie (Peter), (fl 1920s-70s), athlete: papers, 1813-1988. Finding No: ATH/ERLP;

Richards, Wilf (b 1906), athlete and journalist: papers, 1924-[mid 20th century]. Finding No: ATH/WR;

Roberts, Dave (fl 1930s-1990s), athlete and statistician: papers, [1930s]-1991. Finding No: ATH/DR;

Simpson, Colin J. (1929-2011), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1945-1990. Finding No: ATH/CS;

Tatham, Wilfrid George (Gus) (1898-1978), athlete: papers, 1908-1960. Finding No: ATH/WGT;

Thomas, Dr Philip, athletics administrator and coach: papers, [c 1900]-[late 20th century]. Finding No: ATH/PT;

Vargas, Charles Climaco (1905-1975), athlete: papers, 1921-31. Finding No: ATH/CCV;

Ward, Leonard H., athletics coach: papers, [mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/LW;

Watman, Melvyn Francis (Mel) (b 1938), athletics journalist and statistician: papers, 1980-1993. Finding No: ATH/MW;

Wight, Robert M., athletics administrator: papers, [mid-20th century]. Finding No: ATH/RW;

Winter, Arthur E. H. (d 1990), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [early 20th century]-1983. Finding No: ATH/AW;

Yarrow, Squire Stevens (1905-1984), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1938-1984. Finding

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- No: ATH/SY.
- | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| ATH/DM/1 | Athletics programmes and results | 1973-1975 |
| | <p>Small collection of athletics programmes and results from World Masters Championships meetings during the 1970s. Duncan MacLean is listed as a competitor at these meetings.</p> <p>3 items</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | |
| ATH/DM/1/1 | Athletics programmes | 1973-1975 |
| | <p>Two athletics programmes from World Masters Championship meetings attended by Duncan MacLean during the 1970s.</p> <p>2 items</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | |
| ATH/DM/1/1/1 | Athletics programme: track and field | 6-7 July 1973 |
| | <p>'AAU Masters National Track and Field Championships' held at Balboa Stadium, San Diego. Includes signatures of Joseph Head, Tom Buckingham and John Loftus. Programme includes promotional poster advertising the meeting.</p> <p>Duncan MacLean is listed as a competitor at this meeting.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | |
| ATH/DM/1/1/2 | Athletics programme: track and field | 11-16 August 1975 |
| | <p>'World Masters and 2nd Canadian Masters Track and Field Championships' held in Toronto, Canada.</p> <p>Duncan MacLean is listed as a competitor at this meeting.</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | |
| ATH/DM/1/2 | Results | 11-17 August |

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	Results of 'The First World Masters Track and Field Championships' held in Toronto, Canada.	1975
	1 item	
	Access: Open	
ATH/DM/2	Personalalia	1948-1977
	Papers collected by Duncan MacLean comprising publications and writings; certificates, tickets and badges; newspaper cuttings and associated material; and photographs.	
	3 files and 6 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/DM/2/1	Publications and writings	[1970s]
	Comprises:	
	/1: 'British Columbia Track Monthly', July 1974. Features an image of Duncan MacLean on front cover.	
	/2: Copy of unattributed typescript article entitled 'Music Maestro Please'. Includes references to individuals and acts associated with music halls and vaudeville.	
	2 items	
	Access: Open	
ATH/DM/2/2	Certificates, tickets and badges	1948-1977
	Comprises:	
	/1: Ticket book for 1948 London Olympic Games	
	/2: Certificate awarded to MacLean for performances in 100m and 200m races at 'The fourth National Veteran Track and Field Championships', 1974	
	/3: Badge for 'Masters Track and Field Official', 1974	
	/4: Certificate awarded to MacLean for performance in 100m race at 'World Masters Championships'	

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held in Gothenburg, Sweden, August 1977

4 items

Access: Open

ATH/DM/2/3 Newspaper cuttings and associated material [1960s]
-1977

Newspaper cuttings relating to MacLean's athletics successes during the 1960s and 1970s. There is heavy coverage when MacLean was in his 80s and early 90s. Some cuttings provide biographical details, one suggests that he once worked alongside Charlie Chaplin as a music hall entertainer. He is depicted with Howard Payne in one newspaper article.

Cuttings have often been taken from unidentified newspapers. Those that can be identified include 'Titbits', 'Faversham News', 'The Sunday Sun', 'The Toronto Star', 'The Sunday Times', 'Croydon Advertiser' and 'Gourock Times'. Some cuttings carry manuscript annotations recording the date and, sometimes, provenance of the article.

The file also includes promotional material from the 1975 World Masters Track and Field Championships, including posters depicting 90-year Duncan MacLean running.

1 file

Access: Open

ATH/DM/2/4 Photographs [1960s]
-
[1970s]

Collection of photographs depicting Duncan MacLean on the track; at home displaying medals; and with his wife Elsie. Majority of photographs are undated and are not captioned. They depict MacLean in later years, during the 1960s and 1970s.

2 files

Access: Open