

# **GONNE, MAUD, 1866-1953.**

## **Maud Gonne collection, circa 1870-1978**

Emory University  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Gonne, Maud, 1866-1953.  
**Title:** Maud Gonne collection, circa 1870-1978  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 771  
**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes), 1 oversized papers box (OP), and AV Masters: .3 linear feet (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Collection of letters, photographs and geneological material relating to Maud Gonne including primary materials collected by Professor Conrad Balliet in the course of his research, as well as audiotaped interviews conducted by him with a number of family members and acquaintances.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Special restrictions apply: this collection includes copies of original materials held by other repositories. These copies may not be reproduced without the permission of the owner of the originals.

#### **Related Materials in This Repository**

Maud Gonne and W.B. Yeats papers and W.B. Yeats collection

#### **Source**

Purchase, 1995, with subsequent additions.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Maud Gonne collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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**Processing**

Processed, 1995.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Edith Maud Gonne was born December 21, 1866, at Tongham, Surrey. She was the daughter of Captain Thomas Gonne of the 17th Lancers and Edith Frith Gonne. Her childhood was spent in Ireland, London, and Paris. In 1891 she gave birth to Georges, fathered by Lucien Millevoeye; a daughter, Iseult, followed in 1895. Devoted to the cause of Irish nationalism, Maud Gonne was active in many political causes including housing for evicted farmers, food for school children, and improved conditions for Irish political prisoners. In 1900 she founded the Daughters of Erin, an organization that promoted women's involvement in nationalist causes. Among other activities, the organization established classes in Irish history and language. In 1902 Maud Gonne played the lead role in W.B. Yeats's *Cathleen ni Houlihan*. The following year, she married the Irish patriot Major John MacBride; the marriage ended in 1905. In later years, Maud Gonne was repeatedly imprisoned for her political activities. Her autobiography, *A Servant of the Queen*, was published in 1938 and offers an account of her early life. Maud Gonne is best remembered as the object of W.B. Yeats' love and as the inspiration of some of his finest poems.

**Scope and Content Note**

This collection includes letters, interviews, research materials, and photographs related to Maud Gonne. Included are ten letters by Maud Gonne written between 1902 and 1950 in which she discusses her marriage to Major John MacBride, her feelings for W.B. Yeats, and other subjects. Also present are four letters from her father, Thomas Gonne, written while serving in India. Among the photographs included in this collection are twelve photographs of Maud Gonne dating from her childhood through old age; other family members represented in photographs include her sister, Kathleen, and her husband, John MacBride.

The collection also includes extensive research files compiled by Professor Conrad Balliet in the course of his research into Maud Gonne, Olivia Shakespear, and W.B. Yeats. These files contain genealogical records collected by Professor Balliet, consisting of copies of birth, baptism, marriage, and death certificates for a number of Gonne and MacBride family members. Finally, the collection also includes a number of interviews conducted by Professor Balliet in the 1970s with family members and friends of Maud Gonne.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into four series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Interviews, (3) Research files of Conrad Balliet, and (4) Photographs.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Correspondence, circa 1902-1950](#)

[Series 2: Interviews, 1937, 1973-1978](#)

[Series 3: Research files of Conrad Balliet](#)

[Series 4: Photographs, circa 1870-1901, 1978](#)

**Series 1**  
**Correspondence, circa 1902-1950**  
**Box 1: folders 1-17**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes ten letters written by Maud Gonne between 1902 and 1950; also present are four letters from her father, Thomas Gonne, written while serving in India. See also Series 3: Research Files of Conrad Balliet for additional photocopied correspondence.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged chronologically, with undated correspondence filed at the end of the series.

**Dated correspondence**

| Box | Folder | Content   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1   | 1      | Maud Gonne to "My Darling Sister" [Kathleen], ALS, [1902], 3 pages. Re: her decision to become Catholic and to marry John MacBride  |
| 1   | 2      | Maud Gonne to "My own little sister" [Kathleen], ALS, [1902], 6 pages. Re: thoughts on her upcoming marriage to John MacBride   |
| 1   | 3      | Maud Gonne to "Darling sister" [Kathleen], ALS, [1902?], 2 pages. Re: her plans to marry John MacBride and her feelings for "Willie Yeats"  |
| 1   | 4      | Maud Gonne to "Sister mine" [Kathleen], ALS, [Summer 1903?], 3 pages. Re: daily life in Colleville, France, thanks for recent gifts, and her pregnancy.   |
| 1   | 5      | Maud Gonne to Madame [Daupier?], ACS [1903?]  |
| 1   | 6      | Maud Gonne to "Mon rat aimee" [Iseult], AL, [191?], 3 pages   |
| 1   | 7      | Maud Gonne to Mr. Grogan, AL, 18 May 1939, 3 pages. Re: seeking relief for Mr. and Mrs. James Joseph Dever, after he took part in the mutiny of the Connaught Rangers in India.   |
| 1   | 8      | Maud Gonne to [French press], TLS [in French], [29 May 1939], on Political Prisoners' Committee, stationary, 2 pages. Re: Written in Paris, on behalf of the Political Prisoners' Committee, Gonne seeks the assistance of the French press to highlight the plight of Irish political prisoners. |
| 1   | 9      | Maud Gonne to "My beautiful Green Eyes" [Thora Forrester, Maud Gonne's niece], ALS, 2 November 1939, 2 pages. Re: her affection for her niece, her changes to a recent article on "Willie" Yeats, and war-time hardships  |
| 1   | 10     | Maud Gonne to Thora Forrester, envelope [letter missing], 26 May 1942   |
| 1   | 11     | Maud Gonne to "Darlingest of Green Eyes" [Thora Forrester], AL, 18 September 1942, 2 pages with envelope. Re: family members' health, and her own childhood asthma.   |
| 1   | 12     | Maud Gonne to "My own little Green Eyes" [Thora Forrester], AL, 28 December 1948, 4 pages with envelope   |
| 1   | 13     | Maud Gonne to "My darling little Green Eyes" [Thora Forrester], ALS, 13 December 1950, 4 pages with envelope. Re: affection for her niece, her wishes   |

to see Glendalough become a center for Irish art, her own old age, and an upcoming radio broadcast

**Undated correspondence**

- 1 14 [Thomas Gonne] to "My dearest Bru," ALS, 5 March n.y., 2 pages. Re: his "forced absence," the weather in India, horses, and his bruised leg
- 1 15 [Thomas Gonne] to "My dearest Bru," ALS, 12 November n.y., 2 pages
- 1 16 [Thomas Gonne] to "My dearest Lamb," ALS, 19 December n.y., 2 pages
- 1 17 [Thomas Gonne] to "My dearest Lamb," ALS, December n.y., 2 pages

**Series 2**  
**Interviews, 1937, 1973-1978**  
**Box 1: folders 18 - 41, AV1**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series primarily contains transcripts and recordings of interviews with people who have personal or scholarly knowledge of Maud Gonne; the interviews were conducted by Professor Conrad Balliet. Interviewees include Professor Richard Ellmann; Sean MacBride, son of John MacBride and Maud Gonne; and Michael Yeats, son of W.B. Yeats. Also present are three transcripts of radio broadcasts by and interviews of Maud Gonne.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Transcripts of Maud Gonne**

| Box | Folder | Content   |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1   | 18     | Maud Gonne radio broadcast recorded in May 1937   |
| 1   | 19     | Maud Gonne MacBride interview, no date, with notes by Conrad Balliet and photocopy of published interview |
| 1   | 20     | "Rebel Irish Women," 1966, with Helena Molony, Kathleen Behan, Maud Gonne                                 |

**Interview transcripts and notes**

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 21 | Brennan, John, notes, 1974 [recording of interview available]  |
| 1 | 22 | Comerford, Moira, notes with fragment of transcript, July 5, 1973 [recording of interview available]   |
| 1 | 23 | Dillon, Geraldine, notes, July 3, 1973   |
| 1 | 24 | Ellmann, Richard, notes, June 22, 1973   |
| 1 | 25 | Gilmore, George, notes, August 25, 1974  |
| 1 | 26 | Hayes, R.J., notes, June 30, 1973  |
| 1 | 27 | Keating, Mercedes, notes, July 2, 1973 [See also Somers, Katherine]  |
| 1 | 28 | Kenny, Mary, notes, June 23, 1973  |
| 1 | 29 | MacBride, Kit, notes, July 9, 1973 [recording of interview available]  |
| 1 | 30 | MacBride, Sean, transcript, July 16, 1973 [recording of interview available]   |
| 1 | 31 | MacLiammoir, Michael, transcript, 1973/1974? [with TLS from MacLiammoir, September 2, 1974] [recording of interview available]   |
| 1 | 32 | Mannin, Ethel, notes, June 24, 1973  |
| 1 | 33 | McHugh, Roger, notes, 1976   |
| 1 | 34 | O'Brien, Eileen, transcript, July 11, 1973 [recording of interview available]  |
| 1 | 35 | Somers, Katherine, transcript, July 1973 [includes transcripts of Tony and May Woods and Mercedes Keating, July 1973] [recording of interview available]                       |
| 1 | 36 | Stuart, Francis, transcript, July 4, 1973 [includes Conrad Balliet's notes regarding the Stuart interview and his interview of Monk Gibbon] [recording of interview available] |

- 1 37 Stuart, Francis, notes, June 30, 1978  
 1 38 Stuart, Imogen, transcript, July 11, 1973 [recording of interview available]  
 1 39 White, Anna, notes, July 13, 1973  
 - - Woods, Tony and May, transcript, July 1973 [See Somers, Katherine]  
 1 40 Yeats, Michael, notes, July 11, 1973  
 1 41 Lists of interviews conducted, 1973-1976

### Interviews

- AV1 - Brennan, John, 1974 [Side 1; Side 2 blank] [notes available]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tp2]  
 AV1 - Comerford, Moira, July 5, 1973 [transcript available]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b95gd]  
 AV1 - Edwards, Hilton, no date  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tnx]  
 AV1 - Forrester, Thora, 1974  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tq6][Digital/  
 digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7trb]  
 AV1 - Forrester, Thora, August 1976  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tsg][Digital/digitized  
 copy available in the Reading Room: id b7ttm]  
 AV1 - Forrester, Thora, August 24, 1976  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tvr][Digital/digitized  
 copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tww]  
 AV1 - Gibbon, Monk, July 5, 1973  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7sth]  
 - - MacBride, Eric and Mary [See Stuart, Imogen]  
 AV1 - MacBride, Kit, July 9, 1974 [notes available]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tbp][Digital/  
 digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tct]  
 AV1 - MacBride, Sean, July 16, 1973 [transcript available]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tjh][Digital/digitized  
 copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tkn]  
 AV1 - MacLiammoir, Michael, July 12, 1973 [transcript available]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tms]  
 - - O'Brien, Conor [See Stuart, Imogen]  
 AV1 - O'Brien, Eileen, July 11, 1973 [Side 1: transcript available]; Eileen O'Brien,  
 (continued) and Imogen Stuart, July 11, 1973 [Side 2: transcript available] [See  
 also Stuart, Imogen (continued)]  
 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tdz][Digital/  
 digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tf3]  
 AV1 - "Rebel Irish Women," with Helena Molony, Kathleen Behan, and Maud Gonne,  
 1966 [transcript available] [from 45 rpm]

- [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b89xj][Digital/  
digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b89zp]
- - Somers, Katherine [See Woods, Tony]
- AV1 - Stuart, Francis, July 4, 1973 [transcript available]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7sr7][Digital/  
digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7ssc]
- AV1 - Stuart, Imogen, July 11, 1973 (continued) [See also O'Brien, Eileen]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7tg7]
- AV1 - O'Brien, Conor; MacBride, Eric and Mary, no date  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7thc]
- AV1 - Woods, Tony and May Woods; and Katherine Somers, no date [transcript  
available]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b93jg]



**Series 3**  
**Research files of Conrad Balliet**  
**Box 2 - Box 5: folder 5; OP1**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains the research files of Conrad Balliet assembled during the course of his research into Maud Gonne. Included are genealogical records of Maud Gonne and her family; photocopies of three novels by Olivia Shakespeare, which have been annotated by Balliet; photocopies of two of W.B. Yeats's journals; correspondence between Olivia Shakespeare and W.B. Yeats; extensive files on the divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride; and materials relating to what would become Balliet's unpublished biography of Maud Gonne, *For the Love of Maud*, as well as drafts of that biography.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Restrictions on access**

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**Genealogical records**

| Box | Folder | Content  |
|-----|--------|--|
| 2   | 1      | Baptismal record for Maud Gonne [reproduction]   |
| 2   | 2      | Birth certificates of Kathleen Gonne, Sean MacBride [photocopy], Bertha Georgie Hyde-Lees with transcript of birth announcement of Maud Gonne from several newspapers        |
| 2   | 3      | Burial records of Edith and Thomas Gonne and of Maud Gonne's infant sister, with photographs of the church where Edith and Thomas Gonne are buried and of their grave marker |
| 2   | 4      | Death certificate of Maud Gonne, death certificate of Iseult [photocopy], rubbing from George's grave marker, and document related to George's cemetery plot [photocopy]     |
| 2   | 5      | Marriage certificates of John MacBride and Maud Gonne, Thomas Gonne and Edith Cook, Thomas Pilcher and Kathleen Gonne, and William Gilbert Hyde-Lees and Edith Woodmass      |
| 2   | 6      | Will of Thomas Gonne, photocopy  |

**Research notes**

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 2 | 7  | <i>For the Love of Maud</i> , TS   |
| 2 | 8  | <i>For the Love of Maud</i> , revised chapters 7-12 [retitled <i>Maud Gonne: A Biography</i> ], TS |
| 2 | 9  | <i>For the Love of Maud</i> , research notes   |
| 2 | 10 | <i>For the Love of Maud</i> , research notes on Maud Gonne's trips to the United States            |

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 2 | 11 | "Maud Gonne: A Documented Chronology," TS  |
| 2 | 12 | "Maud Gonne: A Documented Chronology," drafts, MS and TS                         |
| 2 | 13 | "Maud Gonne: A Documented Chronology," research notes, MS                        |
| 2 | 14 | "Maud Gonne: A Documented Chronology," W.B. Yeats chronology, MS and TS          |
| 2 | 15 | Miscellaneous research notes and collected items                                 |
| 3 | 1  | Olivia Shakespear, <i>Beauty's Hour</i> (1896), annotated photocopy              |
| 3 | 2  | Olivia Shakespear, <i>The Devotees</i> (1904), annotated photocopy               |
| 3 | 3  | Olivia Shakespear, <i>False Laurel</i> (1896), annotated photocopy and notes, MS |
| 3 | 4  | Olivia Shakespear and W.B. Yeats, research notes, MS                             |
| 3 | 5  | Related correspondence   |

### Reproductions of primary materials

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| 3   | 6  | Correspondence between Ezra Pound and John Quinn about Maud Gonne, October-December 1918, reproductions                         |
| 3   | 7  | Correspondence from Thomas Gonne to daughters Maud and Kathleen, 1877-1881, photocopies [with transcriptions by Conrad Balliet] |
| 3   | 8  | Correspondence from Olivia Shakespear to W.B. Yeats, 1923-1935, photocopy   |
| 3   | 9  | Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to Olivia Shakespear, 1925-1936, photocopies [1 of 4]  |
| 3   | 10 | Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to Olivia Shakespear, 1917-1935, photocopies [2 of 4]  |
| 4   | 1  | Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to Olivia Shakespear, 1922-1933, photocopies [3 of 4]  |
| 4   | 2  | Correspondence from W.B. Yeats to Olivia Shakespear, 1904-1933, photocopies [4 of 4]  |
| 4   | 3  | Correspondence, miscellaneous, photocopies  |
| 4   | 4  | Divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906, index to materials   |
| 4   | 5  | Divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906, photocopies [1 of 3]                                       |
| 4   | 6  | Divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906, photocopies [2 of 3]                                       |
| 4   | 7  | Divorce proceedings between Maud Gonne and John MacBride, 1905-1906, photocopies [3 of 3]                                       |
| 4   | 8  | Journal of John MacBride, [1905], photocopy   |
| 4   | 9  | Journal of John MacBride, [1905], photocopy   |
| OP1 | 1  | Journal of W.B. Yeats, 1908-1915, photocopy   |
| 5   | 1  | Journal of W.B. Yeats, 1908-1915, transcription   |
| 5   | 2  | Journal of W.B. Yeats, Christmas 1912, photocopy [1 of 2]   |
| 5   | 3  | Journal of W.B. Yeats, Christmas 1912, photocopy [2 of 2]   |
| 5   | 4  | <i>MacBride v. Independent</i> , photocopied materials  |

5 5 "Statement of Facts on Behalf of Major MacBride," photocopy

**Series 4**  
**Photographs, circa 1870-1901, 1978**  
**Box 5: folders 6-31**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series consists of twelve photographs of Maud Gonne dating from her childhood through old age. Also present are photographs of Maud Gonne's sister, Kathleen; Gonne's husband, John MacBride; additional family members; and W.B. Yeats.

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Content</b>  |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 5          | 6             | Maud and Kathleen Gonne, St. Leonards on Sea, [circa 1870-1871]   |
| 5          | 7             | Maud or Kathleen Gonne, St. Leonards on Sea, [circa 1870s]  |
| 5          | 8             | Maud Gonne, Paris, 1901   |
| 5          | 9             | Maud Gonne as young woman, Paris, n.d.  |
| 5          | 10            | Maud Gonne as young woman, n.d.   |
| 5          | 11            | Maud Gonne as young woman, Dublin, n.d.   |
| 5          | 12            | Maud Gonne as young woman, Cannes, n.d.   |
| 5          | 13            | Maud Gonne, n.d.  |
| 5          | 14            | Maud Gonne, n.d.  |
| 5          | 15            | Maud Gonne, n.d.  |
| 5          | 16            | Maud Gonne ["Boycott British Goods"], n.d.  |
| 5          | 17            | Maud Gonne and Mary Walker, n.d.  |
| 5          | 18            | Thomas Gonne [Maud's father], n.d.  |
| 5          | 19            | Kathleen Gonne [Maud's sister] as a child, Hastings, [circa 1874-1875]  |
| 5          | 20            | Kathleen Gonne as a young woman, London, n.d.   |
| 5          | 21            | Kathleen Gonne as a young woman, Cannes, n.d.   |
| 5          | 22            | Kathleen Gonne Pilcher as a young woman, London, n.d.   |
| 5          | 23            | Toby Pilcher [Kathleen's infant daughter], London, n.d.   |
| 5          | 24            | John MacBride and armed men, [South Africa?], n.d.  |
| 5          | 25            | Countess de la Suzeraine [Maud's Aunt Mary], Florence, n.d.   |
| 5          | 26            | W.B. Yeats, n.d.  |
| 5          | 27            | Mrs. Meredith [family servant], n.d.  |
| 5          | 28            | John O'Leary, n.d.  |
| 5          | 29            | Unidentified woman and child, Kildare, n.d.   |
| 5          | 30            | Maud Gonne's home at Colleville, France, with postcard of present site  |
| 5          | 31            | Assorted slides taken by Conrad Balliet in 1978, including Thor Forrester, Kay Bridgewater, homes of Maud Gonne in Paris and Dublin, and the cemetery at Colleville |