



GUIDE TO THE DAVID MCKEE WRIGHT PERSONAL PAPERS

Descriptive Summary

Title:	David McKee Wright – personal papers
Date:	Updated 11/4/19
Creator:	Neil Boness; Michael Sharkey
Language represented:	English
Repository:	Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library
Extent:	8 boxes
Genre and Forms:	Correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, print material, newspaper clippings.
Abstract:	Creative works of the poet and journalist David McKee Wright.

Administrative Information:

The finding aid was compiled by three individuals at separate periods – Neil Boness, Michael Sharkey and Julie Price. Until a review of the finding aid against the contents of each box is undertaken, please consider this finding aid a **draft** only.

Provenance:

Boxes 1-3 ??

Boxes 4-8 were donated in 2013 by Michael Sharkey, the author of *Apollo on George Street*, a literary biography of David McKee Wright. A contents list of boxes 4-8 was compiled by Michael Sharkey in 2013 but requires validation against the contents of the boxes.

Biography:

(1869-1928) Poet and journalist.

Born in Ireland, Wright emigrated to New Zealand when he was 18 years old. His stories and verse about station life were published regularly. Wright was a Congregational minister for some years before turning to writing fulltime in 1905. His writing often dealt with social and political issues. He moved to Australia in 1910 and contributed to the *Bulletin*, the *Sun* and the (Australian) *Worker*. He counted Christopher Brennan and Henry Lawson among his friends and was the partner of Zora Cross for the last decade of his life.

Reference: *Australian dictionary of biography*. Volume 12 pp.584. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1966-[2000].

Access:

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Local Catalogue Headings:

Wright, David McKee

Cross, Zora

BOX 1/8

The Amethyst [Poem] Original contribution to the Bulletin. Annotated by E.V.Dunlop. 1 p. Typescript / Wright, David McKee 01.01

Consecrated ground [Poem] Original contribution to the Bulletin. Annotated by E.V.Dunlop. 2pp. Typescript / Wright, David McKee 01.02

The Legacy [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.03

Tragedy of glow-worms [Poem] /Wright, David McKee 01.04

Progress [Poem] Wright, David McKee 01.05

The Bride of the world [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.06

The Guessing [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.07

The Woman and the song [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.08

A vision of Maire [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.09

Lightening [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.10

Signs of winter [Poem] / Wright, David McKee 01.11

A Crown of sonnets [and other poems] / Wright, David McKee 02

The Crowded hours / Wright, David McKee 03

The George Street mystery / Wright, David McKee 04.1

The George Street mystery Wright, David McKee 04.2

Luta of old Lutetia [Novel] / Wright, David McKee 05.1

Luta of old Lutetia [Novel] / Wright, David McKee 05.2

John Drummond [A Novel] Chapters 1-8, 10 only / Wright, David McKee 06.1

John Drummond [A Novel] / Wright, David McKee 06.2

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BOX 4/8

Spiral-bound volume, 'New Zealand Newspapers 1890-1910 David McKee Wright References'. As an index at the start of this yellow-card covered volume indicates, the volume has my notes and transcripts of Wright-related material in 12 New Zealand papers.

Three (3) exercise books

Spiral-bound volume (with yellow cover) labelled 'Otago Witness 1890-1898 / Alexander Turnbull Library'. This volume contains photocopies of David McKee Wright's poems and stories and items relating to him, which appeared in the *Otago Witness* newspaper between 1890 and 1898.

Yellow spiral-bound volume, *David McKee Wright: The Family Background 1970* by David McKee Wright Jr. This contains two folios, one of the memoir and the other an account of the literary works of DMW by his son. The whole is a photocopy of the original lent to me by Mr Ken McKee Wright (DMW's grandson).

Spiral-bound volume (with yellow cover) labelled 'D.M.W. Notes N.Z.'. Contains notes and photocopies of documents collected in New Zealand at the Turnbull Library, Christchurch Library and elsewhere.

Julia Saunders. *Cross Observations*. (BA Honours thesis)

Photocopy of Wright's newspaper, *Te Rauparaha* for Saturday 3 March 1906 (original in Nelson Provincial Museum, New Zealand).

Bound green volume, titled 'Draft of Apollo in George Street/Michael Sharkey/2005'. This is the third-last draft of the full text of the biography.

Folder of copies of short fiction and journalistic writing by Margaret Fane and Hilary Lofting - from various sources, chiefly the *Bulletin*, *PFA Quarterly Journal* and *NZL Quarterly Journal* & the *Australian Journal*. (This parcel is tied with legal tape)

Loose A3 copies of short fiction by Margaret Fane and Hilary Lofting from *THE SYDNEY MAIL*.

Bodington Centenary calendar for 2008. (This hospital was formerly the Red Cross Hospital described by Margaret Fane in one of her 'Letters from Margaret' in the *P.F.A. Quarterly Journal* (June 1921).

BOX 5/8

White ring-folder, 'D.M.W. illustrations' (photographs and documents relating to Wright's family & associates). **Note** the list of contents of this folder in inside front flap.

Blue ring-folder, 'David McKee Wright: Copies of Prose in the *Bulletin* and elsewhere 1907-1919'

Cerise ring-folder, 'David McKee Wright Copies of Prose in the *Bulletin* and elsewhere 1907-1919'

Blue ring-folder, 'Luta of Lutetia - A Novel by David McKee Wright' (photocopy of the serial that appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*).

Red ring-folder, 'Apollo in George Street - A Satire by David McKee Wright': Michael Sharkey's typescript, with Introduction and photocopies of the versions of the poem already held by Fisher Library - originally included with Zora Cross Papers. It could be useful to keep this version intact. This was the working version on which my article on the poem appeared in *Australian Literary Studies*, vol. 12, No. 4, October 1986, (with a misleading title applied to it by Laurie Hergenhan, ALS editor: 'A Lost Satire on the 1890s *Bulletin* writers and bohemians', in place of my plainer title 'Apollo in George Street: A satire by David McKee Wright').

Black spiral-bound volume, 'Apollo in George Street: A Lost Bohemian Satire Edited by Michael Sharkey'.

Plastic spiral-bound volume with brown front cover and the title 'Australian Magazine and Newspaper Articles on/by D. M. Wright & Friends 1905- 1931'. This collection of photocopies contains, inter alia, SIX articles by Zora Cross that appeared in the Brisbane Daily Mail concerning her North Queensland tour in 1916. (The articles were subsequently published by the Queensland Government as a presentation volume).

Manilla folder, 'The Lost Prima Donna by Mark Beecroft' - a transcript of David McKee Wright's unpublished Pacific romance novel, with Introduction by Michael Sharkey.

'D.M.W. illustrations' (photographs and documents relating to Wrights family & associates)

White ring-folder contains the following folders:

1st plastic folder. Illustrations relating to young David McKee Wright

1. Illustrations of Ballynaskeagh district & Manse (from William Wright's book *The Brontes in Ireland*).
2. Copies of photos of young David at mother's graveside;
3. Two photos of Sophia Davidson (DMW' stepmother) - from Daphne Bramwell
4. Photo of Rev Dr Wright & Family on vacation at Riviera
5. Family group photograph of Wright family with 3 daughters in foreground
6. Photograph of photo of Rev Dr Wm Wright
7. David McKee Wright's baptismal certificate (courtesy of Uel Wright)

2nd plastic folder. DMW's early New Zealand locations

1. Postcard of Hakataramea Station, Otago.
2. Photograph of Welch painting of Hakataramea Ranges
3. Photograph of 'Avonside' at Christchurch- the Rev David McKee's

widow's house & school

4. Photocopies (colour) of Sarah Jane McKee and Rev David McKee (Jr) - from Anne Masters.

3rd plastic folder. Dunedin 1890s.

1. Photocopy of postcard of Otago University
2. Postcard of Dunedin- view from Roslyn
3. Colour copy of postcard of Princes Street Dunedin
4. Photograph (by Michael Sharkey) of DMW's Dunedin residence

4th plastic folder. Central Otago sites

1. Roxburgh and Alexandra (and Rev C.S. Ross)
2. Clyde
3. Clyde Presbyterian Church
4. Rev J. Lothian (DMW's supervisor at Alexandra)
5. View of Alexandra

5th plastic folder. The Otago Witness masthead, Christmas 1896 (Photocopy)

6th plastic folder. Photocopy of caricature of Charles Nalder Baeyertz.

7th plastic folder. Photo of DMW's contemporary Marie Randle ('Wych Elm')

8th plastic folder. Photo: David McKee Wright in 1899 (from Wisps of Tussock frontispiece)

9th plastic folder. Photo: David McKee Wright 'about 1900' (*Otago Witness*, 1928)

10th plastic folder. Elizabeth McKee Wright.

1. Photo of Elizabeth Couper at age 25. (from David McKee Wright's son's 'family history' - courtesy of Ken McKee Wright).
2. Wedding Certificate of David McKee Wright & Elizabeth Couper.

11th plastic folder. Oamaru.

1. Oamaru in the 1890s.
2. Photocopies of postcards of St Luke's Church Oamaru and of Itchen Street
3. Photo of Old Tyne Street Gardens
4. Postcard of Itchen Street Oamaru
5. Postcard of Harbor of Oamaru
6. Postcard of 'Some early buildings' in Tyne Street
7. Postcard of Oamaru from the north
8. Photo of North Otago Troops leaving for Boer War
9. Photocopy of notice to electors of Oamaru re Local Option Poll 1899

12th plastic folder. Photograph of Wellington Congregational Union meeting 1900,

Wellington

16th plastic folder. Wellington

1. Newtown Congregational Church (courtesy of Rev Pepe Nokise)
2. Copy of postcard with view of Willis Street, Wellington from Grand Hotel
3. Birth Certificate of David McKee Wright (Jr).

13th plastic folder. Nelson

1. Photo of postcard 'Nelson, N.Z.'
2. Photo of similar postcard 'Nelson, N.Z.'
3. Photo of postcard 'Trafalgar Street Nelson N.Z.'
4. Photo of 'Waimea Road Nelson N.Z.' (where DMW lived)
5. Photo of 'Baton River' (where DMW built a cabin)
6. DMW's newspaper '*Te Rauparaha/The Nelson Times*' 3 March 1906. (photocopy)
7. Photograph by Michael Sharkey of College Hill, Nelson, NZ, seen from Waimea Road where the Wrights lived. (Photo in white plain envelope)

14th plastic folder. Letter from Nelson Provincial Museum 2 April 1987 re Nelson Congregational Church. Copies of 3 photographs attached

15th plastic folder. Wellington

1. Postcard of Government Building (Parliament)
2. Photocopy of DMW's column 'The House of Talk' from *The New Zealand Mail* 4 October 1907
3. Caricature of Frank Morton by Tom Glover
4. Cartoon of 'Sunday Desecration' with Frank Morton et al - by Hiscock.

16th plastic folder. David McKee Wright - photo of Hal Gye's 1910 portrait

17th plastic folder. Photograph- David McKee Wright around 1910 (published in *Home* magazine 1924)

18th plastic folder. David McKee Wright's Glebe address. (Photo by Michael Sharkey)

19th plastic folder. Mick Paul (Oswald Edward Paul)

1. Mick Paul, drawn by himself 1908
2. Mick Paul's cartoon of the Wowser octopus (*Fairplay*, 1910)
3. Mick Paul caricatured by David Low (*Lone Hand*, 1914)
4. Mick Paul drawn by himself. (P.F.A. Quarterly Magazine, March 1921)
5. Photographs of woodcut and painting by Mick Paul (in plain white envelope)

20th plastic folder. Mick Paul and family

1. Letter from Natalie Ashley (Mawson, ACT) 29 July 1989. Relating to

Mick Paul 4) pages, with insert pasted from *History of Australian Art re Emily Paul & Mick Paul*)

2. Copy of Marriage certificate of Mick (Oswald Edward) and Dorothy Paul and copy of Death Certificate of Mick Paul (obtained by Michael Sharkey from NSW Registry)
3. Photocopy of obituary of Lt-Colonel Alfred Paul, plus photocopies of newspaper obits
4. Photo of Mick Paul as a child (from Heather Paul)
5. Four illustrations including bookplate (from Heather Paul)
6. Family tree of William Paul of Polperro's descendants
7. Photocopy of portrait of Mick Paul as a cadet
8. Photocopy of *Sunday Times* article on Dorothy Paul
9. Two photos taken by Michael Sharkey of paintings in Heather Paul's collection
10. Photocopies of 3 sketches in Pauline Smith's house at Bathurst
11. Photocopies of Mick Paul sketching Douglas Stewart and of photos of Dorothy E. Paul, Hilary Lofting, and photos of five Mick Paul illustrations of artists and actors (Vance Palmer et al) - from Natalie Ashley

21st plastic folder. Dorothy Ellsmore Paul

1. I. Anon [May Moore! Photograph of Dorothy Ellsmore Paul (Mitchell Library)
2. Rene Pardon photograph of Dorothy Ellsmore Paul (*Wentworth Magazine*)

22nd plastic folder. Mick Paul pencil sketches of others (and self) plus 4 photos of sketched provided by Natalie Ashley.

1. Sketch of Rod Quinn 1925
2. Harold Mercer ('Hamer') 1928
3. Hugh McCrae 1930
4. Self Portrait (date obscured)

23rd plastic folder. Margaret Fane (Beatrice Osborn)

Margaret Fane photo by May Moore (Mitchell Library)

1. Anon Photo of Margaret Fane with subscript 'Yours Sincerely, Margaret' (from *P.F.A. Quarterly*, 1920 - Mitchell Library)
2. Birth record of Beatrice Florence Osborn (Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, etc)

24th plastic folder. Margaret Fane's parents and children.

1. Photograph of 'Ozy' - Walter Ferdinand Osborn
2. Photograph of 'Ozy' in uniform, with wife Susan Osborn
3. Photo of Brian and Walter Ferdinand Osborn at Point Clare
4. Mrs W.F. Osborn at 'Woodlands' Asquith

5. Photo of Ullin, Brian, Margaret Fane, Billy & Pat
6. Photo of Barry, Ullin, Pat, Brian, Margaret Fane, Nina (photo from Ullin - originally from Nina Beaton)

25th plastic folder. Sydney journalist-poets

1. Photograph of H.E. Boote (Australian Worker editor). Mitchell Library
2. Photo of 'Narranghi Boori' (John Sylvester Ryan) by Appleby (Mitchell Library)

26th plastic folder. Hilary Lofting: 3 portraits

1. Photograph of Hilary Lofting from *P.F.A. Quarterly Magazine*, Sept 1919
2. Photo of pencil sketch of Hilary Lofting by Mick Paul 1925 (from Natalie Ashley)
3. Sepia Photograph of Hilary Lofting (possibly by May Moore) sometime around mid-1920s.

27th plastic folder. Hilary Lofting's English family.

1. Sepia photo of Hilary's father
2. Sepia photo of Hilary's mother
3. Sepia photo of Hilary's sister Mary
4. Black and White photo of Lofting brothers and sister at door of their home.
5. Black and white photo of Lofting boys in striped blazers with sister at tennis
6. Small portrait photograph of Hilary as a young man dressed with bow-tie.

28th plastic folder.

1. I. Photograph of Lionel Lindsay etching of Christopher Brennan (from Duncan Rolley)
2. Photographs taken by Michael Sharkey in 1987, during a trip to Rhondda Valley, home of Beatrice Osborn and Hilary Lofting in 1920s: the house at Rhondda Valley; Ullin McKee Wright with Julia Saunders at the site of another house (long demolished) on the main road near Falconbridge. (Photographs in white envelope). Brennan was a visitor to the Loftings at Rhondda Valley.

29th plastic folder. Zora Cross's parents.

1. Two photographs reproduced from Sydney University Library (Cross papers) of Ernest William Cross and Mary Louisa Eliza Ann Skyring
2. Copy of Death Certificate of Ernest William Cross (14 January 1919)
3. Copy of Death Certificate of Mary Louisa Eliza Ann Cross (8 October 1957)

30th plastic folder. 'Carlemon' at Mosman - home of Zora Cross and her sister, Arlene 1905-7; 1916-1917.

31st plastic folder. Marriage & Divorce documents relating to Zora Cross

1. Certified copy of Zora Bernice May Cross's marriage to Stewart Smith, actor at St Barnabas Church. 2 March 1911.
2. Copy of Decree Nisi of marriage of Zora Bernice Smith and Stuart Smith. 12 September 1922.

32nd plastic folder. Press notices of Zora Cross performances in Queensland 1915.

1. *The Brisbane Courier* 29 September 1915
2. *Brisbane Daily Mail* 11 December 1915

33rd plastic folder. Photograph of Zora Cross's friend (& fellow-actor) Norman Campbell. (John Oxley Library)

34th plastic folder. Zora Cross's son Teddy (Norman Garvin - 'Normand' on his birth certificate -named for Zora's actor friend Norman Campbell and Zora's Sydney Girls High School headmistress Lucy Arabella Stocks Garvin?)

35th plastic folder. Photograph of John Skyring Cross (Zora Cross's brother 'Jack'). Sydney University Library (Cross papers)

36th plastic folder. Portraits of Zora Cross.

1. Zora Cross and David McKee Wright, September 1917. (Copy of copy enclosed in letter to J.K. Moir- collector of Cross & Wright memorabilia). Moir Collection, Latrobe Library, Melbourne. Attached are negatives of the photograph.
2. Photocopy of photo used as frontispiece to *Songs of Love and Life* 1917.
3. Photocopy of frontispiece photograph, used in article in *P.F.A. Quarterly* (by Margaret Fane) March 1920
4. Photo of photograph made in September 1917 - this one signed 'David from Zora'
5. Photo of photograph of ZC, signed 'To Bettice from Zora with Love Xmas
6. 1920. Mitchell Library
7. Photocopy of photograph of Zora that appeared in *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 April 1935.
8. Pioneer memorial at Glenbrook NSW - image purportedly resembling Zora Cross (which it does not).
9. 37th plastic folder. Colour copy of dust-wrapper for *Songs of Love and Life*, with design by Norman Lindsay, together with his graceless letter to George Robertson.

38th plastic folder. Australian War Memorial letter of 3 August 1989 and war records of

members of Cross and Osborn families: especially note Sergeant Victor Cross MM (49th Qld Battalion), Private John Skyring Cross (occupation, Student); Private Walter Ferdinand Osborn (occupation, Overseer)

39th plastic folder. Sheet music for David McKee Wright's 'Viking Song', music by Mirrie Hill.

40th plastic folder. Angus & Robertson's promotional flyer for David McKee Wright's *An Irish Heart*.

41st plastic folder. Later portraits (photos and otherwise) of David McKee Wright (period 1917-1928)

1. David Low cartoon of meeting of Bulletin editorial board (Wright is the seated second last figure from right).
2. David Low caricature of DMW made in 1918 (for 'the Angus & Robertson edition of "Apollo in George Street" that was pulled at the last moment). *Bulletin* 30 October 1929.
3. Photocopy of May Moore photograph of DMW published in the *P.F.A.*
4. *Quarterly Magazine*, June 1920
5. Photo of a photo of DMW in the grounds of 'Greenawn' (holding cigarette). Photo from April Hersey.
6. Photo of a photo of DMW with Davidina (about to lift her up?) at 'Greenawn'. Photo from April Hersey.
7. Photo of DMW standing with Davidina beside him at 'Greenawn' about 1924. Photo from April Hersey.
8. Photocopy of a photo of Zora and David, Ted and Davidina at Glenbrook,
9. 1924. (This first appeared in the *Nepean Review* - lent by April Hersey)
10. Photograph of DMW by May Moore, 1927. Mitchell Library.
11. Photocopy of photo of DMW at 57, by May Moore. From Ken McKee Wright.
12. Photocopy of page 27 of *Present-Day Australia*, 1927, featuring the May Moore photograph of DMW.
13. Another copy of the May Moore photograph, as it appeared in *Present-Day Australia* 1927
14. Another copy of the May Moore photograph of DMW, which appeared in *The Bookman*, September 1928.

42nd plastic folder. Photographs of 'Greenawn', Glenbrook, home of Zora Cross and David McKee Wright.

1. Photograph of the original house (made from Sydney University Library copy. Negative attached in small yellow envelope)
2. Wright's cottage (photo by Vicky Hersey)
3. Interior of Wright's cottage (desk in right foreground)
4. Interior of Wright's cottage (bed at left & centre; set of Oxford Dictionary)

in book-case, right)

43rd plastic folder. Death certificate of David McKee Wright, and death certificate of Andrew Joseph O'Flanagan (the doctor who attended to Zora Cross and David McKee Wright).

44th plastic folder. Obituaries of David McKee Wright

1. Lola Gornall 's Obituary of David McKee Wright-clipping from the
2. *Australian Worker*.
3. Anon. 'David McKee Wright: An Appreciation', *Nelson Mail* 7 February 1928.
4. Fred J. Bloomfield, obituary remarks in *Aussie*, March 1928.

45th plastic folder. Map of Woolloomooloo, with houses where Hilary Lofting & Margaret Fane and their children lived (locations identified by Nina Beaton, 6 June 1990, at her home at Inala, Queensland).

46th plastic folder. Grave of David McKee Wright at Church of England site, Emu Plains (photo by Michael Sharkey, around 1990).

BOX 6/8

Grey box file with title 'Letters to Michael Sharkey concerning David McKee Wright & his literary background, family and his contemporaries. Correspondence begun in 1983'. Items in chronological order. Also included in this box is a plan of the Village of Glen brook made in 1925, made by the NSW Department of Lands.

Photocopies of Wright's poems from *The Australian Worker* (in folder)

Black ring-binder labelled 'David McKee Wright Bibliography' - contains an alphabetical index of Wright's poems located in the course of research for biography, *Apollo in George Street: The Life of David McKee Wright*.

Blue ring-binder labelled 'DMW/ Prose Criticism of DMW/ MSS Scrapbook'. Contains photocopies of reviews of Wright by others; photocopy of a collection 'The Crown of Sonnets and other poems collected by Zora Cross' - originally held in Cross papers at Fisher Library; photocopies of DMW manuscripts; photocopies of DMW poems located in scrapbooks; and a photocopy of a 'Morality Play' by DMW.

Folder containing copy of David McKee Wright's unpublished novel, 'The lost prima donna' with Introduction by Michael Sharkey. The original is in New Zealand, in possession of Wright's grandson, Mr Ken McKee Wright.

Plastic spiral bound volume labelled 'Nina Beaton's Introduction to the Fane-Lofting Stories' - along with miscellaneous notes and copies of items relating to Sydney identities, Wright's UK/NZ background, Queensland identities and Zora Cross items, etc.

Bound green volume titled 'Timeline notes on David McKee Wright / Michael Sharkey 1988-2010'.

BOX 7/8 and Box 8/8

Two (2) black card index boxes containing photocopies of poems of David McKee Wright, pasted on 5-inch x 8-inch cards, and sorted into alphabetical order of titles.

Box 7 contains A-L

Box 8 contains M-Z