

Collection #
SC2947

HAROLD MACMILLAN LETTER, 1951-1968

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1951-1968

PROVENANCE: Kingston Galleries, Inc., March, 1967

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Maurice Harold Macmillan, First Earl of Stockton, was born to parents Maurice Crawford Macmillan and Helen Belles on February 10, 1894, in London. A graduate of Eton College (1912), his schooling at Balliol (1912-1914) was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. Macmillan first joined the 60th Rifles (KRRC), and then was transferred to the Grenadier Guards. It was in this company that he earned a reputation for being courageous in the field. Macmillan was severely wounded several times in the battle of Somme, and was in recuperation during the last two years of the war. He would walk with a particular gait his whole life due to wartime injuries and the subsequent operations that he sustained.

In 1920 Macmillan married Lady Dorothy Cavendish. At the time he was serving as an aide-de-camp to Governor General of Canada, who was the Duke of Devonshire. Afterwards he worked at the family publishing firm. Macmillan was elected to the House of Commons in 1924. As a representative member of Stockton he advocated conservatism and the 'The Middle Way,' which was a concept that dictated balancing individual enterprise with collective welfare. He published *The Middle Way* pertaining to the policy in 1938. Macmillan lost his bid at Stockton in 1929, but was re elected in 1931 and 1935. During this time he was critical of the current administration, and supported the political advancement of Winston Churchill.

In 1940 Churchill became the prime minister of the United Kingdom, and appointed Macmillan to the position of Junior Minister to the Ministry of Supply. Two years later, Churchill appointed Macmillan to the Allied Force Headquarters in Algiers, and he served in this position until the end of the war. Afterwards he lost his third bid at Stockton, and eventually represented Bromley in the House of Commons.

Macmillan became an instrumental member of Churchill's post war administration in 1951. As the Minister of Housing, he spearheaded the construction of 300,000 homes in collaboration with Junior Minister Ernest Marples. Following Churchill's retirement in 1955, Macmillan served in the Foreign Office under Prime Minister Eden, and then as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Treasury Department. He succeeded Eden as prime minister in January 1957. Over the course of his administration Macmillan strengthened international alliances and negotiated the Test Ban Treaty of 1963 with President Kennedy. Macmillan also oversaw the decolonization of or the "liquidation" of British colonies in Africa. He retired from office following prostate surgery in 1963.

After retirement Macmillan continued to serve as Chancellor of Oxford University and at his family publishing firm. He also completed his six volume autobiography. In 1976 The Queen awarded Macmillan the Order of Merit, and in 1984 he accepted the peerage position to become the first Earl of Stockton. He died on December 29, 1986.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone. "Maurice Harold Macmillan, First Earl of Stockton." *Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society* 33 (1987): 376-395.

<http://rsbm.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/33/376.full.pdf>, accessed Nov. 20, 2012.

BBC On This Day.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/december/29/newsid_2547000/2547307.stm, accessed Nov. 20, 2012.

"British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan Talks of 'Interdependence' at DePauw's Nationally Televised 119th Commencement." <http://www.depauw.edu/news-media/latest-news/details/20586/>, accessed Nov. 20, 2012.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of correspondence and newspaper clippings dating from 1951 to 1968 pertaining to Harold Macmillan, former Prime Minister of Britain and Oxford University chancellor. Correspondence includes a personal, typewritten letter sent from Macmillan to Allen Beville Ramsay, then Cambridge University Vice-Chancellor and Magdalene College professor. Macmillan addresses Ramsay as his “dear tutor,” and signs the letter: “Your affectionate pupil H.M.”

There are newspaper clippings from *Indianapolis News* report on Macmillan’s two-day visit to Indiana in January 1968. The article “Macmillan gets book of grandfather’s,” dated January 23, 1968, chronicles seventy-two year old Macmillan’s visit to Spencer in Owen County, in which he traveled from the home where his mother, Helen Artie Belles, was raised to Riverside Cemetery where his grandfather, Dr. Joshua T. Belles, is buried. Later that evening Macmillan would deliver a foreign policy address on U.S.-Russia-China relations at DePauw University, where his grandfather graduated. The article notes that Macmillan received an honorary doctorate from the university in 1958. Macmillan also became an honorary alumnus of both DePauw and Indiana universities.

The article “Test of Success-Get in Index, Macmillan Says” includes comments made by Macmillan on various topics, such as the Vietnam War and his American mother, during his two-day visit to Indiana. In “Macmillan Indiana Tie ‘Broke Ice’ With Ike,” the author plugs the former Prime Minister’s autobiographical volume *The Blast of War, 1939-1945*. The article goes on to discuss Macmillan’s World War II memoirs series, which chronicle his time as Prime Minister Churchill’s appointed parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Supply as well as the Colonial Ministry. Macmillan also served in Algiers with then General Eisenhower and helped to organize the 1943 Casablanca conference between Churchill and President Roosevelt. The article also includes a photograph of Macmillan walking with Churchill at the time of the conference.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2947).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.