

**Acc.12987**  
**August 2009**



## **Inventory**

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**George Dott, Scottish Nationalist and Journalist**

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GB 233 Acc. 12987

George Dott (Scottish Nationalist and Journalist) Diaries and Papers  
1909-1959

Fonds

0.36 m, 3 boxes

The collection consists of diaries and some personal papers of Scottish nationalist George Dott. As a Scottish National Party candidate, Dott opposed Labour Willie Ross in the Kilmarnock by-election of 5th December 1946. His wife Mary C. Dott was Secretary of the Scottish National Party in the 1940s. Their house was a meeting place for Scottish nationalists in the 1940s.

George Dott was a slow-spoken Scot who liked thinking things out for himself. As a mining engineer he had accumulated much knowledge. He had learned about guild socialism and social credit from the *New Age*, he had picked up a little populism, a little Henry George, and a little New Deal Liberalism in America. His libertarianism fitted in well with that of Robert Douglas MacIntyre, Chairman of the Scottish National Party, 1948-1956, and President, 1958-1980.

The early diaries provide an insight into Dott's interests during his childhood. Of particular interest are several issues of a school magazine he edited alongside a group of friends and an early political manifesto of the 'Imperialist Party'. The War diaries written between 1914 and 1918 provide a unique account of the events he witnessed and to what extent they influenced his political thought. A letter written shortly after he was demobbed in 1919 summarises his views on the army and the government. Dott emigrated to Canada in 1921. Back in Scotland he devoted most of his life to writing and to political activity as a Scottish nationalist. His travel experiences in France, Northern Spain, Central Europe and the Balkans in the 1930s are recorded in several diaries. In the 1950s he wrote about many political and industrial issues including the inevitable demise of the Scottish coal industry.

All the manuscript diaries and letters have been preserved. Printed items have been transferred to the department of Printed Books.

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

1-15	Early Diaries and Papers, 1909-1914
16-28	War Diaries and Papers, 1914-1918
29-64	Post-war Diaries and Papers, 1919-1957

The materials within each series have been described at item level. Some items are quite fragile. Conservation needs have been noted. Fonds and series descriptions based on *ISAD(G)*.

*Presented, 2008*

For other material related to George Dott see Acc. 5542, 5927, 8371, 12222.

**1-15 EARLY YEARS DIARIES AND PAPERS, 1909-1914.**

1. School magazine, 'The Fourth Modern Weekly', 1909. Editors: G. Dott, G.F. Henry 'Pansie', J. Marshall 'Doey', J. Pitt, 8 issues.
2. School notebook containing ship drawings and jottings in Esperanto and Latin, 1909.
3. Diary, 1909.
4. Letter of J. Macquislan concerning the Unionist Commission, 14 December 1910.
5. Diary, 1910.
6. Part of a diary dated in October 1910. Diary, 1 January – 3 June 1911.
7. Diary, 27 June – 9 September 1911. Includes miscellaneous press cuttings, a list of boat gear and a list of English monarchs.
8. Diary, 4 June – 31 December 1911.
9. Manifesto of the 'Imperialist Party', founded by George Dott and Walter Angus during their school days, 17 August 1911.
10. School essay, 'Reason for the failure to establish a durable Constitution during the Commonwealth', circa 1912-1913.
11. Diary, 8 January – July 1912.
12. Diary, 30 July 1912 – 3 January 1913.
13. Diary, 4 January - 21 August 1913.
14. Diary, 1 February – 20 June 1914.
15. Notebook containing ship drawings, circa 1910-1914.

**16-28 WAR DIARIES AND PAPERS, 1914-1918.**

16. Diary, 21 June – 30 November 1914.

17. Diary, 14 December 1914 – 23 June 1915.
18. Pamphlet, 'The Navy League, Edinburgh Branch', and visiting cards, 1915.
19. Diary, 24 June – 26 November 1915.
20. Autobiography, 4 April – 31 December 1915.
21. Diary, 21 May – 17 October 1916.
22. Diary, 27 July – 8 December 1917.
23. Diary and notes on H.G. Wells 'War and the Future', 1917.
24. Further notes on H.G. Wells and other subjects, circa 1917.
25. Diary, 11 December 1917 – 6 April 1918.
26. Diary, 7 April – 22 August 1918.
27. Diary, 1 October – 16 December 1918, containing several enclosures:
  - (i) A ticket to a performance at the Nouveau Théâtre de Lille, 10 November 1918.
  - (ii) A leave pass to Lille, 15 November 1918.
  - (iii) Ville de Lille Bon Communal, five centime note.
28. Diary, circa 1918.

**29-64. POST-WAR DIARIES AND PAPERS 1919-1957.**

29. Diary containing notes on European politics, 14 December 1918 - January 1919.
30. News-cuttings concerning the end of World War I and European politics, 1918-1919.
31. Letter of George Dott to an unknown addressee concerning an ordinary soldier's distrust of the army and the government 9 January 1919.
32. Diary, 26 February – 31 March 1919.
33. Diary, 1 April – 23 April 1919.
34. Diary, 25 May – 18 July 1919.

35. Letter from William C.A. Ross to George Dott praising his powers of observation and description, 30 July 1919.
36. Diary, Cockburnspath Camp, 19 July – 5 September 1919.
37. Expenses book, January – September 1919.
38. Diary, 6 September 1919 – 5 February 1920.
39. Record of expenses, 1 October 1919 – 21 May 1920.
40. Diary, 16 February – 4 June 1920.
41. Diary, 5 June – 5 September 1920.
42. Diary, 6 September – 23 November 1920.
43. Diary, 24 November 1920 – 25 January 1921.
44. Diary, 26 January – 21 March 1921.
45. Diary, 22 March – 27 May 1921.
46. Diary mainly concerning George Dott's life in Canada, 28 May – 19 July 1921.
47. Diary mainly concerning George Dott's life in Canada, 20 July – 20 September 1921.
48. Diary on board HMS Glory, 10 – 26 April 1923.
49. Diary, 4 August 1923 – 6 December 1923.
50. Diary, 30 April – 21 August 1924.
51. Note concerning George Dott's memory and concentration while sitting his exams as a mining student, circa 1924.
52. Notebook containing miscellaneous annotations, 17 November 1924, and some sketches of ships, circa 1924.
53. Diary, 1 July 1925 – 3 November 1929.
54. National Party of Scotland, delegate card, February 1932.

55. Notes on holiday in France and Catalonia, July 1934. Includes newspaper cuttings and some political notes, circa 1934.
56. Notes on holiday in Hungary, the former Yugoslavia and the Balkans region, July 1936.
57. Notes on holiday possibly in Central Europe and Germany, July 1936.
58. Notebook containing miscellaneous notes, 3 March 1955.
59. Notebook containing miscellaneous notes mainly on Scottish history, circa 1957.
60. Notebook containing miscellaneous annotations on paper-making machinery, December 1955 – 1956.
61. Notes for an article printed in 'Scotland Magazine' and other miscellaneous notes, circa February 1957.
62. Diary, 1957. Includes a notice of a meeting, 14 October 1957, to discuss a joint report on relations between Anglican and Presbyterian churches.
63. Article, 'The Doomed Scottish Pits', 8 January 1959.
64. Notebook, 2008, containing a brief description of the contents of the collection compiled by David Brotherton.