

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY

THE MORAN PAPERS

by

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The Moran collection, which has been catalogued over the last two years, has presented the archivist with a number of interesting problems, besides those normally associated with a collection of personal papers.

The extensive collection¹ had been used by Professor Lovell for his biography of Lord Moran while it was still at the family homes and it was following an approach by the archivist of the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre that the papers were deposited with the Wellcome Institute. The bulk of the collection came in 1984 from the home of the present Lord Moran in Wales, but many of the documents had been at Newton Valence, the home of the Hon. G. H. Wilson, the younger son of Lord Moran, when used by Professor Lovell and in the transfer certain items had been left there. Several bags of material came direct to the Wellcome from Newton Valence during the course of cataloguing, as well as a few items from Lord Moran's home. In addition some parcels of documents, mostly drafts of *Winston Churchill: the struggle for survival*, had been deposited with Williams and Glyn's bank for safe-keeping, while manuscripts were being sent across to the USA for editing, in the early 1960s. There are some secretary's² lists of which book manuscripts were with different readers, and on one occasion Henry Laughlin, of Houghton Mifflin, the American publishers, left some copies of the manuscript in his home in Ireland and had to arrange for their return to the USA via the Washington diplomatic bag (John Wilson, the present Lord Moran, was at that time in the Washington Embassy). This generated some anxious correspondence,³ but despite these mishaps, the Laughlins and the Morans, who had first met in 1952, remained on friendly terms and visited each others homes. There is a

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The papers were catalogued with the help of a substantial grant from the Wellcome Trust and the Trust provided additional funding for the work to be completed. Intending readers should contact the Archivist, CMAC, as certain records containing medical or other sensitive information are subject to long closure periods.

¹ 125 archive boxes.

² PP/CMW/J.3/2.

³ PP/CMW/L.23 [1962].

photograph⁴ of the Morans and Henry Laughlin on the steps of Castle Hyde, the Laughlins' house in Ireland.

Further papers had been loaned to Professor Lovell and were returned in two main batches, at the beginning of the cataloguing process and towards the end. Some of these were put back in place in the collection, but this proved rather time-consuming, given the scattered nature of most of the documents, and the piecemeal fashion in which they had arrived at the Wellcome Institute. Most have been left in a separate section, as arranged by Professor Lovell, with notes of his chapter references. An item list has been made of these files, as an appendix to the main list.

The means by which the papers arrived at the Wellcome and their inherent lack of order gave the archivist a preliminary dilemma, whether to organize them into discrete historical sections or preserve the integrity of the original nature of the collection. Nearly all the groups of papers included material belonging to several sections, often in envelopes or parcels marked with notes such as "Contents of wooden box in dining room". That particular bundle contained items ranging from bills and invoices dating from the autumn of 1919, when the Morans (then Charles and Dorothy Wilson) were setting up home at 64 South Audley Street as a newly married couple, to jottings relating to his book on Winston Churchill from the 1960s. In the end a compromise has been reached between accessibility for researchers and respect for provenance. A basic organization which had been done by various secretaries, mainly for records relating to St Mary's Hospital (section A) and of general correspondence (section E), has been followed; also some folders of material connected with the Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards which had been compiled for the earlier part of the 1950s have remained as they were found and, where appropriate, stray documents discovered elsewhere in the collection added to them. Apart from these, most categories have been "chosen" by the archivist to reflect both the physical nature of the archive and the stages of Lord Moran's life.

Professor Lovell has written of Lord Moran's first wish to be a writer, medicine being a secondary, safer choice. But as a medical politician he combined both activities and developed considerable oratorical skills. He published several articles on medical matters, and medical education and morale, between the wars.⁵ Almost every section of the archive contains sets of CMW's⁶ own notes for speeches and articles. These were often written on any available surface, evidenced especially in the copious drafts and re-workings towards the publication of *Winston Churchill: the struggle for survival*. Notes were written on backs of envelopes (a useful means of dating otherwise unmarked documents), programmes, copies of Hansard etc., as well as notepaper and exercise books (plate 3). He would draft and re-draft pieces, and notes are often difficult to identify precisely because they cover similar ground (e.g. his several pieces on the history of the Royal College of Physicians⁷). There is a whole section (H), which brings together his notes and drafts of written and spoken texts.

⁴ PP/CMW/P.26.

⁵ PP/CMW/G.10, H.18.

⁶ Charles McMoran Wilson. He was knighted in 1938, and created Baron Moran of Manton in 1943.

⁷ PP/CMW/B.6.

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The result of his detailed preparatory work was his ability to speak with facility without referring to written notes. He was an effective champion of the concerns of consultants and hospital doctors in the House of Lords, in debates on the introduction and working of the National Health Service,⁸ and spoke also on bills in which he took an interest as a private individual, speaking against conscription⁹ and Life Peerages.¹⁰ In the 1930s he lectured to the army and RAF Staff Colleges on the psychological effects of war. His reputation went before him and there are letters from the colleges referring to previous lectures and asking for similar talks.¹¹ He was much in demand as an after-dinner speaker at city company banquets and charity events and also spoke at prize-givings and official functions.

These notes also indicate the extent of support afforded to him by his wife, Dorothy. There are scraps of anecdotes and drafts of letters and speeches in her hand. This support was mutual, as similar drafts in CMW's hand can be found among Dorothy's papers.¹²

Medical politics involved CMW in many meetings. His work, as President of the Royal College of Physicians, in the negotiations over the introduction of the National Health Service is documented in the records of that college, but among the papers relating to the Royal College of Physicians is a manuscript document, listing RCP Fellows and their attitudes, with amendments over two years, to various issues, including the proposal to have a joint building with the other Royal colleges.¹³ There are also scraps of paper which were found scattered throughout the collection with careful counts of the voting figures in the elections for the presidency.¹⁴ (CMW had a perennial contest against Lord Horder, who represented a more traditional approach and opposed the National Health Service.) He played a large part in the bodies on which he served and was instrumental in devising the merit awards system for consultants, recommended by the second Spens committee, of which he was a member, as well as being an energetic chairman of the committee discussing and recommending individual awards in the 1950s. His manuscript notes for most meetings are supplemented by some interesting doodles on some papers from his time as Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical school; some show a modicum of artistic talent and include a series of sketches on the back of a paper from a meeting of a finance meeting at St Mary's Hospital in 1932, which bear a striking resemblance to Almroth Wright (plate 3).¹⁵

A large proportion of the archive is taken up by drafts and background notes for his two major published works (*The anatomy of courage*, 1945, and *Winston Churchill*, 1966). In both these books CMW refers to his "Diaries", but in both cases makes it clear that there is no diary in the ordinary sense of the word.

⁸ PP/CMW/C.1-4, C.8-9.

⁹ PP/CMW/G.7.

¹⁰ PP/CMW/G.9.

¹¹ PP/CMW/L.9.

¹² PP/CMW/Q.9-10.

¹³ PP/CMW/B.5/6.

¹⁴ PP/CMW/B.1/1.

¹⁵ PP/CMW/A.8/4.

The anatomy of courage grew out of his experiences as a medical officer during the First World War. There are copies of three field notebooks,¹⁶ all with loose sheets, containing drafts of passages which eventually found a place in the book. Very few of the accounts in these books appear to be strictly contemporary though they evidently date from the period of the war. Many passages include editing notes and changes of tense, sometimes from past to present to give more immediacy. One notebook includes two similar descriptions of the Battle of the Somme, which appeared in the book in diary form. There were additional notebooks covering this period which were seen by Professor Lovell in the course of his researches but have not yet come to light again; from copies made by Professor Lovell these were also consciously divided into chapters, and arranged with a view to eventual publication.

An even larger amount of material was created in the course of writing *Winston Churchill: the struggle for survival*. The practice of consulting others for advice and criticism in the course of writing began with *The anatomy of courage*, on which Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, Desmond MacCarthy, the literary journalist, and John Wilson, his elder son, commented.¹⁷ The two latter also were involved from an early stage in the writing of *Winston Churchill: the struggle for survival*, and advice was sought from academic historians and literary critics, such as Professor Muriel Bradbrook of Girton College, Cambridge, and Professor Terence Spencer of the Shakespeare Institute, at Birmingham University.¹⁸ There are often similar versions in typescript with manuscript comments by publishers' readers and personal advisers. There are some manuscript books,¹⁹ which could approximate to a diary, but the alterations to tenses and editing notes cast doubts on their "contemporary" nature. However, it would be fair to say that from 1950 CMW was keeping frequent notes on the activities of Winston Churchill with a view to eventual publication. This material includes some sensitive medical information and is therefore closed for a period, but once it becomes available will provide a fascinating insight into CMW's writing processes. There are also many boxes of loose notes and exercise books of detailed manuscript notes ranging from early drafts and analyses of texts to amendments to the final wording.²⁰

Throughout his life CMW played a prominent role in the world of medicine, and the archive contains quantities of photographs and ephemera illustrating this. There are several studio portrait photographs, including a fine one by Karsh²¹ of Ottawa and many photographs in formal groups and in less formal poses from official functions (plate 2) and on his travels with Churchill's entourage.

Despite his public duties, CMW was also a warm family man. There are frequent, chatty letters to his wife Dorothy and both his sons. A particularly charming set of letters dates from the time he was engaged to Dorothy in the spring of 1919.²² His dating of letters is somewhat erratic, but it is possible to trace in them the story of his

¹⁶ PP/CMW/I.1.

¹⁷ PP/CMW/I.4/1.

¹⁸ PP/CMW/K.2/2, L.26.

¹⁹ PP/CMW/K.4.

²⁰ PP/CMW/K.6–9.

²¹ PP/CMW/P.10.

²² PP/CMW/Q.1/1.



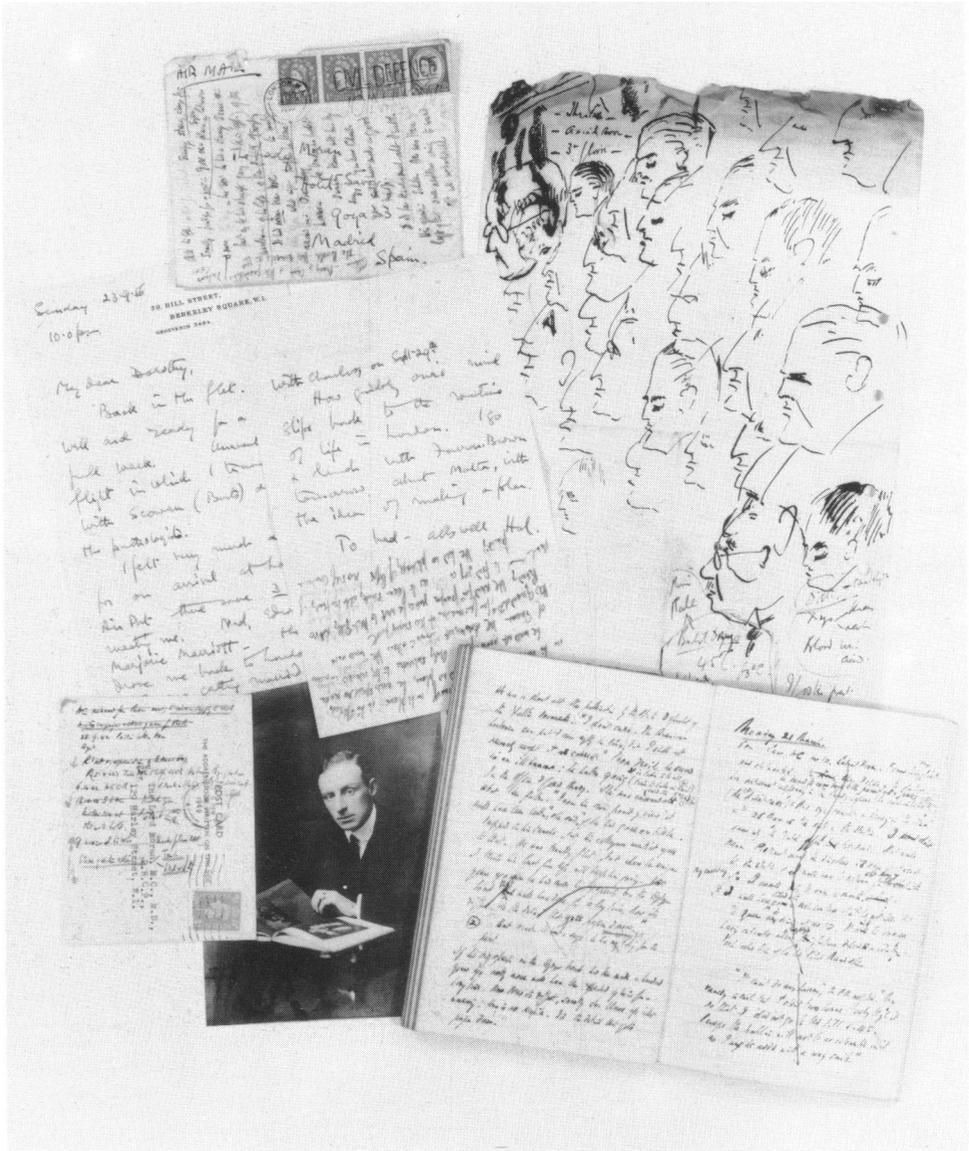
Wellcome Institute Library, London

Plate 1: CMW and DW ice-skating at Pontresina, Switzerland (1924). (PP/CMW/P.22).



Wellcome Institute Library, London

Plate 2: Lady Moran opening the Centenary of Anaesthesia exhibition at the Wellcome Museum in October 1946. Lord Moran is on her left. (PP/CMW/P.55.) (Photo taken by a *Times* photographer.)



Wellcome Institute Library, London

Plate 3: Collage including pen sketches of faces (possibly Almroth Wright) by CMW (1932), pages from a manuscript notebook about the resignation of Winston Churchill, March 1955, and a studio portrait of CMW as a young man (c. 1900). (PP/CMW/Q.4/1, A.8/4, K.4/6, P.3, K.6/2.)

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demobilization and competition with Alfred Hope Gosse for the post of physician at St Mary's Hospital. Later letters, particularly those sent while on his travels with Churchill, have a more self-conscious air, and several exist as originals and typed copies.²³ There are photographs of this less formal side including a delightful snap of the young couple skating at Pontresina (plate 1),²⁴ Switzerland, and later photographs of Marshalls Manor, often with CMW sitting in the garden surrounded by volumes of his book.²⁵

The papers are a rich mix of material, which well illustrate CMW's long and varied career, filling out the character behind the formal and often formidable face presented to the outside world.

²³ PP/CMW/Q.1/3, Q.1/5.

²⁴ PP/CMW/P.22.

²⁵ PP/CMW/P.28.