

L DFMW

William Mason Collection

1747-1973

Historical Background: William Mason was poet, cleric, author and garden designer. He was born in Hull on 12 February 1725. He was educated at Hull Grammar School and St. John's College Cambridge. It was whilst at St. John's Collage, Cambridge that he developed his love of literature under his tutor Dr. Powell. It was also at St. John's College where he met the poet Thomas Gray of whom he developed a lifelong admiration.

In 1745 he took his bachelor's degree, and around the same time he composed his *Musaeus*, a Monody on the death of Mr. Pope which was published to acclaim in 1747. In 1751 and 1759 he published the historical tragedies of *Elfrida* and *Caractacus*.

He was ordained in 1754 and held a number of posts in churches, including precentor and canon of York Minster (1762). The same year in which he was ordained, Mason went abroad as Chaplin to the Earl of Holderness and upon his return spent the remainder of his life in Aston, South Yorkshire.

In 1765 he married Maria Sherman, daughter of the storekeeper at Hull Garrison, but she died within twelve months of their marriage. After this Mason shared his attention between the charge of his parish of Aston, his garden and poetry. As a garden designer his work included that for the Viscount Harcourt. He acted as editor of his friend and biographer Thomas Gray and went on to compose the 'The English Garden', a long poem in four books, completed in 1782. In 1785 he was then Prime Minister, William Pitt the younger choice to become Poet Laureate, but refused.

He aspired to be a great dramatic writer by adapting the ancient Greek forms for the modern stage. *Elfrida* was his first attempt but was seen as a failure. Mason was also regarded as a notable artist and his work was shown at the Royal Academy 1782-1786.

Mason died in 7th April 1797, the result of an injury to his leg, sustained when stepping out of his carriage. A monument to Mason can be found in poet's corner in, the South Transept of Westminster Abbey.

Custodial history: Deposited with Hull's Local Studies Library

Description: Containing works written by William Mason or about William Mason and/or his works, catalogued as a running number of books in chronological order (L DFMW/1-57).

Extent: 56 volumes, 1 item

Related material: There are a small number of books relating to, or that have William Mason as their author within the Local Studies library. Items can be searched using the Hull History Centre online catalogue at: <http://catalogue.hullhistorycentre.org.uk/>

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

L DFMW/1	A monody to the memory of Mr. Pope By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1747
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L DFMW/2	<p>Plain truth: a satire Humbly inscribed to the Right Honourable F...E...of G. [William Mason]. Includes a note from The National Central Library to the Chief Librarian at Hull concerning as to who the author J...E...of G. is, [possibly that of John Carteret] Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1747
L DFMW/3	<p>Isis. An elegy Written in the year 1748 by Mr. [William] Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1749
L DFMW/4	<p>Elfrida, a dramatic poem: written on the model of The Antient Greek Tragedy By Mr. [William] Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1752
L DFMW/5	<p>Ode I, by Mr. [William] Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1756
L DFMW/6	<p>Odes, by Mr. [William] Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1756
L DFMW/7	<p>A letter to Mr. Mason; on the marks of imitation By Richard Hurd. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1757
L DFMW/8	<p>Caractacus, a dramatic poem: written on the model of The Ancient Greek Tragedy By the author of Elfrida [William Mason]. Same edition as L DFMW/9. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1759
L DFMW/9	<p>Caractacus, a dramatic poem: written on the model of The Ancient Greek Tragedy By the author of Elfrida [William Mason]. Same publication as L DFMW/8 except includes a note on the inside cover relating to authors of various works. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1759
L DFMW/10	<p>Poems, by William Mason. Same edition as L DFMW/11. Formerly at library reference L.821, 1 volume</p>	1764

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L DFMW/11	Poems, by William Mason. Same edition as L DFMW/10. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1764
L DFMW/12	Poems, by William Mason. New edition. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1771
L DFMW/13	The English Garden: a poem. Books 1-4 Bound in single volume. By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1772
L DFMW/14	An heroic espistle to Sir William Chambers, Knight. Comptroller General of his Majesty's works, and author of the late dissertation on Oriental Gardening, enriched with explanatory notes, chiefly extracted from that elaborate performance The eleventh edition [by William Mason]. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1773
L DFMW/15	Poems. Third edition, By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1773
L DFMW/16	Poems. Volume I, By William Mason. Formerly library reference L.821 1 volume	1774
L DFMW/17	Poems. Fourth edition, By William Mason. Formerly library reference L.821. Same edition as L DFMW/18. 1 volume	1774
L DFMW/18	Poems. Fourth edition, By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821. Same edition as L DFMW/17. 1 volume	1774
L DFMW/19	The poems of Mr. Gray to which are prefixed memoirs of his life and writings By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume	1775
L DFMW/20	Poems of Mr. Gray to which are prefixed memoirs of his writings. The second edition. By William Mason. 1 volume	1775

L DFMW/21	<p>Hull History Centre: William Mason Collection Ode to Mr. Pinchbeck, upon his newly invented patent candle-snuffers By Malcom McGregor, author of the heroic epistle to Sir William Chambers, and the heroic postscript [i.e. William Mason]. Later front binding has 1st ed. 1776. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1776
L DFMW/22	<p>An heroic epistle to Sir William Chambers, Knight, comptroller on oriental gardening. Enriched with explanatory notes, chiefly extracted from that elaborate performance. The thirteenth edition [By Willaim Mason]. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1776
L DFMW/23	<p>An epistle to Dr. Shebbeare to which is added an ode to Sir Fletcher Norton, in imitation of Horace, ode VIII. Book IV By Malcom McGregor, of Knightsbridge, author of the Heroic Epistle od Sir William Chambers, &c. [i.e. William Mason]. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1777
L DFMW/24	<p>The English Garden: a poem. Book the second By William Mason. The second edition. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1777
L DFMW/25	<p>The English Garden: a poem. Book the first By William Mason. The third edition. Formerly at library reference L.821. Despite being book the first it is actually the third edition. 1 volume</p>	1778
L DFMW/26	<p>The English Garden: a poem. Book the third By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1779
L DFMW/27	<p>The English Garden: a poem. Book the fourth By William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1781
L DFMW/28	<p>Poems, by William Mason. The fifth edition. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1779

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L DFMW/29	<p>Ode to the honourable William Pitt, by William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821 1 volume</p>	1782
L DFMW/30	<p>The English Garden: a poem in four books by William Mason. A new edition, corrected, to which are added a commentary and notes, by W. Bugh. Note inside provides an explanation as to the signature of Thos. Watson, who may have been the 'enemy' of William Mason. Same edition as LDMW/31-32. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1783
L DFMW/31	<p>The English Garden: a poem in four books By William Mason. A new edition, corrected to which are added a commentary and notes, by W. Bugh. Contains the signature of Thos. Grimston, 1783. Same edition as L DFMW/30 & 32. Formerly library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1783
L DFMW/32	<p>The English Garden: a poem in four books by William Mason. A new edition, corrected, to which are added a commentary and notes, by W. Bugh. Same edition as L DFMW/30-31. Formerly library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1783
L DFMW/33	<p>The art of painting of Charles Alphonse Du Fresnoy. Translated into English verse by William Mason, with annotations by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Includes correspondence (4 items) of Rev. A.D. Alderson of Tockwith enquiring about portraits on William Mason held by the Corporation. Same edition as L DFMW/34-36. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1783
L DFMW/34	<p>The art of painting of Charles Alphonse Du Fresnoy. Translated into English verse By William Mason, with annotations by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Same edition as L DFMW/33, 35-36. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1783
L DFMW/35	<p>The art of painting of Charles Alphonse Du Fresnoy. Translated into English verse by William Mason, with annotations by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Same edition as L DFMW/33-34, & 36. Formerly at library reference L.821.</p>	1783

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1 volume

L DFMW/36	The art of painting of Charles Alphonse Du Fresnoy. Translated into English verse By William Mason, with annotations by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Same edition as L DFMW/33-35. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1783
L DFMW/37	Poems, by William Mason A new edition. Vol. I. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1796
L DFMW/38	Poems, by William Mason. A new edition. Vol. II. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1796
L DFMW/39	Poems, by William Mason. Vol. III. Now first published. Same edition as L DFMW/40. Formerly library reference L.821. 1 volume	1797
L DFMW/40	Poems, by William Mason. Vol. III. Now first published. Same edition as L DFMW/39. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1797
L DFMW/41	The English Garden: a poem in four books, by William Mason with a sketch of his life. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1803
L DFMW/42	Poems, by William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1805
L DFMW/43	The Works of William Mason, Precentor of York, and Rector of Aston. In four volumes, Vol. I. Author: William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1811
L DFMW/44	The Works of William Mason, Precentor of York, and Rector of Aston. In four volumes, Vol. II. Author: William Mason. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume	1811
L DFMW/45	The Works of William Mason, Precentor of York, and Rector of Aston. In four volumes. Vol. III. Author: William Mason.	1811

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Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume

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| L DFMW/46 | The Works of William Mason, Precentor of York, and Rector of Aston. In four volumes. Vol. IV.
Author: William Mason.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1811 |
| L DFMW/47 | The correspondence of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, and the Rev. William Mason. In two volumes. Vol. I.
Edited with notes, by the Rev. J. Mitford.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1851 |
| L DFMW/48 | The correspondence of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, and the Rev. William Mason. In two volumes. Vol. II.
Edited with notes, by the Rev. J. Mitford.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1851 |
| L DFMW/49 | The correspondence of Thomas Gray and William Mason, with letters to the Rev. James Brown, with illustrations
Edited by the Rev. John Mitford. Second edition.
Same edition as L DFMW/50.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1855 |
| L DFMW/50 | The correspondence of Thomas Gray and William Mason, with letters to the Rev. James Brown, with illustrations
Edited by the Rev. John Mitford. Second edition.
Same edition as L DFMW/49. Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1855 |
| L DFMW/51 | Bound manuscript 'Epitaph on Mr. Mason and other manuscript poems'
Author unknown. Includes note on the death of William Mason.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 item | 19th cent. |
| L DFMW/52 | Satirical poems published anonymously by William Mason with notes by Horace Walpole
Edited with an Expose of the mystification, notes and index, By Paget Toynbee.
Formerly at library reference L.821.
1 volume | 1936 |

L DFMW/53	<p>Hull History Centre: William Mason Collection Select lyrics with a brief memoir of the author By William Mason. Same copy as L DFMW/54-55. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1939
L DFMW/54	<p>Select lyrics with a brief memoir of the author By William Mason. Same copy as L DFMW/53 & 55. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1939
L DFMW/55	<p>Select lyrics with a brief memoir of the author By William Mason. Same copy as L DFMW/53-54. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1939
L DFMW/56	<p>The first editions of William Mason, by Philip Gaskell. In the Cambridge Bibliographical Society, Monograph No. 1. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1951
L DFMW/57	<p>A candidate for praise, William Mason, 1725-97, Precentor of York, catalogue of exhibtions in two parts Compiled by Bernard Barr and John Ingamells. Exhibition was held at York Art Gallery and York Minster Library 16 Jun-15 Jul 1973. Formerly at library reference L.821. 1 volume</p>	1973