

U DX384

Papers of Frederick Le Gros Clark

1909-c.1940s

Biographical Background:

Frederick Le Gros Clark was born in 1892, the son of Rev. E.T. Clark, he was known as 'Bill' by his friends and family. He was the grandson of the surgeon Frederick Le Gros Clark (1811-1892) and brother of Sir Wilfrid Le Gros Clark, Professor of Anatomy at Oxford and London Universities. Frederick Le Gros Clark was awarded a scholarship to attend Blundell's School, Tiverton in 1906 and later received a scholarship to study Classics at Balliol College, Oxford in 1911. He signed up in 1914 and served for the duration of the First World War only to suffer an accident on the last day of the war in which he lost his right hand and was blinded in both eyes.

His early writing career involved children's books, most notably *Adventures of the little pig* (1937), and adult novels including *Apparition* (1928) and *Between two men* (1935). Other writings included articles relating to his experience of blindness as well as several other short stories and novels which were never published. However, by the 1930s he was increasingly interested and concerned with issues relating to welfare and nutrition in Britain. He became prominent in the fight against hunger during the 1930s and was a founding member of the Committee against Malnutrition, established to highlight the degree of malnutrition in Britain. He also became closely linked with the Labour Research Department (LRD) and published various articles through the LRD relating to malnutrition and starvation. In 1936 he became a member of the LRD Executive Committee and remained on the executive until the bombing of 1940 made it hard for him to travel to London.

Frederick Le Gros Clark later became secretary of the Children's Nutrition Council, a post he held into the 1950s, and edited the *Nutrition Bulletin of the National Council for Health Education*. He also acted briefly as a consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and wrote a chapter for the FAO's *School feeding: its contribution to child nutrition* by Marjorie L. Scott (1953). He was also involved in the work of the Association of Scientific Workers, speaking at many of the Association's meetings, and the 'Science for Peace' movement. He was particularly concerned that scientists approached their work with an awareness of their responsibilities for the safety and welfare of the world. For some years, he also acted as a consultant to the Industrial Training Research Unit of University College, London.

As he was approaching old age, his interests shifted and he undertook studies relating to the problems of old age, producing several publications including *Ageing in Industry* (1955) and *Work, age and Leisure* (1966). Other publications included *Our food problem and its relation to our National Defences* (1939) written with R.M. Titmuss, *Four Thousand Million Mouths - Scientific humanism and the Shadow of World Hunger* (1951) edited with N.W. Pirie, *The New West Africa* (1953), *Growing old in a mechanised world* (1960), *Women, work and age* (1962), *The years still unexplored* (1964) written with F.S. Milligan, *Work, Age and Leisure* (1966) and *Blinded in War* (1969).

Frederick le Gros Clark was married twice, first to Ida [?] and secondly to Winifred [?]. He outlived both his wives and died on 22 September 1977, aged 85.

Custodial history:

Material was donated in May 2015 by Mr Croft after he was given the papers in 1982 by the writer Vida Carver, a friend of Frederick le Gros Clark and his wife.

Description:

This small collection contains typescripts of various short stories and two novels by Frederick Le Gros Clark, as well as some typescript and handwritten poems by his [wife Ida Clark]. The two novels are photocopies of original typescripts and are entitled 'The Deep Shelter Mystery' and 'Audrey in the Spring'. The short stories are a mix of children's stories and pieces for adult audiences. The short stories that appear to have been written for children include titles such as 'The Adventures of Davie the Duck' and 'How Tinker Saved the Town'. Several of the typescripts also contain handwritten notes, possibly by his wife Ida.

Extent: 2 bundles, 23 files & 2 items

Related material:

Papers of Robin Page Arnot [U DAR]

Archives of the Socialist Health Association [U DSM]

File. Frederick Le Gros Clark (1892-1977), Dictionary of Labour Biography [U DLB/11/14]

Other repositories:

Frederick Le Gros Clark, Wellcome Library [ref. GB 0120 GC/145]

The Labour Research Department, papers at the Labour History Archive and Study Centre (People's History Museum/University of Central Lancashire)

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX384/1	Photocopy of a typescript of a novel entitled 'The Deep Shelter Mystery' by Frederick Le Gros Clark Detective novel set in wartime London. The story follows a Constable Darley in his investigations into the murder of a man in an air raid shelter. 1 bundle	c. 1940s
U DX384/2	Photocopy of a typescript of a novel entitled 'Audrey in the Spring' by Frederick Le Gros Clark This novel follows a character called Humbert who falls in love with Audrey along with various other male characters throughout the novel. 1 bundle	n.d.

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U DX384/3	<p>'The Adventures of the Little Pig' by F. Le Gros and Ida Clark, The Little Leopard Books, No. 1 Includes short children's stories entitled 'How the Little Pig left Home', 'How the Little Pig became a Carpenter', 'How the Little Pig Spent Christmas Eve', 'How the Little Pig got the better of the Landlord', 'How the Little Pig won his Bassoon', 'How the Little Pig saw the Wild Cat of the Woods', 'How the Little Pig met a Dragon' and 'How the Little Pig Came Home Again'. 1 item</p>	1936
U DX384/4	<p>Typescript copy of 'The Adventures of Davie the Duck' by F. Le Gros and Ida Clark Includes short children's stories entitled 'How Davie went out into the Wide World', 'How Davie became a Milkman', 'How Davie helped the Old Grey Duck', 'How Davie talked with a Weathercock', 'How Davie looked into the Land of Dreams', 'How Davie went Sliding', 'How Davie saw the Wicked Water Snake', 'How Davie stole the Three Red Roses', 'How Davie swam down the Magic Stream' and 'How Davie came back from the Wide World'. 1 item</p>	[c.1920s?]
U DX384/5	<p>Typescript of two chapters with handwritten annotations entitled 'Davie' Includes a draft copy of the short children's story about Davie the Duck entitled 'How Davie went out into the Wide World' and a draft of 'How Davie became a Milkman'. 1 file</p>	[c.1920s?]
U DX384/6	<p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'The Deer on the Wild Heath' This children's story follows a little boy called Nicky who meets a young faun called Greynose who can talk and understand him. 1 file</p>	n.d.
U DX384/7	<p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'The Mysterious Happenings at the High Pond' This children's story follows Bryan and Jenny as they are transported to a parallel world populated by large insects and meet a character called Tinkaboo. 1 file</p>	n.d.
U DX384/8	<p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'The Sledge Dog' with handwritten annotations This short story follows a Mrs Moon as her husband embarks on an expedition to the Antarctic and her premonitions, through dreams, regarding the voyage. 1 file</p>	n.d.

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| U DX384/9 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Professional Tactics' with handwritten annotations
This short story follows a Mr Herbert Swayles as he gets lost in a park maze and remembers his time serving in the Russo-Japanese war.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/10 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Quin' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows a character called Quin, a Latin teacher who is rather stuck in his ways.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/11 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Portrait of a Gentleman' with some handwritten annotations
This story follows a Mr Maggis, a wealthy owner of a Pharmacy chain, talking to his solicitor about how he came to have his portrait painted.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/12 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Breaking it' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows a conversation between a man and woman as he breaks the news of her son's death on an expedition.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/13 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'The Professionals'
This short story follows a Mr Herbert Chudleigh and appears to be another draft of 'Professional Tactics' (see U DX384/9).
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/14 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Moon in your fingers'
This is a short story about faith and the way children see the world.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/15 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'Nursery Tale'
This short story follows a Lord Faggerton, a politician who has been in and out of Parliament and is nearing retirement.
1 file | n.d. |
| U DX384/16 | Typescript of a short story entitled 'The Battle of Sowsley' with some handwritten annotations
This short story is written as one piece of dialogue and one half of a conversation regarding the location, among other things, of the Battle of Sowsley.
1 file | n.d. |

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| U DX384/17 | <p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'In the Swim' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows a Mr Brown, who has recently swum the channel and is secretly eager to be recognised by members of the public whilst on holiday but has asked his son not to tell anyone who he is.
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/18 | <p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'A Guernsey Saga' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows the characters Manson, Manson's sister Elizabeth and Boothroyd and their lives on Guernsey, including their setting up of a business and Elizabeth and Boothroyd's love affair.
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/19 | <p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'Hat in Hand' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows a Mr Petter, an unobtrusive, timid man and his gentle life.
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/20 | <p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'Three went [way]' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows a Squire as he listens to the life story of a man who claims he has lived two separate lives simultaneously.
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/21 | <p>Typescript of a short story entitled 'Man O' the Word' with some handwritten annotations
This short story follows the life of a character called Augustine Frogley, a rich man from London who claimed he knew the city like the palm of his hand but upon the loss of his fortune he returns to London to find he did not really know it all.
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/22 | <p>Three typescripts of a short story entitled 'How Tinker Saved the Town'
This short story follows a talking cat called Tinker who saves his town from a wicked Duke. One copy includes some handwritten annotations
1 file</p> | n.d. |

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| U DX384/23 | <p>Typescripts of various untitled short stories.
Includes stories beginning with the lines: 'There was once a little baker, who baked the bread for the village...'; 'There was once a poor farmer, who lived with his wife on a dreary countryside...'; 'There was once a little girl named Katie, who lived with her mother in a tiny village' and 'The curious adventures that Carol had on those summer evenings were like the dreams we sometimes have; but they were not dreams.'
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/24 | <p>Handwritten manuscript on the writer's preferences regarding different types of cats
1 file</p> | n.d. |
| U DX384/25 | <p>Cuttings from the Blundellian, a [school newspaper], of poems by various writers including some by Frederick Le Gros Clark
Includes poems entitled 'The King', 'Nemesis', 'A Bad Dream', 'Primary and Pre-Historic', 'A Motor Ride', 'Wax Impressions', 'Meditations of Morpheus', 'Comet Cuts', 'The Death of Princes', 'Comus Unmasked', 'The Ballad of the Silly Yeomen' and 'Pergite Pierides'.
1 file</p> | 1909-1911 |
| U DX384/26 | <p>Typescripts of various poems by [Ida Clark].
Some of the poems are untitled and some have handwritten annotations. Includes poems entitled 'Via Crucis', 'The Philosopher's Song', 'In the Car', 'On the Road', 'Piecombe', 'Dead Men', 'The Road', 'London Sun', 'Compensations', 'Underworld', 'The Dressing-Table', 'Prothalamium', 'She Sews', 'City Lovers', 'Our Lady', 'The Barrier', 'On the Embankment', 'Half Light', 'After', 'Chelsea Bridge', 'Died 2000 BC', 'The Antiquary', 'At Cross-Roads' and 'Ballad of Blindness'.
1 file</p> | c. 1921 |
| U DX384/27 | <p>Various handwritten poems by [Ida Clark]
Includes poems entitled 'Spring in Pimlico', 'Picture Gallery', 'A Man's Hand', '[Omne] Animal Triste', 'Reading Room', 'I Speak of England', 'A Thing Seen', 'Urban Rain', 'Fair', 'Blampied', 'Mosaic', 'The Laurel Tree', 'Suburban Matron', 'Old Age', 'Sonnet', 'The Shrine', 'Defiance' and 'Youth' and 'March'.
1 file</p> | [1921-1930] |