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Down to the Seas

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DOWN TO THE SEAS

an exhibition from the
G. ROSS ROY COLLECTION of
JOHN MASEFIELD

Thomas Cooper Library
University of South Carolina
January-March 2005
John Masefield (1878-1967), now best known for his sea poems *Salt-Water Ballads* and his narrative poem *The Everlasting Mercy*, was a dominant figure in early 20th century British poetry, and poet laureate from 1930 till his death. This is the first exhibition from Thomas Cooper Library’s G. Ross Roy Collection of John Masefield, donated in 1999.

Highlights include a copy in Masefield’s own hand of his best-known poem, “Sea Fever” (“I must go down to the seas again”), and a number of inscribed copies from the library of Audrey Napier-Smith (“Reyna”) in which Masefield painted small water-colour sketches of sailing ships or other scenes, purchased by the library and Dr. Roy in 2001.

Place of publication is London unless otherwise stated; + indicates a book with a water-colour or pen sketch. All the items in the collection are catalogued in USCAN, the library’s on-line catalogue, available through the web at [http://www.sc.edu/uscan](http://www.sc.edu/uscan).

**Case 1: BOYHOOD AND THE SEA**

+ *St. Katherine of Ledbury*. Heinemann, 1951
+ *The Conway*. Heinemann, 1933.
+ *New Chum*. Heinemann, 1944.
+ John Masefield as a Conway cadet

**Case 2: AMERICA AND LONDON**

* *In the Mill*. Heinemann, 1941.
* John Masefield in Yonkers
* “Niclas Moriturus [The Turn of the Tide],” 1898.
* Masefield as a young poet
* *Some Memories of W. B. Yeats*. Dublin: Cuala, 1940.
* The New Woman: Constance Crummelin
Case 3: SALT-WATER BALLADS
* "Sea Fever," Living Age (March 22, 1902).
* Salt Water Ballads. Richards, 1902. With ALS Aug. 6, 1918.
* Salt-Water Ballads. Mathews, 1913.

Case 4: EARLY PROSE AND DRAMA
* A Tarpaulin Muster. Richards, 1907.
* An English Prose Miscellany. Methuen, 1907.
* Captain Margaret. Richards, 1908.
* The Tragedy of Nan and other plays. Richards, 1909.

Case 5: THE EVERLASTING MERCY
* "A Great Poem," Glasgow News (December 7, 1911).
* Max Beerbohm, Fifty Caricatures. Heinemann, 1913.
Masefield, ALS, March 18, 1913.
Dauber, A Poem. Heinemann, 1913.
The Daffodil Fields. Heinemann, 1913.
Move to the country: Lollingdon.

Case 6: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND AMERICA
"August, 1914," in Philip the King and Other Poems. Heinemann, 1914.
Gallipoli. Heinemann, 1917.
Lollingdon Downs, and Other Poems. Heinemann, 1917.
The Old Front Line. Heinemann, 1917.
The Battle of the Somme. Heinemann, 1919.
Masefield in the First World War
St. George and the Dragon. Heinemann, 1919.
MS page from Tragedy of Nan, in Kirby, Original Signed Drawings, ... Manuscripts, ... Contributed by Famous Men and Women. NY: American Art Assn., 1921. Joseph M. Brucoli Collection.

Case 7: MASEFIELD IN THE TWENTIES
Reynard the Fox. Heinemann, 1919.
A Foundation Day Address. Bembridge, I.o.W.
Yellowsands Press, 1921. Proof.
* **Sard Harker.** Heinemann, 1924.
* **With the Living Voice.** [Cambridge, 1924].
* "Now may my memory keep," signed autograph verses in *Selected Poems*, 1922.
* **Phillip the King.** Illus. Laurence Irving. Heinemann, 1927. With undated ALS laid in.
* The Regular Dust-Jacket for *Odtaa*
* **The Hawbucks.** Heinemann, 1929.

**Case 8: POET LAUREATE IN THE THIRTIES**

* **Words and Verses spoken in the Garden of Bemerton Rectory.** [1933].
* **The Bird of Dawning.** Heinemann, 1933.
* **Victorious Troy.** Heinemann, 1935.
* Masefield and Yeats in 1935
* **Dead Ned.** Heinemann, 1938.

**Case 9: THE SECOND WORLD WAR & THE POST-WAR PERIOD**

* **Some Verses to Some Germans.** Heinemann, 1939. Original wrappers.
* **Land Workers.** Heinemann, 1942. Original wrappers.
* **Basilissa.** Heinemann, 1940.
* **The Nine Days Wonder.** Heinemann, 1941.
* **Shopping in Oxford.**
* **For the Ninetieth Birthday of George Bernard Shaw.** [1946]. Signed.
* **Badon Parchments.** Heinemann, 1947.
* **A Play of St. George.** Heinemann, 1948.
* Masefield, "Lines on the Coronation," in Handley-
Case 10: “REYNA” AND LAST YEARS
+ Defoe, _A general history of the pyrates_. 1724.
+ Masefield, _In The Mill_. Heinemann, 1947.
+ Masefield, _Selected Poems_. Heinemann, 1950.
Proof copy.
+ Masefield, _Basilissa_. Heinemann, 1940.
+ Masefield, _The Bluebells and Other Verse_. Heinemann, 1961.
+ Masefield, _Dauber; & Reynard the Fox_. Heinemann, 1962.
+ Masefield, _Old Raiger and Other Verse_. Heinemann, 1964.
* Masefield in Old Age
+ Masefield, _In Glad Thanksgiving_. Heinemann, 1967

Case 11: SOME BOOKS ABOUT MASEFIELD
* L.A. Williams, _John Masefield_. Chaundy, 1921.

REFERENCES