



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**  
**SENATE HOUSE  
LIBRARY**

**IDENTITY STATEMENT**

**Reference:** MS1240  
**Title:** Gladys Easdale papers  
**Dates:** Undated, 1945  
**Level:** fonds  
**Extent and Medium:** 1 notebook, 1 file  
**Name of Creator:** Easdale, Gladys Ellen (c 1875-1970)  
author

**CONTEXT**

**Biographical/Administrative History:** Easdale spent her adult life on the margins of the London literary and musical scene. She wrote about her life in an autobiography, *Middle Age*, 1885-1932, published in 1935, first anonymously and then under the surname of Killin.

**CONTENT**

**Scope and Content:** Notebook of draft poems; drafts of poetry and prose; photographs; letter, 1945.

**ACCESS AND USE**

**Language of Scripts:** English

**Conditions of Access:** Open for research although at least 24 hours notice should be given.

**MS1240/1 Notebook****Undated**

Rough autograph drafts of poems. 72 pages, 12mo. In stitched notebook with ruled pages, in green covers with 'MY NOTES' embossed on the front. Internally in good condition, lightly aged, in aged and worn covers. 'G. E. E.' written in pencil on front cover, and ownership inscription, with address, of 'G. E. Adeney.'

Entirely written in pencil. Juvenile productions, heavily revised and reworked, with deletions and emendations.

Begins with several drafts of a poem titled 'Clouds', one version beginning: 'Clouds what is it you know? Tell me here below thee. With your purple shadows dreaming & your gleaming. With your shining sandals [sic] shaded, shifting slowly Down the sleeping valleys, & in heaven leaning.' Other poems include: 'Clear are her eyes as dawn', 'Sonnett [sic] on Nelsons Monument' ('Faithful disciple of that will of power - | Calm dignity & majesty of mind'), 'Music!' (O wondrous leader into strange lands!'), 'Song "There is a world"' ('There is a world among the Shadows deep'), 'Winter' ('Winter! Around warm earth thy breath steals cold.') and 'O Voice'.

1 notebook

**MS1240/2 Draft poems****Undated**

Autograph drafts of two undated poems. The first (1page, 4to, aged and worn with slight damage at head and foot) clearly written when younger, titled 'A Spring Day'. Nineteen lines, beginning: 'Like some fair flower the grey sky broke to blue | The rain but left a sweetness in the air'. The second, in a later hand (2 pages., 8vo), heavily revised, untitled, of 24 lines in six stanzas, beginning: 'Oh Earth Sea & Sky | There your writings lie | When will the blind see? | And this world be free?'

2 items

**MS1240/3 Prose drafts**

**Undated**

Two prose drafts, untitled and undated. The first (7pp., 8vo) a religious rumination beginning 'What is the meaning of the word Rogation?' The second (3pp., 4to), an assessment of the work of her friend William Hale White, begins: 'How many readers are there today of the work of Mark Rutherford? How many may never have opened one of his books? Or can have heard of him? And yet in Mark Rutherford the English language possesses a great master.'

Two items

**MS1240/4 Two black and white photographs**

**Undated**

The first photograph (14 x 10 cm), cut into an oval, of a smiling woman outdoors, in 1920s style of hat, shawl and pearls. In pencil on reverse: 'Gladys in Hurst Woods Crouch'. The second photograph (11 x 14 cm) is a faded image of seven members of the Adeney family, seated outdoors at a picnic beneath a tree. At the front is W. F. Adeney, in dog collar and clerical garb. With him are two younger men, a woman (Mrs Adeney) and three girls.

2 photographs

**MS1240/5 Autograph Letter from 'G. Ellen Easdale' to Karen Ismann**

**1945  
November  
10**

Has not heard from them since August 1939. Wonders how they are. She has often thought of her. In envelope returned to sender from Denmark. Ends: 'Alas! I no longer live at Beloved Crouch Farm House.' With envelope addressed to GEE at 37 Asmunds Hill, NW11, and a crude hand-drawn coloured card of a crucifix over a rising sun.

1 letter, 2 envelopes, 1 drawing