

Miles Hadfield Collection

MS 1408

The collection consists of notes by Miles Hadfield on his family history and gardening notebooks created by Miles Hadfield and Edward Cahen including notes, drawings, photographs, excerpts, newscuttings, offprints and correspondence, among which are letters to Hadfield from Edward Cahen, Maynard Greville and Sacheverell Sitwell and letters to Cahen from Maynard Greville and L.J. Rogers.

The friendship between Miles Hadfield and Edward Cahen probably dates from 1936 when Cahen favourably reviewed Hadfield's *Gardener's Companion for Gardening Illustrated*. Edward Cahen was born in London in 1880, the eldest son of the banker Albert Cahen. He was educated at Marlborough and studied chemistry at The Royal College of Science in London from 1900, becoming a member of staff there from 1907-1911. Cahen then travelled on the continent prior to becoming a demonstrator at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in 1913, married Florence Marian Elder in 1914 and in 1917 moved to the National Explosives Co Ltd in Cornwall. In 1923 Cahen retired and devoted himself to his interests in gardening and photography. The garden of his house, Bird's Fountain, at Dunsford near Exeter was regularly opened to the public. He died in 1961 and it was probably at this point that Miles Hadfield acquired his gardening notebooks.

The Collection covers the year's 1853-1974.

The physical extent of the collection is 16 boxes and 37 files.

Introduction

Miles Heywood Hadfield was born in 1903 in Handsworth on the outskirts of Birmingham, the eldest of the three sons of Heywood George Hadfield (1872-1946) and Hilda Bragg (1876-1959). The family were prosperous and lived in a substantial house, Hamstead Mount, built in 1873 by Hilda's father Charles Bayley Bragg (1850-1933), a jewellery manufacturer.

In 1918 Miles went to public school at Bradfield near Reading, returning to live at home and study engineering at Birmingham University in 1921. In 1924 he went to work for the local firm of Best and Lloyd, designers and makers of light fittings. A steady job was necessary for the family's finances had suffered a reverse and Hamstead Mount was divided into two with one half being let to provide more income. Miles stayed with Best and Lloyd, in Birmingham and in their London showroom, for six years, but he had other ambitions. He began to study at Birmingham School of Art in the evenings and in 1930 left the firm and became a fulltime student. He then embarked on a career as a botanical artist and writer on

gardening and forestry. Miles Hadfield published *The Gardener's Companion*, a miscellany with his own illustrations, in 1936 and *Everyman's Wild Flowers and Trees* in 1938, both of which sold well.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 Miles Hadfield redirected his horticultural expertise towards the war effort and joined the Ministry of Food, Midland Division. He eventually became Deputy Controller of Food for the Midlands and was especially concerned with the supply of food to Coventry during the blitz. After the war he could have continued as a senior civil servant but at the end of 1949 he resigned and returned to writing, contributing regular articles to *Country Life*, *The Gardener's Chronicle* and *House and Garden* among other periodicals. In 1957 he wrote and illustrated *British Trees* and established his reputation as a garden historian with *Gardening in Britain*, published in 1960 and still a standard work on the subject. Some of his other books included *Gardens of Delight*, written in collaboration with his brother John, the novelist and editor of the *Saturday Book* series, in 1964 and *A Book of Country Houses* in 1969. He was also interested both in the local history of Handsworth and in his family history.

Miles Hadfield worked as an advisor to the National Trust, helping with their reconstructions of historic gardens including Westbury Court in Gloucestershire. He was instrumental in the formation of the Garden History Society and became its first president. He was honoured for his services to arboriculture by the Royal Forestry Society and for his services to horticulture by the Royal Horticultural Society.

After the death of his mother Hamstead Mount was sold and Miles Hadfield moved to Dillon's Orchard in Ledbury in 1962. In 1975 he married Rachel Hughes but in the same year his health began to fail after a fall and he became increasingly blind. He died in 1982.

- MS 1408/1/1** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of rock garden plants
c.1930
- MS 1408/1/2** File of excerpts of obituaries from the 'Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society'
undated
- MS 1408/1/3** Note book containing a register of dates of the introduction of foreign plants and trees into British woods and gardens;
compiled by Miles Hadfield
undated

- MS 1408/1/4** Indexed album on news cuttings on plants and flowers
c.1936
- MS 1408/1/5** Note book containing notes by Miles Hatfield on the history of
lithography
n.d
- MS 1408/1/6** Note book containing pencil sketches of birds and insects
undated
- MS 1408/10/1** Album containing illustrations, notes and excerpts relating to
the tulip
undated
- MS 1408/10/2** Album containing illustrations and excerpts relating to the
anemone
undated
- MS 1408/10/3** Album containing notes, illustrations, excerpts and letters on
the cyclamen
undated
- MS 1408/10/4** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on
Rosaceae
undated
- MS 1408/10/5** Album containing illustrations, excerpts, notes and letters on
the Lily
undated
- MS 1408/11/1** Album containing notes, illustrations, excerpts and specimens
of Quercus
undated
- MS 1408/11/2** Album containing notes, illustrations, excerpts and letters
relating to Quercus
undated

- MS 1408/11/3** Grangerised copy of 'Our South African Flora' edited by R.H Compton
undated
- MS 1408/12/1** Album containing illustrations and notes on the flowering plants of New Zealand
undated
- MS 1408/12/2** Album containing notes and illustrations on various dicotyledonous plants other than shrubs
undated
- MS 1408/12/3** Album containing illustrations, notes and excerpts on cletheraceae, pyrolaceae, and ericaceae
undated
- MS 1408/12/4** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on Australian wild flowers
undated
- MS 1408/12/5** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on monocotyledons
undated
- MS 1408/13/1** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on the genus primula
undated
- MS 1408/13/2** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on coniferous trees
undated
- MS 1408/13/3** Album containing excerpts of articles on botany written by Edward Cahen with associated letters
1942-1944
- MS 1408/13/4** Album containing excerpts from 'Gardening Illustrated', with additional illustrations and letters
1928-1937
- MS 1408/14/1** File of drawings and notes on Prunus Mahalet L. and Quercus
undated

- MS 1408/14/10** File of botanical notes and drawings on trees
undated
- MS 1408/14/11** File of botanical notes and drawings: Malus-Prunus L.
undated
- MS 1408/14/12** File of notes. Excerpts, illustrations and letters on garden
plants: Cordyine-Erodia
undated
- MS 1408/14/13** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on gardens
and gardening
undated
arranged W-Z various
- MS 1408/14/14** File of notes, excerpts and letters on British gardeners and
botanists
undated
- MS 1408/14/15** File of notes and excerpts on arboriculture
undated
- MS 1408/14/16** File of notes, excerpts and letters on British gardens and
gardening
undated
- MS 1408/14/17** Portfolio of prints, engravings and photographs of gardens
and garden plants
undated
- MS 1408/14/18** Portfolio of botanical drawings by Miles Hadfield in pen and
pencil
undated
- MS 1408/14/19** Portfolio of botanical drawings by Miles Hadfield in pen and
pencil
undated
- MS 1408/14/2** File of notes, illustrations, offprints and letters on garden
plants: Meryta-Populus
undated

- MS 1408/14/20** Prints of botanical drawings in ink by Miles Hadfield for 'One man's garden'
undated
- MS 1408/14/21** Portfolio of prints of botanical drawings by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/14/22** Portfolio of unpublished botanical drawings in ink by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/14/23** File of notes, excerpts and letters on the history of gardens in Britain from Roman and medieval times to 1739
undated
- MS 1408/14/24** File of notes, excerpts and letters on gardens in Britain
undated
arranged D-Li
- MS 1408/14/25** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on garden plants: Tamrix-Zelkova
undated
- MS 1408/14/26** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on coniferae: Abies-Juniperus
undated
- MS 1408/14/27** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on coniferae etc.: Keleleevia-Podocarpus
undated
- MS 1408/14/28** File of botanical drawings and notes by Miles Hadfield: Celtis-Magnolia
undated
- MS 1408/14/29** File of notes, excerpts, letters and illustrations of English gardens
undated
arranged A-K
- MS 1408/14/3** File of botanical drawings and notes on garden plants: Acer laxiflorum catalpa
undated

- MS 1408/14/30** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on trees
undated
- MS 1408/14/31** File of notes, excerpts and letters on garden plants: Acer-
Alnus
undated
- MS 1408/14/32** File of notes, excerpts and letters on garden plants: Quercus
II - Quercus IV
undated
- MS 1408/14/33** number missing?
- MS 1408/14/34** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on garden
plants: Amelanchir-Cerocarpus
undated
- MS 1408/14/35** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on garden
plants: Rehderondendron-Syringa
undated
- MS 1408/14/36** File of notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters on trees in
Britain
undated
arranged L-Z
- MS 1408/14/37** File of notes, excerpts, letters and illustrations on gardens
and gardening in Herefordshire and sundry notes from literary
sources
undated
- MS 1408/14/4** File of botanical drawings and notes on garden plants: Rhus -
Z and unidentified
undated
- MS 1408/14/5** File of notes, illustrations, offprints and letters on garden
plants: Fagus-Malus
undated
- MS 1408/14/6** File of notes, illustrations, offprints and letters on garden
plants: Pseudotsuga-Tsuga
undated

- MS 1408/14/7** File of botanical drawings and notes: coniferae
undated
- MS 1408/14/8** File of notes, illustrations, excerpts and letters on the history
of gardens and gardening with a bibliography
1740-1939
- MS 1408/14/9** File of notes, excerpts and letters on the history of trees and
landscape with trees
undated
- MS 1408/2/1** Sketch book containing pencil and ink botanical drawings by
Miles Hadfield
1935-1937
- MS 1408/2/2** Excerpts mainly from 'Country Life' of articles on gardens in
continental Europe
1960-1970
- MS 1408/2/3** Sketch book containing botanical drawings of trees and
shrubs by Miles Hatfield
Undated
arranged A-Z
- MS 1408/2/4** Loose-leaf note book containing illustrations, observations
and excerpts on animals, fishes, reptiles
c.1954-1963
- MS 1408/2/5** Loose-leaf note book containing illustrations, observations
and excerpts on animals, fishes, reptiles
c.1950-1963
- MS 1408/3/1** Transcript of a diary and letters of George Heywood Hadfield
(1833-1910) and additional notes by others on the Hadfield
family
undated
- MS 1408/3/2** Note book containing notes by Miles Hadfield on sources of
botanical illustrations
undated
- MS 1408/3/3** Note book containing excerpts and notes of gardening by
Miles Hatfield
undated
arranged O-Z

- MS 1408/3/4** Note book containing excerpts from published works on the history of garden design and planting
undated
- MS 1408/3/5** Note book containing excerpts from published works on the history of gardens and garden plan(ts?)
undated
- MS 1408/3/6** Note book containing excerpts from published works on garden plants
undated
- MS 1408/4/1** Album of mainly photographic illustrations, with excerpts and notes, of the clematis
undated
- MS 1408/4/2** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of primulas, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/4/3** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of oxalis, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/4/4** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of medicinal plants, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/4/5** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of the iris, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/5/1** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of shrubs, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/5/2** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of flowering shrubs, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
undated
- MS 1408/5/3** Note book containing notes and excerpts on garden plants, including the Nerine, Paeony, Podophyllum, Rhododendron and on the geographical distribution of plants in Britain
undated

- MS 1408/5/4** Note book containing notes, excerpts, sketches and letters on garden plants
undated
arranged A-F
- MS 1408/5/5** Note book containing notes, excerpts, sketches and letters on garden plants
undated
arranged G-M
- MS 1408/6/1** Note book containing notes of cuttings and layers
1950-1958
- MS 1408/6/2** Album containing press cuttings on weather
1940-1968
- MS 1408/6/3** Note book containing notes and cuttings on the Narcissus
1951-1968
- MS 1408/6/4** Register of photographs of plants and scenery taken by Miles Hadfield
1959-1973
- MS 1408/6/5** Album of mainly photographic illustrations of the Ginko, with excerpts, notes and correspondence
1932-1943
- MS 1408/6/6** Album of reproductions of drawings of flowers by E.A Bowles, with excerpts
1952-1954
- MS 1408/6/7** Album containing printed excerpts, illustrations and letters relating to garden plants
1925-1927
- MS 1408/6/8** Album containing illustrations, excerpts, notes and specimens of leaves of the Sequoia
1948-1959
- MS 1408/7/1** Note book containing notes on seed and seedlings, trees and shrubs planted by Miles Hadfield
1951-1964

- MS 1408/7/2** Album containing notes, excerpts, illustrations and letters relating to gardens and gardening
c.1956-1967
- MS 1408/7/3** Note book containing brief bibliographical notes on gardening books
undated
- MS 1408/7/4** Album of pen and pencil botanical drawings, with notes, by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/7/5** Note book containing illustrations, excerpts, notes and letters on the pineapple
c.1960-1965
- MS 1408/7/6** Notebook containing notes, memoranda and letters on the history of gardening
1967-1968
- MS 1408/7/7** Excerpts and notes for an anthology of birds and beasts by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/8/1** Note book containing notes, with some letters, on trees and shrubs planted by Miles Hadfield
1951-1968
- MS 1408/8/10** Notes excerpts and letters on gardens and gardening A-Cau
c.1969
- MS 1408/8/11** Brief notes on the history of gardening in England
undated
Not filed
- MS 1408/8/12** Notes and excerpts on English gardens
undated
arranged A-F
- MS 1408/8/2** 'A nature record arranged for five years', compiled by Brian R Harrison (Asford, L. Reeve and Co. Ltd) with entries by Miles Hadfield
1949

- MS 1408/8/3** Gardening diary kept by Miles Hadfield
1952-1969
- MS 1408/8/4** Seasonal records of gardening kept by Miles Hadfield
194-1973
- MS 1408/8/5** Notes on Irises propagated and planted by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/8/6** Notes on gardening at Dillon's Orchard, Ledbury, Hereford,
the home of Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/8/7** Notes, excerpts and letters on bees, collected by Miles
Hadfield
1943-1960
- MS 1408/8/8** Notes, excerpts and letters on the history of the Hadfield
family
1911-1974
- MS 1408/8/9** Notes, excerpts and letters on garden plants Tamarisk - Tilia
1952-1969
- MS 1408/9/1** Notes and excerpts on Acer by Miles Hadfield
undated
- MS 1408/9/2** Notes and excerpts on Fagus by Miles Hadfield
1951-1969
- MS 1408/9/3** Notes, excerpts and letters on E.W Cooke, James Bateman
and Biddulph Grange
1958-1974
- MS 1408/9/4** Notes, illustrations and excerpts on castles, fountains and
waterworks
undated

- MS 1408/9/5** Notes on the history and practice of lithography
undated
- MS 1408/9/6** Notes of oddities, diversions and howlers in garden literature
undated
- MS 1408/9/7** Album containing illustrations, excerpts, notes and letters on
Helleborus
undated
- MS 1408/9/8** Album containing illustrations, excerpts and notes on
cyclamen
undated
- MS 1408/9/9** Sketch book containing botanical drawings by Miles Hadfield
undated