

A Guide to the

**Dr. Cluny Macpherson *fonds***

COLL - 002

**Arranged & Described by**

**Greg Walsh**

**Updated by**

**Stephanie Harlick**

---

**Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive  
Health Sciences Library  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
31 October 1999  
Edited 27 July 2001, 26 May 2004, 11 August 2005**

# Dr. Cluny Macpherson

(COLL-002)

---

**Title:** Dr. Cluny Macpherson *fonds*  
**Dates:** 1881-1991; predominant 1908-1966  
**Extent:** 50 cm of textual material -- 1 map -- 21 photographs

## **Biographical sketch:**

Cluny Macpherson (1879-1966), physician and soldier, was born 18 March 1879 in St. John's, Newfoundland, one of two sons (one brother, Harold) born to Campbell Macpherson and Emma Duder. He completed his early schooling at Methodist College in St. John's and then continued his education at McGill University in Montréal. There, Macpherson earned his degree in Medicine (1897-1901), and at the same time volunteered with the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, of which the Newfoundland Branch came to be known as the Grenfell Mission. Upon graduation from McGill, Dr. Macpherson began his medical career at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

In the following year Dr. Macpherson returned to Newfoundland to join Dr. Wilfred Grenfell's Labrador Mission, and was placed in charge of the hospital in Battle Harbour, Labrador. He also served as magistrate for the area. Dr. Macpherson remained there until 1904, when he returned to St. John's to begin private practice. Dr. Macpherson also received government commissions during this time, such as in 1909 when he went to the southwest coast to fight a smallpox epidemic. Dr. Macpherson also continued his involvement with the International Grenfell Association (IGA), eventually serving as a director of both the IGA and the Grenfell Association, Newfoundland. He also played a key role in the development, structuring and operation of the Seamen's Institute (later called the King George V Institute), another Grenfell project.

Dr. Macpherson was involved with the St. John Ambulance Association, which led to the creation of the St. John Ambulance Brigade with three divisions in St. John's. When World War I broke out, members of the Ambulance Brigade enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment. Macpherson organized these people into an Ambulance Unit, which continued throughout the war. Macpherson himself enlisted on 21 September 1914, at the rank of captain (the same year that he became a director of the family business, The Royal Stores). He was appointed Principal Medical Officer, 1st Newfoundland Regiment, went overseas in March 1915 and later appointed Major on 7 August 1915. He served in France, Belgium, Egypt, Salonica and was eventually transferred to Gallipoli where he acted as an advisor on poisonous gas, which the Allies feared Germany was about to use there. He used a German helmet taken from a captured prisoner to fashion a canvas hood with transparent eyepieces that was treated with chlorine-absorbing chemicals. In doing so, he invented the gas mask, now used by millions of military troops around the world.

Following injury in Egypt, Macpherson returned to Newfoundland, October 1916, and served as Director of Medical Services for the Militia. He was appointed a member of the first War Office Committee on poisonous gases, and also director of medical services for Newfoundland during World War I. He was demobilized on 9 September 1919 at the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Dr. Macpherson played a continual role in the medical profession, in capacities such as President of the St. John's Clinical Society and the Newfoundland Medical Association. He was vice-president of the Newfoundland St. John Ambulance Association in 1937, and later became assistant commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade overseas. He was Chairman of the Commissioners-In-Lunacy, which instituted periodic inspections and an appeal mechanism for patients at the Lunatic Asylum (now the Waterford Hospital). Dr. Macpherson was also the Registrar of the Newfoundland Medical Board. After Confederation with Canada (1949), he became a member of the Medical Council of Canada (1949 onwards) and from 1954 to 1955 he was the second Newfoundlander to serve as President, the first being the founder of the council itself, Sir Thomas Roddick, who was born in Harbour Grace in 1846. Dr. Macpherson was also Honorary President of the St. John Ambulance Association during World War II.

Cluny Macpherson received many honours and awards in his lifetime. He was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (1918); Honorary President of the Newfoundland Council of the St. John Ambulance (1953); Honorary Vice-President of the Newfoundland Council of Canadian Red Cross (1953); member of Medical Council of Canada (President 1954-1955); elected a Fellow of the British Royal College of Surgeons (1955); invested as a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem (1955) (reclassification of Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, 1913); elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (14 January 1957); and was awarded an honorary degree by Memorial University (1962). He was also Honorary President of the Clan Macpherson Association of Canada and Honorary Vice-President of the parent association.

In 1902, Dr. Macpherson married Eleanora Barbara Thompson (O.B.E., Dame of Order of St. John of Jerusalem, died 1964), daughter of William Macleod Thompson, Northumberland County, ON; Dr. Macpherson remained in St. John's until his death on 16 November 1966.

**Custodial history:**

After Cluny Macpherson's death in 1966, Dr. Ian Rusted retained his personal papers, medical records and office effects. The medical records and office effects were transferred to the Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives and Museum, Cowan Ward, in the Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre in St. John's. Remaining material was kept in Dr. Rusted's office at the Health Sciences Centre, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland until transferred to the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive in October of 1999.

**Scope and content:**

*Fonds* consists of the personal and professional records created by Cluny Macpherson during his work in the medical profession and his involvement with a variety of individuals and organizations in Newfoundland and abroad. *Fonds* also includes publications relating to the life and activities of Dr. Macpherson. *Fonds* is arranged in the following series:

- 1.0 Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material, 1914-1991
- 2.0 Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966
- 3.0 Professional Activities, 1910-1966 (*Contains restricted material*)
- 4.0 Patient Records, 1956-1962 (*Entire series is restricted*)
- 5.0 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991
- 6.0 Map and Photographs, 1932-1960
- 7.0 Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]
- 8.0 Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966

**Source of title:**

Supplied title is based on contents of the *fonds*.

**Acquisition:**

The papers of Dr. Cluny Macpherson were donated to the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive by Dr. Ian Rusted, who had custody of the papers following Macpherson's death in 1966. Dr. Rusted transferred the papers to the Founders' Archive in October of 1999.

**Arrangement:**

When the papers of Dr. Cluny Macpherson arrived at the Founders' Archive, there was some degree of order present. The files had been previously organized by Dr. Rusted. This formed the framework for further arrangement and description of the collection.

**Restrictions:**

Access to some of the materials in this *fonds* is restricted. Such material is clearly marked in the finding aid and will not be available to researchers. For further instruction, contact the archivist.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:**

Material in this *fonds* is protected by copyright. Copyright regulations state that any copy of archival material is to be used solely for **research** or **private study**. Any use of copied material for any other purpose may require the authorization of the copyright owner. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance from the copyright holder(s).

Copyright regulations require that records be kept of all copies made of materials deposited prior to 1 September 1999, and that these records may be viewed by the author of the material, the copyright owner, or representatives of either.

**Copyright:**

Copyright of the material in this *fonds* is held by the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive.

**Accruals:**

Further accruals are expected.

**Location:**

COLL-002, Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive

**Finding aid:**

Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive finding aid # 2. File level control

**Associated material:**

Dr. Cluny Macpherson *fonds*, Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives and Museum, Dr. Leonard A. Miller Centre

**Related material:**

Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive, Dr. Ian Rusted *fonds*, COLL-001, file 15.04.009, series 19.0, and file 27.01.001

## Series and Sub-Series List:

### **1.0 Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material, 1914-1991**

1.01 Correspondence concerning Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1914-1991

### **2.0 Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966**

2.01 Robert "Paddy" Duder Correspondence, 1948-1966

2.02 John Sparkes Correspondence, 1917-1964

2.03 James Young Correspondence, 1908-1956

2.04 St. John's Municipal Council, 1913-1951

2.05 Campbell Macpherson Correspondence, Re: Appointment as Lieutenant Governor, 1957-1958

### **3.0 Professional Activities, 1910-1966**

*(Contains restricted material)*

3.01 International Grenfell Association (IGA), 1910-1926

3.02 King George V Seamen's Institute, 1911-1959

3.03 Medical Council of Canada, 1953-1956

3.04 National Defence College, 1956-1957

3.05 St. John Ambulance, 1910-1957

3.06 Commissioners in Lunacy, 1931-1966

*(Contains restricted material)*

### **4.0 Patient Records, 1956-1962**

*(Entire series is restricted)*

4.01 Miscellaneous Patient Files, 1956-1962

**RESTRICTED**

### **5.0 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991**

5.01 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991

### **6.0 Map and Photographs, 1932-1960**

6.01 Map, 1932

6.02 Photographs, 1957-1960

### **7.0 Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]**

7.01 Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]

7.02 Photographs in Notebook # 1, 1881-[19-]

7.03 Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1936-1961

7.04 Photographs in Notebook # 2, 1914-[between 1942 and 1946]

### **8.0 Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966**

**8.01 Correspondence and other material, 1917-1966**

## Series and Sub-series Description

### 1.0 Correspondence and Miscellaneous, 1914-1991

#### 1.01 Correspondence and Miscellaneous Material, 1914-1991

- 1.01.001 Correspondence, 7 April 1971 - 27 March 1991
- 1.01.002 List of volumes from Newfoundland Medical Association Archives presented to Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, 1 May 1970
- 1.01.003 Address to Rotary Club concerning Macpherson and Bell families. Address researched, written, and read by Ian Rusted, 22 August 1974
- 1.01.004 List of office effects stored in Old Fever Hospital (Stores Section), Forest Road, St. John's, (2 copies), 7 February 1979
- 1.01.005 Cluny Macpherson's nomination to become a member of Patriotic Commission of Newfoundland, 1914
- 1.01.006 Biographical data concerning Cluny Macpherson collected by Ian Rusted
- 1.01.007 Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce certificate of fellowship, London, England, 14 January 1957
- 1.01.008 Member of the Order of the Good Time (Nova Scotia), [19-]
- 1.01.009 Coat of Arms, 1956

### 2.0 Correspondence and Related Material, 1908-1966

#### 2.01 Robert "Paddy" Duder Correspondence, 1948-1966

- 2.01.001 Correspondence to Duder, 7 July 1956 - 16 December 1962
- 2.01.002 Correspondence from Duder, 31 May 1951 – 29 May 1966
- 2.01.003 Newspaper articles re: Robert Duder
- 2.01.004 Speech given by Robert Duder at a meeting of the Registrars of the Universities of Quebec and Ontario, 26 November 1956
- 2.01.005 Postcard from Robert Duder, 6 July 1948

#### 2.02 John Sparkes Correspondence, 1917-1964

- 2.02.001 Correspondence to Sparkes, 7 July 1956 - 16 December 1962
- 2.02.002 Correspondence from Sparkes, 28 August 1917 – 18 May 1964
- 2.02.002a Correspondence from Sparkes, 28 August 1917 – 18 May 1964  
**RESTRICTED**
- 2.02.003 Newspaper articles re: John Sparkes, 1949-1963

2.02.004 Correspondence from and biographical information on John Sparkes, 1958

**2.03 James Young Correspondence, 1908-1956**

2.03.001 Correspondence to Young, 23 January 1922 - 29 November 1955

2.03.001a Correspondence to Young, 23 January 1922 - 29 November 1955

**RESTRICTED**

2.03.002 Correspondence from Young, 26 November 1908 - 11 May 1956

2.03.002a Correspondence from Young, 26 November 1908 - 11 May 1956

**RESTRICTED**

2.03.003 Articles written by James Young, plus the Seventh Supplement to The London Gazette, 21 May 1918-6 October 1951

2.03.004 Newspaper article in the Times re: James Young, 1943

**2.04 St. John's Municipal Council, 1913-1951**

2.04.001 Correspondence to council, 26 September 1922 - 27 January 1951

2.04.001a Correspondence to council, 26 September 1922 - 27 January 1951

**RESTRICTED**

2.04.002 Receipt for horse and carriage taxes, 1 January 1917

2.04.003 Permit to install oil burning units and gas tanks, 2 February 1951

2.04.004 Handwritten notes regarding council activities, 1913

2.04.005 Newspaper articles Re: St. John's City Council from *The Daily News*, 1913

2.04.006 "Regulations respecting stables, cow-sheds, etc., within the city," [19-]

2.04.007 City of St. John's Appraisal of Property form, 14 October 1950

**2.05 Campbell Macpherson Correspondence, Re: Appointment as Lieutenant Governor, 1957-1958**

2.05.001 Correspondence, 1957

2.05.002 Correspondence, 1958



**3.0 Professional Activities, 1910-1966**  
*(Contains restricted material)*

**3.01 International Grenfell Association (IGA), 1910-1926**

- 3.01.001 Correspondence, 12 February 1910 - 8 March 1926
- 3.01.002 IGA Institute Committee meeting minutes, 22 February & 22 April 1926

**3.02 King George V Seamen's Institute, 1911-1959**

- 3.02.001 Correspondence, 3 June 1911 - 24 October 1958
- 3.02.002 Balance Sheet and expenses (2 copies), 31 December 1919
- 3.02.003 Profit and Loss Account for year ending 31 December 1919
- 3.02.004 Superintendent's Report on Operations for month of December 1919
- 3.02.005 Trial Balance after closing December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1919, 20 February 1920  
Trial Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1919
- 3.02.006 Publicity pamphlet - King George V Seamen's Institute, 1913
- 3.02.007 Newspaper articles Re: King George V Seamen's Institute, 1913-1959

**3.03 Medical Council of Canada, 1953-1956**

- 3.03.001 Correspondence, 30 July 1953 - 10 August 1956

**3.04 National Defence College, 1956-1957**

- 3.04.001 Course X Administration Bulletin No. 6, Overseas Tour, 1956-1957

**3.05 St. John Ambulance, 1910-1957**

- 3.05.001 Correspondence, 22 May 1913 - 23 January 1957
- 3.05.002 St. John Ambulance biographical information on Dr. Macpherson, [between 1955 and 1965]
- 3.05.003 Investiture procedures for Knights (2 copies)
- 3.05.004 Appointment certificates, 7 May 1912 - 2 December 1913
- 3.05.005 Honorary Life Membership certificate, 22 December 1910
- 3.05.006 Newspaper articles Re: Cluny Macpherson and St. John Ambulance

**3.06 Commissioners in Lunacy, 1931-1966**  
*(Contains restricted material)*

- 3.06.001 Correspondence, 20 November 1931 - 1 September 1966
- 3.06.001a Correspondence, 21 July 1958 – 27 September 1962  
**RESTRICTED**
- 3.06.002 Minutes of Meeting of Commissioners in Lunacy, Topsail Road branch, St. John's, Newfoundland, 27 March 1963  
**RESTRICTED**
- 3.06.003 Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases Lunacy report for January 1957 and survey of resident population, 22 June 1961
- 3.06.004 Pamphlet - Official opening of Carbonear Red Cross Community Hospital, 21 October 1957
- 3.06.005 Newspaper article, Re: Mental Hospital, 4 September 1966
- 3.06.006 Correspondence, 1 December 1957 - 22 February 1966  
**RESTRICTED**
- 3.06.007 Death certificates for mental patients, 1932-1965  
**RESTRICTED**
- 3.06.008 List of patients, 1957  
**RESTRICTED**

**4.0 Patient Records, 1956-1962**  
*(Entire Series is restricted)*

**4.01 Miscellaneous Patient Files, 1956-1962**  
*(Entire Series is restricted)*

- 4.01.001 Patient records, notes, x-ray reports, 1956-1962  
**RESTRICTED**

**5.0 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991**

**5.01 Publications relating to Cluny Macpherson, [between 1941 and 1943]-1991**

- 5.01.001 Excerpt from *The Fighting Newfoundlander: A History of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment*, by Colonel G.W. Nicholson, 1964
- 5.01.002 Newspaper article, "Macpherson's Gas Mask Invention was Grace Under Wartime Pressure," *Sunday Telegram*, 20 January 1991

- 5.01.003 "In Retrospect" from *Dalhousie Medical Journal*, by T. Marrie. A report of an interview with Dr. Macpherson before his death in 1966, March 1967
- 5.01.004 "A Bad Night in the Straits of Belle Isle," by Cluny Macpherson (taken from his unpublished notebook, # 2), [between 1941 and 1943]
- 5.01.005 "Labrador, 1890," Notes of lecture given by Dr. Ronald Rompkey, 6 March 1991

## **6.0 Map and Photographs, 1932-1960**

### **6.01 Map, 1932**

- 6.01.001 "Map of Saint John's, Newfoundland from plans and actual surveys," by W.P. Ryan, City Engineer, 1932. Map contains annotations and locations of various city buildings and sites

### **6.02 Photographs, 1957-1960**

- 6.02.001 Medical Council of Canada, 1957-1960 (Cluny Macpherson and J.E. Josephson from Newfoundland) 1960 : b&w ; 13 x 27.5 cm ; no negative
- 6.02.002 Harold Schlofield in front of Cleveland Museum of Art  
October 1957 : col. ; Polaroid ; 7.5 x 7.5 cm ; no negative
- 6.02.003 Irene Schlofield in front of Cleveland Museum of Art  
October 1957 : col. ; Polaroid ; 7.5 x 7.5 cm ; no negative

## **7.0 Notebooks and Photographs, 1881-[196?]**

### **7.01 Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]**

- 7.01.001 Notebook # 1, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, [190?-196?]

### **7.02 Photographs in Notebook # 1, 1881-[19-]**

- 7.02.001 Photograph, page 98A: Electric Telegraph Company Tarriff form photographed  
[19-] : b&w ; 9 x 12 cm ; no negative
- 7.02.002- 2 Photographs, page 99

- 7.02.003 [19-] : b&w ; 7 x 10 cm ; no negative
- 7.02.004 Photograph, 146: "Vradd" Christmas Greetings: This is a small boat which crossed the Atlantic. Xmas, 1904, Pappa 1904 : b&w ; 10 x 7 cm ; no negative
- 7.02.005 Photograph, page 344  
1881 : b&w ; 15 x 10.5 cm ; no negative
- 7.03 Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1936-1961**
- 7.03.001 Notebook # 2, Dr. Cluny Macpherson, 1936-1961
- 7.04 Photographs in Notebook # 2, 1914-[between 1942 and 1946]**
- 7.04.001- 12 Photographs, page 84: Pictures taken from the roof of the Grace  
7.04.012 Hospital (full descriptions are given in the notebook, pp. 75-83; 85-90)  
[between 1942 and 1946] : b&w ; 7.5 x 10 cm ; no negatives
- 7.04.013 Photograph, page 85: At Pleasantville Camp  
October 1914 : b&w ; 9.5 x 11.5 cm ; no negative
- 8.0 Correspondence, speeches, pamphlets, and photographs, 1917-1966**
- 8.01 Correspondence and other material,**
- 8.01.001 General Correspondence, 1957-1965
- 8.01.002 General Correspondence, 1945-1966  
**RESTRICTED**
- 8.01.003 Government Correspondence, November 1921 and 1960
- 8.01.004 Masonic correspondence, 5 September 1951
- 8.01.005 Skuce, Kenneth C. *Freemasonry in Newfoundland*. St. John's, Newfoundland, 1948
- 8.01.006 Correspondence, 1924-1955
- 8.01.007 Correspondence re the death of Mrs. Macpherson, includes photograph of John McLeod, Provost in the period 1858-1875, telegrams, 1921-1927, 1937-1942, 1961-1964
- 8.01.008 Personal information, 1962  
**RESTRICTED**
- 8.01.009 Correspondence, 1922-1923, 1958
- 8.01.010 Correspondence, 1947-1949

**RESTRICTED**

- 8.01.011 Correspondence re: plants and flowers, includes a sample of a dried plant, 1952-1964
- 8.01.012 Correspondence with Dr. Edward Archibald (Montreal), Professor A.G. Nicholls (Dalhousie University, Halifax), C. A. Forbes (Bonavista), and others, 1922
- 8.01.013 Correspondence with Dr. Edward Archibald (Montreal), Professor George E. Armstrong (Montreal), paper, abstract and articles by James Young, 1922
- 8.01.014 McGill Correspondence, 1917-1962
- 8.01.015 Correspondence, 1961
- RESTRICTED**
- 8.01.016 McGill Correspondence, 1926-1962
- 8.01.017 Gower Street Church, 1933-1965
- 8.01.018 Correspondence, Masonic pamphlets, (includes photographs: 1) ceremony; 2) three women and a baby + negative; 3) Dr. Macpherson + negative); and negatives only: 1) gentleman; 2) 6 of chairs, crests; 3) 3 of unknown; 4) 6 of people and scenery) 1920-1955
- 8.01.019 District Grant Lodge, 1923-1964
- 8.01.020 Benevolence, Masonic, 1953-1960
- 8.01.021 United Church College correspondence, crest and transfers, 1923-1963
- 8.01.022 Cancer Correspondence, 1922-1951
- RESTRICTED**
- 8.01.023 Correspondence, 1922
- 8.01.024 Correspondence, 1957-1960
- 8.01.025 Correspondence, 1956-1960

**RESTRICTED**