

Christie's South Kensington Album  
Acc. No. 1979-216.

This album was purchased at the Christie's South Kensington sale, 1978, lot 187. The identity of its owner or compiler has never been attributed, it is likely that the album was assembled by a member of the Sir William Mackenzie's family, possibly by his wife Lady Margaret Mackenzie or one of his daughters.

Sir William Mackenzie (1849-1923) was a former schoolteacher from Kirkfield, Ontario who became a successful railway contractor on the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) main line. In association with Donald Mann he formed Mackenzie Mann & Company Limited in 1886. Together, Mackenzie and Mann began the organization and construction of the far-flung network later known as the Canadian Northern Railway, of which Mackenzie became president. Taken over by the Canadian government in 1918, the railroad is now a part of the Canadian National Railway system. Mackenzie was knighted in 1911.

Mackenzie's ability to finance CNoR projects earned him the reputation as that of a "shrewd financial wizard." His became a household name, praised by his partners and cursed by his detractors. But he was much more than a railway magnate. He was equally adept with business ventures across Canada and in Brazil including Brascan, the Toronto Transit Commission, gas, electric and telephone utilities, and coal mining, whaling and timber. He also owned *La Presse*, at the time the largest newspaper in Canada. The Canadian Northern became an important component of the Canadian National Railways (CNR).

In 1872, Mackenzie married Margaret Merry. They had nine children: six daughters and three sons. The daughters were named Grace, Gertrude, Mabel, Ehter, Katharine and Bertha. The sons were R.J., Joe and Alex.

The Mackenzie family album contains photographs of what are possibly family holidays in Canada and abroad in England, dated 1890-1910. Included are photographs of the original home of Sir William Mackenzie, in Kirkfield, Ontario, situated at the top of the Trent-Severn Waterway. Little remains of the extensive estate today, with the exception of the 40-room country manor at Kirkfield. Situated on 13 acres of woods and gardens, the house has been designated a historical site by Parks Canada.

At the house in Kirkfield, Mackenzie entertained many notable figures such as Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, the engineer of the Suez Canal and the financier of the Panama Canal. In 1911, Mackenzies' youngest daughter Grace married his son, Count Jacques de Lesseps. Count Jacques de Lesseps was an celebrated aviator who had was the first man to fly over the city of Montreal.

The album also contains 15 albumen prints of canoeing and portaging on Severn River in Muskoka, Ontario taken ca. 1894. Since the Mackenzie house was situated on the Severn River, it is possible that the people in the photographs were somehow related to the Mackenzie family (perhaps they were Mackenzie's sons). The photographs were taken by Josiah Bruce (1840-1913), a well-known Canadian photographer.

Mr. Josiah Bruce was born in Guelph, Ontario, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 1840. After leaving school, he studied architecture in Guelph. In 1961, he went to Quebec City where he worked as an

architect for about a year. He then moved to Montreal where he began to work as a photographer under the tutelage of a celebrated photographer William Notman.

After several years of remaining with the Notman Studio in Montreal, Bruce relocated to Toronto to supervise and manage the local studio of Notman & Fraser Co. After seven years, Bruce severed his connection with Notman and opened his own photography studio at 132 King Street West. There were few homes in Toronto, or for that matter in Ontario, that did not contain one or more photographs by Josiah Bruce.

### Album Contents

The following photographs are of the Mackenzie house in Kirkfield, Ontario.

|      |  |
|------|--|
| p. 1 | Men, women and children at the Mackenzie house         |
| p. 2 | A horse-drawn carriage in front of the Mackenzie house |
| p. 3 | A boy, possibly Alex Mackenzie in a carriage           |
| p. 4 | People sitting at a table                              |

The following table lists the photographs taken by Josiah Bruce of Severn River, Muskoka, Ontario.

|       |                                      |           |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| p. 5  | "Severn River Rapids at 1st Portage" | PA-172580 |
| p. 6  | "Severn River 1st Rapid"             | PA-172576 |
| p. 7  | "Severn River 1st Rapids"            |           |
| p. 8  | "Severn River 1st Rapids"            |           |
| p. 9  | "Severn River from 1st Portage"      | PA-172584 |
| p. 10 | "Severn River from 2nd Portage"      | PA-172577 |
| p. 11 | "Severn River 3rd Rapids"            | PA-172585 |
| p. 12 | "Severn River Running 4th Rapid"     | PA-172578 |
| p. 13 | "Severn River from 4th Portage"      | PA-172581 |
| p. 14 | "Severn River entering 4th Rapid"    | PA-172579 |
| p. 15 | "Severn Mills" [Port Severn, Ont.]   | PA-172586 |
| p. 16 | "Severn River The Big Chute"         | PA-172583 |
| p. 17 | "The Big Chute Severn River"         | PA-172582 |
| p. 18 | "Severn River, Long Portage"         |           |
| p. 19 | "The Big Chute Severn River"         | PA-172587 |

The following photographs are of the Clandon Park manor located in Guildford, Surrey in England, its exteriors, interiors, gardens and the countryside around Guildford, Surrey:

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| p. 20 | Photograph of Alex, Joe and R.J. Mackenzie, Jan. 1895<br>(possibly in Guildford) |
| p. 21 | Exteriors of Clandon Park manor  |
| p. 22 | Exteriors of Clandon Park manor  |
| p. 23 | Exteriors of Clandon Park manor  |
| p. 24 | View of a bridge over a river in Guildford                                       |
| p. 25 | Interior of a garden conservatory, Clandon Park manor                            |
| p. 26 | View of the countryside, Guildford   |
| p. 27 | View of the countryside, Guildford   |
| p. 30 | A man standing with a dog in a tree-lined alley, Clandon Park manor              |

- p. 31 View of the countryside, Guildford
- p. 32 View of the countryside, Guildford
- p. 33 Interiors of Clandon Park manor
- p. 34 Interiors of Clandon Park manor
- p. 35 Interiors of Clandon Park manor
- p. 36 Interiors of Clandon Park manor
- p. 37 St. Martha's Church, Guildford "Old Church of Guildford; Icen for 50 miles"
  
- p. 38 View of Clandon Park manor "... from London Road"
- p. 39 Watercolour signed "Dora North" dated 19 July 1894
- p. 40 Two men and a woman in an unidentified house
- p. 41 View of an unidentified house
- p. 42 Interior view of an unidentified house
- p. 43 t. A woman reading
- p. 43 b. Four women with a man (possibly Count Ferdinand de Lesseps)
  
- p. 44 t. A woman reading
- p. 44 b. Five women and one man
- p. 45 t. Two women wearing riding clothes
- p. 45 b. Men, women, children and a dog (one of the women may be one of Mackenzie' daughters)
  
- p. 46 t. People in a horse carriage and on horse-back
- p. 46 b. A group of people outside Clandon Park manor, with Count Jacques de Lesseps (seated, 1<sup>st</sup> row, left) and possibly Grace Mackenzie (standing, left)

The following photographs are largely unidentified:

- p. 47 Woman in a carriage driving out of the gates of an unidentified castle
- p. 48 Exteriors of an unidentified castle
- p. 49 A group of women dressed in some type of monastic garb, possibly in Wales
- p. 50 An unidentified church, possibly in Wales
- p. 51 A young woman standing outside of old ruins
- p. 52 View of old ruins
- p. 53 Two men and three women outside of an unidentified castle
- p. 54 An unidentified house in winter