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LAURENCE HOUSMAN LETTERS AT COLBY COLLEGE

By RICHARD CARY

In addition to the thirty letters Laurence Housman wrote to Mrs. Grace Mountcastle Martin, published in the preceding pages, Colby College Library has the following holographs by him in its manuscript files:

Bantock, Granville

January 23, 1935; n.p., lp. LH will be glad to receive Bantock's setting of an A. E. Housman poem.

Barker, Harley Granville

February 7, n.y.; Kildare, Hereford, 10p. LH has lighted on what seems "a stunning subject"—the *cause célèbre* of Caroline, wife of George IV, but doesn't think he is the man to do it, perhaps Masfield; outlines the development in three acts and several scenes.

Barrows, Miss

February 23, 1926; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 3p. She has got him to go to Malvern "at last" to give an afternoon lecture.

September 15, 1930; n.p., lp. LH is too tied up with a local dramatic production of his own but will be able to manage an afternoon reading after October 24; now has a car of his own; has written several more "Juniper" plays.

September 17, 1930; n.p., lp. Does she prefer a miscellaneous reading of poetry and plays, or plays only, and if so, only Franciscan plays?

July 9, 1938; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, lp. Cannot go to see her performance; jokes about Madame de Navarro playing his "Old Queen" [Victoria] momentarily from her bathroom window about a year ago.

Bacon, Fred

June 23, 1949; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, lp. LH rejects offer of a specially bound copy of *The Blue Moon*, having "the bad taste" to prefer his own cover-design.

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Boudin, S.

May 14, 1936; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. Jonson's use of "for" instead of "from" is an instance of the inexactness of the English language.

Brandon, Paul M.

February 17, 1936; 620 West 116 Street, New York City, 1p. LH thanks Brandon for offering materials for a play on the life of Empress Elizabeth of Austria, but cannot undertake it as he is past seventy.

Brice, Miss

September 20, 1907; I Pembroke Cottages, Kensington, 4p. Has no idea about market prices but his rough notion of the value of an honest artist is £50 a month; has recommended her for a commission and hopes she will not underbid her talent.

Carroll, Sydney W.

August 25, 1949; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Sorry he cannot come to London to introduce Carroll's readers on the BBC; suggests a sequence of his brother's poems and lists his favorites.

Carter, Mr.

November 29, 1930; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 3p. Asks Carter to thank the Vicar for his Isaiah, which "is a great improvement on mine"; encloses a textbook for Carter's guidance as a school inspector but advises him to resign.

Cave, Ann Estella

June 27, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. Discusses the "conversion" of Dick Sheppard; LH has just returned from the Birmingham Peace Conference and is joining his brother for a week.

November 26, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. His "irreverent excursion into the life of 'Old Vic'" is just out; he will be performing his "Gate of Life" at the University College, London, in January.

May 1, 1935; 63 Princes Square, London, 4p. Has been rehearsing at The Gate Theatre in Villiers Street; thinks his

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plays are being "very well acted."

December 16, 1936; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Cannot come to London for a Cabaret Tea Party; cannot contribute to the Actors' Benevolent Fund as he has two out of work actors on his hands; concludes with a limerick to Lady Cave.

December 16, 1936; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Encloses a check for "the benefit of the decayed actors."

November 3, 1937; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Has just written a short obituary about the Rev. Dick Shepard at the request of The Church of England newspaper; they were to have spoken together in the next two days.

Cole, Mr.

August 21, 1958, n.p., 1p. Encloses his autograph in his 93rd year.

Davray, Madame Henry D.

August 12, 1901; 70 York Mansions, Battersea Park, 1p. Has nearly finished his "grand ouvrage"; is staying in Dorsetshire for a few weeks. [In French]

Downe, Harold

August 21, 1901; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Downe is welcome to keep LH's name on his list of Vice-Presidents.

Draper, Ruth

January 13, 1949; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. He is going to see her doing some of her "characters" at the Saturday matinee, as he is 85 and his visits to America are over; Draper and Helen Hayes are "the most beautiful of all America's gifts to us in things dramatic."

Geram, Miss

September 1, 1914; 1 Pembroke Cottages, Kensington, 4p. Regarding payments for an orchestral score involving Joseph Moorat and Harley Granville Barker.

Hapgood, Norman

April 7, 1916; National Arts Club, New York City, 1p. LH is leaving for a round of lectures; "The Lantern" is being typed for Hapgood.

Head, Henry

January 17, 1914; Greycot, New Milton, 4p. LH is on the preliminary Committee of the British Society of Psychiatry which aims to increase general knowledge on the subject and a readjustment of the law; would Head be willing to meet with the Committee and advise?

LaTouche, Miss

March 11, n.y.; Greycot, Swanage, 3p. He names several plays that "would be just right" for her, such as *Madame Butterfly* in its non-opera form.

Mariott-Watson, Mrs.

May 10, 1902; 70 York Mansions, Battersea Park, 4p. Sends her one of his "long-winded" books; considers himself "a rhinoceros" in the matter of criticism.

Martin, Grace Mountcastle

February 29, 1944 - November 20, 1956; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, and other, 71p. Thirty letters are reproduced in the pages preceding this calendar.

*Morning Leader*, Editor

December 1911; n.p., 2p. Satirical objection to the appointment of C.H.E. Brookfield as Co-censor of plays.

Nevinson, Henry Woodd

December 4, 1928; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. Asks Nevinson if he is an accredited speaker for the League of Nations Union; if so, would he be willing to talk to the local group some evening; although LH is in "a hot-bed" of Quakers he is still not "a tee-totaler," and will provide cider.

O'Brien, Edward J.

March 25, 1920; 620 West 116 Street, New York City, 1p. O'Brien is quite welcome to use "Evensong" in his American anthology.

Perkins, Mr.

March 31, 1916; *Times Building*, New York City, 2p. LH sends list of his lecture subjects in hope that some of them may attract the interest of a Boston audience.

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Prowse, R.O.

May 18, 1916; 1 Pembroke Cottages, Kensington, 2p. LH will be pleased to lecture on "Use and Ornament" on June 11 in London.

Redway, G.W.

November 20, n.y.; 61 Marloes Road, Kensington, 2p. He is glad that Redway likes his drawing, the charge is two guineas; comments on Hugh Thomson's designs and a book by Norman Gale.

Richards, Mr.

November 30, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 3p. Invites Richards to stay at his house when he comes to lecture; asks if he is a vegetarian and a teetotaler; LH has "no principles" on either point.

Roberts, R. Ellis

March 26, 1923; Greycot, New Milton, 3p. Roberts is welcome to a selection of LH poems for his anthology; demurs at moving "Christ's Letter" from its setting; suggests four alternatives.

March 29, 1923; Greycot, New Milton, 2p. Will not refuse Roberts' wanting to reprint the poem, but he must be careful to render it correctly; he may also use "Before Confession"; hopes the publisher's fees are not excessive; the *Rue* poems Roberts wanted are probably also available now.

Robinson, Miss

August 14, 1925; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. "The Lullaby" is very pleasant and should fit well to music; he did the same thing in "a soothing night song of Our Lady."

Rogers, Timothy

June 16, 1951; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. LH's public speaking days are over; his memory now so bad he only gives readings from his plays, but for fees; sorry he cannot advance the cause of Peace in the way suggested.

Scott, Dawson

December 7, 1926; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Thanks Scott for advance royalties on the American edi-

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tion of *Humorous Tales*; his sister and he are "jogging contentedly" into old age.

Stokes, Mr.

September 1, 1926; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Sorry but he is overwhelmed with work; his contribution to the Peace movement this year is his tour of the *Little Plays of St. Francis*.

Trapin, Miss

June 9, 1936; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. He has no spare copy of the Funeral Hymn but it will be published in the fall in his brother's *Late Poems* which LH is arranging for the press.

Unidentified correspondents

November 16, n.y.; Greycot, New Milton, 1p. "Dear Friend." Hoary old Europe is making definite moves in the direction of American ideals; LH is glad that "your President" is coming over for the Peace Congress.

May 3, 1899; 61 Marloes Road, Kensington, 2p. "Dear Sir." LH returns a book of plays; suggests page size like *Salomé* would best suit his drawings.

December 26, 1901; 70 York Mansions, Battersea Park, 4p. "Cher ami." LH goes to Rome in about three weeks, then to Florence and Venice; is interested in *Love-Letters* because this correspondent has translated them.

April 10, 1922; Greycot, New Milton, 1p. "Dear Madam." He cannot offer to fill any of the dates she mentions at The Women's Institute since he can only travel for fees, unless it is a cause or charity in which he is "specially interested."

February 19, 1927; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset; 1p. "Dear Sir." LH has filled out the requested form on condition that he does not have to supply the books himself for the proposed exhibit.

September 14, 1929; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. "Dear Sir." LH is willing to let the organization of Modern Drama list him among its vice-presidents for the 1929-1930 season.

October 23, 1937; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. "Dear

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Sir." LH is aware that his brother's Pleiad poems were inspired by a fragment from Sappho, but they are not so close as to be described as a translation or a paraphrase.

Verinder, Miss

May 19, 1930; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. She should suggest a day for his reading late in October.

October 22, 1930; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. He will add to his reading a poem not in the *Little Plays* but having application to the League of Nations Union.

Wiggin, Kate Douglas

March 24, n.y.; 620 West 116 Street, New York City, 1p. He is sorry that the "unrevealed reason" cannot draw him, for he will be in Minneapolis on March 30.

Wilson, Mr.

December 11, 1926; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. All the characters in *Possession* were drawn from life but were dead when the play was written; *His Favourite Flower* requires an audience capable of understanding the political allusions and phrases.

October 10, 1928; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. Suggests for his reading "The Mind of Wordsworth," which he has recently written and which people find "quite amusing"; begs not to be put up at a hotel, would rather "share a crust and a bed with a miner."

September 7, 1929; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. His autumn lecture tour is entirely in the south of England but a northern tour is scheduled for January; afraid a lecture at Durham must wait for a future occasion.

Wright, Kathleen

April 20, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Discusses alternate dates and fees for a lecture; his timetable is seldom arranged earlier than the end of June.

May 3, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 1p. Suggests two dates in February; on what subject?

May 7, 1934; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 2p. He has to travel the whole day to get to Hull but will come if hospitality is provided the night before the lecture; offers "The Value of Fools" and "The Making of a Play" as subjects,



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illustrated from his plays; or two "light" lectures, "An Author and his Publishers" and "Life and Literature." February 7, 1935; Longmeadow, Street, Somerset, 3p. He will come on the 21st; thanks for the proffered hospitality; how long does she wish the lecture to be, and please provide a "breast-high adjustable" stand for reading.



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*Books In Print*

APPRECIATION OF EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON: 28 INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS. Edited by Richard Cary. 1969. 356 pages. \$8.00

THOMAS HARDY'S CORRESPONDENCE AT MAX GATE. A Descriptive Check List Compiled by Carl J. Weber and Clara Carter Weber. 1968. 238 pages. \$6.50

SARAH ORNE JEWETT LETTERS. Enlarged and revised edition with an introduction and notes by Richard Cary. 1967. 186 pages. \$7.50

*Marriner, Ernest C.* THE MAN OF MAYFLOWER HILL: A BIOGRAPHY OF FRANKLIN W. JOHNSON. 1967. 137 pages. \$5.00

MAINE AND ITS ROLE IN AMERICAN ART, 1740-1963. 156 black and white and 17 color illustrations, edited by Gertrud A. Mellon and Elizabeth F. Wilder. 1963. 178 pages. \$8.00

*Marriner, Ernest C.* THE HISTORY OF COLBY COLLEGE. 31 appendices, copious illustrations, and index. 1963. 659 pages. \$7.95