

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Rebecca West Collection

GEN MSS 239



by Diane J. Ducharme

October 1996

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 239

CREATOR: West, Rebecca, 1892-1983

TITLE: Rebecca West collection

DATES: 1913-1996

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.96 linear feet (10 boxes + 2 cases)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains letters to and from West, including extensive correspondences with Emanie Sachs Arling and Doris Stevens, as well as letters from Norman Mackenzie, Sara Tugander Melville, Jonathan Mitchell, Harold F. Rubinstein, and Reginald Turner; miscellaneous writings by West; and correspondence and memorabilia of West assembled by Gordon S. Haight.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.westart>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.westart>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This listing encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts pertaining to Rebecca West acquired by gift and purchase from various sources by the Beinecke Library from 1960 to the present. Provenance has been noted briefly on the initial folder of each accession; for further information, see the appropriate curator.

Series V. acquired 2024 November from Richard M. Ford on the Edith and Richard French Fund.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Restricted Fragile Papers in Box 11 may only be consulted with permission of the appropriate curator. Preservation photocopies for reference use have been substituted in the main files.

Conditions Governing Use

The Rebecca West Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Rebecca West Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This register is updated periodically. For information on material added to the collection since the last update, please consult the Public Services Desk.

Associated Materials

For the papers donated by Rebecca West to Yale University in 1959, see GEN MSS 105, Rebecca West Papers; for related West material, see GEN MSS 240, G. Evelyn Hutchinson Papers Relating to Rebecca West.

REBECCA WEST 1892-1983

Rebecca West is the pseudonym of Cicely Isabel Fairfield, British journalist and novelist. Her major works include *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1942), a study of Yugoslavia; *A Train of Powder* (1955), reports on the Nuremberg Trials; and *The Meaning of Treason* (1949), on the trial of William Joyce, who broadcast for Nazi Germany as Lord Haw-Haw. Among her novels are *The Return of the Soldier* (1918), *The Fountain Overflows* (1957), and *The Birds Fall Down* (1966). She was created Dame of the British Empire in 1959.

West's decade-long relationship with H. G. Wells produced one son, Anthony Panther West, born in 1914. In 1930 West married the banker Henry Andrews, who died in 1968.

For further information consult the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Scope and Contents

The Rebecca West Collection spans the dates 1913-1984 and is organized in four series. Series I, *Correspondence*, consists of letters to and from Rebecca West and is alphabetically arranged by name of correspondent. Series II, *Writings*, is organized in three subseries: Books, Articles, and Writings of Others. Series III, *Rebecca West Papers of Gordon S. Haight*, is organized in three subseries: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers. Materials acquired since September 1996 are located in Series IV, *Additions since September 1996*, and are listed in accession order. Series V. is arranged by recipient and chronologically.

[Series I, Correspondence](#), contains mainly letters by West herself, in some cases donated by their recipients at West's request. Correspondents include Romney Brent, Henry James Forman, A. S. Frere, Lady Elizabeth Iddesleigh, Norman Mackenzie, C. K. Ogden, and Reginald Turner. West's letters to Sara Tugander Melville describe her daily life during the period following the birth of Anthony West and her travels to Italy and America during the 1920s. West's correspondence with Gregg T. Sinclair, begun when Sinclair sent her a fan letter about *The Judge*, documents her interest in visiting the Sinclairs in Japan and later in America.

The two extensive correspondences in the collection are those of Emanie Sachs Arling and Doris Stevens, both of whom West met during her first American lecture tour in 1923-24. West's letters to both women contain much information about her personal life, such as her health, her travels, life at Ibstone House with Henry Andrews, and her relations with family members. West's view of the troubled relationship between her and her son Anthony is particularly well documented, including her reaction to the publication of *Heritage* and to Anthony's divorce from his first wife and relocation to America. In addition, the correspondence with Stevens reflects West's involvement in the controversies surrounding Joseph McCarthy and the American anti-Communist movement.

[Series II, Writings](#), is divided into three subseries: Books, Articles, and Writings of Others. Books includes corrected galleys for *The Birds Fall Down* and *The Thinking Reed*, while Articles contains documentation of West's famous series "Behind the Witch-Hunts," including typescripts, clippings, and letters to the editor of the London *Times* concerning the series. Folder 172 contains clippings of articles by and about West's American lecture tour that appeared in the *Japan Advertiser*.

[Series III, Rebecca West Papers of Gordon Haight](#), contains correspondence from West and Henry Andrews to Haight, who was a member of the Department of English at Yale during West's visits to the university. There are also a typescript photocopy of Haight's response to Anthony West's portrait of West in *Aspects of a Life*, newspaper clippings, photographs, and other memorabilia.

[Series IV, Additions Since September 1996](#), contains recent acquisitions arranged in accession order.

[Oversize](#) contains two items from Series II. Box 11, [Restricted Fragile Papers](#), contains fragile originals from Series I-III.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1912-81

1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

Series I, *Correspondence*, contains
alphabetically arranged correspondence.

b. 1, f. 1	Adcock, Mr.	[1922?]
b. 1, f. 2	Aiken, Zoey	1925 Sep 25
b. 1, f. 3	Anglin, Margaret	1925
b. 1, f. 4-31	Arling, Emanie Includes ALS from Henry Andrews, 1963	1936-64
b. 2, f. 32-36	Arling, Emanie	1965-76, n.d.
b. 2, f. 37	Austin, F. Britten	[1936]
b. 2, f. 38	Barker, A. L. (Audrey Lillian)	1967-81
b. 2, f. 39	Bay, Mrs.	1959 Mar 7
b. 2, f. 40	Brent, Romney	1934-70, n.d.
b. 2, f. 41	Bryant, Arthur, Sir	1959 Oct 29
b. 2, f. 42	Bullett, Gerald	1930 Dec 11
b. 2, f. 43	Christy, Mr.	1928 Jun
b. 2, f. 44	Colchester, Mayor of	1959 Jun 11
b. 2, f. 45	Dawson Scott, C. A. (Catherine Amy)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 46	Findlater, Richard	1982 Feb 22
b. 2, f. 47	Forman, Henry James	[1919]-24
b. 2, f. 48	Frere, A. S.	1934-58, n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	Frere, Pat	1934-46, n.d.
b. 2, f. 50	Garland, Madge	1976-81, n.d.
b. 2, f. 51	Gaunt, William	1965 Jan 15
b. 2, f. 52	Goodwin, Miss	[1918?] May 4
b. 2, f. 53	Greacen, [Robert]	1981
b. 2, f. 54	Grierson, Herbert John Clifford, Sir	1935 Jun 4
b. 2, f. 55	[Gunther?], John	1954 Feb 22

b. 2, f. 56	Hammerton, H. C.	1980 Jan 19
b. 2, f. 57	[Hastings, Macdonald]	[1948?]
b. 2, f. 58	Iddesleigh, Henry Stafford, Lord	[n.y.] Oct 13
b. 2, f. 59	Iddesleigh, Elizabeth Lowndes Stafford, Lady	[1952-74]
b. 2, f. 60	Kennedy, Daisy	[1937 Mar]
b. 2, f. 61	Knopf, Blanche	[1926 Nov]
b. 2, f. 62	Liebert, Herman W.	1968 Nov 25
b. 2, f. 63	Lowndes, Marie Belloc	1927-46, n.d.
b. 2, f. 64-65	Mackenzie, Norman	1972-82
b. 2, f. 66	Marques, Susan Lowndes	1947-71
b. 2, f. 67-72	Melville, S. T. (Sara Tugander)	1912-36, n.d.
b. 2, f. 73-75	Mitchell, Jonathan	1938-77
b. 2, f. 76-79	Morris, John	1943-74, n.d.
b. 2, f. 80	Ogden, C. K.	1917-24, n.d.
b. 2, f. 81	Pinker, James	[1917-24], n.d.
b. 2, f. 82	Robison, Robert Includes 2 letters signed by Diana Stainforth	1944-81
b. 3, f. 83-87	Rubinstein, Harold F. Photograph of Rebecca West enclosed in letter of 1912 Aug 23	1912-18, n.d.
b. 3, f. 88-89	Russell, Leonard Russell, Elizabeth Dilys See: Russell, Leonard, Box 3, folder 88	1944-67
b. 3, f. 90	Seldes, Gilbert	[1924]-65, n.d.
b. 3, f. 91	Senhouse, Roger	1957
b. 3, f. 92-95	Sinclair, Gregg M.	1924-73, n.d.
b. 3, f. 96	Simpson, John L. Includes letter from Simpson to Polly (Laura K.) Lada-Mocariski	1968-75
b. 3, f. 97	Smith, Adrian	1978 May 16
b. 3, f. 98	Spooner, Reginald Newspaper clippings enclosed	1948 Oct 18

b. 3, f. 99	Stanhope, Mrs.	1970 Apr 13
b. 3, f. 100-115	Stevens, Doris	1922-59
b. 4, f. 116-121	Stevens, Doris	1960-62, n.d.
b. 4, f. 122	Stokes, Sewell	1924 Oct 30
b. 4, f. 123	Streatfield, Miss	1943 Aug 5
b. 4, f. 124-126	Turner, Reginald Includes letter to Turner from James Agate	1921-35
b. 4, f. 127	Van Thal, Herbert	1941-68, n.d.
b. 4, f. 128	Watson, Vera	1957-81
b. 4, f. 129	[Wedgwood, C.] Veronica	1948, 1968
b. 4, f. 130	"Howard and Mary"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 131	Unidentified; [from Porlock]	1922

Series II: Writings, 1913-67*0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Series II, *Writings*, is organized into three subseries. Books and Articles are arranged alphabetically by title. Writings of Others is arranged alphabetically by name of author.

BOOKS

The Birds Fall Down

b. 5, f. 132-148	Typescript carbon, corrected	[1966]
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	Galley proofs, corrected	1966
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	See: Oversize, Box 8, folder 191	
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The New Meaning of Treason

b. 5, f. 149-152	Photocopy of setting typescript	1964
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b. 6, f. 153-159	Photocopy of setting typescript	1964
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The Thinking Reed

	Galleys, annotated	1936
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	See: Oversize, Box 9, folder 192	
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ARTICLES

"Aspects of Love and Mutual Dislike"

b. 6, f. 160	Clipping	[1963]
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"Behind the Witch-Hunts"

b. 6, f. 161-164	Typescripts and typescripts carbon, corrected	[1953]
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b. 6, f. 165	Newspaper clippings	1953
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"Memorandum on McCarthyism"

b. 6, f. 166	Typescript carbon	[1953]
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b. 6, f. 167	Letters to the Editor of the <i>Times</i> concerning the article	1953 Mar-May
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"Miss West Files an Answer"

b. 6, f. 168	Newspaper clipping from the <i>New York Herald-Tribune</i>	1953 Jun 22
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"Elegy"

b. 6, f. 169	Typescript corrected, signed	n.d.
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"Elizabeth Montagu"

b. 6, f. 170	Autograph manuscript	n.d.
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b. 6, f. 171	Galley proof, corrected	n.d.
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ARTICLES (continued)

Japan Advertiser series on America

b. 6, f. 172	Newspaper clippings	1924-25
	"My Favorite Poem"	
b. 6, f. 173	Autograph manuscript	n.d.
	"My Religion"	
b. 6, f. 174	Newspaper clipping	1925 Sep 10
	"On His Way to the Bank"	
b. 6, f. 175	Newspaper clipping	1967 Nov 12

WRITINGS OF OTHERS

Okakura-Kakuso: *The White Fox*

b. 6, f. 176	Typescript carbon, inscribed "To Gregg and Marjorie Sinclair, Henry M. Andrews, Rebecca West...July 1, 1956."	1913 Mar
b. 6, f. 177	Clippings about Rebecca West	1925-68, n.d.

Series III: Rebecca West Papers of Gordon Haight, 1962-83

0.4 linear feet (1 box)

Series III, *Rebecca West Papers of Gordon -- -- Haight*, is organized into three subseries. Correspondence is divided into Rebecca West Correspondence, Henry Andrews Correspondence, and G. Evelyn Hutchinson Correspondence. Each is chronologically arranged. Writings and Other Papers are arranged alphabetically by title or type of material.

CORRESPONDENCE

b. 7, f. 178-180	Rebecca West Correspondence	1962-83
b. 7, f. 181	Henry Andrews Correspondence	1966, n.d.
b. 7, f. 182	G. Evelyn Hutchinson Correspondence	1981

WRITINGS

b. 7, f. 183	"Mr. West's Vendetta": drafts	1984
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OTHER PAPERS

b. 7, f. 184	Memorial service order	1983
b. 7, f. 185-187	Newspaper clippings about West	1972-83
b. 7, f. 188-189	Photograph and slides of West and Henry Andrews	1967-82
b. 7, f. 190	Place cards for the publication dinner for <i>H. G. Wells and Rebecca West</i> by Gordon N. Ray	1974

Oversize, 1936-66*2 linear feet (2 cases)*

Oversize contains two items from Series II.

	<i>The Birds Fall Down</i>	
b. 8, f. 191	Galley proofs, corrected	1966
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	<i>The Thinking Reed</i>	
b. 9, f. 192	Galley proofs, corrected	1936
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Restricted Fragile Papers*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 10, f. 193	Box 1, folder 12
b. 10, f. 194	Box 2, folder 40
b. 10, f. 195	Box 2, folder 63
b. 10, f. 196	Box 2, folder 68
b. 10, f. 197	Box 2, folder 69
b. 10, f. 198	Box 2, folder 70
b. 10, f. 199	Box 2, folder 71
b. 10, f. 200	Box 2, folder 72
b. 10, f. 201	Box 2, folder 73
b. 10, f. 202	Box 2, folder 81
b. 10, f. 203	Box 3, folder 98
b. 10, f. 204	Box 3, folder 100
b. 10, f. 205	Box 3, folder 112
b. 10, f. 206	Box 3, folder 114
b. 10, f. 207	Box 3, folder 115
b. 10, f. 208	Box 3, folder 117
b. 10, f. 209	Box 3, folder 118
b. 10, f. 210	Box 3, folder 125
b. 10, f. 211	Box 3, folder 133
b. 10, f. 212	Box 5, folder 148
b. 10, f. 213	Box 5, folder 149
b. 10, f. 214	Box 6, folder 165

Series IV: Additions Since September 1996, 1961 Jul 30

b. 11, f. 215	Letter to Mrs. [Eleanor] Nudd : Ibstone House, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks. 1 item (2 pages) ; 20 cm. ALS. With: envelope. Given in 1996.	1961 Jul 30
b. 11, f. 216	Letter to Mr. Smart : 48 Kingston House North [London] 1 item (2 pages) ; 20 cm. ALS. Purchased in 1998. Acc : 980113-c	1975 Dec 5
b. 11, f. 217	Letter to Beatrice [Kaufman] : Ibstone House 1 item (2 pages) : 25 cm. ALS. Purchased in 1998. Acc : 980211-c	1943 Feb 1
b. 11, f. 218-19	Correspondence and contracts with Arnold Weissberger concerning the rights to "The Birds Fall Down" 23 items. Purchased in 1998. Acc : 980211-d	1959-74, n.d.
b. 11, f. 220	Letters : various places, to [Doctor] Bethel Solomon 7 items. 4 ALS, 1 APcS and 2 TLS discussing West's health, personal news, and her reaction to Anthony West's <i>Mortal Wounds</i> and George Painter's biography of Proust. With: holograph manuscript of notes on sightseeing possibilities in Mexico (written for Solomon). Gift, 1999. Acc : 990512-a	1975-78, n.d.
b. 11, f. 221	Letters : various places, to Charles Curran 10 items. 8 TLS and 2 ALS mainly discussing her political views, particularly on John Amery, William Joyce, and the English and American Communist Parties. An undated TLS offers her highly negative opinion of the "solemn dirt" of <i>A Streetcar Named -- -- Desire</i> . Purchase, 1999. Acc. : 19991109-a	1947-49, n.d.

b. 11, f. 222	<p>Letter : Ibstone House, to Edward H. Pearson</p> <p>1 item (2 L.) ; 21 cm. TLS containing biographical information, including West's comments on her parents, and discussion of "War Brides" article. With: envelope. Purchase, 2000.</p> <p>Acc. : 20000317-r</p>	1946 Jan 18
b. 11, f. 223	<p>Letter : Ibstone House, to Fanny C. Goldstein</p> <p>1 item (1 L.) ; 18 cm. ALS responding angrily to Goldstein's "cruel and insolent" letter and defending herself forcefully against the charge of anti-Semitism in "two books of mine....Please read nothing else of mine." With: envelope. Purchase, 2000.</p> <p>Acc.: 20000727-r</p>	1956 Sep 5
b. 11, f. 224	<p>Letter : Ibstone House, to Lewis Mumford</p> <p>1 item (1 L.) ; 30 cm. TLS commenting on an article by Mumford in the 1968 Jul 6 <i>New York Times</i>. West talks about the changing usage of footpaths, her love of walking and the country, and the relocation of tradesmen from London to "country places." Salutation reads: "Dear Mr. Mumford." Purchase, 2000.</p> <p>Acc.: 20000727-s</p>	1968 Aug 6
b. 11, f. 225	<p>Photograph : Alex. Ayton, 42 and 43 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh</p> <p>1 item. Class portrait of class at George Watson's Ladies' Seminary, George Square. Cicely Fairfield in top row, third from left. C. G. MacDonald in third row, sixth from left. Accompanied by: clipping, 1996 Apr 15. Gift, 1997.</p> <p>Acc : 19970226-c</p>	[ca. 1912-13]

b. 11, f. 226	Letter : 15, Orchard Court, Portman Square, W.1 [London], to [Betty] Ross 1 item (1 L.) ; 20 cm. TLS inviting her for a visit and mentioning photographs. Purchase, 2001. Acc : 20010723-a	1931 Nov 12
b. 11, f. 227	Letter : 15, Orchard Court, Portman Square, W.1 [London], to A. P. Herbert 1 item (1 L.) ; 20 cm. TLS complimenting Herbert on an article exposing coroners. Purchase, 2003. Acc : 20030114-q	1933 Oct 11
b. 11, f. 228	Letter : 48 Kingston House North, to Mr. Dosse 1 item (1 L.) ; 20 cm. ALS declining offer of "Huxley book" due to eye trouble. Purchase, 2003. Acc : 20030812-ah	n.y. Aug 25

Series V: November 2024 acquisition , 1936–1955*0.21 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains letters to Rebecca West from Charlotte Ives and Jan Maurits Boissevain with two related letters from Jan Maurits Boissevain to Henry Maxwell Andrews and an unidentified clipping.

Purchased from Richard M. Ford on the Edith and Richard French Fund, 2024.

b. 12, f. 1-2	Ives, Charlotte and Boissevain, Jan Maurits <i>2 Folders</i>	1936-1955, undated
b. 12, f. 3	Andrews, Henry Maxwell	1949-1950
b. 12, f. 4	Clipping	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Authors, English -- 20th Century -- Archives
English literature -- 20th Century
Women authors

Names

Haight, Gordon Sherman
MacKenzie, Norman, 1921-2013
Melville, Sara Tugander
Mitchell, Jonathan
Rubinstein, Harold
Sachs, Emanie N.
Stevens, Doris
Turner, Reggie, 1869?-1938
West, Rebecca, 1892-1983