

Guide to the Letters to Herbert Van Thal

GEN MSS 464



by Timothy G. Young

February 2000

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Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 464

CREATOR: Van Thal, Herbert, 1904-1983

TITLE: Letters to Herbert Van Thal

DATES: 1921-1980

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.6 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Letters to Herbert Van Thal from various writers, critics, readers, and actors, including James Agate, Alan Dent, Adrian Conan Doyle, Roger Fulford, Elspeth Huxley, Noel Langley, James Pope-Hennessy, Leonard Russell and Paul Scott. Many letters concern projects proposed by Van Thal, such as memoirs by famous persons, or are in response to queries placed by Van Thal soliciting information or leads for compilations of letters he was preparing. Other letters concern his work as a writers' agent.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Bertram Rota on the George Henry Nettleton Fund, 1999.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Letters to Herbert Van Thal. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

HERBERT VAN THAL (1904-1983)

Herbert Van Thal's career in literary matters was varied and successful, Beginning as a bookseller's assistant, he worked for publishers before establishing his own firm, Home and Van Thal. In 1937, he edited the collection *The Royal Letter Book*, beginning a series of anthologies and reprints of classics that would bear his name. In the 1960s and 1970s, he earned a niche of renown for his anthologies of horror stories. Along the way, he acted as literary agent for a number of writers and wrote original works, such as *Eliza Lynn Linton: The Girl of the Period*. More information can be found in his autobiography, *The Tops of the Mulberry Trees*.

Scope and Contents

The letters to Herbert Van Thal consist of items from various writers, critics, readers, and actors, including James Agate, Alan Dent, Adrian Conan Doyle, Roger Fulford, Elspeth Huxley, Noel Langley, James Pope-Hennessy, Leonard Russell and Paul Scott. Many letters concern projects proposed by Van Thal, such as memoirs by famous persons, or are in response to queries placed by Van Thal soliciting information or leads for compilations of letters he was preparing. Other letters concern his work as a writers' agent.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	"A" general	1964, n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	Acton, Harold	1942 Dec 14
b. 1, f. 3	Agate, James Includes letter from JA's sister, May (ca. 1947)	1926-47
b. 1, f. 4	Alwyn, William	1966-73
b. 1, f. 5	Ashbrook, William	1961-64
b. 1, f. 6	Atholl, Katharine	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	"B" general	1936-79
b. 1, f. 8	Balcon, Michael	1954 Sep 1
b. 1, f. 9	Barry, Gerald	1951 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 10	Bates, Ralph	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	Beaverbrook, Max Aitken, Baron [Lord Beaverbrook]	1956, 1962
b. 1, f. 12	Bellezza, Vincenzo	1958 Mar 22
b. 1, f. 13	Bentley, Phyllis	1948-70
b. 1, f. 14	Berners, Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, Baron [Lord Berners]	1942 Aug 8
b. 1, f. 15	Blackwell, Basil	1955 Oct 13
b. 1, f. 16	Bland, J. O. P.	1922 Mar 31
b. 1, f. 17	Blount, Trevor	1972 May 24
b. 1, f. 18	Bogarde, Dirk	1976-77, n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	Boult, Adrian	1949 Apr 28
b. 1, f. 20	Bowen, Marjorie	1949-50
b. 1, f. 21	Butler, R. A. B. [Butler of Saffron Walden, Richard Austen Butler, Baron]	1974
b. 1, f. 22	"C" general	1935-72
b. 1, f. 23	Carter, John	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	Cockerell, Sydney Carlyle, Sir	1949
b. 1, f. 25	Cohen, Harriet	1934 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 26	Collins, Vere H.	1952, 1959
b. 1, f. 27	Coward, Thomas R.	1953 Feb 26
b. 1, f. 28	Curran, Charles	1947 Feb 21

b. 1, f. 29	"D" general	1949, 1972
b. 1, f. 30	Denison, Michael	1973 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 31	Dent, Alan	1935-73
b. 1, f. 32	Dodge, David	n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	Doyle, Adrian Conan	1947-48
b. 1, f. 34	Dobree, Bonamy	1933 Jul 22
b. 1, f. 35	Downs, Brian	1951 Jul 10
b. 1, f. 36	Easson, Angus	1973 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 37	Elizabeth II From a Lady in Waiting	1948 Jan 30
b. 1, f. 38	Elizabeth, Queen [consort] From a secretary	1948, 1951
b. 1, f. 39	Evans, Margiad	1953 May 1
b. 1, f. 40	"F" general	1952-74, n.d.
b. 1, f. 41	Fairfield, Letitia	1974, n.d.
b. 1, f. 42	Flower, Desmond	n.d.
b. 1, f. 43	Foyle, Christina Includes letters from the Prime Minister's secretary in response to HVT's recommendation of CF for an Honour (1962, 1965)	1965 Feb 2
b. 1, f. 44	Fulford, Roger	1935-73, n.d.
b. 1, f. 45	"G" general	1943, 1947, n.d.
b. 1, f. 46	Gillet, Eric	1974 Jan 26
b. 1, f. 47	Gish, Lillian	1946 Jul 26
b. 1, f. 48	Gordon, John	1961 Dec 22
b. 1, f. 49	Gribble, George Dunning	1925 Mar 3
b. 1, f. 50	Grylls, R. Glynn	1939 Aug 21
b. 1, f. 51	Guinness, Alec	1965 May 9
b. 1, f. 52	Gwynn, Stephen	n.d.
b. 1, f. 53	"H" general	1921-75
b. 1, f. 54	Haight, Gordon S.	1947 Jun 8
b. 1, f. 55	Haley, William	1965-66

b. 1, f. 56	Harding, James	1965-79, n.d.
b. 1, f. 57	Harling, Robert	1954-59
b. 1, f. 58	Heath, Edward	1964 Jun 3
b. 1, f. 59	Henrey, Robert, Mrs.	1950 Aug 27
b. 1, f. 60	Hoeck, Mary C. Includes photographs of letters to Mary Hoeck from Jean Cocteau (ca. 1956-59)	1965 Aug 27
b. 1, f. 61	Hoppe, A. J.	1941 Sep 5
b. 1, f. 62	Hughes, David	1950, 1956
b. 1, f. 63	Hughes, Gervase	1971 Sep 15
b. 1, f. 64	Huxley, Elspeth Includes letter from unidentified associate of EH (1969)	1969-80
b. 1, f. 65	Israel, H. E., Mrs.	1939
b. 1, f. 66	"J" general	1939, n.d.
b. 1, f. 67	"Kemsley"	1944 Sep 25
b. 1, f. 68	King, Robin	1960, n.d.
b. 1, f. 69	[King], Francis	n.d.
b. 1, f. 70	Knoblock, Edward	1941
b. 1, f. 71	Kuneralp, Zeki	1970, 1972
b. 1, f. 72	"L" general	1949-76
b. 1, f. 73	[Laughton?], Charles	1938, 1958
b. 1, f. 74	Langley, Noel	1959-60, n.d.
b. 1, f. 75	Lehmann, Beatrix	n.D.
b. 1, f. 76	Leslie, Shane	1959 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 77	Lewis, W. S.	1959 Jul 20
b. 1, f. 78	Lytton, Victor Alexander George Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Earl	1939-47
b. 1, f. 79	"M" general	1935-65
b. 1, f. 80	Marceau, Félicien	1956 Sep 1
b. 1, f. 81	Maxwell, Henry Includes copy of letter from HVT	1939, 1950
b. 1, f. 82	Miller, Jonathan	n.d.
b. 1, f. 83	Mitford, Nancy	1942 Mar 24

b. 1, f. 84	Morley, Frank V.	1980 Jul 29
b. 1, f. 85	Morshead, Owen	1948
b. 1, f. 86	Mortimer, Raymond	1957 May 7
b. 1, f. 87	Newman, Ernest	1954 Dec 16
b. 1, f. 88	Osborne, Eric	1958-59, n.d.
b. 1, f. 89	"P" general	1965, 1974
b. 1, f. 90	Painter, George	n.d.
b. 1, f. 91	Parish, James Letter from a lawyer on behalf of JP	1948 Oct 21
b. 1, f. 92	Parry, Edward Abbott	1930 May 28
b. 1, f. 93	Partridge, Eric	1974, 1976
b. 1, f. 94	Pritchett, V. S.	1944, n.d.
b. 1, f. 95	Philby, H. St. J. B.	1943 Jun 8
b. 1, f. 96	Playfair, Nigel	1926 Feb 17
b. 1, f. 97	Pope-Hennessy, James	[1949?], n.d.
b. 1, f. 98	Pope-Hennessy, Una, Dame	1947, 1949
b. 1, f. 99	Powell, Dilys	n.d.
b. 1, f. 100	Price, Nancy	1947 Oct 30
b. 2, f. 101	Quigly, Isabel	1958 May 23
b. 2, f. 102	"R" general	1941-70
b. 2, f. 103	Rank, J. Arthur	1943-44
b. 2, f. 104	Rawlings, Margaret	1941 Mar 1
b. 2, f. 105	Rolph, C. H.	1965 Aug 1
b. 2, f. 106	Russell, Leonard	1954-55
b. 2, f. 107	"S" general Includes copies of letters from HVT	1931-72
b. 2, f. 108	St. John-Stevas, Norman	1973 Dec
b. 2, f. 109	Sansom, William	1956-73
b. 2, f. 110	Scott, Paul	1975, 1977
b. 2, f. 111	Selms, F. M.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 112	Shawe-Taylor, Desmond	1962 Nov 21

b. 2, f. 113	Simpson, Helen Includes copy of letter from HVT	1935
b. 2, f. 114	Smiles, Aileen	1949
b. 2, f. 115	Speaight, Robert	1954, 1958
b. 2, f. 116	Speilmann, M. H.	1924 Jan 31
b. 2, f. 117	Stonier, G. W.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 118	Stern, G. B.	1935, n.d.
b. 2, f. 119	Stopes, Marie	1933 May 12
b. 2, f. 120	Stuart, Dorothy Margaret	1951 Sep 21
b. 2, f. 121	Swallow, Alan	1949
b. 2, f. 122	Swanwick, Betty	1959 Jan 31
b. 2, f. 123	"T" general	1953-76, n.d.
b. 2, f. 124	Thurston, Herbert Includes copy of letter from HVT	1935 May
b. 2, f. 125	Tweedsmuir, Susan	1947 Jul
b. 2, f. 126	Unwin, Stanley	1960 Jun 10
b. 2, f. 127	Vaughan, Herbert M.	1939 Aug 13
b. 2, f. 128	"W" general	1931-73
b. 2, f. 129	Wedgwood, C. V. (Cicely Veronica)	1949, 1951
b. 2, f. 130	Williams, George Charles	1936 Feb 25
b. 2, f. 131	Wilson, Mary	1963 Feb 19
b. 2, f. 132	Unidentified	1947-76

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
Literary agents
Literary agents -- Great Britain -- Archives

Occupations

Authors

Names

Agate, James, 1877-1947
Dent, Alan, 1905-1978
Doyle, Adrian Conan
Fulford, Roger, 1902-1983
Huxley, Elspeth, 1907-1997
Langley, Noel, 1911-1980
Pope-Hennessy, James
Russell, Leonard, 1906-
Scott, Paul, 1920-1978
Van Thal, Herbert, 1904-1983