

Yale University Library
Lewis Walpole Library

Guide to the W. S. Lewis Collection of Helen and Paget Toynbee

LWL MSS 29



by Sandra Markham

February 2022

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Lewis Walpole Library
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CALL NUMBER: LWL MSS 29

CREATOR: Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979 , collector

TITLE: W. S. Lewis Collection of Helen and Paget Toynbee

DATES: 1888–1932

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.92 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English; French

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence and research materials related to publications on Horace Walpole edited by Helen Toynbee and Paget Toynbee, as well as press clippings documenting the reception of their work.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.029>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.029>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (Yale 1918), 1979.

Custodial History

The material in this collection appears to have been channeled to Wilmarth Lewis by R. W. Chapman, secretary of the Clarendon Press at Oxford University, who wrote to Lewis on October 16, 1933, that "The Delegates have considered their position in relation to Dr. Paget Toynbee's bequest to them of Walpole materials collected by him with a view to publication" (LWL MSS 20, Box 154). Chapman

knew that Lewis was considering his own edition of Walpole's correspondence, and thought some of Toynbee's notes might be helpful. He added "I was able to assure them that they might safely hand over this and kindred material to you, as editor-in-chief of the proposed Yale edition. They have pleasure accordingly in directing me to send you, on loan, this material." Chapman did not describe any specific items in the material except for "old reviews" that he thought might be candidates for destruction; they are likely those now in Series III.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The W. S. Lewis Collection of Helen and Paget Toynbee is the physical property of the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the W. S. Lewis Librarian/Executive Director.

Preferred Citation

W. S. Lewis Collection of Helen and Paget Toynbee. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

Helen Wrigley Toynbee (1868-1910)

Little is known of Helen Wrigley Toynbee—whose life has always been defined by her relationship to three men—beyond a succinct statement in the *Dictionary of National Biography* entry on her husband, the Dante scholar Paget Toynbee: "On 23 August 1894 he married Helen Wrigley (1868/9–1910), scholar, and daughter of Edwin Grundy Wrigley, of Bury, Lancashire, who spent her life editing the letters of Horace Walpole." Additional facts appear as succinctly on an enameled brass memorial inside St Anne's Church in Dropmore, Buckinghamshire:

In loving memory of / Helen Toynbee / wife of Paget Toynbee of / Fiveways Burnham Bucks / Born 19 Oct. 1868 Died 18 April 1910 / Married Paget Toynbee in this Church 23 August 1894 /Buried in the adjoining Churchyard 21 April 1910.

Her father Edwin Wrigley (1832-1892) was a wealthy paper manufacturer in a family partnership at Bridge Hall Mill near Bury; he also commissioned the yacht *Bonita*, died at a hotel near Cairo, Egypt, at age 60, and left an estate worth at the time more than 120,000 pounds. According to census records, Helen Wrigley lived with her parents through 1891, along with several siblings and a domestic staff. A newspaper column titled "Foreign Literary Gossip," clipped from the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, told of the soon-to-appear new Clarendon Press edition of Walpole's letters, describing the Toynbees as "the most modest, unassuming of people" and Helen Toynbee as "especially notable among English university women as absolutely without pretension or formality. And she is regarded as one of the most erudite of English female scholars."

Helen Toynbee began editing Horace Walpole's letters after her marriage, working from Dorney Wood, their home near Burnham, Buckinghamshire, and after 1907 at their new home Fiveways in Burnham. In 1900 she made a public appeal in several newspapers and journals for any unpublished Walpole letters and managed to uncover more than four hundred that had not been included in Peter Cunningham's standard 1857 edition. Toynbee turned out sixteen volumes of *The Letters of Horace Walpole, Fourth Earl of Orford* for the Clarendon Press at the University of Oxford between 1903 and 1905. When she suddenly died in April 1910 following an operation, she had nearly completed her editorial work on the letters between Marie du Deffand and Horace Walpole. Paget Toynbee finished her project, and the three-volume edition was issued by Methuen in 1912; that same year he gave her Walpole-related papers to the Bodleian Library (Walpole Papers of Helen Toynbee, 1896-1908, MSS. Eng. misc. c. 51-53, d. 46).

Paget Jackson Toynbee (1855-1932)

Paget Jackson Toynbee, a leading Dante scholar of his time, was the husband of Helen Wright Toynbee, a leading Horace Walpole scholar of her time. He was born in Wimbledon, England on January 20, 1855, the son of surgeon Joseph Toynbee and his wife Harriet. A graduate of Balliol College, Oxford, Toynbee spent some years as a tutor and then gave up teaching for a life of research and writing. His first field of study was Old French language and literature, resulting in two books issued in the early 1890s. He then turned to Dante and between 1898 and 1924 published several titles including *Dictionary of Proper Names and Notable Matters in the Works of Dante* (1898), *Dante in English Literature from Chaucer to Cary* (1909), and the fourth revision of the Oxford Dante (1924).

Correspondence shows that Toynbee had been for many years assisting his wife Helen with her sixteen-volume masterwork *The Letters of Horace Walpole, Fourth Earl of Orford* (1903-1905), and following her sudden death in 1910, he stepped in to complete her unfinished edition of the letters between Walpole and Marie du Deffand (1912). After that he produced three supplementary volumes of Walpole's letters (1918-1925) as well as *The Correspondence of Gray, Walpole, West and Ashton* (1915) while continuing his work on Dante. Toynbee was elected to the British Academy in 1919 and received an honorary LLD from the University of Edinburgh in 1923.

Paget Toynbee died at his home Fiveways in Burnham, Bucks, on May 13, 1932. He made a bequest of his substantial library, including early editions of Dante and other Italian authors, to the Bodleian Library, where he also placed his and Helen's papers related to their work on Dante and Walpole (GB 161 MSS. Toynbee b. 1, c. 1-2, d. 1-32, e. 1-7, f. 1-2 and MSS. Eng. misc. c. 51-53, d. 46).

Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (1895-1979)

Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis was born in Alameda, California, on November 14, 1895, the son of Miranda Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis and Azro Nathaniel Lewis. He attended the Thacher School in Ojai, California, and Yale University (Class of 1918). He met Annie Burr Auchincloss (1902-1959) in Farmington, Connecticut, in 1923, and the couple were married in 1928. Together they spent three decades building a collection of books, prints, paintings, manuscripts, and decorative arts related to Horace Walpole, his circle, and his time, and formed a research library at their home in Farmington. Wilmarth Lewis, the author of two autobiographies—*Collector's Progress* (1951) and *One Man's Education* (1967)—died in Hartford on October 7, 1979; he left his home and collections to Yale University by bequest.

Scope and Contents

The W. S. Lewis Collection of Helen and Paget Toynbee contains correspondence and research materials related to publications on Horace Walpole edited by the Toynbees, as well as press clippings documenting the reception of their work and some of their own writings appearing in the periodical press. The material was acquired by Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis, a later editor of Horace Walpole's correspondence, for work on Walpole and kept for his library collection centered on Walpole and his circle.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1888-1930. II. Research Material and Images, 1897-1913. III. Press Clippings, 1898-1932. IV. Other Papers, 1904-1913.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1888–1930

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Series I contains correspondence related to the Toynbees' work on Horace Walpole, primarily consisting of replies to Helen Toynbee's published appeals for Walpole letters still in private hands. The letters were organized into three groups, with those in Alphabetical pulled from the Chronological files based on volume or prominence of the writer. One such person is the author Logan Pearsall Smith who gave Helen Toynbee his pointers in seven letters. Also filed here is a copy of a letter to Henry Frowde, Publisher to the University, from the American author Alice Morse Earle, a self-described "profound student of all things relating to Walpole"; she had been asked to review Toynbee's edition for *The Dial* but wanted more information: "I believe, in America, inquisitive Americans will like to know just a little about the editor Mrs. Paget Toynbee."

A folder at the end of the series holds correspondence removed from the offices of the Oxford University Press. As with the rest of the collection, the specific history of that material is unknown, but a note from Wilmarth Lewis's good friend R. W. Chapman (in the Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis Papers, LWL MSS 20) dated January 8, 1938, may offer a clue. Chapman had succeeded Charles Cannan as secretary of the Clarendon Press in 1920. He wrote Lewis from the press office to say he was cleaning out some "almost certainly now worthless" letters and enclosed "a residue which you may find informative or amusing." One item that would have no doubt amused Lewis is a 1902 memorandum from Henry Frowde reporting a survey of booksellers on the sales potential of Helen Toynbee's new edition following Peter Cunningham's 1857 nine-volume edition (last published in 1891). A representative of Sotheran's stated "The book does not appeal to the 'man on the street'" but thought it might sell if it featured more portraits than Cunningham had offered. Hatchards thought a new edition would be "of more interest to Librarians and older folks, but the latter are dying out. The younger generation do not know who Walpole was or care about him and his letters." The press decided in favor of Helen Toynbee—with extra portraits—and her sixteen volumes were issued sequentially between 1903 and 1905.

Series I is organized into two subseries: Toynbee Correspondence, and Clarendon Press Correspondence.

Toynbee Correspondence

Organized under three headings: Alphabetical, Topical, and Chronological.

Alphabetical

b. 1, f. 1	Note with letters A note in Helen Toynbee's hand that was with the material: "Letters connected with the Walpole Letters, including application for letters, successful & unsuccessful."	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Bentley, R. (Richard), 1854-1936	1897-1901
b. 1, f. 3	Doble, Charles Edward, 1847-1914	1897-1904
b. 1, f. 4	Earle, Alice Morse, 1851-1911	1904 January 23
b. 1, f. 5	Friends of the Bodleian Regarding Paget Toynbee's election to the society's Advisory Committee.	1926
b. 1, f. 6	Gregory, Octavia	1926-1927
b. 1, f. 7	Hill, George Birkbeck Norman, 1835-1903	1900

Toynbee Correspondence > Alphabetical (continued)

b. 1, f. 8	J. Pearson & Co.	1900–1901
b. 1, f. 9	James Bain Ltd.	1900
b. 1, f. 10	McCormick, L. Hamilton (Leander Hamilton), 1859-1934	1902
b. 1, f. 11	Macdonald Estates, Portree, Skye	1901–1902
b. 1, f. 12	Madan, Falconer, 1851-1935	1921, 1923
b. 1, f. 13	Madan, Geoffrey, 1895-1947	1923 October 27
b. 1, f. 14	Merritt, Percival, 1860-1932	1927
b. 1, f. 15	Miller, Dewitt, 1857-1911	1901, undated
b. 1, f. 16	Oxford University Press	1900–1924
b. 1, f. 17	Parker-Jervis, W. R. Draft letter from Paget Toynbee to Parker-Jervis inquiring about Marie du Deffand letters that might be in his collection.	1901 April 1
b. 1, f. 18	Powell, F. York (Frederick York), 1850-1904	1888 May 28
b. 1, f. 19	Pritchard, George	1900–1901
b. 1, f. 20	Smith, Logan Pearsall, 1865-1946	1900–1901
b. 1, f. 21	Stephens, Frederic George, 1827-1907	1901
b. 1, f. 22	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i> Autograph manuscript copy of a letter Toynbee wrote to the Editor; the topic was "Horace Walpole and 'Mrs. G.'"	1920 December 16
b. 1, f. 23	Tovey, D. C.	1900
b. 1, f. 24	Waldegrave, William Frederick, Earl, 1851-1930, and Mary Waldegrave Mary Waldegrave's letter of December 9, 1901, enclosed a drawn description of a ring owned by Horace Walpole.	1900–1923
b. 1, f. 25	Warren, T. Herbert (Thomas Herbert), 1853-1930	1901
Topical		
b. 1, f. 26	Muntz portrait of Horace Walpole Correspondence with the Town Clerk's Office in Kings Lynn, Clarendon Press, and the photographer P. Goodchild	1929–1930
b. 1, f. 27	Letters of congratulation Accompanied by a University Press envelope inscribed by R. W. Chapman, "These are letters of Congratulation...RC 18/9/33." Writers include Daniel Berkeley Updike.	1903
Chronological		
b. 1, f. 28	Letters	1900
b. 1, f. 29	Letters	1901–1906

Toynbee Correspondence > Chronological (continued)

b. 1, f. 30	Letters	1912-1928, undated
b. 1, f. 31	Clarendon Press Correspondence Each piece is stamped with the date of receipt at the Delegates of the Press Secretary's Office, and most are marked with a code in blue crayon. The letters are addressed to the press or to specific people, primarily Charles Cannan (1858-1919), secretary to the Delegates. Three letters from Paget Toynbee to the press are here, as well as Helen Toynbee's autograph manuscript "List of Portraits to be inserted in Walpole's Letters."	1900-1919

Series II: Research Material and Images, 1897–1913*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The series holds a variety of material used by the Toynbees in the production of their editions of Horace Walpole correspondence. Most of the papers are in the hands of Helen and Paget Toynbee and little of it is dated.

Toynbee Notebooks and Notes

b. 2, f. 1	"Catalogue of Letters II" and "Supplement to Letters of Horace Walpole" A two notebooks fused by their damaged bindings; one is an autograph manuscript catalogue of letters by Helen Toynbee (dated November 10, 1897), and the second an autograph manuscript supplement list by Paget Toynbee (dated July 1913).	1897, 1913
b. 2, f. 2	Index pages [?] for the letter F Helen Toynbee's autograph manuscript list.	undated
b. 2, f. 3	Miscellaneous lists and notes Lists of letters by number and date, in hands including both Helen and Paget Toynbee. Also present are sample printed spine labels for volumes VII and VIII.	undated
b. 2, f. 4	"List of Walpole Letters for Vol XX / also New Letters" Paget Toynbee's autograph manuscript list of 3,407 chronologically arranged and numbered letters written in a Park One writing tablet, signed by him on the cover. Notes are made of which letters are not in Peter Cunningham's <i>Letters of Horace Walpole</i> .	undated
b. 2, f. 5	"List of Correspondents for Vol. XX" Paget Toynbee's autograph manuscript list alphabetically arranged and written in a Park One writing tablet.	undated
b. 2, f. 6	"Additions and Corrections for Supplement IV" Paget Toynbee's autograph manuscript notes and lists.	undated
b. 2, f. 7	"Lady W's list and discarded Chewton prints of S.H." Manuscript list of Strawberry Hill images held by the Waldegrave family at Chewton.	undated
b. 2, f. 8	Notes on Walpole letters appearing in Sotheby's catalogues Manuscript notes accompanied by an envelope addressed to Paget Toynbee from F. J. Stokes[?].	undated
Images		
b. 2, f. 9	Photographs Accompanied by an Oxford University Press envelope inscribed "The prints in order as to List of Plates & Plans."	undated
b. 2, f. 10	Printed portraits Two unidentified portraits, and one etching and drypoint portrait of Guy Jean de Savoie-Carignan (1860-), 1907-1908, by William Monk after John Tweed.	1907, undated

b. 2, f. 11

Printed prospectuses

1903-1905

Four prospectus pamphlets for Helen Toynbee's *Letters of Horace Walpole*, with an Oxford University Press book list for April 1904.

Series III: Press Clippings, 1898–1932*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

The Toynbees employed the Durrant's Press Cuttings firm to clip and send all mentions of their names in newspapers and journals, primarily in Great Britain and France. The clippings here span the careers of both Helen and Paget Toynbee, and with the exception of obituaries for Paget Toynbee filed at the end, focus on their work on Horace Walpole.

Series III is organized into three subseries: Book Reviews, Writings by the Toynbees, and Writings about Paget Toynbee.

Book Reviews

The Letters of Horace Walpole (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1903-05)

b. 3, f. 1	Appeals Helen Toynbee's appeal to owners of Walpole letters clipped from a multitude of journals and papers.	1900–1901
b. 3, f. 2	Pre-publication notices	1900
	Volumes I - IV	
b. 3, f. 3	Reviews	1903–1904
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 1	Reviews	1904
b. 3, f. 4	Bowdlerization controversy Reviewers—and readers—of the first four volumes were dismayed to find that Helen Toynbee had expurgated portions of letters deemed "too filthy" for publication. Paget Toynbee defended his wife in print, saying she had in fact restored much of the text previous editors had removed, and had clearly marked any text not restored. He further claimed to have, himself, made the decisions on the texts not restored.	1903–1904
b. 3, f. 5	New York review Clipping from an unidentified New York newspaper; it was given to Wilmarth Lewis by Elizabeth A. Dexter.	1904 August 6
b. 3, f. 6	Volumes V - VIII	1904–1908
b. 3, f. 7	Volumes IX - XII	1905
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 2	Volumes IX - XII	1905
b. 3, f. 8	Volumes XIII - XV	1905–1906
b. 3, f. 9	Volume XVI and full series	1905–1906
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 3	Volume XVI and full series	1917 October 4

Book Reviews > The Letters of Horace Walpole (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1903-05) (continued)

b. 3, f. 10	Letters to Helen Toynbee Letters from readers questioning her edits, choices, and facts in the Walpole publications.	1901-1906
<i>Lettres de la Marquise du Deffand à Horace Walpole</i> (Londres: Methuen et cie., 1912)		
b. 3, f. 11	Announcement of newly discovered letters	1901-1906
b. 3, f. 12	Announcement of edition	1910
b. 3, f. 13	Reviews in English	1912-1913
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 4	Reviews in English	1912
b. 3, f. 14	Reviews in French	1912-1913
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 5	Reviews in French	1912-1913
<i>Journal of the Printing-Office at Strawberry Hill</i> (London: Constable and Company Ltd., 1923)		
b. 3, f. 15	Announcement	1922-1923
b. 3, f. 16	Review	1923 December 27
b. 3, f. 17	<i>Strawberry Hill Accounts</i> (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1927)	1927 June 26
Writings by the Toynbees		
Letters to editors		
b. 3, f. 18	Helen Toynbee to the <i>Athenaeum</i>	1900-1905
b. 3, f. 19	Helen Toynbee to other papers	1904-1905
b. 3, f. 20	Paget Toynbee to <i>Times Literary Supplement</i>	1912-1927
b. 3, f. 21	Paget Toynbee to other papers Toynbee's writings on Walpole's Paris journals and his rosewood and ivory cabinet.	1924, 1925
b. 3, f. 22	Helen Toynbee in <i>Notes and Queries</i> Helen Toynbee contributed to the <i>Notes and Queries</i> journal nearly every month between 1897 and 1901, mostly in her running series "Horace Walpole and his Editors." A contemporary critic wrote that her columns "have been a recognized course of authoritative information about Horace Walpole."	1898-1901
Writings about Paget Toynbee		
b. 3, f. 23	Obituaries	1932

Series IV: Other Papers, 1904–1913

b. 3, f. 24	Moira O'Neill poem Manuscript copy of the poem "Divided" which was published in <i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine</i> 171, no. 1037 (March 1902), p. 336, accompanied by an envelope addressed in the same hand to Helen Toynbee and mailed from Oxford in March 1903. Moira O'Neill was the pseudonym of the Irish-Canadian poet Agnes Shakespeare Higginson (1864-1955).	circa 1904
b. 3, f. 25	Writings about Walpole, Gray, Mann, and others A folder of press clippings about Horace Walpole, Horace Mann, Thomas Gray, and publications not directly related to the Toynbees, but their names were mentioned. A review of Alice Greenwood's book <i>Horace Walpole's World</i> (1913) acknowledges "her debt to Mrs. Paget Toynbee, a lady who, like a fly in amber, will go down to posterity by virtue of that scholarly and richly annotated edition" of "the immortal Letters."	1904-1913

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.

Genres / Formats

Black-and-white prints (photographs)
Clippings (information artifacts)
Prospectuses

Corporate Body

Oxford University Press

Names

Toynbee, Paget, Mrs., 1868 or 1869-1910
Toynbee, Paget Jackson, 1855-1932
Walpole, Horace, 1717-1797

Contributors

Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979 ,
collector
Toynbee, Paget, Mrs., 1868 or 1869-1910

Acquired From

Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979