



# **The R. H. Mottram Letters**

## **Reference: RHM**

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

RHM

The R. H. Mottram Letters

1928-1946

Signed autograph letters from Ralph Hale Mottram to Gilbert H. Fabes relating mainly to Fabes' bibliography of the works of Mottram.

**Administrative history:** Ralph Hale Mottram, 1883-1971, writer, educated in Norwich and France. In 1899 Mottram entered Gurney's bank house where he stayed with the exception of the war, until 1927, indulging in his passion for writing in his spare time. Mottram was encouraged in his writing by Mrs John Galsworthy and her husband, and in 1907 and 1909, two volumes of verse were produced under the pen name of J. Marjoram. During the First World War, Mottram served with a territorial battalion of the Norfolk Regiment in Flanders. He was withdrawn from the trenches because of his fluency in French and worked with the inhabitants of the Franco-Belgian border, collecting and investigating the claims of damage done to crops and property by the British troops and presenting them to the Complaints Commission. Mottram's first book, *The Spanish Farm*, published in 1924 was based on these experiences. The book eventually became a bestseller and was filmed under the title of *Roses of Picardy*, 1927, and televised in 1968. The sale of the film rights enabled Mottram to retire from the bank and devote his life to writing.

Mottram was in great demand as a lecturer, a staunch supporter of the Octagon chapel in Norwich, and the Unitarian foundation at Oxford, a founder member of the Norwich Society and its secretary for 20 years. He took an active interest in the lives and community of Norwich and Norfolk. In 1932 he became a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and in 1953 he

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

was elected Lord Mayor of Norwich. He had been an active promoter of the new University of East Anglia, which in 1966 conferred on him an honorary D.Litt. Mottram was married with two children.

Publications include: Sixty-Four, Ninety-Four, 1925; The Crime at Vanderlynden's, 1926; Our Mr Dormer, 1927; John Crome of Norwich, 1931.

Reference: Lord Blake and C.S. Nicholls, Editors, The Dictionary of National Biography, 1971-1980 (Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, 1986).

**Arrangement:** The letters are arranged chronologically.

72 items

Access: Open

**Access conditions:** Access to all registered researchers

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**Language:** English

**Acquisition:** This collection was purchased in 1968.

RHM/1

Letter from Mottram to Fabes

23 December  
1928

A letter thanking Fabes for sending a copy of the novel 'The Apple Disdained'.

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

The letter also promises to send a contribution to Fabes's magazine.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/2 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 27 April 1929

Mottram sends his article on Foyles. He also informs Fabes that 'The Autobiography of a Book' has an honoured place on his shelves.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/3 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 15 July 1929

Short letter permitting Foyles to make changes to the 'Modern First Editions'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/4 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 16 July 1929

Short note about corrected proofs.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/5 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 22 April 1929

Mentions the use of a quote by George Bernard Shaw from his 'John Bull's Other Island'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/6 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 1929

Letter referring to a quote by Shaw with an attachment of a page from 'The Romance of a Bookshop'.

2 items

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- Access: Open
- RHM/7 Postcard from Mottram to Fabes 11 November 1929  
A request for Fabes Personal Records.  
1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/8 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 10 December 1929  
Reference to Mottram's work 'The Native Soil'.  
1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/9 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 20 December 1929  
General correspondence about upcoming meeting with Fabes on 25th Feb.  
1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/10 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 18 February 1932  
He informs Fabes about his upcoming visit to the Rare Book Department.  
1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/11 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 31 January 1933  
Letter listing all of Mottram's books, makes mentions of his plans for future books, John Galsworthy's encouragement of 'The Spanish Farm' and Mottram's ideas on writing.  
1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/12 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 14 February 1933  
Thanks Fabes for sending him a copy of

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

the bibliography of Galsworthy.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/13 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 16 April 1933

Letter mentioning Fabes bibliography on Galsworthy and its proposed publication date. Mottram suggests that he should list all his income and expenditures for Fabes.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/14 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 20 April 1933

Long letter giving details of Mottram's works.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/15 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 28 April 1933

Letter regarding sales of Mottram's books.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/16 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 18 May 1933

Mottram discusses his book 'The Lame Dog', Chatto & Windus (publishers of 'The Lame Dog') and some errors in the first print.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/17 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 13 June 1933

Details of books in print.

1 item

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- Access: Open
- RHM/18 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 17 June 1933
- Letter written to accompany a list of Mottram's productions.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/19 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 22 July 1933
- Sale of Mottrams works.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/20 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 19 September 1933
- Requests a copy of the Coppard-Herbert- Morgan bibliography.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/21 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 22 September 1933
- Thanking Fabes for sending him the Coppard- Herbert- Morgan bibliography.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/22 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 23 October 1933
- Mottram discusses whether he should buy some signed copies of his book 'Poems: New and Old' from the Duckworths (publisher).
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/23 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 17 November 1933
- Mottram offers to write a short account of how he came to write 'The Spanish

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- Farm.'
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/24 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 21 November 1933
- Mottram makes reference to the bibliography of Coppard adding that he will make a contribution to it. He also agrees to sign a small limited edition.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/25 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 30 November 1933
- States he has signed a copy of 'Repose' for a Miss Partridge, acknowledges receipt of a cheque and mentions Coppards bibliography. Also says that he is sending Fabes the first page of 'The Crime at Vanderlynden's'.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/26 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 12 December 1933
- Mentions that he has had his piece 'How the Spanish Farm came to be written' checked by Galsworthy for possible errors and is sending it to Fabes.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/27 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 16 December 1933
- Thanks Fabes for a cheque. Mentions feedback regarding 'The Lame Dog.'
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/28 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 2 January 1934



## The R.H. Mottram Letters

List of Mottrams work to be published.

1 item

Access: Open

- |        |  |                    |
|--------|--|--------------------|
| RHM/29 | Letter from Mottram to Fabes<br>Refers to Amercian editions of his book 'Armageddon'.<br>1 item<br>Access: Open  | 5 January<br>1934  |
| RHM/30 | Letter from Mottram to Fabes<br>Informs Fabes about Mr Young's (editor of the Oxford university press) comments regarding Mottram's work 'Town Life and London'.<br>1 item<br>Access: Open                       | 10 January<br>1934 |
| RHM/31 | Letter from Mottram to Fabes<br>Letter about the difficulties Mottram is having in obtaining dates for all the contributions he has made to periodicals.<br>1 item<br>Access: Open                               | 16 January<br>1934 |
| RHM/32 | Letter from Mottram to Fabes<br>Discussion about Mottrams appearance in the Bracondale School Magazine and the delay in publication of one of Mottrams books by Golden Cockerel Press.<br>1 item<br>Access: Open | 23 January<br>1934 |
| RHM/33 | Letter from Mottram to Fabes<br>Mottram informs Fabes that he does not have any additions to make to one of his  | 9 February<br>1934 |

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

publications.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/34 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 11 February  
1934  
Detailed criticism of the introduction to  
the bibliography.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/35 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 21 February  
1934  
Informs Fabes about the corrections he  
has made to 'The Old Man of the  
Stones'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/36 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 20 March  
1934  
Mottram informs Fabes that he is  
sending him a limited edition copy of the  
'Three Personal Records of the War'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/37 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 28 April 1934  
Mottram agrees to sign a copy of the  
'The Spanish Farm' for Mr Dahl.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/38 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 2 June 1934  
Mottram informs Fabes that he has  
completed the correction to the  
bibliography. Discusses various  
illustrations that need to be included in  
it.

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/39 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 6 June 1934  
A request to Fabes to check the numbering on the first few pages of 'Bumphrey's'.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/40 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 1 July 1934  
Informs Fabes of proof corrections and alterations.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/41 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 20 July 1934  
Discusses the publication of Fabes thesis 'Street Boy'.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/42 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 24 July 1934  
This letter accompanied a signed copy of the 'Repose' to Fabes [copy of 'Repose' not included]. Mottram also informs Fabes that he has signed a copy of the 'Strawberry Time and the Banquet'.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/43 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 11 April 1934  
Approval of Fabes final proofs of 'Street boy', now to be called 'Rain on the Pavement'. Mottram offers advice to Fabes about writing and publishing his work.

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/44 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 6 September 1934  
Mottram refers to his book 'A History of Financial Speculation.'
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/45 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 17 September 1934  
Fabes's book.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/46 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 19 September 1934  
Mottram informs Fabes about a German student who wishes to write a thesis on Mottram.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/47 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 1 October 1934  
Explains that he has been away lecturing and acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Bibliography.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/48 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 8 October 1934  
Mottram signs ten copies of the bibliography and sends to Fabes.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/49 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 16 October 1934  
Mottram expresses disappointment at

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

the fact that the bibliography did not do as well as he had hoped. He also informs Fabes that he has left copies of it in the local library.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/50 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 9 February 1935

General query regarding the year in Fabes catalogue.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/51 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 5 April 1935

Mottram requests a quote for a copy of the translation of John Galsworthy's 'Carmen.' Expresses his disappointment at the price offered for the first edition of 'The Spanish Farm'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/52 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 8 April 1935

Mottram expresses his disinclination to part with a copy of the first edition of 'The Spanish Farm.'

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/53 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 24 May 1935

Agrees to inscribe a copy of 'The Spanish Farm' for Fabes.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/54 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 29 May 1935

Autographed books.

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/55 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 29 May 1935  
This letter is post script to item RHM/54. Mottram tells Fabes not to 'bother about the stamps...'
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/56 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 3 June 1935  
Concerning the presentation of the Opie letters to the Central Public Library.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/57 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 5 June 1935  
Mottram thanks Fabes for 'his good office in regards to the Opie Letters.' He informs Fabes to expect a visit from a gentleman from the New Zealand Associated Press.
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/58 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 27 January 1936  
Letter accompanied an article Mottram wrote on War Literature for Fabes [article not included].
- 1 item  
Access: Open
- RHM/59 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 30 January 1936  
Letter to accompany a typescript that Mottram had corrected and made additions to.
- 1 item

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- Access: Open
- RHM/60 Postcard from Mottram to Fabes 4 February 1936
- Mottram states 'When you have occasion to write I could do with a spare copy of the first editions of RHM...'
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/61 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 16 January 1936
- A very short letter stating: 'Why yes, I think I could do as you suggest. I suppose I had better take 'War Literature'.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/62 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 3 July 1936
- Mottram requests Fabes to send a copy of the Bibliography to Miss Bellamy.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/63 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 30 November 1936
- Mottram informs Fabes that he has been requested to write an autobiography of 'The Spanish Farm'. He discusses his ideas and seeks permission to use some of Fabes's material from the Bibliography for this project.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/64 Postcard from Mottram to Fabes 7 December [1936?]
- He thanks Fabes for agreeing to the autobiography.
- 1 item

## The R.H. Mottram Letters

- Access: Open
- RHM/65 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 6  
February 1937
- He is sorry to hear Fabes has been unwell.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/66 Letter from Mottram to Fabes 29 July 1946
- Thanks Fabes for sending the Galsworthy numbers.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/67 RH Mottram Bibliography 1935
- Hand written manuscript of the Mottram Bibliography.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/68 The First Editions of Ralph Hale Mottram 1935
- Proof copy of the bibliography, corrected by Mottram. Pencil note on cover states 'Mottram's own copy'.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/69 How 'The Spanish Farm' came to be written [20th Century]
- Typescript of 'How the Spanish Farm came to be written' with corrections and alterations made by Mottram.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- RHM/70 War Literature 1936



## The R.H. Mottram Letters

Mottram's hand written article 'War Literature'.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/71

'War Literature' by Ralph H. Mottram

1936

Typescript with corrections made by Mottram.

1 item

Access: Open

RHM/72

Why write, why read?

[20th  
Century]

Hand written article by Mottram.

1 item

Access: Open