

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

Reference: NCLAdd

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1895-[1990s]

Artificial collection of letters and other papers and artefacts of and relating to Sir (Arthur) Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), statesman

Administrative history: (Arthur) Neville Chamberlain was Joseph Chamberlain's younger son and half-brother of Sir Austen Chamberlain. He was educated at Rugby and Mason College, Birmingham. He was originally destined for a commercial career and, at the age of 21, was sent to direct his father's sisal-growing venture on the family estate on the island of Andros in the Bahamas. The venture failed and he returned seven years later in 1897 after which he became involved in Birmingham's industrial and commercial life. In 1911 he married Anne de Vere Cole. They had two children: Dorothy was born in the year of their marriage, their son Frank two years later.

It was also in 1911, that he became active in local politics. He was elected to City Council in that year and, like his father, became Lord Mayor in 1915. During his time in local politics, he was responsible, for example, for the establishment of the Birmingham Savings Bank, the only municipal savings bank, in 1916. He was appointed director-general of national service by Lloyd George between 1916 and 1917 and in 1918 he entered national politics as firstly as Conservative MP for Ladywood and subsequently for the Edgbaston constituency. He served continuously as a Birmingham MP until his death in 1940. He held various offices during his political career, including Postmaster-General (1922); Chancellor of the Exchequer (1923-24); Minister of Health (1923, 1924-29); and Chancellor of the Exchequer in the National Government (1931-37). During his political career he initiated, supervised and was involved with a range of successful projects, including housing and slum clearance; the Local Government Act of 1920 which reformed the poor law; the reorganisation of Conservative Central Office; the adoption of general tariff, 1932; and, in 1934, took the chief political initiative in increasing air estimates.

He succeeded Baldwin as Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party in May 1937. He is remembered particularly for his efforts to avert a war and his policy of appeasement toward the Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and German Nazi Adolf Hitler. The dramatic events of 1938-39, including the German invasion of Austria and Czechoslovakia and the negotiation of the

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Munich Agreement with Hitler, which culminated in the Second World War, are well known. Chamberlain declared war on Germany on 3 Sep 1939 following the invasion of Poland and he resigned, as Prime Minister on 10 May 1940 after the defeat of the British forces in Norway. He became Lord President of the Council in Winston Churchill's subsequent government but resigned, owing to illness, on 1 Oct and died shortly afterwards on 9 Nov 1940.

Arrangement: This collection is catalogued at item or file level and the individual documents are numbered in a single numerical sequence which reflects the order in which they were acquired. The items in this collection are mounted in fascicules and stored in custom made boxes.

235 items

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers

Copies: The majority of this collection (NCLAdd/1-116) has been micro published by Primary Source Media as part of its micro publication of the Chamberlain Papers held by Cadbury Research Library. Facilities are available in the Library for researchers to make paper copies of individual items from the microfilms for their own private research purposes. Alternatively, digitized copies of the microfilms can be viewed online under 'Archives Unbound' at <http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb>. Members of the University of Birmingham may access the digital copies free of charge at http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/bham_uk?db=GDSC. When browsing the digitized copies by collection, please note that the Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain are to be found under 'The Papers of Neville Chamberlain'.

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the user of the material.

Language: English

Acquisition: Most items in this collection have been acquired by purchase as a means of complementing and supporting the large personal archive of Austen Chamberlain. The collection also includes a number of gifts and deposits and photocopies of originals held elsewhere. For information about the provenance of specific items, please contact the University Archivist for further details.

Related material: The Special Collections Department holds several related collections:

Neville Chamberlain Collection [NC];

Austen Chamberlain Collection [AC];

Joseph Chamberlain Collection [JC];

Beatrice, Ida and Hilda Chamberlain Collection [BC] (catalogue is not yet available on the Online Archive Catalogue);

Chamberlain Miscellanea [C] (catalogue is not yet available on the Online Archive Catalogue);

Artificial collections of letters and other documents of Joseph and Austen Chamberlain [JCLAdd, ACLAdd] (some catalogue records are available on the Online Archive Catalogue)

NCLAdd/1	Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Edith Barling	1927
	Letter, dated 29 January, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to Miss Barling about her father's illness. He asks for news and for Edith to pass on his regret at his friend's illness and his hopes for a speedy recovery.	
	Edith's father, Sir Harry Gilbert Barling (1855-1940), was Vice- and later Pro-, Chancellor of Birmingham University, 1913-1933.	
	1 item	
	Access: Open	

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- NCLAdd/2 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert 1923
Barling
- Letter, dated 15 March, in which Chamberlain, 35 Egerton Crescent [London], writes to Barling (1855-1940) on the occasion of his appointment [to Minister of Health]. Chamberlain thanks him for his good wishes and comments on the positive reception he has received from the Labour party. He expresses some uncertainty about how his reputation would stand up to forthcoming events.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/3 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert 1923
Barling
- Letter, dated 26 October, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], writes to confirm that he is able to accept Barling (1855-1940)'s invitation to a day of shooting as he has been able to 'get out of the Lord Mayor's banquet'. He describes looking forward to the day as he has been having a strenuous time.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/4 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert 1928
Barling
- Letter, dated 4 December, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], thanks Barling (1855-1940) for congratulating him on a speech. Chamberlain notes that he had been apprehensive about it, the longest he had ever attempted to deliver. He describes how his own work seems to be a continuation of his father [Joseph Chamberlain]'s ideas and plans.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/5 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert 1932
Barling
- Letter, dated 20 January, from Chamberlain,

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Westbourne, Birmingham, regarding Barling (1855-1940)'s being offered the freedom of Birmingham.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/6 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Ernest Brown 1934

Letter, dated 16 February, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], addressing him as 'My dear Ernest', thanks Brown [MP], Mines Department, Millbank [London], for his 'Monster' postcards and advises that he has read the book on Darwin that Brown had given to him as a present.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/7 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Ernest Brown 1937

Letter addressed to 'My dear Ernie', dated 19 March. Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Brown [MP] for his letter paying tribute to his brother [Austen Chamberlain who died 11 March].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/8 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert Barling 1937

Letter, dated 3 June, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], writes to Barling (1855-1940) as one of his oldest friends. Addressing him as 'My dear Barling', he sends his own and Mrs Chamberlain's thanks for his good wishes. He in turn wishes Sir Gilbert a good trout catch in Shropshire.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/9 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Harry Gilbert Barling 1940

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Letter, dated 27 April, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], remembers staying together with Barling (1855-1940) at Chesthill, including embarrassing occasions when they burst in on the recently engaged Arch[ibald] Kenrick and Grace Nettlefold. Addressing him as 'My dear Barling', he wishes him continued good health, hoping that he will 'see the successful termination of the War'.

Barling died on the day that Chamberlain wrote this letter.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/10 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Charles Burn 1923

Letter, dated 18 April, in which Chamberlain, Ministry of Health [London], writes to Burn, MP, 10 Hill Street, Berkeley Square [London], as 'My dear Charlie'. He thanks him for his letter on the Housing Bill noting that he senses 'that there is a good deal of apprehension in the country ' about the Bill's limitations.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/11 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to H. A. George 1937

Letter, dated 20 April, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], asks George, 245 Quinton Road [Birmingham], to pass on his congratulations to the Harborne Branch on winning the West Midlands Area Competition, a success that would enable them to join the National Competition in May. He also thanks him for his sympathy on the death of his brother [Austen Chamberlain who died 11 March].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/12 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to H. A. George 1937

Letter of thanks, dated 24 June, from Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], to George, 245 Quinton Road, Birmingham. George had written to congratulate

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Chamberlain on behalf of the Men's Branch of the Harborne Ward. With envelope.

George's congratulations probably relate to Chamberlain's election as Prime Minister in May.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/13 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Charles Grant Robertson 1921

Letter, dated 28 September, in which Chamberlain, Grand Hotel Flora, Roma [Italy], encloses a donation of £1 towards the testimonial for retiring librarian Mr [W. H.] Cope. Chamberlain remembers Mr Cope from his own student days.

At the time of this correspondence, Grant Robertson (1869-1948) was Principal of Birmingham University. Chamberlain's recall of Mr Cope would have been from when he was a student at Mason College, the predecessor to the University.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/14 Memorandum written by Gerald Wellesley, 7th Duke of Wellington, detailing special arrangements for broadcasting to the German people 1938

Wellesley (1885-1972) relates the planning of special radio broadcasts to the German people, 27-30 September. The memorandum, dated 3 October and signed Gerald Wellesley, includes details of his meeting with Sir Joseph Ball during which arrangements were provisionally agreed. Plans were put in motion within a few hours of this meeting, with the first broadcast taking place at 8.00 the same evening. The broadcasts were translations into German of messages from President Roosevelt, Chamberlain, Monsieur Daladier, and Dr Benes. They were intended to give the German people the text of key messages 'of which [they]... were believed to be in complete ignorance', including Roosevelt's appeals to Hitler. Radio Luxembourg was chosen in preference to the BBC as the majority of

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German people had access only to local radio at the time.

Sir George Joseph Ball (1885-1961) was Director of the Conservative Research Department. The broadcasts carried messages from America, France, Czechoslovakia and Britain: Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the USA, 1933-1945; Edouard Daladier, Prime Minister of France, 1938-1940; Eduard Benes, Czechoslovakian Head of State, 1935-1938 and Chamberlain. During the course of the broadcasts, Chamberlain flew to Munich, signing the Agreement that agreed the cession of the Sudetenland to Germany: The Munich Agreement, 29 September 1938.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/15 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir George Newman 1926

Personal letter, dated 25 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], thanks Newman, Ministry of Health [London], for a dinner party which gave him the opportunity to meet his 'distinguished guests'.

Newman (1870-1948) was Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health between 1919 and 1935 and of the Board of Education, 1907-1935. At the time of writing, Chamberlain was Minister of Health for the second time.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/16 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Countess Cave of Richmond 1930

Letter, dated 20 September, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], promises Lady Cave, St. Ann's, Somerset, that her request for 'the Leader' to speak at the Bridgwater Division, [Somerset], will be considered on his return from abroad.

1 item

Access: Open

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- NCLAdd/17 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Darwin 1901
- Letter, dated 6 August, in which Chamberlain, Folkestone, writes to Mrs Darwin enclosing a proof slip of a letter he has submitted to the Manchester Guardian. He voices his displeasure at the correspondence over the War, referring to an article in the Daily Chronicle in which Kitchener reports on a 'most loyal address' by the refugees at Kronstadt. Chamberlain questions this description and suggests a more cynical interpretation, asking, 'Can it be that they [the refugees] want butter on their bread?' He describes Campbell-Bannerman's questions about the War as contemptible. Chamberlain ends on a lighter note describing a social call and the weather.
- The War under discussion is the Boer War of 1899-1902. Horatio Herbert Kitchener (1850-1916) was commander-in-chief in South Africa between 1900 and 1902. Chamberlain's father, Joseph, was Colonial Secretary at the time and thus had a significant role in determining how the War was managed. Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836-1908) was Leader of the Liberal Party.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/18 Note from Neville Chamberlain to Baron Leslie Hore-Belisha [1930s]
- Note from Chamberlain to Hore-Belisha (1893-1957), MP. 'If the theory crystallises into practice it might interfere with some of your road schemes.'
- Although this item is undated, it is likely to have been written between 1934 and 1937 when Hore-Belisha, was Minister of Transport (introducing, amongst other road safety measures, the Belisha beacon).
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/19 Memorandum of agreement between Neville Chamberlain and G. P. Putnam's Sons 1939
- Memorandum of agreement, dated 22 March, between

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Chamberlain, c/o Sanders and Conroy, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York, and publishers, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, granting the latter publishing rights to 'In Search of Peace'

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/20 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1929

Letter, dated 31 May, in which Chamberlain, Westbourne, Birmingham, sympathises with Smedley on his losing 'one of the most vulnerable' [parliamentary] seats in the city. He adds a personal note wishing him better health. Five newspaper articles are included with this record, four of which relate to the opening of soup distributing centres in Smedley Crooke's Deritend constituency. Smedley Crooke not only suggested the scheme but made a personal financial contribution towards it.

Smedley Crooke (1861-1951) was an MP from 1922 to 1929 and again from 1931 to 1945. The vulnerable seat to which Chamberlain was referring was in the Deritend Division of Birmingham.

6 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/21 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1931

Letter, dated 29 October, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], warmly congratulates Smedley, MP, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, on his recovering his Deritend seat with a large majority.

Smedley Crooke (1861-1951) had previously held this Birmingham seat between 1922 and 1929 and was following his re-election remained as an MP until 1945.

1 item

Access: Open

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- NCLAdd/22 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1937-1938
- Letter, dated 2 June 1937, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Smedley for his letter of support, noting that he has 'always been a good friend'.
- Smedley Crooke (1861-1951), MP, probably wrote this letter in response to Chamberlain's appointment as Prime Minister, in the previous month.
- On the back of this letter has been pasted a copy of the question to the Minister of Labour posed by Sir Smedley Crooke, 21 December 1938, and [Alan Tindal] Lennox-Boyd [1st Viscount Boyd] (1904-1983)'s reply. 'How many ex-servicemen in receipt of disability pensions are registered at labour exchanges as unemployed...?' This appears to have no connection with the letter from Neville Chamberlain.
- 2 items
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/23 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1939
- Letter, dated 30 June, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Smedley and the Midland Group [of Government supporters] for a letter of support. Chamberlain expresses his appreciation of 'this reaffirmation of confidence in the Government's foreign policy' and loyalty to him.
- On the back of this letter have been pasted three newspaper articles: two detail activities in which Crooke (1861-1951) was involved during his time with the Legion National Executive Council and the third cites his suggestion that 'German prisoners of war should be put on British ships ...as a deterrent to Germany's mine campaign'.
- 4 items
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/24 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1938

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Letter, dated 17 March, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Smedley (1861-1951) [MP], and fellow members of the Midland Group [of National Government Supporters] for their letter of support.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/25 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1940

Letter, dated 25 January, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Smedley (1861-1951) MP, for a letter in which he had enclosed a Resolution of the Midland Group of National Government Supporters. Addressing him as 'My dear Smedley', Chamberlain is clearly grateful for his continued support 'in these difficult days'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/26 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to an unnamed correspondent 1938

Letter, dated 26 October, addressed 'Dear Sir', in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks his correspondent for his kind wishes 'during these difficult and anxious times'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/27 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Countess Cave of Richmond 1930

Letter, dated 27 June, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London] acknowledges a letter from Lady Cave, and comments on how encouraged he feels, by the many expressions of confidence and goodwill that he has received. He promises to pass her message on to his wife who at the time was visiting their son at Winchester [School].

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/28 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Countess Cave of Richmond 1931

Letter, dated 9 January, in which Chamberlain, Westbourne, Birmingham, promises Lady Cave that he will inquire after a Mr Horton, possibly working for the Junior Imperial League. He describes having had a quiet Christmas at home and passes on his and his wife's kindest regards and best wishes for the New Year.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/29 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mr Bantock 1915

Letter, dated 31 March, from Chamberlain, Westbourne, Birmingham, thanking Mr Bantock for his contribution to a Fund.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/30 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Gould Adams 1884

Letter, dated 9 December, in which Chamberlain, Lordswood, Southampton, sends his and his wife's deep sympathies to Mrs Gould Adams and her daughter on the death of Mr Gould Adams. He describes feeling very fortunate in having so kindly and genial a neighbour as her husband, albeit for a short time, and reflects on how quickly Mr Gould Adams made his mark in the neighbourhood.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/31 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to an unnamed correspondent 1938

Letter, dated 26 October, from Neville Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], addressed 'Dear Madam', in

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which Chamberlain thanks his correspondent for her kind message 'during these difficult and anxious times'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/32 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mr C. V. Hancock with enclosure 1937

Letter with enclosure.

/32 Letter, dated 20 December, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], writes to Mr Hancock of the Midland Salmon and Trout Club, acknowledging 'with pleasure' the news of his re-election as President of the club and agreeing to their reproducing a fishing photograph of him.

/32a Signed message from Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], sending best wishes to 'fellow anglers of the Club for 1938'. 'Whether they fish in troubled waters or still, I trust they may enjoy the peace of the rivers and occasionally know the thrill of seeing their monster safely landed on the bank.'

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/33 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to the Midland Salmon and Trout Club 1939

Letter, dated 21 December, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], expresses his pleasure at the club 'carrying on in spite of difficulties' and doing him the honour of re-electing him as President. Chamberlain fears there is little prospect of his finding time for fishing 'under the circumstances'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/34-35 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Charles Cheers Viscount Wakefield 1938

/34 Letter, dated 19 March, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], writing to him as 'My dear

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Wakefield', thanks him for his birthday telegram. He says he will do his best to fulfil his good wishes.

/35 With typescript text of the birthday telegram: 'May its next anniversary bring you a full reward for your present burden of responsibility by the vindication of your policy in a happier and more peaceful world'

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/36 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Charles Cheers Viscount Wakefield 1928

Letter, dated 30 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to Sir Charles (1859-1941), Wakefield House, [London] sending his warm appreciation of a 'charming note' of congratulation. He comments on Sir Charles' gift of Nelson's sword to the City

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/37 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Charles Cheers Viscount Wakefield 1936

Letter, dated 24 July, in which Chamberlain, Treasury Chambers [London], writes to Lord Wakefield (1859-1941), in his capacity as Master of the Mint, thanking him for his gift to the Nation of the Newton (Mint) Papers.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/38 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Charles Cheers Viscount Wakefield 1937

Letter, dated 4 June, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Wakefield (1859-1941) 'with all [his]...heart for his letter of the 1st June'. Addressing him as 'My dear Wakefield', he sends his own and his wife's best wishes.

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/39 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Charles Cheers Viscount Wakefield 1938

Letter, dated 6 January, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Lord Wakefield (1859-1941) for sending him a book about Admiral Philip and the Address that he had written on him.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/40-42 Letters from Sir Charles Grant Robertson to his mother and his sister, Isobel Nevill 1936

Letters in which Grant Robertson (1869-1948), 67 Wellington Road, Birmingham, writes to his mother and sister regarding the day that he gave an Address about Joseph Chamberlain, at Birmingham Town Hall. The letters are not fully signed but end with his first initial 'C'. He also uses initials to refer to Joseph, Neville and Mrs Neville Chamberlain. The Address and Lord Mayor's Reception that followed in the evening took place 8 July, during Grant Robertson's time as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University.

The events he describes were part of the Joseph Chamberlain Centenary Celebrations.

/40 Letter, dated 8 July, to his mother. He describes the packed audience for the Address including Neville Chamberlain and his wife, and 500 school children following 'everything with rapt attention'. He quotes Neville Chamberlain as saying that it was 'brilliant and searching'. He describes his intention to 'put J. C into a proper historic setting', noting that he 'didn't care two pence whether [the audience]...could appreciate it or not'. Making observations about the relationship between the Chamberlains and their family members who were present on the day, he relates how he slipped away as quickly as he could, having tea instead with Sibylla 'who is not a cold blooded Kenrick or Chamberlain'.

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/41 Letter, dated 9 July, in which he writes to his mother about attending the Lord Mayor's Reception on the evening of his Address. He describes having 'many congratulations from all sorts of people, sincere and serious' and notes people's expectations of Neville Chamberlain becoming Prime Minister, with the crowd surrounding him, and Mrs Neville Chamberlain's moving 'as if already the tiara of the P. M's wife was on her brow'. He refers to press coverage in The Birmingham Post and a BBC radio broadcast of his speech the previous evening.

/42 Incomplete letter, dated 10 July, to [Isobel Nevill] enclosing copies of his Address. He mentions the favourable responses but also what an ordeal it was for him to 'pronounce on Chamberlain in the mecca of Chamberlainism and with countless relatives and allies present...' He concludes on a positive note, 'The University [of Birmingham] I know felt that its V[ice] C[hancellor] had justified them and himself'.

3 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/43 Letter from the Private Secretary to Neville and Mrs Chamberlain to Mr J. Peak 1939

Letter, dated 29 August, from Marjorie Leaf, Private Secretary [to Neville and Mrs Chamberlain], 10 Downing Street [London], enclosing a postal order to Mr Peak in payment for a book sent to Mrs Chamberlain.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/44 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Vice-Admiral Gordon Campbell 1934

Letter, dated 27 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to Gordon Campbell (1886-1953), MP, House of Commons [London], advising how he had tried to convey what they were doing in the distressed areas, in a speech in Manchester.

1 item

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Access: Open

NCLAdd/45 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to J. B. Manson 1937

Letter, dated 6 October, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], refers to a proposed visit to the Tate Gallery with Lord [Joseph] Duveen (1869-1939).

In 1937, Duveen was responsible for the building of the Sculpture Galleries which Chamberlain hoped to visit.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/46 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Reverend J. P. Wilkinson 1939

Letter, dated 24 February, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], sends his apologies for being unable to attend the dedication of a gift from one of Wilkinson's Moseley [Birmingham] parishioners.

With handwritten note from Wilkinson, vicar 1936-1958, giving details of the dedication and the background as to why Chamberlain specifically was being asked to attend.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/47 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1927

Photocopy of a letter, dated 4 January, in which Chamberlain, Westbourne, Birmingham, addressing him as 'My dear Leslie', writes of his pleasure at Scott (1869-1950), MP, being recognised in the New Year's list.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/48-51 Letters from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1930

Photocopies of letters, dated 9-29 July, in which

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Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes further to an article that Scott (1869-1950), MP, had written, in the Daily Express, 9 July, concerning trade with countries in the British Empire. Addressing him mostly as 'My dear Leslie', Chamberlain comments on the significance of differences of opinion being expressed within the Conservative Party, and criticises Scott for emphasising them

/48 Letter, dated 9 July, marked private

/49 Letter, dated 15 July, in which Chamberlain argues that differences within the Party 'are arising out of misunderstandings'. He asks Scott to explain how the Beaverbrook-Melchett policy regarding the importation of Imperial Products into Britain is superior to the Party's policy

Chamberlain was referring here to William Maxwell Aitken, first Baron Beaverbrook (1879-1964) and Alfred Moritz Mond, first Baron Melchett (1868-1930). Beaverbrook pressed for Empire Free Trade and owned the Daily Express in which Scott's article was published

/50 Letter, dated 17 July, in which Chamberlain suggests that Beaverbrook is misleading his audiences in his promotion of his own policy. Chamberlain believes his views differ from Scott's only in terms of whether or not there should be a Referendum, saying for himself that whilst he believes it to be 'a very dangerous gamble', 'he would rather win the next election with it, than lose it without it'

/51 Letter, dated 29 July

4 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/52

Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott

1935

Photocopy of a letter, dated 16 October, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to Leslie (1869-1950), 20 Egerton Terrace [London], expressing his delight at his friend being selected as a Lord Justice of Appeal.

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/53 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1936

Photocopy of a letter, dated 20 May, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], writes to Leslie (1869-1950), MP, at 20 Egerton Terrace [London]. He comments on missing seeing Leslie at his wife's party the day before.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/54 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1937

Photocopy of a letter, dated 23 March, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Leslie (1869-1950), [MP], for his note of sympathy following his brother Austen's death. He mentions that his brother had just become a neighbour of Leslie's, and wishes that he could have had longer to enjoy 'his bit of garden and his books' but 'the end was quick and without foreknowledge and I could not wish for a better'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/55 Letter from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott to Neville Chamberlain 1937

Photocopy of a letter, dated 16 June, in which Leslie Scott (1869-1950), [MP], 20 Egerton Terrace [London], writes to Chamberlain after his becoming Prime Minister. Scott talks of having 'known in [his]... bones for many years past that [Chamberlain]... was bound to be the next P.M.' and that this has given him a sense of security 'a feeling that the country would be in the safest possible hands'. He recalls shared interests and times together during their long years of friendship, including talking to Chamberlain and his father on a visit to Highbury during the 1895 election.

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Highbury was the Chamberlain family home in Birmingham.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/56 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1937

Photocopy of letter, dated 18 June, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], expresses his gratitude for [Sir] Leslie [Frederic Scott] [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG]'s letter of 16 June, on Chamberlain's becoming Prime Minister (see NCLAdd/55). Chamberlain joins in [Sir] Leslie's remembrance of times shared, reflecting on their being together at Rugby [school] and Highbury [the Chamberlain family home, Birmingham]. Although as he says, their lives had followed different paths, Chamberlain hopes that they 'have both been of some use in the world.' Chamberlain shares some of his thoughts about becoming Prime Minister with his old friend, commenting that he could not 'expect a very long run' having taken on the role at the age of 68, but nevertheless was feeling 'glad to have the opportunity of getting some things done that ought to be done'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/57 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1938

Photocopy of letter of thanks, dated 24 February, from Chamberlain at 10 Downing Street [London], to Leslie, The Right Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/58 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1938

Photocopy of letter, dated 29 July, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], writes to The

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

R[igh]t Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott, KC [MP, KCMG; 1869-1950] thanking 'My dear Leslie' for his letter of approval and interest, and a promised book. Looking back on the last year he feels that progress has been made [perhaps since his being elected, May 1937] and anticipates going away the next week 'with a greater feeling of confidence in the future than [he]...has been able to entertain for some time'. He expresses the belief that people are starting to feel that he is giving a clear lead about [the way forward] in Europe and that this is consolidating opinion.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/59 Letter to Neville Chamberlain from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1938

Photocopy of letter, dated 28 September, in which [Sir] Leslie [Frederic] Scott, [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] writes to 'My dear N' [Chamberlain] as one of his oldest friends, to convey his 'intense admiration' for him, marvelling at his 'wisdom', 'courage' and 'felicity'. 'You are absolutely wonderful'.

To put this letter in a political context, Chamberlain had been working to find a peaceful solution to Germany's advances towards Czechoslovakia through September. War seemed inevitable after failed negotiations in Godesberg, 22 September, but, on the day of Sir Leslie's letter, hope was raised once again as Chamberlain flew to Germany to meet with Hitler for a third time. This meeting culminated in the Munich Agreement.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/60 Letter written on behalf of Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1938

Photocopy of letter, dated 10 October, written from 10 Downing Street [London], to convey Chamberlain's sincere thanks to The R[igh]t Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott, [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] for his letter 28 September (see NCLAdd/59).

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/61 Letter to Neville Chamberlain from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1939

Photocopy of letter, dated 25 April, in which [Sir] Leslie [Frederic] Scott, [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], 20 Egerton Terrace [London], expresses his admiration for Chamberlain's 'moves in policy [and] ...speeches' finding himself 'always and without exception ...in the utmost agreement'. He writes enclosing and commenting on a newspaper cutting from the previous day's edition of [Le] Figaro written by Wladimir d'Ormesson. D'Ormesson refers to Germany's not having anticipated Britain's rapid swelling of its available forces through recruitment amongst the countries of the British Empire during World War I and suggests the possibility of this happening again.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/62 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1939

Photocopy of letter, dated 26 April, in which Chamberlain thanks [Sir] Leslie [Frederic Scott], [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] for his letter of the previous day (see NCLAdd/61).

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/63 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1939

Photocopy of letter, dated 24 May, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], writes to Leslie, The R[ight] Hon[orable] The Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], declining his invitation to "these jolly sort of evenings" whilst Leader of the House.

1 item

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

Access: Open

NCLAdd/64 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 20 February, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], writes to Leslie, The R[ight] Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], indicating that he does not yet think it necessary to make a final decision as to the best course to pursue with Russia. He thanks Sir Leslie for sending him a newspaper article by [Wladimir] D'Ormesson in 'Le Figaro' and wishes him a rapid recovery from his influenza.

To put this letter in its political context, Russia had invaded Finland in November 1939 and in the March after Chamberlain's letter; Finland was to surrender territory to Russia in return for peace.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/65 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 1 April, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Leslie, The R[ight] Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], for sending him the Report of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owner's Association.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/66 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 16 May, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Leslie, The R[ight] Hon[orable] Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], for his letter of continued approval. He refers to Sir Leslie as his oldest friend.

Chamberlain had resigned as Prime Minister a few days previously, 10 May and it appears likely that Scott had

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written a letter of support.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/67 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of a letter of thanks, dated 30 May, from Chamberlain, Privy Council Office [London], to Leslie, The Right Honourable Lord Justice Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG]

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/68 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 4 June, in which Chamberlain, Privy Council Office [London], writes to 'My dear Leslie' [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], noting that he has 'taken immediate action upon' his letter and would be meeting that afternoon with Wilfrid Greene [probably Wilfrid Arthur Greene, 1883-1952, Baron Greene Master of the Rolls; knighted 1941].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/69 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of a letter, dated 8 August, in which Chamberlain's wife, 11 Downing Street [London], writes on his behalf to thank Sir Leslie (1869-1950), [MP] for his letter and good wishes. She adds a note in her own hand saying that she hopes that they will be able to get away the following week 'for a short recuperation'.

1 item

Access: Open

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

- NCLAdd/70 Letter to Neville Chamberlain from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940
- Photocopy of typescript copy of a letter, dated 4 October, in which Leslie (1869-1950), [MP], St Mawes, Cornwall, expresses his regret that Chamberlain's ill health has led to his resignation [as Lord President of the Council]. He adds that his 'courage and judgment will be greatly missed' and refers to Chamberlain's correspondence with [Sir Winston Leonard Spencer] Churchill (1874-1965) [Prime Minister May 1940-1945]. He asks that Chamberlain's wife let him know when he can visit.
- Chamberlain was to die just over a month later, 9 November.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/71 Letter from R.L. Simey to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940
- Photocopied letter, dated 14 November, in which Simey writes to Sir Leslie [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] about accurate representation of Chamberlain's time at Rugby [School] for any future biography of his life. Simey provided information for Austen Chamberlain's biographer and his brother - 'once Neville's fag' - might be willing to do the same for the latter's biographer. With note in Scott's hand indicating that he replied offering to give Simey's brother a 'sentence or two if asked'
- Sir Leslie and Chamberlain had both been pupils at Rugby.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/72 Letter from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott to Anne Chamberlain 1940
- Photocopy of a manuscript copy of letter, dated 16 November, in which Leslie Scott (1869-1950), [MP], Abbots House [Berkshire], sends his deep sympathies to Chamberlain's widow on the death of her husband and his own devoted friend. He concludes 'As time goes

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

on Britain and the Empire and the World will gradually realize how much praise he deserves'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/73 Printed acknowledgment of condolence from Anne Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of printed acknowledgment from Mrs Neville Chamberlain with an added signed manuscript note thanking Scott for his letter of sympathy (see NCLAdd/72) and his letter of tribute published in the Times. Written from Highfield Park, Basingstoke and dated November 1940.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/74 Letter to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott from John A. W. Spurgin 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 22 November, in which Spurgin, as editor of the 'Meteor' for Rugby school, writes to Sir Leslie [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] asking if he would write an obituary of Chamberlain.

Sir Leslie and Chamberlain had shared time as pupils at Rugby

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/75 Letter to Sir Leslie Federic Scott from John A. W. Spurgin 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 28 November, in which Spurgin, as editor, thanks [Sir Leslie, 1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] for agreeing to write an obituary of Chamberlain for Rugby school publication, the 'Meteor'. Spurgin addresses Sir Leslie as 'Judge', reflecting the fact that at the time he was Lord Justice of Appeal (1935-1948).

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

[Sir Leslie and Chamberlain had shared time as pupils at Rugby

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/76 Letter to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott from John A.W. Spurgin 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 13 December, in which Spurgin, as editor, thanks [Sir Leslie, 1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG] for the obituary of Chamberlain that he wrote for Rugby school publication, the 'Meteor'. He adds that he was interested to note that Sir Leslie had 'won Bug's prizes both for the best Rugby collection and for the best all England Collection of Lepidoptera'. Spurgin addresses Sir Leslie as 'Judge', reflecting the fact that at the time he was Lord Justice of Appeal (1935-1948).

Sir Leslie and Chamberlain had shared time as pupils at Rugby. They became friends through membership of 'Bug', the Natural History Society (see NCLAdd/80).

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/77 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 10 January, in which Chamberlain's widow, Anne, warmly thanks Sir Leslie (1869-1950), [MP] for sending her a copy of the article he had written about her husband for the Rugby [school] journal [the 'Meteor']. She recollects her husband's interest in moths and a story he had told her of visits to a keeper's cottage whilst a pupil at Rugby, adding that she would love to hear more about [Neville's time at the school].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/78 Letter to Anne Chamberlain from Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1941

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Photocopy of a letter, dated 23 March, in which Leslie Scott (1869-1950), MP], Abbotts House, Berkshire, writes to Mrs Chamberlain responding to her request for more memories of her late husband. Mrs Chamberlain made the request after seeing the obituary Sir Leslie wrote for Rugby school publication, the 'Meteor' (see NC Ladd/80). Sir Leslie refers to his enclosing a letter from Robert Guex, a friend in Switzerland.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/79 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Sir Leslie Frederic Scott [1941]

Photocopy of a letter, dated 29 March, in which Neville Chamberlain's widow thanks Sir Leslie (1869-1950), [MP] for the letter he sent in response to her request for more memories of her late husband and for sending on a letter from his friend in Switzerland [Robert Guex]. Her request followed an obituary that Sir Leslie wrote for Rugby school publication, the 'Meteor' (see NCLAdd/80).

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/80 Obituary of Neville Chamberlain by Sir Leslie Frederic Scott 1940

Photocopy of an obituary, dated 8 December, written for inclusion in Rugby school publication, the 'Meteor, by [Sir] Leslie Scott [1869-1950; KC, MP, KCMG], a fellow pupil and lifelong friend. Sir Leslie touches on many aspects of Chamberlain's life from his early and abiding interest in nature, through to his sisal growing experiences in the Bahamas and move into politics. He concludes that Chamberlain was 'a wonderful example of what public men should always be'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/81 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to George T. Rapps 1917

Letter, dated 5 June, with envelope. Chamberlain, 5

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Egerton Place [London], writes to Geo[rge] T. Rapps, Exchange Buildings, Birmingham, expressing his distress at hearing of the death of George Bamford. He refers to Bamford's financial troubles and asks Rapps to let him know if any help is wanted for his widow, commenting on his great regard for the man.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/82 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to George T. Rapps 1917

Letter, dated 26 January, in which Chamberlain, 35 Egerton Crescent [London], thanks Mr Rapps for sending him a statement on a fund being raised for Mr [George] Bamford. He suggests also sending the statement to his brother, [Austen].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/83 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Richard Temple 1916

Photocopy of letter, dated 11 October, in which Chamberlain, City of Birmingham Lord Mayor's Parlour, writes to L[ieutenant] Col[onel] Sir Richard [Carnac] Temple [1850-1931], 25 Victoria Street, London, explaining that he wishes to be excused from joining the Council to raise funds for Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/84 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Fanny Morton Prince 1928

Photocopy of letter, dated 18 June, with envelope in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London] replies to letter from Mrs Morton Prince, Boston, U.S.A, commenting on a debate in which he had taken part in the House of Commons. Addressing her as 'My dear Fanny', Chamberlain sympathises with Morton being unwell, reflects on the debate and notes that whilst the Labour Party typically represented him as 'a person of hard heart', one of their members had commented on the 'extraordinary change' observed in him over the past

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few weeks, concluding that he was a 'reformed character' due to the influence of his wife, 'a gentle lady'.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/85 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to William Maxwell 1931
Aitken, 1st Baron Beaverbrook

Letter, dated 6 May, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to Max, The Right Hon[orable] Lord Beaverbrook, Cherkley, Surrey, about granting the Whip to Taylor and commenting on the political promise, or otherwise, of individuals including Ashton, Young, Broadbent, Harold Nicolson and [Oswald] Mosley, making particular note of the latter's 'extraordinary platform appeal'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/86 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Katie 1924

Letter, dated 12 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], thanks 'Katie' for her letter regarding his returning to the role of Minister of Health. He expresses appreciation of the approval of his appointment by 'the medical men' and notes that 'they nearly had Winston!' This letter is written to someone well-known to Chamberlain as he signs it 'Yours affect[ionate]ly'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/87 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Reverend L. P. Jacks 1937

Letter, dated 18 February, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], apologises for having potentially misunderstood Mr Jacks' pamphlet about a fund for the merchandising and distribution of raw materials to countries with insufficient supplies.

1 item

Access: Open

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

- NCLAdd/88 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Alfred Duff Cooper, 1st Viscount Norwich 1935
- Photocopy of letter, dated 23 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], writes to express his regret at Duff [1890-1954] leaving the Treasury but also his pleasure at his becoming head of a Department. Chamberlain comments that 'it is by what a man is in Cabinet, rather than by what he is as a Departmental Chief that ministers are ultimately weighed and assessed'.
- Duff Cooper was in the Treasury, 1934-1935 and Secretary for War, 1935-1937.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/89 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Alfred Duff Cooper, 1st Viscount Norwich 1936
- Photocopy of letter, dated 23 December, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Duff [1890-1954; Secretary for War, 1935-1937] for his kindness in sending him a sympathetic note.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/90 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Alfred Emmott, 1st Baron Emmott 1923
- Photocopy of a letter, dated 21 September, in which Chamberlain thanks The R[igh]t Hon[orable] Lord Emmott [1858-1926], for the Report of the Committee on the Superannuation of Teachers.
- This letter is written to Chamberlain as Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 1 item
- Access: Open

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

NCLAdd/91-100

Letters from Neville Chamberlain to John Edward
Bernard Seely, 1st Baron Mottistone

1932-1939

Photocopies of letters to John Edward Bernard Seely, 1st Baron Mottistone (1868-1947), the majority written in the context of his position as Chairman of the National Savings Committee a role he held 1926-43. These copies were acquired from Nuffield College, Oxford from the originals in the Mottistone Papers held there

The first three letters are addressed 'My dear Seely', the later ones 'My dear Jack'; except where specified the letters are written from London: his address in 37 Eaton Square or from 11 or 10 Downing Street depending on whether the letter was written in his capacity as Chancellor of the Exchequer or as Prime Minister

/91 Letter, dated 25 February 1932, in thanks for Seely's letter and congratulations. The context of this letter concerns Chamberlain's chairing of a committee that recommended a 10 percent tariff on all imported goods with preferential treatment offered to the Dominions which was accepted as a National Government scheme and he expresses interest in seeing Seely's memorandum which anticipated the proposals back in November.

/92 Letter, dated 5 July 1932, written from the Lausanne Conference, France, to thank Seely for his support with the Conversion Scheme.

/93 Letter of thanks, dated 30 September 1932, for Seely's skill in organising the publicity for the Conversion Scheme

/94 Letter, dated 8 April 1936, in which he expresses his delight that Seely has been successful in obtaining the King's consent to be Patron of the National Savings Movement. He also thanks him for his congratulations on a speech which had been intended to 'revive the somewhat drooping spirits of our men'.

/95 Letter, dated 16 May 1938 in which he questions Seely about his belief for a need for a Ministry of Supply.

/96 Letter of thanks, dated 14 November 1938, for a much appreciated letter, and also commenting on Seely's wife's convalescence and a trip to Tynney that they had been unable to make

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/97 Letter of thanks, with envelope, dated 23 December 1938, for an inscribed copy of his book

/98 Letter, dated 10 February 1939, in thanks for his willingness to interrupt a tour with his wife to be of service.

/99 Letter dated 6 August 1939 in thanks for a note of approval and support and includes a reference to a forthcoming visit to Scotland

/100 Letter, dated 22 August 1939, in which he thanks Seely for his correspondence, including a copy of the letter he had written to Grandi. [the Italian Ambassador in London, 1932-1939]

10 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/101 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill 1938

Photocopy of a letter, dated 16 May, in which Chamberlain, writing to him as 'My dear Winston', thanks Churchill [1874-1965, Prime Minister 1940-1945 and 1951-1955] for sending him notes of a conversation which he and Sinclair had with Herr Henlein in the previous week.

Konrad Henlein, 1898-1945, was leader of the Sudeten-German party in Czechoslovakia.

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Original item held by Nuffield College, Oxford. Cherwell Papers F23/7

NCLAdd/102 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill 1940

Photocopy of letter, dated 5 April, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], writing to him as 'My dear Winston', thanks Churchill [1874-1965, Prime Minister 1940-1945 and 1951-1955] for an album prepared by the Admiralty Statistical Department.

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/103 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Mrs Lindermann [wife of Frederick Alexander Lindemann, 1st Viscount Cherwell, 1886-1957] [1930s]

Photocopy of a letter, dated 16 July, in which Chamberlain's wife, 37 Eaton Square [London], invites Mrs Lindemann to tea.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/104 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Miss C. L. Mathews 1903

Letter, dated 8 June [19]03, with envelope, written from Highbury, Birmingham, in which Chamberlain congratulates 'Lina' on her engagement. The address of the recipient is given on the envelope as 32 Augustus Road, Edgbaston

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/105 Letter to Neville Chamberlain from Philip Catterino 1938

Photocopy of letter, dated 3 October, in which Catterino, 417 Turtle Street, New York [USA], a veteran of World War I, expresses his appreciation of what Chamberlain has 'done for the World'. 'At least we still have an able leader who hates war and knows that all Europe will be destroyed in case of a war.' He also requests a signed photograph.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/106 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Philip Catterino [1938]

Photocopy of an undated letter in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Mr Philip Catterino, 417, Turtle Street, New York [USA], for his letter of appreciation (a response to NCLAdd/105). Although

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undated it was presumably written in October or possibly November 1938

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/107 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Professor Kenneth Neville Moss 1938

Photocopy of letter, dated 26 July, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London] acknowledges a letter from Professor Moss in which he had conveyed the thanks of the Faculty of Science [University of Birmingham].

This letter was sent Moss in the context of his role as Dean of the Faculty, 1935-1940.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/108 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Lady Keeling 1954

Letter, dated 30 November, in which Neville Chamberlain's widow, 8, Chester Square [London], sends her condolences to Lady Keeling [Martha Anne, nee Darling, d 1988] on the death of her husband [Sir Edward Herbert Keeling, MP, MC, DL].

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/109 Address given by the Reverend Jo Evans at the funeral of Dr Stephen Lloyd 1992

Photocopy of a typescript address, delivered 10 February, given by Rev[erend] Jo Evans AKC, Vicar of St Peter's Church, Harborne, Birmingham, at the funeral of Chamberlain's son-in-law, Stephen Lloyd (1906-1992). It includes references to Lloyd's contribution to the work of Birmingham City Council and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and his marriage to Dorothy [Chamberlain, 1911-1992; m 1935]. The record includes an original compliment slip.

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2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/110 Address given by the Reverend W. Fergus Harris at the funeral of Dorothy Lloyd 1992

Photocopy of typescript address, delivered 23 September, by Reverend Harris, Perth at St Peters Church, Harborne, Birmingham, in memory of Chamberlain's daughter, Dorothy (1911-1992), with references to the qualities she inherited through the combination of the Chamberlain and Cole family lines and her 'service to the community in Birmingham and beyond'. A handwritten annotation identifies Harris as the son-in-law and husband of Ruth Lloyd.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/111 Letter to Neville Chamberlain from Joseph Ball 1932

Letter, dated 22 December, to Chamberlain from Joseph Ball, 24 Old Queen Street, Westminster [London], enclosing a copy of a 'Troutfishers' Entomology' by C.A.Wauton - a book to be used when he was dry-fly fishing.

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Inserted in Charles Arthur Neville Wauton 'Troutfishers' Entomology An Elementary Treatise on Natural Flies'. London: The Fishing Gazette Limited, 1930. C5/2/13.

NCLAdd/112 Letter to Mrs Neville Chamberlain from Vere Brabazon Ponsonby, 9th Earl of Bessborough 1953

Letter, dated 9 January, from the Earl of Bessborough (1880-1956), Rowlands Castle, Hertfordshire, to Mrs Chamberlain enclosing a copy of the second book he had edited about Lady Charlotte Schreiber

1 item

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

Access: Open

Physical description: Inserted in Lady Charlotte Schreiber 'Lady Charlotte Schreiber: extracts from her journal'. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1952. C5/2/12.

NCLAdd/113

Letter to Mrs Neville Chamberlain from Alfred Duff Cooper, 1st Viscount Norwich

1937

Letter, dated 23 December, to Mrs Chamberlain from Duff Cooper (1890-1954) enclosing a printed copy of a speech he had made at the annual banquet of the Horatian Society, 22 November 1937.

1 item

Access: Open

Physical description: Inserted in Duff Cooper (1937) 'The Toast of the Immortal Memory of Quintus Horatius Flaccus'. C5/2/39.

NCLAdd/114-120

Letters from Neville Chamberlain to Mr and Mrs Michael Knowles

1894-1895

Letters, some with transcripts, several with pages missing, from Chamberlain writing individually to the Andros Fibre Company overseer and his wife, Mr and Mrs Knowles, [Andros Island, Bahamas]. All but letter /120 were written from 40 Princes Gardens, London, or Highbury, Birmingham, whilst Chamberlain was on two return trips to England, mid-way through his seven year sisal-growing experience on the island. In the final letter locations are reversed with Chamberlain writing from Andros Island to the Knowles during their holiday back home in England. His correspondence with Knowles largely relates to business matters and his family's political activities during a period which saw Lord Salisbury [Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne-Cecil, 1830-1903, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury; Prime Minister 1885-1886; 1886-1892; 1895-1902] returning to the role of Prime Minister for the third time; Chamberlain's writing also includes comments on his own maiden political speech. In his letter to Mrs Knowles, Chamberlain gives a vivid account of his social experiences.

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/114 Letter, dated 23 July 1894, to Knowles. Final page[s] missing.

/115 Letter, dated 24 July [18]94, to Mrs Knowles, describing 'the whirl of gaieties' that he had been involved in including attending a most amusing speech by his father Joseph Chamberlain [1836-1914] that 'kept the House [of Commons] in roars of laughter' and a party at the home of Earl Brownton attended by 'three London "beauties"'. Chamberlain, in his mid-twenties, notes that the latter were 'very dangerous singly' [but] 'there is safety in numbers and my old heart has come out unscathed'. Final page[s] missing.

/115a Transcript copy of /115.

/116 Letter, dated 16 September [18]94, to Knowles. Anticipating his arrival back in Andros on the next boat, Chamberlain ends, 'I am awfully keen to get back'.

/117 Letter to Knowles, dated 19 July 1895, relating his time spent electioneering with his father [Joseph Chamberlain, 1836-1914] and brother [Sir Joseph Austen Chamberlain, 1863-1937]. Whilst his father and brother 'were both hard at it making speeches every day' Chamberlain describes how he 'summoned up courage and delivered ...[his] maiden speech to an audience of about 800 with great success.' 'I was in the devil of a funk, but I believe I did not show it'. He looks ahead to an insect collecting tour in Norfolk and grouse shooting in Scotland. Annotated 'last page mislaid'.

/117a Transcript copy of /117.

/118 Letter to Knowles, dated 30 August 1895, in which Chamberlain thanks him for showing around Sir W[illiam] F[rederick] Haynes-Smith [1839-1928; Governor of The Bahamas, 1895-1897] noting stories of Sir William's 'recklessness in financial matters'. After discussing business matters and social occasions, Chamberlain comments that 'Politics are very dull'. He describes the reception his father was receiving in his new role as Colonial Secretary [, with the Colonial papers rejoicing. He refers to enclosing two cartoons, both 'from a (hostile) evening paper'.

/118a Transcript copy of /118.

/119 Letter, with missing front page[s].

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

/120 Letter, dated 26 December 1895, in which Chamberlain, Andros Fibre Co[mpany], Andros Island, Bahamas, writes telling Knowles of a fire that had destroyed a baling shed and stock.

10 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/121 Letter from the Private Secretary to Neville Chamberlain to Mrs J. Kenneth Knowles 1940

Letter, dated 1 January, with envelope from C.M. Campbell, written on Chamberlain's behalf, 10 Downing Street [London], in reply to a letter from Mrs J. Kenneth Knowles [the daughter-in-law of Chamberlain's former overseer for the Andros Fibre Company, Island of Andros, Bahamas], Grosse Isle, Michigan. The letter makes reference to Chamberlain's great regard for her husband's mother, well remembers Mrs Knowles' husband as a small boy and is sorry to hear of his ill health.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/122 Colour postcard depicting a commemorative plaque, entitled 'The Angel of Peace', which was presented to Neville Chamberlain's family in 1938 [1990s]

According to the typed label on the rear of the picture (which is also illustrated on the postcard) it was made as a memento by Miss Agatha Walker 'under the inspiration of the visit of the Prime Minister (Mr Neville Chamberlain) to Munich in September 1938' and was given to Mrs Carnegie for Chamberlain's grand-daughter, Anne Mary Lloyd, who was born in the same month.

Administrative history: This postcard was produced by Maggs Bros Ltd of London who sold the original plaque in the early 1990s for the sum of £1000. The catalogue entry describes the item as 'Plaster bas-relief, painted in gold, pink and blue, with a border incorporating incised lettering picked out in gold. The whole in a close-fitting frame'

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/123 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Madame Tilea 1940

Photocopied letter, dated 6 February, in which Anne Chamberlain [wife of Neville Chamberlain], 10 Downing Street [London], writes concerning the Chamberlains' dietary likes and dislikes in connection with an imminent lunch engagement to which Madame Tilea had invited them. The latter's background is implied: 'I adore caviare and it would be so nice to have some of yours from Roumania, but my husband has never liked it and therefore does not touch it'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/124 Letter from Anne Chamberlain to Sir John Anderson 1940

Personal letter of thanks dated 3 December, in which Anne Chamberlain, Highfield Park [Hampshire], thanks Sir John (1882-1958, administrator and statesman) Privy Council Office, Whitehall, London, for his expressions of sympathy on the death of her husband Neville Chamberlain and includes mention of the war 'where all his thoughts were concentrated'. With envelope.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/125 Letter, with autograph corrections, from Neville Chamberlain to James Louis Garvin 1928

Letter, dated 18 April, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], reports to J[ames] L[ouis] Garvin [1868-1947, journalist and biographer of Joseph Chamberlain], Gregories, Beaconsfield [Buckinghamshire], that he has recently acquired about 125 letters of his father [Joseph Chamberlain] to J[ohn] Thackray Bunce (1828-1899), editor of the 'Birmingham Daily Post', and a close friend. Proposes to compile a list and offers Garvin the opportunity to see it.

1 item

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

Access: Open

NCLAdd/126 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Frank Owen Salisbury 1935

Letter, dated 27 August, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], thanks Mr Salisbury (1874-1962, painter) for a press cutting from the 'New York Daily Mirror' [relating to his portrait of Chamberlain]: it 'seems to have loaded more on to your picture than it was designed to bear; but if, as you suggest, this is a specimen of American humour, well, I don't think it has grown more lively with age.'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/127 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Suckling 1895

Letter, dated 7 November, in which Chamberlain, Lordswood, Southampton, encloses a letter from his nephew (R. N.) which he had failed to deliver the previous week. He and his wife were to have visited that afternoon when he 'intended to rectify the omission', but they were prevented from attending her 'reception' because of the rain

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/128 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Pierre Etienne Flandin 1935

Letter, dated 25 April, in which Chamberlain, Castle Forbes, Whitehouse, Aberdeenshire, thanks Monsieur Flandin [1889-1958, French Minister of Foreign Affairs] for his letter of congratulation on his budget and apologises for the delay in responding as he is taking a holiday.

The letter is largely about current political and economic issues and the main text starts with a reference to their joint pleasure on the collaboration of the two countries at Stresa and Geneva in efforts to ensure peace, although Chamberlain notes that 'Mr Hitler keeps everyone in Europe on the qui vive which is very tiresome'. He

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expresses obvious support for the policy of rearmament and also clearly recognises the very real threat posed by Germany. He comments on the German people that 'they cannot be satisfied unless they are perpetually rattling the sabre and consequently they can keep no friends'.

The second part of the letter relates to international economic affairs, with Chamberlain expressing his personal doubts about the desire of the Americans to enter into negotiations on monetary questions. He also comments on the need to maintain the level of the pound and his wish, as far as it is within his control, to ensure that the pound does not depreciate

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/129 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Captain Tighe 1935

Letter, dated 26 December, in which Chamberlain, Westbourne, Birmingham, informs Captain Tighe that he will be going away the next day for a week and will then be absent from his duties for a further week. He has 'signed the Birley portraits - a tedious bit of drudgery' and left them in the charge of the butler for Tighe to collect

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/130 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Frank Owen Salisbury 1936

Letter, dated 11 June, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Mr Frank O. Salisbury [1874-1962, painter], Sarum Chase, Hampstead [London], for his letter and for the promise of a proof of his 'Jubilee picture', The Heart of the Empire, which 'shall have a place of honour in this house'. The painting to which he referred depicted the Service of Thanksgiving held to mark King George V's silver jubilee. Chamberlain, as a leading member of the Cabinet, had a prominent position on the canvas and in this letter he apologises for not giving Salisbury a second sitting.

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/131

Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir George Joseph Ball with signed autograph postscript (1940)

Photocopied letter with envelope, dated 28 October, addressed in two hands, to Major Sir Joseph Ball KBE, [1885-1961], Kinnaird House, [London]. Chamberlain writes addressing him as 'My dear Joseph'. This is a lengthy and important letter, written only twelve days before Chamberlain's death, to his close friend and political confidant and it concerns his fall from power, public and political perception of the Munich Agreement and the current state and future of the Conservative Party.

It is marked 'private and confidential', delivered by hand and written in reply to a letter of support from Ball dated 12 October. Ball's first letter, together with a second, dated 5 November (a letter written in response to this valedictory letter of Chamberlain's) can be found in Neville Chamberlain's personal papers, NC 13/18/788-789. A pencil note on the latter indicates that Chamberlain never saw this second letter.

The letter responds to Ball's suggestion that he take active measures to counter 'the "vendetta" against me personally and the conspiracy against the Conservative Party'. He provides a harrowing account of the illness which is killing him from which he thinks that Ball 'will now understand that in this condition it would be out of the question for me to take up anything which required concentrated or continuous mental application'. However, he continues by stating that he is not 'disturbed' about his personal reputation in respect of the Munich Agreement, nor does he fear 'the historians' verdict'; and he also responds to Ball's fears about 'a mass of papers relevant to these events' by stating that he had no papers or notes and had not kept a diary. He comments on the existence of the Cabinet papers as a source for the history of these 'great days' which a Cabinet Minister is no longer able to take away with him on retirement.

On turning to the Conservative Party, Chamberlain agrees with Ball that 'it is in a parlous state' and indicates his awareness of the effect of the Labour Party propaganda. However, he does not consider it wise to

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start a campaign 'which would give colour to the accusation that it was the Conservative Party who were trying to make capital out of the war' and he also expresses some admiration for the Labour MP [Ernest] Bevin (1881-1951). He expresses his view 'that it would be impossible to destroy the Conservative Party' and feels that there is a possibility that it will 'go through a period of eclipse' but that this will be temporary.

The two page autograph postscript is a very personal message to his friend, praising his ability to put practical ideas into effect and fondly recalling their shared love of fishing.

Administrative history: The owner of the original of the letter (which was purchased at auction in 1997) has kindly supplied this photocopy and agreed to allow it to be made available for consultation and also for copies to be made for bona fide researchers

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/132-134 Correspondence between Neville Chamberlain and George F. Pease 1931-1935

These comprise two letters from Chamberlain, one written from Westbourne, Edgbaston, dated 26 October 1931 and the other from 11 Downing Street [London], dated 20 December 1930, together with envelope addressed to George F Pease, 441 Hagley Road, Birmingham, and one autograph draft of a letter from [Mr Pease] to Chamberlain at Westbourne [Birmingham], dated 18 December 1935.

The long letter of October 1931 was written by Chamberlain in reply to one from Pease dated 24 October (the original of which does not appear to have survived in the personal papers of Neville Chamberlain).

This letter was written in the aftermath of the financial crisis in August 1931 which destroyed the Labour government, the formation of the provisional all-party government, and the General Election on 27 October, when the National Government was returned with large Conservative gains.

Pease's letter appears to have been written following his attendance, as a constituent of Chamberlain's, at a

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public election meeting. He clearly requested Chamberlain's views and opinions on several current political and economic issues. Chamberlain's lengthy and important letter is the response to these questions, point by point.

He refuses to enter a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of a tariff but answers on the subject of the National Disarmament Conference to be held in 1932. Chamberlain writes that the national Government's aim will be 'to endeavour to lead nations to rely for their security on the obligations they have undertaken, to renounce war as an instrument of policy, and to seek settlement of disputes by none but peaceful means' and point out that the country's 'reductions in the strength of our armed forces are without parallel elsewhere'.

Pease's second question related to the subject of the possible introduction of a general tariff if the Conservatives were 'returned with a large majority' in the new National Government. Chamberlain reassures Pease by writing that the Government is 'asking for a free hand to examine any measures that may appear to offer assistance in solving the problem of the redress of the adverse trade balance' and is 'not committed beforehand to a tariff.

Pease's third question was too hypothetical to answer: 'No member of the Government could possibly be asked to pledge himself to support anything that the Government may do' but Chamberlain believes that his 'colleagues are prepared to examine everything with an open mind' so that it should be possible to find agreement.

The draft of the letter sent by Pease in December 1935, together with Chamberlain's reply, relate to a newspaper cutting from 'The Northern Echo' about the Pease family of Darlington. Pease sent the cutting to Chamberlain because the article contained a reference to the Chamberlain family and it also made a comparison between the two families and their political influence on their respective native cities

4 items

Access: Open

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

- NCLAdd/135 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Cyril E. Ianholton 1901
- Letter, dated 12 March, in which Chamberlain, Highbury, Birmingham, alerts Cyril E. Ianholton to a vacancy at the Selly Oak Works of Elliotts Metal Company and inviting him to attend for interview to meet with him, Archibald Kenrick and Mr Dendy, the Secretary and Manager of the company. Walter Chamberlain, the chairman, is also mentioned as the person who put Mr Ianholton's name forward as a potential candidate for the job
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/136 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mr J. Barker 1923
- Typescript letter, dated 12 March, in which Chamberlain, Ministry of Health [London], thanks Mr Barker, c/o Greenwood and Batley, Leeds, for congratulating him on his appointment as Minister of Health: 'I set great store by the goodwill of my Birmingham friends, and unless I felt that I had it I should have been reluctant to accept such heavy responsibilities'. The letter includes a manuscript note sending regards to Mrs Barker.
- 1 item
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/137 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Bryan H. Fell. 1926
- Letter with envelope, dated 22 November, marked 'Confidential' and addressed 'My dear Bryan', Public Bill Office, House of Commons [London]. Chamberlain, House of Commons [London], answers queries about proposals to facilitate legislation. He gives answers on three specific points and ends by saying: 'A good many people (especially cynics) would say that legislation is the greatest curse of the day and would therefore condemn the proposal as likely to give us more of it'
- 2 items
- Access: Open
- NCLAdd/138 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Miss Harrison 1939
- Letter, dated 16 June, in which Chamberlain, 10

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Downing Street [London], expresses his thanks for 'the little mementoes which I wanted to have' as a remembrance of G. H. K.: 'I don't want the one from the drawing room, as all I was thinking of was something that G.H.K. used to use himself constantly and with which I was myself familiar'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/139 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Sir John Smedley Crooke 1937

Letter, dated 10 June, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], thanks Smedley, MP, for his letter of 9 June, with which he had enclosed a resolution of congratulation and good wishes [on his appointment to the office of Prime Minister] from the Midland Group of Members of the House of Commons

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/140 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Bennett 1938

Letter of thanks, dated 21 October, from Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], to Mrs Bennett, 364 Milton Road, Cambridge, for her kind message: 'During these difficult and anxious times through which we have been passing the expressions of sympathy and goodwill which I have received from all quarters have been a source of great strength to me'. This item includes an envelope.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/141-150 Letters from Neville Chamberlain to Miss Parkes; with one from Anne Chamberlain to Miss Parkes 1919-1921

Miss Parkes would appear to have been Chamberlain's secretary in Birmingham between 1919 and 1921 and this group of letters largely relate to administration of his personal and constituency affairs, the organisation of and his attendance at meetings, matters involving individual constituents etc. The letters are mostly written from Chamberlain's Birmingham or London home

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addresses, although one is written from Greenhill House, Sherborne, Dorset and another from Cairnton, Banchory, and N.B.

/141 Letter, dated 13 January 1919, in which he asks Miss Parkes to meet him in order to discuss constituency matters.

/142 Letter, dated 26 January 1921, in which he asks Miss Parkes to send his patience cards, together with his razor strop and wash leather.

/143 Letter, dated 24 February 1921, concerning constituency matters. Chamberlain also mentions that he had seen Hugh Edwards in the House of Commons [John Hugh Edwards, d 1945, MP(Lab) Mid Glamorgan, 1910-1922, author of 'From Village Green to Downing Street; The Life of D. Lloyd George, MP'] 'and abused him for not acknowledging my trouble in getting him a ticket for the Lloyd George function'. He had apparently sent a letter to Chamberlain in Birmingham, and he asks Miss Parkes to find out whether this letter arrived. Chamberlain comments that 'Of course, you can't believe a word these Welshmen say!'

/144 Letter, dated 26 March 1921, in which he gives Miss Parkes various instructions. Chamberlain asks her to confirm an engagement on 7 May, but to tell T.J.Bass that he will be unable to attend his meeting on 26 April. He is also unable to attend a conference given by Griffiths on 1 April, due to a meeting of the B.S.A [Birmingham Small Arms Company, of which Chamberlain was a director]. He asks Miss Parkes to send a letter about a forthcoming meeting of the Birmingham Club to 'all the Birmingham MP's [sic] except Hallas' [Eldred Hallas, 1870-1926 MP(Lab) Duddeston, 1918-1922], Sir Alfred Robbins [1856-1931, London correspondent of the Birmingham Post, 1888-1923] and G.W.Hubbard [Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post]. He follows these instructions with a draft of the letter. His final comment to Miss Parkes is that the 'weather here is brilliant & I caught a salmon yesterday so things are satisfactory!'

/145 Letter, dated 5 April 1921, in which he asks Miss Parkes to alter the time of an appointment that he has with 'Mr. Pratt' [Harry Pratt, Conservative Central Office agent for the West Midlands area] because he will be 'presiding at the monthly meeting of the B.U.A' [Birmingham [Liberal] Unionist Association] and to

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arrange a meeting with the Lord Mayor for the same afternoon.

/146 Letter, dated 12 April 1921, in which Chamberlain asks Miss Parkes to send him some correspondence which he had meant to take to London with him. One was a letter from Griffiths about the 'Spelter industry', and the other was from a 'Dame Ethel' about the difference between the Minister of Pensions and the Association of Local War Pensions Committees. He also asks her to find out the times of trains from Birmingham to Great Malvern on the following Friday evening, as he has 'undertaken to speak for Stanley Baldwin' there.

/147 Letter, dated 26 April 1921, about the fuel shortages at home [a consequence of the coal strike in the spring and summer of 1921 which meant a reduced gas supply and the rationing of coke]. Chamberlain tells Miss Parkes that he has enough coal, but that he concerned about 'the coke for hot water, for baths and for the greenhouse'. He asks her to send permits to Elliots (Elliotts Metal Company, of which Chamberlain was a director) 'and ask them to send me all the coke they can on the two of them'. He comments that 'probably their weighing machines may not be very accurate!'

/148 Letter, dated 1 May 1921, in which he discusses the possibility of finding employment for the son of the Wright family - 'if the family is starving we must see if there is anything else we can do' - and he also encloses a cheque for Miss Parkes' monthly salary.

/149 Undated letter in which he asks Miss Parkes to 'communicate with Hewins' [R.G.Hewins of the Midlands Liberal Unionist Association] regarding the B.U.A Annual meeting, at which Chamberlain had asked the Lord Chancellor to speak. The Lord Chancellor would be able to honour this engagement if the date of the meeting were changed from 14 April to 15 April although this would also involve changing the venue from the Town Hall to the Central Hall. If Hewins can make the necessary arrangements, then Chamberlain can fix the engagement.

/150 Undated letter from Annie Chamberlain to Miss Parkes, asking her to have lunch with her the following day. She wishes to ask her advice about answering a letter she has received. 'I will answer after seeing you as she is offering her services!'

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10 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/151 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Professor William Augustus Tilden 1900

Letter, dated 12 January, in which Chamberlain, Elliott's Metal Company, Selly Oak Works, Birmingham, writes as a director of the company, to Dr Tilden [1842-1926]. The company dealt chiefly in copper and brass, with the Selly Oak works employing around seven hundred men. He has clearly been in correspondence with Tilden, then Professor of Chemistry at Royal College of Science, London, (previously Professor of Chemistry, Mason College, Birmingham) for help in filling a position in his company.

He suggests that Tilden's 'technical expert' might be suitable for the post of Works Inspector. He would have to be 'a man of real ability, which I should certainly stipulate for'. He asks Tilden's advice about the salary to be offered, explaining that he had 'offered 2 men, who were fresh from college & who seemed otherwise suitable, £75 for the 1st year to be increased to £150 the 2nd year if they proved satisfactory. They declined.' Chamberlain thought that this offer was reasonable, since the applicant would have 'to learn a great deal' in the post 'before they could be of any value'. However, he goes on to say that 'if academic distinction has really a higher value in the market than this I suppose I must modify my ideas. What do your young men generally begin on?'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/152 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Lechmere-Oestel 1929

Letter of reply, dated 15 June, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], expresses interest in knowing that Mrs Lechmere-Oestel, 58 Kingston Road, Teddington, had corresponded with his father, and of her son's connection with Birmingham University

Administrative history: Richard Lechmere Lechmere-Oertel graduated with a BSc in Mining in 1926

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1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/153 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Brigadier-General Sir Henry Page Croft 1938

Letter, dated 30 March, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], acknowledges Croft's letter of 29 March in which he had enclosed 'a memorandum of the views of the Empire Industries Association on certain trade questions'. He promises to give the matter his 'careful consideration'.

Administrative history: Henry Page Croft (1881-1947, Conservative MP for Bournemouth 1918-1940, previously for Christchurch 1910-1918) was chairman of the Executive of the Empire Industries Association

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/154 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Malcolm Dillon 1938

Letter, dated 10 November, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], replies to Dillon's letter of 7 November which was probably written in the context of Chamberlain's visit to Germany in late September 1938. It is the reference to a much earlier visit to Berlin [to the Congress of Berlin in 1878 at the end of the Russo-Turkish war] by Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury [representing the British Government in their capacity as Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs] which suggests this context. Chamberlain is interested to learn that Dillon was in Downing Street when Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury returned then from Berlin. 'It seems almost incredible'.

Administrative history: Malcolm Dillon (1859-1945) MBE, was managing director of the Londonderry Collieries Ltd, and director of other companies in the north of England. He had been mayor of Jarrow 1903-1906, was a member of Durham County Council and Chairman of Seaham Unionist Association

1 item

Access: Open

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NCLAdd/155-160 Letters from Neville Chamberlain and Mrs Chamberlain and their secretaries to G. Sidney Strube and to the editor of the Daily Express 1933-1938

Photocopies of letters sent by and on behalf of Neville Chamberlain and Mrs Chamberlain, who were great admirers of Strube's work [1891-1956; political cartoonist], regarding the acquisition of his original cartoons which were published in the Daily Express.

/155 Letter, dated 12 December 1933, from Neville Chamberlain's secretary to the Editor of the 'Daily Express', requesting the original drawing of the cartoon entitled 'The Champion'.

/156 Letter, dated 18 December 1933, from Neville Chamberlain thanking Strube for the drawing. He writes: 'I think this is one of the best you have done, not only for the cleverness of the drawing, but for the wit which inspired the idea. I am very pleased to possess it'.

/157 Letter, dated 26 May 1937, from Chamberlain's Acting Private Secretary, L. J. Newman to Strube, requesting the original drawing of his cartoon entitled 'Which hand, Sir?'

/158 Letter, dated 29 May 1937, in which Newman replies on Neville Chamberlain's behalf, that he intends to hang the cartoon on Capital Punishment in his room; 'he greatly admires your work and thinks this is a particularly characteristic example of your wit as well as a clever drawing.'

/159 Letter, dated 16 September 1938, written on behalf of Mrs Chamberlain by Marjorie Leaf, Private Secretary, to Strube, requesting a copy of the cartoon which appeared in the 'Daily Express' on Thursday 15 September. She thought it was 'very imaginative and excellent'.

/160 Letter dated 21 September 1938 in which Marjorie Leaf thanks Strube on Mrs Chamberlain's behalf for the copies and one original drawing.

Administrative history: Strube had first worked as a draughtsman for a furniture company before joining an advertising agency. He studied drawing at the John Hassall School of Art and began to draw cartoons. He sold his first work to the 'Conservative and Unionist Magazine' in 1909 and afterwards began producing a weekly cartoon for 'Throne and Country'. He began

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drawing for the 'Daily Express' in 1912 and stayed with the newspaper until he retired in 1948.

Reference: Spartacus Educational website:
www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Jstrube.htm (accessed December 2002)

6 items

Access: Open

Access conditions: These copies may be consulted for individual research only. Further copies may not be made without permission from the legal owner of the letters and the permission of the copyright holders

NCLAdd/161 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Mrs Spender-Clay 1937

Letter, dated 16 February, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], writes to Mrs Spender-Clay [nee the Honorable Pauline Astor] expressing his sympathy and grief at the news of the death of her husband [Lieutenant-Colonel Right Honorable Herbert Henry Spender-Clay, 1835-1937]. Chamberlain remembers him with respect and affection, and emphasises his position in the House of Commons: 'his influence was far reaching in our party and it was always to be depended on in guiding opinion to sound and patriotic conclusions'.

Administrative history: Lt-Col Rt Hon. Herbert Henry Spender-Clay (1875-1937) was Conservative MP for Tonbridge Division in Kent, 1910-1918 and December 1918-1937. He married Hon. Pauline Astor, daughter of 1st Viscount Astor in 1904 and they had two daughters. (Reference: Who Was Who)

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/162 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to the Editor of 'The Evening Standard and St James's Gazette' 1932

Incomplete letter, dated 30 June, comprising the first and last pages, which is written when Chamberlain was Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is written on Treasury Chambers notepaper and is headed 'Private, for guidance not for publication'. Copies of this letter,

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addressed 'Dear Mr Editor' were clearly sent when Chamberlain announced the Government's proposals for the conversion of the War Loan. Chamberlain writes that he would have liked to have met all the Editors of newspapers a little in advance to tell them of the plans but felt it was the right of Parliament to be informed first and also that the time available for such a meeting was so short that they would probably prefer the information in written form. The middle section of the letter is missing but presumably contains details of the Government's proposals as the final page starts at point (c), which relates to stock holders who notify their willingness to continue their holdings being entitled to a cash bonus. Chamberlain ends by saying that in an enterprise of this character and magnitude he hopes he has the 'valuable assistance of your support'.

2 items

Access: Open

NCLAdd/163

Colour photocopy of picture postcard to Dorothy Chamberlain

[1919]

Picture postcard sent from Lille, France to Miss D. Chamberlain [1911-1992; daughter of Neville Chamberlain], Westbourne, Birmingham, and addressed 'My very dear Dorothea' from an unidentified correspondent who is probably a relative. The view on the postcard is of war damage to buildings in Station Street, Ypres in France. The message on the postcard refers to the correspondent and Dorothea's Aunt Lilian and Uncle Alfred 'motoring' in France and seeing the places the Germans destroyed during the First World War. The card is dated 20 September with no year date but the postmark indicates that it was sent in 1919.

2 items

Access: Open

Physical description: Photocopy

NCLAdd/164

Letter from Neville Chamberlain to James Lyle Mackay, 1st Earl of Inchcape

1929

Letter, dated 21 November, in which Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square [London], thanks Inchcape [1852-1932] for his letter and also expresses his appreciation for 'all

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the trouble you have taken to make us comfortable and happy on our way home'.

He also hopes to be able to take advantage of Inchcape's offer to visit Cairo on the way home [from his extended visit to North Africa from December 1929 until March 1930] and, in the future, to accept the invitation to visit Glenapp of which his wife has pleasant memories.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/165 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Philip Gell 1939

Letter, dated 16 January, in which Chamberlain, 10 Downing Street [London], apologises for the delay in replying to Gell's letter. Chamberlain acknowledges his good wishes and the 'very generous words in the introduction by Lady Hickman to the Albrighton Hunt Pony Club Magazine' of which Gell had sent a copy

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/166 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to The Viscountess Greenwood 1937

Letter, dated 29 October, in which Chamberlain, 11 Downing Street [London], thanks Lady Greenwood DBE, [1886-1968], for 'those beautiful grapes, especially just now when I am forbidden to eat so many things'. He thanks her and her husband Hamar [1st Viscount Greenwood, MP, d 1948] for their kind thoughts and writes that he is very slowly getting better and that the gift of champagne 'must wait until I am recovered.'

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/167 Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Brigadier-General Richard Beale Colvin 1933

Letter, dated 30 November and written from the Treasury Chambers, in which he acknowledges Colvin's letter addressed to the Ministry of Labour and advises that he is replying as the Minister responsible for the

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'Customs administration'.

The subject matter of the letter concerns the approval of bonded accommodation in ports and with specific reference to an application by the Marine and General Transit Company Ltd for bonding privileges in the Port of London for the trade of dressed furs. While Chamberlain appreciates that 'the applicants and many other shipping and forwarding agents would find these privileges of use in their business, the result of approving bonded accommodation in excess of the general requirements of the trade of a Port would be to involve the Crown in a greatly increased and unjustifiable expenditure for the provision of official supervision.' He can therefore find no reason for interfering with the decision of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise in this case.

1 item

Access: Open

NCLAdd/168

Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Josiah Austin

1909

Typed letter, dated 26 March, in which Chamberlain, Highbury, Birmingham, writes to Josiah Austin, Provident Dispensary, Nechells [Birmingham], thanking him for his 'interesting letter and criticism'. He says 'I have realised since we started that the point you mention is considered a drawback, but I have been anxious to give it a trial...I should much like to have a look over your Dispensary and a talk with yourself'. Chamberlain goes on to say that Josiah Austin's long experience would be useful and that his visit to the Provident Dispensary would help him to compare their working with that of the other dispensaries he has visited. He ends the letter by requesting a copy of the last report produced by Austin's Provident Dispensary.

1 item

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered readers

NCLAdd/169-170

Letter from Neville Chamberlain to Wilfred William Ashley, Baron Mount Temple

1925-1926

/169 Typed letter, dated 18 February written from the Ministry of Health, in reply to William Ashley's letter (ref.

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NCLADD/170) regarding funding of sanitation for a country town and the request for an extended loan period. Chamberlain writes to 'my dear Wilfred', Lt.-Col. The Right Hon[arable] Wifred Ashley, MP [1867–1939], Ministry of Transport [London], to explain that despite reviewing the matter he has '... reluctantly come to the decision that such a course could not be justified on grounds of public policy...'.

/170 Copy of Ashley's original letter of request concerning the drainage and repayment of a loan for a country town in the South of England, dated December 27 1925.

3 items

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered readers

- | | | |
|------------|--|-------------------|
| NCLAdd/171 | <p>Printed invitation card from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham to Councillor Mundy</p> <p>Invitation to tea in the Council House after the presentation of the Freedom of the City to Mr Barrow Cadbury, the Rt Hon Neville Chamberlain and Alderman J. H. Lloyd, 6 May</p> <p>On the back of the card are pencil notes relating to the personal care of nails</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | 1932 |
| NCLAdd/172 | <p>Plaster bust of Neville Chamberlain made sculptor, Clement William Jewitt</p> <p>1 item</p> <p>Access: Open</p> | [early 20th cent] |
| NCLAdd/173 | <p>Manuscript extracts made by Neville Chamberlain from the publication 'The House that Hitler Built' by Stephen H. Roberts</p> <p>These comprise eight extracts, largely verbatim, of varying length about Hitler and his policies made by Chamberlain from an edition of this publication dated</p> | 1938 |

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1937. Chamberlain cites this publication at the end of the extracts and sources the extract with the relevant page numbers.

2 items

Access: Open

Physical description: These notes were found loose in Neville Chamberlain's copy of Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' and these notes are retained in a pocket at the back of the book. This volume is held in the printed book collections in the Special Collections Department at rDD251.A1

Publication notes: Peter Marsh has quoted some of the passages which Neville Chamberlain has written in 'The Chamberlain Litany: Letters within a Governing Family from Empire to Appeasement', 2010

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------|
| NCLAdd/174 | Newscutting on Nazi War Policy | c.1938 |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| NCLAdd/175 | Newspaper article 'Le Judaisme et la Guerre' | 1939 |
| | 1 item | |
| | Access: Open | |
| NCLAdd/176 | Draft text probably written by Neville Chamberlain | 1938 |
| | Short text, written in pencil on the back of headed notepaper of 10 Downing Street, Whitehall, possibly drafted for a brief statement in defence of his appeasement policy in advance of a forthcoming meeting with Hitler. The text, which includes a number of alterations is undated but was presumably written before Chamberlain's first visit to Munich in September 1938. | |
| | The handwriting is probably that of Neville Chamberlain but may be that of an aide. | |
| | The text reads 'I am going to meet the German Chancellor because the present situation seems to me to be one that can usefully be discussed between us. My policy has been to ensure peace; the German Fuhrer's ready agreement to our meeting encourages me to think | |

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that our discussions will be useful & productive of good.
I work for the good-will of all.

1 item

Access: Open

Custodial history: This item was formerly in the custody of Gwen Davies, secretary to Neville Chamberlain and to other prime ministers.

NCLAdd/177

Signed, mounted photograph of Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940) as Prime Minister, and National Government Whips

1938

Photograph by Vandyk, Buckingham Palace Road, London, dated July.

1 outsize item

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers

Physical description: Some of the signatures are very faded and so difficult to read.

NCLAdd/178

Letters Additional of Neville Chamberlain

[Early 20th century]

Signed, mounted photograph of Neville Chamberlain and A. H. E. Wood. Photographer: Leonard Pelman, 25 Adelphi, Aberdeen. With pencil annotations and copyright imprint on the reverse. Size: 11 x 10 cm.

The right hand edge of the photograph appears to have been cut off; an almost identical photograph in the Papers of Neville Chamberlain (NC17/2/1/10) shows a Miss Robinson standing at Wood's left hand side (the edge of her arm can just be seen in this photograph).

Chamberlain and his friend, Arthur Wood (d 1934), often fished together at Glassel, Wood's estate in Aberdeenshire.

1 item

Access: Open

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Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

NCLAdd/179

Family papers of Joy Abbati-Yeoman

1895-1940

Largely comprising personal correspondence between Joy Abbati-Yeoman's mother, June Abbati [nee Greenwood], and Neville and Anne Chamberlain, and between Chamberlain and her grandfather, Alfred C. Greenwood. Also including a small compilation of photographs and miscellaneous other items relating to Alfred Greenwood and the Chamberlain family.

Administrative history: Alfred Craven Greenwood, JP, OBE, was born in Kentish Town, London, in August 1863. After entering the British Colonial Service, he was initially posted to Nassau in the Bahamas serving as Aide-de-Camp and Private Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas (Sir Ambrose Shea) before taking up post as Colonial Treasurer in Gibraltar in 1897 where he continued until he retired in 1926. Whilst in the Bahamas, he met Julia Wickham Leigh (d 1978), of America, whom he married in New York in 1896. They had a daughter, June Greenwood (1898-1978) and two sons Alfred Leigh Greenwood and Shirley Carter Greenwood (Shirley Greenwood died in 1917). June Greenwood married Alfred Henry Abbati in 1928; they had a son, Shirley Antony Abbati, and daughter, Joy Virginia Penelope Abbati (later Abbati-Yeoman). Joy was born in 1936; Shirley Abbati died in 1968.

Spending much of their time living in hotels in France, Switzerland and Italy, Alfred and Julia Greenwood were living in France at the onset of World War II and witnessed the German occupation; Julia died in Cannes in January 1940 but their daughter and her husband worked to help Alfred leave France. To this end, June corresponded with family friends, Neville and Anne Chamberlain; her husband travelled to France in 1940/1941 and it is believed that one of his reasons for doing so was to assist his father-in-law. Alfred succeeded in reaching Portugal where he was supported by long-standing friends before his death in Estoril in June 1941.

Alfred Craven Greenwood (1863-1941) and Neville Chamberlain started what was to be a lifelong friendship whilst they were both working in Nassau in the Bahamas, c 1893 (and Greenwood helped Neville Chamberlain at his sisal plantation for a period whilst the plantation manager was on leave after his wife's death).

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Chamberlain stood as godfather to Greenwood's daughter, June, and son, Alfred Leigh Greenwood, and also to June Abbati's son, Shirley Antony Abbati.

Source: information supplied by the donor, June 2013; Neville Chamberlain papers (GB 0150 NC7/5).

29 items

Access: Open

Access conditions: Access to all registered researchers.

Physical description: The two mounted photographs were removed from their frames on receipt and the frames disposed of.

Custodial history: Prior to donation to Cadbury Research Library: Special Collections, the records passed from Mrs June Abbati to her surviving child, Mrs Joy Abbati-Yeoman.

Related material: Records relating to Alfred Greenwood, June Abbati and family can also be found in the Neville Chamberlain papers (GB 0150 NC).