

Correspondence of John Ramsay Allardyce Nicoll  
US27

John Ramsay Allardyce Nicoll (1894-1976), held the chair of English Language and Literature at the University of Birmingham between 1945 and 1961, combining this with the Directorship of the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford-upon-Avon from 1951.

An eminent scholar of English drama, amongst his friends Nicoll numbered many actors, theatre producers and dramatists and their letters form a large proportion of this collection.

The collection, which consists of letters written to Nicoll or his family, was donated to the Library by his widow, Maria (nee Dubno). Nicoll married twice, his first wife being a Polish refugee, Josephine Calina.

The following abbreviations are used in this catalogue:

**AN:** John Ramsay Allardyce Nicoll

**JN** Josephine Nicoll

**MN** Maria Nicoll.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

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1. Rodgers Forge, Maryland  
15/4/[193?] Lascelles Abercrombie to AN.  
Plans to be in New York on 18 April and hopes for a meeting with AN. Will sail for London on the following day.
2. Merton College, Oxford  
7/1/1938 Lascelles Abercrombie to AN.  
Will be taken up with examining duties at Oxford in the summer.
3. Frognal Lane, Hampstead  
Undated [1967] Peggy Ashcroft to AN.  
About planned TV documentary on Chekhov with John Gielgud and her part in *Ghosts* at Aldwych Theatre.
4. Frognal Lane, Hampstead  
Undated [1967] Peggy Ashcroft to AN.  
Is glad that AN is better. Will not have much time at Stratford, owing to her part at Aldwych Theatre.
5. Stratford-upon-Avon  
Undated Peggy Ashcroft to AN and [MN?].  
Is sorry that she will be unable to visit them until next year, when she will be back in Stratford as a spectator instead of as an actress.
6. Wilmington, Sussex  
(15/3/1973 postmark) Postcard. Peggy Ashcroft to AN.  
Comments on proposed 'box' road to be built [in Stratford?]. On holiday in Sussex.
7. Lordswood Road, Harborne,  
Birmingham [193?] W H Auden to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter and hopes to see him during the summer.
8. Hotel George Washington,  
New York  
1/3/1939 W H Auden to AN.  
Thanks him for his letter.
9. 23/2/1939 S H Bateman(?) to AN.  
About providing help for German political refugees.
10. Old Vic Theatre  
20/11/1934 Lilian Baylis to AN  
About proposed Old Vic tour of USA, which she thinks will fall through, owing to expense. She has heard nothing from the agent and supposes that he is no longer interested in the scheme.
11. Old Vic Theatre  
22/4/1937 Lilian Baylis to AN  
Thanks AN for his help. Hopes that the planned Elsinore production goes ahead. London is preparing for the Coronation. Asks AN if he has heard of theatre manager Forbes Randolph, whom she does not trust.
12. Addison Road, London, W14 Clifford Bax to AN

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- 15/2/[1932?] His new play [*The rose without a thorn?*] has attracted much attention. He encloses 2 lists: one of the production details of all his plays and one of their publication details.
13. Addison Road, London, W14  
8/4/[1932] Clifford Bax to AN.  
Tells AN that he may quote from his paper. Says that he is enclosing several letters concerning 'the controversy' [not included] with Gordon Bottomley [re poetic drama].
14. Addison Road, London, W14  
17/4/[193?] Clifford Bax to AN.  
Letter accompanying an article on Persian theatre, which he is sending AN [not included].
15. Addison Road, London, W14  
Friday, [193?] Clifford Bax to AN.  
Asks AN to dinner on Friday the 26th. His agent, Peters, and Geoffrey Dearmer will both be present
16. Addison Road, London W14  
Friday [193?] Clifford Bax to AN.  
Suggests a meeting with AN.
17. The Albany, London W1  
15/2/[1938] Clifford Bax to AN. Is writing on 'The Highways and by-ways of Essex' for Macmillan. Has seen *Moving becomes Electra* but does not like it. Enjoyed *Volpone* at the Westminster Theatre. Is helping to arrange an Irving Centenary Matinee. Has not seen Gielgud's production of *The three sisters*: does not like the effeminate affectations of Gielgud. Has enjoyed Somerset Maugham's *The summing up*.
18. The Albany, London W1  
15/9/[193?] Clifford Bax to AN  
Values AN's friendship. Is writing a life of Nell Gwyn.
19. The Albany, London W1  
15/9/[193?] Praises the new edition of AN's *British Drama* [Pencil notes on verso in another hand].
20. Makepeace Avenue, Highgate  
West Hill, London N6  
15/9/1972 George Benson to AN.  
Hopes to be able to visit AN at Colwall once he is in Birmingham where he is in Pinero's *Dandy Dick* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.
21. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
20/6/1972 George Benson to AN and MN.  
Thanks them for their hospitality on Sunday at Colwall.
22. Makepeace Avenue, Highgate  
West Hill, London N6  
23/7/1972 George Benson to AN.  
Is rehearsing for a play at Sussex University. Discusses the work of the Society for Theatre Research, of which he is chairman and AN president.

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23. Makepeace Avenue, Highgate West Hill, London N6  
29/10/1972  
George Benson to AN  
About the Barry Jackson Trust and Sir Barry Jackson's bequests. Hopes that AN and MN enjoyed their trip to Brighton. Is now rehearsing for *Nightmare Abbey*. Describes Society for Theatre Research Lecture and his part in the John Donne quarter centenary collaborations.
24. Headington, Old High Street, Oxford  
1.8. [1936?]  
Isaiah Berlin to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter congratulating him on presidency of Wolfson College, Oxford. Hopes that his presidency will keep him in Oxford for a while. Suggests meeting in New York or Oxford.
25. Bradmore Road, Oxford  
30/12/1940  
F S Boas to AN.  
New Year makes for 1941. He and his wife are staying with her family, as his house has been bombed. His grand son, Robin, is at Eton. Asks AN's help with the *College English magazine* and the *Year's work [in English Studies?]*
26. Bradmore Road, Oxford  
21/3/1941  
F S Boas to AN.  
Is curious, as he has not yet received AN's contribution to the *Year's work*. Has asked W Burgess Johnson to contribute to *Year's work*. He is not yet able to return to his London house. he is to open a weekend school of the British Drama League, chaired by Gilbert Murray. Is encouraged by the UK/US entente.
27. Bradmore Road, Oxford  
13/6/1941  
F S Boas to AN.  
Thanks AN for his Shakespeare chapter for the *Year's work*. He and his wife have been to London to stay with their son Guy at Wimbledon, to see their house and to attend the AGMs of the Royal Society of Literature and the English Association.
28. Silverdale, Carnforth  
26/9/1929  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Invites AN and JN to a recital of his 'poetry-plays' at Rudolf Steiner Hall. He and his wife enjoyed the visit to Malvern, especially the ball and the theatre. Sends tickets for the recital [not included].
29. Silverdale, Carnforth  
1/10/1929  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter about the recital and hopes to visit him then.
30. Silverdale, Carnforth  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.

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- 10/11/1931 Describes trip which he and his wife have taken with Wild to the Midlands, N England and Scotland. Congratulates AN on his presidency of the SCDA [Scottish Community Drama Association]
31. Silverdale, Carnforth  
10/1/1932 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
His father has died and Emily (his wife) has broken her wrist.
32. Silverdale, Carnforth  
9/4/1942 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Awaits the results of the Scottish Finals (dramatic awards?). Remembers the Nicolls' visit with pleasure.
33. Silverdale, Carnforth  
11/4/1932 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Authorises AN to use his letters to Clifford Bax, about poetic drama in his article. Sets out his views on poetic drama: poetic drama has a place in literature, the action of the play should be conventional, not realistic, poetic drama involves the use of sound to transmit beauty; the audiences for such works would be small, and the aim of such works would be beauty alone, not an imitation of life. Verse has no place in realistic drama. Gives details of Scottish plays and dramatists.
34. Silverdale, Carnforth  
13/4/2932 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
The lecturer in Dutch at Bedford College, J H Weevers is to lecture on choric drama on 5 May.
35. Silverdale, Carnforth  
19/4/1932 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his reply and is grateful for AN's praise. Importance of tonal values of poetry in poetic drama. He does not like being outside mainstream theatre. His play *The bower of Wandel* came second in Glasgow; Clark's play came first. He must go to St Andrew's in July [for examining duties?]
36. Silverdale, Carnforth  
6/2/1933 Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Has been with his wife to Devon. On the train back they shared a compartment with a woman and child, the child ill with influenza. He and his wife have been ill as a result. Sends his new book [*The Acts of St Peter?*]
37. Silverdale, Carnforth  
26/2/1933 Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Is sad that AN will be taking up the Chair of Drama at Yale, as he will miss him. He has made AN his literary executor and asks if this is all right.

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38. Silverdale, Carnforth  
11/3/1933  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his consent to being his literary executor. Wishes AN well in his new post. Thanks him for his praise of his play. Is working on the draft of *The Acts of St Peter* for Exeter Cathedral.
39. Silverdale, Carnforth  
11/3/1933  
Gordon Bottomley to JN.  
Thanks her for the rusks. He will miss her and AN.
40. Silverdale, Carnforth  
12/7/1933  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Discusses the movement for a Scottish National Theatre, initiated by D G Mackemmie. Praises MacKemmie. Gives account of career of John Brandane, Scottish dramatist. Account of his friendship with James Bridie [O H Mavor] and of Bridie's career. Brandane's adoration of Bridie's *The Smithback*. Indifference of Scottish critics to Bridie's work. Bridie's good nature and generosity. Brandane's influence over Bridie, who nevertheless achieved greater fame than Brandane. Annie Hall's productions of Bridie's *Tobias and the angel* and *The anatomist*.
41. Silverdale, Carnforth  
23/06/1934  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Is going to Leicester for a weekend with the British Drama League. Hopes to see AN in Oxford or elsewhere.
42. Silverdale, Carnforth  
15/08/1935  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Difficulties of arranging a meeting. Hopes to see AN soon.
43. Silverdale, Carnforth  
2/11/1936  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Thanks them for their first letters from Yale. He has sent them photographs of their house. Describes the holiday which he and his wife have taken in W Scotland, Mull, Iona, etc. Has been ill and is now in bed.
44. Silverdale, Carnforth  
5/2/1937  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Complains that AN has not told him whether he has received photographs or not.
45. Silverdale, Carnforth  
13/2/1937  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Asks if they have received the photographs. He has been ill, saw the film *Mary of Scotland* with Katherine Hepburn, which he thought poor. His play *White Widow* has been staged at Aberdeen. He and his wife hope to go to Greece later in the year.
46. Silverdale, Carnforth  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.

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- 11/8/1937                      Doubts about meeting AN at Colwall as they are having trouble finding a housekeeper to look after his mother while they are away. Invites them to Silverdale. Regrets having missed Auden, whom he admires.
47. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
    21/8/1937                      He has been ill and cannot come to Colwall. Hopes that AN and JN can visit him on their way to Scotland.
48. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
    29/8/1937                      Is sorry that they will not meet. Asks AN if he has spare proofs of the illustrations for the new edition of his book.
49. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
    3/1/1938                      About the appointment of the new professor of English at Aberdeen, chief candidates W Taylor and Claude Abbot. Wonders if AN would consider applying for the Durham chair if Abbott obtains the chair at Aberdeen. Suggests that AN apply for directorship of Old Vic now that Lilian Baylis has died.
50. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
    13/3/1938                      His mother died three days ago. His debt to her and his grief. Bichersteth has obtained the Aberdeen chair; Bottomley believes that this was unfair and due to contacts. Barry Jackson has quarrelled with Malvern Corporation and withdrawn from the Malvern Festival. Both sides of the quarrel presented. Jackson has seemed listless over the past few years. He will not like George Bernard Shaw's support of Malvern Corporation. Maybe Jackson will leave the theatre altogether. Bottomley and his wife are sailing for Greece in April. He sends a book containing his first comedy [*Midsummer eve?*].
51. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN  
    29/3/1938                      About his mother's death and his own imminent departure for Greece. In case he should not return, he leaves instructions regarding the publication of his *Epic plays* and *Deirdrie*.
52. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
    22/6/1938                      Welcomes AN to Britain. Hopes to visit AN and JN at Colwall. Harold and Laura Knight will also be at Malvern. He enjoyed his trip to Greece.
53. Silverdale, Carnforth      Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
    28/6/1938                      Understands that it would be inappropriate to visit AN while his mother is ill. Hopes to visit Colwall at a later date. Would like to see Bridie's play [*King of nowhere?*] at the Malvern Festival. He

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and his wife intend to visit Dalmatia in September. Advises AN to attend the exhibition at Bellahouston where he is in Scotland. He will be at Port Appin in early July and at the SCDA summer Drama School at St Andrews 16 - 30 July.

54. University of St Andrew's  
[July 1938?] Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Writes from the SCDA Summer Drama School. He has been ill but is now better. However, he does not think it advisable to come to Oxford. He hopes to see them before they sail for USA. He and his wife are taking a cruise in the autumn.
55. Silverdale, Carnforth  
10/8/1938 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Is sorry that he and his wife were unable to see AN while they were in Tewkesbury; they did not have the time. Is very busy, but hopes to see AN and JN sometime during the month.
56. Silverdale, Carnforth  
1/11/1938 Gordon Bottomley to JN.  
Thanks her for her letter. Is sorry that they did not meet on their European trip. The French army was mobilised in Paris. Went on to Milan, Venice and Dalmatia. Heard of the Munich talks while in Dubrovnik. On their return they planned to visit May Morris at Kelmscott but she died on the day of their proposed meeting. Lascelles Abercrombie has also died, ten days after taking tea with them and Edmund Blunden at his Merton College rooms. the Goldsmith Readership at Oxford vacant: AN would probably fail to obtain it, preference being given to younger UK- based academics.
57. Silverdale, Carnforth  
27/1/1939 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Neville Chamberlain's visit to Rome. He does not think highly of him. Appeasement cannot work indefinitely. He is encouraged by Roosevelt's address to Congress. Would like to go to Syracuse in April to see productions of *Aias* and *Hecuba* but Mussolini's activities make this a doubtful plan. Discusses AN's article 'Nationalism or poetry' in *Footnotes to the theatre*; disagrees with AN's belief that a new kind of verse will come from changes in daily speech. Iambic pentameter comes from 'the roots of our language'. His own contribution to poetic drama.
58. Silverdale, Carnforth  
25/3/1939 Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his praise of him in his article ['Naturalism or poetry'] but is sad to think that his fame will never be great. Sends AN his new book *Choric plays*.



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59. Port Appin, Argyll  
12/7/1939  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Has been in Norway for a month. Hopes to see AN and JN at Malvern, when Harold and Laura Knight are there, or at the Golden Cross at Oxford. Their trip to Norway: meeting with one of AN's former pupils, Michael Logan, and visits to the theatre in Oslo and Bergen.
60. Chilham Castle, Kent  
2/8/1939  
Gordon Bottomley to JN.  
His journey to Chilham from Malvern, to stay with Lady Davis. Thanks JN for hospitality, especially while AN's father was ill. He and his wife will return to Malvern next week.
61. Silverdale, Carnforth  
3-4/9/1939  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
His feelings on the outbreak of war. Sends Yeats' memorial magazine, containing his article. Conjectures that AN and JN may already have left for USA as Roosevelt has ordered US residents home.
62. Silverdale, Carnforth  
30/9/1939  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Is relieved to hear from AN, as was worried that he might have been on board the *Athenia* [which sank?]. Expects the war to last his lifetime. Is to edit Charles Ricketts's correspondence for publication.
63. Silverdale, Carnforth  
25/12/1939  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Is busy with biography of Edward Thomas and Charles Ricketts's correspondence, *Self-Portraits*. Recommends both books. Has been ill. Complains of the Americans' unwillingness to enter the war.
64. Silverdale, Carnforth  
21/1/1940  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Reproaches AN for not writing. Describes British resentment at US non-interference in the war and US assumption that it will play a leading part in the peace making. Thanks AN for agreeing to be his literary executor but wonders if it would be more sensible to appoint someone in Britain.
65. Silverdale, Carnforth  
1/6/1940  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for agreeing that a change of literary executor would be appropriate. His new literary executor is to be Professor C C Abbott of Durham. Hopes that AN's father is in good health. Britain's stand against Germany and USA's determination to keep out of the war discussed. The narrow-mindedness of the US isolationists. He has written a new comedy [*Kate Kennedy*] and another has been published in Gollancz's *50 one-act plays*.

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66. Silverdale, Carnforth  
24/12/1940  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Christmas Wishes.
67. Silverdale, Carnforth  
1941  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Reproaches them for not visiting. They have  
been to see *Trilby* at Kendal, with Ernest Milton  
as Svengal.
68. Silverdale, Carnforth  
14/9/1941  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter, understands AN's wish  
to return to Britain. Remembers happy times at  
Colwall. News of bombing [cut out by censor].  
He has been ill. Asks AN to give him news of his  
doings in his next letter.
69. Silverdale, Carnforth  
16/5/1943  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Thanks them for their Christmas card, sent from  
the British Embassy in Washington. He and his  
wife went to London for a poetry reading at the  
Aeolian Hall, arranged by the Sitwells and the  
Marchioness of Crewe. Others present included:  
Osbert and Edith Sitwell, Walter de la Mare,  
Gibson, Vita Sackville-West, H D, Arthur Waley,  
W J Turner, John Masefield and T S Eliot.  
Laurence Binyon was to have been present but  
was ill and died a few days later. The poetry  
reading; many of the participants did not read  
their work well. The Queen and the princesses  
were present. He later attended a dinner party, a  
reception at the Marquis of Crewe's and a tea  
party at Edith Sitwell's club. Saw *A month in the  
country*, with Valerie Taylor. Saw war damages  
in the West End and especially in the East End.
70. Silverdale, Carnforth  
15/1/1944  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Complain of AN's failures as a correspondent. Has  
visited Kirkcudbrightshire for the SCDA awards  
and saw the grand-niece of Train, friend of Sir  
Walter Scott. His comedy *Kate Kennedy* is to tour  
W England and *Fire at Calbart* has been touring  
the Highlands and Hebrides.
71. Silverdale, Carnforth  
4/2/1945  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
About AN's acceptance of the chair of English  
language and Literature at Birmingham University.  
Describes the award of a Litt D from University of  
Leeds. The poets Alun Lewis and William Soutar  
are both dead. The greatest poetic event of recent  
years the emergence of Edith Sitwell.
72. Silverdale, Carnforth  
27/2/1945  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Congratulates AN on his professorship at  
Birmingham. Discusses the relationship between  
theme and metre.

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73. Silverdale, Carnforth  
16/10/1945  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
Welcomes them to England and supposes that they will take a flat in Birmingham. he and his wife have not been away from Silverdale, as the trains are all very full. Hopes to see them.
74. Silverdale, Carnforth  
22/12/1945  
Gordon Bottomley to AN and JN.  
They enjoyed their trip to Cornwall. He has received a letter from Fritz Wild in Vienna, which he encloses (not included). In 1939 Wild had written praising Hitler. Bottomley has written a new act of *Kate Kennedy*.
75. Silverdale, Carnforth  
7/1/1946  
Gordon Bottomley to AN.  
Asks AN to return his pamphlet. Does not think that Fritz Wild was a Nazi, only a yes-man.
76. Lancaster Grove, London,  
NW3  
3/2/1968  
Martin Browne to AN.  
About recent productions of Mystery Plays, of which he includes a list.
77. Beckenhall, Kent  
14/3/1962  
Christopher Calthrop to AN.  
He has been researching the life of his ancestor, Dion Boucicault. Advertised in *The Daily Telegraph* for information and received a letter from a London bank, which held a deed-box deposited by Boucicault in its vaults in 1877. Visited the bank. The box was opened and was found to contain the original of *Out of town* and *London assurance*. He has secured permission for AN to examine the box at the bank. Has traced Boucicault's early marriage to Anne Guoit in 1845.
78. Beckenham, Kent  
19/3/1962  
Christopher Calthrop to AN.  
Thanks for his letter. Has received a letter from Sir St Vincent Troubridge about Boucicault. May be allowed to keep the deed-box if he can furnish proof of probate.
79. Beckenham, Kent  
31/10/1964  
Christopher Calthrop to AN.  
The results of his research will be published in a biography of Boucicault by Dr Albert Johnson of Texas. Has traced letters from Boucicault to Irving, Matthew's etc. Irene Vanbrugh found letters of Boucicault acquiring papers of Dot Boucicault, Calthrop's great uncle. Does AN have these letters? If so, can he (Calthrop) be given copies? The National Theatre may produce Boucicault's plays.
80. Beckenham, Kent  
3/4/1969  
Christopher Calthrop to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter re *London assurance*. Has not been able to find the MS of *London assurance*, which appears to have been removed from the Lord Chamberlain's office.

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81. British Theatre Museum, John Julius Cooper, Viscount Norwich to AN.  
Leighton About the British Theatre Museum, under threat of  
House, London W14 closure. The Carnegie Trust will donate funds if  
Undated [1966- the Museum can prove that it is receiving material  
1971] support from theatrical profession. Asks AN for  
advice.
82. Pernard-Vergelesses, Cote Jacques Copeau to AN. [In French]  
d'Or Has read AN's *The development of the theatre* and  
21/8/1932 admires it. Asks AN if he could obtain for him or  
lend him copies of *British drama* and *Introduction  
to dramatic theory*.
83. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
22/9/1945 Congratulates AN on his new book [*British  
drama*]. Likes the illustrations. He has no hopes  
now of managing a theatre in England. His new  
book [*Books and theatres?*] is coming out and he  
will send AN a copy.
84. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
18/3/1926 About illustrations which he can provide for AN's  
book [*The development of the theatre*].
85. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
31/3/1926 Cannot provide the illustrations which AN wants.  
Suggests that AN tell his readers that they can find  
them in his own *Books and theatres* and *The mask*.
86. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
14/07/1927 Thanks AN for his new book [*The development of  
the theatre*]. Is sorry that he was not able to  
provide the illustrations wanted. Plans to review  
the book for a London newspaper. The arts are  
not understood by the press.
87. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
23/07/1927 Hopes that AN and JN will be able to visit him.  
Recommends hotels in Genoa. Drawing of hotel  
porters lined up at Genoa. Discussion re Laurence  
[W J Laurence?]
88. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
29/08/1927 Is sorry that AN cannot come to Genoa. Needed  
his advice on compiling a historical work. About  
his new book, [*Woodcuts and some words*]. Asks  
AN's recommendation for text book to use as a  
model for his new book.
89. Genoa, Italy Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
14/09/1927 Thanks AN for his help and offer to proof read his  
book. The review which he wrote for AN's *The  
development of the theatre* has been returned by  
the *Manchester Guardian*. Is going to Germany  
to see theatres and films. Sends part of the review  
of AN's book [*The development of the theatre*]

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which he was writing for *The mask*.

90. Genoa, Italy  
[December 1927] Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
[Postcard of Taormina, Sicily]. Christmas and  
New Year wishes.
91. Genoa, Italy  
19/01/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Asks AN's recommendation for a life of William  
D'Avenant.
92. Genoa, Italy  
[February 1928] Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Is glad that AN was not responsible for authorising  
the use of his models for stage designs at  
Whitechapel exhibition. His annoyance at this.
93. Genoa, Italy  
1/03/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter clearing up the  
Whitechapel exhibition controversy. Invites him to  
Germany so that they can discuss their joint editing  
of a series of books [probably *A history of early  
nineteenth century drama*, *A history of late  
nineteenth century drama*, etc.?]
94. Genoa, Italy  
17/03/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Hopes that AN can come sooner than September  
to discuss the proposed series. His own works  
lack scholarship, AN's lack understanding of the  
theatre; therefore a collaboration would be  
beneficial.
95. Genoa, Italy  
26/04/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter, which suggested that the  
publications be kept waiting until the series has  
taken shape.
96. Genoa, Italy  
24/04/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
The series will raise Britain's position in world  
theatre. Has made a rough plan.
97. Genoa, Italy  
16/05/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
He plans to come to England in the summer. AN  
should not tell anyone this.
98. Westerham, Kent  
18/06/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Accepts AN and JN's invitation to dinner.
99. London W2  
[5/07/1928 postmark  
on envelope] Edward Gordon Craig to JN.  
(Drawing of himself looking up at the moon).  
Hopes that they can come and see him in London  
and, later, in Genoa.
100. St Mary's Mansions, London  
W2  
13/07/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to JN.  
Hopes to see her at the Architectural Association.  
Is moving to another London address after 20  
July. [Caricatures of himself and AN as brigands]

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101. Genoa, Italy  
[1928] Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
About the series of books. Apologises for his delay.
102. Genoa, Italy  
18/08/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
He is making some drawings for *Macbeth*. Has shown AN's *The development of the theatre* to Professor Neergaard, who will write a review of it in Danish.
103. Genoa, Italy  
30/08/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Hopes to see AN in London, once he has finished 'pot-boiler' for US market.
104. [Weimar, Germany]  
Undated [1928?] Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Is in Weimar for a month. Thinks German a ridiculous language for the stage.
105. [Genoa, Italy?]  
10/12/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Does not think that he will be in London in January, to chair AN's first lecture. His production of *Macbeth* has been a success in New York and vindicates his ideas, which have been ignored for 20 years.
106. Paris  
15/12/1928 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Tells AN that he suggested to 'Apollo' [Harrap?] that he publish *The mask* with AN as editor. If approached, AN is to know nothing of this suggestion.
107. Genoa, Italy  
10/06/1929 Edward Gordon Craig to AN and JN.  
He is thinking of going to USA. Reflections on life and death. Thoughts on Hamlet and on Bodil Ipsen, an actress he has seen in Copenhagen and admires.
108. 108 Genoa, Italy  
9/08/1929 Edward Gordon Craig to AN and JN.  
Is completing his *Henry Irving*, which he hopes will be published during the winter. Irving the greatest actor he has ever seen. Shaw does not think much of Irving; Craig does not think much of Shaw's views, as Shaw is in love with himself. Miss Rose has visited and was able to ask Max Beerbohm's advice re her book. Hopes that he will not have to go to USA. Plans to go to France to finish two books.
109. Genoa, Italy  
29/01/1930 Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
About an edition and exhibition of *Hamlet*, put together by Count Kasler [?] in Berlin. Encloses the preface and catalogue [not included].
110. Genoa, Italy  
12/04/1930 Edward Gordon Craig to [AN?].  
[Last sheet of letter only].  
About arrangements for meeting AN's train and

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reserving a room in a hotel for him.

111. Genoa, Italy  
1/05/1930  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
About finding a publisher for *The Mask*. AN should approach Harrap. Craig will undertake to find printers, etc. who will produce the journal at a moderate price. Plans for production of the *The Mask*. The journal will include play scripts, as well as articles on stage-craft, etc.
112. Osborne Hotel, Paris  
28/07/1930  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Toulmin has expressed an interest in publishing it. *The Mask* must retain its originality of context. AN must keep this matter to himself.
113. Paris  
[1933]  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Congratulates AN on his appointment at Yale. Cannot understand Barry Jackson's lack of enthusiasm for AN at Malvern. Likes Kyrle Fletcher.
114. Genoa, Italy  
[Undated]  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
[Postcard of Genos, showing the Theatre Carlo Felice].  
Hopes that the slides which he sent for AN's lecture will arrive soon. Will be grateful for any contribution by AN to *The Mask*. Points to the dominant position of the theatre in Genoa.
115. Genoa, Italy  
[Undated]  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
[Last page of letter].  
About Galsworthy's speech at the Author's Society dinner. He neglected to mention Beerbohm, one man who can really write good English. Craig has not seen Beerbohm for 4 months. Bemoans the literary judgements of the day. London needs another theatre; a National Theatre, if it existed, would do nothing.
116. Bury Street, St James's,  
London  
[Undated]  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Thanks AN for the books. He has been visiting theatres, producers, etc. in London.
117. [Undated last page of letter]  
Edward Gordon Craig to AN.  
Supposes that AN will not show Harrap this letter.
118. Lord Chamberlain's Office,  
London SW1  
19/02/1931  
Lord Cromer to AN.  
Asks AN to become a member of the Advisory Board on Stage Plays, to which he, as Lord Chamberlain, refers questions of censorship. Invites AN to call at his office to discuss it.
119. Dunsmore, Bucks  
18/10/1938  
Robert Donat to AN.  
Is sorry that he and his wife had to leave so

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- quickly. They sailed on the 'Nieuw Amsterdam' and enjoyed their trip despite the Munich Crisis. He will send a marked copy of *King of Nowhere* when he has finished studying it.
120. The Grove, Highgate, London N6  
21/10/1933 John Drinkwater to AN.  
Letter of introduction for B Iden Payne. Hopes that AN is liking Yale.
121. Richmond Surrey  
21/03/1972 Janet Dunbar to AN.  
She is writing the authorised biography of Dame Laura Knight and has come across many references to AN in her and Harold Knight's papers. Would like to meet AN and ask him some questions.
122. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh  
22/03/[19?] Robert Eddison to AN.  
He is playing Shylock at the Royal Lyceum theatre, Edinburgh. Thanks AN for his invitation and looks forward to seeing him.
123. Burnsall Street, London SW3  
18/10/1966 Robert Eddison to AN.  
Looks forward to AN's visit to London. Has been in 2 plays at the Aldwych Theatre, neither of which were successful. Is now rehearsing for a factual play at the Hampstead Theatre Club about Robert Oppenheimer's 1954 hearing re restitution of security clearance. The play may not get a license for libel reasons. Has not yet written his article.
124. Burnsall Street, London SW3  
18/01/1968 Robert Eddison to AN.  
Will start as Canon Chasuble in *The Importance of being Ernest* on Tuesday at Brighton and later at the Haymarket. Did not enjoy 1967. Went to USA for the first time, playing the Player in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead* but was replaced quite soon in Washington. Disliked New York. Liked Harvard Theatre Library.
125. Burnsall Street, London SW3  
17/06/1968 Robert Eddison to AN.  
Thanks AN for the copy of *English drama* sent by Harrap. Is to give a poetry reading at Stratford on 30 June. *The Importance of being Ernest* is doing well.
126. East 49 Street, New York  
3/03/1942 Sir Angus Fletcher to JN.  
Is leaving for Philadelphia the next day to make arrangements with WRUL.
127. East 49 Street, New York  
18/03/1942 Sir Angus Fletcher to JN.  
Thanks her for her letter and gardening news. Recommends hotels in New York.
128. Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road,  
A R Forsyth to AN.  
Has just received AN's note, written late 1940.



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- London SW7  
5/03/1941 The hotel has not been hit,  
though many buildings nearby have been. He  
continues with his work.
129. Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester A R Forsyth to AN.  
Road Asks if AN has received his letter. The hotel was  
London SW 7 badly hit 4 weeks ago and his room wrecked.  
5/04/1941
130. Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester A R Forsyth to AN.  
Road Does not feel his new room to be home. He has  
London, SW7 not been well, and his sight is very poor.  
29/09/1041
131. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN and JN.  
W9 Thanks them for a lovely day on Saturday.  
5/10/1950 Rehearsals for *The lady's not for burning* started  
on Monday.
132. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 Thanks AN for his letter, is glad that AN liked his  
17/01/1951 essay on comedy. Is giving a talk at the National  
Book League. Is having trouble writing his new  
play [*A sleep of prisoners?*].
133. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 Thanks AN for his book. He is making progress  
9/02/1951 with his play.
134. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 He will not be able to visit them at Cornwall  
26/03/1951 because of rehearsals for the play [*A sleep of  
prisoners?*]. Invites AN and JN to the opening  
night at the University Church, Oxford on 23  
April.
135. [No Address] AN to Christopher Fry.  
5/10/1953 [*Carbon Copy*]. Is sorry that Christopher Fry and  
his wife were unable to visit Cornwall in the  
summer. Invites them to spend the day there.
136. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 Hopes that AN and JN enjoyed the play [*The dark  
is light enough?*] which is now in rehearsal.  
6/02/1954
137. [No Address] AN to Christopher Fry.  
15/02/1954 About the part of Peter in *The dark is light  
enough*. Hopes to see Fry and his wife in the  
spring.
138. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 Regrets that he never has time to write. Is writing  
5/02/1956 a play about Henry II [*Curtmantle*].

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139. [No Address] AN to Christopher Fry.  
16/02/1956 [Carbon Copy]. Is glad to hear Fry's new play. Is to lecture at the Sorbonne so is leaving for Paris tomorrow. Plans to visit Germany in May.
140. Shipton-under-Wychwood Christopher Fry to AN and JN.  
22/06/1957 Regrets missing them.
141. Shipton-under-Wychwood Christopher Fry to AN.  
12/10/1957 *A sleep of prisoners* has moved to New York.
142. Rome Christopher Fry to AN and JN.  
14/03/1961 [Postcard of Rome]. Thanks them for their Christmas card. is working on a film script. Plans to go to Holland to see how the play is going.
143. [No Address] AN to Christopher Fry.  
24/03/1961 [Carbon Copy]. Thanks him for his postcard from Rome.
144. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 Glad that AN enjoyed *Curtmantle*; the London production must wait until Pamela Brown and Richard Burton are available. Plans to be at Barford House, near Stratford, for a weekend school on Curtmantle.  
1/01/1962

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145. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 8/06/1963 Has been in France, working on French translation of *Curtmantle*. Is leaving London for Rome today. Plans to be back by mid-July.
146. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 23/02/1964 Has been to France to see French production of *The lady's not for burning* and to work on filmscript [of *The Bible*] with John Huston in the Gironde. Congratulates AN on his marriage. Plans to be in Vienna in April and possible in Rome.
147. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 18/01/1965 Has been travelling a great deal but means to settle down to work for the rest of the year. Plans to be in Birmingham for a play reading with Barbara Jefford on 3 March. He will miss T S Eliot, who has died.
148. Blomfield Road, London Christopher Fry to AN.  
W9 1/02/1965 Thanks AN for invitation to stay with them when he is Birmingham for the reading but cannot accept, as he is to give a memorial reading of Christopher Hassall's work in London the following day.
149. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex Christopher Fry to AN.  
4/01/1968 Is glad that AN is back in England. Would like to hear about his trip to Turkey. Invites them to stay. He and his wife bought this bungalow last year. The house in London has been burgled. This and Christmas have distracted him from his work. Is working on a play about Sienna in 1946 *A yard of sun* and a TV dramatisation of *The tenant of Wildfell Hall*.
150. The Toft, East dean, Sussex Christopher Fry to AN.  
15/12/1968 Has been in London to attend a rehearsal of The tenant of Wildfell Hall. Thinks that Anne Bronte promised to be a better novelist than Emily. Invites AN to Sussex when he is back from Pittsburgh. Plans to visit Prague to see *The lady's not for burning*.
151. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex Christopher Fry to AN.  
23/02/1969 Hopes that AN has recovered from the virus which he caught in Hong Kong. Would they like to take their holiday in Sussex? He should finally finish his play [*A yard of sun*] in the next 2 or 3 weeks.

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152. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 15/06/1969 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Is working on a production of the new play [*A yard of sun*] with the American Advance Course Students at LAMDA. Perhaps AN would like to look at the script when he is back from N Wales.
153. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 19/07/1969 Christopher Fry to AN.  
About the LAMDA production of the new play [*A yard of sun*]. Doubts about the title of the play and its West End production.
154. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 11/03/1970 Christopher Fry to AN.  
*Peer Gynt* opens at Chichester on 10 May and *A yard of sun* at the Nottingham Playhouse on 12 July or thereabouts.
155. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex Easter Monday 1970 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Is sorry to learn about AN's illness. *A yard of sun* will be at the Nottingham Playhouse until the end of August. Perhaps AN would like to go. Christopher Plummer has had to pull out of *Peer Gynt* owing to ill health and Roy Dotrice has taken over. The OUP are not publishing *A yard of sun* until 9 July, the day before the opening night.
156. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 24/07/1979 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Thanks him for his letter. The reviews [of *A yard of sun*?] have been good and Laurence Olivier has invited the company for a week to the National Theatre. Is encouraged by the reactions of the audience, especially the young.
157. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 10/12/1970 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Is shocked to learn of AN's operation. Will be involved with the film re the Brontes, which starts shooting in May. In March there will be rehearsals for *The lady's not for burning* and *The dark is light enough* for a summer tour, to include *Venus observed* and *A yard of sun*: an over-ambitious programme.
158. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 13/12/1971 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Has been directing a tour of *The lady's not for burning*. The company is now to produce *The dark is light enough*. *The lady's not for burning* is to run at the Chichester Festival and at the Liverpool Playhouse. Would like to come to Cornwall some day.
159. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 12/12/1972 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Has scarcely been away from East Dean all year. BBC radio is producing *Venus observed*. Has been occupied throughout the year with 4 television plays about the Bronte's, [*The Bronte's*

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at Haworth].

160. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 9/12/1974 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Christmas wishes. Is revising a family history [*Can you find me?*] and writing a libretto of *Paradise Lost* for Pendereck, Polish composer.
161. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 15/03/1975 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Has been translating *Cyrano de Bergerac* for the Chichester theatre. There have been floods.
162. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 21/07/1975 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Tells AN that when he is driving to St David's he will pass the village of Bwlch, between Abergavenny and Brecon, where he and his wife lived from 1952 to 1961. Has finished the libretto of *Paradise Lost*, is working on a TV play [*The best of enemies*].
163. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 18/09/1975 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Has seen Richard Fleischer, a former American student of AN, now a film director working on a film re Sara Bernhardt with Glenda Jackson. Will be giving a talk to the Shakespeare Club at Stratford next April. Has finished *The best of enemies*, which will be rehearsing at about the same time. Is thinking of writing a new version of James Shirley's *The lady of pleasure*. *Curtmantle* will be broadcast on the World Service next week, with Richard Pasco as Henry.
164. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 18/11/1975 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Thanks him for his letters. Robert Gittings is writing a second book about Hardy and is interested in Pinero's *The squire*, the plot of which is thought to have been pinched from *Far from the madding crowd*.
165. The Toft, East Dean, Sussex 11/04/1976 Christopher Fry to AN.  
Is sorry that AN has been unwell. BBC radio will be broadcasting *A phoenix too frequent* on 28 April, just over 30 years after its first night. Thanks AN for all his support.
166. Saint Helena Terrace, Richmond, Surrey 13/05/1968 Bamber Gascoigne to AN.  
Thanks AN for his help with the research for his forthcoming book, a history of theatrical illustrations [*World Theatre*]. Sometimes visits a neighbour of AN's, Clare Neilson.
167. Saint Helena terrace, Richmond Surrey 30/10/1968 Bamber Gascoigne to AN.  
Sends AN his new book, [*World Theatre*]. Hopes to meet AN at Cornwall over Christmas. Thanks AN for *English drama: a modern viewpoint*.

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168. Littlehampton. Sussex  
6/04/1923 John Galsworthy to JN.  
Thanks her for the book. Is glad that she enjoyed the lecture.
169. The Grove, London NW3  
25/10/1923 John Galsworthy to JN.  
Sends her the article and thanks her for concerning herself with the matter in Poland
170. Burghclere, Newbury  
3/10/1940 Henry Garner? to AN.  
They have decided to stay at Burghclere for the rest of the year,  
owing to the Blitz. Likes autumn in the country. Burghclere is generally free from raids. Is a member of the Home Guard. There is little on at the theatre: he is involved in vetting touring revues.
171. Burghclere, Newbury  
6/12/1941  
31/12/1941 Henry Garner? to AN.  
Is sickened by the war and human stupidity. Advises AN to stay at Yale, supporting English and American culture and the links between the two countries. the state of London theatre has improved greatly; the plays are of a higher standard than in peace-time. Admires a Russian comedy, *Distant point* and *Round a roundabout* by Jack Jones, who has recently been to USA. Thanks AN for the food parcel. His wife has more housework to do, as they are short of staff. Likes Compton Mackenzie's *The monarch of the glen*.
172. Burghclere, Newbury  
16/04/1944 Henry Garner? to AN.  
He likes the country so much that he almost dreads returning to London. The repertory companies are reviving and will probably be very active after the war. Usually sends plays for confirmation to Colonel Nugent, the Comptroller of the board of censors. Has finished translating *Tripe d'or*, by Crommelynck. They now have an old housekeeper. The use of servants is dying out in England. Lord Cromer now does his own dusting, while Lady Cromer cooks.
173. Cowley Street, London  
SW1  
13/10/1966 John Gielgud to AN.  
Is glad that AN enjoyed *Ages of man* on television. Does not find television an easy medium for performance. Will be leaving for Hollywood next month, to play a small part in a film [*The loved one?* or *Chimes at midnight?*]
174. Cowley Street, London  
SW1  
14/07/1973 John Gielgud to AN.  
Received AN's note after leaving Brighton. Stayed for the opening week of the play, [*The country wife?*] which he fears will get a lukewarm reception from the London critics.

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175. Colyton, Devon  
14/07/1925 Harley Granvill-Barker to AN.  
Congratulates AN for his scheme [for a series of books or articles?] but doubts that he will be able to contribute, as most of his writing is now done at home in Devon. Hopes to see AN at the East London College.
176. Colyton, Devon  
20/07/1925 Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Hopes to come to London. Expects to have to be in London in October and November.
177. Paris  
7/01/1927 Harley Granville-Barker to JN[?].  
Authorises use of his name.
178. Paris  
26/12/1929 Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Will be happy to see both for lunch.
179. Paris  
27/12/1929 Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Apologises for the fact that his manservant did not admit AN. Hopes that AN will forgive him and come again.
180. New York  
29/03/[194?] Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
About AN's wish to help the war effort by improving US-British cultural relations. Distrusts such a scheme. Outlines practical difficulties involved in making frequent trips to Britain; it would have to be a US backed initiative. Doubts whether there will be time for anything but fighting in this war. The long term policy of gaining a secure peace is more important.
181. New York  
1/10/[194?] Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Thanks AN for his assistance to the Library. Hopes to see him in New York.
182. New York  
2/11/[194?] Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Should AN not consider leaving Yale? Hopes that AN's production of *Hamlet* avoids tampering with the play scene, influenced by Dover Wilson.
183. New York  
9/11/[194?] Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
The seminar was not a success. He criticised the students for their lack of interest in Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*. Will come to Yale next Friday. Suggests themes for their next seminar.
184. New York  
12/12/[194?] Harley Granville-Barker to AN.  
Is glad to have been able to help AN at Yale. His wife is better. Lotheaux's death has been a shock.
185. [Greece?]  
[December 1971?] Manuel Hadjidakis to AN.  
[In Greek]. Christmas Card.

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186. Upper Welland, Malvern  
[Undated, February 1943?] Horace Hill to JN.  
Thanks her for the parcel. Hopes that the garden will be in good condition when she returns [at the end of the war]. News of the weather and garden. Will tell Laura Knight that he has written to her. [Note in MN's hand that she is including this letter as a complement to those written by Barry Jackson and Laura Knight during the war].
187. Bel Air, Los Angeles  
22.4.1940 Alfred Hitchcock to AN.  
Thanks him for his note. Hopes to meet him on his next trip to the Eastern States.
188. Southover High Street,  
Lewes  
16.10.1973 C Walter Hodges to AN.  
Thanks AN for his appreciative letter re *Shakespeare's second Globe* and for all his support. Would like to visit AN at Colwall. Hopes that AN is better.
189. Blackhill, Malvern  
21.2.[1940] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has received the parcel. It is very cold. Dame Laura Knight has gone south to work on a commissioned portrait. *Ah Wilderness* is successful at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.
190. Blackhill, Malvern  
29.4.[1940] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Britain hopes to win the war without U.S. aid. The Meyer family are well but miserable; he received a letter from Miss Meyer in Copenhagen a few days before the German invasion. Believes that Stalin would have taken the Allied side if he had been allowed to take the Baltic states as a condition. Squire Berington has died; a very English funeral. *Winterset* is playing at Birmingham, Gielgud is in *King Lear* at the Old Vic.
191. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
Whit Sunday [1940] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Harold and Laura Knight are coming to lunch. A message has come through from the Meyers in Copenhagen. Gielgud's *King Lear* is successful. Saw *The Merchant of Venice* at Stratford.
192. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
[28 May? 1940] Sir Barry Jackson to JN and AN.  
It is difficult to write in such terrible times. Their life is divided into two halves; daily life in pleasant weather and the eternal preoccupation of the war. They worry about the de Smet family in Belgium. People are determined but have been discouraged by the recent news in France. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre will be producing *Wuthering*



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*Heights*, Drinkwater's *Mary Stuart* and Shaw's *Back to Methuselah*. Has enjoyed F.S. Boas's book on Marlowe. He has just heard of the Belgian surrender on the radio.

193. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
14.8.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Is glad to receive news of her and AN. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre will soon be re-opening. On Friday he and Edith took some children to see the Lanchester Marionettes. On Saturday they went with Laura Knight to Hoodrich. On Sunday they visited Tewkesbury. The countryside was beautiful but everywhere there were signs of military/defensive activity. No one is depressed; everyone wants to fight.
194. Blackhill, Malvern  
1.9.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to AN and JN.  
German planes fly over their house nearly every night, on their way to towns and cities. On their way back they off load any spare bombs. The Harrisons in Surrey and the Boases in Oxford are well.
195. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
18.9.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Everyone is standing up well to the Blitz, which they would not do in USA in such a situation. None of his friends in cities will think of fleeing to the country to avoid the bombs. There has been a great harvest.
196. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
30.9.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
On Thursday he and Derrick saw a cargo of incendiaries go up in flames. Has not been well. Laura and Harold Knight are both painting in Worcestershire. The resilience and good humour of the British people in the Blitz. It has been very cold. Sends a menu showing their eating arrangements (included).
197. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
9.10.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Describes inconveniences suffered by London friends in the Blitz. There has been a raid nearby, while he was giving a talk to the Women's Institute Laura Knight has converted the Nicolls' loft into a studio.
198. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
13.10.[1940]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
He and Edith had dinner with the Knights yesterday. Dreads letters from London. His old housekeeper Mrs Davenport was blown across her

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room, in London. Gives example of courage among acquaintances. [Continues 14 October]. Took the Gird family to see Laura Knight's picture in hopes that might commission one for themselves but they were not interested. Paul Shelving came to tea. Meals described; they are not short of food. Thanks her for the note and pamphlets. Everyone was encouraged by Roosevelt's speech.

199. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
[14/15.10.1940?]
- Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
Prentice is producing *Maria Martin* and during research into original text contacted an old actor in Ireland, Harold Kinton, who gave him interesting information, especially re his sister-in-law Mary Raby, an actress who worked for Jackson. [Continues 16 October]. Last night was noisy. Encloses copy of Harold Kinton's letter and autobiographical notes [included].
200. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
20.10.[1940]
- Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
Has sent AN and JN a script. The calm and detachment of the British contrasts with the hysterical tone of U.S. newspapers and makes him wish that the Americans could suffer the Blitz for 1 week. Has seen results of raids in poor quarters of town: sickening. More news of the air battle. The matinee yesterday was a success. [Continues 23 October]. Edith's brother was killed in a raid on Monday.
201. Blackhill, Malvern  
31.10[1940]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
The triviality and irrelevance of the U.S. presidential election. He has been into Birmingham every day to give support to the repertory company. The stupidity of the German airmen, who have bombed residential areas but left strategic points unscathed; attacks on their houses leave the British more determined than ever to fight. He is to speak on behalf of the Red Cross tomorrow. Would like to give a reading of religious literature at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Would like theatres to open on Sundays; George Bernard Shaw would not. The Americans must find it galling to learn that there are better gangsters than they in Europe.
202. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
1.11.[1940]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Doubts whether they have received his letters. Saw that a convalescent home for crippled children had been hit. Dame Elizabeth Cadbury had rushed

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out to help. Other places hit indicated stupidity of the pilots.

203. Blackhill, Malvern  
23.11.[1940]

Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
Two of his employees were in Coventry the nights of the bombing but were back at their posts the next day. Birmingham has been very badly bombed. He and Elspeth Duxbury had to collect books for a reading. The Theatre had been affected by the raid. He and Elspeth gave their readings in a large hall, as the hall which they were to have used was now a shelter for the homeless.

204. Blackhill, Malvern  
13.12.[1940]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Sends another letter from Harold Kinton [not included]. Is gradually removing his theatre Library from Birmingham to Malvern every time he goes into Birmingham. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre is to close on Saturday; owing to the constant raids people are unlikely to go to the theatre. There was a terrific raid two nights ago but the next day Birmingham was full of Christmas shoppers.

205. Blackhill, Malvern  
14.12.[1940]

Sir Barry Jackson to [AN or JN?]  
Sends an article about a recent raid on a civilian target [not included]. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre closed yesterday. 30,000 Italians have been captured.

206. Blackhill, Malvern  
21.12.[1940]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Last night German planes flow overhead, probably heading for Merseyside. The press has reported the closure of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in sorrowful terms and he has received many letters about it but he thinks that he has done the right thing. Prentice was under strain and needed a rest. Laura Knight loves her studio at Wind's Acre. Tanks [? word cut out by censor] have moved into the area.

207. Blackhill, Malvern  
25.12.[1940]

Sir Barry Jackson to [AN or JN?]  
Birmingham was packed with shoppers on Christmas Eve. Today they are to lunch with the Knights. The Germans have ceased raids for Christmas Day, it seems. He will now number his letters overseas. Has heard no news of Robert de Smet for 18 months, since he was in a Paris hospital. The Meyers in Denmark have sent a message via the Red Cross, which has reached

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them after 6 months.

208. Blackhill, Malvern  
5.1.1941  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No. 2] Sends extracts from a letter of his old wardrobe mistress, now in London [included], to give JN an idea of the state of things in London. Yesterday he, Edith, Scott [Sunderland] and Paul Shelving went to tea with the Dales at Wind's Acre. A pleasant party; Laura Knight and Honor Bright there as well.
209. Blackhill, Malvern  
21.1.1941  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN and AN.  
They are suffering a blizzard. Last week he, Edith, Scott and Laura Knight saw the new Charlie Chaplin film. [*The great dictator?*] Laura loved it but he is not a film enthusiast. Hopes the Americans will stop making speeches and get down to business. The British airmen seem to be hitting the target every time, the Germans often missing.
210. Blackhill, Malvern  
28.1.1941  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN and AN.  
[No 4]. Doris Tate came to see them from London and reported that their flat is standing in the midst of ruins. [continues 5 February]. He attended a Beethoven piano recital (Beethoven 'dull and elephantine') and a costume recital and has spent Sunday afternoon at Claire Nelson's, where some airmen on leave performed feats with their planes. The war is wearing everyone down. Their house keeper is always complaining. The food shortages must be affecting those doing heavy manual work a great deal. The garden is covered with ice. Activities of the local Home Guard described.
211. Blackhill, Malvern  
28.1.1941  
Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
[No 5]. Story about George Bernard Shaw misreading an obituary notice and, believing Dame Elizabeth Cadbury deceased, writing to Jackson that he was sure to meet her in Paradise. Dame Elizabeth amused at this. Robert de Smet has returned to Gwent and can walk with sticks. Nights have been quiet. Laura and Harold Knight came to dinner. Visited Laura's studio at Wind's Acre and saw her new landscapes.
212. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
24.2.[1941?]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 5] [Sic] On Fridays he goes to the village shop to buy food. Difficulties of obtaining fruit. Went to a concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Heard bombs falling in South Wales.

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The poorness of English translations of Strindberg's *Easter* and other foreign language texts. Will be adjudicating for county's W.I. play competition. If there is ever another war he will join up on day one.

213. Blackhill, Malvern  
1.4.{1941}

[No 6] Has been occupied with social events. A Mannequin Parade in aid of charity, visits to the Goughes at Tewkesbury, to Alan Bright, to Honor Bright's daughters and to a club at Bromsgrove. They have had the Arlisses and Lady Snowden at Blackhill. Was moved and encouraged by the spirit of the women he met while judging the W.I. play competition.

214. Blackhill, Malvern  
13.4[1941]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Thanks JN for the chocolate parcel. His experiences travelling the country to judge the WI play competition; his stay at a large country house to judge one village's performance. Mansell Dale is still in hospital. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre has escaped bombing but the situation in Birmingham is very bad according to Dame Elizabeth Cadbury.

215. Blackhill, Malvern  
24.4[1941]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Describes the spring afternoon. Scott has gone to see Mansell Dale at the nursing home. Went to an entertainment given by the Herdman boys and 2 evacuee children in aid of the Red Cross. Visited Guy Kortright at Chepstow. Went to the Annual Governors' Meeting at Stratford and to give a talk at a Birmingham Literary Society. His flat in Birmingham is now windowless. Harold Knight went with him to Birmingham to arrange a portrait of the Dean of Medicine.

216. Blackhill, Malvern  
28.4.[1941]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 8] Thanks JN for the food parcel. Story about two children, one of whom Laura Knight has been asked to paint. There has been a row among the staff at the British Camp Hotel, where the Knights live.

217. Blackhill, Malvern  
[Undated] [May 1941?]

Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
His last two letters to AN and JN have been returned to him. The Dales are in a nursing home now. Would welcome news of their doings. Will be going to London tomorrow to salvage things from his flat.

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218. Blackhill, Malvern  
12.5.[1941] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 10] Has been to London. The damage to their flat is not too serious. Yesterday he and Edith went with Scott and Honor Bright to the christening of George Herdman's baby. Doris Tate will take charge of Wind's Acre while the Dales are in the Nursing Home. Tomorrow he is going to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the next day to see *Richard II* at Stratford. Thinks Duff Cooper, Minister for Information, a very dull speaker. [Continues 13 May]. Gabrielle Enthoven has moved from her flat in Cadogan Gardens to one a little further down the street, which is just as well, as her old flat has been burnt out.
219. Blackhill, Malvern  
5.6.[1941] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 12] Scepticism at U.S. relief programmes. Went to Worcester for the last of the WI plays. Went to a meeting of the Women's National Council at West Malvern, chaired by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. Hugh [Walpole] has died. Laura and Harold Knight are worried about Harold's sister, Mrs Dale, who is incurably ill. AN is better off in the U.S.A and should stay there.
220. Blackhill, Malvern  
15.6.[1941] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 12] [This letter is probably No 13] Doris Tate gave a tea party at Wind's Acre, where she is very happy. The British Camp Hotel is a web of intrigue. Canon Gough and his wife have been there a fortnight. AN elderly lady suffering from dementia has recently moved into one of the neighbouring guest houses and visits them unexpectedly. The food arrangements have improved recently. Inequalities of the rationing system. Gave a party yesterday for some French refugees.
221. Blackhill, Malvern  
22.6.1941 Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 14] The senile lady's unexpected visits and their success in evading her. Mrs Dale lingers on. Difficulties in obtaining clothes. Description of the garden at Wind's Acre. Attie Boas is coming to see them tomorrow.
222. Blackhill, Malvern  
4.7.[1941] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No. 14] Attie Boas came to visit them from Oxford. She has changed greatly in appearance. Her experiences in the Blitz. He has been visiting

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the Birmingham Repertory Theatre frequently, trying to keep things in order.

223. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
19.7.[1941]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 15] Has spent a week in London organising open air entertainment's in the parks. Found London lively and full of hope. Went to a meeting with Shaw, Irene Vanbrugh, George Arliss and others. Shaw obsessed by Russia. Met a young Belgian who was amazed by the spirit in London. Mrs Dale has recovered from her coma.
224. Blackhill, Malvern  
3.8.[1941]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 16] His trip to London and conversation with Shaw at the RADA meeting. Open air entertainment's put on by the Birmingham Repertory Theatre are the idea of the Lord Mayor for whom he is now deputising. [Continues 7 August]. Wind's Acre is in good condition. Mr Bright died last week. Went to dinner with Clare Nielson. Tonight he and Edith are to dine with the Knights at the British Camp Hotel. Has received letters from Shaw and the Bottomley's.
225. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
16.8.[1941]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Thanks her for the letter and parcel. The outdoor plays at Birmingham have proved popular with the middle classes but not with the working classes, for whom they were intended. Many people come to Birmingham just to gape at the ruins. Mrs Dale died during the week - a happy release. His old wardrobe mistress is staying with them and is quite worn out after 6 months touring. Went to tea at Wind's Acre with Laura Knight, Scott, Doris Tate and a high official in the Forces. Has also seen Dame Elizabeth Cadbury. Who is going to Cornwall for her holiday.

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226. Blackhill, Malvern  
31.8.1941  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Is occupied with 3 sources of concern: the future of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the moving and storing of furniture from his London flat and the ploughing up of some meadows. The Lord Mayor's Fund outdoor theatre events will probably make a loss, owing to bad weather. The lack of public subsidies for the theatre.
227. Blackhill, Malvern  
17.9.[1941]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[No 17] Is attempting to establish a touring company based at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre but officialdom is standing in his way. Ivor Brown is very helpful though. Most of the furniture from the London flat is now at Blackhill. Various shortages described.
228. Blackhill, Malvern  
11.10.[1941]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN and AN.  
[No 18] The upheaval caused by the removal of furniture from the flat. Scott and he went to London, where he is involved with the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (C.E.M.A.), of which Ivor Brown and Miss Glasgow are directors. Gabrielle and Claire Neilson had lunch with him; Gabrielle is now working for British POWs, Claire is making Braille books for those blinded in the war. Shaw is well and alert but Charlotte Shaw is sadly aged. News of Wind's Acre. Reggie Tate is in the RAF but has been released to work in propaganda films. Doris Tate is retired now. Mansell Dale is to take his damages case to court.
229. Blackhill, Malvern  
9.11.[1941]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Harold Knight is painting a portrait of Mrs Neville Chamberlain. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre may open for Christmas.
230. Blackhill, Malvern  
8.12.[1941]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Reaction to the U.S. declaration of war. Appreciation of the Russians. Scott is leaving for Birmingham to play Peerybingle in *The cricket on the hearth*.
231. Blackhill, Malvern  
5.1.[1942]  
Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
It not surprised by the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour. It would be difficult for AN to order a suit from England. The Birmingham Repertory



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- Theatre opened for Christmas with *The cricket on the hearth*, an interesting production with Basil Langton and Scott (playing Peerybingle). The Old Vic will be visiting Birmingham with *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The witch*. Has been reading Fielding's *Jonathan Wild*.
232. Blackhill, Malvern  
6.1.[1942] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
President Roosevelt is speaking tonight. Thanks JN for the food parcel. Went last week to judge a children's fancy dress party for Lady B(?). They had a quiet and pleasant Christmas, going to the British Camp Hotel for Christmas lunch with the Knights and others. [Continues 7 January]. Her letter of 20 December has arrived as have all the parcels which she sent.
233. Blackhill, Malvern  
20.1.1942 Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
It is snowing heavily. Scott has been troubled by breathlessness and has been told by a doctor to give up smoking. Mr Bright's will was larger than expected. Laura Knight's biography in 3 volumes is doing well, though hardly anyone has bought the complete set.
234. Blackhill, Malvern  
31.1.1942 Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has been to open an exhibition of Topolist's drawings, though he does not think much of them. Went to see *The doctor's dilemma* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, which was well attended.
235. Blackhill, Malvern  
14.2.[1942] Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
Has been attempting to dramatise Fielding's *Jonathan Wild* and has been reading *The Newgate Calendar*, which may have influenced Fielding. *Ah Wilderness* is a success at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Laura Knight is writing a novel.
236. Blackhill, Malvern  
2.3.[1942] Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Thanks her for the food parcel. It has been very cold. Laura Knight is away in Surrey, painting a mother and baby, Harold Knight is painting a brewer's portrait. The Old Vic's *The Cherry Orchard* received a rapturous reception at Birmingham.
237. Blackhill, Malvern  
23.3.[1942] Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
The Birmingham Repertory Theatre has been experiencing difficulties owing to gossip in the

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press but business has been good. *Ah Wilderness* has been playing for a month and J.B. Priestley's *I have been here before* is starting tomorrow, with Scott in the leading part. Laura Knight is witness in Mansell Dale's case, which is coming to court today. On Wednesday he must attend a conference on outdoor theatre, on Thursday one on the plan for a National Theatre, to be set up after the war. Will spend the night with Harry Hughes. Gabrielle does not have sufficient funds to buy the Nell Gwyn documents for the V and A. Also plans to see Peaseley, who was recently attacked and robbed in the blackout.

[Attached to this letter: copy of letter of 13.1.1942 from Secretary of U.S. Special Libraries Association to Sir Angus S Fletcher in recognition of his services for the Association].

238. Blackhill, Malvern  
3.4.[1942]  
Good Friday.

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Went to Birmingham with Laura Knight. Had supper with Professor Bodkin. Scott is enjoying great success with *I have been here before*. Spent the next day with Laura Knight in court, where Mansell Dale won his case and was awarded £800 damages. Went to a meeting of the committee of Plays in the Parks for the people. Stayed with Harry Hughes in London. Attended the National Theatre meeting and the Forces Art exhibition. Saw Gabrielle and went to the cinema with Professor Bodkin to see *Esclaves blanches*; remains unconverted to films. On Saturday had lunch with Willie Armstrong and later joined James Agate and Horsnell. On Sunday saw the Peaseleys and on Monday Ivor Brown. Went to the Cinema with Harry Hughes on Tuesday morning and found it very dull. Mrs Herdman has had another boy. Laura Knight's picture, *Horace and the lamb*, has gone to the RA

239. Blackhill, Malvern  
10.4.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
*As you like it* has started and Harry Aylitt is there. The Allied Conference [in London] has begun and delegates are coming to see the play on Saturday. The Stratford season began on Saturday. The area is full of U.S. soldiers.

240. Blackhill, Malvern  
17.4.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Various shortages and daily difficulties described. His impatience with the Americans. Many servicemen formerly working at the Birmingham

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Repertory Theatre have written to him; must write back.

241. Blackhill, Malvern  
10.5.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
It has been very cold. The effect of German barbarity is to arouse implacable loathing in the Allies. Saw Andre Obey's *Noah* which he did not like. Biblical plays are found to be unpopular, given the popular ignorance of the Bible.

242. Blackhill, Malvern  
18.5.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
News of the Nicoll's' garden and of wartime domestic difficulties. Visited the R.A when recently in London. Tomorrow is to chair a meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union.

243. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
19.6.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has been occupied with the outdoor theatre project at Birmingham and with discussions re the founding of a National Theatre. Met Shaw at one of the meetings, he has aged much. Teresa Herdman has been requisitioned for part-time factory work. Honor Bright's work as a finishing school mistress has ended and the building may be put to another use. News of the Wind's Acre garden. Has received a letter from Shaw; would like to go and see the Shaws sometime.

244. Blackhill, Malvern  
28.6.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
The Open Air Theatre at Birmingham is flourishing. Has been to Stratford with Laura Knight, Scott, Edith and a [Miss or Mrs?] Unwin. Saw a poor *Tempest* and a better *Winter's Tale*. Will go to London for a week for C.E.M.A. and National Theatre meetings. Hopes to visit the Shaws, as Charlotte Shaw is in a bad way. [Continues on a separate sheet on 9 July]. His trip to London and the conditions there. The Old Vic is roofless and the company touring. Saw its productions of *Comus* and *Hamlet*. Met Paul Shelving at the ballet. In Birmingham Basil Langton is in the open air production and the Old Vic students are at the Repertory Theatre with Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* and *Squaring the Circle*.

245. Blackhill, Malvern  
20.9.[1942]

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Hilda Kennedy has been to stay and to help with the fruit harvest. Had a pleasant bus ride to Birmingham, which was very full. The

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Birmingham Repertory Theatre is staging *Robert's wife*. Gave a talk on the theatres history. His conversation with Mrs Brandt.

246. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
[Nov. 1942]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
*Hamlet* is playing and *The farmer's wife* is rehearsing, to start on Tuesday. The company includes Stanley Lathbury, Maud Gill, Eileen Beldon and Scott. Has become a member of the local Hospital Committee. Has been reading Hesketh Pearson's *Bernard Shaw*. [Continues 11 November] walked round to Wind's Acre and all looked well.
247. Blackhill, Malvern  
25.11.[1942]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Description of their evenings. Laura Knight is working in Warwickshire on a government commission. Basil Langton may reopen the Birmingham Repertory Theatre for Christmas; his *Arms and the man*, touring to the troops, has been very successful. News of the neighbours. Scott has written to the Boases but there is no reply.
248. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
9.1.1943
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has been almost entirely in Birmingham recently. Difficulty in finding good new plays. His plan to set up a School of Drama at Birmingham University, with AN as head. Can she send 2 copies of the Yale curriculum? Margaret Yarde is appearing in *No orchids for Miss Blandish*. Charlotte Shaw is very frail.
249. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
24.2.[1943]
- Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
The Birmingham Repertory Theatre's productions are very popular. News of forthcoming productions. Scott went to Blackhill on Sunday. Gabrielle has not been well recently. they have no news of Robert [de Smet?]. News of neighbours. He hopes that his idea for a School of Drama will bear fruit; it is meeting with encouraging responses.

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250. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
13.4.[1943]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has met the Vice Chancellor of Birmingham University [Sir Raymond Priestley] and has discussed the scheme for the School of Drama with him. He is very enthusiastic and would like AN to chair it. The Birmingham production of *June Mad* by Colin Clements and his wife has been a great success. Is staying at a hotel in Birmingham.
251. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
30.4.[1943]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Thanks her for the parcel and the seeds, which he has not managed to retrieve from Customs and Excise yet. *Dr Knock* is a great success. The next production is to be *Chapeau de paille d'Italie*. Will go to London for a National Theatre meeting; a riverside site for the Theatre has been proposed. The Hawkes family has settled into Wind's Acre. News of the garden. Gabrielle has not been well.
252. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
10.5.[1943]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
*Chapeau de paille d'Italie* is rehearsing. Laura Knight's pictures are a sensation at the RA. Scott went to Wind's Acre on Monday and found the Hawkes family better.
253. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
19.6.1943  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Sends her a letter of thanks for the seeds from the local cottages [not included]. Wind's Acre is in good condition. Has seen Gabrielle in London; she is involved in organising an exhibition of drawings from the POW camps in February. Pinero's *Dandy Dick* is running outdoors at Birmingham.
254. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
10.8.1943  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
The Hawkes are good tenants at Wind's Acre and distribute the peaches among all the neighbours, unlike the Tates, who were very mean. Scott has been touring with *Robert's wife*. Tonight they came to stage Priestley's *When we are married*, a poor play but very popular.
255. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
Undated [Jan. 1994?]  
Sir Barry Jackson to [AN or JN?]  
[Second sheet only]. About the play *Too clever by half* by Griboyedev.
256. Blackhill, Malvern  
27.1.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Has been to Bristol to see *The cricket on the hearth*, a very poor production. Has been ill,

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mainly as a result of overwork. News of the casting of *Too clever by half*. A young American doctor whose ancestor built New Street station is calling to tea tomorrow. Domestic news. Gordon Bottomley has sent him a photograph of himself.

257. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
12.2.1944

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.

*Too Clever by half* is proving very successful. It is a very interesting play. Description of the production and its reception. Is still looking for a suitable Orlando for the planned *As you like it*; male lead actors are poor physical specimens at the moment and have no trouble finding jobs. Cecily Hamilton is writing a review of *Too clever by half* in next week's *Time and tide*; he will ask the publishers to send the Nicolls a copy.

258. Blackhill, Malvern  
6.3.1944

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.

Scott has returned to Birmingham to start work as Touchstone in *As you like it* tomorrow. Has put aside the profits from *Too clever by half* for JN. Does not feel that the cast did as much as they could have done with the play. A London agent, Alec Clunes, John Gielgud and others have all made applications for the MS of the play. Laura Knight is working on a portrait of a Glaswegian government official. He himself is occupied with the curriculum for the theatre school at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the completion of rehearsals for *As you like it*, the summer outdoor theatre programme, the question of a grant for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre from the City Council and the question of a University School of Drama.

259. Blackhill, Malvern  
12.3.[1944]

Sir Barry Jackson to AN.

His thoughts on the adaptation of *Too clever by half*. *As you like it* is rehearsing with difficulty, the cast still not complete. the old Stratfordian actors insist on reciting rather than acting. Has heard that Robert de Smet is well and is involved in the production of plays in Belgium.

260. Blackhill, Malvern  
1.5.1944

Sir Barry Jackson to JN.

Has been to a governors' meeting at Stratford, where there was a lot of back-biting. As you like it is still in difficulties. Mrs Exton, the housekeeper, has been called for interviews by the Labour Ministry and is worried that he might try requisitioned for factory work. News of Shaw.

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261. Blackhill, Malvern  
13.5.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
As you like it and Six characters are running at the moment. Malvern is full of black US servicemen. Clements and his wife have asked the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to stage their new comedy, Spring Green. The King of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has been subsidised to the tune of £15,000 a year. The Hawkeses are flourishing at Wind's Acre.
262. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
29.5.1944  
Whit Monday  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Gielgud is at the Haymarket, with Hamlet and Love for Love. Ralph Richardson and Laurence Olivier came to see the matinee of Six characters. Problems with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre's grant from the City Council. Has seen the first production by the Children's Theatre at Birmingham. Scott and Laura Knight are both suffering from overwork.
263. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
[Undated, Summer 1944]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
As you like it ends next week. News of the Hawkeses at Wind's Acre. Has seen Design for Living, and unsympathetic play.
264. Blackhill, Malvern  
26.6.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
[2 - 3 lines cut out by censor]. thanks her for the parcel. Hopes that AN will secure the chair of English at Birmingham University. Heard Scott are going to Worcester to see You never can tell. Has been to a number of CBSO concerts in the last week.
265. Birmingham Repertory  
Theatre  
2.9.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
News of current and forthcoming productions. the Old Vic has reopened in London and is flourishing. Scott will be Polixenes in Ayliff's production of The Winter's tale.

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266. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
10.10.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
Wind's Acre is in good order, if the Nicholls are planning to return. Isabel Thornton's daughter would be a suitable person to have as his number two. Hopes to have news of Robert de Smet soon.
267. Birmingham Repertory Theatre  
12.10.1944  
Sir Barry Jackson to AN.  
The Hawkeses never intended to stay at Wind's Acre over the winter. Has heard nothing from Birmingham University about Choir. Has not been working for the last month owing to overwork. Laura and Harold Knight are well.
268. Blackhill, Malvern  
30.10.[1944]  
Sir Barry Jackson to JN.  
Sends two reviews of The winter's Tale. Andrew Leigh's play is rehearsing but Scott has been forced to give up his part in it owing to breathlessness. On Wednesday Lord Howard de Walden is coming to see the matinee of The Winter's Tale. The de Smet family is well but very short of supplies.
269. Langford Place, London NW8.  
23.12.1936  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Asks JN's forgiveness for not writing sooner. Joe Best, the clown, has died. Will send them the book.
270. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great Malvern.  
13.2.1937  
Harold Knight to JN.  
Encloses a cutting from the Malvern Gazette, a cheque and two receipts [not included]. they both miss JN and AN very much.
271. Langford Place, London NW8  
5.11.1937  
Laura Knight to JN.  
[Sketch of Guy Fawkes]. Is actually writing from Compton, near Salisbury, where they are staying with George Cross and Heather Ealand. She and Harold are both well. Continues the letter a week later in London. The abdication of Edward VIII. Account of the Guy Fawkes party at Compton.
272. Langford Place, London NW8  
9.11.1937  
Harold Knight to AN.  
Thanks him for the cheque. Laura has been back to Malvern and is much better.
273. Langford Place, London NW8  
Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Christmas greetings. Has been reading Ellery



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- 12.12.1937 white's Half-way house. the prospect of war makes it seem a bit pointless to paint pictures that may all be destroyed.
274. Langford Place, London NW8  
26.1.1938 Laura Knight to JN.  
They are about to take a holiday in the South of France, near Cannes. She is very excited.
275. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great Malvern  
15.9.[1938] Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Is visiting JN and AN [after their return to USA?] Chamberlain is flying to meet Hitler today, so war may be avoided [Letter incomplete: first 2 sheets only].
276. Langford Place, London NW8  
1.10.1938 Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Everyone is relieved that war may be avoided. The Munich Conference has been of immense importance. The Czechs have only themselves to blame. She and Harold had packed up all their pictures, expecting war; now they can unpack them again. Looks forward to the Nicholls' return.
277. Bedford Hotel, Brighton  
9.5.1939 Laura Knight to JN.  
Is glad that the Nicholls are back at Wind's Acre. Wishes that she was with them; she has been to Compton with Harold, who still is not fully recovered from the flu.
278. Bedford Hotel, Brighton  
10.5.1939 Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the present of stockings. Harold is better but is unused to outdoor light now. They are enjoying their visit to Brighton. Is glad that JN likes her painting Harvest; without her help it could not have been completed. Asks JN to convey apologies to Honor Bright for not writing.
279. Langford Place, London NW8  
15.5.1939 Laura Knight to JN.  
Harold is much better. They are both having a rest and she longs to be painting again. She is sorry that she missed seeing the Nicholls but she was occupied with a picture and did not want to leave it.
280. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Malvern  
20.10.1939 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Is relieved to hear from Mrs Gollancz that the Nicholls arrived in USA safely. The pact with Turkey seems encouraging. Has been in Sussex painting houses. Description of her time in Sussex. Harold has gone up to Aberdeen where he

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will be for at least 3 weeks. she hopes to go up to Newcastle shortly to work on a portrait. Is collecting old clothes for one of the London hospitals. Has been painting outside today.

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281. Mount Pleasant Hotel,  
Malvern  
20.1.1940  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the letter and the food parcel. Has been painting out of doors. Harold has been to London for an RA meeting and caught the flu but is now recovered. They don't plan to return to London for the time being, given the difficult conditions there. She does not think that she and Harold will be coming to USA
282. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great  
Malvern  
16.2.1940  
[Harold Knight] to JN and AN.  
They are leading a very quiet life; there are only three other guests in the hotel. They have had a terrible winter, with trees uprooted and ice everywhere. Many roads and railways have been blocked by snow. Has done no work since returning from Aberdeen in November. Laura has gone to London for an RA meeting; Augustus John, who resigned two years ago has been re-elected.
283. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great  
Malvern  
10.3.1940  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Has been suffering from German measles. Spring is coming at last.
284. Mount Pleasant Hotel, Great  
Malvern  
22.3.1940  
Laura Knight to JN.  
It is Good Friday. Is glad that AN's three-volume book is coming out soon. Looks forward to the Nicoll's visit but they must not come if it is dangerous. Sees quite a lot of Sir Barry Jackson and Scott; Barry's nature is softening. Miss Brockie is now in a nursing home, she is 79. Harold is painting a portrait of Mrs Schwabe. she has nearly finished a painting of an orchard field below the Malvern Hills. Has just been for a walk on the Malvern Hills.
285. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
8.5.[1940]  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Mrs Dale is very ill. Thanks JN for the chocolate and dried fruits. As the Dales may not be able to return to Wind's Acre, she has let the cottage to Doris Tate. She loves the studio at Wind's Acre. Has painted the peach blossom in the greenhouse and the gardener, Horace Hill, holding a lamb.

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286. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 4.6.[sic?] [1940]  
[4.7.1940] Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
thanks them for the plum jam. The Nicolls must not worry over much, as conditions in England are not too bad. Everyone is very good-tempered and tolerant. The Tates are looking after the garden and cottage well. News of Scott. The news about the sinking of the French fleet at Oran has come in [3 July 1940].
287. Blackhill, Malvern 20.6.1940 Laura Knight, Harold Knight and Scott Sunderland to AN.  
[Plain postcard with sketches of Laura Knight and the Jackson's dogs]. They are all well.
288. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 29.6.1940 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Despite the fall of France, they are not downhearted; everyone is in good spirits. The war has brought everyone together and has sharpened her own artistic appreciation. The countryside is beautiful. She and Harold have become very close to Barry Jackson and Scott and spend every evening with them. Scott does very little but catches up on all the village news.
289. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 7.8.1940 Laura Knight to JN.  
Harold and Sir Barry Jackson are still cutting thistles. Has been busy organising the evacuation of children to Baltimore.
290. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 20.8.1940 Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks JN for her offer of Wind's Acre but they prefer to stay in a hotel. Is proud of the English spirit. She feels that her work as an artist is important in wartime.
291. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 28.8.1940 Harold Knight to JN and AN.  
They have let Wind's Acre the Dales, his brother-in-law and sister. thanks them for the offer of Wind's Acre but they prefer the hotel. They are not unhappy. They see plenty of Sir Barry Jackson and Scott, and find them odd. His and Laura's involvement in a scheme for evacuating children to USA

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292. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
6.10.1940 Harold Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for letting his sister and brother-in-law stay at Wind's Acre. Just after their departure from Seaford the whole town was evacuated of those not doing essential work. Everyone lives in hope and with no idea of the possibility of defeat. Now that his sister and brother-in-law are here, he doesn't see much of Barry Jackson and Scott. Honor Bright has been very good to his sister and brother-in-law. Paul Shelling is staying in Malvern with his mother and sister.
293. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
21.10.1940 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for letting Harold's sister and brother-in-law use Wind's Acre. Hates going into the greenhouse at Wind's Acre, now that JN is not there. Has made various alterations to the garage loft to turn it into a studio. the war has become quite dull but the bravery of Londoners is amazing. She and Harold are both painting portraits of Mr Parish, the hotel owner. She is also painting Mr Parish's barmaid. Harold is painting Sir Thomas Cook's young son.
294. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
18.12.1940 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
The Studio at Wind's Acre is superb and the view is beautiful. They are both working hard and are both very happy.
295. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
28.3.1941 Harold Knight to JN and AN.  
Mansell Dale, Harold's brother-in-law, was knocked down by a car recently. Laura and Doris Tate have both been nursing Mrs Dale. Laura was present when the car accident happened and still has not recovered from the shock. Laura has been painting landscapes, he has been painting portraits, including one of Dr Stanley Barnes, Dean of the Birmingham Medical School Faculty.
296. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
12.7.1941 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Both the Dales are in a Malvern nursing home. Mrs Dale is dying. Mansell is better. Horace Hill is keeping the Wind's Acre garden superbly. Doris and Reginald Tate are now occupying Wind's Acre. Thanks JN for the sugar. Has also found a store of sugar and jam at Wind's Acre, which she has distributed among local people. Has painted several portraits.

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297. Hales End, Cranley, Nr. Malvern  
25.8.[1941]  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the food parcel. Barry Jackson is running Theatre in the Parks in Birmingham. Harold's sister, Mrs Dale, died a fortnight ago. Her husband will probably wish to return to Seaford. Is glad that JN wishes to buy her picture of Horace Hill holding the lamb but fears that the picture is too big to be suitable. She and Harold are staying with friends at Hale's End, a very rural spot. the British Camp Hotel is very noisy in the summer but always interesting. Harold is to go to London to paint a portrait of Sir William Blagg, head of the Scientific Institute.
298. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
10.3.1942  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the parcel and letter. Harold has never worked better. The aristocracy are having to do a great deal of their own housework now; the war will have done some good if it teaches such people how lucky they have been. The Birmingham Repertory Theatre has produced The Cricket on the hearth. Scott was the star of the show. the theatre's productions have been successful. she has painted a number of portraits for the Air Ministry; the prices have been low but she is pleased to do the work. Theresa Herdman is expecting another child.
299. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
8.5.1942  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the food parcel and for her letters. Wind's Acre is in excellent condition. Asks if they would mind if she turned the garage and the garden room into a studio [includes sketch of the planned alterations].
300. British Camp Hotel, Malvern  
3.6.1942  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for authorising the alterations at Wind's Acre and for the parcel. Reginald and Doris Tate have had a daughter, although Doris is over 40. John Gielgud and Gwen Ffrancon-Davies have been playing in Macbeth at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre; it was excellent, though Barry Jackson did not like Gwen Ffrancon-Davies's portrayal of Lady Macbeth. Neville Chamberlain's widow is sitting for Harold; she is a very pleasant woman.

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301. British Camp Hotel, Malvern [undated August 1942] Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
The alterations to the garage at Wind's Acre have not yet started. She has been doing some work for the Air Ministry. Harold has finished painting Mrs Neville Chamberlain.
302. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 28.8.1942 Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the parcel. Barry Jackson and Scott are in Birmingham. She returned from Coventry about 10 days ago; Coventry is not a pleasant place.
303. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 26.11.1942 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for their parcel. she has been busy painting portraits of a lady and her two young children. Everyone is feeling hopeful after the recent victories, though the war is so terrible and there is so much more suffering still to come. Barry Jackson and Scott have gone to Birmingham, where Scott is playing the leading role in The farmer's wife. It is doing very well. Reginald and Doris Tate have left to spend the winter in a cottage near Reginald's base. The studio is finished and she loves it.
304. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 14.1.1943 Laura Knight to JN.  
thanks her for the present. The Nicolls must have had a bad year, with the death of AN's parents. 1943 may bring the end of the war and the Nicolls' return to Wind's Acre; the news from Russia is very encouraging. The studio very well heated and comfortable. Barry Jackson and Scott are still in Birmingham. [continues 18 January 1943]. Horace Hill was very touched by the parcel that JN sent him.
305. British Camp Hotel, Malvern 8.2.1943 Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Stalin's strategic skill and the courage of the Russians are astonishing. It is hard to imagine what they have endured. Harold is to go to Elmley Castle to paint General Sir Francis Davies. It is an excellent idea of the Nicholls to send the seeds to be distributed among local people. Barry Jackson and Scott are still in Birmingham, playing The little Minister, which Barry thinks a rather ..... play. she is going to Newport to do some more painting for the government.

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306. British Camp Hotel,  
Malvern.  
24.8.43  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Has been painting posters for the government.  
The Wind's Acre garden is being well cared for by  
Mrs Hawkes; the Hawkes' are good reliable .....  
Honor Bright has sold her house to Elizabeth  
Rowlands, who is going to install her mother-in-  
law there after the War. the Knight's would have  
liked to buy the house. The Herdmans are leaving.
307. British Camp Hotel,  
Malvern.  
1.12.1943  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Honor Bright has gone in to a nunnery, near  
Harrow. It is a very strict order. Everyone is  
worried about her. the news from Italy is good.
308. British Camp Hotel,  
Malvern.  
1.12.1943  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Has been busy with a picture for the government,  
very difficult to work on owing to the noisy  
surroundings. Is sorry that she missed AN on his  
visit to England. Thanks JN for her gift or  
powder. They plan to go to London early in the  
New Year. [continues 2 December 1944] might  
bring an Allied victory. Barry Jackson and Scott  
are both well. Christmas greetings.
309. British Camp Hotel,  
Malvern.  
5.2.1944  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the food parcel. She has to go up  
to London in two days time to paint a portrait of  
Lord Weir, the engineer. After that she will return  
to Malvern to paint a very large work for Dosett  
and Mackay, the engineering firm. she finds  
painting machinery exciting and relevant to today's  
world. Sir Edwin Lutyens, President of the RA,  
has died. the prospective election is causing much  
interest; one must have other sources of  
excitement apart from the war.
310. British Camp Hotel,  
Malvern.  
1.4.1944  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the parcel. She will wear her  
present when they go up to London for varnishing  
day and private view. They have just finished  
packing up their pictures for the RA She has  
recently spent several weeks in London, painting  
Lord Weir. On Monday they are going to  
Birmingham with Barry Jackson. They are to dine  
with him and Lord Iliffe and to see the first night  
of As you Like it, with Maggie Leighton as  
Rosalind.



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311. Park Hotel, Colwall.  
17.12.1944
- Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Has been much occupied with a picture of an ice ballet at Blackpool Ice Dome, painted from memory. Think that it may be her best work. Barry Jackson is much better after his rest. Scott is a worry to them, suffering much from breathlessness. They both need to see specialists, but in Scott's case it is difficult to know whether it is genuine ill-health or hypochondria. She visits them every day. She herself does not mind working hard at her paintings; she loves the work. Mr Dowsett [of Dowsett and Mackay] has put two studios at her and Harold's disposal at Colwall. She has not yet used hers and will continue to use the Wind's Acre studio for some of her work until the Nicolls' return.
312. [undated sheets 1943 or  
1944]
- Poem in praise of Churchill and Roosevelt, hoping for victory.  
[On second sheet] 2 poems [by Nicoll?], Uncle Sam and John Bull and Mr Weidell Wilkie and an ex-ace.
313. Park Hotel, Colwall.  
26.2.1945
- Laura Knight to JN.  
Is working hard on a painting of a factory in Birmingham. Thanks her for the parcels. Has not yet painted in the Colwall studio owing to work in Birmingham. It is difficult to reach Wind's Acre from Colwall in the winter. It is hard to find the time to do one's own work. Is glad to hear that AN is to have the Chair at Birmingham University. [continues 24 February]. Harold is better so she will go to Birmingham. Scott is still in a nervous state. Barry Jackson is better now; he has had splendid reviews for his translation of Le Malade Imaginaire, Doctor's Delight.
314. Park Hotel, Colwall.  
18.3.1945
- Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for the food parcel. She and Harold are preparing pictures for the RA. Scott is acting in Birmingham; he acts much more quietly than he used to.
315. Montrose Avenue, Luton.  
8.8.1945
- Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Welcomes them home. Has sent them a telegram. She is painting a picture for a business firm.

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316. Park Hotel, Colwall.  
21.8.1945  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks JN for the pyjamas but she must send them back; she cannot accept such a gift. Thanks the Nicolls' for the privilege of painting at Wind's Acre during the war; the beauty and ..... of the landscape have taught her man's insignificance and a new philosophy, which has been of great comfort to her. Hopes to see them in about a fortnight's time.
317. Orchard Hotel,  
Portman Street, London W1.  
2.10.1946  
Laura Knight to JN.  
She has booked them a room from the fifth until the tenth or eleventh. will go to the Theatre Bureau tomorrow to get tickets for King Lear and The Sergeant. Has had no news from Larry [Olivier?].
318. Orchard Hotel,  
Portman Street, London W1.  
4.11.1946  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Is missing Malvern, though St. John's Wood looked beautiful in the sunset. Enjoyed seeing the Nicolls at the weekend.
319. Orchard Hotel,  
Portman Street, London W1.  
29.2.1948  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for the parcel of food. Hopes that JN is getting better. She and Harold are going for a walk in Hyde Park. [Continues afternoon]. They had a pleasant walk in the park.
320. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
28.10.1949  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Hopes to see them soon. Mr Cooper is bringing back the drawings of them tomorrow, so the photographs must be ready.
321. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
31.10.1949  
Laura Knight to JN.  
[Sketch of seal seen at the zoo].  
Mr Cooper brought the negatives; the prints should be ready for AN's publishers today. She and Harold went to the zoo yesterday.
322. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
10.11.1949  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for the book. Has been to Clarence House to make a drawing of HRH [Princess Elizabeth?].
323. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
22.11.1949  
Laura Knight to Gippo [the Nicolls' dog].  
Is sorry to hear that he was suspected of killing sheep. Is disappointed not to have seen JN in town. Has written a sonnet on spring in Malvern

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[included].

324. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
15.12.1949  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks AN for his book. She and Harold are sad to hear that Scott and Barry Jackson are ill. The studio needs renovating. Has given a speech at a dinner for professional and business workers. Christmas greetings.
325. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
24.12.1949  
Laura Knight to Gippo.  
They are both well; JN must not worry. Christmas greetings.
326. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
6.1.1950  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Is sure that she did thank JN for the drink. She and Harold were both ill over Christmas.
327. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
20.1.1951  
Laura Knight to AN.  
Thanks him for the Irish Whisky. Langton has refused to allow the portraits to be shown at the RA [Continues 25 January]. Harold has been ill with the flu but is now better. She has been to a council dinner at the RA and to a family dinner with the Mills'.
328. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
22.10.1951  
Harold Knight to JN and AN.  
They see David once a week at the zoo; he is busy with printing jobs from America. heather has just returned from a fishing trip to Iceland.
329. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
25.10.1951  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Longs for a meeting. The Nicholls must be enjoying this lovely autumn.
330. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
[December 1952]  
Harold and Laura Knight to [AN and JN].  
[Sketch of AN doing his Christmas shopping].

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331. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
9.1.1953
- Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Thanks them for the whisky and the black ship. They gave a little party on Christmas night. On Boxing Day they went to Heather's for a meal. They also went to her house in the New year. Harold is suffering from a cold and from rheumatism but has nearly finished one of his best portraits, one of Lord Justice Humphreys, a very moving picture. she is busy with work, with art one never ceases to hope and study. Hopes that they will be comfortable in the Stratford flat. Barry Jackson has taken her to the opera twice. He seemed in low spirits, it must have been terrible for him to witness Scott's suffering. Lionel Harris is now a T.V. producer.
332. [Postmarks: St. John's  
Wood, Malvern]  
9.1.1953  
18.1.1953
- [Envelope addressed to the Nicolls, with picture of angel on reverse].
333. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
8.8.1953
- Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Invites the Nicolls to dinner at the Park Hotel on Tuesday; Heather will be taking them in her car. Harold's leg does not get any better.
334. Langford Place,  
London NW8.
- Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks JN for her letter. Hopes that they are liking their new home in Stratford.
335. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
22.10.1953
- Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
She and Harold are both working well. Harold seems to be getting used to wearing a calliper on his leg but she does not know if he is in any pain. He has just completed a portrait of Mr Samuel, head of Unilever. She has had to move to another studio, as the landlord has put up the rent of No. 28. She is now in Sir George Clausen's old studio.
336. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
16.1.1955
- Harold and Laura Knight to AN.  
[Humorous drawing of AN as a mouse writing on 'Shakespeare Institute' note-paper, with the motto 'It is not always to the strong that power comes'].
337. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
6.3.1955
- [Laura Knight to AN].  
[Sketch of AN and JN {?} as mice].

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338. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
2.8.1955  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
She and Harold are coming to the Park Hotel on Friday. Hopes to see the Nicolls for dinner.
339. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
15.6.1956  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
They were unable to come to Colwall in April, as Harold was painting Lord Kilmuir, the Lord Chancellor. They hope to come to Colwall in August. [Letter incomplete: first sheet only].
340. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
3.10.1956  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Thanks them for the welcoming present which awaited them when they arrived. She will ring Harold's tomorrow re ballet tickets.
341. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
20.12.1957  
Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Thanks JN for her present. They stayed at Durrant's Hotel for three weeks, while they made their house decent enough for their new housekeeper to come to. both she and Harold have been ill recently. Harold has been painting Lord Cohen, of Liverpool Hospital. [Continues 21 December]. Christmas greetings. [Sketch of trapeze artists].
342. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
31.3.1958  
Laura Knight to JN and AN.  
Dreamed last night of meeting JN. Hopes that she will write soon. Today is the sending-in day of pictures to the RA Harold is sending in three portraits, the six pictures.
343. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
9.6.1958  
Laura Knight to JN.  
[Sketch of acrobat]. thanks her for her letter about the RA exhibition. Harold's works are excellent.
344. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
11.11.1961  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Has been so much occupied with probate affairs and answering letters of condolence since her return to London that she has been unable to write to them until now. Is grateful for all their help in those last days at the Park Hotel. She misses Harold but the bond between them was so strong that his death cannot break it. The thing to do is to try to live as he would have wished.

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345. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
31.1.[sometime before 1962].  
Laura Knight to AN and JN.  
Gave Harold a green quartz Chinese toad for his birthday. She and Harold are longing to see the Nicolls on 21st April. she has an exhibition at the Leicester Galleries, starting on 15th April. Harold is well. The winter has been very cold and she has had to move her bed to a less exposed part of the veranda.
346. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
8.3.1962  
Laura Knight to JN.  
Thanks her for her letter: the Nicholls have a wonderful year ahead of them. do they ever see Tom English? There is to be a retrospective exhibition of Harold's work and she has chosen some paintings for it. She does not know whether she will be able to face returning to Colwall this summer but may feel differently by August.
347. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
30.10.1964  
Laura Knight to AN and MN.  
Thanks them for their letters and present. The date of her RA exhibition is not yet known. The magazine Homes and Gardens will be serialising her autobiography, The magic of a Line. John Murray are also interested in the book but want her to add some more details of painting technique. She is in good health and is enjoying her work.
348. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
[undated]  
[Sketch of AN[?] as a fox? with 4 - line comic poem].
349. Langford Place,  
London NW8.  
[undated]  
[Sketch of AN[?] as a mouse].
350. Stile Road, Headington.  
6.12.1923  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
has been called to Ireland for a week or ten days. May not be able to review AN's book for the Modern language review. Recommends that AN read his articles, 'The tragic carpet' in The stage and 'The English theatre orchestra: its rise and progress' in The musical quarterly. Recommends 3 articles in The architectural review. Will read Nicoll's History of Restoration drama soon.

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351. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
31.12.1923  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Apologies for his 'microscopic method of criticism', which tends to give the impression that he is finding faults and failing to see the work as a whole. he will send AN alterations which he thinks need to be made to the History of Restoration drama. Various minor queries/corrections follow re Restoration texts and theatre.
352. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
1.1.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
353. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
10.1.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
is glad that Nicoll has taken his corrections in good part. More queries/corrections follow.
354. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
25.1.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama, particularly concerned with the layout design and terminology of a late seventeenth century theatre.
355. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
8.7.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama. Corrects AN's use of the term, 'strolling .....!'
356. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
11.7.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
357. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
21.8.1924  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Reprimands AN for omitting references in some of the appendices of History of Restoration drama. More queries/corrections.
358. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
16.2.1925  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
A new biography of Thomas Heywood is being written. Hopes that AN will write soon.
359. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
12.3.1925  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Offers to send AN some of the later seventeenth century plays in his possession. Sends a slip [included] giving details of O'Keeffe's first play. The she-gallant. More queries/corrections.

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360. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
23.4.1925  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama [or his History of late seventeenth century drama?]
361. [Undated fragment. 4 leaves].  
W.J. Lawrence [to AN].  
[Pages 5-12 of a letter.] Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama. Has been reading E.K. Chamber's The Elizabethan stage.
362. [Undated fragment, 2 leaves].  
W.J. Lawrence [to AN].  
[Pages 3-7 of a letter.] Letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
363. [Undated fragment, 6 leaves]  
[W.J. Lawrence to AN].  
Notes by W.J. Lawrence on Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
364. [Undated fragment, 2 leaves].  
[W.J. Lawrence to AN].  
Fragment of a letter of queries/corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
365. [Undated fragment, 1 leaf].  
W.J. Lawrence [to AN].  
[Last leaf of a letter]. About the dramatist Sheridan.
366. [Undated fragment, 1 leaf].  
[W.J. Lawrence to AN].  
.Addenda of corrections re Nicoll's History of Restoration drama.
367. [Undated fragment, 1 leaf]  
[W.J. Lawrence to AN].  
[Pages 3-4 of a letter]. About the difficulty of getting a book published: his own experiences and that of his friend R J Broadbent.
368. Langford Place, Monkstown,  
Dublin.  
12.7.1927.  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Thanks AN for the book [probably AN's History of late eighteenth century drama]. Compliments him on the illustrations. Asks AN to research the origins of an illustration by Bartholmew Neroni.
369. Jasper Road, Upper  
Norwood,  
London SE19.  
20.8.1933  
W.J. Lawrence to AN.  
Is sorry that they have not seen much of one another in recent years; now that AN is going to Yale it is too late. AN will have an enjoyable time in Yale. Has contributed to Johnson's England due to be published soon.



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370. Lexham Gardens, Kensington, London W8.  
12.11.1923  
Sir Sidney Lee to AN.  
Thanks AN for sending him AN introduction to dramatic theory.
371. Lexham Gardens, Kensington, London W8.  
11.9.1924  
Sir Sidney Lee to AN.  
Thanks AN for the dedication. Compliments AN on his book [British drama?]
372. Lexham Gardens, Kensington, London W8.  
25.10.1924.  
Sir Sidney Lee to JN.  
Thanks her for the flowers. Is working on the proofs [of his Life of King Edward VII?]
373. Lexham Gardens, Kensington, London W8.  
21.12.1924  
Sir Sidney Lee to JN.  
Sends her a photograph of himself [not included].  
Expects the Nicolls for dinner on Friday.
374. Lexham Gardens, Kensington, London W8.  
1.2.[1926?].  
Will be unable to go to the theatre himself; has been very ill and in great pain. Thanks her for the flowers.
375. Stockton Street, Princeton, New Jersey.  
12.1.1939  
Thomas Mann to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter re Julius Bab; AN has clearly given much thought to the whole question of European refugees of the intelligentsia.
376. Stockholm Street, Princeton, New Jersey.  
23.1.1939  
Thomas Mann to AN.  
Mr Frank Altschul has offered to help Julius Bab.
377. Stockholm Street, Princeton, New Jersey.  
19.4.1939  
Thomas Mann to AN.  
has heard nothing from Altschul since January. Julius Bab has written again from Paris asking for help. Maybe AN can discover what Altschul has decided.
378. Via Liburni, Rome.  
2.7.1969  
Ferruccio Marotti to AN.  
[In Italian]. Reminds AN of their acquaintance in 1963. Is now a lecturer in the history of the theatre at the University of Rome. Writes on behalf of the Bulzoni publishing house asking for translation rights of AN's The development of the theatre.
379. Boar's Hill, Oxford  
[Undated: possibly 1951?]  
John Masefield to AN.  
Wishes AN success with his scheme [the Shakespeare Institute?]. Is sorry that he cannot come and lecture there at present; hopes to do so later.

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380. Woodlands Terrace,  
Glasgow.  
3.7.1933  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
Gives an account of the Scottish movement in current drama: the people involved and the plays which they have produced. Describes the work of the St. Andrew's Society and his own part in the movement, his pays and their production. Has been working on A sleeping clergyman for 2.5 years. he works very fast and makes few alterations to a text once it is written. Gives a list of his plays in chronological order of production.
381. University Gardens,  
Glasgow.  
1.10.1939  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
He and his wife are pleased at the success of One way of living. Enjoyed his evening with the Nicholls and the Knights at Wind's Acre. Has joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a lieutenant.
382. Bearsden, Dumbartonshire.  
4.2.1944  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
About the Entertainment's Tax and its misapplication. The Glasgow Citizens' theatre is now doing very well. C.E.M.A. [council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts] is beginning to recognise the independence of Scottish drama. JN must be proud of Poland now.
383. Bearsden, Dumbartonshire.  
8.8.1945  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
Hopes that they can meet soon; is interested to hear AN's secret. The Citizens' Theatre will be opening 11 September with Johnson over Jordan. Is annoyed that none of his plays is running in London.
384. Helensburgh,  
Dumbartonshire.  
4.12.1950  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
About their work for the Atlantic Awards Committee. Suggests that they should hold a party for committee members.
385. Helensburgh,  
Dumbartonshire.  
2.1.1951  
O.H. Mavor to AN.  
About the dramatist Thomas Sydserff.
386. Campden Hill Square,  
London W6.  
1.12.1950  
Charles Morgan to AN.  
Regrets the collapse of the Atlantic Awards.

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387. Grand Hotel,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
17.4.1940  
Eustace, Baron Percy of Newcastle to AN.  
Has been very busy since his return from  
Canada. the people in the north east are  
determined to fight; the percentage of  
conscientious objectors is very low. he has  
also found this determination in your  
Canadians to whom he has spoken. The war  
will affect all Europe and some of Africa but it  
is the lesser evil than submitting to Hitler.  
Everyone in England is confident of victory.  
Hopes that AN will be able to come to Britain.  
He and his wife are still living at the Grand  
Hotel. Stella [his daughter?] was married last  
week to a young lecturer. More family news.
388. Grand Hotel, Newcastle-  
upon-Tyne.  
12.8.1940  
Eustace Baron Percy of Newcastle to AN.  
It is a beautiful summer and morale is high.
389. Lambolle Road, London  
NW3.  
16.2.1940  
Cyril Phillips to AN.  
Would like to take Thomas Job's play to  
London. Is without an income at the moment;  
perhaps there is work in the USA in the  
theatre, though he would rather stay in  
England. He and his wife have furnished their  
spare cottage at Fontmell, so have part of the  
other cottage available to let.
390. Kissing Tree House,  
Alveston, Stratford-upon-  
Avon.  
18.2.1960  
J.B. Priestley to AN.  
Thanks AN for his perceptive review. Is now  
settled in Stratford, where Peter Hall is a  
near ..... Hall is doing a good job at  
Stratford, with the emphasis on the ear and not  
the eye. [Attached is carbon copy of AN's  
reply of 1.3.60 thanking Priestley for this letter  
and hoping to see him soon].
391. Campden Hill Gardens,  
London W8.  
24.8.1973  
Marie Rambert to AN.  
Thanks him for his letter. She is still working.  
Has two daughters and four grandchildren and  
has written her autobiography, Quicksilver.
392. Rome  
22.6.1926  
Leonardo Ricci (?) to AN.  
[In Italian] Asks for clarification re  
Buontalenti. His English is not good enough  
for him to have understood what AN had  
written.

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393. Rome  
9.8.1927  
A search has been made at the post office but they have not been found. Asks AN to send him further copies in a strong packet; he will return them.
394. Rome  
15.8.1927  
Leonardo Ricci(?) to AN.  
[In Italian] Thanks AN for The development of the theatre, which he admires greatly. His own book, La iscenografia prospettica italiana, is coming out in 1928 and he will send AN a copy. Would like to reproduce 11 of AN's photos; lists them.
395. Rome,  
8.9.1927  
Leonardo Ricci(?) to AN.  
[In Italian] Thanks AN for his help, which will be acknowledged in his book. Describes the contents of his book; will be unable to use all the material supplied by AN owing to the layout of the book.
396. St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, Kent.  
20.10.1925  
Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson to AN.  
Will be unable to attend the first performance owing to a previous engagement but wishes AN every success.
397. Bedford Square, London  
WC1.  
30.1.1926  
Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson to AN.  
Would like to attend AN's revival of Coleman's The jealous wife but has been invited to a dinner party.
398. East 70th Street,  
[New York?]  
30.12.1940  
'Sam' to AN.  
Thanks AN for the calendar though it has made him homesick for England. president Roosevelt's speech was very encouraging.
399. The Gables, Balcombe,  
Sussex.  
29.12.1967  
Paul Scofield to AN.  
The audiences in Moscow and Leningrad were very enthusiastic and sensitive to Shakespeare. Hopes to see AN soon.
400. Malvern Hotel, Malvern.  
1.8.1933  
Charlotte Shaw to JN.  
Confirms their planned meeting of 3 August.
- 400(a) Malvern Hotel, Malvern.  
6.8.1935  
Charlotte Shaw to JN.  
Is sorry that she and G.B.S. will be unable to go to the Nicholls for tea, as they will be very busy next week.

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401. Printed invitation to a private view of pictures by Gertrude Harvey, with exhibition notes by George Bernard Shaw, to be held 30 September 1929.
- 401 (a) Ayot St. Lawrence,  
Hertfordshire or Whitehall  
Court, London SW1.  
17.9.1932 George Bernard Shaw to AN.  
Comments on AN's lecture notes. His own ..... in drama has been to combine 'the extreme of unnaturalness with the deepest attainable naturalness. In You never can tell, The devil's disciple and Too true to be good he introduces new characters late in the play, as Shakespeare does.
- 401 (b) Ayot Saint Lawrence,  
Hertfordshire  
1.2.1946 George Bernard Shaw to AN.  
Hopes to meet soon. Declines to contribute to AN's anthology.
402. Garrick Club, London WC2.  
[undated] Donald Sinden to AN.  
Appeal for AN's help re the British Theatre Museum. Asks AN to sign a letter to The Times about it.
403. Temple Fortune Lane,  
London NW11.  
[undated 1972?] Donald Sinden to AN.  
Is appearing in London Assurance and has been given a copy of the 1841 text, with annotations by Boucicault. Asks the meaning of the letters RMB, which appear a page before the end of each scene.
404. Temple Fortune Lane,  
London NW11.  
9.10.1972 Donald Sinden to AN.  
has been shown Bancroft's prompt copy of London Assurance and has incorporated some of the interpolations in his own performance. Enclosed a copy of a page [not included] which explains the meaning of the term RMB. has seen Peggy Ashcroft and Ralph Richardson at Stratford.
405. Temple Fortune Lane,  
London NW11.  
7.6.1974 Donald Sinden to AN.  
Thanks AN for his letter concerning the T.V. programme, Collector's world; he had been very worried about it. Has just done Vanbrugh's Confederacy of wives for T.V., a good play. the Theatre Museum has acquired more rooms and a director.
406. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Donald Sinden to AN.

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- Stratford-upon-Avon.  
[undated] Looks forward to seeing AN and MN on Friday.
407. Wind's Acre, Malvern.  
14.9.1942 Doris Tate to JN.  
Apologies for not replying sooner. her baby daughter [Charmain] takes up a lot of her time. Barry Jackson and Laura are godparents to the baby.
408. Eldon Grove, London NW3.  
2.8.1974 John Trewin to AN.  
He and his wife are going to Stratford and then to Edinburgh. About the lack of coverage of the Crescent Theatre in the Birmingham Post and Mail. He will help to draw this to the attention of N.J. Reedy, the editor.
409. Hotel Granada, Bogota  
14.3.1941 Thornton Wilder to AN and JN.  
His life is crowded and complicated but rewarding. He loves Colombia; it has a fine literary tradition and an excellent newspaper, enabling him to follow world events.
410. Grove End House,  
London NW8.  
25.7.1941 Beatrice Wilson to AN.  
[Letter contains two large excisions by censor]. Has written to Margaret Webster in New York re her play, which English producers are reluctant to stage. Perhaps a drama society at Yale can stage it. would welcome AN's comments. The West End theatre has suffered in the war but local touring companies are doing well. the Old Vic is producing plays in the provinces for workers. Has seen Sybil Thorndike and Lewis in King John at the New Theatre, a good production. Her play will give an idea of the Old Vic Theatre students' life.
411. Cupar, Fife.  
29.6.1941 Cynthia Wilson to JN.  
Is attached to the Polish Army as an ambulance driver. Describes her work. Is staying at the Manse with Mr and Mrs McPhail but will soon be moving out of Cupar to Cairnie House. At present she is unpaid but soon she and the other ambulance drivers may receive money from the U.S.A, which will be much appreciated. Thanks her for the parcels. Is enjoying her life in Scotland very much.

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412. [No address]  
30.12.1970  
George Wood to AN.  
[Card with cartoon of Wood by Worsley].  
AN's letter gave pleasure to him and to Phyllis  
and Eileen Shand, who send best wishes.
413. Savage Club,  
St James's Street, London  
SW1.  
24.12.1971  
George Wood to AN.  
New Year greetings.
414. Savage Club,  
St James's Street,  
London SW1.  
8.10.1974  
George Wood to AN.  
It was very kind of AN to write so glowingly  
about him in the tenth anniversary booklet. Is  
finishing his autobiography, I can easily see  
through keyholes, to be published by Hamish  
Hamilton.