



**Durham**  
University

Durham University Library

# **Catalogue of the William Plomer Manuscripts**

**Date range of material: 1920-1973**

Durham University Library  
November 2021

## Contents

Preface .....	xi
Introduction .....	1
Catalogue of material:	
Letters to William Plomer.....	1
from J.R. Ackerley.....	2
from Alan Aldridge.....	2
from Noel Annan.....	2
from Robert Armstrong.....	3
from W.H. Auden.....	3
from Constance Babington Smith.....	3
from H.M. Basner.....	3
from Patrica Beer.....	3
from Sinclair Beiles.....	4
from Marie Belloc-Lowndes.....	4
from Mary Benson.....	4
from Lord Berners (Gerald Tyrwhitt-Wilson).....	4
from Sidney Bernstein.....	5
from John Betjeman.....	5
from Robert Birley.....	5
from Edmund Blunden.....	5
from Wilfrid Blunt.....	5
from Ivan Bounine [Bunin].....	6
from Elizabeth Bowen.....	6
from Lilian Bowes-Lyon.....	6
from Neville Braybrooke.....	6
from Benjamin Britten.....	6
from Jocelyn Brooke.....	6
from Daniel George Bunting (pseudonym Daniel George).....	6
from John Bunting.....	7
from Guy Butler.....	7
from Anthony [Tony] Butts.....	7
from Bill Byrom.....	7
from Arthur Calder-Marshall.....	7
from John L. Campbell.....	8
from Roy Campbell and Mary Campbell.....	8
from John Carter.....	8
from Charles Causley.....	8
from C[onstantine] P. Cavafy.....	8
from Lord David Cecil.....	8
from Paul Channon.....	8
from Guy Chapman.....	9

from George Horatio Charles Rocksavage, 5th Marquess of Cholmondeley.....	9
from Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley.....	9
from Richard Church.....	9
from Sydney Clouts.....	9
from Nevill Coghill.....	10
from Canon L. John Collins.....	10
from Cyril Connolly.....	10
from Jack Cope.....	10
from Hilary Corke.....	10
from Pierre Coustillas.....	11
from Eric Crozier.....	11
from Nancy Cunard.....	11
from Ralph N. Currey.....	11
from Ernst Robert Curtius.....	11
from A.A. David.....	11
from Angus Davidson.....	11
from Gloria Evans Davies.....	12
from Peter Davies.....	12
from Richard M. Dawkins.....	12
from Cecil Day-Lewis.....	12
from Jill Day-Lewis.....	12
from Paul Dehn.....	12
from Anthony Delius.....	13
from Patric Dickinson.....	13
from John Dingle.....	13
from Bonamy Dobrée.....	13
from Violet Du Plat-Taylor.....	13
from Enslin Du Plessis.....	13
from Gladys Ellen Easdale.....	14
from Charles Eglington.....	14
from Hugh Denis Charles Fitzroy, earl of Euston.....	14
from Edward Morgan Forster.....	14
from Nan Fairbrother (married name McKenzie).....	52
from Daphne Fielding.....	53
from Ann Fleming.....	53
from Peter Fleming.....	53
from Dick Freislich.....	53
from Zelda Friedlander.....	53
from Ayako Fukuzawa.....	53
from Ima Fukuzawa.....	54
from Morito Fukuzawa.....	54
from Roger Fulford.....	54
from Darcy [Darsie] Rutherford Gillie.....	54

from Rumer Godden.....	54
from John Godfrey.....	54
from Nadine Gordimer.....	55
from Colin Graham.....	55
from Robert Graves.....	55
from Julian Green.....	55
from Graham Greene.....	55
from Joyce Grenfell.....	56
from Alec Guinness.....	56
from Norman Haire.....	56
from Stuart Hampshire.....	56
from Christopher Hampton.....	56
from James Hanley.....	56
from Gilbert Harding.....	57
from Evelyn Hardy.....	57
from George Henry Hubert Lascelles, 7th earl of Harewood.....	57
from H Wilson Harris.....	57
from Tom Harrisson.....	57
from Rupert Hart-Davis.....	57
from Leslie Poles Hartley.....	58
from Margaret, princess of Hesse.....	58
from Shizuhiko Higo.....	58
from Susan Hill.....	58
from Clare Hills.....	58
from Imogen Holst.....	58
from Anthony Homersham.....	59
from Peter Horn.....	59
from Michael S Howard.....	59
from Chien Hsiao.....	59
from TAR Hyndman.....	60
from Sanki Ichikawa.....	60
from Valentin Iremonger.....	60
from Christopher Isherwood.....	60
from Dan Jacobson.....	60
from Rene Janin.....	61
from Barbara Jefford.....	61
from Philippe Jullian.....	61
from Peggy Kirkaldy.....	61
from James Kirkup.....	61
from Y Kobayashi.....	61
from Arthur Koestler.....	61
from Uys Krige.....	62
from Charles Lambart.....	62

from Philip Larkin.....	62
from Jennie Lee.....	62
from James Lees-Milne.....	62
from Beatrix Lehmann (Peggy).....	62
from John Lehmann.....	62
from Rosamond Lehmann.....	63
from Patrick Leigh-Fermor.....	63
from GL Lewin.....	63
from Norman Leys.....	63
from David Lockwood.....	63
from David Lytton.....	64
from Rose Macaulay.....	64
from Desmond MacCarthy.....	64
from Frank Magro.....	64
from Patrick Mahony.....	64
from Lucas Makoba.....	64
from John Masefield.....	65
from William Somerset Maugham.....	65
from Alexie Mayor.....	65
from Beatrice Mayor.....	65
from Ilse Merzyn.....	65
from Ruth Miller.....	65
from Merrill Moore.....	65
from Katsuye (Captain) Mori.....	66
from Lady Ottoline Morrell.....	66
from John Morris.....	66
from Raymond Mortimer.....	66
from Bryan Walter Guinness Moyne (2nd Baron).....	66
from Ezekiel (Zeke) Mphahlele.....	67
from John (Jock) Murray.....	67
from Marris Murray.....	67
from Sir John Ernest Neale.....	67
from Percy Howard Newby.....	67
from Norman Nicholson.....	67
from Harold George Nicolson (Hon Sir).....	68
from Leslie Norris.....	68
from Simon Nowell-Smith.....	68
from Sean O'Faolain.....	68
from Sydney Olivier Olivier (1st Baron).....	68
from Owen O'Malley (Sir).....	68
from Shoji Ono.....	69
from (Marchesa) Iris Origo.....	69
from Harold Owen.....	69

from Alan Paton.....	69
from John Piper.....	69
from Myfanwy Piper.....	69
from James Plomer.....	70
from Matthew Henry Hubert Ponsonby (2nd Baron Ponsonby of Shulbrede).....	70
from James Pope-Hennessy.....	70
from Mary (Marian Anderson) Potter.....	70
from Anthony Powell.....	70
from John Preston.....	70
from Kerrison Preston.....	71
from Frank Templeton Prince.....	71
from Victor Sawdon Pritchett.....	71
from C.T.O. (Oswin) Prosser.....	71
from Peter Quennell.....	71
from Tom (Thomas Moore) Raworth.....	71
from Herbert Read (Sir).....	71
from Vere Redman (Sir).....	72
from Henry Reed.....	72
from James Reeves.....	72
from Anthony Rhodes.....	72
from Richard Rive.....	72
from Cecil Roberts.....	72
from Alan Ross.....	73
from Alfred Leslie Rowse.....	73
from Tom Rumbold.....	73
from Steven Runciman (Hon Sir).....	73
from Alexie Russell.....	73
from John Russell.....	73
from Lavinia Russell.....	74
from Edward Sackville-West.....	74
from Vita Sackville-West (signed as Vita Nicolson).....	74
from Michael Sadleir.....	74
from William Sansom.....	74
from Siegfried Sassoon.....	74
from T. Sawamura.....	74
from Anna von Schubert (previously Anna de Schubert).....	75
from H Shidatsu.....	75
from Hideo Shinojima.....	75
from Taro Shiomi.....	76
from Utaro Shiomi.....	76
from John Hampson Simpson.....	76
from Edith Louisa Sitwell (Dame).....	77
from Osbert Sitwell (Sir Francis).....	77

from Logan Pearsall Smith.....	77
from Pauline Smith.....	78
from Stevie Smith.....	78
from Charles Percy Snow (Baron Snow).....	78
from John Sparrow.....	79
from Matthew Spender.....	79
from Inez Spender.....	79
from Stephen Spender.....	80
from James (Jimmy) Stern.....	98
from Tania Stern.....	98
from Janet and Reynolds Stone.....	99
from H.O. Stutchbury.....	99
from Frank Arthur Swinnerton.....	99
from Julian Symons.....	99
from Stephen Tennant.....	99
from Charles George Vivian Tryon, 2nd Baron Tryon.....	99
from Makoto Tsutsumi.....	100
from Laurens Jan Van der Post.....	101
from Sir Philip Vian.....	102
from Gore Vidal.....	102
from Sherard Vines.....	102
from Julian Vinogradoff.....	102
from Derek Walcott.....	102
from Mary Hermione Grenfell (Countess Waldegrave).....	103
from Alison Waley.....	103
from Arthur Waley.....	103
from Edward Joseph (Ted) Walker.....	103
from Hugh Seymour Walpole (Sir).....	105
from Veronica Wedgwood (Dame Cicely).....	105
from Glenway Wescott.....	105
from Arnold Wesker.....	105
from Eric Walter White.....	105
from Ralph Vaughan Williams.....	105
from Angus Wilson.....	106
from Leonard Woolf.....	107
from Virginia Woolf.....	108
from David Wright.....	108
from Andrew John Young.....	108
from Hilda B Young.....	109
fan mail file.....	109
Letters from William Plomer.....	109
to Ridley D Beeton (Professor).....	110
to Alan Clodd.....	110

to Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley.....	111
to John Davenport.....	111
to Enslin du Plessis.....	112
to Gladys Ellen Easdale.....	112
to Joan Feisenberger.....	112
to Edward Morgan Forster.....	113
to Zelda Friedlander.....	113
to Brian Merton Gould.....	119
to Kenneth Gransden.....	119
to Graham Greene.....	120
to Ian Hamilton.....	120
to Rupert Hart-Davis.....	120
to Louis Herrman.....	121
to Margaret ('Peg'), Princess of Hesse.....	121
to Anthony Homersham.....	121
to Mina Horwitz.....	121
to Michael Howard.....	122
to René Janin.....	122
to Phillipe Jullian.....	122
to James Kirkup.....	123
to John Lehmann.....	123
to G.L. Lewin.....	123
to Cecil Day Lewis.....	123
to Lilian Bowes Lyon.....	123
to Kenneth Marshall.....	124
to Dudley Massey.....	124
to Johannes Meintjes.....	124
to Harold Monro.....	125
to Hiroaki Mori.....	125
to Katsuye Sencho (Captain) Mori.....	125
to John Morris.....	126
to Geoffrey Parsons.....	126
to Peter Pears.....	126
to Mary Potter.....	127
to Frank Templeton Prince.....	127
to Taro Shiomi.....	128
to John Hampson Simpson.....	129
to Miss Smit.....	129
to the Society of Authors.....	130
to John Sparrow.....	131
to Stephen Spender.....	132
to James Stern.....	132
to Sewell Stokes.....	134



to Fred Stokoe.....	134
to Louise Theis.....	135
to Hugh Walpole.....	135
to Weltmann.....	135
to C.V. (Veronica) Wedgwood.....	135
to Leonard Woolf.....	135
to Virginia Woolf.....	136
Draft Letters.....	136
Transcripts of Letters.....	136
Works by Plomer.....	138
Copies and drafts of published poems.....	139
Drafts for The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast.....	141
Transcripts used in Electric Delights.....	142
Notes for lectures.....	142
Carbon copy book.....	143
Personal papers.....	143
Family and genealogical papers.....	144
Miscellaneous items collected by Plomer.....	144
Review books.....	148
Notebooks and albums.....	169
Folder of uncollected poems.....	170
"Notes and papers of possible autobiographical interest".....	171
Miscellaneous notes by Plomer deposited by Simon Nowell-Smith.....	171
Letters written to GL Lewin.....	172
Material for poetry readings by Plomer.....	173
Miscellaneous items relating to poetry.....	174
Article on Plomer from South African magazine.....	174
Papers relating to Plomer presented by Simon Nowell-Smith.....	174
Script for radio broadcast.....	176
Drafts of unpublished poems.....	176
Additional autobiographical papers.....	176
Scripts for broadcasts, BBC Far Eastern Service.....	177
Articles and addresses on various topics.....	177
Obituaries.....	179
Plomer's response to Lowry's letter re Plomer's report on Under the volcano.....	179
Draft literary reviews by Plomer.....	179
misc. reviews and articles by Plomer.....	180
miscellaneous articles about Plomer.....	180
reviews of Plomer's work.....	181
transcripts of radio broadcasts about Plomer.....	182
Miscellaneous items.....	182
Misc. Plomer's work.....	183
Sketch for Naomi Pike.....	185

Papers of other writers and artists.....	185
Manuscripts by JR Ackerley.....	186
Lilian Bowes-Lyon.....	186
Benjamin Britten.....	190
Gloriana.....	191
War Requiem.....	193
Curlew River.....	193
The Burning Fiery Furnace.....	194
The Prodigal Son.....	194
Roy Campbell.....	196
Ian Fleming.....	197
E.M. Forster.....	198
Admiral John Godfrey.....	200
Ingrid Jonker.....	200
Francis Kilvert.....	202
Alice Lemon.....	207
Richard Rumbold.....	209
Olive Schreiner.....	214
Rupert Hart-Davis.....	215
Obituaries.....	215
Biographical papers.....	215
Framed print.....	216
Photographs.....	216
Photograph Albums.....	217
Loose Photographs.....	217

## **Preface**

### **Creation of catalogue**

Initial part of file generated from MODES database using specification ent2sgml.lat v7.9, May 2008.

The main data (within the dsc tag) is generated from a separate MODES database, using Modes output specification files and AWK and PERL scripts, all of which are designed and maintained locally. See revisiondesc tag for last revision date of this data. For information on MODES software, see <http://www.modes.org.uk/>. For information on the specifications and scripts used, see <http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.j.gray/>.

### **Contact details**

Durham University Library: Archives and Special Collections  
Palace Green  
Durham  
DH1 3RN  
England  
Telephone: 0191 334 2972  
Email: [PG.Library@durham.ac.uk](mailto:PG.Library@durham.ac.uk)  
URL: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ark:/32150/s1f1881k91f/PDF>



## Introduction

*Reference code:* GB-0033-PLO

*Collection title:* William Plomer Manuscripts

*Dates of creation:* 1920-1973

*Extent:* 15 metres

Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

*Creator:* William Plomer (1903-1973), novelist and poet

See Collection Level Description for biographical information on William Plomer and an outline of the main themes and people featured within this collection, as well as links to related collections within Durham University Library and elsewhere.

Plomer's extensive correspondence with some 200 friends and acquaintances forms the largest component of the manuscript material in the collection. It includes letters (often numerous) from J.R. Ackerley, John Betjeman, Edmund Blunden, Elizabeth Bowen, E.M. Forster, Christopher Isherwood, Dame Edith and Sir Osbert Sitwell, John Sparrow, Stephen Spender, Laurens Van der Post, Leonard Woolf and many other prominent figures in the English literary world. The lasting effect of his South African experiences can be seen both in his own work and in material in the collection on other South African authors such as Roy Campbell, Nadine Gordimer, Ingrid Jonker and Olive Schreiner. His Japanese experience can also be traced directly in his own work and in letters from a number of Japanese friends. It greatly influenced his collaboration with Benjamin Britten on the church operas. The collection contains much material on this, including a lengthy series of letters from Britten and draft libretti annotated by him. The papers also include one of the three surviving volumes of the diary of Francis Kilvert (from which Plomer edited selections), drafts of his own literary works, reviews, cuttings, literary manuscripts of friends such as J.R. Ackerley and Lilian Bowes Lyon, and numerous photographs.

The manuscripts are arranged in five sections:

- I. Letters received by Plomer, arranged A-Z by correspondent
- II. Letters sent by Plomer, arranged A-Z by correspondent
- III. Papers relating to works by Plomer, and some personal papers
- IV. Papers relating to works by other writers and artists
- V. Photographs

Plomer's library principally contains 20th century English literature, chiefly his own works and those of friends and contemporaries, often in corrected or inscribed copies.

### Plomer Library

Plomer's library was donated with his papers, and is listed separately within the printed library catalogue where it can be found by doing a shelfmark search for 'Plomer'.

## Letters to William Plomer

from J.R. Ackerley

PLO/1 1934, 1946 - 1967, undated

Personal and friendly news, with comments on each other's published works and some comments on the works of other authors. Other frequent topics include animals (about specific animals and general comments, often and increasingly misanthropic), mutual friends (in particular EM Forster), and illnesses (his own, Plomer's and others'). The correspondence is frequent and apparently continuous from September 1962 to his death. For destruction of pre-1944 correspondence, see page 245 of Alexander's biography of Plomer.

He refers to Plomer as 'DLB', apparently an abbreviation for 'Dear Little Bird': see letter of 9 January 1964 (Plomer 1/29), and reference in "The Letters," page 24.

57 letters, 114 sheets & 49 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and editor, 1896-1967. Literary editor of the *Listener* magazine (BBC), 1935-1959. Wrote freely of his homosexual relationships, and of subsequent love for his dog, 'Queenie'.

Maintained a close friendship with Plomer and EM Forster, and holidayed with Plomer in Europe. Lived in Maida Vale (near Stephen Spender, Leo Charlton and Plomer) in the 1930s.

See Ackerley, J.R., *The letters of J.R. Ackerley*, ed. by Neville Braybrooke (1975) and Parker, Peter, *Ackerley: a life of J.R. Ackerley* (1989)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* The collection of unpublished poems by Ackerley at PLO/375 appears to be that referred to as "this small sad collection" in his letter to Plomer of 20/12/1934 (PLO/1/2).

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/376

from Alan Aldridge

PLO/2 14 September 1972, 9 January 1973

Two letters relating to *The butterfly ball...* (see bibliography), for which Plomer wrote the verses to Aldridge's pictures. The second letter includes suggestions by Aldridge to Plomer's draft verses, with the latter's markings.

2 letters, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* An artist, who collaborated with Plomer in 1972 on a children's book.

Aldridge, Alan, *The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast*, with verses by William Plomer (1973)

from Noel Annan

PLO/3 1 January 1968

Letter congratulating Plomer on award of CBE

1 letter, 1 sheet

from Robert Armstrong

PLO/4 22 January 1970 - 26 August 1973

Letters about the Poetry Society, about Armstrong's account of the Campbell/Spender encounter (published in *The Critic* Feb/March 1962, pp.18-21) and his *Poetic Vision*

3 letters, 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* Chairman and secretary of the Poetry Society in the 1960s; born 1901

The 1949 Campbell/Spender encounter (when Campbell attacked Spender during a reading for the Poetry Society) is described in Alexander, Peter, *Roy Campbell: a critical biography* (1982), pp.213-214.

See also Armstrong, Robert, *The poetic vision: signposts and landmarks in poetry, essays and lectures* (1973)

from W.H. Auden

PLO/5 undated [? 1932]

Letter written from the 'Downs' school, Colwall, lamenting life at the school

Dated 1932? by E Mendelson in a letter to AD Burnett of 21/2/1986

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Author and teacher, 1907-1973. Collaborated with Stephen Spender, Christopher Isherwood and Louis MacNiece.

from Constance Babington Smith

PLO/6 10 December 1961 - 29 October 1962

Letters relating to Plomer's reviews of *Letters to a Friend*, volumes 1 and 2, for *The Listener*. The letters also include a reference to Plomer (from Rose Macaulay's letters), which was cut from the published edition at his request.

3 letters, 3 sheets & 3 envelopes

See Macaulay, Rose, *Letters to a friend, from Rose Macaulay, 1950-1952*, ed. by Constance Babington Smith (1961) and Macaulay, Rose, *Last letters to a friend (Rose Macaulay), 1952-1958*, ed. by Constance Babington Smith (1962)

from H.M. Basner

PLO/7 9 December 1956

Letter about Plomer's *Double Lives* and South African politics (with reference to the forthcoming trial of Mandela and others for 'treason')

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* South African lawyer, who apparently acted for some of the black African leaders who stood trial for 'treason' in 1956-1961. Plomer visited South Africa in 1956 - this letter suggests that he met Basner on that visit.

from Patrica Beer

PLO/8 8 August 1971 - 15 May 1973

Letters about [Frances] Bellerby and about some of Beer's own poems

3 letters, 3 sheets

from Sinclair Beiles

PLO/9 17 December 1969 - 28 December 1970

Letters on a wide range of subjects, often discursive and/or elusive. Main topics include the status of poets, his own poetry, philosophy and political ideas. The Poetry Society, "Point Virgule" (French periodical) and his "Poet Power" society are all mentioned.

Poems included with the letters are as follows:

Un voyageur encombré ("Vraiment je suis..."): with Plomer 9/4, 11 January 1970  
The naiad of Ostend, or A fatal passion (photocopy): with Plomer 9/9, 4 March 1970

To all the Annes, male and female confined in mental hospitals ("If memory serve me not the sweet..."): with Plomer 9/11, 10 March 1970

Manifesto ("I am an independent conservative..."): Plomer 9/14, 20 March 1970

Sahara: a poem addressed to her Britannic Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ("O great Queen Bess..."): with Plomer 9/19, 21 June 1970

4 youngsters in their prime ("We locked the door..."): written in Plomer 9/21, 24 August 1970

The poet ("behold a poet gone to seed..."): on reverse of Plomer 9/23, 8 November 1970

Elegy? To De Gaulle ("in solemn file..."): Plomer 9/24, [11 November] 1970

a counter attack on William Plomer ("he thought it was elite..."): in Plomer 9/25, 25 November 1970

The cuckholding computer ("nothing could be more astuter..."): Plomer 9/26, [28 December 1970]

26 letters, 39 sheets, 1 card & 18 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet

from Marie Belloc-Lowndes

PLO/10 27 February 1946, 9 March 1946

2 letters inviting Plomer to dinner, and complaining about government food policy

2 letters, 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* Novelist, sister of Hilaire Belloc, died 1947.

from Mary Benson

PLO/11 14 September 1971

Letter concerning a book by Benson apparently about a nursing sister in South Africa, 'Beatrice Qaba', with news of further repression by the South African security forces

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Lord Berners (Gerald Tyrwhitt-Wilson)

PLO/12 13 August 1946 - 21 April 1949, undated

Comments on various books, including works apparently sent to Berners by Plomer; also comments on literary figures, in particular [Marie] Belloc-Lowndes

Also an undated letter to "My dear Daisy" (Plomer 12/10) concerning loan of pictures to an exhibition, and written in an exaggerated tone (perhaps as a joke?)

10 letters, 13 sheets & 9 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Musician, artist and author, 1883-1950. Plomer met him while recovering from a haemorrhoids operation at a Richmond nursing home in June 1946.



from Sidney Bernstein

PLO/13 4 July 1969

Letter thanking Plomer for his "congratulations" and recalling mutual friendship of Tony Butts

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Film and television producer, founder of Granada Television, 1899-1993. Created life peer, 1969.

from John Betjeman

PLO/14 and PLO/723 February 1938 - September 1973

PLO/14: Personal news and comments on Plomer's poetry and on reviews of his own (Betjeman's) poems; many references to and comments on other literary figures, including "poor old Joe" [Ackerley]

PLO/723: Telegram from Betjeman to Rupert Hart-Davis about Plomer's death [September 1973]

57 letters and cards and 1 telegram: 45 sheets, 23 cards & 27 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet, writer and broadcaster, 1906-1984. Appointed Poet Laureate, 1972. Apparently met Plomer through the Society of Authors (according to Alexander's biography, p.313).

from Robert Birley

PLO/15 April 1967 - 28 February 1972

Letters relating to South African politics, and in particular with news of Birley's experiences as a teacher within the "Bantu education" system under apartheid. Also comments on Jonker's poems and a request that Cape commission a study by Charles Bloomberg on the Broederbond (far right-wing Afrikaaner nationalist movement in South Africa), in a letter of 28 February 1972 (Plomer 15/6).

6 letters, 18 sheets and 3 envelopes

Bloomberg's research on the Broederbond (see above) appears to have been published by MacMillan as Bloomberg, Charles, *Christian-nationalism and the rise of the Afrikaner Broederbond, in South Africa, 1918-48* (1990)

from Edmund Blunden

PLO/16 26 February 1927 - 5 February 1930, 4 November 1946 - 1 January 1968

Personal news, with comments on some of Plomer's poems and ballads

Includes MS of "An Infantryman" dated 20 March 1928 (Plomer 16/5/2), and a tribute to Plomer in verse for a Christmas card, 1952 (Plomer 16/18)

29 letters and cards, 31 sheets or cards and 8 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer, critic and lecturer, 1896-1974.

Met Plomer in Japan, where Blunden was visiting professor of English at the Imperial University in Tokyo, and where Blunden helped Plomer to find a teaching job in Japan.

from Wilfrid Blunt

PLO/17 20 July 1954

Letter requesting sample of Plomer's handwriting for an exhibition

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Art master and pioneer of italic handwriting, 1901-1987

from Ivan Bounine [Bunin]

PLO/18 12 September [1930]

card (in French) thanking Plomer for his letter

The year is illegible, but see letter from Leonard Woolf to Plomer dated 8 July 1930 (PLO 240/12), which relates to Plomer's enquiry about Bounine's address.

1 card

*Biographical information:* Short story writer, winner of the Nobel prize for literature, 1933. Born in Voronezh, but later lived in Paris.

Plomer wrote an article on Bunin for the *Spectator*, 14 July 1933.

from Elizabeth Bowen

PLO/19 30 October 1939, 24 September 1945 - 13 May 1968, undated

Personal news, detailed comments on some of Plomer's books, reflections on her own writing and a few reviews or letters about reviews; friendly comments on both Plomer and mutual friends, in particular several references to Tony [Butts].

Reference Plomer 19/8 is a printed programme for a production of "Castle Anna" (Elizabeth Bowen & John Perry), at Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, 1948. Undated letter reference Plomer 19/38 includes synopses (? for book blurbs) of "The last september" and "The death of the heart."

38 letters, 77 sheets/cards and 17 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Anglo-Irish novelist and short story writer, 1899-1973. Lived part time in Kent and part time in her family house, "Bowen's Court," County Cork, Ireland. Plomer met Bowen after she wrote him a fan letter in 1933 on his *The invaders* (from Alexander's biography, pp.197-198: check date of Bowen's first fan letter, if it survives). He visited her in Ireland only once (September 1935), but remained close by correspondence.

from Lilian Bowes-Lyon

See PLO/377 for letters 1941-1949

from Neville Braybrooke

PLO/20 26 April 1969 - 7 March 1973

Letters relating to Braybrooke's edition of Joe Ackerley's letters

8 letters, 9 sheets

*Biographical information:* Writer, and editor of Joe Ackerley's letters

from Benjamin Britten

See PLO/392 for letters 1948-1965

from Jocelyn Brooke

PLO/21 20 May 1958

Letter about Brooke's review of one of Plomer's books (probably "At Home"), with some comments on Dover

1 letter, 2 sheets and 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author, 1908-1966.

from Daniel George Bunting (pseudonym Daniel George)

PLO/22 22 November 1951, 15 August 1957

Letters praising Plomer for two books to be published by Jonathan Cape (probably "Museum Pieces" and "At Home")

2 letters, 2 sheets and 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Author and critic, 1890-1967. Chief reader for Jonathan Cape (publishers) from 1945.

from John Bunting

PLO/23 19 May 1963

Letter with some account of Daniel George Bunting's life, following the latter's stroke, and apparently written to assist Plomer in preparing material for an obituary.

1 letter, 3 sheets and 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Daniel George Bunting's son

from Guy Butler

PLO/24 20 December 1954 - 14 December 1959, 25 June 1965 - 19 February 1966, 16 August 1972

Letters relating to publications by Butler and to Plomer's trip to South Africa for a conference organised by the English department in Witwatersrand University (July 1956), with some general literary news and brief references to the political situation.

10 letters, 15 sheets and 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* South African writer and lecturer. Publications include *The dove returns* (1956) [referred to in the earlier letters as ``Post Mortem"], *A book of South African verse* (ed. by Guy Butler 1959) and *South of the Zambesi: poems from South Africa* (ed. by Guy Butler 1966, with an introduction by Plomer)

from Anthony [Tony] Butts

PLO/25 22 May 1928, 1941

First letter (1928) praises Plomer for his "I speak of Africa" and discusses the position of the negro and folly of the "euro-american machine." Last two letters (both 1941) acutely personal.

Item Plomer 25/4 is an offprint of GE Bentley, "Thomas Butts, white collar Maecenas," in PMLA (Modern Language Association of America), volume 71, December 1956, pp.1052-1066 (relating to Thomas Butts, patron of William Blake, and great-grandfather of Anthony Butts).

Last two letters are undated, but apparently written during his final illness and immediately before his death, respectively.

3 letters & 1 journal offprint

*Biographical information:* Descended from Thomas Butts, a patron of William Blake.

Wrote to Plomer in 1928, and met in 1929. Travelled to Greece and Corfu with Plomer in 1930, and shared a house with Plomer in Palace Gate, 1931-1932. Took his own life in May 1941, after a long struggle with cancer, and left Plomer an autobiographical manuscript. The latter was edited by Plomer and published as *Curious relations*.

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also letters from Peggy Kirkaldy at PLO/114 and from Kerrison Preston at PLO/173, which were originally filed with the Butts letters.

from Bill Byrom

PLO/26 1 June 1965

Comments on *Turbott Wolfe* (which Byrom had reviewed)

1 letter, 3 sheets and 1 envelope

from Arthur Calder-Marshall

PLO/27 9 January 1952

Thanking Plomer for his review of "The magic of my youth" for the BBC, and commenting on the low quality of contributions in "Pleasures of new writing" (ed John Lehmann, 1952)

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Author, 1908-1992

from John L. Campbell

PLO/28 26 April 1970 - 25 May 1970

Letters concern the papers of General (Sir James, 1765-1818) Campbell as commissioner of the Ionian Islands (in John Campbell's possession), with reference to Plomer's biography of Ali Pasha ("Ali the lion," reprinted 1970 as "The diamond of Jannina").

2 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author (mainly on Gaelic history and culture) and Scottish landowner, 1906-1996

from Roy Campbell and Mary Campbell

See PLO/408 for letters from Roy 1925-1927, and PLO/407 for letters from Mary 1925-1930

from John Carter

PLO/29 15 November 1967

Thanking Plomer (and another) for helping him to rescue the papers of Laurence Houseman, including some papers of AE Houseman.

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Associate of, and written from, Sotheby's auctioneers, London

from Charles Causley

PLO/30 9 October 1960 - 20 April 1973

PLO/30/5 is a printed card with Causley's poem, "The sheep on blackening fields".

29 letters, 30 sheets or cards & 20 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Cornish poet, making use of Cornish folklore and ballad traditions (after the manner of some of Plomer's own poems), born 1917. Met Plomer while serving together on the Arts Council Literature Panel [according to Alexander, p.313].

from C[onstantine] P. Cavafy

PLO/31 1 June 1931

Thanking Plomer for his verses to Cavafy.

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Greek poet, and friend of EM Forster, 1863-1933.

from Lord David Cecil

PLO/32 8 October 1954

Thanking Plomer for his review (in the "Listener") of Cecil's "Lord M," with some comments on Lord Melbourne

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Lecturer in English literature, 1902-1986. President of the Poetry Society, 1947-1948.

from Paul Channon

PLO/33 13 May 1969

Thanking Plomer for his address at the Byron ceremony in Westminster Abbey

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* MP for Southend West (Conservative), from 1959 [same person - check]

from Guy Chapman

PLO/34 5 April 1962

Congratulating Plomer on his comments on autobiography in the "Encounter" (?), with further comments on autobiography generally

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Major, later book publisher and professor of modern history, 1889-1972 [Check right person - Prof Guy Patterson Chapman, FRSL]

from George Horatio Charles Rocksavage, 5th Marquess of Cholmondeley

PLO/35 26 December 1950, 2 August 1963

Thanking Plomer for gifts of a book and brandy

2 letters, 2 sheets & 2 envelopes

from Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley

PLO/36 and PLO/724 26 August 1949 - 16 June 1973 and 1-17 January 1976

PLO/36: 38 letters from Lady Cholmondeley, chiefly personal news. Many comments on books and authors read by Lady Cholmondeley, also on a few mutual literary friends, and on Plomer's own works. PLO/36/25 is a letter from Sir Arthur Penn to Sybil Cholmondeley with his opinion of Plomer's verse. PLO/36/27 (dated 15 May 1963) includes reported comments of Salisbury on Rhodesia and the attitude of Rhodesians to the British government. PLO/36/32 includes a letter to her from Osbert Sitwell, dated 28 July 1967.

PLO/724: 2 letters (1976) from Rupert Hart-Davis to Lady Cholmondeley about her correspondence from Plomer which outlines the letters and papers she sent on to and promised to bequeath to Hart-Davis, including copies of the poems *Painted Darkness*, *The Cello* and a *Orchid* illustrated for Lady Cholmondeley by Heather Child (PLO/724/1); responses to Hart-Davis' questions regarding their friendship, the development of the Lady Cholmondeley Poetry Award; with list of winners of the Lady Cholmondeley's Poetry Award between 1966 and 1975

40 letters, 80 sheets or cards & 24 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Sister of Sir Philip Sassoon

*Provenance:* PLO/724 acquired as Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Plomer to Lady Cholmondeley at PLO/247.

from Richard Church

PLO/37 29 March 1965 - 17 December 1970

Mainly relating to his opinions and reviews of Plomer's works

Plomer 37/8 is a letter from Richard Church to Zelda Friedlander dated 20 October 1966, about her book, *[Until the heart changes:] a garland for Olive Schreiner*, and mentioning Plomer's poetry.

8 letters, 8 sheets & 7 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and critic, 1893-1972

from Sydney Clouts

PLO/38 15 September 1968 - 26 September 1968

Arrangements for receipt of Ingrid Jonker prize from Plomer, with a press notice concerning the award of the prize to Clouts for his *One life*.

The Ingrid Jonker prize is given for a first book of poetry in Afrikaans or English by a South African, and was set up in memory of Ingrid Jonker.

2 letters & a press notice, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

from Nevill Coghill

PLO/39 6 December 1968 - 2 January 1969

Letters relating to Plomer's presidency of the Poetry Society, including comments on the difficulties of the job

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Theatre and film director, and Middle English scholar, 1899-1980. Professor of English literature at Oxford.

from Canon L. John Collins

PLO/40 28 April 1959 - 17 May 1959

Letters relating to Plomer's offer to help meet Canon Collins' legal costs following an action against him for slander, with reference to the Defence and Aid fund and other anti-apartheid campaigning

2 letters, 3 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Canon of St Paul's Cathedral and campaigner against apartheid in South Africa (President of the International Defence and Aid Fund), 1905-1982

from Cyril Connolly

PLO/41 4 December 1955, 13 April 1962 - 21 August 1964

1955 letter (PLO/41/1) concerns his anthology of *Horizon* articles. 1962 letters (PLO/41/2-3) concern books sought by Connolly. 1964 letter (PLO/41/4) concerns [Connolly's own?] letters submitted to Plomer for comments, apparently with a view to their editing and publication by Connolly.

4 letters, 4 sheets, 1 card & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Author and journalist, 1903-1974. Founder and editor of *Horizon* magazine.

from Jack Cope

PLO/42 28 March 1964 - 1 September 1968

Letters relating to Ingrid Jonker: arranging for Plomer to meet her (with comments on the new censorship laws in South Africa), a note of the memorial on her grave, and a request relating to the Ingrid Jonker prize for South African poetry.

3 letters, 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African poet; translated and introduced (with Plomer) an edition of Ingrid Jonker's poems ( *Selected poems; translated from the Afrikaans by J. Cope and W. Plomer*, 1968)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* The 1968 Ingrid Jonker prize was awarded to Sidney Clouts and presented to him (in London) by Plomer, at the request of Cope, see letters from Clouts at PLO/38.

from Hilary Corke

PLO/43 16 October 1963

Letter enclosing typescript of poem "An order in council" (a parody of an ecclesiastical order in council, mocking the bad taste of ornaments and domestic architecture in various Sussex villages, including Rustington)

1 letter, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet; jointly edited a volume of contemporary poetry with Plomer and A. Thwaite ( *New poems, 1961: a PEN anthology of contemporary poetry*, 1961)

from Pierre Coustillas

PLO/44 18 September 1971 - 5 May 1972

5 letters, 10 sheets & 5 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Editor and expert on George Gissing

from Eric Crozier

PLO/45 9 June 1948 - 11 June 1948

Letters relating to the 1948 Aldeburgh Festival, and to Plomer's talk on FitzGerald

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Writer, lecturer and producer, 1914-1994. Librettist for Benjamin Britten (in particular of *Billy Budd*, with EM Forster).

from Nancy Cunard

PLO/46 23 July 1960

Thanking Plomer for sending book of poems (probably his *Collected poems*, 1960), with comments on some of the poems. Letter written from Holloway Sanatorium, with news of some of the other patients certified 'insane'.

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer and editor, 1896-1965. Met Plomer through Anthony Butts.

from Ralph N. Currey

PLO/47 2 April 1973 - 12 April 1973

Letters relating to Currey's *The Africa we knew* (ed. Jack Cope, 1973), and the use of lines from Plomer's poem "The scorpion" on the title page. Also some notes about the verses of Thomas Vinnicombe from Eshowe in Natal, South Africa, which Currey was hoping to edit.

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet and editor

from Ernst Robert Curtius

PLO/48 28 June 1930, 1931

Letters in German.

2 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Critic and writer on European literature, 1886-1956

from A.A. David

PLO/49 2 August 1918 - 21 November 1918, 29 October 1944

Letters of 1918 written to Plomer and his mother, concerning Plomer's departure from Rugby school. Letter of 1944 written from retirement in Cornwall, and refers to *Double lives*.

5 letters, 5 sheets

*Biographical information:* Headmaster of Rugby school (where Plomer studied 1917-1918), and subsequently an Anglican bishop, 1867-1950

from Angus Davidson

PLO/50 14 March 1973

Letter asking Plomer whether he was the author of *It was not Jones* (Hogarth living poets, 2, 1928: author 'R. Fitzurse' identified as a pseudonym for Geoffrey Basil Taylor in the British Library OPAC)

1 letter, 1 sheet

from Gloria Evans Davies

PLO/51 23 July 1963 - 16 January 1967

Thanking Plomer for his encouragements and commenting on various Japanese poems sent by Plomer.

PLO/51/1 includes a typescript of *Celebration* ("The gull pilots a green spray now lime-yellow now white..."). PLO/51/2 includes a manuscript of *Her name like the hours* ("Blodwen,...").

5 letters, 7 sheets or cards & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet

from Peter Davies

PLO/52 11 November 1932, 4 April 1933

Letters about Plomer's biography of Cecil Rhodes (published by Peter Davies): comments on the manuscript and on its subsequent poor sales, with a suggestion that Plomer write another book for Davies, possibly on suicide

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Publisher

from Richard M. Dawkins

PLO/53 11 March 1933 - 29 March 1933, 27 June 1945 - 1 May 1951

1933 letters (PLO/53/1-2) on Kavafi's poems with comments on Greek culture. Otherwise mainly personal news and comments on contemporary literature generally.

7 letters, 9 sheets

*Biographical information:* Greek scholar, professor of Byzantine and modern Greek language and literature, 1871-1955

from Cecil Day-Lewis

PLO/54 1944 - 1945, 7 May 1960 - 1972

Personal news, with comments on some of Plomer's books and thanking him for his comments on Day-Lewis' work.

First two letters undated, although presumed 1944-1945. Last letter undated.

15 letters, 15 sheets or cards & 8 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet and editor, 1904-1972. Wrote left-wing poetry with WH Auden and Stephen Spender in 1930s. Appointed Poet Laureate, 1967.

from Jill Day-Lewis

PLO/55 13 September 1966, 22 March 1972 - 2 June 1972

Thanking Plomer for copies of his books, with comments on some of his poems and personal news

4 letters, 4 sheets or cards & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Wife of Cecil Day-Lewis, poet

from Paul Dehn

PLO/56 24 March 1949

Thanking Plomer for his encouragement following publication of Dehn's poems ( *The day's alarm* )

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet, author and film script-writer, 1912-1976



from Anthony Delius

PLO/57 15 September 1968

Concerning arrangements for presentation of [Ingrid Jonker] prize to Sidney Clouts

1 letter, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African writer

*Related material in other DUL collections:* The letter from Delius was originally filed with letters from Clouts at PLO/38.

from Patric Dickinson

PLO/58 22 March 1973, undated

Personal news, and referring to a local poetry festival at Cley-next-the-sea, Norfolk

2 letters, 2 sheets or cards & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet and playwright, 1914-1994

from John Dingle

PLO/59 25 March 1935 - 20 May 1935

Comments on Plomer's novels, in particular *The case is altered*, and on his treatment of homosexuality. Mainly comments on Australia, its people and literary circles, and the banning of books.

2 letters, 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* An inhabitant (and apparently native) of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; occasional writer, reviewer and publisher's reader (according to his letters)

from Bonamy Dobrée

PLO/60 19 October 1963

Thanking Plomer for his *Double lives*, and referring to Olive Schreiner

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Literary critic, professor of English literature and historian, 1891-1974

from Violet Du Plat-Taylor

PLO/61 15 April 1958

Thanking Plomer for his *At home*, and reminiscing about the Stephens family (Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell)

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Enslin Du Plessis

PLO/62 26 May 1967 - 15 April 1972

Personal letters and appreciation

First postcard (Plomer 62/1) written jointly by Nadine Gordimer and Enslin Du Plessis from South Africa

3 letters, 1 postcard, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Afrikaans landscape painter; met Plomer while latter was at St John's College in Johannesburg, South Africa, c.1919, and subsequently after Plomer came to England in 1929 (where Du Plessis was then living), see Alexander's biography, p.42.

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also letters from Nadine Gordimer at PLO/80.

from Gladys Ellen Easdale

PLO/63 29 August 1967, 30 January 1969

Recalling meeting Ezra Pound, and referring to 'The Stone Cottage' and 'The Prelude' (the former used as lodgings for Pound and for WB Yeats). Also referring to Clarice Edgar Blake, daughter of Edward Elgar, and her comments on her father's reputation. 2 letters, 5 sheets & 2 envelopes

from Charles Eglington

PLO/64 17 February 1969

Concerning translations of the poems of Fernando Pessoa, a Portuguese poet, and Pessoa's influence on his own poetry. Brief mention of Ingrid Jonker prize and a political ban on his daughter (in South Africa).

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* South African poet and translator

from Hugh Denis Charles Fitzroy, earl of Euston

PLO/65 22 August 1958

Letter about his grandmother's letters from South Africa, submitted to Jonathan Cape for possible publication

1 letter, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

from Edward Morgan Forster

PLO/66 6 July 1929 - 1969

A large series of personal correspondence (listed in detail), with many literary allusions and references to mutual friends

332 letters

*Biographical information:* Novelist and man of letters, 1879-1970. Met Plomer after writing to him in 1929, and remained a close friend until his death.

PLO/66/1 6 July 1929

From S.S. *Llandoverly Castle*. EMF has read WP's short stories [ *Paper Houses*] on his voyage to South Africa, and is writing to say he enjoyed them, in particular "Ula Masondo". EMF has not yet read WP's novel but is hoping to obtain it. EMF is travelling with the British [Association], and expects to be "shown everything and see nothing".

PLO/66/2 24 September 1931

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for *Sado*, and praises and assesses the ending of this novel. He has read *Le Grand Meaulnes* and gives a brief response to it. EMF is going away for a fortnight but wishes to meet with WP on his return to talk about *Sado*.

PLO/66/3 4 December 1931

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for and accepts his invitation to his party on 15 December. Reports that he respects the opinions of T. E. Shaw and that Shaw has highly praised *Sado* for its unconventional lack of "fortissimo". EMF and T. E. Shaw disagreed about Iris but agreed in liking the book. Archdeacon Parker has EMF's copy.

PLO/66/4 11 July 1932

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his book, having re-read it. Declares that it gives him "the feeling of revolution". EMF is glad it is going to have success, for the resulting money and the widened audience. He praises its "slight shifting of the angles". Suggests that WP brings Bernard with him to tea. Suggests that as Bernard is thinking of the police then he might like to meet Bob, who "likes it... especially for its athletic opportunities".

PLO/66/5 25 May 1932

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Comments on WP's drawings of "the policewoman". Mentions having written to Faber again. He believes Eliot [editor of Faber] is away. Thanks WP for his efforts with the illustrations and asserts that he will endeavour arrange publication. EMF will be in town by Monday afternoon, and may have to spend the weekend at King's [College].

PLO/66/6 18 November 1932

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his letter which he found consolatory. EMF had nearly asked for WP's help but is glad he did not have to since WP had his own difficulties. EMF is unhappy about Bernard being well enough to return to Windsor. EMF expects to arrive at the flat with Bob from Sunday to Tuesday and invites WP to tea on Tuesday, before he goes to a "cocktale" party with Somerset Maugham.

PLO/66/7 4 December 1932

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is arranging a social visit with WP at the flat. Mrs Barger is also staying at the flat. EMF is "very excited" about *Maurice* and is thinking about opinions on it and its ending. Mentions the difference in attitudes between the time of writing and the present. Says he will bring WP two recently-written short stories. Gabriel Atlain has sent EMF *Death of Felicity Taverner*. EMF is to dine with the Woolfs the next day.

PLO/66/8 Friday [1932?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF and his mother look forward to lunch with WP on Monday and invites him to "stop as long as [he] will". He fears he may still have to rest and has been told by the doctor "not to get into mischief". EMF has *Foreign English*, which Simpson would like WP to read.

PLO/66/9 19 January 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF suggests WP meets with him to "talk matters over", and comments on how the world seems not to be "constructed on any one plane". EMF mentions that Frank Vicary enjoyed meeting WP at a previous lunch. Mentions reading *Cecil Rhodes*, which Raymond Mortimer has taken, with *Sado*. EMF has been preoccupied by WP's poems, and gives critical comment on one of them. He wishes to write to Bernard but as he has lost his address book says he will send the letter care of WP.

PLO/66/10 23 January 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his letter and copy of *Cecil Rhodes*. Arranges a time for meeting the following Thursday. Asks WP to accompany him visiting Bob's wife, but it will involve a "tedious" journey by train. Concludes with "I must stop and cut down a tree".

PLO/66/11 9 February 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is arranging a meeting with WP, Bernard and Bob at the flat for the next Wednesday. Acknowledges WP's "anxiety" about Bernard, but offers reassurance, and his opinion on the matter. Philosophises on the nature of experience and its relationship with knowledge of death, but asserts that "meanwhile Bernard has to earn a living". EMF describes the previous day's Kenya debate, which he attended, comments on the trustworthiness of Cunliffe Lister, and writes of his uneasiness at Lister's "assurances". Mentions Bob's portrait and how it is an excuse to Bob's wife for his visiting the flat. EMF also gives his thoughts on Quashie.

PLO/66/12 26 February 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes about keeping up light contact with Bernard. Suggests meeting for lunch on Wednesday as he is visiting Bob. Frank Vicary has found a job as gardener to Mark Palmer which is a relief. He has seen [James Hanley?], and comments on his social status and writing. Reports that Leonard [Woolf?] admired the short story that WP contributed to his anthology. EMF reproduces Ismail's "Fair as Unshaded Light", and comments on the poem.

PLO/66/13 17 March 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Apparently EMF is responding to a difficulty over money encountered by WP. Comments that money is "one of the large things we are surrounded by, like death" and how it is forgotten about most of the time because of being in the company of people "who don't need it". He expects to be up on Tuesday and proposes to arrange to meet.

PLO/66/14 17 March 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has received a postcard from WP. He quotes a sentence from Rev. Dr Well's account of how the animals fitted into the Ark. EMF looks forward to seeing WP around Tuesday.

PLO/66/15 3 April 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has news to explain to WP and writes that WP is welcome to turn up uninvited. Comments on the state of his relationship with Bernard, mentions financial hardship, and sympathises with WP's difficulties in relation to Bernard. His own affairs, he states, are favourable and he is happy about this. He describes how he and Bob have bought clothes at Selfridges, and ends by noting how he enjoyed being with WP's people and wishes the "Swedish" conversation had lasted longer.

PLO/66/16 5 May 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF touches on a discussion about women and relationships with women, writing about having a basis, "masculine feminine or neuter", which allows one to settle down. Charles Lovett is to stay with EMF. Informs WP that he and the gardener have been nailing signs around the wood "to keep young ladies from picking the bluebells".

PLO/66/17 4 June 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. WP is leaving on Tuesday and EMF, arriving on Wednesday, supposes that even his letter may miss him. EMF sends his love to Joe and hopes he and WP will have a good time. Asks WP to post "the enclosed", if he goes to Toulon, to Achille, and explains his possible whereabouts. Asks for news of Achille and for WP to give him trifle and money. EMF and Bob begin their holiday on the 16th.

PLO/66/18 1 October 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. This letter responds to an episode involving WP's mother and brother and an attempt to end an affair. EMF relates the awkwardness of another episode involving Reg. EMF is glad that WP went with him to Cobham. He feels gloomy, having held a ladder in the cold while windows were cleaned. He is also affected by the "Dickinson life" – [presumably his biography of Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson] – the writing of which had gone "merrily". Adds some opinions on Goethe. Postscript says "Letter of apologies from Gerald Heard".

PLO/66/19 26 October 1933

Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Brief note from EMF stating that Somerset Maugham may be lunching with him on Tuesday, and asks WP to come, meeting at the Reform Club.

PLO/66/20 7 November 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Proposes social arrangements. Brings up the subject of money.

PLO/66/21 29 December 1933

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF says that plans for the immediate future are impossible as his publisher is urging him to finish his manuscript. Send his remembrance to Mrs Alexander. States that he feels "under the weather". As "January is always [his] bad month" he asks for friends to endeavour to entertain him through it.

PLO/66/22 13 January 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF asks to come to supper with Bob on Wednesday. Implies that he is in poor health but that there is "no probability of cancer", and writes that he liked his specialist. He has eaten at Bob's that day and watched a "silly" French film, and comments on Bob's wife's cooking. EMF gives Bob's address in Shepherd's Bush. He explains that his mother has been approached by letter from Mr Balls to help with a biography of Sir Robert Harry Inglis; EMF illustrates the family's connection with Inglis with a sketch.

PLO/66/23 15 February 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Mentions a successful visit to the Wilsons. EMF is interested in Jack's news and says his mother and nephew are "talking about incomes and wills". He mentions class and gives an opinion of women and their behaviour.

PLO/66/24 7 March 1934?

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Begins with crossed-out "Dear Mr Hall", replaced with "Dear William". EMF wants to arrange where to meet before lunch at the Clarendon on Saturday with WP and Joe, either at his flat or in Piccadilly Circus. Postscript asks if WP knows that "Mrs Hardy was secreting a 'grandchild of Queen Victoria' in her folds?".

PLO/66/25 18 March 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is arranging visits for Thursday; he wishes to see Christopher Isherwood that evening. He hopes to see WP at Mrs Hardy's on Friday: he has "written a rather naughty letter" in WP's style to Mr John Lewis in an apparent scheme.

PLO/66/26 8 July 1934

Glenmalure, Co. Wicklow [Ireland]. EMF writes humorously to WP about his stay at a remote hotel in Ireland, doing without alcohol, and in the company of the four female proprietors and the more roguish Michael the oddman. He is there with George Thomson, and reads *Anna Karenina*. EMF returns to the flat on Wednesday morning, and invites WP to communicate with him, but cannot be sure of his plans until he gets in touch with Masood who has arrived in Britain with an illness. Comments how he enjoyed Hampstead Heath with WP and Aircraftsman Fairblock.

PLO/66/27 15 July 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Written on a postcard depicting Zulu tribesmen playing golf. EMF explains that this is discarded from his S.A. collections which he is sorting through. He finds his diary from that time "more interesting" than he thought, and wishes to share it with WP.

PLO/66/28 20 July 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF warmly invites WP to tea at the flat with Sir Ross, Lady Masood and Bob on Monday.

PLO/66/29 2 August 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF encloses a letter [not present] which appears to be about WP, since EMF does not understand its references. He also encloses "what remains of George Dowsing". He is going to Oxford with Bob and seventeen other rowing police, expresses dismay that "some of their women-friends" will also be there. He considers visiting Dawkins, and thanks WP for his encouragement for an article.

PLO/66/30 28 September 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has written to WP's mother, and is pleased that he can be of help to her. Hopes WP is better and relaxing if not. EMF wishes to know about developments at Regents Park, if there are any. He reports that he was relieved to have missed a visit to his mother from Mr R. Alford and his daughter Anne. EMF expects to be up and Thursday and wishes to discuss his articles. Lists the topics he has been asked to give papers on, the various locations, and the names of those who have asked. Includes a request to give details of a festival he mentions in *A Passage to India*. Comments on the aspect of "an unexplained muddle" in India and the novel, and on Miss Quested's experience in the cave. Points to WP's London books, which show the "untidiness of London".

PLO/66/31 3 October 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is pleased with the correspondence he has lately received from WP and invites him to phone on Friday. He comments on a remark made by Jack and concludes with a mention of the King receiving the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan that morning.

PLO/66/32 7 October 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. While looking for some articles EMF has turned up a reference to a particular case and suggests WP follows it up. EMF comments on WP's proposed anthology and "No Ghosts". He suggests WP asks around for newspaper cuttings that friends have kept, and mentions Forrest Reid in this respect. EMF has offered Simpson his flat for a few days.

PLO/66/33 9 November 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his letter, and comments on "that remarkable evening". His cold is better, and he has been planting trees and listening to the radio. He writes that he spent part of Sunday "with the Woolves and their marmoset." His mother is staying with him at the flat till Tuesday, which EMF remarks may be trying. EMF is hunting for a packet of important articles, which are needed for proceeding with WP's suggested book, the idea of which EMF has been warming. EMF is trying to be less public spirited, which he calls a "bad habit...especially when the public future is so dark". He has had a letter from Marie Mauron, resolves to write to Achille, and states that he would like to meet WP's Japanese friend. He also mentions Jack and his health.

PLO/66/34 21 November 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF invites WP to lunch with him before he leaves for the Saar. EMF mentions an article which he liked, comments on its effect on him and its connection with younger writers.

PLO/66/35 29 November 1934

Forbach, Germany. Written in a mixture of English and German. In the Saar, Achille is coaching EMF to play the part of an unknown uncle, and to explain (in German) that he was born in Germany but moved to England as a child, so forgetting most of his German; this so that he may meet Achille's relatives. As "Koch", EMF is to be discreet as Achille's companion. Describes Achille thus as "fun, very affectionate ... and also romantic". Explains a little about the Saar, its people and countryside, and also about Achille: he has learned he is "practically German", and gives other information about him. Gives his address, and states he shall be back next week.

PLO/66/36 6 December 1934

St. Rémy de Provence. EMF returns to England on Friday via Dieppe, and hopes to see WP. He describes his appreciation for the scenery, and recounts a drive to a Roman Temple of Diana, also seeing the Rhone and Villeneuve-les-Avignon. Comments on ageing, and details the plans for the route back to England, including Marseilles.

PLO/66/37 25 December 1934

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF thanks WP for the goat. Lists his engagements for the coming few weeks. Discusses the novel *Land Under England* which he has read and is impressed by. He is also reading a book on the Saar, as well as poems by Collier Abbott and others. Writes about Bob's party, and discusses various guests, Harry Fewkes?, Stephen and H. Daly. Asks WP to tell him about Torquay.

PLO/66/38 Friday [1934]

Norfolk. In a rough note EMF responds to WP on the subject of a recent incident (possibly on a train?) where EMF sits opposite a boy with a remarkable tattoo on his fingers and passes the time by making up variations. EMF was met by Jack and Colonel de [Cr...?] at Peterborough. Describes his stay, including a visit to Felbrigg Hall. Concludes with writing that he feels "a little like Norman Douglas" and that he will tell why.

PLO/66/39 1 January 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Wishes WP a happy New Year. It is also EMF's birthday and he writes that he would not ask WP to help him through a "bad mood", but acknowledges that WP is there if needed. EMF likes the [M...?], comments on and praises various aspects, and is encouraging of WP. EMF wishes to meet [G... B...?], and writes that he has been walking with Arthur Walford, Erchie Waterston and Hughie Waterston.

PLO/66/40 2 January 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF invites WP to lunch with him and says he will also invite Jack Spratt. He says he has been busy with his newspaper articles. EMF asks WP to ask Joe to show him an article on Keats.

PLO/66/41 21 January 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Begins by noting that the inventor of nougat has died, as reported by *The Times* that morning. Informs WP that Akbar would like to be invited to tea, or to accompany EMF in visiting WP.

PLO/66/42 30 January 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF expects to be lunching with H. N. Brailsford and Claire Leighton, before going to Nottingham. He is working hard with editing his book, and has sent some to WP to return with any comments. Mentions asking Akbar to tea, either alone or with Bob, who is in Willesden (gives address). For that evening EMF is expecting Hugh Waterston. He has given Eddy [Sackville-West?] WP's address as he "professed so much admiration for him".

PLO/66/43 10 March 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has heard news of WP, who is at Torquay, through Joe. EMF is going to London for a library meeting on Monday. Reports that Lord Riddell has left "improper books" to his son and says he has been asked by Sir Charles [...] Wright which should be kept.



PLO/66/44 20 August 1935

Max Gate, Dorchester. EMF goes to Amsterdam on Saturday. He mentions a paper on Thomas Hardy, and lists various photographs and etchings etc he has of Hardy. Reports that Eileen is not well, and that the cook is supplying too much food. By chance he has met Dr Marie Stopes, who asked for a copy of *The Well Beloved*. EMF spent the previous day at the excavations at Maiden Castle with his cousin, who recounted trying a case of rape. Achille has written again asking for 100 francs, having been attacked and robbed. EMF has sent him £1.

PLO/66/45 24 November 1935

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has proofs and has sent WP the list of contents. Asks WP to support him in changes he is making to the arrangement of part of the book, but is happy with the rest of it. He mentions Florence Barger, and writes of his uneasiness concerning proposed title of his book.

PLO/66/46 [1935?]

No address EMF is "a little drunk". He has just been to a concert with Bob, and wishes WP – who is in difficulties and is unhappy – had been able to stay the rest of the day. Mentions WP's talk with Bill Williams, and reassures WP that there are many friends who would help him. Proposes to write a cheque for £25 to WP in the morning when he is sober, and to send more at the end of the year. Continues Saturday: EMF is shortly to meet Charles Lovett.

PLO/66/47 19 February 1936

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has been instructed to go to the nursing home straight away by the doctor. However EMF intends to go to the flat first and the nursing home on Wednesday. Asks WP, whom he has not seen in a long while, to take care of him one night. Mentions "amazing news" about WP's parents, and also plays that he has seen and enjoyed and would like to see.

PLO/66/48 25 May 1936

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF hopes to come and see WP in Dover some time. EMF is in London all week with little John H. S. Florence Barger is present and EMF describes at length how she is being somewhat trying with her opinions and ideas, and that he lost his temper with her. EMF feels he should "get up and face the world", and mentions Northern Ireland and the suspension of Habeas Corpus: Civil Liberties and the Society of Authors have sent him pamphlets, and Seán Murray is mentioned. EMF says [Cecil] Day Lewis wants to convert the Society of Authors into a Trades Union. Lord Sorrell is mentioned. EMF is busy, and is giving a cocktail party for journalists on behalf of Intellectual Liberty.

PLO/66/49 Sunday [1936?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Hasty note inviting WP to dinner, and asks him to come to the flat at 6:30. It is the anniversary of Bob and EMF's first meeting and they have agreed that they most wish WP to be with them at that time.

PLO/66/50 18 June 1937

Much Wenlock. EMF wants to meet WP over a business proposition to do with he and R. A. Furness being asked to arrange an English translation of the poems of [Cavafy?], and deciding to ask WP and Dawkins to do it. EMF gives his correspondence addresses and says he is in London on the 30th and again on the 6th. Continues to say he is on holiday with Bob and they are enjoying it greatly. EMF and Bob have both signed the letter.

PLO/66/51 12 September 1937

33 Marine Parade [Dover]. EMF asks if he might bring Bob to visit on his next leave day. He thinks it is the first time he has written since Masood's death, over which there has been secrecy and the threat of scandal. Akbar's whereabouts are mentioned, and EMF writes about "the usual maze about money". He explains a little of his relationship with Masood and of Masood's activities after divorcing and returning to India. EMF feels that it is easier to write to WP about these things than to [Maulvi Abdul Haq?].

PLO/66/52 18 October 1937

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his letter and drawings of the castor oil flower and says he enjoyed WP's visit. WP has written an obituary which EMF says he must read. Mrs Hardy's funeral is that morning. Says he hopes that WP will come to the flat again. Quotes a verse in French [Racine?].

PLO/66/53 2 November 1937

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes with praise for Jack and comments on a situation and episode involving him and Moggam. EMF hopes that he, Jack and WP can meet soon.

PLO/66/54 [17 November 1937]

Written on the back of a banquet invitation from the Rudyard Kipling Memorial Fund. EMF comments on the event, being invited to Sir Frank Brown's table, and the committee representing the Unpopular Front including Walpole. Writes that if he were wealthier he would attend, except he would be hard put to find a lady to accompany him. EMF encloses a catalogue for WP to read, and writes that he has just come back from Paris where he was ill and did not get on well with Leo. Mentions seeing Giroudoux's *Électre*, dining with Sergei Datuit who was "appalled" by them, and the activities of various other companions.

PLO/66/55 Sunday [late November or early December 1937]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for a visit, and writes about being glad to get a stone for his ring. He writes about Joe who has been ill. He is reading *Tom Jones* and states that this re-reading of "masterpieces" is his "particular devilry, in the face of world-collapse".

PLO/66/56 [Christmas 1937]

Fears that WP has been sent a particular book, and asks if it could be returned. EMF has received WP's *Redburn* and likes the introduction, and comments on the text. Asks to be remembered to WP's mother and father. Mentions the Council for Civil Liberties in a postscript.

PLO/66/57 9 February 1938

Wallington, Cambo, Morpeth. Thanks WP for poems, which he likes, and goes on to encourage WP to write more, saying he is "much more a poet" than anyone else he knows. EMF describes his stay at Wallington: the house, his host the Lord Lieutenant, and his daughters, one of whom, Miss Bulmer, is at the Newcastle People's Theatre. He leaves tomorrow, and is to try to walk along the Roman Wall, and he describes the estate and countryside.

PLO/66/58 30 March 1938

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Refers to the bad news that WP has received. He has been thinking of René and his "account of Cattani", muses about the French and English, and quotes Jules Guillery. EMF also writes of a Public Enquiry on the Rural District Planning Scheme.

PLO/66/59 Friday [early July 1938]

Heytesbury House, Wiltshire EMF is hoping to lunch on Monday with WP. He is bemused that WP proposes to come to the Pageant, and asks him not to. His mother hopes that WP will however stay for the weekend in July. EMF is enjoying his time at Heytesbury; he describes the house and gardens, and wishes he wasn't leaving, commenting on the negative aspect of living in small "boxes".

PLO/66/60

*Ownership history:* Missing. Not found

PLO/66/61 25 August 1939

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF responds to a request to be executor of WP's mother's estate. EMF suggests others but is prepared to take on the role. He advises on properly drawing up a will and employing lawyers. He has had a "difficult" letter from Frank Vicary, and refers to a journey in WP's company. He is "delighted over the Brighton news". EMF has been restless and dissatisfied lately and this is affecting his work somewhat.

PLO/66/62 4 September 1939

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Although at sixty EMF no longer wishes to be executor to any more people, he is happy to be consulted about WP's remains. He hopes Ted reaches WP safely. Joe is displeased with Dover, and asks EMF whether he is cheerful, but EMF does not know. EMF is pleased with his career and the last ten years, but has no more to write at his time.

PLO/66/63 30 September 1939

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF's mother is weaker, and has been upset at him leaving Brunswick Square. He wishes to arrange to visit WP that week. Life at West Hackhurst has been tiresome, and EMF philosophises on sensible friends and wisdom. He has been studying Beethoven.

PLO/66/64 [March 1940]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Begins by referring to selling saving certificates and investing in war loans. EMF, who has had a trying time as an invalid and is only just allowed out of bed by the doctor, looks forward to seeing WP. He and WP have had the same pills which have caused sickness. EMF comments that "the world grows increasingly meaningless" and thinks history will find the Norwegians and Danes at fault. EMF looks forward to WP's poems and ballads which, he writes, are the sort of thing to restore common sense and civilisation.

PLO/66/65 25 March 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is responding to a letter from WP, and writes that he has dreamed of WP and a house in which he had lodged; also that he had composed a poem for him. This is followed by the short poem, which begins with lines from "Jerusalem" and concludes with a list of European nations. EMF then goes on to the subject of wills and whether WP ought to write one. He also mentions he has had influenza. Pasted on to the second sheet of the letter is a line drawing of an angel and a sunrise/sunset, with words in German.

PLO/66/66 19 April 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Begins with the first few line of a letter to a Mr Kilham Roberts, and re-addressed to WP. EMF suggests cancelling supper with Sir Murdo MacDonald as he is not in best way to offer hospitality to a "newly-met". Offers tea in London instead. Asks WP to telephone Chiswick on Saturday to arrange meeting.

PLO/66/67 3 June 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes about settling the account with Bolton. EMF wishes to see WP, but has to see solicitors in Old Jewry. EMF writes about his recent social activities, and recommends that he and WP read Priscilla Maurice's *Meditations of an Invalid*, and explains that Maurice lay in bed with illness for years. Writes about and criticises his current reading.

PLO/66/68 17 July 1940

Place not indicated. EMF is concerned at the job that WP is taking and advises him to see it as a "temporary retreat".

PLO/66/69 20 September 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has recently seen Tony Butts. Refers to events that friends write about in letters but feels distanced, since "nothing has yet happened close to me". Mentions incendiaries appearing to fall on Gomshall Station. EMF visited the Max Beerbohms, along with Mrs Schiff, née Stephen Hudson. Mentions Johnny Simpson, Hughie Waterston, and Murdo MacDonald. EMF is not able to leave West Hackhurst as Bob and his mother will not let him, and he feels cut-off. Mentions the "alarming" military situation.

PLO/66/70 16 October 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Written on paper from a book by Holbrooke Jackson. A "bomber is overhead", and EMF writes "in a mood of military and aerial depression", with concerns for British defences. EMF philosophises about self-pity, referring to WP's ideas on the subject, and also to Herodotus. He reports that he has had visits from Hughie Waterston and from John Simpson. EMF disagrees greatly with the treatment of refugees and the speech of Duff Cooper at the start of the war, describing them as "national vilenesses". EMF describes his influences by Voltaire, and his current reading. Reports that Ted is safe in Somerset, and refers to events involving Murdo. He produces the contents of a letter of Mrs Hardy's sent to him by Joe.

PLO/66/71 24 November 1940

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. John L. has sent WP's poems to EMF, and these are discussed briefly. EMF also briefly comments on [Cecil?] Day Lewis and his writing.

PLO/66/72 12 June 1941

Dorking and District Refugee Committee. Written on headed notepaper, with EMF's annotations under printed names of Refugee Committee members. Joe has gone to Tenby and has not been heard of since; EMF comments that he needs violet ray treatment, and that Paddy, as well as the effects of the Blitz, seem to be the cause. Mentions WP's work getting in the way of letter-writing, and how his own lack of work should mean he wrote more. EMF still working for the BBC, and his attention is on music more than other things; however he has no one musical to discuss ideas with, mourning the loss of Charles Mawson for this reason. EMF spent his visit to Leonard [Woolf] talking about Virginia. He reports that Leonard liked WP's writing, and comments that [T.S.?] Eliot "disgraced the human race".

PLO/66/73/1 30 October 1941

Place not indicated. EMF discusses a poem and comments on the "duty of disloyalty" as it concerns aristocrats. He advises that WP should publish, and goes on to criticise the poem in depth. Continues [Wednesday 5 November?] EMF is on the train. He begins with news that his mother's friend Mrs Mawes has died, and he is on his way to see how his mother has been affected. The funeral is the next day. EMF then resumes criticism of the poem.

PLO/66/73/2 Wednesday 5 November?

In train. Begins with news that EMF's mother's friend Mrs Mawes has died, and he is on his way to see how his mother has been affected. The funeral is the next day. Resumes criticism of poem.

PLO/66/74 3 December 1941

"as from 9 Arlington Park Mansion, Chiswick, [London] W. 4." Invites WP to dinner with Hsiao Chi'en at the Reform Club. He writes of a visit to Mesdames B. Francis, and mentions Ronnie Hawkins and Joe, in relation to WP.

PLO/66/75 26 December 1941

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF thanks WP's father for the slippers. He is spending a lot of time reading and enjoying it, and refers to Moliere, Montaigne and Rabelais, whose writing he has not enjoyed hitherto, although difficulties with the French language cause him to again mourn the loss of Charles Mauron. He writes that he is going for a walk with Florence Barger, and predicts her comments on Hitler.

PLO/66/76 31 December 1941

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is arranging a visit to WP at his flat. Goes on to discuss his reading, mentioning Balzac and Racine.

PLO/66/77 31 January 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes about a broadcast he is making, and thanks WP for "Lilian" and "Rowse". He writes that "These times fill unmoneyed worldlings with dismay". EMF has heard that WP's work appears to have made him unwell. He has received a visit from Frank Vicary, who is ageing, and EMF blames himself for not seeing him often enough and so keeping Frank up to "the mark".

PLO/66/78 8 February 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Discusses arrangements related to WP's mother's jewellery. EMF wishes he could see more of WP. Describes briefly the current domestic and general situation. Refers to a letter from Christopher Isherwood which mentions WP. EMF is sorry that Marjorie is unwell and that this means yet more work for WP.

PLO/66/79 18 March 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF returns to the topic of his slippers, and wonders about the term "trapeze" and whether he can discover about its meaning from his dictionary of slang. EMF writes about the mood of dejection which prevails, and how all letters at the current time say the same thing regardless of wording. His mother is unwell. Also writes that he is trying to broadcast to India on the topic of modern poetry. Discusses current poetry with a list of "good" and "bad" poets: Alan Hodge, John Waller, K. Rhys, L. Tomahawk, Vernon Watkins, Henry Green, George Barker, Adam Drinan; EMF signs himself off as "Good Critic".

PLO/66/80 19 April 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF praises a poem that WP has sent him. Hopes that the "fresh air" of WP's new situation will be good for his health, and mean less over-work.

PLO/66/81 [24 May 1942?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF responds to a broadcast by Rebecca West which he has heard. He has learned from Joe that WP's eyes are getting better and hopes that WP can visit; he describes the conditions at West Hackhurst, welcoming anyone who will put up with them. He refers to communications from Charles Maunon and [Hashim?]. EMF is glad that WF liked the "Virginia brochure", and thinks Virginia might have liked it too "excepting the remarks on her feminism."

PLO/66/82 1 June 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF, and his mother, look forward to seeing WP if plans allow, and assumes that these depend on Ted. EMF has just given a talk to the Rotarians of Red Hill and he relates an incident which happened there.

PLO/66/83 23 June 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF responds to news of WP's visit Ted. Describes also how, after WP's last visit to West Hackhurst, he saw a stag beetle and a new dragonfly, and how he had not known WP "cared for such creatures", creatures for which EMF is thankful "in these days". Tomorrow EMF is to visit Siegfried Sassoon.

PLO/66/84 25 July 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF asks about WP's eyes, and hopes to be seen by Rupert Scott about sharper glasses. He has just visited Clive and Vanessa [Bell?] and also Leonard.

PLO/66/85 21 November 1942

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has signed and passed on documents. He is recovering from a cold, which is being watched in case it becomes pleuritic. He hopes that WP is getting on with his autobiography. Joe's letter has been accepted by the *Spectator* and EMF comments on this letter.

PLO/66/86 [1942?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Arrangements for EMF and WP meeting in London the next Tuesday.

PLO/66/87 5 March 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF makes social arrangements with WP around his broadcast commitments. EMF's mother has been unwell. He looks forward to reading WP's manuscript and writes about Sargeson, making comparisons with George Orwell. He hopes to visit Hughie Waterston, and Jack Sprott. Mentions a "contest" with Sainsbury over "rights to a glassy-contoured egg".

PLO/66/88 21 March 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Writes about a pamphlet which has been well-received except by Koestler. EMF has been saddened by re-reading letters of his "loved and lost" Charles Mauron, and comments and philosophises on the state of contemporary England – "a fortress of boredom and edification". EMF has visited Hugh Waterston and Jack Sprott, and Northamptonshire. Mentions Marie Stopes.

PLO/66/89 29 March 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF gives his immediate impressions and critique of WP's manuscript. John Simpson is visiting the next day.

PLO/66/90 [5 April 1943]

Place not indicated. EMF has read WP's book [ *Double Lives?* ] and offers some comments. Comments on the life experiences WP has had and reflects on his own, including those gained in India, and mentions "this race-phantom" and "class-phantom".

PLO/66/91 18 April 1943

Place not indicated. Responds to sympathy from WP for, presumably, a friend leaving to fight in the war.

PLO/66/92 29 April 1943

"As from" West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is "not enjoying life" and wishes not to meet strangers.

PLO/66/93 30 May 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF sends an item about Isaac Bickerstaffe and comments on the satirist. He has written to Victor Cunard about the diary, and gives WP his opinions on it. Looks forward to WP's next visit, and offers him another document to read, to do with Roosevelt circa 1919 and agents provocateurs.

PLO/66/94 12 June 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Looks forward to WP visiting the following week, and suggests arrangements. Describes the garden and wood which has become "grand and wild". Mentions dinner with Major Sparrow and Victor Cunard, and lunch with Joe, on whom he comments at length. Describes current domestic life, and concludes with mention of a broadcast he has to do on plays.

PLO/66/95 10 August 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Writes about his grievances, about "women v. women", and arising "from the death of Joe".

PLO/66/96 9 October 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has heard from John Morris that WP is looking well, while Joe has reported differently, and is concerned for WP. Invites him to meet at Chiswick on the 20th and "drink... in honour of Leo". He is unhappy following the death of a friend with whom he used to stay in Ireland, and feels even more "condemned to dwell eternally in the Home Counties". Discusses Cyril ?Knill and related social tensions. He is dining again at Stephen's with a Frenchman, a Chineseman and T. S. Eliot. He wishes WP to seek the Sitwells' opinion on him, and he describes his relationship with the Sitwells.

PLO/66/97 18 October 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is worried about WP's health. EMF has been treated by Dr Bluth, who he has found has also treated Hsiao Chi'en for fatigue, with "good results", and offers WP Dr Bluth's address. Writes about Wednesday's social engagements and invitees.

PLO/66/98 22 December 1943

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF responds to an article about him written by WP, which pleases him and his mother. Christmas preparations have been blighted by the illness of one of the cats. EMF writes about his becoming "overdevoted to animals", comparing them to humans in wartime. Discusses John Meade and a conversation he has had with him on the subject of world peace and justice. Bill Roderick has provided EMF with various items from the New World. EMF asks WP about his doctor.

PLO/66/99 [early 1943]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Asks WP for a line on Peter Abrahams, who has asked EMF for support in an application to the Royd Literary Fund, although EMF has never heard of this author.

PLO/66/100 Sunday [April 1943?]

Loose arrangements for meeting that week. EMF is reading work by Ebenezer Jones. He has been to a meeting of the Memoir Club, and mentions Virginia, Lytton and Roger; he also comments on Bloomsbury and "civilisation" and Plomer's *Double Lives*. Asks for news of Frank Herman.



PLO/66/101 [June, 1943?]

"Flat" [Arlington Park Mansions, Chiswick, London W. 4]. Makes arrangements for meeting at the Reform Club. Gives news of Joe and R...? – who is absent without leave. Mentions the the Black Watch, also seeing Frank Vicary, Sir Kenneth and Lady Clark, Mrs Alfred Lyttleton; writes that he has seen *The Magic Flute* with Sir Malcolm and April Darling, and Mr and Mrs Arthur ?Gillet. EMF is pleased to hear of WP's brother's success. He also mentions the Executive Council for Civil Liberties and his threat of resignation. A postscript gives news of Bob's exams.

PLO/66/102 Sunday [Sept.? 1943]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Offers WP a bottle of whisky. Agrees to fix to parties after WP's holiday and suggests a third party incorporating the visit of André Gide, although fears this won't succeed as he says cannot persuade the French of his importance. Mentions Lalla Vandervelde and PEN Club. He has enjoyed Morris' book on Japan. Mentions a writer friend, J. E. C. Fitch.

PLO/66/103 Monday [1943?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF gives Charlton's address. He has re-read WP's book and is delighted, and his mother also has also read it and commented. He gives news of Joe, referring to him as "Sacred Mutt" and describing his mischiefs, and also mentions Harry Daly.

PLO/66/104 Wednesday [1943?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Thanks WP for his recent assistance. Writes about a "feckless" Cooney and refers to an argument with Major Sparrow; EMF hopes to see Major Sparrow and receive the Victorian manuscript from him. Writes that the "human race has gone wrong", and mentions Hardy. Goes on to mention Denton Welch and Stephen Tennant.

PLO/66/105 2 January 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Mentions John Morris. EMF makes arrangements for meeting with WP in London and writes about his cats and a broadcast script he has sent to WP. The broadcast is edited by Joe, and EMF hopes he left in "the sillier parts of Sir Richard Livingstone". He worries about being produced by Eddy Sackers [Edward Sackville-West?].

PLO/66/106 26 January 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Writes about the general malaise in people caused by the war and effects of the Blitz, and fears the effects on WP's health. Invites WP to stay in March. Mentions Cousin Percy. EMF writes that he misses Bill Roerhrich, and responds to "lamentable" news of Capetanakis.

PLO/66/107 4 March 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF comments on *David Morgan*, referring to working-class aspects. He mentions Capetanakis and also writes of his limited visits to London and how "there may not be a future".

PLO/66/108 10 March 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Asks for the address of John Mavrocordato, which is needed because of a "new... muddle". Hopes that things are going well for WP. EMF expects to go to Nottingham on Saturday, and he looks forward to this.

PLO/66/109 1 April 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has heard from Joe that WP is unwell, and expresses displeasure at and criticism of the goings-on and "official treachery" in WP's work. John Simpson also reports of WP that he is ill. Describes Cyril, who has called on WP, as an "agreeable" companion.

PLO/66/110 19 April 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF sends sympathy for Capetanakis' death. Mentions Gide. Hopes to see WP and "American John" soon. John Simpson is to visit "without the Idiot", and EMF enjoyed Nottingham with its abundance of meat and coal. EMF is trying to persuade Joe to get a parrot or cockatoo.

PLO/66/111 30 May 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Writes at length about how the hot weather is ruining the flowers and vegetables. EMF has visited the Lake District, where he enjoyed the company of a soldier, Eddie Cunningham, from whom he receives letters.

PLO/66/112 11 October 1944

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Invites WP to meet Lalle Vandervelde at Victor's. EMF has formed a list of "Pro Lalla" – "Roger Fry, Clive Bell, Bessie Trevelyan, self"; "anti Lalla": Bob Trevelyan, Desmond; and "pro Lalla per Lalla - Gide, Bernard Shaw, Bergson".

PLO/66/113 19 November 1944

Place not indicated. Discusses Balzac. Written on the reverse of a page of printed literary criticism of writers including Woolf, D.H. Lawrence and E.M. Forster.

PLO/66/114 December 1944

Place not indicated. EMF has been reading *The Island*. Comments on the "vulgarity and cruelties" of war.

PLO/66/115 [1944?]

Place not indicated. EMF has written to the *New Statesman*.

PLO/66/116 Friday [1944?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Arranges meeting with WP. EMF is concerned about WP's finances and plans for his flat. Mentions his cousin Percy Whichelo, retired at 58, and also Frank Vicary.

PLO/66/117 Sunday [before 1945?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has enclosed a letter from Geoffrey Grigson and asks for WP's advice on how or whether to respond in a libel matter.

PLO/66/118 17 February 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF reports that he is now in contact with friends in France, including Charles Mauron, and has news of Hsiao Chi'en, Therese Lecaisme and Achille.

PLO/66/119 22 March 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes following the death of his mother, saying "I don't for the moment quite understand myself." He mentions Charles Mauron who is to become Secretary of the Academy of Arles.

PLO/66/120 15 April 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has been reading Osbert's [Sitwell?] autobiography, and comments at length on his values and ideas. Gives some general news from home.

PLO/66/121 12 June 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Alludes to *The Hidden Force* [Couperus] and comments on it at length. EMF reports that he is busy, and lists his engagements, with some domestic news.

PLO/66/122 2 July 1945

[Letterhead] Nightingale Valley. EMF relates the episodes of an ongoing incident involving Valassopoulo and Cavafy; and translations, some of which are played out at the Reform Club.

PLO/66/123 11 August 1945

Postmark Abinger Hammer. EMF looks forward to WP's visit to the country and suggests some arrangements.

PLO/66/124 6 September 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has had an evening with Bobby Lancaster, to whom he found himself attracted, and who is to go as a merchant seaman to India; EMF describes him and the evening spent in his company. Concludes with some news from home and a mention of Malcolm Darling.

PLO/66/125 10 September 1945

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Makes arrangements to meet. Mentions Aunt Rosalie. Expresses concern about Joe and his depression. EMF has written to Bobby Lancaster to thank him for their evening together, and shows intentions of maintaining correspondence between them. He has been visited by Bob, and on the day of writing has received *Sagesse de l'eau* from Charles Mauron, and comments on *Tropic of Cancer*, which he has just finished reading.

PLO/66/126 Postmark 19 September 1945

Abinger Hammer. Brief note on postcard of "Visby. Gamla Apoteket". Concerning arrangements for meeting.

PLO/66/127 21 October 1945

State Guest House, Jaipur. Reports that Bobby Lancaster has written to him in India, also mentioning the Viceroy. Two days into a conference, EMF has asked to "be excused from a moonlight party on the roof of a local metal magnate" and is alone after meeting many people, autographing students' notebooks, and hearing speeches. Joe's, Richard Ch---'s and Edith Sitwell's messages have been read out. Serogini Naidu is president. Also mentions Nehru and Radakrishna, and Ismail Murza – "prime minister of the state", whose address EMF compares favourably with Britain's "vulgar politicians". Complains that he doesn't "see anything, [doesn't] get the Indian impressions" he wants.

PLO/66/128 Thursday [1945?]

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has had coffee with Evert, lunch with Joe, the S.K. Museum, and tea with May – “this last being the pleasantest for my (mentally) difficult inside”. Suggests arrangements for meeting, writing that Jill Napier and her mother would also be “delighted” to see WP. “Noel Voge has sent [him] a photograph of Howard's End”, and an “account of the condition of Germany... Freiburg sounds heartrending”.

PLO/66/129 Saturday [1945?]

“At Aunt Rosalies”. EMF is “much the happier” for WP's visit. Writes of his visit the next day to “stuff” Bessie [Elizabeth] Trevelyan, returning by Leith Hill Road which is “still forbidden country” due to munitions and warning signs. He recounts paying “an extremely Mediterranean call” to an army [POW?] camp there. EMF goes on to mention his reading of Denton Welch, commenting on him as a writer. His letter is continued the following day after a gap with two ink blots, and writes “what would he have done with these tears? I left them to dry through the night”.

PLO/66/130 [Written Sunday, sent Thursday; after September, 1945]

Place not indicated. EMF hopes that Robert Liddell is not dead, as he wishes to write to him; comments on Liddell's “sensitive” Cavafy essay – “once or twice I felt to be in my own country: what that may be I know not, but it is not My Ain Countree.” He goes on to comment on various writings, and mentions John Meach and the effects on him of five years of fighting – “I was so disappointed.” EMF is to visit Rupert Scott the next day, broadcast on Tuesday. He reports that Frank Vicary is “answering advertisements for domestic cleaners”.

PLO/66/131 9 January 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is unable to meet WP as Florence Barger is visiting. He writes about “this monomaniacal isle” in contrast to WP's good news. EMF is glad that WP is out of the Admiralty. He describes his time in India in retrospect, and concludes his letter with “O and the Dunnock”.

PLO/66/132 11 January 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is glad that Murdo liked him. He writes that he looks “forward to the Dunnock”, and that Florence Barger, a guardsman, and Agnes' nephew Frank are at his home.

PLO/66/133 Postmark 21 January 1946

Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Postcard: writes concerning arrangements for a visit, and says of Lady J. D. that he “always feels that there is something interesting about her”.

PLO/66/134 28 January 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Reports that May has pleurisy. Passes on the message from Bob that Friday's party is cancelled. Briefly comments on Dr A-

PLO/66/135 8 February 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Discusses business to do with WP's will with regard to leaving capital to WP's father, and attending a meeting with Bolton.

PLO/66/136 10 February 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is sorry to hear of WP's father's illness. May is well in spite of "frightful scares". WP is invited by Bob to dinner next Friday. EMF writes "in some emotional exhaustion". Describes an incident involving Bobby Lancaster, whose account of time in Bombay is interrupted by the visit of Mr John Blofield, formerly of the Embassy at Chungking [Chongqing]; in the ensuing conversation Bobby "majestically outstaging the intruder, and proposing to come again Wednesday evening". Praises WP's "gratefulness" and "perspicacity". EMF is excited after opening his BBC fan mail, and is pleased to have had letters from men rather than women. Invites WP to see and discuss his Indian book, which has just arrived.

PLO/66/137 30 March 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF requests a meeting with WP at the [Reform] Club. He has enjoyed a day watching boat races with Robin and George. The previous evening EMF was "shocked and bored" by Joe with his dog; he contrasts this with his "steady affection" for [his own?] pets.

PLO/66/138 Postmarked 13 May 1946

Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Postcard: EMF is pleased WP liked the rhubarb and offers him more. EMF would like to meet R.H.D. again to share some memories and notes of possible interest.

PLO/66/139 17 May 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has heard about WP's operation from Bob, and he and Bob are distressed; EMF reports on the crude details of side-effects as heard from Bob. Writes that he is sending more rhubarb. Also reports of a visit from "King Insolence (Eddy G- Hardy)" concerning selling a "sheet edition of Cavafy to the London Library... Bryan Howard was with him". George Wesz has been staying in EMF's flat. Margery W is visiting. EMF himself has been to Monteverdi's *Vespers*.

PLO/66/140 26 May 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF continues to write about WP's medical condition. Reports that the "garden looks sweet" and that he is having visitors, and gives other domestic news.

PLO/66/141 7 June 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is pleased that WP is well enough to be giving invitations although he is unable to accept one of them because of the libel committee.

PLO/66/142 22 June 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF writes that he and Hart-Davis thought WP "very unwell"; EMF also wishes to send sympathy to Charles concerning his "ghastly tragedy", and plans to visit WP in hospital when suitable. Asks WP to check, and if necessary add to, a description of Kazantsaki for the British Council, with reference to a book Kazantsaki wishes to write entitled "Post War Conversations with English Literary Personalities".

PLO/66/143 28 June 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF had hoped to visit WP [in hospital?] however lists domestic happenings which prevented this, including "Lord Porter and his Defamation" and "John Arlott and his broadcast". Writes to reassure WP about his operation. Also mentions that he is going to a party at Buckingham Palace, and that he has lost a morning of script-writing due to queuing for a new ration book - "Everyone was very cross about bread and violently anti-Labour".

PLO/66/144 3 July 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is concerned for WP. He has been preparing for two days for a jumble sale, and describes a notable item which has been found. EMF has also just read an article about him by Rangee G Shahani, whom EMF has supported and recommended for grants, entitled "Englishmen whom we admire" ["Some British I Admire"?], which EMF has found portrays him badly. He gives an account of many of the points the article makes. The article in proof was sent to him by Sir Frank Brown, and he mentions John Arlott and hopes that WP does not mind that he gave Arlott his address.

PLO/66/145 10 July 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF fears he cannot travel to Richmond with WP, as he is busy, and asks WP to explain to [B-?] that he is house-moving, hence kept away. He notes that WP seems to be going straight back to work rather than convalescing, and asks if WP has the reference for Desmond's article about Roz Campbell. Having visited the Tate, reports that Paul Cadmus' picture has been removed for "something better".

PLO/66/146 28 July 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF asks for R. G. Shahani's letter to be returned, and remarks that he is uncertain as to whether it is intended to be "venomous" or not. He makes a metaphorical allusion to snakes and frogs in the garden. EMF mentions research still to be done, and asks when he and WP will meet.

PLO/66/147/1-4 24 August 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Makes suggestions for social plans, including WP and Berners. Advises WP on the nature of visits to Wilsford and mentions visits to Sunbury and Hampton Court. Has enclosed "Vishnu reclining upon Ananda", which, he writes, answers a letter he sent to Dr Shahani saying that he no longer wished to discuss his work with him. EMF goes on to write: "I own to being really puzzled by this anyhow unpleasant experience." He remarks how *A passage to India* was "dismissed as a complete failure and Goldie [Lowes Dickinson?] as no Olympian". He comments on George Eliot's work, with reference to Tom Tulliver's character, to whom he feels "attracted". EMF includes a forwarded letter from R. G. Shahani, dated 6 August 1946, who writes that EMF "should recognise the integrity of a critic". He concludes with "I think you are a very fine man – always nice to us Asians. I hope to express this opinion more fully some day".

PLO/66/148 29 August 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Mentions Berners, and delaying arrangements due to his forthcoming move. Reaffirms that he knew that Wilsford would be success. Also mentions Aunt Rosalie.

PLO/66/149 17 September 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF comments on the "nice letter" he has received from John Arlott [BBC broadcaster], and gives his undecided opinion of him. Writes that he has "a good prospect of getting to America next year... under musical auspices". Invites WP and Charles to come and choose some more service items.

15 September 1946. 58 Barrington Road, London N8. Forwarded letter from John Arlott, who writes that he understands about EMF's house-moving situation and his decision not to broadcast.

PLO/66/150 21 September 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Postcard, written to WP at 29 Linden Garden, Notting Hill, W2. Contains arrangements for meeting in London.

PLO/66/151 20 October 1946

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF is glad that WP has gained happiness from his house, and hopes that his "future rootlessness" will be tolerated. He reports that there has been much to do, Bob has heard from Heinz, and Johnny Simpson has caught a subcutaneous fungus and has been ill. He also mentions a letter from Lady Bridges – "Kitty Farmer, who owns the house". EMF bemoans the situation wherewith he has been forced to move.

PLO/66/152 23 November 1946

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is "dazed and disgruntled", despite being comfortable. He and Bob have heard from Heinz, who is in the Russian zone. Bob is coming to help "cope with the muddle" – EMF has sold 300 books for £6-6-0. He gives an impression of life in his new home at Cambridge.

PLO/66/153

????????????????

PLO/66/154 21 January 1947

The Reform Club [London]. Refers to social arrangements with WP, Christopher and Berners.

PLO/66/155 2 February 1947

King's College, a staircase, Cambridge. EMF suggests train travel arrangements for WP to reach Cambridge the next Thursday for a visit and social engagements. He writes that Dadie Rylands wants to meet WP. He plans to gather together for dining some of the young people he met at a party the night before.

PLO/66/156 Postmark 14 June 1947

New York. Postcard is of a painting from The Frick Collection, New York. EMF has had "a most successful outing" to New York and will return in July. EMF has heard from Bob that WP is considering travelling to Switzerland. EMF is staying in Paul Cadmus' flat in Greenville Village. EMF and Christopher have dined with Lincoln Kirstein, Pete Martinez, and others.

PLO/66/157 4 November 1947

King's College, Cambridge. EMF mentions Cavafy, Edward Carpenter, David Garnett – in relation to unfinished work? He also mentions The Mint “is released in 1950”, and wonders “whether [WP likes] it any better than the Pillars”. EMF would like to read *A Life's Morning* and what WP says about Gissing. EMF writes of his successful visit to France with Bob and the Maurons. Joe has gone to Italy and “loves Lionel's Farm”. EMF concludes: “Excuse this scrappy letter, but Spanish (through my kind permission) is being taught at the further end of the room”.

PLO/66/158 Postmark 24 November 1947

King's College, Cambridge. Thanks WP for the Gissing and WP's introduction. Reports that Hsiao Chi'en is “in great danger in China, and Charles and Marie not out of it in Provence”.

PLO/66/159 6 December 1947

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. EMF has heard from Joe that WP is ill again. EMF recommends Dr Bluth, whom Hsiao Chi'en also thinks well of. He mentions Madam Vandervelde. EMF is concerned about the mistranslation of his preface for Fontaine, which he “suspect[s] of being bad form end to end”. He seeks an interview with Mademoiselle Raine over this matter. He mentions a poem given to him by Osbert [Sitwell]. He is about to meet Florence Barger.

PLO/66/160 Sunday. Postmark 18 January

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks to join tea with Johnny Simpson on Friday.

PLO/66/161 16 April 1948

The Reform Club [London]. Writes about Martin Young, a King's undergraduate, who has written “the famous Spectator review” concerning EMF, calling Young's attentions “a muddled indictment”.

PLO/66/162 27 May 1948

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes that he shall be staying with [Benjamin] Britten in Aldeburgh on 3 June. He mentions Leo and Stephen Tennant. EMF has entertained visits from Rose Macaulay, Bill Caskey and Dadie [Rylands?], and outlines the impending baptism of Richard Braithwaite, referring to his wife, who is C. F. G. Masterton's daughter. He writes that the affair is “disgusting, depressing, and displays this place at its worst”.

PLO/66/163 11 June 1948

King's College, Cambridge. EMF thanks WP for a gift of some money, with which he intends to buy books. Asks WP to give the rest of the money apparently owed to a good cause instead. EMF has been busy with various parties, and was pleased with his visit to Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/164 17 July 1948

King's College, Cambridge. EMF praises WP, mentioning A. L. Rowse. He writes how he wishes to write letters in bed every morning, and describes the kind of letters he has been receiving [begging letters from distant relations?] and “tearing up”.

PLO/66/165 28 August 1948

Mettingham, Suffolk. EMF has spent ten days at Aldeburgh, which he enjoyed. Writes that he wishes to hear more of WP's Hereford visit.



PLO/66/166 31 October 1948

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has heard WP is unwell. He is to broadcast on Thursday, and invites WP for tea at the Reform Club on Friday. Mentions that Johnny Simpson is lecturing to the Tagore Society next month. Enclosed with this letter is a tabloid newspaper cutting of a the funeral of Mrs Rachel Fennick, or Giner Rae, murdered in Soho. Annotated with "Sydney W. and self cut this out", and "redundant but oh how sweet".

PLO/66/167 Postmark 8 November 1948

Postmark, Brighton. EMF had wanted to spend more time with WP, but also wanted to see "the boy of whom I am fond, Eric Fletcher", before he had to return to the RAF. Describes this boy as working-class, with a "decent degree", "humanist, humanitarian, openly agnostic". Hopes WP will find a decent doctor, and mentions WP's father.

PLO/66/168 21 November 1948

Nottingham. EMF is planning for his birthday on 1 January. He is anxious that Bob should be able to attend. EMF has enjoyed Nottingham, "although the female students here deduced from my lecture that I was a snob". He has just had the Vice Chancellor, Bertrand Hallward, to lunch.

PLO/66/169 Christmas Eve. Postmark 24 December 1948

Chiswick [London] W4. EMF is sorry to hear that WP and Charles are engaged tomorrow and unable to call on him in Wendell Road. Asks when they will be free to visit Chiswick, and writes that he looks forward to 1 January.

PLO/66/170 30 December 1948

The Reform Club [London]. Writes that it is "really my fault about the Birthday Cat", and wishes for nothing concerning their "private party" to reach the press. Mentions arrangements for speeches, and says that he is spending the last days of his sixties "reading Jane Austen and paying calls".

PLO/66/171 3 March 1949

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. Describes the storm on his arrival in Aldeburgh. Writes of making "a start on *Billy Budd*". EMF is to stay in Aldeburgh until his next broadcast, all being well.

PLO/66/172 10 March 1949

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. EMF is working on *Billy Budd*. Discusses the libretto he and Eric Crozier are working on. Describes a difference between "natural depravity" and absolute evil, with reference to Iago in *Othello*. Asks WP to write a "bawdy shanty" for the libretto.

PLO/66/173 17 March 1949

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. EMF writes that he is "ravished by the Rigadoon", mentioning Joe, and suggests discussing "shanties when we [he and WP] meet". Writes of "rescuing Vere from Melville", and how "masses of stuff have been pitchforked into life".

PLO/66/174 Postmark 21 March 1949

Cambridge. Note concerning WP and Charles visiting the next day. EMF hopes to talk about *Billy Budd*.

PLO/66/175 17 April 1949

Postmark Cambridge. Postcard note concerning the account for the Kilvert.

PLO/66/176 9 July 1945

King's College, Cambridge. EMF thinks Caskey's photographs from Aldeburgh are good. EMF is kept busy by Aunt Rosalie, Aunt Nellie, Agnes, Bone, the Postons, cousin Percy, Frankie Franklin. And writes that it would be nice to see Murdo again.

PLO/66/177 10 October 1949

King's College, Cambridge. WP's news of himself in his last letter has caused EMF disquiet. He hopes WP enjoys Italy. EMF has written to Laurens [Van der Post?].

PLO/66/178 2 January 1950

9 Arlington Park Mansions, W4. EMF writes of the previous evening's birthday entertainment as WP was absent from this.

PLO/66/179 Postmark 9 January 1950

3 Wilbraham Place [London]. Thanks WP for his greeting, writing that he and May have arrived and are pleased with the room.

PLO/66/180 17 April 1950

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. EMF refers to WP writing about him in the Festival programme. He mentions Ben [Britten?], and advises WP on the focus of his preface to EMF's lecture on Skelton, expressing contentment with "the shields my friends have interposed against [life's] unkindnesses." EMF is pleased with his doctor, mentions minor ailments, and making Cambridge his base for the weeks up until Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/181 24 April 1950

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. EMF discusses more particulars to do with the content of speeches at the Aldeburgh Festival. The Harewoods stayed for the weekend and have now left. He tells a story of a herd of deer at Woburn falling through ice and drowning one winter. He also refers to Berners and advises WP not to feel bad for not visiting him "at the end".

PLO/66/182 27 May 1950

129 Wendell Road, W12. EMF begins with a short paragraph giving critical comment on the work of T. S. Eliot, mentioning *The cocktail party*. He and Johnny Simpson are both pleased with WP's introductions to each of them, which are composed for Aldeburgh, and he comments briefly, mentioning Roger Fry, on Johnny Simpson's career.

PLO/66/183 Monday [28 August 1950]

9 Arlington Park Mansions, Chiswick. A brief letter mentioning receipt of news of WP from Joe and also WP's Polish mushrooms.

PLO/66/184 Postmarked 31 August 1950

Postmarked South Kensington. Postcard giving WP various phone numbers on which to try ringing him.

PLO/66/185 [6 October 1950]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF reports the "excitement" at Cambridge with elections for Chancellor; EMF intends to vote for Nehru. It is the first contested election there for 103 years. Goes on to discuss the elections further.

PLO/66/186 14 October 1950

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has enjoyed a visit to the Lakes, and is back in Cambridge feeling a little dazed. Writes about Freya Stark and a review "in which she made fun of a man who shirked homosexuality". EMF has been invited by the Egyptian Government to join their Desert Institute celebrations, but feels it would be risky to go considering possible illness, in addition to the fact they would see no more of the desert there than Mena House.

PLO/66/187 [27 November 1950]

King's College, Cambridge. Brief note, mentions house-hunting in Abinger with Bob, and WP's help with *Abinger harvest*.

PLO/66/188 2 December [1950]

King's College, Cambridge. Brief note thanking WP and Charles for their gift.

PLO/66/189 1 April 1951

King's College, Cambridge. Invites WP to the Reform Club to meet him and Bob before heading to the flat to unpack. EMF has been to Paris, Aldeburgh, Doncaster (where he stayed with Eric Fletcher, a miner, and his family), Hawarth, Selby and York. A postscript about Catholics and Christianity mentions Nick Furbank and ?Gide.

PLO/66/190 3 August 1951

129 Wendell Road, W12. EMF responds to news of WP's ill health and discusses doctors, specialists and operations.

PLO/66/191/1-6 September 1951

Cambridge, England. Typed letter addressed to My dear America "September 1951", concerning the libretto *Billy Budd*, in which EMF states he is co-writing it with Eric Crozier, with Benjamin Britten composing the music, and, attributing to Hermann's story the quality of Greek myth, details other versions of the story such as those by Louis Coxe and Robert Chapman, Quasimodo's libretto for Ghedini's opera. He also describes how his libretto version interprets the original story. This is followed with an introduction to Plomer, and reproduces an excerpt of Plomer's criticism of Melville, "from an introduction to some selected poems", "published by the Hogarth Press, 1943". Concludes with statement that "Adapters have to tidy. Creator's needn't and sometimes shouldn't".

PLO/66/192 [6 September 1951]

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. EMF asks a favour of WP because of a "slight hitch in plans", that is, to stay at his home one particular night.

PLO/66/193 [9 September 1951]

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. EMF explains how the problems in the previous letter have been resolved, and regrets troubling WP and Charles for a lodging.

PLO/66/194 [22 November 1951]

129 Wendell Road, W12. Short note arranging to meeting in Covent Garden, where EMF is attending a rehearsal.

PLO/66/195 5 January 1952

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes how "Of you [WP] many a little bird now whispers from many a twig, led by good brown owl. Dawn will soon break and –".

PLO/66/196 14 February 1952

"Flat, but flitting". Thanks WP for sending *Clochemerle*, and gives a response to it. EMF has also been to see Wozzeck. Gives news of Bone, the gardener, whose hospital operation has been problematic.

PLO/66/197 27 February 1952

King's College, Cambridge. EMF reports that he has heard from Agnes and Bone, and that "Bone has been suddenly allowed to return to his home".

PLO/66/198 15 May 1952

Aldeburgh. EMF is delighted with news just told to him by Ben [Britten].

PLO/66/199 21 July 1952

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh. EMF is looking forward to being able to read WP's novel, and writes about his time in Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/200 29 August 1952

King's College, Cambridge. EMF philosophises about old and new friends, his work on the "subject of an Indian state", and "old friends and new amusements".

PLO/66/201 29 November 1952

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has not contacted WP as was WP's wish, nor mentioned his operation to anyone, but has heard he is getting well again and looks forward to seeing him.

PLO/66/202 8 January 1953

Chez Buckinghams, [129 Wendell Road, Shepherd's Bush, London W12]. EMF sends the signatures, and complains of the cold. Mentions E. K. Bennett [Edwin Keppel?]

PLO/66/203 13 February 1953

King's College, Cambridge. Details arrangements for visiting London.

PLO/66/204 Postmarked 3 March 1953

Postmarked Cambridge. Postcard simply reads "am your very own ivy leaf".

PLO/66/205 13 April 1953

129 Wendell Road, Shepherd's bush, London W12. EMF sends a signed certificate application, and asks if anything more is needed. Briefly mentions Aldeburgh, enjoying the libretto, and Peter and J. C. singing.

PLO/66/206 1 July 1953

King's College, Cambridge. EMF looks forward to visiting WP and Charles in their new home once they are settled. EMF is going to *Gloriana* with Merv Palmer. He has heard that William Burrell and Barbara are also coming, and describes them as "a real audience instead of the dazed ambassadors over who I presided."

PLO/66/207 7 October 1953

King's College, Cambridge. EMF went to Stephen [Spender's?] party hoping to see WP there, but WP did not go. EMF is pleased WP likes the "H. of D." and is reviewing it. Despite the "kindness" of King's College EMF is feeling "lost" because of friends' changes of home. He is to read Bennett's proofs of *Stefan George*, and looks forward to doing this.

PLO/66/208 26 October 1953

King's College, Cambridge. Reports that "the book" is doing well. EMF hopes that WP is now settled in his "houselet".

PLO/66/209 1 November [1953]

Postmark Chiswick [London] W.4. EMF hopes to visit WP to hear his ballads. Mentions Bob and May [Buckingham], and Robert and Sylvia. He is going to Aldeburgh at the end of week; Ben [Britten?] has asked for news of WP. Reports that the publishers are pleased with the Hillock's sales and there have been no irritable reviews – the knowledge that the book has "come out of [his] heart has been a shield".

PLO/66/210 9 February 1954

King's College, Cambridge. EMF invites WP to dinner at King's College.

PLO/66/211 2 March 1954

"as from King's". EMF is pleased that WP and Bob can both attend the King's College dinner. Writes about "Lady Menzies' murder as 'nature trying to imitate art and overdoing it'". Bob and May [Buckingham] "have acquired a car and a house". He is writing from Rob's. Mentions a visit to Abinger in the snow, taking flowers to the churchyard and visiting Mrs Bone. Reports the "dreadful events": the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire "injured a man severely when driving drunk, and shot himself" and the 5th Lord also charged with drunkenness.

PLO/66/212 [27 March 1954]

Postmarked Coventry, Warwickshire. Suggests to WP arrangements for meeting. Writes disparagingly of the gardens around Bob's new house.

PLO/66/213/1-2 18 May 1954

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes briefly about John Drew visiting the caves, mentions some poems, and goes on to refer to trivial incidents. He muses at length about a tattooed soldier seen on a railway journey.

PLO/66/214 19 November 1954

King's College, Cambridge. EMF invites WP to the Reform Club for his birthday. Bob and May [Buckingham] are going as well as Francis Bennett.

PLO/66/215 7 December 1954

King's College, Cambridge. Short note about arrangements on 1 January.

PLO/66/216 [Christmas, 1954]

Place not indicated. EMF sends Christmas greetings to WP.

PLO/66/217 Christmas Day [1954]

Maidstone [as from] 9 Arlington Park Mansions, W.4. Postcard with arrangements for 1 January at the Reform Club.

PLO/66/218 2 January 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes about the soap sent to him by WP. He writes that on a recent visit WP's presence was appreciated by all.

PLO/66/219/1-3 12 January 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF forwards to WP a letter of emphatic praise for WP's book, and hopes that WP will "delight in the enclosed".

PLO/66/220 20 January 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks WP how he should reply to a letter received. The correspondent is apparently from a left-wing newspaper. Bob and May's Tom have visited; EMF reports they went on a drive with Francis Bennett in the "charming... Essex Highlands".

PLO/66/221 2 February 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes in response to an apparent loss which has ended WP's heavy responsibility, and is glad WP has Charles' support. He reports that he is "writing to the *New Republic* as suggested" .

PLO/66/222 15 February 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes to say how he enjoyed dinner with WP and Joe, and that he, Bob and May plan to attend the Aldeburgh Festival.

PLO/66/223 29 March 1955

King's College, Cambridge. Short letter mentioning that Kenneth Harrison hopes to join them for the Aldeburgh Festival, and that he has enjoyed a Boat Race weekend with Bob.

PLO/66/224 Postmarked 20 May 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes that he "must not do any more introductioneering at present" and mentions Mr ?Pendse, Mr Sidney, and Mr Bernard Llewellyn, and Forrest Reid, along with Joan and Ben. Writes that "we have all got our tickets. Very wisely I should think".

PLO/66/225 22 August 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is travelling to France that Friday with Bob and May. Mentions a possible visit to South Africa, agreeing with WP that it might be "disquieting" after a "long interval".

PLO/66/226 21 September 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF refers to planned social engagements with WP and Charles, and is waiting to see the plans of S. Knox Cunningham M.P. who, as EMF notes, is a friend of Forrest Reid's. Reports that his visit to France went well and that he stayed with Marie Mauron.

PLO/66/227 1 October 1955

As from Cambridge. With reference to "John's book", EMF mentions Noel Annan, Dadie, Raymond, Leonard [Woolf?], and Elizabeth Bowen.

PLO/66/228 5 November 1955

King's College, Cambridge. EMF wonders whether WP is able to visit in London for a weekend, Bob also being there. EMF is just returned from a visit to Coventry including seeing *Macbeth* at Stratford.

PLO/66/229 26 December 1955

11 Salisbury Avenue, Styvichale, Coventry. EMF writes to say Johnny Simpson had died that morning in hospital from coronary thrombosis, and reports the situation at his home.

PLO/66/230 4 January 1956

4 Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk Thanks WP for "the Thurber book". Margery has returned EMF's old letters to Johnny Simpson and he is sad that he has kept so few of Johnny's. EMF wishes to show WP a short story of Johnny's, and would like to write about his work eventually.

PLO/66/231 4 June 1956

King's College, Cambridge. EMF thanks WP for his sympathy, and writes that cousin Percy, as well as Frank Vicary, died last month. He "sometimes has the frightful feeling that people will now not stop dying". EMF asks where WP is travelling to, writes briefly about his own visit to Cyprus, and mentions a talk he is preparing to give at Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/232 14 June 1956

King's College, Cambridge. EMF invites WP to join him for lunch in London. He has spent the morning drinking wine at his flat with Rob and hearing his accounts of the army. Joe has been to visit. EMF is heading to Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/233 22 June 1956

King's College, Cambridge. Short postcard giving arrangements for lunch at the Reform Club.

PLO/66/234/1-2 Postmarked 29 June 1956

King's College, Cambridge. Brief note concerning an introduction to a friend in South Africa. Also, a notecard to Dr Petronella van Heerden, which is EMF's letter of introduction for WP who is revisiting South Africa.

PLO/66/235 15 November 1956

King's College, Cambridge. EMF makes arrangements for he, WP, Bob and Charles to meet.

PLO/66/236 Postmarked 29 November 1956

King's College, Cambridge. A brief notecard thanking WP and Charles.

PLO/66/237 [December 1956?]

[Cambridge?] Written on a postcard showing an object from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. EMF sends seasons greetings and a joke to WP and Charles.

PLO/66/238 14 April 1957

Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough. EMF responds to a Sushila book which is concerned with India and nationalism, and details his movements between London and Cambridge for the next few days. Mentions *Double Lives* and the news of its sequel.

PLO/66/239 12 December 1957

King's College, Cambridge. EMF thinks that WP could be as well to move nearer to London, for its better amenities. He writes of how fewer Christmas cards he has to send this year and says he is spending Christmas at Coventry. EMF also writes about his recent reading. He also reminisces on the event of WP's introducing him to Christopher [Isherwood?], and notes that he sees "a great deal" of Francis Bennett and his neighbour Kenneth Harrison, and "the young as they come in and out". Concludes with how he and Bob tried to contact Leo [Charlton?] on a visit to Northumberland in September.

PLO/66/240 15 January 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF refers to some press cuttings, and reports that he has written an article entitled "A view without a room" for the *New York Times*' celebration of the 50th anniversary of EMF's novel.

PLO/66/241 26 January 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF admires WP's letter in the Times that morning. He refers to "our parallel Cambridge scheme" and raising funds for an undergraduate scholarship. EMF again says he has written an article for the *New York Times*, apparently unaware he put this in his previous letter to WP.

PLO/66/242 5 March 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has read "the whole book" [ *At Home* – WP's memoir?] and responds warmly to it and its portrayal of his mother and friends. EMF adds anecdotes, mentioning Lady Ottoline, James Stephens, ?Jack Carey, Leo, G. M. Young, and R. C. Trevelyan.

PLO/66/243 20 March 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks WP if he would start a fund on behalf of Joe, offering to contribute £1000 immediately. This sum is possible, he writes, through its release from an elderly cousin whom he has "de-codiciled". EMF is looking forward to visiting Greece, and describes some wrangling to do with the timetable of the cruise.

PLO/66/244 22 June 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is unhappy uneasy and uneasy about an eightieth birthday party, less so about a lunch at the College. Mentions "E.K.B." [Brathwaite?].

PLO/66/245 5 August 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes cheerfully about "Summer Love" and his stay in London, where several friends are growing old and proving difficult, mentioning Aunt ?Bunnie and Joe. He also mentions his grand-godson Clive Morgan Buckingham.

PLO/66/246 13 October 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF hopes WP will accept the College's invitation to EMF's eightieth birthday luncheon in January, but asks more emphatically that he comes to an evening meal at the Reform Club on his actual birthday, and lists his guests.

PLO/66/247 8 November 1958

King's College, Cambridge. EMF's plans for a birthday meal at the Reform Club have altered since ladies are only admitted on certain days; so the meal is to be on 2 January instead. EMF writes about which guests he has invited.

PLO/66/248 29 November 1958

King's College, Cambridge. A letter of thanks for WP's latest gift. EMF is recently returned from Aldeburgh; he has been told by Ben about "the No project". He writes that he stayed with the Burrells in Aldeburgh, and mentions the Voltaire Society in Oxford.

PLO/66/249 11 December 1958

King's College, Cambridge. An affectionate letter: EMF tells how WP's writing with its "livingness of words" has brought him to tears.



PLO/66/250 Postmarked 30 December 1958

Reform Club. A short note about the arranged time of arrival at the Reform Club.

PLO/66/251 18 March 1959

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes of an unspecified occasion, expressing delight.

PLO/66/252 17 July 1959

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes about Miss Flora Russell. He is back from town where he attended the funeral of Aunt Nellie, and praises the behaviour of his previously despised cousins. EMF also briefly mentions Walter Baxter and K Clarke.

PLO/66/253 11 September 1959

King's College, Cambridge. Short note expressing EMF's regret that he cannot see "E.M."

PLO/66/254 6 December 1959

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes of a meal and wine with Bob, May and Kenneth Harrison. He describes his visit to Italy and people he met. He is in good spirits but he writes of Bob's ill health which concerns him. He also describes a dispute between the Dean and Mrs Margaret Knight "on the decay... of Christianity".

PLO/66/255 16 December 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is entertaining Dr Morton Dauwen Zabel who is over from Chicago. EMF is concerned that WP has said he will not be going to Aldeburgh, and makes a reference to WP's brother's "disappointment". He writes that Bob's pain and discomfort is a strain on him and May. EMF has attended the eightieth birthday lunch of Charles Tennyson, "a very small affair by comparison".

PLO/66/256 16 January 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks WP to dine with him at the Reform Club, and writes that he may go to the premiere of his play.

PLO/66/257 18 May 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF briefly mentions Foyle, *Howard's End*, and the threat of a fourth extension of the New Stevenage.

PLO/66/258 29 March 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF makes arrangements for a possible visit. Writes that Edith Sitwell has sent him her anthology, and gives his response to her work – he says he has a "stumbling faith in her".

PLO/66/259 11 April 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF confirms arrangements to visit on the 19th, and reports the receipt of a letter from Norman Routledge at Eton praising a performance. EMF bemoans the horrors of the world, such as child murderers and how "white man tries to murder pro-white leader", and writes of the comfort he has had from the "compassion" in the *M. G. Leader* that morning.

PLO/66/260 4 May 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has received the *Bavarian Guide*, wishes to take it with him, and trusts it will come back with May looking after it. EMF writes that he enjoyed the *Collected Poems* and that he still finds "A Charm Against Trouble" WP's "profoundest utterance". He refers, appalled, to W. G. Wiggins in relation to an apparent act of indecency.

PLO/66/261 [15] August 1960

King's College, Cambridge. Dated 17th August in error. EMF is pleased with news from Jack and from WP. EMF has visited Margery in Coventry, and describes the journey back to Ely.

PLO/66/262 [Postmarked 17 August 1960]

9 Arlington Park Mansions, Chiswick. EMF discusses arrangements for a London visit whereupon he wishes to talk to WP, writing of his concern that "the job will... be troublesome".

PLO/66/263 [20 August 1960]

[Postmarked Chiswick.] Brief note confirming arrangements for WP's visit.

PLO/66/264 Sunday [21 August 1960]

[Postmarked Chiswick.] A further brief note concerning WP's visit.

PLO/66/265 5 September 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes that he has responded to WP's suggestion concerning "Notes on *Maurice*", also that Joe liked them and he is to ask Nick Furbank to type them out.

PLO/66/266 Wednesday [28 September 1960]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF gives WP the news that Rob is ill and that he fears it is cancer of the liver. He advises WP not to write to May. EMF is not going to inform Joe as he does not wish to add to his worries. Reports that his "Notes" on *Maurice* are being typed.

PLO/66/267 29 September 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF expects "to go up on Saturday", and expresses some relief at the prospect of missing "a dinner for Old Kingsmen" at the College. He encloses a letter from May in which she gives the more reassuring news that Rob appears to have hepatitis and that "his condition is satisfactory".

PLO/66/268 Postmarked 30 September 1960

Cambridge. Telegram which reads "Satisfactory news, writing. Forster."

PLO/66/269 Friday [30 September 1960]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has received better news, hence the previous day's telegram, and writes that is a "great relief to know one can trouble friends".

PLO/66/270 6 October 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF sends WP the typed notes. He also writes about his old friend from the First World War, Mohammed el Adl, whose letters and notes he has revisited. EMF would like WP (as his biographer) to know of this friend. He gives brief facts about him, including the circumstances of their meeting in Egypt. He proposes to destroy the more trivial letters and transcribe "the interesting ones".

PLO/66/271 8 October 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF gives details of Rob's condition. He writes that he is pleased with a Gurkha Epic which has been sent to him, and he reminisces about Mohammed, saying "since him I have regarded both race and class as incidentals."

PLO/66/272 23 October [1960?]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF sends Joe Ackerley's letters, and refers to Ackerley's "peculiar hosts", mentioning Dadie? He also mentions James Kirkup and John Morris.

PLO/66/273 24 [November] 1960

King's College, Cambridge. Erroneously dated December by EMF. He refers to Joe's situation and his happy ignorance of some distressing news. He also reports his enjoyment of a recent evening with friends.

PLO/66/274 7 December 1960

King's College, Cambridge. EMF further discusses Joe, and how "the whole series of letters now becomes more interesting." EMF remarks that a book by "J.P." has strangely not been reviewed. EMF has received a box of his letters to Florence Barger, and looks forward to sorting his Egyptian letters from 1915-1919, for their references to Mohammed el Adl. He explains how Florence, his confidante, became "broad minded" as a result, "less so in later years: but a heroine and a darling always." With reference to Mohammed's letters which he has copied out he writes of accepting "the experience as my release from apprenticeship." He thanks WP for prompting him to think more about Mohammed.

PLO/66/275 12 December 1960

Ivy Cottage, Bishopsbourne, Nr Canterbury. A letter from Jocelyn Brooke to Mr Forster [and forwarded to WP?], relating to their letters which have appeared in the *Statesman* and *The Times* concerning John Morris's book, and how The Times had edited his letter "with their policy of 'decent reticence'". EMF has lightly annotated this letter.

PLO/66/276 16 January 1961

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks for news of Joe [Ackerley], who he thought was meant to arrive in England around the 15th. Gout is preventing EMF from going to Aldeburgh. He gives the news from Bob that Rob is better and has found a job. EMF's letter is written on the back of a letter from John Gawsworth, asking if EMF remembers their encounters in India.

PLO/66/277 18 January 1961

King's College, Cambridge. EMF reports that Joe arrived on the 15th, and that Bunny died on 3 January. Lindsay Heather is with EMF for the day. He refers to Mrs P.L., and concludes with "what a wretched hazardous profession is literature".

PLO/66/278 26 March 1961

King's College, Cambridge. Mentions Humphrey Spender. EMF gives his whereabouts for the foreseeable future, and refers to WP's "distressing trouble."

PLO/66/279 [Postmarked 18 April 1961].

Postmarked Cambridge. Apparently EMF writes, in rhyming verse, that Mr Hwylfa invites WP to King's.

PLO/66/280 Saturday [13 May 1961]

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Private Ward 2. A letter written on behalf of EMF, in which he states that "there is no discomfort at all" and asks WP to let him know when he is next free so that he can see him.

PLO/66/281 Thursday [18 May 1961]

Cambridge. EMF expects to still be in hospital when WP visits, and also to see Joe that day, depending on Nancy. He also gives other trivial news.

PLO/66/282 Sunday [21 May 1961]

Addenbrooke's EMF looks forward to WP's visit. He writes that he "did not at all want that R.L.S. 'honour'", and expresses regrets about it. Reports that Bob was invited to a College Feast as EMF's guest but without him.

PLO/66/283/1-2 7 June 1961

11 Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. EMF praises a review by WP. He writes that the doctors were pleased with his progress in terms of his health, so he is able to stay with Bob and May. EMF had given a ticket for Glyndebourne but had to return it as he felt it would be too much for him. His first evening outing the day before was to see *The seven year itch*, which was "in no sense worth it." EMF encloses a note from Faber and Faber announcing the publication of *The sun in the morning* by Jim Hunter, which he describes as "straightforward and provincial, a little like Johnny Simpson sometimes".

PLO/66/284 Postmarked 21 June 1961

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has received an unexpected windfall, wishes to use it charitably, and asks WP's advice. EMF suggests ideas such as help for struggling writers or making a donation to the Homosexual Law Reform Society – although he feels this is no longer an influential body; however he asks WP for more information about it.

PLO/66/285 Postmarked 7 July 1961

Leominster, Herefordshire. A short postcard: EMF is enjoying Leominster, and has been to Clyro and Radnorshire.

PLO/66/286 23 July 1961

King's College, Cambridge. Tim Legget and EMF are planning to drive to the South West of England, so EMF asks WP if he can recommend Radnorshire. He makes brief reference to "the staff scandal at Smith's College, USA". Also enclosed is a leaf from *Darlington's Handbook Advertiser*, bearing advertisements and an illustration of "The Musical Home", depicting a woman playing a harp and a child singing.

PLO/66/287 [25] August 1961

King's College, Cambridge. Erroneously dated by EMF as "26 August". EMF thanks WP for his suggestion, and gives his address in France – apparently he will be staying with Charles Mauron in Provence.

PLO/66/288/1-2 [After 4 October 1961]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF enjoyed S. Remy, but is tired after 2000 miles despite doing no driving. He mentions the city of Nancy. Enclosed is an unsigned letter from "The Shack, 94 Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham", dated 4 October 1961, which expresses pleasure that EMF is in France and recovering, and repeats a saying attributed to Somerset Maugham. The author of the letter goes on to say EMF is Maugham's "superior in every way" and "modesty personified".

PLO/66/289 11 October 1961

King's College, Cambridge. Mentions "Moggam's effort at self-advertisement" and cousin Florrie. EMF goes on to discuss "Rosie's cowlification in the *Observer*", with reference to some published letters, and Constance Babington Smith.

PLO/66/290 20 December 1961

King's College, Cambridge. Thanks WP for his gift, and says he is spending Christmas at Rockingham.

PLO/66/291 5 January 1952

King's College, Cambridge. Photocopy of PLO/66/195.

PLO/66/292 27 May 1962

King's College, Cambridge. EMF comments on WP's letter which has appeared in *The Times*. Mentions Robert Thornton, and reports that Joe has reached America.

PLO/66/293 6 June 1962

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is in Coventry and enjoying visits from John Morris, Patricia and Sydney, Ben, and Jack Sprott. He is going to Yorkshire for Whitsun, and mentions Eric Fletcher.

PLO/66/294 Tuesday [26 June 1962]

King's College, Cambridge. Discusses arrangements for lunch with WP. EMF looks forward to WP "on Wilde", with whom he writes he is "entranced as [he] leans over him in bookshops". Mentions Cyril Connolly as seeming "mean and envious", and asks "has Moggam given tongue?" Rob has driven to Weymouth with Sylvia and "At any moment he may collapse and be back".

PLO/66/295 11 September 1962

King's College, Cambridge. EMF plans to visit the Maurons and asks WP to write to "Bob and the others" while he is away. He writes that he now feels Rob's loss "most terribly personally".

PLO/66/296 3 January [1963]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF mentions receiving the script of WP's talk, which he missed, writing of his admiration and also referring to "the incidental linking of African with European bestiality".

PLO/66/297 Postmarked 20 January 1963

Cambridge. Postcard with brief message: "2 Montrachet... 4 happy drinkers, i.e., Morgan, Bob, Ted, Eric."

PLO/66/298 10 February 1963

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes about having read WP's work, with reference to Osbert [Sitwell?], Capetanakis, and "letters written to Constable", and also refers to the "destruction" of 1914-18.

PLO/66/299 1 June [1963]

Hotel des Arts, St Rémy-de-Provence. Postcard: EMF writes that "All going grandly" in St. Rémy.

PLO/66/300 Postmarked 17 June 1963

Hotel des Arts, St Rémy-de-Provence. EMF briefly gives travel plans for returning home from France with May and Bob.

PLO/66/301 26 July 1963

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has been pleased to hear WP's and William Golding's voices featured on the wireless that morning, less so his own and some others' voices. EMF writes that he is glad to be "quite in the news" in terms of publicity for the play. Letter concludes with emphatic "Who is in the news now? Dearest William I am so delighted".

PLO/66/302 Saturday [31 August 1963]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks for details of travel arrangements for travelling to Coventry with WP. He is recently returned from a stay with Eric Fletcher, mentioning Bolton Abbey and the "appalling" centre of Bradford "called Forster Square", and expressing appreciation for the "making" aspect of Yorkshire as opposed to "advertising" in the South.

PLO/66/303 Postmarked 6 September 1963

King's College, Cambridge. EMF has added to a pencil-written note from presumably the housekeeper regarding his notebook which she has found; so EMF declares that he is "well-equipped to travel", and refers to travel arrangements for the 13th.

PLO/66/304 16 October [1963]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes that the "fortunes of the play have improved" as some of it is to be televised. He also refers to the Ottoline proofs which he has seen.

PLO/66/305 Postmarked 28 October 1963

King's College, Cambridge. EMF informs WP that he is invited to the Founder's Feast at King's College, and urges WP to accept.

PLO/66/306 20 November [1963]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF responds to a query by WP regarding Clun Forest, writing that he walked there and to Ludlow, and "alone, except for the dubious accompaniment of A. E. Houseman." EMF goes on to write about his thoughts on the past, including matters regarding Mohammed el Adl and scraps surviving from him "gathered in a box". He also mentions "poor Fitzgerald". He looks forward to seeing and hearing WP on 22 November.

PLO/66/307 Postmarked 13 December 1963

Postmarked Cambridge. Very brief note responding to a gift from WP.

PLO/66/308 Sunday [15 December 1963]

Postmark Cambridge. EMF has received his gift, and mentions the porter Horace who had left the case in a careless position. He hopes to attend a memorial to Aldous [Huxley] in London.

PLO/66/309 2 March 1964

King's College, Cambridge. Brief note acknowledging an unidentified omission [possibly referring to his age (85)?].

PLO/66/310 29 April 1964

King's College, Cambridge. EMF responds to WP's writing in a recent publication, with comments on "R.R.", and on his faith and how he has become "more inclined to base my life on the loyalties I have experienced."

PLO/66/311 23 July 1964

King's College, Cambridge. EMF refers to *Curlew River*. Joe is in ill-health and EMF hopes to visit him, Bob has also suffered an ailment. EMF has heard that WP is writing poems and is pleased that *Turbott Wolfe* is to be reissued.

PLO/66/312 11 August [1964]

Postmark Cambridge. EMF writes about Maurice Shadbolt's stories, and mentions a preface which he wrote for Frank Sargeson's collection. Malcolm Darling is staying in college, which EMF appreciates. He asks WP if he knows of the poet James E. Baxter.

PLO/66/313 26 October 1964

As from Cambridge. EMF complains about Frank Sargeson and is concerned about WP's knee. He looks forward to Aldeburgh and may stay with Billy Burrell. EMF is writing from Long Crichel where he has been staying, and he mentions calling on the William Goldings.

PLO/66/314 14 December [1964]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF outlines his arrangements for going to Ben's and to London to see Joe. He comments on Malgonkar's *At a bend of the Ganges*.

PLO/66/315 17 December [1964]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF thanks WP for a gift of wine. He wishes WP was coming to Aldeburgh.

PLO/66/316 1 January 1965

Coventry. EMF thanks WP for his birthday gift of wine. He is now home from Aldeburgh. May [Buckingham] has written on the verso, thanking WP for chocolates and giving general news.

PLO/66/317 26 February 1965

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes about the evening before where Bob read WP's poems to him, a probation officer and May. He wishes to send money to Frank Urquhart.

PLO/66/318 4 March 1965

King's College, Cambridge. EMF asks WP for the names of his two new friends, and gives some general news.

PLO/66/319 9 June 1965

King's College, Cambridge. Written for EMF by Joe and signed by him. EMF is pleased with WP's book which has been published and re-published, and thinks it will cause agitation.

PLO/66/320 22 July 1965

King's College, Cambridge. Written by Joe. EMF is busy with the Cambridge Festival, going to Verdi's *Requiem* and *Howards End* at the Arts Theatre. He hopes to arrange to see WP in August.

PLO/66/321 3 August 1965

King's College, Cambridge. Written by Joe. EMF hopes to see WP in London when he is at his flat with Eric Fletcher there to look after him.

PLO/66/322 Friday [6 August]

Cambridge. Written on the verso of typewritten manuscript, containing some fictional narrative. Concerning arrangements to meet in London, with Eric Fletcher escorting.

PLO/66/323 28 December [1965]

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. Written by May Buckingham, with one paragraph in EMF's hand. Thanks WP for the wine he has given and gives general news.

PLO/66/324 Friday [16 December 1966]

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. EMF is pleased with more wine from WP, and refers to WP's grandfather whose life was saved. He comments "How often have Indians saved Sahibs?"

PLO/66/325 29 April 1967

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. Written by Joe. EMF reminds WP of his consenting to write a biographical piece in the event of EMF's death and asks if WP will still take on the task. He has an alternative plan to ask Nick Furbank to do so instead, giving him full access to his private papers.

PLO/66/326 3 May 1967

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. Written by May. John Morris has just visited. EMF says that they are looking forward to seeing and hearing WP at Aldeburgh in a month's time.

PLO/66/327 [14 December 1967]

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. EMF writes that he is comfortable and looks forward to the eating and drinking ahead. Included is a short letter from May Buckingham in which she writes that EMF is very frail and depressed at the G---? news.

PLO/66/328 3 January 1968

11, Salisbury Avenue, Coventry. May thanks WP for Christmas gifts, and reports that they were pleased with the news (heard on the radio) of WP's award. They were disappointed to find no confirmation in *The Guardian*. EMF concludes the letter thanking WP for the wines.

PLO/66/329 Postmarked 17 March 1968

King's College, Cambridge. EMF writes that he is pleased with WP's readiness to help Nick who has had "money trouble". He mentions Ben's "unexpected" collapse and is anxious.

PLO/66/330 Monday [25 March 1968]

King's College, Cambridge. EMF is pleased to have received a copy of "At Home" and is enthusiastic. He writes that "there are things in it that I have never dared to think about myself, but now they seem true."

PLO/66/331 29 October 1968

King's College, Cambridge. EMF discusses Joe's book, and wishes WP luck at Belfast. He writes that he is well but that his writing worsens.

PLO/66/332 June 1969

Postmarked [Aldeburgh], Suffolk. Postcard to WP which pictures the Moot Hall, Aldeburgh, and on which is written by May, John, EMF and Bob, that they miss him.

from Nan Fairbrother (married name McKenzie)

PLO/67 10 January 1970

Referring to one of Plomer's poems, and to her forthcoming book, *New lives, new landscapes* (including contribution by Plomer)

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Writer on landscapes

Fairbrother, Nan, *New lives, new landscapes* (1970)



from Daphne Fielding

PLO/68 25 April 1967

Relating to her book on Lady Cunard and Nancy Cunard, and asking permission to use Plomer's description of Nancy Cunard in his *At home*, with praise for Plomer's poetry  
1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

Fielding, Daphne, *Emerald and Nancy: Lady Cunard and her daughter* (1968)

from Ann Fleming

PLO/69 26 October 1959 - 25 January 1967, undated

Mainly personal news and arrangements, with some references to Plomer's and other works, and a few comments on Ian [Fleming, author, her husband]

14 letters, 16 sheets, 1 card & 11 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Wife (and widow) of Ian Fleming, novelist, creator of 'James Bond'

from Peter Fleming

PLO/70 29 December 1948 - 2 June 1969

Relating mainly to arrangements and notes on the address for Ian Fleming's memorial service (given by Plomer), and its subsequent publication (including some correspondence with Michael Howard of Jonathan Cape, publishers).

10 letters, 11 sheets & 7 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and traveller (including as a correspondent for the *Times*), 1907-1971; brother of Ian Fleming, novelist, creator of 'James Bond'

from Dick Freislich

PLO/71 24 June 1958, 16 July 1958

Comments on South African life, particularly in relation to the death of one of his workers from tuberculosis. Also comments on Richard Rumbold (following re-publication of *My father's son* in 1958), the English school system, and Uys Krige.

2 letters, 11 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Apparently a South African businessman or farmer (from his letters), and occasional writer (mentioned in letters from Nadine Gordimer)

from Zelda Friedlander

PLO/72 15 January 1964 - 7 August 1965, 15 June 1973 - 16 September 1973

First five letters, dated 1964-1965 (PLO/72/1-4 & 6), are about her work on Olive Schreiner (for *Until the heart changes...*), with enthusiastic recollections of Schreiner and (briefly) of Enslin Du Plessis and Ingrid Jonker. The 1973 letters (PLO/72/7-9) contain personal news, and news of her own move from her family home. PLO/72/5 was originally enclosed with PLO/72/4, and is a typescript of a talk by Friedlander on Schreiner, dated 24 March 1955.

8 letters, 15 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* South African, researcher on Olive Schreiner, who met Plomer in 1965

from Ayako Fukuzawa

PLO/73 22 October 1969 - 27 November 1969

Affectionate letters with personal news, following Morito Fukuzawa's death (in 1965) and Ayako's reading Plomer's letters [1930s] to him.

2 letters, 7 sheets, 2 photographs & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Wife (and survivor) of Morito Fukuzawa

from Ima Fukuzawa

PLO/74 2 February 1970

Personal letter, enclosing family photographs

1 letter, 2 sheets, 2 photographs & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Youngest daughter of Morito Fukuzawa

from Morito Fukuzawa

PLO/75 March 1929 - 1931

Personal and affectionate letters, with news of his own life and mutual friends, and plans for translating Plomer's *Paper houses* into Japanese.

14 letters, 32 sheets & 2 cards

*Biographical information:* Pupil and subsequently house companion and friend of Plomer in Japan, 1927-1929.

from Roger Fulford

PLO/76 26 April 1958

Congratulating Plomer on his 'book' (probably *At home*, his second volume of autobiography), with a reference to the "Torrington election result"

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author, editor and journalist, 1902-1983. Parliamentary candidate (unsuccessful) for the Liberal Party (later President), knighted 1980.

from Darcy [Darsie] Rutherford Gillie

PLO/77 12 February 1922, 11 January 1968

Letter of 1922 (incomplete) includes Gillie's comments on particular authors, and his translation of part of Kuhlemann's poem *Tristan da Cunha* (with note by Plomer that he had read this poem to Roy Campbell, and that it had prompted him to write his *Tristan d'Acunha*). Letter of 1968 congratulates Plomer on his CBE and contains personal news.

2 letters, 3 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Occasional editor and translator. A contemporary of Plomer at Rugby school, 1917-1918.

from Rumer Godden

PLO/78 undated

Letter in verse on Plomer's birthday (shared with her own), enclosing a laurel leaf

1 letter, 1 sheet (with leaf attached)

*Biographical information:* Novelist, born in India, 1907

from John Godfrey

PLO/79 5 July 1968

Letter following publication of McLachlan's *Room 39...*, with comments on intelligence work and continuing secrecy (with a brief reference to Porton [Down] and the manufacture of poisoned gas weapons)

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Officer (Rear-Admiral, later Admiral) in the navy, and in particular director of naval intelligence, 1939-1942, in which Plomer worked (on the political section of the *Weekly intelligence report*), 1940-1945

from Nadine Gordimer

PLO/80 21 September 1956, 9 June 1960 - 12 March 1973

Personal letters, with extensive comments on some of Plomer's collections of poems and (occasionally) her own books. Notes on the *Classic* (African literary magazine) and on the life and suicide of its editor, Nat Nakasa (subject of Plomer's poem 'The Taste of the Fruit', 1965). Frequent comments and lamentations on the state of South African politics under apartheid, including references to the Sharpeville massacre, 1960 (Plomer 80/3), Vorster's 'no trial' bill, 1963 (Plomer 80/6), Rhodesia, 1966 (Plomer 80/18, including references to Laurens Van Der Post's articles), and the commissions of inquiry and banning of students, 1973 (Plomer 80/25).

25 letters, 39 sheets, 2 cards & 8 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist and short story writer, born 1923, winner of Nobel prize for literature, 1991. Met Plomer during his tour to South Africa (for a conference at the University of the Witwatersrand) in 1956.

from Colin Graham

PLO/81 undated letters, probably [1966] and 26 December [1967?]

Arrangements for Benjamin Britten productions, and comments on his own work on a libretto of *Anna Karenina* for Britten

The first letter is undated and the second has no year, although the year of both can be inferred from internal evidence (viz, reference to *Taste and remember* in first letter, and to *Prodigal son* in the second).

2 letters, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* Artistic director, who produced several of Benjamin Britten's operas, including *Curlew River*, born 1931

from Robert Graves

PLO/82 13 January 1969

References to a manuscript (apparently submitted to Cape in 1929 and now lost?), and to an article by Graves on folk-lore

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer, poet and critic, 1895-1985. Met Plomer through Jonathan Cape, publishers.

from Julian Green

PLO/83 5 April 1950 - 20 April 1950

Relating to Tony Butts and copy of *Curious relations* sent by Plomer, and to an invitation to join the Society of Authors

2 letters, 2 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* American and French writer, born and lived in Paris, 1900-1998

from Graham Greene

PLO/84 8 April 1946 - 16 April 1946, 19 March 1963

1946 letters relate to proposals by Eyre & Spottiswoode (publishers) to reprint one of Plomer's works (blocked by Leonard Woolf). 1963 letter relates to Francis Kilvert's father.

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Novelist and publisher, 1904-1991

from Joyce Grenfell

PLO/85 28 July 1967 - 29 December 1967

Praising a poem by Plomer and relating to its subsequent reading (on BBC radio?) by Alec Guinness.

2 letters, 3 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Entertainer and broadcaster, 1910-1979

from Alec Guinness

PLO/86 9 July 1960 - 7 February 1961, 3 January 1968

Letters relate to Guinness' idea of turning Plomer's poem *Bamboo* into a play or a film. Final letter (1968) also refers to Plomer's [CBE] and to Guinness' reading of his "Bavarian church poem" on the radio.

Final letter is dated "3rd January 1967" but reference to [CBE] honours indicates a date of January 1968.

4 letters, 4 sheets & 4 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Actor, born 1914

from Norman Haire

PLO/87 3 September 1932 - 13 September 1932, 2 January 1935

Letters asking to meet Plomer following publication of his *The case is altered*, with reference to the psychology of Sybil da Costa (Plomer's former landlady, who was murdered by a jealous husband in 1929; also a cousin of Haire). Letter of 1935 also praises Plomer's *The invaders* for its psychological "truth and accuracy."

3 letters, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* Sexologist, gynæcologist and obstetrician, 1892-1952

from Stuart Hampshire

PLO/88 31 January 1957

About a meeting being organised by Plomer, with reference to a proposed [talk or paper] by Hampshire under the title 'Christian action'. (The subject of the meeting is unclear - possibly South Africa and apartheid?)

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer and lecturer on philosophy, born 1914

from Christopher Hampton

PLO/89 6 July 1970, 13 June 1973

Lengthy letters about Hampton's work on Etruria, the state of modern civilisation and the human spirit

2 letters, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer, poet and lecturer

from James Hanley

PLO/90 undated

Praises a book, presumably by Plomer but not named and letter undated

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Novelist, short story writer and playwright, 1901-1985

from Gilbert Harding

PLO/91 21 December 1957, 26 March 1958

Invitation to dine with himself and John Morris, and request for help for Royal Wolverhampton School appeal; refers to himself as a "disciple" of Plomer.

Second letter undated - date taken from postmark on envelope

2 letters, 2 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Broadcaster, 1907-1960

from Evelyn Hardy

PLO/92 8 June 1972

Thanking Plomer for his review of Hardy's edition of [Thomas] Hardy's letters, with reference also to Gosse letters

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Writer

from George Henry Hubert Lascelles, 7th earl of Harewood

PLO/93 8 August 1963 - 6 January 1969

Personal news

Telegram is undated and states only "many congratulations," but very probably refers to Plomer's award of a CBE in January 1968.

3 letters & 1 telegram, 4 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Artistic director (formerly with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden) and cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, born 1923; initiator of idea behind Benjamin Britten's opera *Gloriana*

from H Wilson Harris

PLO/94 16 December 1952 - 19 December 1952

Inviting Plomer to take over Harold Nicolson's page in the *Spectator* (refused by Plomer)

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Author and journalist, 1883-1955; editor of the *Spectator*, 1932-1953

from Tom Harrisson

PLO/95 15 October 1959 - 26 October 1959

Relate to quotations from Plomer's *Museum pieces*, for use in Harrisson's proposed book on Harrow (school) and Old Harrovians

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Traveller and pioneer of 'mass observation' techniques, 1911-1976

from Rupert Hart-Davis

PLO/697 23 October 1933-28 August 1973

Personal news and literary discussions, including of their own works: *The Invaders* (Jonathan Cape, 1934), Hart Davis' biography of Hugh Walpole. Also includes a list of attendants to a party given for Hart-Davis on the publication of *Hugh Walpole* (PLO/697/18)

50 letters, 58 sheets, 27 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Publisher and editor. Founder of the publishing company Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd. 1907-1999.

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1994/95:25

*Related material in other DUL collections:* Plomer's and others' letters to Hart-Davis are at PLO/696.

from Leslie Poles Hartley

PLO/96 12 September 1969

Thanking Plomer for his contribution towards the PEN 'project', and referring to the fire at Aldeburgh concert hall.

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Novelist and critic, 1895-1972; president of the English section of the PEN club

from Margaret, princess of Hesse

PLO/97 30 May 1968 - 10 February 1969, 17 July 1973 - 18 September 1973

Warm letters containing personal news and news of Ban[jamin Britten], with references in the last two letters to *The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast*

5 letters, 8 sheets, 2 cards & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Patron and supporter of the Aldeburgh Festival, with her husband Ludwig ('Lu')

from Shizuhiko Higo

PLO/98 1929

Thanking Plomer for his teaching, and enclosing a picture (which no longer survives with the letter)

The letter is undated, but is evidently written in late 1928 or early 1929, shortly before Plomer's departure from Japan.

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* One of Plomer's pupils in Japan, 1926-1929

from Susan Hill

PLO/99 17 September 1970 - 21 September 1973

Letters include some comments on Plomer's works, and many relate to the drafting, writing (and subsequent reviews) of Hill's own novels and other writing, often during her regular stays in Aldeburgh. There are references throughout the letters to John Piper, Benjamin Britten and Mary Potter (a painter from Aldeburgh). Other themes are Aldeburgh (place and festival), Coventry cathedral (and its choir), music, radio plays and broadcasts, personal news and faith/religion.

A few of the letters include poems written for Plomer, viz Plomer 99/13 (haiku-style poems) and Plomer 99/46 ( *Hens and Resurrection*). Plomer 99/68 includes a press cutting on a reading by Plomer of his own poems at the Stratford Poetry Festival in July 1973, written for the *Birmingham post*.

71 letters, 88 sheets, 4 cards, 1 news cutting & 58 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist, short story writer and broadcaster, born 1942

from Clare Hills

PLO/100 8 October 1962

Personal letter of appreciation

1 letter, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

from Imogen Holst

PLO/101 27 September 1962, 1 November 1972

News of Benjamin Britten (1962 letter), and comments on Kilvert Society (1972)

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Musician, 1907-1984; artistic director of Aldeburgh Festival, 1956-1977

from Anthony Homersham

PLO/102 6 March 1944 - 30 May 1948

Initial letter written aged 16, while Homersham was at school (in Chester), after reading Plomer's *Double lives*. Subsequent letters written from school and the army (National Service, with the Royal Signals). Letters include extensive personal news, ideas for his own writing and comments on many books read by him, as well as opinions on his teachers, places visited (in particular Jarrow, Plomer 102/21, December 1946), occasional works by Plomer, the army, religion and some political events.

Although these letters end in 1948, Plomer's letters to him (Plomer 695) indicate that they continued to correspond until Plomer's death in 1973.

24 letters, 96 sheets & 4 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Lecturer and professor of English in California and Germany, c.1927-1994.

from Peter Horn

PLO/103 14 March 1969

Thanking Plomer for his contribution of a poem to *Ophir*, with a reference to *Voorslag* (a South African literary magazine edited by Roy Campbell and Plomer, 1925-1926).

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Writer, editor (?) of *Ophir* literary magazine (in South Africa)

from Michael S Howard

PLO/104 14 September 1968, 10 August 1970

Letter of 1968 relates to memorial service for his father (Wren Howard, a director at Jonathan Cape, publishers). 1970 letter relates to Plomer's suggestions for changes to his history of the firm.

2 letters, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* Publisher, worked at Jonathan Cape (where Plomer was reader), and published history of the firm

Howard, Michael S., *Jonathan Cape, publisher* (1971)

from Chien Hsiao

PLO/105 23 February 1942 - 2 April 1946

Thanking Plomer for copies of his books ( *Selected poems*, 1940, and *Double lives*, 1943, and news of his voyage to China

3 letters, 6 sheets

*Biographical information:* Apparently a friend of Plomer during the 1940s and possibly an academic or publisher: letters written from School of Oriental Studies, University of London, King's College, Cambridge and on the paper of *Takungpao* (*The Impartial*), apparently a journal or magazine

from TAR Hyndman

PLO/106 9 June 1934 - September 1934

Personal letters, with news of Hyndman's stay in Vienna and visits from John Lehmann. Plomer 106/2 includes comments on the Mosley's fascism in England and the need for communism.

Plomer 106/3 is undated, but is written from Vienna (where Hyndman was staying with Stephen Spender), after a visit to Tirol. It has been dated "[1939]" (possibly from its former position among the Spender letters?), but probably dates from ca. September 1934: Plomer 106/2 refers to visiting Tirol in August [1934], and Plomer 106/3 refers to Randolph Crescent (home of Stephen Spender) and to Jack [probably Jack Carey, Plomer's partner, 1933-1935].

3 letters, 8 sheets

from Sanki Ichikawa

PLO/107 22 November 1929

Offering Plomer chair of English Literature at the Imperial University in Tokyo (to succeed Edmund Blunden)

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Valentin Iremonger

PLO/108 3 July 1946

Asking Plomer for additional assistance in getting Iremonger's book of poems, *Reservations*, published, with reference to Iremonger's proposed prose book on Anglo-Ireland

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Irish poet and editor

from Christopher Isherwood

PLO/109 17 October 1932 - 3 February 1938, 27 January 1947 - 9 August 1957

Personal letters, with news of Isherwood's travels and some literary news and comment. Letters written from Berlin 1932-1933 relate to the rise of fascism (PLO 109/1-5).

Appreciative comments on Plomer's works ( *Cecil Rhodes* in PLO 109/5, *The Invaders* in PLO 109/9, *Four countries* in PLO 109/20, *Museum pieces* in PLO 109/22).

Many of the 1930s letters are incompletely dated, but can be approximately dated from internal evidence.

25 letters, 24 sheets, 4 cards & 6 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist and playwright (in collaboration with WH Auden), 1904-1986. Taught in Berlin, Germany, 1929-1933, travelled extensively, and emigrated to California, USA.

from Dan Jacobson

PLO/110 16 December 1972 - 27 March 1973

Re meeting with Plomer, with comments on some of his poems

4 letters, 3 sheets, 1 card & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist and critic, born South Africa 1929



from Rene Janin

PLO/111 4 February 1931 - 9 January 1937, 27 April 1944 - 18 September 1944, 12 October 1952 - 18 August 1953

*Language:* Written in French

31 letters, 63 sheets & 4 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Friend of Van Der Post and Plomer, born in France and working in London

from Barbara Jefford

PLO/112 3 May 1972

Thanking Plomer for (and commenting on) his *Celebrations*, and referring to reading his poems (possibly at the Aldeburgh Festival)

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Actress, born 1930

from Philippe Jullian

PLO/113 1946 - 24 August 1973, undated

*Language:* Mostly written in French

14 letters, 13 sheets, 2 cards & 5 envelopes

*Biographical information:* French writer

from Peggy Kirkaldy

PLO/114 26 February 1945 - 2 March 1945, 14 September 1952

Thanking Plomer for his elegy for Tony Butts [ *In a bombed house*] and his *Museum pieces*, with affectionate reminiscences of Butts during his last illness.

3 letters, 5 sheets

*Biographical information:* Apparently a friend of Tony Butts and neighbour while he stayed in a nursing home in Colchester, shortly before his death

from James Kirkup

PLO/115 27 May 1957, 12 August 1962 - 14 November 1965

Relate mainly to Plomer's reviews of Kirkup's poetry, and to Kirkup's broadcasts, including broadcasts on some of Plomer's works. Also comments on Ian Fleming (PLO 115/4) and on Richard Rumbold's diaries ( *A message in code*, ed Plomer, PLO 115/9).

10 letters, 9 sheets, 4 cards & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet, writer and broadcaster, born 1918. Worked mainly in Japan.

from Y Kobayashi

PLO/116 undated [c.1927]

Thanking Plomer following a meeting with him, and referring to the 'Japanese manner' of Plomer's character and lifestyle.

Evidence for date comes from reference to Plomer's house in Japan and to Sumida, his 'factotum' there during 1927.

1 letter, 2 sheets

from Arthur Koestler

PLO/117 7 January 1972

Thanking Plomer for his message (probably following Koestler's award of the CBE in 1972), and recalling Plomer's recommendation of *The gladiators* to Jonathan Cape, publishers, in 1938.

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author, 1905-1983

from Uys Krige

PLO/118 27 April 1955 - 20 April 1960, 25 February 1968 - 9 May 1969

Extensive comments on his own writing and poems, with occasional references to other authors, including Roy Campbell, Laurens van der Post and Enslin du Plessis. Comments on Plomer's works in PLO 118/3 (*Double lives*) and PLO 118/5 (*Collected poems*, 1960)

6 letters, 6 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African playwright and author

from Charles Lambart

PLO/119 8 April 1972, 12 July 1973

Praising Plomer's *Celebrations*, and comments on *Aegis*, a literary periodical edited (?) by Lambart while at Cambridge university, with comments on Gael Turnbull and WH Auden.

2 letters, 7 sheets & 2 envelopes

from Philip Larkin

PLO/120 16 April 1973

Thanking Plomer for award of Cholmondeley prize (as chairman of the judges' panel)

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet, 1922-1985

from Jennie Lee

PLO/121 3 January 1968

Congratulating Plomer on his CBE (written from the Ministry of Education and Science)

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Member of Parliament (Labour Party) and Minister of Education, 1967-1970. Later Baroness Lee of Asheridge, 1904-1988.

from James Lees-Milne

PLO/122 11 June 1961, 11 September 1966

Refer to the Kilvert Society and to Plomer's *Taste and remember*, with comments on Richard [? Rumbold, Plomer's cousin and diarist of *A message in code*, died 1961]

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Beatrix Lehmann (Peggy)

PLO/123 14 December (no year)

Comments on the theatre, on characterisation and stage direction. Signed as "Peggy" - found in an envelope in Plomer's hand headed "Beatrix Lehmann."

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Actress, sister of John and Rosamund Lehmann, 1903-1979

from John Lehmann

PLO/124 20 January 1956, 6 May 1960, 29 December 1964, 18 July 1972 - 29 August 1973

Many literary comments, in particular referring to Herbert [or Hubert - Read?] and Edith Sitwell (1956, PLO 124/1, possibly in connection with an edition of the *London Magazine*), Plomer's *Collected poems* (1960, PLO 124/2), Edith Sitwell's committal and letters (1964, PLO 124/3) and the Bloomsbury Group (1973, PLO 24/6). PLO 124/4 (1972) includes a poem in typescript, written from California, *To my faithful correspondents in England* ("Dear letter writers: who have kept me sane..."). PLO 124/7-8 (1973) refer to plans for celebrating Plomer's 70th birthday (later that year).

8 letters, 10 sheets, 1 card & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Editor and writer, 1907-1987

from Rosamond Lehmann

PLO/125 7 July 1942 - 30 May 1960, 30 October 1967 - 18 January 1968, 26 November 1972

Appreciative letters, mainly on personal and social matters, though with frequent references to each other's works and to mutual literary friends.

Referred to particularly are Lilian Bowes-Lyon (PLO 125/7-10, 20-21, 28-29) and John Lehmann (PLO 125/13, 24, 30, 42). Plomer's works are mentioned particularly in PLO 125/3-4 ( *Double lives*), 5 ( *Curious relations*), 10 ( *Dorking thigh...*), 26 ( *Four countries*), 31 ( *Museum pieces*), 34 ( *A shot in the park*), 36-37 ( *At home*) and 38 ( *Collected poems*, 1960). She mentions her own works at PLO 125/1-2 (a long story), 8 (? *The ballad and the source*), 26 (a novel), 32 ( *The echoing grave*) and 39 ( *The swan in the evening*). Laurens Van Der Post's *Flamingo feather* is discussed in PLO 125/34. The later letters (1960-1968, PLO 125/38-41) discuss religion.

42 letters, 54 sheets, 1 card, 1 news cutting & 26 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist, 1901-1990

from Patrick Leigh-Fermor

PLO/126 13 March 1951

Thanking Plomer for his treatment of Leigh-Fermor's *A traveller's tale* on "The critics" BBC programme, with comments on Greece

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author, born 1915

PLO/127

NONE - reference not used

from GL Lewin

PLO/128 6 April 1961 - 17 April 1961, 3 September 1973

First two letters (1961) refer to books located by Lewin and to a microfilm of correspondence of Thomas Pringle (from the National Library of Scotland), sent to Plomer with a suggestion that he write a biography of or article on Pringle, with allusions also to works by Emerson, Roy Campbell and Adam Lindsay Gordon. Letter of 1973 encloses a sketch and cutting on Byron themes, and comments on the Watergate scandal in America [under President Nixon].

3 letters, 6 sheets & 2 envelopes

from Norman Leys

PLO/129 14 June 1937

Congratulating Plomer on *Cecil Rhodes* and offering a copy of Leys' *Kenya*, with comments on African politics in general

1 letter, 2 sheets

from David Lockwood

PLO/130 4 July 1970 - 22 August 1973

Thanking Plomer for his friendship and commenting on Victorian values, with several references to Francis Kilvert. His own poems are included with PLO 130/4 ( *William Plomer and Witley Court*, "Huge hewn lumps of massive masonry..."), PLO 130/6 ( *Henry Vaughan's tomb*, "A curious quiescence...") and PLO 130/9 ( *Summer day 1972*, "The old Worcester woman...", possibly belonging with PLO 130/4).

9 letters, 15 sheets & 7 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Anglican clergyman, apparently vicar of Hanley Swan in Worcester, and editor of a new edition of Kilvert's diaries

from David Lytton

PLO/131 6 July 1965 - 21 October 1965

Anecdotes and comments on South African figures and on his own writing. PLO 131/1 refers to *Turbott Wolfe*. Particular people mentioned include Jan Smuts (PLO 131/1-2), Cecil Rhodes (PLO 131/2-3), Ingrid Jonker (PLO 131/4 & 6, the latter including a poem on her death, *Unction for a sea-suicide*, "Child on the beach...") and Zelda Friedlander (PLO 131/7-8).

8 letters, 12 sheets & 8 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Author (?), apparently born in South Africa with the name 'Leipoldt' but emigrated to England

from Rose Macaulay

PLO/132 14 February 1949 - 7 September 1952, 6 November 1956 - 28 May 1958, undated

Comments on each other's works, and on *The Critics* BBC arts review programme (which both Macaulay and Plomer took regularly part in).

Particular references to Plomer's books include *Four countries* (PLO 132/1), *Museum pieces* (PLO 132/4) and *At home* (PLO 132/9). Her own works, and their reception, are mentioned in PLO 132/2 (*Fabled shore*), PLO 132/3 (unspecified, but possibly *The world my wilderness*) and PLO 132/7-8 (*The towers of Trebizond*).

10 letters, 10 sheets, 1 card & 8 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Author, 1881-1958

from Desmond MacCarthy

PLO/133 12 November 1943

Thanking Plomer for writing following MacCarthy's review (?) of one of Plomer's books (probably *Double lives*)

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Critic and journalist, 1877-1952

from Frank Magro

PLO/134 1 December 1967

Thanking Plomer for his letter to Osbert [Sitwell], and for his comments on Magro's work for Sitwell

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

from Patrick Mahony

PLO/135 19 February 1973 - 14 August 1973

Relating to a legacy for the Society of Authors, an article on Rupert Hughes, and an article in the *Daily Telegraph* about the arrest of past US presidents, which Mahony considered in breach of his copyright.

3 letters, 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* Author (?), living in Hollywood, California

from Lucas Makoba

PLO/136 7 August 1956 - 17 September 1956

Thanking Plomer for his visit (while visiting South Africa in 1956) and recalling Entumeni

2 letters, 3 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Assistant to Plomer's father at a trading station at Entumeni in Zululand, c.1923-1926

from John Masefield

PLO/137 17 July 1963 - 16 December 1966

Concerning the award to Plomer of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1963, and a subsequent invitation to Plomer to join the committee of judges for the award, with a few other matters. (PLO 137/5 suggests that Plomer raised an objection of principle to his being on the committee, and he did not join it.) PLO 137/7-8 comment on Plomer's *Taste and remember*.

9 letters, 11 sheets & 9 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet (and Poet Laureate from 1930), 1878-1967

from William Somerset Maugham

PLO/138 30 September 1934

Praising Plomer's book (probably *The invaders*)

1 letter (photostat), 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Playwright and short story writer, 1874-1965

from Alexie Mayor

PLO/139 9 November 1952, 21 January 1959, 24 July 1968 - 20 August 1973

Personal and social news, with occasional reference to Andreas Mayor's work (her husband, a translator).

5 letters, 14 sheets, 1 card & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Wife of Andreas Mayor, translator

from Beatrice Mayor

PLO/140 27 November 1966

Commenting on Plomer's *Taste and remember*, with reference to Andreas and Alexie Mayor, her son and daughter-in-law

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

from Ilse Merzyn

PLO/141 20 November 1949

Thanking Plomer for his help and praising his *Four countries*

1 letter, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

from Ruth Miller

PLO/142 13 December 1961

Personal news, referring to her intention to dedicate a volume of poetry to Plomer and to South African politics, especially the education system

1 letter, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African writer

from Merrill Moore

PLO/143 17 March 1950

Praising Plomer's poem, *A recent discovery* (apparently a parody of Thomas Hardy), with a copy of her letter to John Lehmann of 6 February 1950. (The poem was published in *Penguin new writing*, volume 33, under Plomer's pseudonym 'Robert Pagan'.)

1 letter, 2 sheets

from Katsuye (Captain) Mori

PLO/144 16 April 1927 - 11 January 1929, 8 November 1956, 5 December 1971

Friendly letters, with personal news and comments on perceptions of the Japanese in Mombasa and Durban, 1927 (PLO 144/1-2), and on Van Der Post's story, *A bar of shadow*, with comments on his view of the Japanese, 1956 (PLO 144/6). The last letter, PLO 144/7, includes a packet of photographs.

7 letters, 20 sheets, 1 packet of 10 photographs & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Captain of the ship *Canada Maru*, in which Plomer travelled to Japan from South Africa in 1926 (with Laurens Van Der Post)

from Lady Ottoline Morrell

PLO/145 10 January 1932 - 17 February 1934

Social letters, with appreciations of some of Plomer's works

8 letters, 9 sheets, 1 card & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Literary hostess and patron of the arts, 1873-1938

from John Morris

PLO/146 21 March 1946 - 30 July 1973

Letters include lengthy descriptions of some of his travels, including from India to Tokyo, Nepal, India, Russia and Central Asia (PLO 146/1, 8, 11, 20, 29 respectively), as well as frequent comments on Japan (where both Morris and Plomer had lived in the 1920s & 1930s). Comments on Plomer's works include *Museum pieces*, *At home*, *Turbott Wolfe*, *A message in code* and *Celebrations* (PLO 146/3, 5, 6, 10, 25 respectively). Morris' own writings and their critical reception are mentioned in PLO 146/6-8 (*Hired to kill*) and PLO 146/13-18 (refers to "our book", possibly *Eating the Indian air*). Many of the later letters (from 1967) discuss EM Forster's news and literary arrangements, and JR Ackerley's autobiography and papers are mentioned in PLO 146/13.

29 letters, 36 sheets, 1 card & 18 letters

*Biographical information:* Professional soldier, 1915-1935, extensive traveller and professor of English in Tokyo, Japan, 1938-1942. Subsequently worked for the BBC (Far Eastern Service and Third Programme). 1895-1980

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters to Morris at PLO/702

from Raymond Mortimer

PLO/147 4 July 1945, 8 January 1952, 1 June 1960

1945 letter from *New statesman & nation*, rejecting a story by Plomer, and 1960 letter relates to a review by Mortimer of one of a work by Plomer. 1952 letter refers to a review of a book by Laurens Van Der Post's (possibly *Venture to the interior*).

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Literary reviewer and critic, 1895-1980

from Bryan Walter Guinness Moyne (2nd Baron)

PLO/148 10 November 1959 - 1 December 1959

Thanking Plomer for a reading of his poem(s), possibly at a PEN event, and inviting him to read at the Dublin PEN

2 letters, 7 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet and novelist, 1905-1992

from Ezekiel (Zeke) Mphahlele

PLO/149 4 February 1958 - 16 August 1960, 30 January 1970

Requests for assistance in tracing various works by Plomer and others, with some news of his own writing and reflections on the political situations in South Africa (PLO 149/1), Nigeria (PLO 149/3) and Zambia (PLO 149/5), and on the debate about African culture within America (PLO 149/4).

5 letters, 6 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer and lecturer. Apparently met Plomer in Johannesburg [in 1956], before working in Nigeria and Zambia.

from John (Jock) Murray

PLO/150 2 December 1960

Thanking Plomer for his review of John [Betjeman's] *Summoned by bells*

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Publisher (John Murray Ltd)

from Marris Murray

PLO/151 30 December 1956

Thanking Plomer for writing about her story "The encounter" (published in the *Cornhill*), and also for his reference to her *The fire-raisers*.

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Sir John Ernest Neale

PLO/152 31 July 1952

Referring to work on Elizabethan England by EM Tension and to Plomer's work for the opera [ *Gloriana* ]

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Historian and professor at University of London, 1890-1975

from Percy Howard Newby

PLO/153 12 July 1955

Thanking Plomer for writing about Newby's book, with reference to Egypt and the Egyptians

year not stated, but guessed as 1955 by (?) EMR

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Writer and controller/director with the BBC, 1918-1987

from Norman Nicholson

PLO/154 3 September 1967, 11 April 1970

Thanking Plomer for his part on the panel of the Cholmondeley award (awarded to Nicholson in 1967) and referring to a Poetry Society meeting

2 letters, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet and critic, 1914-1987

from Harold George Nicolson (Hon Sir)

PLO/155 14 January 1952, 28 November 1956, 11 March 1958 - 28 April 1964

Many short references to works of other authors, particularly in connection with the WH Smith prize (PLO 155/6-15); also to Richard Rumbold (PLO 155/3, 14 and after his death, 16-25), with a typescript copy of a poem by Vita Sackville-West ( *For Richard Rumbold*, "Mystic of soul and mystic of the air...") at PLO 155/16 and praise for Plomer's edition of Rumbold's diaries (*A message in code*) at PLO 155/24. PLO 155/4 encloses a copy of a letter from Nicolson to Professor Gardner relating to Roy Campbell and his *Georgiad*.

25 letters, 27 sheets & 18 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Diplomat and author, 1886-1968

from Leslie Norris

PLO/156 15 May 1968 - 14 July 1969

Relating to loan by Plomer of a draft MSS (apparently for his poem, *The axe in the orchard*), for an exhibition at Bognor College. Poems by Norris are included with PLO 156/2 (*It's somebody's birthday*, "This birthday man...") and PLO 156/4 (*Ransoms (for Edward Thomas)*, "What the white ransome did was to wipe away...").

5 letters, 9 sheets & 1 envelope

from Simon Nowell-Smith

PLO/157 17 October 1947 - 4 September 1952, 25 October 1972

Literary comments and reflections, including detailed comments on Gissing (PLO 157/1-2), *Four countries* (PLO 157/3-4) and *Museum pieces* (PLO 157/5). Last letter concerns writing of an obituary for Plomer by Nowell-Smith.

6 letters, 15 sheets & 3 envelopes (also 2 newspaper cuttings, obituaries of Nowell-Smith, 1996)

*Biographical information:* Literary editor and book collector; served in Naval Intelligence Division with Plomer; later Secretary and Librarian of the London Library; 1909-1996

from Sean O'Faolain

PLO/158 11 October 1954 - 11 November 1954, 1972

Last letter undated, but probably in connection with an appeal to many writers early in 1972 about detention without trial in Northern Ireland; refers to going "back to Cape's for my last book," possibly *The talking trees, and other stories* (1971).

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Irish writer, 1900-1991

from Sydney Olivier Olivier (1st Baron)

PLO/159 18 January 1933

Referring to Plomer's *Cecil Rhodes*, with anecdotes about Rhodes and comment on South Africa.

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Diplomat and civil servant, member of the Fabian Society, 1859-1943

from Owen O'Malley (Sir)

PLO/160 5 June 1960 - 2 July 1960

Concerning Plomer's poem *The heart of a king*, and the story of Louis XIV's heart.

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Diplomat and ambassador, 1887-1974



from Shoji Ono

PLO/161 1928 - 1929

Apparently accompanying a gift of a book of paintings to Plomer, with comments on Japanese philosophy

Undated, but refers to *Paper houses* as forthcoming, and to Plomer's "two years" in Japan.

1 letter, 5 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Written from Tokyo

from (Marchesa) Iris Origo

PLO/162 27 October 1970 - 9 May 1971

Thanking Plomer for his comments on Origo's *Images and shadows* (autobiography), with comments on some of her other books and on Plomer's *At home*

3 letters, 3 sheets & 3 envelopes (one postmarked 25 June 1969, without letter)

*Biographical information:* Author, 1902-1988

from Harold Owen

PLO/163 9 July 1963 - 18 January 1971

Thanking Plomer for his reviews of *Journey from obscurity*, of his edition of Wilfred Owen's *Collected letters* and of *Aftermath*

5 letters, 5 sheets & 5 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Brother and biographer of Wilfred Owen, poet

from Alan Paton

PLO/164 9 October 1970, 3 August 1973

Social letters, with references to proposed book (biography?) by Paton, and to Roy Campbell

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African writer, 1903-1988

from John Piper

PLO/165 PLO 165/17 is dated 27 June "1958," but has been placed as if it should be dated "1968." This is because it includes "congrats on your honour" (a CBE was awarded to Plomer in 1968). But PLO 165/14 suggests that the letter was written in 1958 after all.

Personal and social news, with references to Plomer's *Double lives*, *Dorking thigh*, *Gloriana* and *At home* (PLO 165/4, 7, 9-12 & 14 respectively). Also some comment on Piper's window in Coventry cathedral at PLO 165/16, and references to a Christmas card painted by Piper (? of the Magi, possibly for the Defence and Aid fund or other body associated with Canon Collins; PLO 165/13-17).

First letter undated, but refers to a "Friday 13th" and "before the war".

18 letters, 17 sheets, 1 card & 7 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Painter and stained glass artist, 1903-1992

from Myfanwy Piper

PLO/166 15 March 1944 - 17 September 1952, 6 February 1972, undated

Personal news, with some references to Plomer's books (not identified, and letters undated)

10 letters, 6 sheets, 4 cards & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* wife of John Piper, artist

from James Plomer

PLO/167 and PLO/728 1952-1973

PLO/167: 3 letters to William Plomer, March 1952 and September 1962. 1952 letter includes a description of a meeting with [Katsuye] Captain Mori, while James Plomer visited Japan. 1962 letters contain personal news.

PLO/728: letters to Rupert Hart-Davis following the death of William Plomer, November-December 1973, mainly regarding the health and living situation of Charles Erdmann, with brief reference to Plomer's papers.

3 letters, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* William Plomer's brother, formerly called Peter. Served in the Canadian navy.

*Provenance:* PLO/728 acquired as Misc 1998/1999:7

from Matthew Henry Hubert Ponsonby (2nd Baron Ponsonby of Shulbrede)

PLO/168 4 January 1941

Thanking Plomer for his edition of Kilvert's diaries, with comments on diary writing generally

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* 1904-1976

from James Pope-Hennessy

PLO/169 11 August 1955, 25 April 1964, 12 August 1971

Refer to Richard [Rumbold's] diaries ( *A message in code*), PLO 169/2, and to his own book, *Anthony Trollope*, PLO 169/3

3 letters, 3 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and literary editor, 1916-1974

from Mary (Marian Anderson) Potter

PLO/170 1 December 1958, 24 June 1973, undated

Personal news (from Aldeburgh), with references to Ben [Britten] and Susan Hill. PLO 170/2 refers to a performance of *Curlew river*, and PLO 170/3 is an undated Christmas card referring to "the problem," possibly alluding to the *Burning fiery furnace*.

First letter is dated "Dec 1st" but should perhaps be "January" (refers to not having sent Christmas cards).

3 letters and card, 3 sheets, 1 card & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Artist, lived in grounds of Red House, Aldeburgh (home of Benjamin Britten) from 1963, 1900-1981

from Anthony Powell

PLO/171 15 March 1958, 2 January 1968

Relating to *At home* (reviewed by Powell in *Punch* magazine) and to the award of a CBE to Plomer

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Novelist and critic, 1905-2000

from John Preston

PLO/172 7 February 1949

Letter from New York with news of the Sitwells (Edith, Osbert, Stuart) and of the attitude of Americans to Auden and Stephen [Spender]

1 letter, 1 sheet

from Kerrison Preston

PLO/173 24 September 1952 - 1 October 1952

About the Butts family, with reference to the collection of Blake paintings formerly owned by Anthony Butts' father, and some news about other members of the family. Encloses page proofs of Preston's introduction to *The Blake collection of W. Graham Robertson* (Faber and Faber, 1952)

2 letters, 2 sheets & 4 sheets of page proofs

*Related material in other DUL collections:* These letters were originally filed with the letters of Anthony Butts at PLO/25.

from Frank Templeton Prince

PLO/174 8 September 1954 - 2 December 1967

Mainly concern social arrangements. PLO 174/6 concerns Cavafy's poetry, and PLO 174/8-9 discusses Plomer's *At home*, and the work of diarists. PLO 174/5-6 & 10-14 relate to his own poetry and attempts to get it published. Enclosed with PLO 174/13 is a manuscript copy of his poem *Watching song* ("Watch, I warn you...").

15 letters, 19 sheets & 11 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet, lecturer, later professor of English; born South Africa, 1912

from Victor Sawdon Pritchett

PLO/175 undated

Apologising for missing a meeting with Plomer because of film commitments

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Author and critic, 1900-1997

from C.T.O. (Oswin) Prosser

PLO/176 14 November 1971

Mainly about A.L. Rowse, who had given a lecture attended by Prosser

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Secretary of the Kilvert Society

*Related material in other DUL collections:* This letter was formerly attached to letters from A.L. Rowse at PLO/187.

from Peter Quennell

PLO/177 22 August 1944

Rejecting a ballad submitted by Plomer for the *Cornhill* magazine.

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Writer and editor, 1905-1993

from Tom (Thomas Moore) Raworth

PLO/178 3 July 1970 - 3 August 1973

Mainly personal news and reflections

6 letters, 5 sheets, 1 card & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet, born 1938

from Herbert Read (Sir)

PLO/179 11 January 1941

Thanking Plomer for reviewing a pamphlet by Read, with reference to himself and Plomer as "neglected poets," and asking about the identity of Robert Pagan [Plomer's pseudonym in *Penguin new writing*]

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Poet and editor, 1893-1968

from Vere Redman (Sir)

PLO/180 8 August 1963

Personal news and recalling Japanese friends

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Lecturer in English at Tokyo, later journalist, later diplomat, 1901-1975

from Henry Reed

PLO/181 11 July 1945 - 30 August 1949

Personal and friendly letters, with many references to his own works and their reception by Jonathan Cape (publishers, for whom Plomer worked as a reader), particularly *A map of Verona* (collected poems, PLO 181/1-3), *Moby Dick* (script of radio play, PLO 181/4,6-7) and a book on Hardy (PLO 181/16-17). Plomer's poetry is mentioned several times, mainly in connection with an anthology to be put together by Reed (PLO 181/8-11) and a radio talk for BBC Midland Home Service (PLO 181/13,15).

18 letters, 23 sheets & 10 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet and radio-dramatist, 1914-1986

from James Reeves

PLO/182 16 June 1973 - 11 July 1973

Referring to his anthology of satirical poetry [ *A vein of mockery* ], including work by Plomer

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Author, editor and broadcaster, 1909-1978

from Anthony Rhodes

PLO/183 5 September 1955

Refer to one of Plomer's works (possibly *Museum pieces?* - reference to a "portrait of two characters")

year uncertain: postmark unclear, but appears to be "195\_"

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

from Richard Rive

PLO/184 10 September 1963 - 16 October 1963

Arranging a meeting and thanking Plomer for his *Double lives*.

PLO 184/2 refers to meeting Plomer on "Wednesday 18th October" [1963], but PLO 184/3, written after his return to South Africa, is dated 16th October. As 18th October 1963 was not a Wednesday, he probably meant 18th September.

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* South African writer, 1930-1989

from Cecil Roberts

PLO/185 1 November 1965 - 30 October 1971

Personal news and comments on his autobiographical works ( *The growing boy*, *The years of promise* and *The bright twenties*, provisionally *The bright noon*, PLO 185/3-5) and on Plomer's *At home* (PLO 185/5). Also recollections and stories on various subjects, in particular relating to Richard Rumbold (PLO 185/1), Ali Pasha (PLO 185/2,6), Ian Fleming (PLO 185/3) and the opening of Byron's coffin (PLO 185/8-9).

9 letters, 9 sheets, 1 photograph, 1 card & 5 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and editor, 1892-1976

from Alan Ross

PLO/186 15 December 1963 - 9 July 1973, undated

Mainly picture postcards, concerning social arrangements and poems submitted by Plomer for publication in the *London magazine*

6 letters, 1 sheet & 5 cards

*Biographical information:* Author, publisher and journalist, and editor of the London Magazine, born 1922

from Alfred Leslie Rowse

PLO/187 1944, 23 June 1971 - 22 March 1972

First letter about *Double lives*. Other letters mainly concern Rowse's collection of poems, published as *Strange encounter* by Cape. Last letter is about Plomer's *Celebrations*. First later dated only "Mar 23rd" but refers to *Double lives* (published October 1943).

8 letters, 7 sheets, 1 card & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Historian and writer, Cornish, 1903-1997

from Tom Rumbold

PLO/188 27 February 1968

Thanking Plomer for his *Collected poems*

1 letter, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

from Steven Runciman (Hon Sir)

PLO/189 1 January 1968, 30 December 1968

Letters congratulating Plomer on the award of a CBE, and commenting on Joe Ackerley's book [ *My father and myself* ]

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Historian, 1903-2000

from Alexie Russell

PLO/190 14 November 1947 - 24 April 1955

Personal news and accounts of travels

7 letters, 16 sheets, 1 photograph & 6 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Wife of John Russell (divorced 1950)

from John Russell

PLO/191 22 September 1944 - 2 January 1957, 26 September 1964 - 1 December 1968, undated

Social and personal letters, with news of his own writings and descriptions of his travels, particularly in Continental Europe. Frequent comments on various literary or artistic works and figures, especially John Piper, Simon [Nowell Smith], Logan [Pearsall Smith, writer, 1865-1946] (especially PLO 191/10-13), Edith and Osbert Sitwell, Joe Ackerley and "the Maestro" (EM Forster?). Comments on Plomer's works include *In a bombed house: an elegy in memory of Anthony Butts* (PLO 191/1), *The Dorking thigh* (PLO 191/6), *Four countries* (PLO 191/48) and *A message in code* (PLO 191/77).

PLO 191/2 & 10 include references to "XIX" (?). Russell's reactions to TS Eliot's *The cocktail party* are in PLO 191/58-61, and PLO 191/78 includes an appeal for support for a project to celebrate 20th century European art in London.

81 letters, 120 sheets, 2 cards & 53 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Art critic and writer, born 1919; worked at the Naval Intelligence Division of the Admiralty, 1943-1946

from Lavinia Russell

PLO/192 Envelope of first letter postmarked 17 May 1954; second letter undated but apparently from an autumn term, 1954.

Personal 'thank you' letters

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Daughter of Alexie and John Russell, born 1946, goddaughter of William Plomer (see PLO 191/26)

from Edward Sackville-West

PLO/193 26 October 1931, 3 June 1958 - 1960

Later letters ask for help in tracing a novel and offer Plomer a job at Knole (Sackville family home, Kent). PLO 193/1 comments in detail on Plomer's *Sado*.

First and last letters have no year, but are dated by internal evidence to 1931-1932 and ca.1960-1962 respectively.

3 letters, 4 sheets & 1 envelope

from Vita Sackville-West (signed as Vita Nicolson)

PLO/194 6 December 1931 - 9 December 1931

Social letters, with comments on Roy Campbell and his attack on Vita and Harold Nicolson in the *Georgiad*.

No year on letters, but refer to Roy Campbell's *Georgiad*, published 1931.

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Novelist and poet, 1892-1962

from Michael Sadleir

PLO/195 14 December 1944, 4 June 1945

Comments on Plomer's *The Dorking thigh* and briefly on his own "story...just finished" (? *Forlorn sunset*).

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer and publisher, 1888-1957

from William Sansom

PLO/196 31 August 1946, 19 December 1958, 16 November 1970

Inviting a contribution to his anthology *Choice*, commenting on a reading by Plomer for the Royal Society of Literature, and thanking him for his comments on a piece by Sansom. First letter has no year, but is dated to 1945 or 1946 by reference to Sansom's anthology to be published by Progress Publishing (identified as *Choice*, published 1946).

3 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

from Siegfried Sassoon

PLO/197 1 December 1964

Letter enclosing offprint from Stanbrook Abbey Press edition of his poems, of *A prayer to time* ("Time, that anticipates eternities..."), with comments on the poem

1 letter, 1 sheet with offprint

*Biographical information:* Poet and writer, 1886-1967

from T. Sawamura

PLO/198 16 March 1929 - 6 December 1931

Personal news (from Japan), with comments on Plomer's *Paper houses*, on his successor [at the Koto Gakko school in Tokyo], and on Sawamura's own story, inspired by Virginia Woolf's *To the lighthouse*.

3 letters, 5 sheets

from Anna von Schubert (previously Anna de Schubert)

PLO/199 26 August 1925, 25 January 1928 - 6 March 1930, 7 February 1939 - 29 June 1941, 9 January 1946 - 19 August 1948

Lengthy and appreciative personal letters, with accounts of her own life, painting and (increasingly) her struggles with illness and a sense of isolation.

PLO 199/2, 9 & 20 comment respectively on Plomer's *Turbott Wolfe*, *Paper houses* and *Double lives*. PLO 199/10, 12 & 13 refer to Virginia Woolf (whom she met with Plomer in 1939), and PLO 199/17 refers to her death in 1941. There are also occasional references to Roy Campbell in the earlier letters. (She was a mutual friend of Plomer and Campbell, possibly bringing them together while he worked at Entumeni.)

PLO 199/18, written in 1946, describes her life in a Japanese camp during the war, and subsequent letters relate to the worsening condition in Shanghai (especially PLO 199/24-28; she left Shanghai in 1948).

Her letters from 1947 frequently refer to requests for Plomer to send magazines and books, and comment on some of the books she is sent (including, for instance, criticism of Osbert Sitwell, PLO 199/29-30). PLO 199/24, 26 & 30-32 include notes and ideas for a published edition of her diaries, which she worked on at Plomer's advice and encouragement. PLO 199/33 refers to a successful exhibition of her paintings in New York.

35 letters, 102 sheets, 1 card, 2 photographs, 2 news cuttings and 18 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Amateur painter, German born, whom Plomer met in South Africa. Subsequently lived in Shanghai, China. Visited Plomer in Japan, 1928, and England, 1939 and 1947.

from H Shidatsu

PLO/200 22 August [1927 or 1928]

Asking for Plomer's advice on his plans to travel to England and spend time there instead of in Japan

No year, but apparently written while Plomer still in Japan.

1 letter, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* Apparently a former student of Plomer in Japan

from Hideo Shinojima

PLO/201 24 March 1929

Thanking Plomer and wishing him well before he leaves Japan

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Apparently one of Plomer's students (or possibly a colleague) in Japan

from Taro Shiomi

PLO/202 20 June 1932 - 12 November 1936, 2 August 1947 - 29 December 1953, 12 April 1958 - 16 May 1960, 10 July 1965 - 29 July 1973

Personal letters, thanking Plomer for his friendship and reflecting on Shiomi's lifestyle on a small farm near Kyoto, Japan, with frequent reference to his own happiness and the flowers and garden around him. Many letters refer to a period of illness (Tuberculosis) in c.1932 and his reflections on the experience, and the Japanese attitude to illness and suicide (particularly PLO 202/2-4 & 16). The later letters frequently mention James Kirkup, PLO 202/27 describing a meeting with him, and PLO 202/28 enclosing a copy of Kirkup's *Frankly speaking* and a pamphlet on the atomic bomb.

A few letters include brief comments on particular works by Plomer, including *Paper houses* and *Sado* (PLO 202/1), *Four countries* (PLO 202/7-8), *Double lives* (PLO 202/9-10), *At home* (PLO 202/18), *Turbott Wolfe* (PLO 202/24-25, on its 1965 reprint) and *The diamond of Jannina* (1970 reprint of *Ali the lion*, PLO 202/31). PLO 202/11-14 relate to a plan by Shiomi to produce a Japanese edition of some of Plomer's works, for use in the colleges (subsequently dropped, see PLO 202/17).

PLO 202/3 refers to a couple of friends in prison for their political beliefs, and PLO 202/5-6, written 1947-1948, to his imprisonment in Russia during the war (also his continued respect for Russia and the Russian Revolution). PLO 202/12 includes an enquiry about the pronunciation of Plomer's name, and PLO 202/23 to a meeting with Laurens Van Der Post in 1960.

32 letters, 49 sheets (many very long), 7 photographs & 25 envelopes

*Biographical information:* One of Plomer's students from the Koto Gakko school in Tokyo, Japan

from Utaro Shiomi

PLO/203 17 June 1946

Thanking Plomer for his letter and relating that his son, Taro, had been reportedly transferred to Siberia by the Soviet army at the end of the war

Written in Japanese, with a separate translation and a photograph of John Morris

1 letter, 2 sheets, 1 photograph and 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Father of Taro Shiomi

from John Hampson Simpson

PLO/204 11 November 1934

Relating a party (at a publisher's or newspaper?), and referring to Plomer's "description of Mosley speaking"

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Novelist and short story writer (under the name "John Hampson"), born 1901



from Edith Louisa Sitwell (Dame)

PLO/205 5 September 1944 - 31 August 1960, undated

Personal letters, many relating to social engagements with Plomer in London. Frequently refer to her own problems and complaints. Accompanied by a full set of transcripts, with corrections (from PLO 205/47, whole typescripts) in Plomer's hand.

Plomer's own works are commented on at PLO 205/9, 12, 31, 46, 49, 55 and 56 (respectively *The Dorking thigh*, *Curious relations*, *Four countries*, *Museum pieces*, *A shot in the park*, *At home* and an unspecified volume, possibly Plomer's *Collected poems*, 1960). PLO 205/51-52 mention a ballad written by Plomer, unnamed, and apparently dedicated to Edith Sitwell.

Letters refer to rehearsals and performances by Sitwell herself of her *Gold coast customs* (PLO 205/31) and *Façade* (PLO 205/36, 43). Many letters refer to struggles with reviewers or publishers, in particular with Joe Ackerley (editor of the *Listener*, PLO 205/5, 30) and to a dispute with Routledge concerning the unauthorised publication of some of her poems in an anthology (PLO 205/23, 25).

Ian Fleming is mentioned in several letters, after her meeting with him in 1947 (PLO 205/21), and she frequently refers to Lilian Bowes-Lyon and her illness (especially PLO 205/9, 17, 20, 22, 29-32; PLO 205/29-30 relate to a review of her poetry). PLO 205/42 comments on Laurens Van Der Post's *Venture to the interior*, and PLO 205/24-26 relate to Diana Reeve.

56 letters, 98 sheets, 1 card, 3 newscuttings, 55 envelopes & 67 sheets of typescript  
*Biographical information*: Poet and critic, 1887-1964

from Osbert Sitwell (Sir Francis)

PLO/206 16 September 1940 - 3 December 1968, undated

Personal and social letters, with brief comments on his own writing, on some of Plomer's works, and on his illnesses.

References to Plomer's works are in PLO 206/1 ( *Child of Queen Victoria* OR *Four countries*), 3-4 (*Double lives*), 16 (*The Dorking thigh*), 17 (*Curious relations*), 32 (*Museum pieces*, with reference to the dedication by Plomer [to Sitwell?]) and 40 (*Collected poems*, 1960).

PLO 206/42 includes a letter from "David" and PLO 206/61 is written by Frank Magro (during Sitwell's illness).

The undated letter (PLO 206/1) refers to a collection of short stories, including one on Corfu, and has been dated '[1933?]' (probably on the basis of the publication of *The child of Queen Victoria* in 1933, including the story "Nausicaa"). But 1949 is equally a possible date (publication of *Four countries*), as "Nausicaa" was published in that collection also.

61 letters, 66 sheets, 3 cards & 35 envelopes

*Biographical information*: Writer and critic, 1892-1969

from Logan Pearsall Smith

PLO/207 16 June 1945

Thanking Plomer for the gift of a book (possibly *The Dorking thigh*)

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information*: Writer and critic, 1865-1946

from Pauline Smith

PLO/208 19 June 1949 - 23 March 1950, 31 March 1958 - 12 May 1958

Thanking Plomer for his introduction to Smith's *The little Karoo* (Cape, 1950), and for his gift of a scroll signed in her honour by South African writers (given to her by Plomer with Roy Macnab when they visited her in Dorset, 1958)

5 letters (copies by Plomer), 6 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African writer

from Stevie Smith

PLO/209 20 February 1970

Thanking Plomer for his suggestion that she have a portrait painted

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Poet and novelist, 1902-1971

from Charles Percy Snow (Baron Snow)

PLO/210 2 January 1968

Congratulating Plomer on his award of a CBE

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Author and civil servant, 1905-1980

from John Sparrow

PLO/211 2 February 1940, 10 April 1944 - 5 September 1945, 9 January 1949 - 9 July 1973

Appreciative and personal letters, including many comments on Plomer's work, in particular his poetry, and frequent references to Kilvert.

References to and comments on Plomer's works are at PLO 211/2 (poems, possibly *Visiting the caves*, 1936, or *Selected poems*, 1940), 211/4 (*The Dorking thigh*), 211/10-11 (*Museum pieces*), 211/17 (*Gloriana*), 211/21-22 (*A shot in the park*), 211/28 (*At home*), 211/33 (*Collected poems*, 1960), 211/35-37 (*In a bombed house*), 211/48 (*A message in code*), 211/52-54 (*Taste and remember*), 211/66 (address for unveiling of Byron memorial at Westminster abbey, 1969) and 211/71-72 (radio broadcast on L[eonard] W[oolf]), 211/89 (*Celebrations*).

References to Sparrow's own writing are at PLO 211/3 (*Sense and poetry*, 1934), 211/91 (verses on C M B[owra] from the *Times literary supplement*, 1972), 211/96-99 (various poems, with extracts and drafts), 211/102 (originally enclosed with printed copy of *S Maria della salute*, 1973, now in Plomer printed books collection), 211/103 (telegram from "Theodore and Hasselquist," apparently referring to a reading by Plomer from a work by Sparrow) and 211/105 (encloses draft of *Intimations of mortality*, "Every morning when I rise...").

References to Kilvert and the Kilvert society are at PLO 211/1, 19, 46-47, 60, 73-78 (with passing references in other letters).

Other literary references and comments are in PLO 211/7-8 (on William Sharp, aka Fiona MacLeod, writer and literary editor, 1856-1905), 211/24-25, 60 (Joe Ackerley's books, *My dog Tulip*, 1956, and *My father and myself*, 1968), and 211/96 (referring to A.L.Rowse and his 'dark lady' theory regarding the Shakespeare sonnets).

PLO 211/13 encloses 2 letters (sources and addressees unknown), 1895 and undated. PLO 211/29 encloses a letter to Professor Isaiah Berlin from the 'Yoga-Vedanta Forest University', 1958. PLO 211/56, 85 are leaves from booksellers' catalogues dated 1968 and 1971, with references to unusual/surprising book titles. PLO 211/62, 83 refer briefly to student protests, 1968 and 1970.

109 letters, 110 sheets, 40 cards and 54 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer and editor, 1906-1992. Warden of All Souls College Oxford, 1952-1977

from Matthew Spender

PLO/212/1-3 14 June 1964 - 5 December 1967

Thanking Plomer for presents, with personal news

7 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Son of Stephen Spender and Plomer's godson, born c.1945

from Inez Spender

PLO/212/4 1 December 1939

Asking for advice regarding a novel which the Hogarth Press has asked her to rewrite, and which she would like to publish instead with Cape. With postscript from Stephen Spender

1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Wife of Stephen Spender (married 1936, separated 1939)

from Stephen Spender

PLO/213 1930 - 12 February 1973

Letters are listed individually. Earlier letters especially are of interest in tracing Spender's literary career, as Spender and Plomer commented extensively on each other's work. Many references to mutual friends, especially to John Lehmann ("the armoured writer," see PLO 213/71), Rupert Hart-Davis, Muriel Gardiner (in Vienna), and to Spender's family (Plomer was godfather to Spender's son, Matthew, born c.1945).

Many letters are undated or have no year, but can generally be dated from internal evidence and/or from copies of Plomer's letters to Spender (at PLO 276). Comments are added to individual items where the dating is less certain.

141 letters, 209 sheets, 4 cards, 1 telegram and 41 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet and critic, 1909-1995. Edited *Horizon* (1939-1941) and *Encounter* (1953-1966) literary magazines. Stayed for part of each year in Germany (with Christopher Isherwood) and was involved in left-wing politics and the Communist Party, and lived near Plomer in Maida Vale in the 1930s.

PLO/213/1 Undated [c.1929-1930]

Poem ("That girl who laughed and had black eyes..."), with note inviting Plomer to Oxford "next term."

1 sheet

PLO/213/2 24 February 1930

social arrangements (with René Janin)], personal news, invitation to play in hockey match

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -  
PLO/276/3:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/3 7 March 1930

Comments on his current inability to write poetry and his intention to write a novel, with reference to starting a journal. Emphasises absence of external rules in the lives of artists.

Sense of personal loss at death of [D.H.] Lawrence, despises fellow dons at Oxford who laugh at Lawrence's ideas.

Apparently written in reply to a letter from Plomer (not among PLO 276), commenting on a poem sent earlier by Spender to Plomer.

3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -  
PLO/276/4:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/4 March-April 1930

Poem, "I hear the cries of evening, while the paw..."

1 sheet

PLO/213/5 4 May 1930

Dislike of Oxford and inability to work freely. Tendency to put himself down in front of Oxford academics, and scorn for competitive and destructive intellectual superiority. Refers to sending poems to [T.S.] Eliot for comment.

Encloses poem, "This world grows tracks in my heart, maps the brow..."

3 sheets

PLO/213/6 7 July 1930

Personal news and feelings. Has started writing novel and written more poems, with some printed [privately?]. Comments on meeting Eliot. Plans for travel to Hamburg, Berlin, Venice and Bonn.

Encloses two poems, "I say 'I am young'. Oh years look up, behold..." and "The faces of living friends I see on water..."

4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/6:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/7 25 July 1930

Has put aside unfinished poems and is writing his novel. Wants to stop writing short poems and try the form of a novel instead. Personal news and comments on relationships.

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/7:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/8 26 August 1930

Enclosing two poems and asking for comments on them: *Souvenir de Londres* ("My parents quarrel in the neighbour room...") and "Upon my solitary peak there is no light...". Refers angrily to reviews in the *Observer* of books by J.B. Priestley, Rosamund Lehmann and Gide.

3 sheets

PLO/213/9 15 September 1930

Has suffered from blood poisoning, but would like to visit Plomer [and Tony Butts] in Corfu, if he can get there cheaply. Travelling to Venice with his family, but returning to Hamburg in November for personal reasons.

No year. Numbered according to inferred year '1932', but evidence of letter and of Plomer's letters to Spender (especially PLO 276/8) indicate that it should be 1930, and numbered between PLO 213/6 and PLO 213/7.

1 sheet

PLO/213/10 27 October 1930

Depressed about his own writing and lack of romance in Vienna, but still hopeful about his novel.

2 sheets

PLO/213/11 28 November 1930

Describes theft of his money while on a visit to Köln; written to René [Janin], William [Plomer] and Tony [Butts] (apparently sent to Janin); refers to Arthur [Calder-Marshall].

Undated: previously assigned to 1929, but internal evidence suggests 1930 (fits with planned itinerary mentioned in PLO 213/7, October 1930, and PLO 213/10, March 1931, refers to an illness that is mentioned in this letter.

3 sheets

PLO/213/12 1 December 1930

Has accepted offer from publishers for a novel (still unfinished). Notes on his own travel plans and on mutual friends. Has been reading [Flaubert], *Madame Bovary*, and comments on the novel as "a real art form."

No year, but apparently written shortly after PLO 213/118 (and with the same contact address as mentioned in that letter)

1 sheet

PLO/213/13 13 January 1931

Description by Stephen Spender's uncle (J.A.Spender) of his stay in Khartoum, Sudan

With note from Stephen Spender to Plomer written at top of letter

1 sheet

PLO/213/14 9 March 1931

Comments on his boarding house in Berlin and its inhabitants, including their attitude to himself.

Encloses poems as follows (letter and Plomer's reply refer to 3 poems, although more are enclosed, possibly strays from another letter): "Your body are stars whose million glitter here...", "How strangely this sun reminds me of my love...", "Moving through the silent crowd...", *In the country* ("After the town I am fulfilled in peace...") and "What I expected was...."

4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/12:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/15 16 June 1931

Has been working hard and has now finished his book. Christopher [Isherwood] and friend are staying. Predicts "an appalling crash in Germany soon."

Dated "Jan 16" (with no year), but Plomer's reply (PLO 276/13, dated "2 July" with no year) suggests that the month is an error for "June," and the contents of this and Plomer's letter (including a reference to Plomer's *Sado* in the latter) suggests the year as 1931.

1 sheet

PLO/213/16 September 1931

Comments on Plomer's *Sado*, complementing his descriptions, but criticising his "didactic" tone regarding east-west relations and urging him to address "real values" and to accept the "domination of the mass."

Dated only "Monday" but answered by Plomer's letter of 22 September [1931] (PLO 276/15), and so probably written 14th or 21st September 1931.

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/15:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/17 [September or October 1931]

Additional comments on *Sado*, and noting his own refusal to publish a poem in *Action* magazine

Dated only "Wednesday," but apparently in reply to Plomer's letter of 22 September [1931] (PLO 276/15)

1 sheet

PLO/213/18 6 October 1931

Delighted that Plomer liked his poem, with comments on the language of poetry. With a copy of the poem concerned, "I think continually of those who were truly great..."

No year, but written in reply to PLO 276/18, which is itself undated but written from 95 Warwick Street, where Plomer lived during most of 1931.

3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/18:

Plomer's letter to which this is a reply

PLO/213/19 11 November 1931, 12 November 1931

Further comments on *Sado*, apparently shared with Christopher [Isherwood], complaining that it engages insufficiently with political and social realities. Mentions completion of *The soldiers' disease*.

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/16:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/20 1 December 1931

Requests return of *The soldier's disease*, which Spender now considers "beneath comment." Comments on the Nazis' rise and failure of Brüning (German chancellor). Asks after René [Janin].

Encloses two poems, *The funeral* ("Death is another milestone on their way...") and "After they have tired of the brilliance of cities...."

3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/17:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/21 9 January 1932

Personal news, with comments on the Berlin communists and on an essay by Middleton Murry about contemporary communism

1 sheet

PLO/213/22 16 January 1932

Own progress in writing and publishing poems, and renewed dissatisfaction with his own poetry, wanting "to look for something new again." Comments on Rosamund and [John] Lehmann, news of Christopher [Isherwood] and his own money and personal problems.

Encloses three poems, *The landscape near an aerodrome* ("More beautiful and soft than any moth..."), *The express* ("After the first powerful plain manifesto...") and "Who live under the shadow of a war...."

4 sheets

PLO/213/23 30 January 1932

Thanking Plomer and Tony [Butts] for books, including a [magazine] of new poems (unspecified). Personal news, including comments on low-paid jobs currently available for young unskilled people in Germany. Reference to visit by Harold Nicholson and friend.

2 sheets

PLO/213/24 6 March 1932

Comments on stories and poems by Plomer published in various journals. Has been re-writing *The temple*. Does not want to return to Frognal [family house in Hampstead, London]. Describes presidential election in Germany, with comments on his Nazi landlord and nationalism generally.

No year, but written from same address as PLO 213/17

1 sheet

PLO/213/25 6 May 1932

Comments on his *Temple* [novel, apparently rewritten from *The soldier's disease*], and his desire to publish it without rewriting. Exhausted by the "atmosphere of political strife" in Berlin and by money worries, and looking forward to moving to Sellin. Writing a poem as "a series of reflections ... a development from my novel," but nervous about "adding to all the mass of purposeless propoganda" of modern writing.

Attraction of writing novels, as less pretentious and less blasphemous.

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/26:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/26 3 June 1932

Enjoying a quiet life in Sellin and writing again. Dismisses all his previous writing as "trash." Criticism of Ellis Roberts alias Richard Sunne, "the true enemy of literature," and account of his own current reading.

Encloses four poems, although the second sheet of three poems apparently belongs with his next letter, PLO 213/19 (judging from Spender's letters and Plomer's replies).

The poems are "Those fireballs those ashes...", "Here man wakes, conscious of work, whilst wave after wave...", "The eyes seen vividly across the traffic..." and "In railway halls, on pavements near the traffic..."

3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/29:

Plomer's reply to Spender



PLO/213/27 15 June 1932

Working on correcting English letters for a German firm [of booksellers?], and writing more poems: refers to enclosed poems, which are apparently the three poems now numbered as PLO 213/18/3.

Personal news, commenting that "the German people have a strong sense that it is their duty now to support a great many destitute people," and praising their tolerance of wanderers and the unemployed. Criticism of Roy Campbell's attitude to the unemployed. Writes of his "weakness for Goethe" and love of the "devoutness" of German poetry and music.

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/27:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/28 4 July 1932

Has read *I speak of Africa*, praising particularly "Portraits in the nude" and ["Ula Masondo"]. Wonders why Plomer is not a communist, and comments on industries whose "interest is directly to promote war." Asks after E.M.Forster, with reference to his rumoured praise for C[hristopher Isherwood]'s novel.

1 sheet

PLO/213/29 16 July 1932

Annoyed by an unwanted visitor staying with Christopher [Isherwood] and himself. Comments on Plomer's *The case is altered*, which he enjoys but is disappointed by. Also comments on the beginnings of Plomer's stories. News of recreations.

1 sheet

PLO/213/30 27 July 1932

His novel has been rejected by the publishers following legal advice. Has spent a week in Berlin: comments on the atmosphere there (in a parody of Wyndham-Lewis), and predicts a revolution in Germany "this winter."

Numbered from inferred year '1934' but more likely to be 1932, from internal evidence (reference to being in Rügen, living alone etc).

1 sheet

PLO/213/31 26 October 1932

Does not like Barcelona, and compares it with Berlin. Is working hard and visiting Hellmut [?], who is ill. Has read some plays by Noel Coward, which he finds "utterly devoid of content."

No year, but internal evidence suggests 1930-1932 (before meeting Tony Hyndman), and evidence of other letters suggests not 1930 or 1931 (e.g.PLO 213/119 refers to being in South Wales from 24 October [1931] and PLO 213/7 is dated 27 October 1930 and written from Vienna). Also refers to reviewing [Wyndham Lewis], *The enemy of the stars* (published 1932).

1 sheet

PLO/213/32 21 November 1932

Description of towns visited while travelling from Barcelona with Hellmut, especially Valencia, Alecante and Malaga, and of fellow passengers on the boat

No year, but dated by reference to previous letter; also refers to Bernard [Bayes, Plomer's guardsman friend from early 1932 to May 1933]

2 sheets

PLO/213/33 23 June 1933

Personal news. Refers to articles about Spender in *The daily worker* and to his stay with Tony [Hyndman] in Florence, Rome and Levanto, with a description of some guests at their hotel. Has rewritten the last part of *The temple* and hoping that Faber will publish it; considers alternative titles.

Includes note written by Tony Hyndman to Plomer.

No year, but can be dated to 1933 from reference to subsequent letters, and from Spender's autobiography ( *World within world*), page 177 (allowing for the change of Tony Hyndman's name to 'Jimmy Younger' in the autobiography).

2 sheets

PLO/213/34 27 June 1933

Plans for return to London and news of Christopher [Isherwood]. Commiserates with Plomer on departure of Bernard [Bayes]. Has been writing poetry, "but none of it has been any good." Additional note written to Plomer by Tony [Hyndman].

Encloses two poems, *Perhaps* ("The explosion of a bomb...") and "The shape of death haunts life...."

3 sheets

PLO/213/35 6 April 1934

Postcard of a cyclist

Date of postmark

1 card

PLO/213/36 14 April 1934

Description of Mlini and Dubrovnik. Has started writing his play, and asks about Plomer's novel.

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/30:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/37 15 May 1934

Struggling to write his book [on James Joyce and Henry James?], and preparing to write a poetic drama. Description of other English visitors in Mlini.

2 sheets

PLO/213/38 19 June 1934

Personal news. Writing a long poem about Vienna. Dislike of [T.S.] Eliot's *The rock*.

4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/32:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/39 31 July 1934

Has finished his book and is working on a poem about Vienna; hopes to get back to working on his play, which is about 1/3 written. Personal news and plans. Concern about state of politics in Austria, following death of the Chancellor, and Spender's feeling that "all decisions are the result of intrigue." Asks after Plomer's next novel [ *The invaders*].

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/33:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/40 1 August 1934

Enclosing copy of his will (dated 29 July 1934), asking Plomer to be a trustee for a bequest to Tony Hyndman

2 sheets

PLO/213/41 16 August 1934

Has completed 3/4 of his long poem, and is revising his book following comments from Cape [publishers]. Has met James Laughlin (a young American poet referred to Spender by Plomer). Describes some of the people from their last hotel.

Encloses poem, "What the eye delights in no longer dictates..."

4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/34:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/42 27 August 1934

Plans to return to London in September, for lack of money. Relates comments of James Laughlin and his American friend about Spender and writing.

1 sheet

PLO/213/43 undated [? September 1934]

Thanking Plomer for his comments on his poem. Comments on some introductions to literary works that he has been reading.

No date, but refers to Plomer's review of *Seed of Adam*: a file of his reviews at PLO 311 includes one for Violet Campbell's *Seed of Adam*, dated 17 August 1934. PLO 213/33, dated 27 August 1934, refers to Spender's plans to return to London in September [1934]: and this letter refers to his imminent return, and both letters refer to his reviewing work.

1 sheet

PLO/213/44 4 November 1934

Asking advice on whether Spender could get the "Japan job."

1 sheet

PLO/213/45 Undated [? January 1935]

Arranging to meet Plomer on his return [to London], with news of his stay in Vienna and his work. Comments on failings of English communists.

Undated, but appears to follow PLO 213/35, while Plomer is staying in Vienna with Muriel Gardiner (but with no one else)

1 sheet

PLO/213/46 11 January 1935

Money troubles and personal plans and feelings. Trying to write a play, but "lacking in confidence." Appreciative comments on Plomer's poem in *The mercury*, and on the use of rhythm and the difficulty of sustained narrative poetry generally.

2 sheets

PLO/213/47 18 April 1935

General news. Relates story of exhibition in Munich, Germany, in which most pictures were removed by order of Goebbels.

1 sheet

PLO/213/48 25 April 1935

Reassures Plomer that he understands the latter's coldness or irritation with himself, from his own experience. Encloses poem (described as "about people who make Empires"), *The thin will* ("Whirring outward growth...").

2 sheets

PLO/213/49 22 May 1935

Comments on his own poetry and its "obscurity." Praises Plomer's poem, *John Drew*, but criticises its emphasis on human kindness as "a panacea return to the primitive." Comments generally on poets and society, with reference to [Lewis] Mumford, *Technics and civilization*.

Is writing stories and poems, and translations of Hölderlin.

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/41:

Plomer's reply to Spender (numbered out of sequence, as it is dated without a year and the year 1938 has been suggested for it, although it is a reply to this, and both are probably dated 1935)

PLO/213/50 3 June 1935

Praising Plomer's poetry (with reference to his previous letter, about *John Drew*), but explaining why he believes that political writers belong to a "great tradition" and cannot be played off against Forster or Virginia Woolf, and defending himself against Plomer's charge of being propagandist.

Relates stories of some of the characters in Dubrovnik society.

2 sheets

PLO/213/51 12 July 1935

Personal news. Reading Hölderlin, with comments on romanticism generally and referring to their appeal to "all the humane values of the imagination."

1 sheet

PLO/213/52 31 July 1935

Praises Plomer's poem in *The spectator*, and his ability to write prose and poetry contemporaneously. He (Spender) now writing stories, and unable to write poetry at the same time.

Personal news, reflections on relationships with Muriel [Gardiner, his host in Vienna] and Tony [Hyndman], with reference to isolation as his "creative element," and to his interest in ideas that "are not a part of people's lives now, but they are my life." Encloses poem, *The uncreative chaos* ("To the hanging despair of eyes in the street, offer...")

3 sheets

PLO/213/53 9 January 1936

Describes countryside, household (staying with Tony [Hyndman], [Christopher Isherwood] and Heinz) and local English "colony." Praises Plomer's review about T.H.Huxley in the *London Mercury* review.

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/35:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/54 9 February 1936

Progress with his work (especially with a play, *The death of a judge*), and personal news and plans. Encloses three poems: "Alas for the sad standards" (apparently from *The death of a judge*), *Speech* ("Possibility, possibility of happiness...") and *Socrates and Alcibiades* (translated from Hölderlin, "Holy Socrates, why do homage...").

2 sheets

PLO/213/55 24 March 1936

Asks after Plomer's book [*Ali the lion*], and Spender's own travel plans. Comments on the "English colony" in Sintra, Portugal, and their belief in reincarnation. Asks after Morgan [E.M.Forster] and comments on Forster's book of essays [possibly *Abinger harvest*].

Numbered according to inferred year '1937', but subject matter and the existence of Plomer's reply (PLO 276/36, dated "29 Mar 36") indicates 1936.

3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/36:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/56 3 April 1936

His own writing, particularly the writing of his "political book" and the difficulty of writing in particular places, especially London. Explains his need to travel, reluctance to become a "literary figure" and "acquire a mask," and the possibility of living in the [English] countryside. Has read Lorca, and comments on local English attitudes to the Spanish.

1 sheet

PLO/213/57 8 October 1936

Has moved house and is decorating. Social arrangements

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/276/38:

Plomer's reply to Spender

PLO/213/58 24 November 1936

Announcing his engagement to Inez Pearn

1 sheet

PLO/213/59 December 1936

Regarding Tony [Hyndman's] plans to go to Spain [to join the International Brigade] Letter undated, but internal evidence suggests the month and year (reference to Spanish civil war; Tony [Hyndman]'s departure for Spain at this stage is related in Spender's autobiography, *World within world*, where Tony is named "Jimmy").

1 sheet

PLO/213/60 6 February 1937

Passing on Tony [Hyndman]'s address. Commenting on his inability to fit into the communist kind of life, and his beliefs about his own behaviour and experiences.

2 sheets

PLO/213/61 10 February 1937

Plans to visit Spain (Albacete), and to work for the Communist Party.

2 sheets

PLO/213/62 2 April 1937

News of Tony [Hyndman]'s experiences with the International Brigade in Spain, including his desertion and imprisonment, and Spender's efforts to help him

2 sheets

*Ownership history:* Previously referenced PLO/213/51

There is another account of the events described in this letter, in Spender's autobiography (where Tony Hyndman is called "Jimmy Younger").

Spender, Stephen, *World within world : the autobiography* (1951), pages 212-238

PLO/213/63 12 April 1937

Describes interview with [Harry] Pollitt, [secretary of the British Communist Party], regarding Tony [Hyndman].

2 sheets

PLO/213/64 24 March 1938

Busy while his play [ *Trial of a judge*] is being performed.

1 sheet

PLO/213/65 17 October 1939

Plans to help Cyril Connolly with a new literary magazine [ *Horizon*], and asking for contributions

1 sheet

PLO/213/66 30 October 1939

Reference to Plomer's [contribution to *Horizon*], under the title *Kilver's Country*, and to the name of the magazine. Sympathies for death of Plomer's [mother].

PLO/213/67 3 April 1941

Announcing his second marriage [to Natasha Litvin]

1 sheet

PLO/213/68 7 April 1941

Inviting a contribution in memory of Virginia [Woolf], for *Horizon*

1 sheet

PLO/213/69 29 October 1941

Brief comment on Plomer's contribution to *Horizon*, a poem in memory of Anthony Butts. Comments on his training with the [National Fire Service].

2 sheets

PLO/213/70 23 November [1941-1942]

Comments on his training with the National Fire Service and the other firemen

1 sheet

PLO/213/71 September 1943

Social arrangements

Letter undated, but written in the week before "Sept 8th" and reference to Plomer's forthcoming book (probably *Double lives*).

1 sheet

PLO/213/72 15 November 1943

Thanking Plomer for sending him *Double lives*, with brief comments on it

1 sheet

PLO/213/73 13 March 1950

Thanking Plomer for his present to Matthew [Spender's son and Plomer's godson], and referring to his own plans and to [ *World within world*]

No year, but refers to [ *World within world* being finished (it was published in April 1951)

1 sheet

PLO/213/74 25 July 1950

Personal news. Comments on Richard Rumbold, *My father's son* (called *His father's son* by Spender), and on a review by Herbert Read of his own translations.

3 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/75 14 November 1951

Personal news and social arrangements

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/76 20 September 1952

Thanking Plomer for sending *Museum pieces* and family news. Praises [Flaubert], *L'education sentimentale*.

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/77 4 October 1953

Comments on first issue of *Encounter* magazine [edited by Spender and Irving Kristol], and looking forward to contributions by Plomer for it

1 sheet

PLO/213/78 14 January 1955

Invitation to a party to celebrate Spender's *Collected poems*

No year, but refers to his *Collected poems*

1 sheet

PLO/213/79 28 January 1955

Commiserating Plomer on the death of his father, and renewing invitation as last letter

1 sheet

PLO/213/80 28 March 1955

Thanking Plomer for his book, [ *A shot in the park*], with comments on some of the poems

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/81 9 May 1955

Social arrangements, with a reference to his review of Plomer's [ *A shot in the park*]

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/82 20 June 1956

Asking for a contribution to *Encounter*, and suggesting something from Plomer's trip to South Africa

1 sheet

PLO/213/83 8 March 1958

Praising Plomer's *At home*, referring to it as "a secret book, without being secretive." Family news, and a request to Plomer to review Michael Swan's book.

3 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/84 14 March 1958

Reference to possible reviewers for M[ichael] Swan's book and family news

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/85 6 June 1958

Thanking Plomer for his "Rumbold piece" [for *Encounter*], and news of his trip to Japan and meeting with Osamu [? translator of Spender's poems into Japanese]. Encloses poem, *To a Japanese friend, translating my poems from English* ("My English writing runs behind your eyes...").

Date appears to be "June 8" but envelope is postmarked "6 Jne."

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/86 9 June 1958

Social arrangements, and comments on [Japan] and his work in translating Schiller

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/87 8 August 1958

Social arrangements, with reference to meeting with Japrahash Narayad. Encloses short poems marked "for WP" and under the title *Inscriptions*, viz: "Temple," "Stele" and "Hiroshima rebuilt."

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/88 25 September 1958

Refers to novel published by Cape, *A house in Chelsea Square* [probably recte, *A room in Chelsea Square*, published by Cape 1958], and asking Plomer's advice about the copyright and other implications of writing "a kind of answer to this novel" based on the same characters.

Also note of a contract for a novel with Chatto & Windus and query about copyright. With typescript copy of letter, numbered PLO 213/76A

2 sheets

PLO/213/89 4 October 1958

More notes and thoughts on the same subjects as PLO 213/76, identifying the author of the existing novel as Michael Nelson.

2 sheets & 1 envelope



PLO/213/90 5 October 1959

Arrangements for meeting [Ezekiel Luke] Mphahlele. Suggestions of Joyce and Proust biographies for Plomer to review, with anecdotes of conversations between Joyce and Proust, and between Stravinsky and Eliot.

3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/213/149

Letters from Mphahlele

PLO/213/91 14 October 1959

Suggesting Plomer review the Joyce biography but not the Proust one (see previous letter). Comments on John Lehmann's editorial in the Christopher Isherwood 'number' [of *The encounter*].

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/92 10 May 1960

Thanking Plomer for his *Collected poems* with brief comments, and referring to his intention to "write poetry for the rest of this year"

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/93 31 October 1961

Inviting Plomer to send a lecture about autobiography, with family news

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/94 22 November 1961

Suggested alterations for Plomer's piece on autobiography. Refers to his (Spender's) criticism John Lehmann's prose poems.

1 sheet

PLO/213/95 26 November 1961

Further about Plomer's piece on autobiography

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/96 28 December 1961

Further on Plomer's piece, and personal news

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/97 13 September 1962

Visit of Gore Vidal; social arrangement

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/98 24 September 1962

Social arrangement

1 card

PLO/213/99 27 September 1962

Thanking Plomer for lunch

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/100 4 May 1963

Thanking Plomer for his parcel for Matthew [Spender's son and Plomer's godson].

Plans to return to America. Family news

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/101 13 August 1963

Congratulating Plomer on award of [Queen's] gold medal, and family news  
1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/102 11 October 1963

Reference to Edmund Wilson and "those other Americans" (unclear). Asking permission to publish Plomer's poem *Before the crash*.

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/103 14 October 1963

Social arrangement

1 sheet

PLO/213/104 14 May 1964

Thanking Plomer for "the R.R book" [Richard Rumbold, ed Plomer, *A message in code*] and promising to write a review sentence on it. Life and acquaintances in Chicago.

Encloses poems, *One more new botched beginning* ("Their voices heard, I stumble suddenly...", offprint from *The New Yorker*) and *Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light* ("How can they call this dark when stars...")

3 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/105 26 June 1964

Thanking Plomer for libretto [of *Curlew River*]. Asking Plomer to write a memoir of Sir Charles Lambe [First Sea Lord and Admiral of the Fleet, died 1960].

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/106 24 August 1964

Asking Plomer to write a obituary/memoir for Ian Fleming [novelist]

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/107 27 August 1964

Plans to visit Hungary and Bulgaria and so unable to hear Plomer's address on Ian Fleming

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/108 22 October 1964

Arrangements for publication of Plomer's piece on Ian Fleming

1 sheet

PLO/213/109 27 August 1965

Thanking Plomer for his poem, and social arrangements

1 sheet

PLO/213/110 February 1966

Invitation to party

Undated, but before date of next letter

1 card

PLO/213/111 25 February 1966

Thanks Plomer for records of *Curlew River*, and looking forward to seeing him at party (reference to "the ghost of Queenie barking at our heels")

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/112 20 October 1966  
 Invitation to dinner  
 telegram

PLO/213/113 23 October 1966  
 Social arrangements  
 1 card

PLO/213/114 31 October 1966  
 Social arrangement  
 1 sheet

PLO/213/115 25 November 1967  
 Personal news. Thanks Plomer for his last book of poems [ *Taste and Remember* ]  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/116 9 January 1969  
 Social arrangement  
 Dated "Jan 4 68" but postmarked "1969"  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/117 25 November 1969  
 Thanking Plomer for his comments on Spender's reading, and planning a new book  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/118 3 December 1969  
 Describes meeting with Professor James Hart and others, regarding Hart's  
 forthcoming work [apparently connected with some unspecified manuscripts]  
 2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/119 3 October 1970  
 Personal news and social arrangements, and congratulations for Plomer's [poetry]  
 reading.  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/120 14 October 1970  
 Hoping that Plomer's health will improve, and commenting on his work as a professor  
 [at University College London]  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/121 24 October 1970  
 Thanking Plomer for his comments on Spender's lecture, and social arrangements  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/122 28 November 1970  
 Social arrangement  
 1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/123 4 December 1970  
 Social arrangements  
 1 sheet

PLO/213/124 28 November 1971

Thanking Plomer for his letter and commenting on award [to Spender] of the Queen's Gold Medal, and the lack of proper reviews for books of poetry generally. Will be at poetry reading in Plomer's honour, and recalls Plomer's stay in Corfu.

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/125 28 December 1971

Thanking Plomer for his poem, *[The planes of] Bedford Square*. Family news.

2 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/213/126 13 April 1972

Praises Plomer's latest poems [ *Celebrations*]. Family and work news.

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/127 18 November 1972

Regarding arrangements with Plomer to visit Liverpool [purpose of visit is not made clear]

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/128 12 February 1973

Arranging to see Plomer for lunch and discussion

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/213/129 undated [1930x1933]

Arranging to meet Plomer, with a reference to "the drawing"

1 sheet

PLO/213/130 undated [1932x1935]

Personal news and anecdotes

Undated, but refers to illness of Plomer's mother, to Jack [Carey?, Plomer's friend 1933-1935], Tony [Hyndman] and "Dr Hare" [Norman Haire, sexologist, see PLO 87].

1 sheet

PLO/213/131 18 July [c.1944-1958]

Invitation to party with other literary figures and friends

Undated, but refers to Rose Macaulay, who died 1958

1 sheet

PLO/213/132 7 December [c.1945-1950s]

Written to accompany a christmas present and photograph of [Matthew], his godson  
No year, but refers to Plomer's godson [Matthew Spender, born c.1945]

1 sheet

PLO/213/133 4 January [c.1950s]

Would like to meet Plomer to discuss application for a post at Athens University

1 sheet

PLO/213/134 4 July [c.1950s]

Thanking Plomer and Charles [Erdmann] for hospitality

No year, but refers to Spender's children

1 sheet

PLO/213/135 9 May [c.1953-1955]

Apologising for misprinting of Plomer's poem [in *Encounter* magazine]

No year, but references to *Encounter* magazine and to René Janin.

1 sheet

PLO/213/136 26 May [c.1953-1955]

Would like to meet Plomer at Aldeburgh [festival]

No year, but follows PLO 213/134

1 sheet

PLO/213/137 23 December [1953-1967]

Thanking Plomer for his ballad [for *Encounter* magazine], with comment on Christmas boxes

1 sheet

PLO/213/138 8 October [1953-1967]

Thanking Plomer for his article [for *Encounter* magazine]

1 sheet

PLO/213/139 undated

Poem, *Looking at a book of death-masks* ("Never being, but always at the edge of Being...")

1 sheet

PLO/213/140 undated

Poem, *The swan* ("The trumpets were curled away, the drums beat no more..."), with manuscript correction

1 sheet

PLO/213/141 undated

Poem, "Oh young men oh young comrades...", with note to Plomer from Spender

1 sheet & 1 envelope

from James (Jimmy) Stern

PLO/214 15 September 1952 - 20 September 1973

Friendly and good humoured letters, with many brief memories and comments on literary figures, and occasional short references to African politics. Refers to his own writing as "knitting," and to his translation work (of the letters of Freud, Kafka and Brecht). Allude to other authors, including especially WH Auden, Nadine Gordimer and John Lehmann (called "John O'London"). Most of the letters are primarily personal, with many references both to Tania Stern and to Charles Erdmann, and often ending with an image of a bow-tie (with reference to a 'bo' or African greeting, as from servant to master).

Comments on Plomer's work include *Museum pieces* (PLO 214/1), *Tugela river* (poem, PLO 214/18), *At home* (PLO 214/20), *Voorslag days* (article, PLO 214/25), *The case is altered* (PLO 214/28), *Paper houses* (PLO 214/33 & 119), *Collected poems* (1960, PLO 214/38), review by Plomer of Hart-Davis (ed.), *The letters of Oscar Wilde* (1962, PLO 214/48-50), radio talk (1962, commenting on influence of Japan, PLO 214/59), introduction by Plomer to HC Bosman, *Unto dust* (PLO 214/64), *A message in code* (PLO 214/78-79, Richard Rumbold is also mentioned in PLO 214/39 & 41), *Turbott Wolfe* (1965 reissue, with introduction by Laurens Van der Post, PLO 214/93), *The shortest day* (poem, PLO 214/97-98), radio broadcast (for ? Osbert Sitwell or Leonard Woolf, 1969, PLO 214/164-166), *Celebrations* (PLO 214/174). PLO 214/3 concerns Stern's contact with Noonday (American publishers) about Plomer's work and PLO 214/16-17 a possible German translation of Plomer.

Stern's own writing is mentioned in PLO 214/45-46, 49 & 66 (writing his autobiography), PLO 214/57-62, 71 (article on [Malcolm] Lowry, written for *Encounter*, with copy of letter from Stern to Stephen [Spender] re same at PLO 214/59, but subsequently submitted to *The London magazine*), PLO 214/88 & 164 (generally), PLO 214/104-108 (on a literary award granted to Stern, possibly the WH Smith award?), PLO 214/105-110 & 124-128 (publication of selected stories, described by Stern as his "buns" or "cakes").

Other authors are mentioned or reviewed in PLO 214/25 (Roy Campbell), PLO 214/7-8, 145-146, 152-156, 167-168 (Nadine Gordimer), PLO 214/87-88 (Siegfried Sassoon), PLO 214/97 & 99 (Marvin Cohen, who had submitted a novel to Cape, 1965-1966, *The self-devoted friend*) and PLO 214/135, 138 & 140 (Patrick White, with comments on his short stories and on the character of the novelist generally). PLO 214/137 & 139 include a request to Plomer concerning a librettist for Harrison Birtwistle, 1968.

Enslin Du Plessis (South African painter) is mentioned at PLO 214/13. "E.E." or "Ernestine Evans" is mentioned at PLO 214/66-74 (and elsewhere), and Gathorne-Hardy's edition of the memoirs of Lady O[ttoline Morrell] (published 1963) at PLO 214/74. PLO 214/148 includes a typescript copy of a letter by Stern's father from Transvaal, South Africa, dated 1901, to his (James Stern's) uncle, regarding his service in the South African war. 184 letters, 227 sheets, 25 cards, 3 news cuttings and 137 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Short story writer and translator (from German). Had lived in Rhodesia 1925-1926. Met Plomer in 1947.

from Tania Stern

PLO/215 31 October 1967 - 3 November 1967

Informing Plomer of James Stern's illness

1 letter, 3 sheets

*Biographical information:* Wife of James Stern (q.v.)

from Janet and Reynolds Stone

PLO/216 1970 - 11 August 1973

Invitations to stay

5 letters, 4 cards (with engravings), 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Reynolds Stone, designer and engraver, 1909-1979; Janet Stone his wife

from H.O. Stutchbury

PLO/217 11 January 1950, 18 January 1950

Notes and comments on Balzac and the attitude of critics to him, apparently written to Plomer after he took part in a radio broadcast on Balzac (possibly "The critics" on BBC Third Programme); includes sheet of notes on Balzac

2 letters, 5 sheets

from Frank Arthur Swinnerton

PLO/218 2 November 1959 - 30 November 1959

Relating to journal and typescript drafts left by Pauline Smith, and relating to her visit to South Africa in 1913.

3 letters, 3 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Novelist and critic (reader for Chatto & Windus from 1907), 1884-1982

from Julian Symons

PLO/219 6 April 1950 - 25 April 1950

Requesting help with a book about George Gissing

3 letters, 3 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Author and editor, 1912-1994

from Stephen Tennant

PLO/220 March 1945 - 28 August 1946, 28 June 1948

Letters about Plomer's and his own work (particularly a collection of short stories, *Luxury item*, and his novel, *Lasca*). Letters are often affectionate, with many comments on the artist's need for solitude, and on nature and gardens (particularly with regard to Wilsford Manor). Letters written from either Bournemouth or Wilsford Manor, Salisbury.

Many letters are decorated with sketches, mainly of flowers and people/faces, and there are also a few separate sketches (at least one cut from a letter to Plomer). Letters refer to several other authors and artists, in particular Joe [Ackerley], Morgan [Forster], John Russell, Virginia Woolf [deceased], Ben Nicolson.

Two letters are undated (PLO 220/14-15), but appear to immediately predate PLO 220/1 (21 March 1945), although they may be earlier.

15 letters & 3 sketches, 21 sheets & 7 envelopes

*Biographical information:* artist and poet, 1906-1987

from Charles George Vivian Tryon, 2nd Baron Tryon

PLO/221 23 September 1963

Covering letter enclosing the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry (awarded to Plomer 1963), with an explanation of the design

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Written from the Privy Purse Office

from Makoto Tsutsumi

PLO/222 6 March 1929

Wishing Plomer well on his departure from Japan for England

No year, but refers to Plomer's [imminent] departure from Japan for England

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Pupil at Tokyo High School, Japan



from Laurens Jan Van der Post

PLO/223 15 September 1947 - 4 June 1973

Friendly letters with personal news, comments on Plomer's and his own writing, on mutual acquaintances (particularly Ingrid Jonker, South African poet) and on the political situation in South Africa.

Comments on Plomer's writing are at PLO 223/1 ( *Double lives*), 19 ( *Museum pieces*), 30 ( *At home*), 56 (libretto of *Curlew river*, referred to as *Sumidagawa*), 83 ( *Taste and remember*), 92-94 (performance of *Burning fiery furnace* at Versailles, France, in 1968), 97-98 ( *Prodigal son*), 108 (Plomer's address on the unveiling of the Byron memorial in Westminster abbey), 126-127 ( *Celebrations*). Many letters concern Van der Post's introduction to the 1965 edition of Plomer's *Turbott Wolfe* (PLO 223/46-48, 50, 52-54, 57, 63).

Van der Post's own writing is mentioned in the following letters: PLO 223/7 (finishing novel, 1951, provisionally called *The sleep walker*), 8 (proof of *Venture to the interior*), 10 & 12 (finishing novel), 14 (finishing "long short story about a Japanese NCO", December 1951, also refers to a meeting with Jung), 21-22 (re hostile reception to his *A bar of shadow*), 23 ( *The dark eye in Africa*), 44-45 ( *The seed and the sower*), 58 & 75 ( *The hunter and the whale*, 1964-1965).

There is considerable correspondence relating to Ingrid Jonker, South African poet (in Afrikaans). PLO 223/50 refers to Plomer's meeting with Jonker in 1964. PLO 223/64-65, 68-70 & 72 relates to the deaths by suicide of Jonker and Nat Nakasa (South African poet) in 1965, with references to South African friends of Jonker (Uys Krige and Jack Cope) and to Plomer's poem about Jonker and Nakasa ( *The taste of the fruit*). PLO 223/76-79 & 81 refer further to Jonker's poetry, and PLO 223/101, 104, 106-107 & 109 to Plomer's edition of Jonker's poems (with Jack Cope, published by Cape, 1968), plus a review and article by Van der Post.

Several of the letters refer to Ian Horobin, formerly MP and occasional poet, 1899-1976, whom Van der Post met while a prisoner of war. See PLO 223/36, 42, 73 (on a proposed edition of his collected poems, 1965), 119.

Comments on South Africa and South African politics are included in PLO 223/2 (1948), PLO 223/27-28 (with reference to Plomer's return there in 1956), PLO 223/31-32 (1960, referring apparently also to a possible post for Plomer in Natal University) and PLO 223/95 (1968, with reference to anti-apartheid playwrights).

Other literary references are to Roy Campbell's poetry (PLO 223/15, 1952), meeting with Leonard [Woolf] (PLO 223/18, 1952), "hysteria and counter-hysteria" about TE Lawrence (PLO 223/23, 1955), René Janin's death (PLO 223/29, 1957), Richard Rumbold's death (PLO 223/34-35, 1961: Plomer edited his diaries as *A message in code*, referred to in PLO 223/56), a typescript by Freslich, sent by Plomer to Van der Post for comment (PLO 223/39, 1962: perhaps Richard Freislich, *The last tribal war*, Cape Town, 1964), a biography of Sukarno [Indonesian president], also sent by Plomer to Van der Post, apparently asking him to write an introduction (PLO 223/62, 1965, possibly *Sukarno: an autobiography, as told to Cindy Adams*), and to literary reactions to the burning down of the 'Maltings', Aldeburgh (PLO 223/109, 1969).

PLO 223/23-24 refer to Plomer's father (Charles, died 1955), with memories of Plomer's parents in South Africa. PLO 223/42 contains a separate letter sent to Plomer by GL Lewin about Van der Post, with comments on the latter by JC Powys, 1962. PLO 223/94, 96, 99-101 & 115 relate to Plomer's sitting for Frances Baruch, sculptress, and the placing of a bronze head of Plomer in a Johannesburg museum, South Africa. PLO 223/100 refer to the Russian/USSR invasion of Czechoslovakia after the 'Prague Spring'

in 1968. PLO 223/128 include comments on the bushmen and the present government of Botswana in 1972. PLO 223/136 mentions Van der Post's meeting with Captain Mori and Taro Shiomi in Japan in 1960. PLO 223/137 is a copy of a letter from Van der Post to J Schwarz dated 3 December 1964, relating to some of Van der Post's own MSS.

Two letters PLO 223/135-136, are originally undated. They were dated by Louise Stein, assistant to Van der Post's biographer, in 1999. PLO 223/52 is an undated postcard and sorted as [May 1964], although it is referred to in PLO 223/48 and so should be dated [September 1963 x January 1964].

137 letters, 187 sheets, 3 cards, 1 newspaper cutting and 107 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Journalist, soldier and writer, born in South Africa, 1906-1996. Van der Post met Plomer in Durban, and collaborated with Plomer and Roy Campbell on the literary magazine, *Voorslag*, 1925-1926, travelling with Plomer to Japan on the 'Canada Maru' in 1926. He was a Japanese prisoner of war 1943-1945, only returning to England after military service in 1947. Influenced by Jung in his writings from 1950s.

from Sir Philip Vian

PLO/224 8 March 1960

Thanking Plomer for his help (and criticism) before publication of his book ( *Action this day: a war memoir*, 1960)

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Admiral of the Fleet (Navy), 1894-1968

from Gore Vidal

PLO/225 undated

Thanking Plomer for his comments on a [novel] by Vidal (described as a "comedy")

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Author and political journalist, born 1925

from Sherard Vines

PLO/226 5 November 1943

Commenting on *Double lives*; also on the "threatened comeback of Religion."

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Poet and literary critic, whom Plomer met while in Japan in the 1920s, born 1890

from Julian Vinogradoff

PLO/227 9 November 1963

Thanking Plomer for his review (in *The Listener*) of Robert Gathorne-Hardy (ed.), *Ottoline : the early memoirs of Lady Ottoline Morrell* (1963)

1 letter, 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Daughter of Lady Ottoline Morrell (literary hostess, 1920s & 1930s)

from Derek Walcott

PLO/228 15 September 1961, 15 August 1969

Thanking Plomer for his letter of encouragement about his poetry (? with reference to *In a green night*), for his vote to grant the Cholmondeley award to Walcott, and for his comments on *Another life*

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Poet and playwright, born St Lucia, West Indies, 1930

from Mary Hermione Grenfell (Countess Waldegrave)

PLO/229 22 May 1968 - 28 May 1968

With reference to a story (recounted by Plomer on radio) about a former Lady Waldegrave, "an elderly Dean" and the heart of Louis XIV

2 letters, 2 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Wife of Geoffrey Noel Waldegrave, 12th Earl Waldegrave

from Alison Waley

PLO/230 22 June 1966, 18 March 1970 - 3 October 1970

Comments on *Kilvert's diary* and on Arthur Waley's appreciation of it, with a reference (PLO 230/4) to his comment in volume 3, "269 like Chinese poem," and comments on Ivan Morris, *Madly singing in the mountains : an appreciation and anthology of Arthur Waley* (1970).

4 letters, 4 sheets, 1 card & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Born Alison Robinson, married Arthur Waley in 1966 (shortly before his death)

from Arthur Waley

PLO/231 29 April [1944] & [1956]

Thanking Plomer for his "biographical dictionary" (? *Double lives*), asking about "Ernestine Evans" and enclosing a postcard of Yuan Mei.

Letters not dated. PLO 231/1 refers to "Vol 1" or "the magnificent biographical dictionary," perhaps Plomer's autobiography, *Double Lives*, published in 1943. PLO 231/2 dated from reference to Waley's biography of Yuan Mei (published 1956).

2 letters, 1 card & 1 photograph

*Biographical information:* Translator of Chinese and Japanese poetry, 1889-1966. Met Plomer in 1929 (through René Janin).

from Edward Joseph (Ted) Walker

PLO 232

A large series of personal correspondence, mostly regarding literary matters

*Biographical information:* Poet, short story writer, travel writer, TV and radio dramatist and broadcaster (1934-2004)

PLO/232/1-14 20 February 1965 - 11 November 1965

Discussions of their own work and works by others. Enclosures include:

232/2: typescript of Ted Walker's *Mules*

232/3: typescript of Ted Walker's *Mules*

232/4: newspaper clipping of Ted Walker's *Moths*

232/7: typescript of Ted Walker's *Clouds*

232/8: typescript Ted Walker's *Elegy for the Trotliner*

13 letters, 23 sheets, 10 envelopes

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See broadcast portrait and letter at PLO/294 and PLO/306

PLO/232/15-33 4 January 1966 - 20 December 1966

Personal, mainly literary letters about their own work. Enclosures include:

232/16: typescript of Leslie Norris' *Looking at snowdrops*

232/17: typescript of Ted Walker's *With weasel*

19 letters, 35 sheets, 17 envelopes

PLO/232/34-55 30 January 1967 - 17 November 1967

Personal and general literary correspondence, some references are made to Walker's work writing for the BBC and to *The Burning Fiery Furnace*

232/52: typescript of Walker's *Swallows*

22 letters, 40 pages, 16 envelopes

PLO/232/56-66 19 January 1968 - 9 December 1968

Personal correspondence, includes a discussion of Stephen Spender (PLO/232/57); *Dewdrop* a handwritten poem. Enclosures include:

*Bonfire* a typescript poem by Walker (PLO/232/63)

*Hillpatha* typescript poem by Walker (PLO/232/64)

*Three Boys* a typescript poem by Walker (PLO/232/66)

11 letters, 22 pages, 6 envelopes

PLO/232/67-88 12 January 1969 - 29 December 1969

Correspondence, mostly regarding personal news and some literary discussion including a handwritten version of Walker's *The Magpie* (PLO/232/86). Enclosures include:

typescript of Walker's *Sunday drive to the beach* (PLO/232/69)

typescript of Walker's *Voices* (PLO/232/70)

typescript of Walker's *A place of trees* (PLO/232/71)

three newspaper clipping from *The South England Advertiser* about a pantomime performance which Walker performed in, includes a photograph (PLO/232/72)

typescript of Walker's *The ghost of Dafydd ap Gwilym at a drowned valley reservoir* (PLO/232/80)

typescript of Walker's *A Celebration for Autumn*

22 letters, 51 items, 13 envelopes

PLO/232/89-105 16 January 1970 - 28 December 1970

Personal correspondence, includes some discussion of their works and literary events. With reference to Walker's "The Night Brothers"; handwritten draft of a poem (PLO/232/91 and 94). Enclosures include:

handwritten draft poem *After draught* (PLO/232/98)

typescript poem *New Forest Ponies* (PLO/232/103)

17 letters, 48 sheets, 11 envelopes

PLO/232/106-113 11th January 1971 - 3 October 1971

Personal correspondence, mainly regarding news, with some discussion of works and literary events. Enclosure includes:

typescript poem *Letter to Barbados*

8 letters, 16 sheets, 5 envelopes

PLO/232/114-137 January 1972 - 12 December 1972

Personal correspondence, mainly about daily life and travels. Some discussion of literary matters and their own work, including Plomer's *Celebrations* and a discussion of Roy Campbell's *Light on a dark horse* (PLO/232/136). Enclosures include:

typescript poem *Between the acts* (PLO/232/137)

24 letters, 49 sheets, 17 envelopes

PLO/232/138-143 1 January 1973 - 18 september 1973

Personal correspondence, includes discussion of Rupert Hart-Davis' *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde* (PLO/232/139); general news of work, poetry and daily life. Includes Walker's impression of Plomer's Children's book *The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast* (PLO/232/138-143)

6 letters, 19 sheets, 6 envelopes

from Hugh Seymour Walpole (Sir)

PLO/233 June 1932, 18 January 1940

Social arrangements

2 letters, 1 card & 1 sheet

*Biographical information:* Novelist, 1884-1941

from Veronica Wedgwood (Dame Cicely)

PLO/234 29 June 1948, 4 September 1968 - 24 July 1969

Social arrangements. PLO 234/3 refers to the possibility of publication by Cape of a semi-autobiographical novel by Vijaya-Tunga, and PLO 234/4 refers to Plomer's address on Byron [in Westminster abbey], both 1969.

5 letters, 6 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Historian, 1910-1997

from Glenway Wescott

PLO/235 17 March 1969

Appreciation of Plomer's work and own difficulty in writing currently

1 letter, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Writer

from Arnold Wesker

PLO/236 9 January 1971

Thanking Plomer for dedication in an edition of Kilvert's diaries

1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Playwright and director, born 1932

from Eric Walter White

PLO/237 28 November 1970

Refers to story of 'Violante' and 'Lady Isabella', apparently 18th century theatrical artists from Italy, with suggestion that they would be good material for a ballad by Plomer

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Writer on English opera

from Ralph Vaughan Williams

PLO/238 22 June 1941

Asking about possible sources for ballads and folk songs/dances referred to in Kilvert's diaries

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Composer, collector of English folk songs, 1872-1958

from Angus Wilson

PLO/239 4 October 1952, 28 April 1953, 11 November 1960

1952-1953 letters refer to *For whom the cloche tolls : a scrap book of the twenties*, written by Wilson and Philippe Jullian in 1953 (dedicated to Plomer), with reference (PLO 239/2) to a review in the *Listener* that appeared to disparage Edith Sitwell. 1960 letter refers to Wilson's visit to Natal, South Africa. PLO 239/1 also mentions Plomer's *Museum pieces*.

3 letters, 6 sheets & 3 envelopes

from Leonard Woolf

PLO/240 1 February 1925 - 23 March 1937, 28 April 1941, 17 September 1952 - 24 November 1968

Earlier letters (to 1932) mainly concern Plomer's publications with the Hogarth Press. Later letters are shorter and less frequent, mainly concerned with social arrangements. Four of the letters are xerox copies from originals in Sussex University Library (PLO 240/4, 5, 29, 33)

Letters relating to Plomer's works are as follows (all PLO 240/):

- /1-3 (1925): *Turbott Wolfe*, including queries about the possible identification of characters and potential libel cases, and a note on "the drawings" (by Plomer?); republication in 1965 (with introduction by Laurens Van Der Post) mentioned at /43 (1964)
- /4-5 (1926): a story by Plomer for *The nation* magazine
- /6-7 (1928-1929): *Paper houses*
- /14 (1931): *Sado*
- /15, 18-19 (1932): *The case is altered*, with a note on its reissue (remaindered) at /25-26 (1935, 1937)
- /20 (1933): *Cecil Rhodes*
- /23 (1933): *Child of Queen Victoria* (published by Cape, with note on Plomer's move from Hogarth Press)
- /28 (1952): [*Museum pieces*]
- /32 (1958): [*At home*]
- /33 (1958): suggestion for an edition of Plomer's collected poems, for publication by the Hogarth Press
- /51 (1968): refers to an enclosure (presumed returned), with a question, "what happened to the stories and novel?"

Other letters of interest include:

- /7 (1929): forthcoming arrival by Plomer in England, with reference to the style of Plomer's earlier letters
- /8-11 (1929): civil lawsuit taken by Woolf against a neighbouring hotel
- /10 (1929): Japanese post [chair of English Literature at Imperial University in Tokyo] offered to (and refused by) Plomer
- /16 (1932): refers to "the friend of the poet who has just been sent to jail for 6 months for taking an indecent poem to a printer"
- /27 (1941): in reply to Plomer's letter on death of Virginia Woolf
- /29 & 46-49 (1954 & 1966-1967): talks to Lewes literary club by Plomer in 1955 and 1967
- /30-31 (1955): house for sale in Lewes (with particulars at PLO 240/30), suggested by Woolf for Plomer
- /35 (1961): Woolf's writing of his third volume of autobiography
- /52 (1968): Woolf's plans for a novel begun 1913 but never completed
- /53 (1968): Joe Ackerley and his *My father and myself*, including story of falling out between Woolf and Ackerley over the latter's dog, Queenie

PLO 240/54 has no date, but is dated to 1931 by reference to Plomer's address (Warwick Street, London: see Alexander's biography, pages 175, 179)

54 letters, 53 sheets, 2 cards & 14 envelopes

*Biographical information:* author and publisher, founder of the Hogarth press, and editor of *Nation*, 1929-1930, and the *Political quarterly*, 1931-1959. Husband of Virginia Woolf. 1880-1969.

Plomer published his early works with the Hogarth press, until 1932, viz: *Turbott Wolfe* (1925, republished by Hogarth Press 1965), *I speak of Africa* (1927), *Notes for poems* (1927), *Paper houses* (1929), *The family tree* (1929), *Sado* (1931), *The fivefold screen* (1932) and *The case is altered* (1932).

from Virginia Woolf

PLO/241 c.1929- 15 September 1940

Photostats and photocopies of letters, with references to social gatherings and brief discussions about literary matters. Includes a note about their impression of a party at the Woolf's [and Count Geoffrey Potocki de Montalk]; and Woolf's concerns about air raids in London and her opinion of Kilvert's diaries (PLO/241/13)

- /1. 'Friday' [1933], 1p., from Tavistock Square (typed), "Here is the post card -- will you let me have it back with your instructions..."
- /2. 2p., from Monk's House, 23 September [1929?], "I'm sorry to have been so long answering"
- /3. 1p., from Tavistock Square, 17 January 1930
- /4. 2p., from Monk's House, 6 August 1930
- /5. 2p., from Monk's House, 31 December 1930
- /6. 2p., from Tavistock Square, 6 December 1931
- /7. 2p., from Tavistock Square, 12 April 1932
- /8. another copy (photocopy) of /1, which has been dated 10 November 1933
- /9. printed postcard, invitation to an 'At Home', viz "'Freshwater' A comedy" at Fitzroy Street (from [Vanessa] Bell and V.W.), 18 January [1934], annotated with note of party for Angelica Bell
- /10. 2p., from Tavistock Square, 17 June 1935
- /11. 2p., another copy (photocopy) of /2, but year inferred as [1935?]
- /12. 2p., from Tavistock Square, 30 April [1937], "yes, we would live very much to see you"
- /13. 2p., from Monk's House, 15 September 1940

10 letters, 22 pages

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also letters from Plomer at PLO/705.

from David Wright

PLO/242 29 November 1969 - 8 March 1973

Letters relating to Wright's poems on South Africa, and on the area of the Orange Grove in Johannesburg generally. Brief mentions of Roy Campbell and his widow and daughter (Mary and Teresa), and of Guy Butler (specifically his collection of poems, *South of Zambesi*)

4 letters, 4 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Editor

from Andrew John Young

PLO/243 10 January 1949

Arranging to meet with Lilian Bowes-Lyon

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Canon of Chichester cathedral, from 1948, and vicar of Stonegate, Sussex, 1941-1959; wrote several volumes of poetry; 1885-1971



from Hilda B Young

PLO/244 5 June 1973 - 29 August 1973

Personal news and greetings, with several references to Richard [Rumbold]

3 letters, 7 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Friend of Richard Rumbold (Plomer's second cousin, whose diaries Plomer edited as *A message in code*); letters written from New South Wales, Australia

fan mail file

PLO/245 23 October 1934 - 23 August 1972

Letters from various admirers, apparently kept together by Plomer, with typescript list of dates and correspondents

Letters relate to various works and reviews by Plomer, including (all PLO 245/) *Ali the lion* (/2), *Double lives* (/3), *At home* (/5, /8), *Taste and remember* (/7, specifically on his poem on Nat Nakasa and Ingrid Jonker, *The taste of the fruit*), *Celebrations* (/13, specifically on his poem *A church in Bavaria*).

File also includes a note of his election as a "knight of Mark Twain" (/6, 1966) and an acknowledgement of his gift of a candlestick to the City of Nottingham public libraries for their Byron collection (/9, 1968).

13 letters, 14 sheets, 1 card & 5 envelopes

## Letters from William Plomer

to Ridley D Beeton (Professor)

PLO/246 19 September 1970, 3 July 1973

Recounts contact with Pauline Smith (South African short story writer, subsequently living in Dorset), and in particular his visit to her to deliver an illuminated tribute in 1958, in connection with Beeton's essay on Pauline Smith

2 letters (photostat copies), 3 sheets & 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* From the department of English, University of South Africa, Pretoria

Beeton, D.R., *Pauline Smith and South African literature in English*, periodical article, journal details unknown ([South Africa], 1973)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also PLO/208 and PLO/709.

to Alan Clodd

PLO/746 11 March 1961 - 12 August 1971

Regarding enquiries made by Clodd about letters, books and publishers. Includes Plomer's opinion on selling his own letters and his refusal to part with letters from people still living and the living situation of Mrs Bellerby and the idea that she should apply for a Royal Literary Fund grant

10 sheets, 9 letters, 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* publisher, book collector and dealer (1918-2002)

*Provenance:* Misc. 2005/2005:22

to Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley

PLO/247 (and PLO/719) 15 August 1950, March 1954, 13 November 1959, July 1964, 4 December 1965 - 20 September 1973

Appreciative letters relating to Plomer's visits to Houghton Hall (Lady Cholmondeley's Norfolk house) and to the annual Cholmondeley award for poets, set up by her in 1966 (Plomer was on the panel of judges for the award).

Particular comments on the Cholmondeley award and its recipients are at PLO 247/8 (1968, with Plomer's comments on Edwin Morgan's poetry), /10 (1971) and /16 (1973). Manuscript poems by Plomer are as follows (all PLO 247/):

/2 (1954): notebook containing *A Levantine*, *Anglo-Swiss: or, A day among the Alps*, *The Palmer triplets* and *Four epigrams*, from Voltaire.

/3 (1959): letter enclosing (with comments by Plomer) *Queen Mary and the Norfolk croppers*

/4 (1964): manuscript copy of *The shortest day*

/6 (1966): manuscript copy of *Anonyma*

/9 (1970): letter enclosing (with comments by Plomer) *A note from a Cello*

/15 (1973): letter enclosing (with comments by Plomer) *Painted on darkness*

PLO 247/10 (1971) refers to Plomer's plans for another collection of poems [ *Celebrations*]; /12 (1972) to the poet laureateship (and the rumour that Plomer might be appointed next laureate); /14 (1972) mentions Derek Walcott's long poem, *Another life* (published by Cape, 1973).

PLO 247/19 is dated 20 September 1973, although it must have been written 19 September (Plomer died in the early hours of 20 September); the envelope is marked "The last letter". PLO 247/20 is a letter to Lady Cholmondeley from Osbert Sitwell, dated 23 October 1966, with a reference to Plomer's poems [ *Taste and remember*]. PLO 247/16-17 are both incomplete, and PLO 247/5 is an envelope only, with no letter.

PLO/719 are typescript transcripts by June Hart-Davis of these letters

16 letters, 1 empty envelope & 3 manuscript poems or collections of poems, 46 sheets, 1 notebook & 7 envelopes

*Provenance*: PLO/719 accessioned as Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See also PLO/36

to John Davenport

PLO/747 31 October 1952 - 29 October 1960

Professional correspondence including thanks from Plomer on Davenport's thoughts on *Museum Pieces*, Plomer's opinions on an essay about Norman Douglas. Also includes two general letters for a Mr Collins and Mr Ager

5 sheets, 4 letters

*Biographical information*: critic, (1908 -1966)

*Provenance*: Misc 2004-2005:22

to Enslin du Plessis

PLO/248 [2 September 1926], 5 November 1929, [August 1933 x September 1935] and 30 December 1955

Personal news. PLO 248/1 (1926) includes a (prejorative) reference to an introduction by "a certain Masfield". PLO 248/3 (1933 x 1935) to Plomer's having to "write a novel three times to get it right" (probably *Sado*).

A note with the photostat copies states that the originals of these letters are in the Pringle Collection, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

PLO 248/1 is dated only "Thursday", but refers to being in the "throes of departure" [from South Africa]: Plomer left South Africa on Thursday 2nd September 1926, having only agreed to go a few days earlier (see Alexander's biography, p.110). PLO 248/3 is also dated only "Thursday" but is addressed from Portsdown Road, where Plomer lived from August 1933 to September 1935 (see Alexander's biography, pp.194-195).

4 letters (photostat copies), 11 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also PLO/714

to Gladys Ellen Easdale

PLO/249 10 July 1964 - 20 February 1970

Advice and comments on ideas and journals submitted by Easdale to Plomer, with much personal news of his own work and commitments, and occasional references to other authors and literary figures

PLO 249/1 includes comments on Easdale's diary, /2 on her autobiography, *Middle age* (with advice on the possibility of a sequel), and /6 on *Don't blame the stars* (all 1964).

PLO 249/13-14 (1967) include references to "The Prelude" and to Yeats and Pound (cf. letters from Easdale to Plomer).

PLO 249/12 includes Plomer's comments on a request by Easdale that he should be her literary executor. PLO 249/17-20 include comments by Plomer on Leonard Woolf's *A calendar of consolation* (1967-1968), and /31-36 (1969) on Woolf's death and a talk by Plomer on him for BBC radio (with a comment by Plomer on the "narrow attitude to religion" of the Bloomsburies, in PLO 249/34).

36 letters, 60 sheets & 27 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Writer, born 1885

*Provenance:* Acquired as accession number Misc.1989/90:2

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also PLO/63

to Joan Feisenberger

PLO/250 16 June 1961, 5 February 1966 - 1 December 1972

Letters mainly relate to Francis Kilvert and meetings of the Kilvert Society.

PLO 250/11 (1970) refers to a public inquiry, apparently involving barns at Ashbrook, Clyro (home of Francis Kilvert for 7 years from 1865), and includes a letter to Feisenberger from CTO Prosser (secretary to Kilvert Society). PLO 250/17 (1972) mentions proposals for a memorial plaque [to Kilvert] at Ashbrook.

PLO 250/8 (1967) includes advice regarding the printing and publication of "Eric Bligh's book." PLO 250/17-18 (1972) include comments on Basil Bunting, the latter with a cartoon of Bunting by Plomer.

21 letters, 29 sheets, 2 cards & 15 envelopes

*Provenance:* Presented by H.A. Feisenberger, husband of Joan Feisenberger, 1994; accession number Misc.1993/94:7

to Edward Morgan Forster

PLO/251 undated [September 1932 - August 1933]

Comments on Forster's *Maurice*, especially its happy ending and technique ("something to steer by"); also on book by F Taverner.

Letter is dated only "Monday" but is addressed from Redcliffe Road, London, where Plomer lived from Sept 1932 to Aug 1933 (see Alexander's biography, pp.185 and 194).

1 letter (xerox copy), 4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Forster at PLO/66

to Zelda Friedlander

PLO/252

PLO/252/1-272 are letters from Plomer and PLO/252/273-292 are letters from other correspondents. See also letters to Mina Horwitz at PLO/690 and papers relating to Friedlander's work on Olive Schreiner at PLO/685-689.

PLO/252/1-12 23 January 1964- 26 December 1964

Professional and personal letters from Plomer to Friedlander mainly regarding Olive Schreiner and works about her. Includes letters about Friedlander's *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* (Tafelberg, Cape Town, 1967). (PLO/252/1, 3, 6, 7, 8); Plomer's libretto [*Gloriana*] as a Japanese No play (PLO/252/2); details Plomer's involvement in the Shakespeare quatercentenary festival (PLO/252/6); Moses Koffler's bust of Plomer (PLO/252/11). There is also brief note of other works by Plomer

12 letters, 22 sheets, 6 envelopes

PLO/252/13-28 14 January 1965- 22 June 1965

General news and information from Plomer about life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. In many letters WP offers thanks to gifts recieved and offers to send various publications. Of interest is Plomer's reluctance to send a copy of the reprinted *Turbott Wolfe* to Friedlander in South Africa and to her promotion of the book; discussion of Graham Greene's trip to South Africa (PLO/252/17, 18, 20); WP's frequent advice on publishing *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner*. Enclosures include:

page from *The Times Literary Supplement* (3 May 1947) about Thomas Baines (PLO/252/16)

newspaper clipping review from *The Spectator* about WP's *Turbott Wolfe*, 28 June 1965 (PLO/252/25)

Nadine Turner's "Wilder Fowl", a review of *Turbott Wolfe* from *The London Magazine*, June 1965 (PLO 252/28)

16 letters, 22 sheets, 11 envelopes

PLO/252/29-47 2 July 1965- 25 October 1965

General news and information from Plomer about life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. In many letters WP offers thanks to gifts received and offers to send various publications. Includes WP's frequent advice on publishing *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* (PLO/252/29); WP's reaction to the death of Ingrid Jonker and Nat Nakasa (PLO/252/32); and Friedlander's trip to London

Enclosures include:

- newspaper review of *Curlew River* (PLO/252/30)
- newspaper review from *The Times Literary Supplement* of WP's *Turbott Wolfe*, 1 July 1965, (PLO/252/30)
- review from the *Tribune* copied in hand by WP, 2 July 1965, (PLO/252/31)
- Kilvert Society membership information (PLO/252/33)
- article from the *Brecon and Radnor Express* about the Kilvert Centenary Service, 1 July 1965 (PLO/252/33)
- newspaper clipping of *The taste of the fruita* poem by Plomer in memory of Ingrid Jonker and Nat Nakasa, 16 September 1965 (PLO/252/40)
- Souvenir from Statford, a typescript poem from Plomer to Friedlander, 20 October 1965 (PLO/252/45)

19 letters, 36 sheets, 13 envelopes

PLO/252/48-63 3 November 1965- 31 December 1965

General news and information from Plomer about his life, Friedlander's visit to England, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. Also includes WP's frequent advice on publishing *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner*, including Longman's decision to publish the title but not in full (PLO/252/50). Enclosures include:

- newspaper clipping about Chinese perceptions of Britain, with reference to crime and moral decline (PLO/252/52)
- newspaper clipping about academics in South Africa and the growing need for more liberal attitudes and equal education, (PLO/252/52)
- newspaper clipping of a letter to *The Times* about the advantages of visiting Britain, 6 December 1966 (PLO/252/58)

16 letters, 27 sheets, 13 envelopes

PLO/252/64-88 4 January 1966- 30 June 1966

General news and information from Plomer about his life, Friedlander's visit to England, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. Includes references to performances of *The Burning Fiery Furnace* Enclosures include:

- newspaper clipping review of *The Burning Fiery Furnace*, June 9 (PLO/252/76)
- a review of David Lytton's "The Freedom of the cage" from *The Times Literary Supplement*, 4 February 1966 (PLO/252/76)
- clipping from the times *The Times* showing High Wycombe in the snow, 15 April 1966
- BBC Music Review of *The Burning Fiery Furnace* in *The Listener*, 16 June 1966 (PLO/252/85)
- Kilvert Society poster for a Special Service, 9 October 1966 (PLO/252/85)

22 letters, 33 sheets, 19 envelopes

PLO/252/86-102 5 July 1966 - 27 December 1966

General news and information from Plomer about his life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. Includes WP's congratulations on the acceptance of Friedlander's *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* by Tafelberg (PLO/252/86); WP's questions regarding Tafelberg's decision to remove articles from the book, the potential for a 'soft-focus' portrayal of Olive Schreiner's life which would not upset nationalistic prejudices (PLO/252/87, 89, 92-93, 97); a letter about *Gloriana*, its initial reception and the later productions (PLO/252/96). Enclosures include

a copy of a letter from Plomer to Miss Smit at Tafelberg regarding the introduction to *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner*, 30 July 1966 (PLO/252/89)

a handwritten extract from *The poetry of earth: a collection of English nature writings* Selected by and with an introduction from E.D.H Johnson, (Athenaeum, 1966), (PLO/252/94)

typescript of Plomer's introduction for Friedlander's book, (PLO/252/94)

two newspaper clipping reviews of *The Burning Fiery Furnace* from the *New York Times*, 10 June and 11 June 1966

BBC music review of *Gloriana* in *The Listener*, 3 November 1966 (PLO/252/97)

17 letters, 30 sheets, 10 envelopes

PLO/252/103-123 16 January 1967- 30 June 1967

General news and information from Plomer about his life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests. Includes WP's poetry suggestions for a reading of his work in South Africa (PLO/252/104, 109); referenced to the *Gloriana* being played at Saddlers Wells; Bertrand Russell's autobiography (PLO/252/107, 109); brief account of an oil spill on the Cornish Coast (PLO/252/109). Enclosures include:

review by WP of Leonard Woolf's *Past the lighthouse*, published in *The Listener*, 27 April 1967 (PLO/252/114)

poster for "Poetry in making: an exhibition of 20th century poetry manuscripts" at The Kings Library, The British Museum, 1967 (PLO/252/114)

leaflet for an audio record called *The Poet Speaks*, edited by Peter Orr (Argo Record Company Ltd., (PLO/252/115)

three newspaper listings of music events which include *Gloriana* *Curlew River* *Burning Fiery Furnace* (PLO/252/117)

newspaper clipping from the *Sunday Times* listing WP as a potential candidate for poet laureate (PLO/252/117)

two newspaper clipping from *The Times* about artist Edward Wolfe, June 1967 (PLO/252/121)

21 letters, 34 sheets, 13 envelopes

PLO/252/124-138 10 July 1967- 28 December 1967

General news and information from Plomer about his life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests and pursuits. Includes reference to performances of *The Burning Fiery Furnace* (PLO/252/126); WP acknowledges the receipt of Friedlander's *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* with comments about the removal of 'dangerous thoughts' for the South African audience and reviews (PLO/252/127, 128, 129, 130). Enclosures include:

article about WP's, Roy Campbell's magazine *Voorslag*, Edward Roworth and Maurice Webb's are also referenced (PLO/252/128)

newspaper clipping from *The Times* about the performance of *Curlew River* and *Burning Fiery Furnace* in St. Jacques Cathedral Montreal, 26 September 1967 (PLO/252/130)

flyer for a poetry performance at St. Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace featuring WP, Richard Church and John Heath-Stubbs, [c. 1967] (PLO/252/131)

15 letters, 30 sheets, 9 envelopes

PLO/252/139-147 1 January 1968- 28 June 1968

General news and information from Plomer about his life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests and pursuits. Frequent reference is made to WP making the New Year's Honour List. Enclosures include:

Clipping from *The Times* about Cecil Day-Lewis as Poet Laureate (PLO/252/140)

9 letters, 20 sheets, 8 envelopes

PLO/252/148-160 18 July 1968- 26 December 1968

General news and information from Plomer about his life, their shared interest in Olive Schreiner, South Africa and literary interests and pursuits. Of interest is reference to Sydney Clouts winning the Ingrid Jonker poetry prize (PLO/252/153, 154); WP's decision to accept a position as President of the Poetry Society whilst declining an Oxford Professorship (PLO/252/156). Enclosures include a newspaper clipping with an image of autumn flowers (PLO/252/159);

13 letters, 28 sheets, 9 envelopes



PLO/252/161-173 6 January 1969-16 June 1969

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and literary interests and pursuits. Includes accounts of WP's work as President of the Poetry Society which included organising the Poetry Gala; and frequent reference to Friedlander's project to write about Jan Smuts;. Enclosures include:

clipping from *The Daily Telegraph* about Ezra Pound and the poetry gala, Pound did not attend, 4 February 1969) (PLO/252/163/3)

clipping from *The Guardian* about the Poetry Gala, 4 February 1969 (PLO/252/163/4)

newspaper clipping about *The Prodigal Son* and *The burning fiery furnace* (PLO/252/169)

newspaper clipping from *The Daily Telegraph* about George Gordon's memorial plaque in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey (PLO/252/170)

newspaper clipping from *The Times* about George Gordon's memorial plaque in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey (PLO/252/170)

poster invitation the the Kilvert Society thanksgiving and commemoration event at Hereford Cathedral, 22 June 1969 (PLO/252/173)

PLO/252/174-192 6 July 1969- 23 December 1969

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and their literary interests and pursuits. Includes reference to Friedlander's book about Jan Smuts and its possible publication; and notice of Leonard Woolf's death (PLO/252/178, 179)

newspaper clipping of an obituary for Leonard Woolf, [August 1968] (PLO/252/179). Enclosures include:

an obituary for Mr Harry Pirie-Gordon (PLO/252/191)

19 letters, 29 sheets, 12 envelopes

PLO/252/193-206 8 January 1970- 25 June 1970

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and their literary interests and pursuits. Frequent reference is made to the publication of Friedlander's book about Jan Christiaan Smuts. Enclosures include:

cutting from *The Times* about Jan Christiaan Smuts (PLO/252/203)

press clipping of E.M. Forster's obituary (PLO/252/204)

14 letters, 20 sheets, 4 envelope

PLO/252/207-217 6 July 1970- 24 December 1970

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and their literary interests and pursuits. Includes some reference to the Kilvert Society and Olive Schriener. Enclosed is a calendar with pictures of Shropshire.

11 letters, 18 pages, 5 envelopes

PLO/252/218-238 3 January 1971- 31 December 1971

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and their literary interests and pursuits. Reference to Kilvert Society events, about Plomer's position as a founding member of the byron Society (PLO/252/225). Enclosures include:

article from *The Times* by Simon Elwes entitled, "Men talking about women: the last in a series by Stella King", WP's handwritten note reads "I think this may amuse you, with its old-world air, & its glimpse of Q. Mary. W.P.", 31 May 1971

21 letters, 25 pages, 5 envelopes

PLO/252/239-261 24 January 1972- 31 December 1972

General news and information from Plomer about his life, South Africa and their literary interests and pursuits. Includes reference to the publication and promotion of *Celebrations* (PLO/252/244-245) and the death of Cecil Day-Lewis, particularly in regard to his position as Poet Laureate (PLO/252/250). Enclosures include:

Short handwritten biography by Plomer (PLO/252/244/2)

obituary for Cecil Day-Lewis from *The Times*, [May 1972]

23 letters, 25 sheets, 8 envelopes

PLO/252/262-272 29 January 1973- 20 August 1972

Includes reference to Alan Aldridge and WP's *The Butterfly Ball and the Grasshopper's feast* (PLO/252/262) and general reference to the Byron Society (PLO/252/265) Enclosures include:

newspaper clipping of a letter from Rosamund Bowen regarding corrections to Elizabeth Bowen's obituary [c. February 1972] (PLO/252/263).

review *Curlew River* from *The Radio Times* (PLO/252/265)

a letter to Friedlander from Charles Erdmann (PLO/252/265)

11 letters, 16 pages, 5 envelopes

PLO/252/273 6 December 1965

Postcard from Vera Brittain to Zelda Friedlander thanking her for the title suggestion of "A Testament to Time"

1 page

*Biographical information:* Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse and writer, author of *Testament of Youth* (1933)

PLO/252/274 3 October 1968

Letter from Feodora Clouts to Zelda Friedlander about meeting Plomer

1 page

*Biographical information:* member of Union of Jewish Women and the Bnoth Zion Association (1899-1996)

PLO/252/275 10 October 1968

Letter from Marjorie Clouts about meeting Plomer

1 page

*Biographical information:* married to South African poet Sidney Clouts

PLO/252/276-286 20 October 1965- 21 September 1973

Letters from Charles Erdmann to Zelda Friedlander with general updates about his life and thanks for gifts, with a final note informing her of WP's death.

11 letters, 12 pages, 5 envelopes

PLO/252/287-288 24 March 1965- 4 May 1965

Letters from Graham Greene to Zelda Friedlander thanking her for her hospitality during his stay in Cape Town and about his journey back to London

2 letters, 3 sheets, 1 envelope

PLO/252/289 22 March 1968

Letter from Edward David Jacobs with general news and an account of meeting Plomer

1 sheet

PLO/252/290 2 January [1968]

Letter from Leila Klassink with general news and reference to Plomer making the New Years Honours List, includes a press cutting about the Poet Laureateship

1 letter, 3 sheets, 1 envelope

PLO/252/291-292 15 December 1967 and 8 May 1968

Brief letters from Nigel Nicholson to Friedlander regarding Harold Nicholson's opinion of Jews, and thanking her kind words following the death of his father

*Biographical information:* writer, publisher and politician (1917-2004)

to Brian Merton Gould

PLO/253 1 February 1972 - 5 August 1973

Thanking him for his *The mysteries of Birmingham* with comments on a few of his poems

3 letters, 4 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Poet and writer

*Provenance:* Purchased January 1982 (sale list and note with letters)

to Kenneth Gransden

PLO/254 9 December 1960 - 19 April 1963

Relating to reviews requested from or written by Plomer. PLO 254/1 (1960) includes comments on Gransden's poems, and PLO 254/3 (1961) to his request that Plomer write an obituary of [E.M.]Forster for *The Listener*

4 letters, 5 sheets & 1 card

*Biographical information:* Apparently an editor of *The Listener* (BBC) magazine

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1993/94:2

to Graham Greene

PLO/255 check Plomer 820.11 DOB for Dobrée reference

PLO 255/1 (1936) granting permission for Greene to use Plomer quotation in [dedication inscription of] his book [ *Journey without maps*]. /2 (1937) turning down invitation to take part in a symposium on Africa (with reference to Plomer's reluctance to write about Africa or "empire-builders", and referring Greene to Laurens Van der Post). /3 (1937) refers to invitation to Plomer to contribute to a new paper, *Night and day*, with suggestion that he write an article about all-in wrestling. /4 (1963) concerns links between [Augustus] Hare and Kilvert [Hardenhuish rectory school].

First two letters dated with no year, but both addressed from Norfolk Square, London (where Plomer lived Sept 1935-June 1936 and Oct 1936-May 1937, see Alexander's biography, p.195). PLO 255/1 refers to Greene using a quotation from a poem by Plomer, apparently for a dedicatory inscription (noted as being in *Journey without maps*, published May 1936). PLO 255/2 refers to Plomer writing an essay on Captain Cook (noted as being in B Dobrée (ed), *From Anne to Victoria*, 1937).

4 letters, 6 sheets

*Biographical information:* Novelist, playwright and literary editor, 1904-1991

*Provenance:* Apparently purchased at Sotheby's, July 1975 (part of envelope from sellers is enclosed with the letters)

to Ian Hamilton

PLO/256 16 March 1964 - 1 September 1964

Article written by Plomer, apparently on the 1930s, for *Review* (not used)

4 letters, 4 sheets (first letter incomplete)

*Biographical information:* Poet and literary editor, born 1938; edited *Review* magazine, 1962-1972

to Rupert Hart-Davis

PLO/696 and PLO/725-726

Letters to Hart-Davis from Plomer and from other correspondant's regarding Plomer and his papers following his death in 1973

PLO/719 2 November 1961- 17 February 1970

Personal and literary news. Of interest are: Plomer's request to name Hart-Davis at his literary executor; Plomer regarding Richard Rumbold and the Roman Catholic Church; description of a photograph; and a manuscript poem from Plomer to Hart-Davis called *A note from a cello* (*The Maltings restored: 1970*)

6 letters, 12 sheets, 2 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Publisher and editor. Founder of the publishing company Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd. 1907-1999.

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also PLO/697

PLO/725 3 October 1973 - 1 November 1973

Letters from Charles Erdmann to Hart-Davis following the death of Plomer, includes the telegram informing him of Plomer's death. Includes an account of the memorial service, anecdotes about acquaintances and reference to some of Plomer's papers. Of particular interest is mention of Frank Sergesson requesting to purchase his letters to and from Plomer (PLO/725/2)

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc. 1998/1999:7

PLO/726 19 May 1976

Letter from Michael Herbert to Hart-Davis thanking him for sending prints, about articles by Plomer and providing further details on an article about Plomer by Peter Wilhelm for the *New Nation* where he referred to Plomer as the 'father of South African poetry'. Also discusses his attempts to procure Plomer's letters to Morito Fukuzawa.

1 item

PLO/727 2 October 1973

Letter from Sir Rennie Maudsley to Hart-Davis expressing gratitude for the work Plomer did for The Queen's Poetry Award

to Louis Herrman

PLO/257 14 November 1970 - 11 February 1972

Thanking Herrman for copies of *Poetry review*, with comments about the Poetry Society and Zelda [Friedlander]

2 letters, 2 sheets

*Biographical information:* Addressed as "Dr" Herrman by Plomer, from Cape, South Africa

*Provenance:* Originally with letters from Zelda Friedlander to Plomer, and possibly sent by Dr Herrman to her

to Margaret ('Peg'), Princess of Hesse

PLO/258 17 August 1970 - 21 August 1973

Social arrangements and personal news, with comments on Plomer's reading for a charity event at Paul Getty's house in Surrey in 1972 (PLO 258/4). PLO 258/5 is a copy of his poem, *Painted on darkness* ("A sunlit branch of four reflected roses..."), sent as a birthday card. PLO 258/6 (1973) includes brief references to his work on [*The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast*] and on the letters of Alice Lemon [unpublished].

9 letters, 12 sheets

*Biographical information:* Patron and supporter of the Aldeburgh festival and friend of Benjamin Britten

*Related material in other DUL collections:* Single transcript at: PLO/706

to Anthony Homersham

PLO/695 11 March 1944

Personal correspondence, particularly regarding personal news, literary discussions and social arrangements. Also includes one letter from Michael Townsend regarding the sale of the letters. Homersham began writing to Plomer when still in school, Plomer wrote to him about his desire to write books.

25 letters

*Biographical information:* Lecturer and professor of English in California and Germany, c.1927-1994.

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1994/95:25

PLO/102

to Mina Horwitz

PLO/690 1965-1969

Letters from Plomer to Mrs Mina Horwitz, sister of Zelda Friedlander, and one typescript copy of a letter from Plomer to Friedlander

10 letters

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1994/95:25

to Michael Howard

PLO/700 3 March 1966- 15 September 1973

Professional and personal correspondence referring to social arrangements and literary news. Includes editorial points about a book by Leonard Russell (3 March 1966); a handwritten history of Jonathan Cape by Plomer, which refers to Cape's employers, authors and trends in publishing (24th January 1968)

36 letters, 68 pages

*Biographical information:* Editorial director at Jonathan Cape

*Provenance:* Accession number: Misc.1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/710

to René Janin

PLO/259 30 November 1952, 21 August 1953

Personal letters, including comments on the writing of libretto for (1952) and performances (1953) of the opera *Gloriana*, including (PLO 259/2) comments on the royal family and on an objection by the Lord Chamberlain's office to a reference to a "chamber pot" in the draft version of the opera. PLO 259/1 includes a reference to having an idea for "another novel" (following the publication of *Museum Pieces*).

2 letters, 5 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/111

PLO/713

to Phillipe Jullian

PLO/698/1-2 1946-1976

/1: Letters from Plomer: personal letters describing the London literary scene, includes comments on Plomer's libretto for the opera *Gloriana*; reference to Angus Wilson's work *The Wrong Set*; and about Jullian's work on D'Annunzio and Oscar Wilde, 6 February 1946- 21 August 1973 (42 sheets, 7 envelopes)

/2: Letters from Angus Wilson: letters refer to his own works, their collaboration for *For Whom the Cloche Tolls*, and Henry James. Also includes a letter from Wilson to Monsieur Ghislain de Diesbach about Jullian. 31 August 1949- 26 January 1980 (39 sheets, 2 envelopes)

79 letters, 81 sheets, 9 envelopes

*Biographical information:* Phillipe Jullian: French historian, art critic and painter (1919-1977)

Angus Wilson: writer (1913-1991)

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1997/98:5

*Related material in other DUL collections:* For letters from Angus Wilson to Plomer, see PLO/239

to James Kirkup

PLO/741 22 January 1955 - 13 January 1977

PLO/741/1: Letters from Plomer thanking Kirkup for sending a copy of the poem *Japan Marine* and Jonathan Cape's decision about publishing a book of Kirkup's poems on Japanese subjects. Of particular interest is Plomer's reference to Iain Fleming's, referring to Fleming's perception of Japan as 'odd' and briefly about Kirkup's interest in *Curlew River* *You only live twice*

PLO/741/2: general letters of thanks for exchanges of books and poetry, particularly of Kirkup's poems *Gay boys* and *East meets West*, of Richard Rumbold's autobiography *A message in code*; an article by Kirkup about *Curlew River* with Plomer's reference to the actor's training when performing in a Japanese [Noh] style and Kirkup's occupations in Japan

2 files

*Provenance*: PLO/741/1: Misc. 2001/2002:117

PLO/741/2: Misc. 2000/2001:18

to John Lehmann

PLO/260 and PLO/701 1939-1955

PLO/260: Comments on various books and authors, with some personal news, 20 April 1952 - 4 October 1955. Plomer's comments on Lehmann's *The open night* and on some poems (apparently not published when Plomer saw them) are recorded in PLO 260/1 & 5 (1952, 1953) respectively.

PLO/701: Photocopies of professional letters about edited proofs, and some personal news, 7 October 1939 -29 December 1944. (5 letters, 8 sheets)

12 letters (xerox copies), 24 sheets

*Biographical information*: Poet, managing director of Hogarth Press between (1938-1946), founder of a number of literary magazines and John Lehmann Limited

*Provenance*: PLO/701 Accession number: Misc.1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See also PLO/124

to G.L. Lewin

PLO/261 23 November 1966

Referring to some paintings of Cape Malays by Ritter, and to a piece [? *The battle continues*] about [Roy] Campbell written by MacDiarmid

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Provenance*: Purchased from Quaritch, 1976 (Quaritch catalogue 960, item 503)

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See also PLO/128

to Cecil Day Lewis

PLO/262 18 September 1934

Praising Day Lewis for his *A hope for poetry*

1 letter (photostat copy), 3 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See also PLO/716 for typescript copy of this letter, and PLO/54 for letters from Day Lewis to Plomer.

to Lilian Bowes Lyon

PLO/699 [c.1940] - 13 October 1947

Personal letters, social news and commentary of Britain in wartime. Includes a description of air raid damage in Britain [1940]

4 letters, 6 pages, 3 envelopes

*Biographical information*: Poet, (1895-1949)

*Provenance*: Accession number: Misc.1998/1999:7

to Kenneth Marshall

PLO/744 16 May 1935 - 2 January 1936

Brief personal letters mainly regarding social arrangements and book reviews. Includes Plomer's feedback on a poem by Marshall

*Biographical information:* [bookseller and poet?]

*Provenance:* Misc. 2004/2005:22

to Dudley Massey

PLO/263 1946 - 1966

Friendly letters and postcards, many addressed to "My dear Cardinal", with personal news, comments on a few books and mutual friends (including "Simon" [Nowell Smith]). Plomer refers to plans for his second volume of autobiography in PLO 263/18 (1956) and [after publication, as *At home*] in PLO 263/19 (1958).

25 letters and cards, 19 sheets, 12 cards & 13 envelopes (also sale notice from booksellers)

*Biographical information:* Bookseller, apparently with Pickering and Chatto, worked with Plomer at the Naval Intelligence Division from 1941.

*Provenance:* Apparently purchased from Bertram Rota Ltd (booksellers)

to Johannes Meintjes

PLO/264 25 January 1970, 11 January 1972

Thanking (and praising) Meintjes for gifts of his *Stormberg [a lost opportunity...]*, (Cape Town, 1969) and *Sandile [the fall of the Xhosa nation]*, (Cape Town, 1971), with comments on his time in Stormberg [where Plomer worked as a farm apprentice, 1921-1922]. The letters include several Afrikaaner words, translated into English in marginal annotations [possibly by Meintjes or a curator at the Rhodes University, Grahamstown].

A note with the photostat copies states that the originals of these letters are in the Pringle Collection, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

2 letters (photostat copies), 4 sheets

*Biographical information:* South African writer (apparently on South African history) and painter

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See transcripts at PLO/715.



to Harold Monro

PLO/265 4 April 1921 - 28 October 1923

Initial letter enclosing poems for Monro's comment, before Plomer had published any work, and with requests for advice on literature to read. Subsequent letters (after apparently encouraging replies from Monro) include more poems, some with comments. Plomer comments regularly also on the difficulty of writing while in South Africa (and in particular while working on a farm in the Stormberg, 1921-1922).

There is an account of the letters (with some transcripts) in Alexander's biography, pp.60-66 & 73-75. Poems included with the letters are: *Evening in Oxfordshire*, *At present (a fragment)*, *Symphony*, *Death*, *Barges*, *Souvenir*, *The morning*, *The afternoon* and *The night* (the last 3 with a preface relating some vaudeville), *The visitor*, *Famille Arlequin*, *Desert ghosts*, *Amanzimtoti*, *Cyrus beheaded*, *There is no coming back*, *The house of her mind*, *The black Christ* and *The ships of love*.

Originals of the letters are in the National English Literary Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa. A list of the letters is enclosed with them, including notes on some of the poems that were published (mainly in *Notes for poems*).

10 letters plus list (photostat copies), 38 sheets (including list)

*Biographical information:* Poet and publisher of poetry (founder of the Poetry Bookshop in 1913), 1879-1932

to Hiroaki Mori

PLO/266 12 October 1971

Sorry to miss Mori on his visit to England, and enclosing a photograph

1 letter, 1 sheet & 1 photograph

*Biographical information:* Son of Captain Katsue Mori (qv)

to Katsuye Sencho (Captain) Mori

PLO/267 19 April 1971 - 5 October 1971, 15 September 1973

Personal letters, recalling Mori's role in taking Plomer and Laurens Van der Post to Japan [in 1926], referring to Japanese friends, and with Plomer's own news. PLO 267/1 refers to Japan as "my university", /2 to [Britten's 'church operas', for which Plomer wrote the libretti] as "derived to some extent from the form of the No", and /3 to Plomer's *The butterfly ball*.

3 letters, 4 sheets & 3 envelopes

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/144 for letters from Mori to Plomer, and PLO/708 for transcripts of these letters.

to John Morris

PLO/702 12 October 1949

Personal letters referring to social arrangements and literary discussions

Comments on Plomers work include *Turbott Wolf*, (20 June 1960, 4 June 1965, 2 July 1965); *Curlew River* (14 April 1964, , 18 July 1964, 24th May 1967); *A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold 1932-60*; *The Prodigal Son* (27 June 1968).

Comments on Morris' works include *Hired to Kill* (29 August 1960); *A winter in Napal* (16 February 1963); *Eating the Indian Air* (31 October 1968).

Also includes comments on works by friends and acquaintances including J.R. Ackerley's *My father and myself* (31 October 1968, 6 Jan 1969); between 1968-1971 there is also frequent references made to E.M. Forster's health, the writer of his biography and his papers; reference is made to Forster's will, funeral and memorial concert are referenced throughout 1970;

References to many of their contemporaries, friends and acquaintances have been annotated in pencil on many letters to expand contextual information [by Morris himself, based on handwriting and similarity with annotations within Forster/Morris letters at King's College Cambridge].

5 files

*Biographical information*: Professional soldier, 1915-1935, extensive traveller and professor of English in Tokyo, Japan, 1938-1942. Subsequently worked for the BBC (Far Eastern Service and Third Programme). 1895-1980

*Provenance*: Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See letters from Morris at PLO/146

to Geoffrey Parsons

PLO/694 9 April 1938 - 5 July 1953

Professionalsal letters from Plomer (as a reader at Jonathan Cape) regarding Parson's poetry, particularly *Peter's progress* and *Dynastic Ditties*, neither of which was added to Cape's list

3 letters

*Biographical information*: [?Lyricist and member of the Peter Maurice Music Company, 1910-1987]

*Provenance*: Accession number Misc.1994/95:25

to Peter Pears

PLO/268 [c.1950] and 17 May 1955

Personal letters, including a reference to a performance by Pears of the *Gloriana suite* at the Festival Hall (PLO 268/2, 1955)

First letter dated only "Wednesday" but addressed from Linden Gardens so pre-July 1953.

2 letters (photocopies), 8 sheets

*Biographical information*: Singer (tenor) and partner of Benjamin Britten, 1910-1986

to Mary Potter

PLO/269 8 January 1970

Regarding plans for a collaborative fund-raising proposal between Plomer and Potter, on the theme of (and ? to raise funds for) the reopening of the 'Maltings' concert hall at Aldeburgh in 1970. Encloses copy of his poem, *A note from a cello* ("A blameless calm night, the people have gone..."), with Plomer's comments on some phrases in the second stanza.

Accompanied by letter from the Britten-Pears library at Aldeburgh, regarding Mary Potter and her collaboration with Plomer.

1 letter, 3 sheets (plus letters from Britten-Pears and University of Durham libraries)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Potter at PLO/170

to Frank Templeton Prince

PLO/270 and PLO/720 1954-1970

PLO/270: 15 letters, mainly social arrangements and brief comments on various authors; also comments on Prince's own poetry and the difficulty of getting it published, with reference to his collected poems (published as *The doors of stone*, 1963) and to his *Memoirs in Oxford* (PLO 270/6-13 & 15 respectively). PLO 270/5 (1956) mentions a demonstration [against apartheid] at South Africa House [embassy], London

PLO/720: 4 letters, typescript transcripts by June Hart-Davis of letters from Plomer to Frank Templeton Prince

19 letters

*Provenance:* PLO/720 acquired as Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Prince at PLO/174

to Taro Shiomi

PLO/271 17 May 1927 - 2 April 1934, 15 January 1946 - 5 August 1973

Personal news and comments on Plomer's time in Japan. Many letters include references to mutual friends in Japan, especially Plomer's former pupils and James Kirkup.

PLO 271/1-8 (1927-1929) are written from Japan (/4 includes comments by Plomer on his attitude to Christian priests). The war with Japan is mentioned in /11 (sent with John Morris, 1946) and /12 (1947, mentioning the "constancy of our friendship, which is quite unaffected by wars, revolutions..."). /14 (1950) mentions an invitation to Plomer to work in Japan as a successor of Edmund Blunden [as cultural attaché in Tokyo], /23-24 (1960) to a visit by Laurens Van der Post to Japan (with a description of Van der Post) and /32-33 (1966) to James Kirkup and his writings on Japan.

Plomer refers to his own writing in /9 (1932, "I have quite given up writing verse"), /15 (1953, concerning plans by Shiomi to produce a Japanese edition of extracts of Plomer's works for college students), /20 (1958, libretto of *Curlew River*, based on *Sumidagawa*, the Japanese No play), /22 (1960, on his enjoyment in giving public readings of his poetry), /26-29 (1963, editing of Richard Rumbold's diary, *A message in code*, including references to his visit to Japan and a Zen monastery), /38 (1969, referring to a copy of *Hikaku Bungaku*, apparently a literary magazine, with an essay on Plomer's poems). /29 concerns the stories of Saikaku (in translation), 1963.

Personal comments on himself are in /10 (1934, "my life continues to be a series of ups and downs," "I am not married, and do not intend to marry"). He explains the pronunciation of his name in /16 (1953, stating of the spelling, "it came from a mistake made in the Middle Ages"). He describes a photograph of himself (not surviving) with the words, "looks to me rather like a bank manager without a bank" (/18, 1958). Some personal opinions are in /4 (1927, on Christian priests), /32 (1965, on England as "a less and less pleasing place"), /38 (1969, on "excursions to the moon"). Several letters refer to his garden at Rustington (/19) or Hassocks (/34), and he sends flower seeds to Shiomi in 1961 (/25-27).

47 letters, 79 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Shiomi at PLO/202.

to John Hampson Simpson

PLO/272 (and PLO/721) 8 January 1931 - 31 October 1952

Plomer comments on Simpson's works at PLO 272/1 (1931, *O Providence*), /5 (1936, *Family curse*) and /20 (1952, *A bag of bones*). Plomer wrote an introduction to the Eyre & Spottiswoode reprint of *Saturday night at the greyhound* in 1950, and Plomer writes about the introduction and the republishing in /15, /16, /19 (1946-1950).

Plomer refers to his own work in 1932 ( *Cecil Rhodes*, PLO 272/2-3) and 1950

(commenting on the BBC radio programme *The critics*, which Plomer took part in, /19).

Other authors or literary persons are mentioned in PLO 272/2 (references to W.H.Auden and Christopher Isherwood, to [Hugh] W[alpole] and his *The fortress*, and to [John] Lehmann's intention to leave the Hogarth Press, 1932), /5 (comments on [Richard] Dawkins, professor of Byzantine and Modern Greek, 1936) and /14 (comments on Morgan [E.M.Forster] following the death of his mother, 1945).

The letters include many personal references to "Four ashes" (Simpson's family home), in particular thanking him for a regular Christmas gift of "branches" (a sheaf of horse-chestnut and wild cherry branches: see PLO 374/6). A few of the letters refer to wartime conditions, in particular PLO 272/11 (1941) reflects on a walk by Plomer through London after the 'blitz'.

PLO/721 are typed transcripts by June Hart-Davis of these letters.

20 letters, 46 sheets & 14 envelopes (plus transcripts)

*Provenance*: PLO/721 accessioned as Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections*: See letters from Hampson Simpson PLO/204

to Miss Smit

PLO/273 30 July 1966

On request that Plomer write introduction to [Zelda] Friedlander's book on Olive Schreiner [ *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* (Tafelberg, 1967)]. Includes comments on Olive Schreiner ("her whole life was spent in controversy") and insisting that he see the finished book before writing an introduction for it.

1 letter, 2 sheets

*Biographical information*: Apparently from Tafelberg, Cape Town, South Africa (publishers)

*Provenance*: Originally kept among the letters from Zelda Friedlander to Plomer

to the Society of Authors

PLO/274 31 August 1944 - December 1970, September 1973

Many letters relate to routine business of the Society and to Committee meetings. Others include requests for professional advice and notes on suggested members of the Society. Plomer's own membership application is PLO 274/1 (1944), and his profile of himself is at /25 (1949). /6 is his consent to serve on a committee of the Society from 1948 (1947), and /7 accepts membership of the Radiowriters Association.

Suggested members for the Society are mentioned or discussed in PLO 274/12, 28, 35 (1948-1951). /47-49 seek advice on a fee for writing a commentary for a film company (1955), /53-55 concern the publisher's contract for Plomer's edition of Richard Rumbold's diary ( *A message in code*), with reference to receiving help from the Crompton Bequest Fund (1963). /58-60 concern the setting up of the Cholmondeley Award for young writers (1964). /62-63 refer to a query about the copyright and confidentiality of publishers' readers' reports (1965, probably with reference to the publication of Malcolm Lowry's *Selected letters*, edited by Harvey Breit and Margerie Bonner Lowry, of which the proof version included a copy of Plomer's report: see Alexander's biography, pp.212-213).

PLO 274/19 (1949) include drafts and proofs of a letter from Plomer to *The author* in support of giving state aid to writers, and /23 concerns replies to the same. /70-72 are not letters from Plomer, but cuttings of his obituary from the *D[aily] T[elegraph]* (22/9/1973) and of a letter to the *Times* from Laurens Van der Post relating mainly to the *Voorslag* period (28/9/1973), and a copy of the printed service sheet for his memorial service (St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 7/11/1973).

69 letters or notes, plus cuttings, 59 sheets, 22 cards, 2 cuttings & 1 service card

*Provenance:* Purchased with assistance from the V & A purchase grant fund. Bought Sotheby's, 30 June 1982.

to John Sparrow

PLO/275 3 December 1943 - 19 July 1973, undated, 27 September 1973 - 21 October 1973

Personal news, with many comments on the diaries of Francis Kilvert and on the Kilvert Society, notes on each other's work, and occasional comments on student protests in the 1960s.

The collection includes a series of Christmas cards sent by Plomer, many with his own captions. These are kept at PLO 275/85-98 (1957, 1966, 1972 and undated). /98 includes comments by Plomer on Kilvert's verse, and on " 'revolting' students".

PLO 275/99-105 are letters written by Plomer's friends to Sparrow after Plomer's death. Many of the letters include notes by Plomer on his own works, in response to comments from Sparrow. In particular:

notes on various poems, 1944 (PLO 275/2)

on Plomer's short story, *Local Colour*, 1950 (/10)

notes on poems in *A shot in the park*, including *Bamboo* and *Anglo-Swiss*, 1955 (/15)

on Plomer's "Buckland" ballad [*The heart of a king*], 1956 (/16)

on poems in Plomer's *Collected poems*, 1960 (/26)

on his elegy for Anthony Butts, *In a bombed house*, 1960 (/27)

on poems in *Taste and remember* (in particular *Exit lines*, commented on in detail in /36), 1967 (/34 & /36)

copy of *Passed by the censor*, with a note by Plomer on it, 1970 (/49)

on poems in *Celebrations* (but without any notes on particular poems), 1972 (/64)

Plomer also comments on his own work at /31-32 (on editing of Richard Rumbold's diary, *Message in code*, 1963-1964), /42-43 (seeking advice regarding his speech at the unveiling of a Byron memorial in Westminster abbey, 1969), and /69 (on editing letters of Alice Lemon [not published], 1973). PLO 275/84 is a MS copy (undated) of *Miss Canute* ("Oh for my non-permissive youth!...").

Plomer comments on Sparrow's work at /2 (on *Sense and poetry*, 1944), /7 (preface to poems by John B[etjeman, published John Murray, London, 1948], 1949), and at /73-75 (*Santa Maria della Salute*, 1973, read by Plomer at the Aldeburgh Festival)

The Kilvert society, its members and events, are frequently mentioned in the letters, including at /8 (1949), /41 (1968, with a poem about Kilvert's verse, "A thousand thanks for Kilvert's verse...") and /54 (1970, on contributions to the Kilvert Society by [A.L.] Rowse).

Other authors and their writings are mentioned in /5 (on Mrs Galsworthy and Connolly, 1945), and /45 (on Joe Ackerley, and Plomer's decision to destroy many of his letters from Ackerley "some years ago", 1969).

PLO 275/50 includes Plomer's comments on "the whole process of opting or dropping out by the young, and of protest" (1970), and /71 (1973) on a group apparently demonstrating against poetry readings.

Letters PLO 275/99-105, written after Plomer's death to John Sparrow by mutual friends, are as follows:

/99: from Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley (also about a memorial tablet, possibly not relating to Plomer), 27 Sep 1973

/100: from Charles Erdmann

/101-103: from Rupert Hart-Davis (Plomer's literary and general executor, with notes on the arrangement of a memorial service for 7 November at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and comments on Laurens Van der Post's tribute), 5-21 Oct 1973

/104: from David Lockwood (referring to Plomer's funeral service, which he had taken), 29 Sep 1973

/105: from Laurens Van der Post, 8 Oct 1973

105 letters & cards (photocopies)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See letters from Sparrow at PLO/211

to Stephen Spender

PLO/276 19 January 1930 - 1938

Personal news and detailed comments on each other's travels and writings, particularly on poems sent by Spender to Plomer in the early 1930s. See the separate list of Spender's letters to Plomer (PLO 213) for details of Spender's poems that Plomer was sent in manuscript, and for references to Plomer's replies within this series.

Letters also refer frequently to mutual friends, in particular Tony Butts, Christopher Isherwood and others (some known by 'nicknames').

Letters concerning Plomer's own writings include PLO 276/15-16 (on *Sado*, answering some of Spender's criticisms), /19 (*The case is altered*), /24 & /29 (on Plomer's decision to give up writing poetry, 1932) and /30 (commenting that he is "writing another [novel], a purely frivolous one", 1934). PLO 276/11 encloses a copy of Plomer's *Headline history* ("Grave charge in Mayfair bathroom case...").

As well as replies to Spender's letters mentioned in the separate list of PLO 213, other letters commenting on Spender's works include /25 (on Spender's *The temple*, rewritten by Spender 1932, though not published until 1987) and /37 (references to Spender's *[The burning] cactus*, 1936).

Many letters refer to literary figures and contemporary writing, including /7 (on Wyndham-Lewis and his attitude towards homosexuality, 1930, incomplete), /9 (on Bryan Howard's "anthology", Julien Green and [Wyndham-Lewis], *Apes of God*), /17-20 (on articles by Middleton Murray, 1932), /18 & 22 (recommendations of homosexual novels), /22 (on Isherwood novel, incomplete, 1932) and /29 (on Ellis Roberts, [1932]).

41 letters (photocopies)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* Spender's letters to Plomer, listed in detail at PLO/213. The list refers to Plomer's replies within this series where available. Note that both the letters from Spender and these letters are incomplete, with many replies and letters apparently missing.

to James Stern

PLO/277 1950-1967

Letters to James (Jimmy) Stern from Plomer and various other correspondants

*Provenance:* Accession Misc. 1993/94:14



PLO/277/1-81 24 July 1950 -

Literary and personal letters from Plomer which include Plomer's comments on Stern's *The Hidden Damage* (PLO/277/2); and *The man who was loved* (PLO/277/3); Plomer's thanks for Stern's comments on his [*Museum Pieces*] (PLO/277/7); reference to *A Home: Memoirs* (PLO/277/34, 39); thanks to Stern's comments about the poem *Tugela River* (PLO/277/37); news of Plomer's award of an Honorary Degree from Durham University (PLO/277/45); reference to Plomer's *The Case is altered* as a film, play and in American publication (PLO/277/53); a discussion of Patrick White's *The living and the dead* (PLO/277/53, 54)

Also makes reference to social arrangements involving mutual friends and acquaintances, particularly with Ernestine [Evans] and an account of Roy Campbell (PLO/277/50); and the death of Richard Rumbold (PLO/277/71-73);

Enclosures include

letter from E[er]nestine E[vans] to WP and Charles, with a note for Stern and his wife Tania [Kurella],

1 October [1955] (PLO/277/18/3)

letter from Charles Erdman to Tania [Stern], 25 March 1957 (PLO/277/28//3)

letter from Enslin du Plessis to Stern, 5 October 1932 (PLO/277/32/3)

letter from Fred [J. Warburg] to Stern, 18 February 1957 (PLO/277/36/3)

81 letters

PLO/277/82-163 9 January 1962- December 1965

Literary and personal letters from Plomer which includes frequent reference to Rupert Hart-Davis' *The Complete Letters of Oscar Wilde*, in particular to recollections of Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas referred to as Bosie (PLO/277/98-90); brief reference to Plomer's *Double Lives* with reference to his father and experience of Japan (PLO/377/99)

Reference to social arrangements

Enclsoures include:

letter from Stephen Spender to Stern regarding an article about Michael Lowry, 20 November 1962 (PLO/277/97)

82 letters

PLO/277/164-251 1 January 1966- 16 December 1971

Literary and personal letters from Plomer, which include reference to Plomer's collaborations with Britten (PLO/277/167); performances of *Gloriana* (PLO/277/172-174); the death of Rupert Hart-Davis' wife Ruth (PLO/277/179/1); reference to Stern's translations of Franz Kafka's *Letters To Milena* (PLO/277/180-181); frequent mention is made throughout 1967-1968 to an unnamed literary endeavour by Stearn which Plomer refers to as 'hot cakes' [possibly *The Stories of James Stern*], including Plomer's decision to review the book (PLO/277/203-204); performances at Aldeburgh festival (PLO/277/208-209); Plomer's contribution to Kilvert publications (PLO/277/215/2); South African literature (PLO/277/244-245)

PLO/277/252-166 17 January 1972- 13 August 1973

General literary and personal news from Plomer including books read, mutual acquaintances and work. Also includes reference to Plomer's work on *The Butterfly Ball and The Grasshopper's Feast* (PLO/277/263/2)

PLO/277/267 [c.1930]

Photograph of Plomer by Humphrey Spender

1 photograph

PLO/277/268-275 [c.1930s-1970s?]

Christmas and New Years greeting cards sent from Plomer

8 items

PLO/277/276-280 29 December 1959-1967

Letters from Plomer to Tania Stern with general news.

to Sewell Stokes

PLO/745 7 January 1950 - 24 December 1969

Personal letters regarding Stoke's talks on Ronald Firbank, social arrangements, Plomer's feedback on an unnamed story by Stokes and of *Isadora, an Intimate Portrait*

12 sheets, 9 letters, 1 envelope

*Biographical information:* Author, (1902-1972)

*Provenance:* Misc. 2004/2005:22

to Fred Stokoe

PLO/703 16 December 1972- 5 August 1973

General letters with brief mentions of the Hay Fair and the Kilvert Society gathering at Brecon

3 letters, 1 card, 5 sheets

*Biographical information:* Member of the Kilvert Society and member of the Hay-on-Wye congregation

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

to Louise Theis

PLO/278 1930-1933

Letters regarding Plomer's submissions of poetry and of general literary interest. Includes Plomer's refusal to be interviewed on the grounds that 'personality is a little overdone' (PLO/278/8); Plomer's interest in and correspondence with David Morgan, winner of the *Everyman* reviewing competition and unemployed miner (PLO/278/19-23);

Enclosures include Plomer's:

handwritten poem *The Levantine* (PLO/278/2-3)

signed typescript poem *The Soldier and the Cypress* (PLO/278/5)

signed typescript poem *Rural sport*, (PLO/278/6)

loose catalogue of the item by booksellers Bertram Rota Ltd

10 letters, 27 pp.

*Biographical information:* Writer for London literary weekly *Everyman: books, drama, music, travel*

*Related material in other DUL collections:* Photocopies with PLO/737-738

to Hugh Walpole

PLO/279 (and PLO/722) 23 May 1931- 21 March 1940

Letters from Plomer about their literary works, social arrangements, the London literary scene and mutual acquaintances. Of particular interest is Plomer's opinion of Walpole's *The Dark Forest* (PLO/279/2); Plomer's reception of Walpole's criticisms of *Sado* (PLO/279/8); Plomer's request that Walpole read the manuscript of a new unnamed novel previously read by E.M. Forster (PLO/279/47-48); Plomer's apology for his review of Walpole's work (PLO/279/52).

PLO/722 are typed transcript by June Hart-Davis of these letters

68 letters

*Provenance:* PLO/722 accessioned as Misc 1998/1999:7

to Weltmann

PLO/280 3 February 1959 - 5 February 1959

Brief correspondence about reviews of Plomer's *Double Lives* and *At Home*, reference is made to German translations.

2 letters

to C.V. (Veronica) Wedgwood

PLO/691 1949, 1952-1969

Letters from Plomer to C.V. (Veronica) Wedgwood (1952-1969), and one associated letter from Plomer to Jacqueline Wedgwood (1949), mostly related to social meetings

24 letters

*Provenance:* Accession number Misc.1995/96:14

*Other catalogues:* Brief inventory of letters within Plomer correspondence file

to Leonard Woolf

PLO/704 14 December 1929 - 4 April 1933

6 letters, 7 sheets

*Biographical information:* Photostats of personal letters. Includes Plomer's decision to turn down the invitation for chair of English Literature at the Tokyou Imperial University and his trip to Greece

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* For letters from Leonard Woolf, see PLO/240

to Virginia Woolf

PLO/705 21 February [?1937]- 30 September 1940

Photostats of personal letters of general news and social arrangements. Includes an account of London during air raids, and possibly references to the bombing of the Woolf's home.

8 letters, 27 sheets

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* For letters from Virginia Woolf, see PLO/241

Draft Letters

PLO/281 [September 1973]

Handwritten draft letters by Plomer about his coronary thrombosis and recovery.

Addressed to D.T at Jonathan Cape with WP's intention of resigning as a full time reader and from all public appearances and to David and Oswin cancelling social arrangements  
2 pp.

Transcripts of Letters

PLO/706- PLO/717

Typed copies of Plomer's letters to various correspondants [possibly typed by June Hart-Davis]

PLO/706 17 August 1970

To Maragret, princess of Hesse about social arrangements for her trip to Brighton.

1 letter (and 1 copy)

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/258

PLO/707 8 September 1973

To Peter Wilhelm regarding his objection to a South African poetry competition's "whites only" clause, the difficulty Jack Cope and Uys must find in compiling a South African anthology in English, stating that much of the poetry has been "insipid and provincial", Roy Campbell's poetry and Plomer's own position in South African literature

1 letter

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

PLO/708 19 April 1971 - 15 September 1973

Affectionate letters to Captain K. Mori about general news, recollection of his and Laurens van der Post's time in Japan and apologies for missing Hiroaki Mori on his trip to London.

3 letters (and 2 copies)

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/267

PLO/709 3 July 1973 - 19

To Ridley D. Beeton with recollections of Pauline Smith for Beeton's critical essay, includes a typescript of Plomer's recollections of Smith for "A Feature Programme on Pauline Smith", compiled, produced and directed by Richard Buncher, SABC, Grahamstown, 24 March 1965

2 letters, 1 attachment

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/246

PLO/710 12 June 1972

To Michael Howard inviting him to a Kilvert lecture at the Royal Society of Literature, an brief account of Elizabeth Bowen's health and about a charity performance held in Paul Getty's house

1 letter

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/700

PLO/711 10 June 1958

Affectionate letter to Shiomi Taro Sama in response to requests on his health and activities

1 letter

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

PLO/712 11 November 1933 and November 1934

Plomer to his parents. Of note is his description of [Oswald Mosley] at a Club dinner (2 November 1934), and meeting Count Geoffrey Potocki de Montalk at the house of Leonard and Virginia Woolf.

3 letters (with a copy of each)

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also PLO/286. For Woolf, see PLO/241

PLO/713 30 November 1952 and 21 August 1953

Typescript copies of letters from Plomer to René Janin includes description of the first performance of *Gloriana* and its reception, and Plomer's health

2 letters, with one copy

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/259

PLO/714 2 September 1926 - 30 December 1955

Plomer to Enslin Du Plessis regarding personal news

4 letters, with a copy of each

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/248, originals held in the Pringle Collection of Rhode University

PLO/715 11 January 1972 and 25 January 1972

Plomer to Johannes Meintjes, with reference to his *Sandile*, *Stormberg* and Hennie Aucamp's *Op die Stormberge*.

2 letters, with a copy of each

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/264, originals held in the Pringle Collection of Rhode University

PLO/716 18 September 1934

To Cecil Day Lewis about his *A Hope for Poetry*

1 letter

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See PLO/262 for original

PLO/717 [1932-1933]

To E.M. Forster

1 letter

*Provenance:* Accession Number: Misc 1998/1999:7

*Related material in other DUL collections:* Original at King's College Cambridge

PLO/718 [c. 1930s-1950s]

Typescript transcript of epigrams from Voltaire

## Works by Plomer

### Copies and drafts of published poems

PLO/282 1960-1973

Rough copies and drafts, mostly manuscript and with corrections and alterations, of poems from *Taste and remember* (1966) and *Celebrations* (1973).

Included are drafts for the preface to Plomer's 1973 *Collected poems*, with notes for the contents of that volume and corrections to the earlier volume of *Collected poems* (1960; the 1973 volume incorporated all the poems from *Taste and remember* and *Celebrations* with the 1960 volume). But some of the poems are in a different form from that published in any of the volumes, or under different titles, suggesting a range of dates for the drafts extending well before 1973 or even 1966.

1 folder, 25 items

PLO/282/1-4 [1973]

1973 edition of *Collected poems*: notes of corrections and instructions, together with drafts (2 manuscript, corrected, 1 typescript) of Plomer's preface to the 1973 edition.  
4 items, 23 sheets

PLO/282/5

*The axe in the orchard* (published in *Celebrations*): manuscript draft, dated "11, 12 Dec 1966", showing many corrections and differences from the published version  
4 sheets

PLO/282/6

*A casual encounter* (published in *Celebrations*): manuscript draft, with corrections, title changed from *An episode*  
2 sheets

PLO/282/7

*Contemporaries* (published in *Celebrations*): manuscript draft, with corrections, title changed from *Three epigrams*  
1 sheet

PLO/282/8

*Exit lines* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript draft (title corrected from *A message to a poet*), with many corrections, together with additional rough draft and notes (282/8/1-5, beginning with a ? quotation from Mary Coleridge, "Whate'er he be, He is become to me, A form of rest..."). Drafts differ significantly from the published version.  
10 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/282/9

*Exit lines* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript draft, corrected (to accord with published version)  
3 sheets

PLO/282/10

*The half-recluse* (published in *Taste and remember*): printed copy, taken from *Poetry* (Chicago, Oct-Nov 1962), with manuscript corrections  
1 sheet

PLO/282/11

*Lime-flower tea* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript draft, with corrections, title changed from *A night in winter*  
2 sheets

PLO/282/12 undated (but dated in *Taste and remember* as 1960)

*At the supermarket* (published in *Taste and remember*, as *Mrs Middleditch*): manuscript draft, with many corrections and reworking of final stanzas. Title changed from earlier versions, scored out (*Supermarket, Mrs Middleditch at the supermarket, Oh, Mrs Middleditch*)  
12 sheets

PLO/282/13

*Now* (published in *Celebrations*): manuscript draft, with corrections  
5 sheets

PLO/282/14-16 16 March 1971 - 27 March 1971

*The planes of Bedford Square* (published in *Celebrations*): three manuscript drafts, first two entitled *Love fifteen* and the third *The planes of Bedford Square* (altered from *A crystal moment* and *Love fifteen*). Each draft is dated and heavily corrected, and the three drafts vary significantly.  
3 items, 10 sheets

PLO/282/17

*Reading in the garden* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript draft, with corrections  
8 sheets

PLO/282/18

*Shot at sight* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript drafts and working notes, with many corrections and reorderings. Title of one draft changed from *Two-voice elegy for John Kennedy*, and versions marked *An elegy for two voices* and *A memorial for two voices* (with various arrangements of 1st/2nd voice, not reflected in the published version).  
8 sheets

PLO/282/19-20

*A summer storm* (published in *Taste and remember*): two manuscript drafts, extensively corrected and showing several differences from each other. First untitled, second entitled *A summer storm*, with title *The force of habit* scored out.  
3 sheets

PLO/282/21

*The taste of the fruit* (published in *Taste and remember*): printed version (newspaper cutting, with corrections), and manuscript version (marked "revised version", with some small corrections)  
5 sheets & 1 newspaper cutting

PLO/282/22-23 one draft dated 1967, other undated

*They* (published in *Celebrations*): two manuscript drafts, with many corrections and variations. Title changed from *One old man to another* and (in one draft) from *To a contemporary*.  
4 sheets



PLO/282/24

*A victorian album* (published in *Celebrations*): manuscript draft, with corrections. Note underneath title (scored out and not in published version), "In memory of Osman, or Homage to Osman"

2 sheets

PLO/282/25 1965

*A walk in Würzburg* (published in *Taste and remember*): manuscript draft, with many corrections. Noted "sent to New Yorker 15.2.66" and dated July 1965. Title altered from *A walk in Würzburg, 1960*.

2 sheets

PLO/692 20 May 1931

*The Land of Love*: corrected galley proof inscribed to Hugh Walpole

*Provenance*: Accession number Misc.1994/95:25

PLO/693 undated

*Near by the shore*: untitled manuscript in Plomer's hand, described as 'from a narrative poem'

Drafts for *The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast*

PLO/283 1972-1973

Manuscript drafts for many of the verses, with a few corrections and some significant differences from the published versions. The verses are arranged in a different order from that in the book, and accompanied by a (? later) list of the verses, in an order close to that of the final version.

Also included are some drafts and corrections marked "last revision - Jan 73," a copy of one of the plates (plate 25, for *The grasshopper's feast*) and some press notes dated 29 June 1973.

30 sheets

Transcripts used in *Electric Delights*

PLO/739 1933-1960

Transcripts of pieces considered and selected by Rupert Hart-Davis for *Electric Delights* include:

- /1: a piece about the Russian author Ivan Bunin, originally published in *The Spectator*, 14 July 1933
- /2: article on the poet C.P. Cavafy originally published in *The New Statesman*, 7 July 1951
- /3: article entitled *Lenin's favourite novel* about Balzac's *Country Doctor* and politics, originally published in *The Spectator*, 6 August 1937
- /4: article about the poetry of Christina Rossetti, 29 August 1946
- /5: review of John Piper's *Brighton Aquatints* (Duckworth [1939?]) originally from *The Spectator*, 29 December 1939
- /6: *Former Migrants* poem
- /7: *Having wonderful time* poem
- /8: *A radio interview* poem in memory of Cecil Day Lewis
- /9: introduction to a new edition of George Gissing's *A Life's Morning*, 1947
- /10: an introduction to Herman Melville
- /11: *Painted on darkness*, written 1971-1973 and sent to Lady Cholmondeley, includes a note about the contents of the letter
- /12: a review of *A Hundred Sonnets* by Charles Tennyson Turner and published in *The Times Literary Supplement*, 23 December 1960

*Provenance:* Misc 1998/1999:7

## Notes for lectures

PLO/284

Notes for occasional lectures given by Plomer.

3 items

PLO/284/1

Notes for lecture on "South African writing today", with notes also on past and future South African literature in English.

3 sheets

PLO/284/2 [1955]

Notes for lecture on the functions of a publisher's Reader. Noted as given to Lewes Literary Society: see letter from Leonard Woolf, PLO 240/29, referring to an address in January 1955. With "extract from MS submitted about 1930" (unattributed, presumed rejected by Plomer as Reader for Cape).

6 sheets

PLO/284/3 [1967]

Notes for a lecture on autobiography, perhaps given to Lewes Literary Club in March 1967 (see letters from Leonard Woolf, PLO 240/46-49)

18 sheets

## Carbon copy book

PLO/285 1968 - 1969

Carbon copies (in manuscript) of various articles and notes by Plomer. The volume includes very few corrections or alterations.

Introduction to Francis Kilvert, *Collected Verse* (ed CTO Prosser, The Kilvert Society, Hereford, 1968): ff.1-6

Alterations for libretto of *Prodigal Son*, noted "posted to Ben [Britten] - 17 March 1968": ff.7-9

Article on Britten's Church Operas (published posthumously in *Electric Delights* and noted there as from the Festival of the City of London programme, July 1968): ff.10-16

Article on *Gloriana*, [1968 - begins "Sixteen years ago" with reference to 1952]: ff.17-19

Introduction to *The Prodigal Son* [1968]: ff.36-43

Another version of the same: ff.44-49

Article on John Betjeman: ff.50-59

Address for unveiling of Byron memorial at Westminster Abbey, [May 1969]: ff.60-69

Address on Francis Kilvert, given in Hereford Cathedral, June 1969: ff.70-87

Autobiographical notes and dates, with lists of his books and articles: ff.88-95

Notes on E.M.Forster, "from a diary kept by W.P." (dated 15-16 August 1945): ff.96-97

1 notebook

## Personal papers

PLO/286 - 289

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/332 - 333

PLO/286 16 January 1931 - November 1934

Notebook containing extracts (copied in Plomer's hand) of letters from himself to his parents. Many pages or sections are cut out, and the front of the notebook gives the dates (in Plomer's hand) as "1930-1938". The cover is noted, "The cut out sections almost certainly the ones that W.P. used in his autobiography."

Includes letter referring to meeting with Somerset Maugham and Herbert Read (1933), and another relating Plomer's impressions of (and disgust at) a speech given by [Oswald] Mosley [founder of British Union of Fascists], 1934.

1 notebook, 7 leaves containing extracts of letters (some incomplete, other leaves cut out of book)

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/712 for typescript copies of three letters of Plomer to his parents

PLO/287 [1973]

Manuscript revision of Plomer's autobiography *Double lives*, with printed copy of first three chapters of *At home*, altered in places. This manuscript (together with the remainder of *At home*, as originally published) was published posthumously as *The autobiography of William Plomer* (Cape, 1975)

1 bundle

PLO/288 1 January 1968

Royal warrant of appointment as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), awarded to Plomer in New Year Honours list, with accompanying official letters and copy of statutes.

1 envelope (outsized)

PLO/289 4 July 1959

Photographs, copy of speeches on presentation of candidates and certificate, for honorary degree (D.Litt.) conferred on Plomer by University of Durham, at a ceremony at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne

1 folder

#### Family and genealogical papers

PLO/290

Miscellaneous letters, cuttings, articles and notes relating to genealogical research into Plomer's family and name

5 folders

PLO/290/1

Article by Bertram Plummer on the surname of "Plummer" (in envelope annotated by Plomer, "Proof, if proof be needed, that the Plomers began as plumbers")

1 folder

PLO/290/2-3

Genealogical papers, letters and charts relating to the *Plomer* family (with envelope marked by Plomer, "Father's side")

2 folders

PLO/290/4-6

Folders relating to Cornish Plomers, to families of *Folkes* and *Bush*, and to *Pagan* family (including connections with Patrick Lowe-Holmes)

3 folders

PLO/290/7

Charts and notes from envelope marked "Maternal side", in particular re families of *Franklyn, Arden, Browne, Rumbold and Horniman*.

1 folder

PLO/290/8

Miscellaneous letters and notes relating to family and ancestors, including several letters from Plomer's relation, Patrick [Lowe-Holmes]. Two of the letters [c.1972] apparently refer to letters from Alice Lemon, and include a question from Lowe-Holmes about possible publication and whether the family would have to be contacted.

1 folder

#### Miscellaneous items collected by Plomer

PLO/291 - 309

PLO/291 1954

Notes, letters, transcript of talk (for Third Programme, BBC Radio, 20 May 1954) and copy of article ( *Listener*, 8 July 1954), on Martin Folkes, antiquary, 1690-1754. Folder also includes typescript copy of letter from H.G.Wells to Gosse, 4 January 1904, with notes about the private life of Gissing

1 folder

PLO/292 13 January 1974

Text of a talk for BBC Radio 3, "William Plomer: a memoir", by John Morris (soldier and broadcaster)

1 folder

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/146

PLO/293 17 May 1966

Illuminated letter of thanks written on behalf of students at Brighton College of Art (art teacher training department), mounted on card, apparently following readings and lecture by Plomer on libretto writing

1 folder

PLO/294 September 1983

Transcript of a portrait of Plomer by Ted Walker, with Walker as narrator, Hugh Burden and Anne Ridler reading from some of Plomer's poems and letters, and an extract from *Museum pieces*. Recorded at Broadcasting House, Bristol, and broadcast on [Radio 3]

1 folder

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/232

PLO/295 October 1925 - September 1928

Disbound album of reviews and cuttings, relating to Plomer's South African writings, specifically *Turbott Wolfe*, the *Voorslag* magazine and *I speak of Africa* (published after he had left South Africa for Japan). There are also a few reviews of *Notes for poems*, and one of Roy Campbell's *The Wayzgoose*. The album includes many reviews from South African papers and magazines, and some from Japanese papers (including articles on arrival in Japan of Laurens Van der Post and Plomer, on the "Canada Maru").

1 folder

PLO/296 March 1929 - October 1975

Album of cuttings and offprints with reviews of Plomer's works, from *Paper houses* (1929) onwards, annotated by Plomer, "What some of my contemporaries wrote about some of my writings".

Plomer's own index of the contents of the volume extends only to reviews of *At Home* (1958), ff.63-72. Other works reviewed in the volume include: *Turbott Wolfe* (reissued 1965), ff.72-75, his libretti for Benjamin Britten's "church operas", f.74, *Celebrations* (1972), f.76, and *Gloriana* (libretto, 1972 performances), f.76.

Inside the back cover are loose reviews of *The diamond of Jannina* (American edition of *Ali the lion*, 1970), and an article mentioning Tony Butts and Plomer's telling of Butts' stories in *Curious relations* and *Museum pieces* (1966). There is also an envelope of reviews of *Taste and remember* (1966), with an article on Britten's "church operas" (July 1966).

Inside the front cover are two reviews of *The autobiography of William Plomer* (published posthumously, 1975)

1 volume

## PLO/297 1929 - 1930

Manuscript of text of address on modern Japanese literature, given to the Oxford English society at the invitation of Stephen Spender.

Includes copy of obituary of Plomer from *Sunday Times*, 1973. Plomer notes in the front of the volume, "Since that thime it has been in the possession of H.E. du Plessis, to whom I gave it" (noted 10 Aug 1972). It is not clear who owned the volume prior to its purchase by the University in 1990.

1 volume

*Provenance:* Purchased at Sotheby's sale, 19 July 1990

## PLO/298 1951 - 1972

Book with miscellaneous literary newspaper cuttings, including a few reviews, obituaries etc.

Major articles include (in order of book, not chronological):

[Obituary] of Roy Campbell, ? *The Star*, [c.1957-]

Article on Plomer from *Times literary supplement*. 5 Oct 1951

On papers of Laurence Housman (brother of A.E. Housman), sold at Sotheby's in July 1968 including letters from Oscar Wilde): from *Times*, 17 June 1968

On racial/colour themes in English South African literature, by Ezekiel Mphahlele, from *New statesman*, 10 Sep 1960

"The novel and the nation in South Africa" by Nadine Gordimer, *Times literary supplement*, 11 Aug 1961

On Nat Nakasa (South African journalist and writer, subject of Plomer's poem *Taste and remember* after his suicide in 1965), *Cape Times*, 23 May 1966

Obituary of Harold Owen, author and artist, *Times*, 2 Dec 1971

Notes on conversation with George Meredith in 1890, *Times literary supplement*, 8 & 15 May 1953

1 volume

## PLO/299 June 1974

Diploma stating that Plomer is the subject of commendation in *Men of achievement 1973*

1 folder

## PLO/300 [1933]

Report by Edward Garnett (reader for Jonathan Cape, publishers), on Plomer's short story collection, *The child of Queen Victoria* (published with Cape, 1933)

1 sheet plus envelope

## PLO/301 1824, 1969

Copies of Plomer's speech at the unveiling of a memorial to Byron in Westminster Abbey, including corrected typescript draft and copies printed in *The cornhill*, number 1060 (summer 1969), and *Westminster Abbey One*, occasional paper number 23 (Dec 1969)

Also includes copy of *A refusal* by Thomas Hardy ("Said the grave Dean of Westminster...", verses on refusal to erect memorial in the abbey after Byron's death in 1824), copy of *The mirror of literature, amusement and instruction* (number 99, supplementary number, London, apparently 14 Aug 1824, on Byron), and of a cartoon depicting Byron with the dean of Westminster

1 folder

PLO/302 4 January 1969

Invitation, menu and seating plan for E.M. Forster's 90th birthday lunch in King's College, Cambridge (at which Plomer was a guest)

1 folder

PLO/303 11 October 1970

Original pen and ink drawing by John Sergeant for reprint of Plomer's *The case is altered* (Chatto and Windus, 1970), with brief letter from Sergeant

1 sheet plus envelope

PLO/304 5 January 1949

Typescript text of Broadcast for BBC (Midland Home Service), of some of Plomer's poems. The poems were introduced by Henry Read, and apparently read by Plomer. Poems included are *Goodbye to the island*, *Visiting the caves*, *Snow*, *A Basuto coming-of-age*, *The scorpion*, *Captain Maru*, *Archaic Apollo* and *The Caledonian market*.

1 folder

PLO/305 August 1953 - 23 July 1961

Extracts from visitors' book for "Rossida", Rustington, Sussex (where Plomer lived 1953-1966)

1 folder

PLO/306 11 October 1973, 15 January 1974

Two letters written to Simon Nowell-Smith, both enclosing talks or memoirs on Plomer following his death.

One letter is from Ted Walker, and includes the text of his address at Plomer's cremation service, 27 Sep 1973. The other is from John Morris, and includes a corrected typescript copy of his broadcast on Plomer for the BBC

1 folder

*Related material in other DUL collections: See also -*

PLO/232

PLO/292

PLO/294

PLO/307 mostly undated [1930s-1940s]

Miscellaneous small drawings, sketches and cartoon figures by Plomer

1 folder, 15 drawings

PLO/308 29 November 1970

Notes for talk by Plomer on libretto writing, apparently given at York on 29 Nov 1970. Include very brief notes on librettos for *Gloriana*, *Curlew river*, *Burning fiery furnace* and *Prodigal son*, together with a corrected manuscript copy of his talk and a typescript copy of a review of *Curlew river* by James Kirkup (in Japan).

1 folder

## PLO/309 1841, 1922 - 1961

Envelope of miscellaneous items, kept together by Plomer with the annotation "oddments to keep"

- /1. Letter to "Miss Rumbold", Basingstoke, apparently written from Italy or Sicily, with local social news (in particular concerning the Prince of Lucca, also reference to British politics and the Corn Laws). Writer unknown. Dated 1st August, ? 1841. [This letter is extensively quoted from in Plomer's article on Rumbold family papers, "A bundle of old letters - III", *The Listener* (6 Sep 1945), where it is dated by Plomer "August 1, 1841": see cutting in PLO 310, f.47.]
- /2. Picture of a group of Zulus in warrior dress, apparently cut from a magazine, and marked by Plomer "Zulu acquaintances at Entumeni". Undated [1922-1925]
- /3. Photograph of a painting by Anthony Butts in Crete (annotated by Plomer, "I think a street in Herakleion"). Undated, ? 1930s
- /4. Two photographs of Plomer's sketch of Bernard Bayes (head and shoulders in profile, original drawing in folder PLO 307), 1932
- /5. Two letters from the British Council regarding a proposal for a post in Greece (apparently turned down by Plomer), June 1945
- /6. Christmas card with family photograph, from "Marion & George", Christmas 1953
- /7. Letters with memories and anecdotes about Mary Butts (recognised by the writer from "Lydia Delap" in *Museum pieces*), with other news of the Butts and Colville-Hyde families. Also notes on (and letters of introduction to) two families from Busted, near Arundel, Sussex. Written by Mrs Wilma Gregory, November 1961 (with envelope annotated by Plomer "strange gossip")
- /8-12. Recipes, a photograph of a picture by Edward Burra and other miscellanea, all undated

1 folder

## Review books

## PLO/310 - 312

## PLO/310 1929 - 1953, 1956

Cuttings book containing reviews by Plomer, noted by him on flyleaf as "not a complete file". Includes brief index at front to main themes or subject areas covered, giving folio numbers for articles under the following headings: "Odds and ends", "Art", "Theatre", "Biography & memoirs" and "Africana".

1 volume

inside front cover 7 December 1956

Two-page article (two copies) on Lytton Strachey and Virginia Woolf (unattributed): reviews Clive Bell, *Old friends*; *Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey: letters*, ed by Leonard Woolf and James Strachey; Monique Nathan, *Virginia Woolf par elle-même*

f.1 14 March 1931

Review of Edgell Rickword (collector), *Scrutinies: volume II* (unattributed)

f.1 11 December 1932

Review of Roy Campbell, *Taurine Provence*

f.2 May 1933

Review of Roy Campbell, *Flowering reeds*



## f.2 1934

Review of Edmund Blunden, *The mind's eye*

## f.3 18 December 1932 - January 1933

Review of E Sylvia Pankhurst, *The home front: a mirror to life in England during the World War*

Also two letters published together in Jan 1933, from Sylvia Pankhurst and Plomer, apparently in reply to an earlier letter of objection about Plomer's review

## f.4 January 1935

Review of Sacheverell Sitwell, *Touching the Orient*

## f.5 16 November 1934

Review of Cecil Day Lewis, *A hope for poetry*

## f.5 4 September 1936

Review of Maurice Dekobra, *A Frenchman in Japan*, translated by Metcalfe Wood

## f.6 Summer 1935

Review of Nesbitt, *Desolate marches*

## f.7 18 October 1935

Review of Ralph H Brewster, *The 6,000 beards of Athos*

## f.7 21 February 1936

Review of R M Dawkins, *The monks of Athos*

## f.8 February 1936

Review of Lin Yutang, *My country and my people*

## f.9 April 1936

Review of W P Coates and Z K Coates, *Armed intervention in Russia, 1918-1922*

## f.10 2 October 1936

Review of *Masterpieces of Japanese poetry ancient and modern*, translated and annotated by Miyamori Asataro

## f.11 9 July 1937

Review of *The collected works of Isaac Rosenberg*, ed by Gordon Bottomley and Denys Harding

## f.11 5 March 1942

Review of H E Bates, *The modern short story: a critical survey*

## f.12 July 1937

Review of C Day Lewis (ed), *The mind in chains: socialism and the cultural revolution*

## f.13 19 November 1937

Review of *The book of songs*, translated from the Chinese by Arthur Waley

## f.14 29 December 1939

Review of John Piper, *Brighton aquatints*

## f.14 15 March 1940

Review of exhibition of John Piper's work at the Leicester galleries

f.15 9 March 1938

Review of exhibition of Sickert's paintings, at the Leicester galleries

f.16 29 June 1940

Review of exhibition of the Surrealist Group at the Zwemmer gallery

f.17 13 July 1940

Review of performance of *Chu Chin Chow* at the Palace Theatre, with comments on orientalism in literature generally

f.17 17 August 1944

Review of Richard Church, *British authors: a twentieth-century gallery*

f.18 15 May 1932

Review of Mrs Alec-Tweedie, *Me and mine: a medley of thoughts and memories*

f.18 3 February 1933

Review of Constantin Photiades, *Count Cagliostro: an authentic story of a mysterious life*

f.19 23 July 1933

Review of Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, *The tragedy of Tolstoy*, translated by Elena Varneck (unattributed)

f.19 14 July 1938

Review of Leslie Halward, *Let me tell you* (unattributed)

f.19 19 October 1934

Review of John Cowper Powys, *Autobiography*

f.20 [? 1933]

Review of *Joseph Pilsudski: the memories of a Polish revolutionary and soldier*, translated and ed by DR Gillie (unattributed)  
undated but marked "? 1933" in Plomer's hand

f.20 March 1935

Review of Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, *I worked for the Soviet*

f.21 August 1935

Review of Roger Fulford, *George the Fourth*

f.22 23 October 1935

Review of Elizabeth Drexel Lehr, *King Lehr and the gilded age* (unattributed)

f.22 11 March 1936

Revoew of William Ross Collier and Edwin Victor Westrate, *The reign of Soapy Smith*

f.23 January 1936

Review of *TH Huxley's diary of the voyage of HMS Rattlesnake*, ed by Julian Huxley

f.24 15 April 1936

Review of Geoffrey de C Parmiter, *Roger Casement* (unattributed)

f.24 12 June 1936

Review of Ronald Matthews, *English Messiahs: studies of six English religious pretenders, 1656-1927*

- f.25 July 1936  
Review of Vincent O'sullivan, *Aspects of Wilde*
- f.26 9 September 1936  
Review of HL Shapiro, *The heritage of the Bounty: the story of Pitcairn through six generations* (unattributed)
- f.26 7 October 1936  
Review of Wilfred Macartney, *Walls have mouths* (unattributed)
- f.27 14 October 1936  
Review of Hiram Percy Maxim, *A genius in the family*
- f.27 16 December 1936  
Review of *Miss Weeton: the journal of a governess, 1807-1811*, ed by Edward Hall (unattributed)
- f.27 November 1937  
Review of Wyndham Lewis, *Blasting and bombardiering*
- f.28 22 January 1937  
Review of *The diary of Vaslav Nijinsky*, ed by Romola Nijinsky
- f.28 14 July 1938  
Review of John Rothenstein, *The life and death of Conder* (unattributed)
- f.28 9 June 1937  
Review of Mary Butts, *The crystal cabinet: my childhood at Salterns* (unattributed)
- f.29 1937  
Review of *The unpublished correspondence of Honoré de Balzac and Madame Zulma Carraud, 1829-1850*, translated by J Lewis May (unattributed)
- f.30 10 November 1937  
Review of Lord Ormathwaite, *When I was at court* (unattributed)
- f.30 3 November 1938  
Review of Irving Stone, *Sailor on horseback: the biography of Jack London* (unattributed)
- f.31 30 March 1939  
Review of Sir Edward Marsh, *A number of people* (unattributed)
- f.31 21 March 1940  
Review of AS Hartrick, *A painter's pilgrimage through fifty years* (unattributed)
- f.31 September 1939  
Review of Francis Steegmuller, *Flaubert and Madame Bovary*
- f.32 9 November 1929  
Reviews (unattributed) of: A Conan Doyle, *Our African winter*; Dugald Campbell, *Wanderings in central Africa*; Cherry Kearton, *In the land of the lion*; Frank Lavallin Puxley, *In African game tracks*; Arnold Hodson, *Where lion reign*; Hugh Marshall Hole, *Lobengula*. The last four books are reviewed only very sketchily.
- f.32 March 1933  
Review of S Worthington and EB Worthington, *Inland waters of Africa*

f.33 1933

Review of Sarah Gertrude Millin, *Rhodes*

f.33 16 February 1950

Review of Georges Duthuit (ed), *Transition Forty-Nine: number 5* (unattributed)

f.34 8 December 1933

Reviews (unattributed) of: Alice Werner, *Myths and legends of the Bantu*; E Dora Earthy, *Valenge women: the social and economic life of the Valenge women of Portuguese East Africa*

f.34 27 April 1934

Review of Eric Anderson Walker, *The Great Trek*

f.35 11 May 1934

Reviews of: Diedrich Westermann, *The African to-day*; JAI Agar-Hamilton, *South Africa*; Adriaan J Barnouw, *Language and race problems in South Africa*

f.35 3 August 1946

Review of Eslanda Goode Robeson, *African journey* (unattributed)

f.36 [1934]

Review of William Macdonald, *The romance of the golden Rand*

Marked "? 1934" by Plomer

f.36 20 March 1936

Review of Carel Birkby, *Thirstland treks*

f.37 24 July 1936

Review of Margery Perham (ed), *Ten Africans*

f.38 [1934]

Reviews of: Parmenas Githendu Mockerie, *An African speaks for his people*; LP Mair, *An African people in the twentieth century*

Marked "? 1934" by Plomer

f.38 15 October 1932

Review of Mrs Wallace, *Edgar Wallace*

f.40 11 January 1943

Review of exhibition of paintings by John Piper, "The Sitwell country...", at the Leicester Galleries

f.41 22 March 1945

Article on, with quotations from, three unpublished notebooks by a 'Mrs Tonge', with an account of middle-class society in the 1840s.

f.42 22 March 1945

Review of *Elizabeth Ham: by herself, 1783-1820*, ed by Eric Gillett (unattributed)

f.42 1 March 1945

Review of William Gaunt, *The aesthetic adventure* (unattributed)

f.43 3 May 1945

Reviews (unattributed) of: Edith Olivier, *Four Victorian ladies of Wiltshire*; Edmund Wilson, *Note-books of night*

f.43 29 March 1945

Review of Denton Welch, *In youth is pleasure* (unattributed)

f.44 12 July 1945

Article on the picture postcard, with brief reference to an exhibition at the AIA Centre in Charlotte Street, and comments on the "apogee" of the picture postcard before 1914, and its decline "in fertility of invention" by 1939.

f.45-47 23 August 1945, 30 August 1945, 6 September 1945

Article in three parts on the letters and family papers of the Rumbold family, mainly early 19th century.

f.48 6 December 1945

Review of Norman Douglas, *An almanac*

f.48 10 January 1946

Review of EG Withycombe, *The Oxford dictionary of English Christian names* (unattributed)

f.48 29 August 1946

Review of LP Stebbins and RP Stebbins, *The Trollopes* (unattributed)

f.49 22 September 1945

Review of Willard Price, *The Son of Heaven*. Includes comments on the future or, and within Japan the need for, an Emperor of Japan.

f.49 28 February 1946

Review of Henry Miller, *The cosmological eye* (unattributed)

f.50 23 February 1946

Page article on the life and writings of Gissing

f.51 7 March 1946

Page article on the journal of Francis Kilvert

f.52 1 November 1930

Page article on modern Japanese literature, noted "from a paper read to the English Club at Oxford, February, 1930"

f.53 28 November 1931

Article on the Victorian revival and contrast with Edwardian fashions for interior design, written as a letter

f.54 3 November 1933

Page article on Lytton Strachey, with reference to his *Characters and commentaries*

f.55 17 January 1936

Page article on the practice and art of tattooing

f.56 9 December 1938

Page article on Edgar Wallace, journalist and writer, with reference to Margaret Lane, *Edgar Wallace*

f.57 6 August 1937

Page article on and review of Balzac, *Country doctor*

f.58 4 July 1946

Review of Hesketh Pearson, *The life of Oscar Wilde* (unattributed)

f.58 15 August 1946

Review of Osbert Sitwell, *The scarlet tree* (unattributed)

f.59-60 29 August 1946

Article (1½ pages) on Rossetti's poetry

f.60 summer 1947

Short article on the practice of reviewing and payment for reviewers, noted in Plomer's hand, "from a symposium in *The Author*"

f.61-62 12 September 1946

Article (1¼ pages) on Edward Fitzgerald

f.62 2 October 1947

Review of Bergen Evans, *The natural history of nonsense* (unattributed)

f.62 5 August 1949

Review of Constance E Fripp and VW Hiller (eds), *Gold and the Gospel in Mashonaland, 1888* (on the diaries of George Knight-Bruce, later bishop of Mashonaland, and CD Rudd, commercial prospector in Mashonaland)

f.63-64 7 November 1946

Article (1¼ pages) on the poet William Allingham and his diary [published 1907, ed H Allingham and D Radford]

f.64 18 October 1947

Review of Robert Liddell, *A treatise on the novel* (unattributed)

f.65 15 March 1947

Page article on Charles Kingsley, novelist, with reference to Guy Kendall, *Charles Kingsley and his ideas* (two copies, unattributed)

f.66 3 May 1947

Page article (unattributed) on Thomas Baines, explorer and pioneer in Africa, with reference to *The Northern Goldfields diaries of Thomas Baines, 1869-1872*, ed by JPR Wallis (Government Archives of Southern Rhodesia, Oppenheimer Series 3, Chatto and Windus)

f.67 1 May 1947

Article on Charles Keene, illustrator for *Punch*, and review of Derek Hudson, *Charles Keene*

f.68 21 August 1947

Review of George Orwell, *The English people*

f.68 30 August 1947

Review of Audrey Brooke, *Robert Gray: first bishop of Capetown*, with reference to the controversy with Colenso, first bishop of Natal [South Africa]

f.69 9 October 1947

Article on Edward Fitzgerald, with review of Alfred McKinley Terhune, *The life of Edward FitzGerald*

f.70 1 January 1948

Review of Stefan Zweig, *Balzac* (unattributed)

f.8- 6 May 1948

Review of Osbert Sitwell, *Great morning*

f.71 8 May 1948

Short story or sketch (2/3 page only), using the idea of a visit by two horses to an exhibition of paintings by Walter Sickert

This story is not apparently published elsewhere (not in *Four countries* or *Electric delights*, for instance)

f.72 7 October 1948

Review of *The eighteen-nineties: a period anthology in prose and verse*, chosen by Martin Secker, with comments on some of the anthologised authors

f.72 9 December 1948

Review of Richard D Altick, *The Cowden Clarkes*

f.73 3 June 1949

Page article (unattributed) on memoirs of William Hickey, with review of *Memoirs of William Hickey* (in four volumes), ed Alfred Spencer

f.74 4 August 1949

Review of Richard Aldington, *The strange life of Charles Waterton, 1782-1865* (unattributed)

f.74 3 February 1949

Review of Derek Hudson, *Martin Tupper: his rise and fall* (unattributed)

f.75 2 July 1949

Article on Herman Melville, and specifically an edition of *Billy Budd*, ed F Barron Freeman

f.76 13 October 1949

Review of Charles Tennyson, *Alfred Tennyson*

f.76 20 October 1949

Review of Herman Melville, *Journal of a visit to London and the Continent, 1849-1850*, ed Eleanor Melville Metcalf

f.77 14 June 1951

Review of Marzieh Gail, *Persia and the Victorians* (unattributed)

f.77 8 December 1949

Review of Vera Buchanan-Gould, *Not without honour: the life and writings of Olive Schreiner*, with some notes on Schreiner and South Africa

f.78 15 December 1949

Review of Osbert Lancaster, *Drayneflete revealed* (unattributed)

f.78 13 April 1950

Review of Helmut Gernsheim, *Lewis Carroll: photographer* (unattributed)

f.79 20 April 1950

Review of Hastings, Duke of Bedford, *The years of transition*

f.79 25 June 1950

Review of John Russell, *Switzerland*

f.80 13 July 1950

Review of Nesta Webster, *Spacious days* (unattributed)

f.80 16 November 1950

Review of *Lady Charlotte Guest: extracts from her journal, 1833-1852*, ed Earl of Bessborough (unattributed)

f.81 7 December 1950

Review of *The journal of Mrs Arbuthnot, 1820-1832*, ed Francis Bamford and the Duke of Wellington

f.82 1 February 1951

Review of Baroness de Stoeckl, *Not all vanity* [memoirs], ed George Kinnaird (unattributed)

f.82 2 February 1951

Review of HE Bates, *Edward Garnett* (unattributed). Garnett was reader for Cape publishers, succeeded by Plomer.

f.83 10 May 1951

Review of *The autobiography of Arthur Machen* (unattributed)

f.83 11 June 1953

Review of Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, *The glitter and the gold* (unattributed) Includes Plomer's phrase, "the drone of self-esteem is from time to time broken by the shrill whine of the mosquito piercing the dead horse."

f.83 21 June 1951

Review of Robertson Davies, *The table-talk of Samuel Marchbanks*

f.84 31 May 1951

Page article reviewing a photography exhibition at the Festival [of Britain] at the Victoria and Albert Museum, titled *Masterpieces of Victorian Photography, 1840-1900*.

f.85 7 July 1951

Review of *The poems of CP Cavafy*, translated by John Mavrogordato; with notes on Cavafy's poetry generally

f.86 20 September 1951

Page article on the use (and abuse) of the term 'foreigners', and on the importance of admitting and welcoming 'outsiders'.

f.87 24 January 1952

Review of Laurens Van der Post, *Venture to the interior* (unattributed)

f.87 29 May 1952

Review of Rosamond Lawrence, *Charles Napier: friend and fighter, 1782-1853*

f.88 21 February 1952

Review of exhibition of prints and drawings by Hiroshige, staged by the Arts Council at the new Burlington Galleries, with comments on Japanese art and culture generally

f.89 27 March 1953

Review of Frances Parkinson Keyes, *The cost of a best seller* (unattributed)

f.89 26 April 1953

Review of André Maurois, *Cecil Rhodes*



f.90 9 April 1953

Review of Eileen Bigland, *Marie Corelli: the woman and the legend* (unattributed)

f.90 8 October 1953

Review of Ogden Nash, *The private dining-room*

f.91 17 October 1953

Article on EM Forster, *The hill of Devi: being letters from Dewas State Senior*

f.92 3 December 1953

Review of *The letters of Sydney Smith*, ed Nowell C Smith

PLO/311 14 April 1933 - 15 July 1938

Cuttings book containing weekly reviews of fiction written by Plomer for the *Spectator*, noted by him on the flyleaf as "not a complete file". Includes index at back to authors reviewed.

1 volume

PLO/312 1953 - 1973

Cuttings book containing reviews and some other articles by Plomer

1 volume

inside front cover 16 May 1958

Article on the practice of literary reviewing, noted in Plomer's hand, "NOT by W.P."

p.1 5 November 1953

Review of Lady Emily Lutyens, *A blessed girl: [memoirs of a Victorian girlhood chronicles in an exchange of letters 1887-1896]* (unattributed)

p.1 17 December 1953

Review of *A writer's diary: being extracts from the diary of Virginia Woolf*, ed Leonard Woolf (unattributed)

p.2 14 January 1959

Review of Leonora Eyles, *The ram escapes* (unattributed)

p.2 4 February 1954

Review of *The diaries of Lewis Carroll*, ed Roger Lancelyn Green (unattributed)

p.3 5 August 1954

Review of John Betjeman, *A few late Chrysanthemums* (unattributed)

pp.3-5 6 August 1954

Longer article on and review of *A writer's diary: being extracts from the diary of Virginia Woolf*, ed Leonard Woolf (unattributed)

pp.6-7 August 1957

Review of FT Prince, *Soldiers bathing, and other poems*

p.7 15 December 1955

Review of Guy Deghy and Keith Waterhouse, *Café Royal: ninety years of Beohemia*

pp.8-11 2 September 1954

Long article on Brighton [on centenary of its incorporation as a borough]. Includes review of Edmund Gilbert, *Brighton: old ocean's bauble*.

- pp.12-13 7 October 1954  
Review of David Cecil, *Lord M: or the later life of Lord Melbourne*
- pp.14-15 2 December 1954  
Review of: James Laver, *Victorian vista*; Ralph Dutton, *The Victorian home*; AMW Stirling, *Victorian sidelights*
- p.16 24 February 1955  
Review of LE Jones, *A Victorian boyhood* (unattributed)
- p.16 10 March 1955  
Review of Gerald MacMillan, *Honours for sale* (unattributed)
- p.17 24 March 1955  
Review of Ethel, Lady Thomson, *Clifton Lodge*
- p.18 14 July 1955  
Review of Richard Church, *Over the bridge* (unattributed)
- p.18 1 September 1955  
Review of Herman Melville, *Journal of a visit to Europe and the Levant, 1856-1857*, ed Howard C Horsford (unattributed)
- p.19 23 July 1955  
Review of EA Ritter, *Shaka Zulu: the rise of the Zulu empire*
- p.20 15 September 1955  
Review of Norton B Crowell, *Alfred Austin, Victorian* (unattributed), with comments on Austin (Poet Laureate, died 1913)
- p.20 20 October 1955  
Review of DJ Enright, *The world of dew: aspects of living Japan* (unattributed)
- p.21 16 September 1955  
Review of *Journal of Jan van Riebeeck, volume 2: 1656-1658*, ed HB Thom, with reference to the Dutch settlement at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa
- pp.22-23 14 October 1955  
Review (unattributed) of Leon Edel, *The psychological novel, 1900-1950*, with reference to novels by Henry James, Dorothy Richardson, Proust, Joyce, Virginia Woolf and William Faulkner
- p.23 27 January 1956  
Review of Edna and Frank Bradlow, *Thomas Bowler of the Cape of Good Hope: his life and works with a catalogue of extant paintings* (unattributed)
- pp.24-25 1 December 1955  
Review of *The age of extravagance: an Edwardian reader*, ed ME Edes and D Frasier
- p.26 3 February 1956  
Review of *The best of friends: further letters to Sydney Carlyle Cockerell*, ed Viola Meynell (unattributed). Includes comments on the practice of publishing letters from the living or very recently deceased ("...there may still be lingering doubts as to how much or how soon private relationships or communications should be thrown open to the public").

p.27 19 April 1956

Review of Osbert Wyndham Hewett, *Strawberry fair* [biography of Lady Waldegrave, 1821-1879] (unattributed)

p.28 10 May 1956

Review of EM Forster, *Marianne Thornton, 1797-1887: a domestic biography*

p.28 17 December 1972

Notes on SN Behrman, *Tribulations and laughter*, and Wen I-to, *Red candle*, translated by Tao Tao Sanders. Noted by Plomer as from the "Books of the year" column.

p.29 11 October 1956

Review of Frederick John Gorst with Beth Andrews, *Of carriages and kings*

p.29 15 November 1956

Review of James W Stapleton, *The gate hangs well* (unattributed)

p.30 6 December 1956

Review of Helmut and Alison Gernsheim, *LJM Daguerre: the history of the Diorama and the Daguerreotype*

pp.31-33 7 December 1956

Long article (unattributed) on the 'Bloomsbury' set of writers, including review of: Clive Bell, *Old friends*; *Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey: letters*, ed Leonard Woolf and James Strachey; Monique Nathan, *Virginia Woolf par elle-même*

p.34 20 December 1956

Review of Philip Henderson, *The life of Laurence Oliphant* (unattributed)

p.34 10 January 1957

Review of Nora Wydenbruck, *My two worlds: an autobiography* (unattributed)

p.35 11 January 1957

Review of *The journals of Elizabeth Lees Price*, ed Una Long (unattributed)

p.36 16 February 1957

Reviews of books on South Africa and the Afrikaners: Sheila Patterson, *The last trek*; CW de Kiewiet, *The anatomy of South African misery*; BB Kerr, *Whither South Africa?*, translated by NJ Marquard

p.37 14 March 1957

Article (unattributed) on South African literature, with brief references to several writers, including Uys Krige, Guy Butler, Thomas Pringle and Pauline Smith. The article makes reference to a "pioneer literary movement" [ *Voorslag*, edited by Roy Campbell, Plomer and Laurens Van der Post], and to works by younger writers, particularly Alan Paton, *Cry the Beloved Country*.

p.38 14 March 1957

Review of *Modern Japanese literature*, ed Donald Keene, with reference to the 20th century Japanese literary renaissance

p.39 2 May 1957

Review of Ralph Arnold, *The unhappy countess* [biography of Mary Eleanor Bowes, countess of Strathmore] (unattributed)

- p.39 29 March 1957  
Review of *Efik traders of Old Calabar*, ed Daryll Forde (unattributed); including extracts from a diary of a an Efik slave-trader at Calabar, Nigeria, 1785-1788
- p.40 25 May 1957  
Review of Doris Lessing, *Going home*
- p.41 July 1957  
Review of WH Bruford, *Anton Chekhov* (unattributed)
- p.41 8 August 1957  
Review of Lady Emily Lutyens, *Candles in the sun* (unattributed)
- p.42 16 August 1957  
Review of *The Cape journals of Archdeacon NJ Merriman, 1848-1855*, ed DH Varley and HM Matthew (unattributed)
- p.43 29 August 1957  
Review of Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr, *The Vanderbilt feud* (unattributed)
- p.43 25 September 1957  
Review of Ursula Bloom, *The elegant Edwardian* (unattributed)
- pp.44-45 3 October 1957  
Review of Colonel R Meinertzhagen, *Kenya diary, 1902-1906*
- p.46 4 October 1957  
Review of Stevie Smith, *Not waving but drowning* (unattributed)
- p.46 24 October 1957  
Review of *A Victorian canvas: the memoirs of WP Frith, RA*, ed Nevile Wallis (unattributed)
- p.47 31 October 1957  
Review of *Selected writings of Sydney Smith*, ed WH Auden (unattributed)
- p.47 23 January 1958  
Review of Lyndall Gregg, *Memories of Olive Schreiner* (unattributed)
- p.48 5 December 1957  
Reviews of: Osbert Lancaster, *The year of the comet*; Russell Brockbank, *The Brockbank omnibus*; Anatol Kovarsky, *Kovarsky's world*; Charles Addams, *Nightcrawlers*; *Dubout cartoons*
- p.49 26 December 1957  
Review of Margaret Dalziel, *Popular fiction 100 years ago* (unattributed)
- p.50 23 January 1958  
Review of Thomas Moser, *Joseph Conrad: achievement and decline* (unattributed); with references to Moser's emphasis on sexual psychology
- p.50 30 January 1958  
Review of LE Jones, *Georgian afternoon* (unattributed); with reference to Jones' attitude towards pacifists and writers associated with World War I
- p.51 13 March 1958  
Review of *Everyman's dictionary of literary biography: English and American*, compiled by DC Browning, with many comments on Browning's selection of writers

p.52 28 March 1958

Review of Joyce Cary, *Art and reality* (Clark Lectures) (unattributed)

p.53 12 April 1958

Reviews of Lord Russell of Liverpool, *The knights of Bushido* and Mamoru Shigemitsu, *Japan and her destiny*, with some notes on Japanese politics

p.54 22 May 1958

Review of Anthony Sampson, *The treason cage* (with reference to the trials of African National Congress activists for treason in South Africa, and to the Christian Action fund [established to support their families])

p.54 19 June 1958

Review of Virginia Woolf, *Granite and rainbow* (unattributed)

pp.55-58 5 June 1958

Lengthy article on changing attitudes in South Africa, with particular reference to a book of essays, *Africa in transition*, ed Prudence Smith

p.58 10 July 1958

Letter from reader correcting a statement in Plomer's article, "The African revolution from the inside"

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also - PLO/312/61 (vol)

p.59 5 July 1958

Review of Ian Henderson with Philip Goodhart, *The hunt for Kimathi* (a leader of the Mau Mau in Kenya)

p.60 17 July 1958

Review of James Morris, *South African winter* (unattributed)

p.61 2 October 1958

Review of James Laver, *Edwardian promenade*

p.62 9 October 1958

Review of ... *and Mr Fortescue* (diaries of Chichester Fortescue, later Lord Carlingford, 1851-1862), ed Osbert Wyndham Hewett (unattributed)

p.62 22 October 1958

Cartoon entitled "novel faces", showing Plomer with caption, "Read Plomer's works if you should want a tip on Africa, London, or the land of Nippon"

pp.63-65 23 October 1958

Illustrated article on Brighton, subtitled "on a tradition of health and pleasure"

p.65 25 May 1961

Review of *The Swinburne letters, vols 3 and 4: 1875-1882*, ed Cecil Y Lang

p.66 30 October 1958

Review of Isobel Rae, *The strange story of Dr James Barry* (army doctor and medical reformer), unattributed

p.67 6 December 1958

Review of RP Dore, *City life in Japan*

- p.68 8 February 1959  
Review of *Darkness and light: an anthology of African writing*, compiled by Peggy Rutherford
- p.68 19 November 1959  
Review of Groucho Marx, *Groucho and me*
- p.69 1 March 1959  
Review of Elspeth Huxley, *The flame trees of Thika* (autobiographical account of Kenya, c.1913-1914)
- p.70 7 March 1959  
Review of Christopher St John, *Ethel Smyth*
- pp.71-72 26 March 1959  
Article on AE Housman (on the centenary of his birth)
- p.73 25 April 1959  
Review of Ezekiel Mphahlele, *Down Second Avenue* (autobiographical account of life in South Africa before emigration to Nigeria in 1957)
- p.74 4 September 1959  
Review of Howard Hibbett, *The floating world in Japanese fiction*
- p.75 5 September 1959  
Review of Ihara Saikaku, *The Japanese family storehouse: or the millionaires' gospel modernised*, translated by GW Sargent
- pp.76-77 15 October 1959  
Review of James Pope-Hennessy, *Queen Mary, 1867-1953*
- p.77 3 October 1959  
Review of Fosco Maraini, *Meeting with Japan*, translated by Eric Mosbacher (account of Japanese history and society, from a WW2 internee, ending with a reference by Plomer to Hiroshima)
- p.78 3 December 1959  
Article reviewing (briefly): Gerard Hoffnung, *Hoffnung's acoustics*; Vicky's world; Jules Feiffer, *Sick, sick, sick*; Alex Atkinson and Ronald Searle, *USA for beginners*; *The St Trinian's story*, compiled by Kaye Webb; *Giles cartoons* (Daily Express)
- bound between pp.78-79 November 1959  
Long review of Christopher Hassall, *Edward Marsh, Patron of the arts: a biography*
- p.79 18 December 1959  
Review of Sacheverell Sitwell, *Bridge of the brocade sash: travels and observations in Japan*
- p.80 31 December 1959  
Review of Edward Grierson, *Storm bird: the strange life of Georgina Weldon [1837-1913]*
- p.80 6 December 1962  
Review of Elizabeth Bowen, *Afterthought*

p.81 5 February 1960

Review of Nika Hulton, *The witch* (on 'White Russian' refugees in Paris in the 1920s), unattributed

p.82 3 March 1960

Review of Ellen Moers, *The dandy: Brummell to Beerbohm*

p.83 9 April 1960

Reviews of Noni Jabavu, *Drawn in colour*, and Ronald Segal, *The Tokolosh*

p.84 28 April 1960

Review of Roger Fulford, *Hanover to Windsor*

p.84 5 January 1961

Review of Vyvyan Holland, *Oscar Wilde: a pictorial biography*

p.85 26 May 1960

Review of *The Swinburne letters, vols 1 and 2: 1854-1875*

p.86 1 July 1960

Review of Kazuo Kawai, *Japan's American interlude* (on the American occupation of Japan after WW2)

p.86 8 September 1960

Review of *Betsy Sheridan's journal*, ed William le Fanu

p.87 29 July 1960

Review of Peter Quennell, *The sign of the fish* (unattributed)

p.88 6 October 1960

Review of Katherine Lyon Mix, *A study in yellow: the Yellow Book and its contributors*

pp.88-89 1 December 1960

Review of Christmas humour, including books by or about Gerard Hoffnung, Tony Mayer, George Mikes, Jules Feiffer, Charles Addams, André Francois, Ronald Searle, David Low and 'Vicky'

p.90 2 December 1960

Review of John Betheman, *Summoned by bells*

p.90 22 December 1960

Review of Owen Chadwick, *Victorian miniature*

p.91 23 December 1960

Review of Charles Tennyson Turner, *A hundred sonnets*

p.92 9 March 1961

Review of Alison Adburgham, *A 'Punch' history of Manners and Modes, 1841-1940*

p.93 16 March 1961

Review of Eric Bligh, *Faintly smiling mouth*

p.93 26 April 1962

Review of KW Gransden, *EM Forster*

- p.94 7 April 1961  
Article on popularity of John Betjeman, with review of Derek Standord, *John Betjeman: a study*
- p.95 18 May 1961  
Review of *The complete Ronald Firbank* and of Ronald Firbank, *Valmouth and other stories*
- p.95 9 August 1962  
Review of Ronald Firbank, *The new rythum and other pieces*
- p.96 10 September 1961  
Review of *Modern Japanese stories*, ed Ivan Morris
- pp.96-97 4 June 1961  
Review of the Earl of Lytton, *Wilfrid Scawen Blunt*
- p.98 30 July 1961  
Review of John Beames [1837-1902], *Memoirs of a Bengal civilian*
- p.99 5 October 1961  
Review of *Cavalcade of the 1920s and 1930s*, ed Cleveland Amory and Frederick Bradlee (from contributions to *Vanity Fair*), and Richard Bennett, *A picture of the twenties*
- p.100 26 October 1961  
Review of Rose Macaulay, *Letters to a friend, 1950-1952*, ed Constance Babington Smith
- p.101 5 November 1961  
Review of John Blofeld, *City of lingering splendour*
- p.101 2 August 1962  
Review of *The Swinburne letters, vols 5 and 6*, ed Cecil Y Lang
- p.102 9 November 1961  
Review of Leonard Woolf, *Growing: an autobiography of the years 1904-1911*
- p.102 22 March 1963  
Review of Dorothy Brewster, *Virginia Woolf* (unattributed)
- p.103 30 November 1961  
Brief reviews of: James Laver, *Between the wars*; Quentin Crewe, *The frontiers of privilege*; Osbert Lancaster, *Signs of the Times, 1939-1961*; *John Bull's schooldays* ed Brian Inglis (mainly from contributions to the *Spectator*)
- p.104 25 January 1962  
Review of James Kirkup, *These horned islands* (journal of stay in Sendai, Japan)
- p.105 8 March 1962  
Review of Osbert Sitwell, *Tales my father taught me*
- p.105 9 September 1962  
Review of Hugh and Pauline Massingham, *The Englishman abroad*
- p.106 17 May 1962  
Review of John Gloag, *Victorian taste*



- p.106 14 September 1962  
Review of Edmund Blunden, *A Hong Kong house: poems, 1951-1961*
- p.107 28 June 1962  
Review of *The letters of Oscar Wilde*, ed Rupert Hart-Davis
- p.107 9 July 1964  
Review of Nika Hulton, *The general* (unattributed)
- p.108 4 October 1962  
Review of ES Turner, *What the butler saw* (social history 1700-1950 in UK and US in terms of domestic service)
- p.109 7 October 1962  
Review of RW Ketton-Cremer, *Felbrigg: the story of a house*
- p.109 25 October 1962  
Review of *Last letters to a friend from Rose Macaulay, 1952-1958*, ed Constance Babington Smith
- p.110 2 December 1962  
Review of James Lees-Milne, *Earls of creation*
- p.111 7 February 1963  
Review of Osbert Sitwell, *Pound wise*
- p.111 7 April 1963  
Review of CT Binns, *The last Zulu king*
- p.112 3 March 1963  
Review of John Morris, *A winter in Nepal*
- p.113 28 April 1963  
Review of Ihara Saikaku, *The life of an amorous woman*, transl and ed Ivan Morris
- p.113 2 May 1963  
Review of Violet Wyndham, *The sphinx and her circle* (biography of Ada Leverson), concluding with a comment on her moral support for "a young man who had got himself disliked ... by publishing an angry young book"
- p.114 12 May 1963  
Review of Noni Jabavu, *The ochre people* [on Xhosa family and social life in South Africa]
- pp.114-115 6 June 1963  
Review of H Montgomery Hyde, *Oscar Wilde: the aftermath*, with comments on prison reform
- p.115 7 July 1963  
Review of Harold Owen, *Journey from obscurity*
- p.116 4 August 1963  
Review of Nina Epton, *Seaweed for breakfast*
- p.116 3 December 1972  
Review of Cecile and Michel Beurdeley, *Guiseppe Castiglione: a Jesuit painter at the court of the Chinese emperors*

- p.117 8 August 1963  
Review of *Children of the A-bomb*, compiled by Arata Osada, transl Jean Dan and R Sieben-Morgen, with preface by Bertrand Russell
- p.117 8 August 1965  
Review of *Men who march away*, ed IM Parsons
- p.118 19 September 1963  
Review of JG Lockhart and the Hon CM Woodhouse, *Rhodes*, with brief comments on Rhodesia
- p.119 27 September 1963  
Review of *The collected poems of Wilfred Owen*, ed C Day Lewis
- p.119 7 November 1963  
Review of *Ottoline: the early memoirs of Lady Ottoline Morrell*, ed Robert Gathorne-Hardy
- p.120 9 April 1964  
Review of Rose Macaulay, *Letters to a sister*
- p.121 19 April 1964  
Review of Diana Forbes-Robertson, *Maxine* (biography of Maxine Elliott, actress)
- p.122 21 May 1964  
Review of Leonard Woolf, *Beginning again: an autobiography of the years 1911-1918*
- p.122 5 December 1965  
Review of Harold Owen, *Journey from obscurity: Wilfred Owen, 1893-1918: vol III*
- ¾tween p.122 & p.123 March-April 1964  
Review of James Kirkup, *Refusal to conform: last and first poems*
- p.123 30 August 1964  
Review of Robert Crisp, *The Outlanders: the men who made Johannesburg*
- p.123 30 July 1967  
Review of *The complete letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*, ed Robert Halsband
- p.124 10 September 1964  
Review of Evelyn Waugh, *A little learning*
- p.125 3 December 1964  
Review of Mary Clive, *Christmas with the savages* and *The day of reckoning*
- p.126 4 April 1965  
Review of Edith Sitwell, *Taken care of* (unattributed)
- ¾tween p.126 and p.127 2 December 1965  
Reviews of: Virginia Woolf, *Contemporary writers* (reviews by Woolf, reprinted); Jean Guignet, *Virginia Woolf and her works*; NC Thakur, *The symbolism of Virginia Woolf*
- p.127 9 July 1965  
Review of *The diary of Alice James*, ed Leon Edel

p.128 19 September 1965

Review of Roger Lancelyn Green, *Kipling and the children*

p.128 30 January 1966

Review of *The complete letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, vol1: 1708-20*, ed Robert Halsband

p.129 1 October 1965

Review of *New letters of Robert Southey*, ed Kenneth Curry

p.130 29 August 1966

Review of Eve Palmer, *The plains of Camdeboo*, and of Ann Woodin, *Home is the desert* (on nature conservation in the deserts of the eastern Karoo, South Africa, and of Arizona)

between p.130 and p.131 November 1966

Review of Hugo Williams, *All the time in the world* (part of review apparently omitted)

p.131 27 April 1967

Review of Leonard Woolf, *Downhill all the way*

p.132 23 July 1967

Review of Simona Pakenham, *Sixty miles from England: the English at Dieppe, 1814-1914*

p.132 [1967 x 1968]

Review of *Letters to Macmillan*, ed Simon Nowell-Smith  
marked "?1967 ?1968" in Plomer's hand

p.133 [? 1967]

Review of *Wilfred Owen: collected letters*, ed Harold Owen and John Bell  
marked "? 1967" by Plomer

p.134 7 December 1969

Reviews of Basil Davidson, *The Africans*, and of John Fisher, *The Afrikaners*

between p.134 and p.135 April 1968

Review of *The stories of James Stern*

p.135 25 October 1968

Review of Laurens Van der Post, *A portrait of Japan*

pp.136-137 Spring 1969

Review of *Come back Africa*, ed Herbert L Shore and M Shore-Bos (anthology of South African short stories)

p.137 7 February 1971

Review of Alfred Douglas [translator/editor], *The oracle of change* (unattributed)

p.138 22 March 1970

Review of *Madly singing in the mountains*, ed Ivan Morris (writings by and on Arthur Waley, translator of Chinese and Japanese poetry)

p.138 29 March 1970

Review of Nigel Dennis, *Exotics*

p.139 3 May 1970

Reviews of Clifford Musgrave, *Life in Brighton*, and of Ursula Bloom, *Rosemary for Frinton*

p.140 7 June 1970

Reviews of Johannes Meintjes, *General Louis Botha* [President of Union of South Africa, died 1919], and of Stanley Jackson, *The great Barnato* [on Barney Isaacs, speculator with Cecil Rhodes]

p.141 16 August 1970

Review of Alastair Lamb, *The Mandarin road to Old Hué*

p.142 27 September 1970

Review of Christopher Hibbert, *The dragon wakes: China and the West, 1793-1911*

p.142 31 December 1972

Review of Marina Warner, *The dragon empress: the life and times of Tz'u-hsi (1835-1908), Empress Dowager of China*

p.143 28 February 1971

Review of *Lytton Strachey by himself: a self-portrait*, ed Michael Holroyd

p.143 18 February 1973

Review of Tom Winniffrith, *The Brontës and their background*

p.144 17 October 1971

Review of Betty Askwith, *Two Victorian families* [on the Strachey and Benson families]

¾tween p.144 and p.145 Feb/Mar 1972

Review of Robert Sencourt, *TS Eliot: a memoir*

p.145 4 June 1972

Reviews of: *One rare fair woman* [letters from Thomas Hardy to Florence Henniker], ed Evelyn Hardy and FB Pinion; and Merryn Williams, *Thomas Hardy and rural England*

p.146 15 October 1972

Review of Malcolm Easton, *Aubrey and the dying lady* [on Aubrey Beardsley, illustrator, 1872-1898]

p.146 27 May 1973

Review of *The Purefoy letters, 1735-1753* [of Henry Purefoy, squire of Shalstone, Buckinghamshire], ed LG Mitchell

p.147 22 July 1973

Review of David Greysmith, *Richard Dadd: the rock and castle of seclusion*

loose inside back cover 30 April 1964

Article on diaries of Haruko Ichikawa, Francis Kilvert and Richard Rumbold, all edited by Plomer, and published respectively as *A Japanese lady in Europe* (Jonathan Cape, 1937), *Kilvert's diary* (3 volumes, Jonathan Cape, 1938-1940), and *A message in code* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1964)

loose inside back cover 4 December 1969

Article (from BBC Third Programme talk) on Leonard Woolf and his autobiography. Noted by Plomer as "cut here & there by the editor, without asking my leave".

#### Notebooks and albums

##### PLO/313 - 322

###### PLO/313 1956 - 1973

Scrap book containing reviews (by and of Plomer), articles, obituaries, letters to the press and other items, interspersed with many manuscript notes by Plomer.

The volume includes several articles on South Africa, including from South African newspapers, in connection with Plomer's visit to the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1956, and his subsequent support for the Christian Action "Defence and Aid Fund" and other initiatives.

Plomer's manuscript notes are mainly recollections by himself of other literary figures. Notable recollections include with Laurie Lee (in 1960), Leonard Woolf (1961, 1962, 1965, 1967 & 1969), Siegfried Sassoon (1964), Benjamin Britten (1965), Arthur Waley (1965 & 1966), Robert Graves (1968), EM Forster (1969), Sir John Waller (1969), Admiral John Godfrey (1965, on Harold Nicolson, & 1969), and Marie Belloc-Lowndes (quotations from, near back of book).

1 volume

###### PLO/314 1960 - 1972

Scrap book with cuttings of letters to the press, reviews and other articles, both by and about Plomer, as well as other literary articles which appear to have interested him.

The book also contains many poems and other quotations by various authors, in the nature of a commonplace book. There are also two articles from South African papers/journals following Ingrid Jonker's death in 1965.

1 volume

###### PLO/315

Album of postcards. Some are blank, some sent to Plomer, others apparently purchased or acquired from others. Many are from South Africa.

1 volume, 40 cards

###### PLO/316

Album of postcards, most apparently blank and collected according to a theme (including many of wrestlers etc)

1 volume, 49 cards

###### PLO/317

Album of postcards, mainly blank and apparently collected in several series. Subjects include portraits of royalty and other individual figures, a couple of series of comic sketches (printed in Germany), cards with romantic or religious verses, a series of French cards, and many other postcards from the 1930s or earlier.

1 volume, c.190 cards

###### PLO/318

Leather bound book, apparently a gift from "LRW" [Lilian Bowes Lyon, see PLO/377] for Christmas 1947. Used as commonplace book.

1 volume, 170 pages (last 5 blank)

## PLO/319 1965 - 1969

Heavily worked and corrected drafts of poems, some published in *Taste and remember*, but most drafts of poems published in *Celebrations*. Drafts of a few apparently unpublished poems are also included towards the back of the notebook, plus a prose piece relating to the war in Vietnam.

Dated inside front cover by Plomer. A very few poems are also dated within the volume.

1 volume

## PLO/320 Dec 1969-[1973]

Heavily worked and corrected drafts of poems subsequently published in *Celebrations* or *Electric delights*. A few of the poems appear not to have been published. Notes for the blurb of *Celebrations* are also included.

Dated "Dec 1969-" inside front cover by Plomer. Some of the separate poems are also dated.

1 volume

## PLO/321

Notebook containing corrected draft of *A presentable young man* (unpublished prose story), together with typescript copy at back of notebook.

1 volume

## PLO/322

Notebook of draft autobiographical notes, largely blank. Includes an anecdote about Morgan [E.M.] Forster, comments on his parents, and notes about the "Thirties" (possibly for a radio broadcast or for the revision of his autobiography, or possibly unpublished). Two poems are also in draft, one published as *A radio interview* (in *Electric Delights*), and the other apparently unpublished (*The biographers* or *Three biographers in search of the truth*, also separate copy on loose sheet inside volume).

1 volume, 31 pages only used (rest blank)

## Folder of uncollected poems

## PLO/323 1971 - 1973

Folder of manuscript copies of some poems not included in Plomer's 1973 *Collected Poems*, with a few corrections noted by Plomer.

Original envelope marked "Copies of poems not yet published in book form", and accompanied by list of poems (titled "Uncollected poems"). List includes dates of the poems and notes on publication or original commissioning.

Poems are as follows:

*Former migrants* ("Outdoors, in metal canisters on wheels...")

*Cupboard love* ("In the front garden, snowdrifts of snowdrops..."); with printed copy from *Listener* magazine

*Machine-tool man* ("Metrical to him the steely whizz...")

*Painted on darkness* ("A sunlit branch of four reflected roses...")

*A radio interview* ("When young," he was told...); 2 copies, one heavily corrected; not included in list of poems accompanying this folder

*Having wonderful time* ("Having repulsive time...")

All published posthumously in *Electric delights*. The accompanying list also includes a note on the publication of *Adopted son* (no manuscript copy present in folder).

1 folder, 11 sheets & 1 envelope

**"Notes and papers of possible autobiographical interest"**

PLO/324 1921 - 1973

Folder of miscellaneous personal papers, apparently put together by Plomer (title on folder in his handwriting), with additions by (?) Simon Nowell-Smith (Plomer's obituarist)

Notable items include:

brief summaries by Plomer of main "events" or "happenings" year-by-year, from 1949 to 1959

"Note on W.P.'s migrations", with notes of his changes of address, 1929-1966

Notes and newspaper cuttings relating to murder in Bayswater, London, November 1929 (on which Plomer based *The case is altered*)

Two certificates of Plomer's membership of the United Poets Laureate International (based in the Philippines), and notice of membership of the English Association, 1970

Letter and testimonial relating to his service with the Naval Intelligence Division of the Admiralty, 1943 & 1946

Letter recounting and commenting on experiences of Beechmont School under Clement Bode, headmaster (written after reading Plomer's *Double lives*), 1944

Letters from Foreign Office relating to offer of post with United Kingdom Liaison Mission in Japan (Cultural Attachée to succeed Edmund Blunden; offer rejected by Plomer), 1949

Copies of order of service for Plomer's Memorial Service, and of newspaper cutting relating to his will, [1973]

Letters from listeners following broadcast talk for BBC Radio, "More foreign than before" (on attitudes to 'foreigners'), 1951

Guest lists for parties given for Rupert Hart-Davis and John Lehmann, 1952-1953

Letters about Vincent Van Gogh, written to Plomer by his uncle, Emslie Horniman (formerly an art student with Van Gogh in Antwerp), 1921

Notes on annual income, 1929-1953

Horoscope, with chart and notes, by Isabella Pagan (a distant cousin), 1954

1 folder

Miscellaneous notes by Plomer deposited by Simon Nowell-Smith

PLO/325

Folder of miscellaneous items, deposited by Nowell-Smith in 1980

1 folder

PLO/325/1 28 May 1949

Manuscript copy by Plomer of his reply to a [critical] letter from VH Collins about *Four countries*

3 sheets

PLO/325/2 [1968]

Notes on Plomer's experiences as a reader for Jonathan Cape, publishers, titled by Plomer "Cape stuff". Noted by Simon Nowell-Smith as "a first draft of a piece sent to MS Howard in 1968 for his book on Jonathan Cape".

22 sheets

PLO/325/3 1945, 1952

Autobiographical notes, written by Plomer in the third person. One set was used for the blurb of *Museum pieces* (1952), and the other longer piece is titled, "M.S.H. (for "Books to Come")" and dated in pencil (? by Nowell-Smith) 1945 [date fits with list of published books appended by Plomer].

5 sheets

PLO/325/4 [relates to reader's report of 1945, though apparently written later]

Manuscript article by Plomer describing the circumstances in which Malcolm Lowry wrote a reply to Plomer's report on Lowry's *Under the Volcano* for Jonathan Cape, publishers

5 sheets

Letters written to GL Lewin

PLO/325/5-24 1960 - 1973

Letters written to GL Lewin. PLO/325/5 is from Hector Bolitho, and refers to a remark (?) by Roy Campbell, [no year]. PLO/325/6-24 are letters from Plomer, many incomplete, 1960-1973

24 sheets & 1 envelope



## Material for poetry readings by Plomer

PLO/326 1970 - 1973

Copies of poems in Plomer's hand, together with draft programmes, for poetry readings given by Plomer (plus another) at the Royal Society of Literature, 1970, and the Southern Arts Festival, Worthing, 1973, and elsewhere.

The poems are arranged in two batches, as follows:

Marked in Plomer's hand "Miscellaneous poems (as read at RSL, Dec 1970)", but noted (on information from Evelyn Voss) that the programme was that used at the Southern Arts Festival, Worthing in 1973 (presumably adapted from the earlier RSL programme). Programme divides readings between "WP" and "PB". Items PLO 326/1-33.

Further set of poems with programme in Plomer's hand. Items PLO 326/34-65.

## List of items

- /1-2. Programmes for a reading, in Plomer's hand, with items initialled "WP" or "PB". The first item appears to have been an earlier programme, marked up and reordered for the second programme. As well as the following items (PLO 326/3-33), the programmes include mention of a number of other poems, including by Beardsley, Kenneth Fearing, Po Chü-i, Allan Ramsay, Chr[istina] Rossetti, Wen Yi-tou (I-to) and [Charles] Causley
- /3-4. Edwin Morgan, *Trio*
- /5-6. Siegfried Sassoon, *At the grave of Henry Vaughan* (2 copies)
- /7-9. Gibbon, *Autobiography* (prose, extract)
- /10. Alan Ross, *Algerian refugee camp, Ain-Khemouda*
- /11-12. Philip Larkin, *Love songs in age*
- /13-14. Lilian Bowes Lyon, *Snow bees*
- /15-19. Hudson, *Nature in Downland* (prose, extracts)
- /20-22. Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak, Memory* (prose, extract)
- /23. [William Plomer], *Former migrants*; noted (from Evelyn Voss) that *Former Migrants* was written for the Southern Arts Festival, Worthing; copy includes notes by Plomer on local connections of Blake, Hudson, Jefferies and Wilde (mentioned in the poem: this note is reproduced with the poem in *Electric delights*, which notes that the poem was written November 1972 and published in *Eight Sussex poets*, 1973)
- /24. Anthony Delius, *Questions to the universe*
- /25-26. Ted Walker, *Bonfire* (with note, "Ch[olmondeley] Award" written on by Plomer)
- /27. Ebenezer Jones (1820-1860)
- /28-31. Derek Walcott, *A sea-chantey*
- /32. Hardy, *In the study*
- /33. Hudson, brief extract noted by Plomer as "writing from Worthing in 1918"
- /34. Programme for second group of items, all of which have been copied by Plomer as listed below, apart from the final item on the programme (J[ohn] Sparrow, *Santa Maria della Salute*).
- /35-37. Aubrey Beardsley, *The three musicians* (with note by Plomer, "died at 25 - 3 poems")
- /38. Christina Rossetti, *Vanity fair*
- /39-40. Allan Ramsay, *The parson among the pease*
- /41-42. Hardy, *In the days of crinoline*

- /43-44. [Anon], *Under the drooping willow tree*  
 /45-46. Robert Graves, *1805*  
 /47-48. Herman Melville, *To Ned*  
 /49-50. Siegfried Sassoon, *A view of Old Exeter*  
 /51-52. Po Chü-i, transl Arthur Waley, *The half-recluse* (noted by Plomer, "when he was a liaison officer to the Crown Prince's Social Secretary")  
 /53. Sir Alfred Lyall, *Badminton* (from *Studies at Delhi*, 1876)  
 /54-55. Wen Yi-Tou, *The laundryman's song*, trans. Harold Acton and SH Chien  
 /56-58. [Dr EE Bradford], *So as by fire* (with notes by Plomer on Bradford's work at 326/61)  
 /59-60. Kenneth Fearing, *Dirge* (with notes on Fearing by Plomer)  
 /62. [Anon], *The beautiful hyacinths at our famous 'Kew'*, noted by Plomer, "Newspaper verse (The West London Observer, 1939)"  
 /63-64. Lilian Bowes-Lyon, *Snow bees*  
 /65. [Walter de la Mare], *Fare well*

1 folder

#### Miscellaneous items relating to poetry

PLO/327 1960 - 1972

Folder of "miscellaneous letters and documents to do with poetry", including copies of articles in literary magazines and items relating to readings or broadcasts by Plomer. Includes transcript of discussion on poetry publishing by Rupert Hart-Davis, Charles Monteith, Colin Franklin, Diana Athill and Erica Marx, from *The poetry review*, 53.2, Spring 1962

1 folder, 9 items

#### Article on Plomer from South African magazine

PLO/328 [1939 x 1943]

Article on William Plomer and his writing by Dora Taylor, in three parts ( *Prelude to Plomer*), from a South African magazine or newspaper (annotated by Plomer with a Cape Town address).

Undated, but after 1936 ( *The invaders* mentioned), and no mention of *Double lives*.

Footer of each page includes an advert for "war bonds".

1 folder, 3 sheets

#### Papers relating to Plomer presented by Simon Nowell-Smith

PLO/329

Items collected by Nowell-Smith in the course of his work on *The autobiography of William Plomer* (published posthumously in 1975, based on Plomer's own revisions of *Double lives* with his *At home* and a long preface by Nowell-Smith).

Items are mainly of biographical interest or relating to Jonathan Cape, publishers, but include several broadcasts by Plomer.

2 folders

PLO/329/1 3 June 1977

Card from Nowell-Smith presenting the items

1 card

PLO/329/2 18 February 1946

Copy of letter from Plomer to [Cape's], apparently in answer to Lowry's reply to Plomer's criticism of Lowry's *Under the volcano* (see Alexander biography, p.212). Noted "original sent to Mrs Lowry by GWH 8.10.63"

2 sheets

PLO/329/3 21 December 1969

Copy of letter from Plomer to Michael [Howard, publisher, author of history of Jonathan Cape, publishers, in 1977], with comments on literary fashion in the 1930s and some comments on Cape's from the 1940s.

4 sheets

PLO/329/4 24 January 1968

Copy of notes by Plomer for "M.S.H." (Michael Spencer Howard), relating to his experiences with Jonathan Cape, publishers, and some of those involved in the firm.

17 sheets

PLO/329/5 4 November 1972

Copy of letter from Plomer to Nowell-Smith, answering Nowell-Smith's letter concerning his writing of an obituary for Plomer (PLO 157/6). Plomer's reply is partially quoted in Nowell-Smith's preface to *The autobiography of William Plomer* (1975), and includes comments on his own writing (particularly on his failure to continue writing novels) and on "homosexual overtones or undertones" in his writings.

4 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/157

PLO/329/6 7 March 1972

Copy of letter from Plomer to Nowell-Smith, enclosing various autobiographical notes

7 sheets

PLO/329/7 [c.1969 x 1970]

Autobiographical notes (chronological), with lists of books written, edited or introduced by Plomer

Undated; includes reference to JR Doyle, *William Plomer* (New York, 1969), but not to *Notes from a cello* (1970), *The planes of Bedford Square* (1971) or *Celebrations* (1972).

9 sheets

PLO/329/8 31 October 1969

Typescript of BBC broadcast on Leonard Woolf by Plomer, *The journey not the arrival matters*. With note on envelope about obituary of Leonard Woolf written by Plomer for the *Guardian*

14 sheets (plus blank sheet) & 1 envelope

PLO/329/9 November 1962

Transcript of BBC broadcast (network three) by Plomer on Gibbon's *Autobiography* (BBC programme series *Unread classics*)

17 sheets

PLO/329/10 September 1962

Transcript of BBC programme, *Conversations with my younger self* (with Denis McCarthy playing the 'younger' Plomer). Annotated by Plomer, "for Simon this corrected script, to which he listened, and of which he approved..."

17 sheets

PLO/329/11 June 1959

Transcript of conversation between Plomer and Revd Trevor Huddleston, for BBC programme (series *First meeting*, number 18, subtitled, "Outstanding people who have not yet made each other's acquaintance meet at the microphone")

4 sheets

PLO/329/12 June 1959

Transcript of conversation between Plomer and Dr Carmen Blacker (lecturer in Japanese, University of Cambridge), for BBC programme (series *First meeting*, number 17, subtitled as PLO 329/11)

4 sheets

Script for radio broadcast

PLO/330 17 March 1953

Script for BBC radio (Third Programme) broadcast by Plomer, *An enclosed society*, on Maud du Puy in Cambridge, late 19th century

1 folder, 16 sheets

Drafts of unpublished poems

PLO/331 [c.1970s]

Drafts of poems, with rough workings and alterations. All the poems appear to be unpublished.

1 folder, 16 sheets

PLO/331/1-4

Fair copy (manuscript) of *Experience teaches*

4 sheets

PLO/331/5-11

Heavily worked draft of *A little old clock*

7 sheets

PLO/331/12-14

Notes for poem (or poems) beginning "Suns with a furnace-roar..."

3 sheets

PLO/331/15-16

Very rough notes for a poem, mostly scored out

Found with a letter to Plomer from John Sparrow dated 11 Feb 1973, and perhaps inspired by it

2 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections: See also -*

PLO/211

Additional autobiographical papers

PLO/332 - 333

*Related material in other DUL collections: See also PLO/286 - 289*

PLO/332 c.1967

Galley proof of article, uncorrected but with title added, *Men of the thirties*, with autobiographical notes and comments on the 1930s and some poets of that era (particularly Stephen Spender, Cecil Day Lewis, John Betjeman, David Gascoyne). Noted as "unpublished" by Plomer.

Noted by Plomer as "about 1967 unpublished"

4 sheets

PLO/333 undated

Brief autobiographical notes relating to Japan ("I have never been back to Japan...", possibly for an article or radio broadcast), and to Paul and Anna Von Schubert (noted "p.192", possibly a reference to p.192 of *Double lives*, which mentions Anna Von Schubert, although the description in this note is different)

2 sheets

Scripts for broadcasts, BBC Far Eastern Service

PLO/334 - 336 1945 - 1948

Autograph draft scripts for broadcasts by Plomer, noted as for the BBC Far Eastern Service.

The scripts are dated 1950 in pencil (apparently not by Plomer), but internal evidence suggests earlier dates (see separate entries for each item).

1 folder, 3 items

PLO/334 [1947 x 1948]

Broadcast on Thomas Hardy, including notes on his reasons for giving up writing novels

Dated in pencil "1950" (? not by Plomer), but refers to Hardy's death as "nearly twenty years ago" (he died in 1928).

19 sheets

PLO/335 [1947 x 1948]

Broadcast on Thomas Hardy's *The mayor of Casterbridge*

Undated, but refers to his broadcast on Hardy "last week" (PLO/334)

21 sheets

PLO/336 [1945]

Untitled broadcast on a few new books, apparently given in place of [EM] Forster (begins "As Mr Forster is regrettably prevented from coming to talk to you to-day"). Includes comments on William Gaunt, *The aesthetic adventure*, Denton Welch, *In youth is pleasure*, and *Penguin new writing*, ed John Lehmann (number 23). Includes comments on "aesthetes" and the artist's relationships with society and social service. Dated in pencil "1950" (? not by Plomer), but mentions books published in 1944 and 1945 as "some new books".

20 sheets

Articles and addresses on various topics

PLO/337 - 343

PLO/337 22 October 1967

Typescript of an address given at St Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace, N.W.8, [London]. Includes comments on poetry and its similarity to religion, and on Plomer's "collaboration" with Kilvert ( *Kilvert's diary*) and Benjamin Britten ( *Curlew River* and *The burning fiery furnace*), also brief comments on his own poems in [*Taste and remember*].

9 sheets

PLO/338 undated [1963 x 1973]

Draft script for address to Shortlands Poetry Circle, [Kent], with comments on the recent "revolution" in poetry and in particular the practice of poets giving public readings.

Undated, but states that he is older than the Shortlands Poetry Circle, whose Diamond Jubilee is being celebrated.

5 sheets

PLO/339 2 November 1962

Brief, rough notes on Britain's relationships with the wider world and consequences of entering the Common Market. Noted (by Plomer), "posted to Lasky" (possibly a reference to Marghanita Laski, writer and broadcaster).

2 sheets

PLO/340 - 341 1957

Two articles on South African writers and writing in English, by Plomer

PLO/340 is a corrected galley proof of "South African Writing", *The London magazine* (Feb 1957)

PLO/341 is a corrected typescript of Plomer's address to a writers' conference at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, entitled *South African writers and English readers*. It is noted as published in *Proceedings of a conference...* (Johannesburgh: University of Witwatersrand, 1957, pp.54-72)

2 items, 2 and 32 sheets

PLO/342 10 January 1966

Typescript of an autobiographical article, *Angle-Afro-Asian*, recounting and commenting on Plomer's upbringing in South Africa and time in Japan, with comments on his and others' attitudes to the English and to other inhabitants of Japan and South Africa. Refers to Japan as "my university" and to South Africa as "a maze of Berlin Walls of racial distinctions, prejudices, and taboos."

Noted as sent to Professor John Peter, University of Victoria, BC, Canada, and published in *The Malahat Review* (Victoria, BC, Jan 1967).

12 sheets

PLO/343 1964

Typescript of article *Three diaries*, on the diaries of Haruko Ichikawa (*Japanese lady in Europe*, 1937), Francis Kilvert (briefly) and Richard Rumbold (all edited by Plomer). Noted by Plomer as "contributed to Listener [30 April 1964]" and "posted to Anna Kallin 24.3.64".

Describes at greatest length aspects of the life and diary of Richard Rumbold (edited as *Messages in Code*), describing him as "the one who suffered most and attempted most..."

13 sheets

## Obituaries

## PLO/344 - 346

PLO/344 [1969 or earlier]

Notebook containing heavily corrected drafts and notes for obituary of EM Forster (died 1969).

1 notebook, 7 sheets written on, plus loose green sheet and 7 smaller sheets inserted

PLO/345 1969

Galley proof, corrected by Plomer, for obituary of EM Forster (died 1969). With note by Plomer, "Corrected proof, written some years ago, & revised 15.2.69, for Sunday Times."

1 sheet

PLO/346 1954, 1969

Galley proof of obituary for Leonard Woolf, apparently written for the *Manchester Guardian* in 1954, and used by it on 16 Aug 1969. With letter dated 21 Nov 1977 concerning use of obituary.

1 sheet plus letter

Plomer's response to Lowry's letter re Plomer's report on *Under the volcano*

PLO/347 January 1946

Copy of Plomer's letter, as PLO/329/2

2 sheets

Draft literary reviews by Plomer

PLO/348 - 356 1972 - 1973

Manuscript drafts of various literary reviews by Plomer

1 folder

PLO/348 1972

Review of Robert Sencourt, *TS Eliot: a memoir* (Garnstone Press, 1971), published as "Urbane invader", *London magazine*, Feb/Mar 1972, 174-176. Corrected manuscript

8 sheets

PLO/349 3 December 1972

Review of Cécile and Michel Beurdeley, *Giuseppe Castiglione: a Jesuit painter at the court of the Chinese emperors*, transl Michael Ballock (Lund Humphries); published as "Priest goes East", *Sunday Telegraph*, 3 Dec 1972. Corrected manuscript

1 sheet

PLO/350 1972

Review of John D Jump, *Byron* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, [1972]). Noted by Plomer, "posted to Mrs Dangerfield 26 Dec 72." Corrected manuscript

5 sheets

PLO/351 18 February 1973

Review of Tom Winnifrith, *The Brontës and their background* (Macmillan), published as "Wuthering on," *Sunday Telegraph*, 18 Feb 1973. Corrected manuscript

2 sheets

PLO/352 27 May 1973

Review of *The Purefoy letters, 1735-1753*, ed LG Mitchell (Sidgwick & Jackson), published as "The squire in action," in *Sunday telegraph*, 27 May 1973. Corrected manuscript

3 sheets

PLO/353 22 July 1973

Review of David Greysmith, *Richard Dadd: the rock and castle of seclusion* (Studio Vista), published as "Perspectives of troubled mind," in *Sunday telegraph*, 22 July 1973. Corrected manuscript, with one page of additional notes

6 sheets

PLO/354 July 1973

Galley proof (uncorrected) for previous review, as PLO/353

1 sheet

PLO/355 August 1973

Review of Wilfred Owen, *War poems and others*, ed Dominic Hibberd (Chatto and Windus, 1973); noted by Plomer as "posted to Sunday Telegraph 19 Aug 1973.

Corrected manuscript

3 sheets

PLO/356 September 1973

Review of Nigel Nicolson, *Portrait of a marriage* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, [1973]), [with autobiography by Vita Sackville-West]. With card requesting review from Alan [Ross], *London magazine*, and noted by Plomer, "Posted to Alan Ross 11 Sept '73."

Corrected manuscript

7 sheets & 1 card

misc. reviews and articles by Plomer

PLO/739 [1940s-1970s]

/1: Photocopy review of a wrestling match *All-In for Night and Day*, 2 September 1937

/2: Review of John Betjeman, *Old Lights for new chancels* (John Murray, [1940] for *The Listener*, 14 March 1940

/3: Part of a handwritten draft review of Sean O' Faolain, *Vive Moi! An autobiography* (Hart Davis, [1965]), with a page of typed extracts from the book

/4: an address given by Plomer at the unveiling of the Byron memorial in Westminster Abbey on 8th May 1969

/5: Poetry Book Society Bulletin, No 72. Spring 1972, with a piece by Plomer about his experience of poetry

/6: Plomer's poem *Former Migrants* as a limited edition print commissioned by The Southern Arts Association for their 1973 Literature Festival in Worthing with drawings by S. Cunningham, 1973

/7: Article by Plomer, *The Un-beloved Country* about South African apartheid, [nd]/

*Provenance*: Misc 1998/1999:7

miscellaneous articles about Plomer

PLO/357 - 360 1951 - 1973

1 folder



PLO/357 5 October 1951

Article "Life in two parts" from *Times literary supplement*, reviews *Turbott Wolfe* and Plomer's later work (following republication of *Sado* by Chatto and Windus [in association with Hogarth Press] in 1951).

1 sheet

PLO/358 21 May 1964

Article "South African Writers - 25" by JPL Snyman, from *Femina & woman's life*; reviews in particular Plomer's poems (following publication of his *Collected poems* in 1960).

1 sheet

PLO/359 1965

Typescript article (with corrections), "The Japan of the western novelists", noted by Plomer as "By James Kirkup - 1965." Includes discussion of *Paper houses* and individual stories within it at pp.2-4.

5 sheets

PLO/360 20 September 1973

Article "Mr P, that other elusive butterfly" from *Evening argus* (prior to publication of *The butterfly ball and the grasshopper's feast*).

1 sheet

reviews of Plomer's work

PLO/361 - 366 1960 - 1972

1 folder

PLO/361 August 1960

Review of *Collected poems* (1960 ed) by Charles Causley, from *London Magazine*, volume 7, number 8

3 sheets

PLO/362 May 1965

Typescript transcripts of reviews of *Turbott Wolfe* (1965 ed), from *Spectator*, *New statesman*, *Daily sketch*, *Listener* and *Sunday telegraph* (duplicated copy). Include some comments on introduction by Laurens Van der Post.

2 sheets

PLO/363 6 June 1965

Review of *Turbott Wolfe* (1965 ed) by Peter Blandish, in *Sunday Chronicle* (Johannesburg), under the title "This book enraged S.A." (newspaper cutting).

Comments on Van der Post's introduction and on current South African laws regarding issues raised in the novel. Refers to Plomer's return to Johannesburg [in 1956] as "like an engaging literary lamb."

1 cutting

PLO/364 June 1965

Review of *Turbott Wolfe* (1965 ed) by Nadine Gordimer, in *London magazine*, under title *A wilder fowl* (copy)

3 sheets

PLO/365 6 February 1969

Review of recital organised by the Poetry Society (for their diamond jubilee), and chaired by Plomer as President of the Poetry Society (newspaper cutting).

Comments on readings by Plomer, Hugh MacDiarmid, Basil Bunting, Brian Patten, Stevie Smith, Christopher Logue, Spike Hawkins and Ted Hughes ("the one poet ... any real linguistic depth"). Comments on evening as a "mild flurry of embarrassment."

1 cutting

PLO/366 16 June 1972

Review of *Celebrations* (also of Douglas Dunn, *The happier life*) by Normal Nicholson in *Church times* (newspaper cutting).

1 cutting

transcripts of radio broadcasts about Plomer

PLO/367 - 368 1958, 1970

1 folder

PLO/367 25 May 1958

Transcript of HA Hammelmann (transl P Couster), *Les lettres et les arts*, for BBC European Service (French Service)

6 sheets

PLO/368 28 October 1970 (transmission date)

Transcript of Susan Hill, *Plomer revisited*, for BBC Radio 4, about Plomer's novel *Museum pieces*

9 sheets

Miscellaneous items

PLO/369 - 374

PLO/369

Miscellaneous lists compiled apparently by Plomer, autograph manuscript (except for PLO 369/2, typescript):

/1 books edited or introduced by Plomer

/2 contributions by Plomer to *Penguin new writing* (including those under the pseudonym "Robert Pagan")

/3-6 names of miscellaneous writers and friends, apparently for sending copies of publications too (/6 marked "Butterfly ball")

/7 books by Edith Sitwell (? in Plomer's possession)

7 sheets

## PLO/370 1969 - 1972

## Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings:

/1 "The quiet revolutionary", article on EM Forster by Roy Perrott for his 90th birthday, from *Observer review*, 5 Jan 1969; includes photograph of Forster by Plomer

/2 "The reformed puritan: the multiple masks of the poet laureate", article on Cecil Day Lewis from *Times literary supplement*, 6 Nov 1970

/3 miscellaneous cuttings mounted together by Plomer, with quotation from Sir Humphry Davy, *Consolations in travel* (1830) on the English climate. Cuttings include Plomer's "books of the year" notes from *Sunday telegraph*, 1972, a note on an apparent connection between eczema and apples from the *Times*, 8 Dec 1972, and an obituary and appreciation on Admiral JH Godfrey from the *Times*, Aug-Sep 1971

/4 anecdote reprinted from *Mid-Sussex times* of 17 Aug 1897 under the heading, "Seventy-five years ago", relating to a vow of silence

4 sheets

## PLO/371 March 1929

Testimonials on Plomer's work, from the director of the Tokyo Higher School and the dean of the literature department, The Japan University, Tokyo

2 sheets & 2 envelopes

## PLO/372 1945

Galley proofs of Plomer's story, "Little Susan", published in *Penguin new writing*, number 26, with minor corrections by Plomer

3 sheets

## PLO/373 November 1942

Translation by Plomer of Paul Eluard, *Une seule pensée*, printed in the *Listener* under the heading, "One thought only"; includes alteration by Plomer of last word ("Liberty"), to "Freedom." Also printed text of original, taken from *La France libre*, with a printed footnote that it had appeared in *Fontaine*, June 1942, published in Algiers

3 cuttings

## PLO/374 February 1956

Manuscript of article on life and writings of John Hampson Simpson (author of *Saturday night at the greyhound* under the name John Hampson). Noted by Plomer as "sent to some man in Madras"

7 sheets

## Misc. Plomer's work

## PLO/731-736

Various transcripts and typescripts of Plomer's work kept by Rupert Hart-Davis

*Provenance:* Misc 1998/1999:7

## PLO/731 [c. 1946-1970]

Brief typescript transcripts by June Hart Havis of extracts from Plomer's diary, mostly of his recollections of other writers

- /1: recollections of Leonard Woolf, 1951, 1961-1962, 1965 and 1967 (2pp.)
- /2: the opening night of *Gloriana* in 1953 compared to 1966, October 1966 (1p.)
- /3: brief note about Jimmy Stern and his dislike of Christopher Isherwood, 19 November 1964 (1p.)
- /4: poetry reading at the Stroud annual Religious Drama Festival and walking with Laurie Lee, 16 October 1960 (3pp.)
- /5: recollections of E.M. Forster including his ability to hold a grudge and his 90th birthday celebrations, 1951 and 3-4 January 1969 (1p.)
- /6: recollections of Arthur Walley, 1959 and 28 June 1966 (1p.)
- /7: stories about royalty including a conversation between Hannah Gubbay and Queen Mary, and his conversation with Q.E. the Queen Mother, 1951 and 27 July 1952 (1p.)
- /8: an alleged quote from essays by A.E. Housman about Robert Burns, 19 November 1959, (1p.)
- /9: a saying about age and a quote from an overheard conversation, August 1959 (1p.)
- /10: Patrick Mahoney's account of Maurice Maeterlinck's reaction to the death of his second wife and Plomer's recollection of a conversation with Robert Graves about Wilfred Owen and homosexuality, 16 September 1970 and 12 December 1968 (1p.)
- /11: stories from acquaintances regarding John Godfrey, Harold Nicholson, Osbert Sitwell, Arthur Waley and Louis Kentner, 28 September 1965 (1p.)
- /12: quotes about and by an unnamed literary hostess, August 1946 (1p. and copy)
- /13: story about Byron and his visits to an apothecary and a note about Sir George Sitwell's comment on his daughter Edith Sitwell, nd. (1p.)
- /14: a descriptive and detailed passage about one of Plomer's visits to see Lady Sybil Cholmondeley at Salisbury and an account of his meeting and conversation with S.S. [Siegfried Sassoon?], with reference to his opinion of his contemporaries, his papers and family, 20 November 1964 (4pp.)

## PLO/732-734 [c.1960s-1970s?]

Miscellaneous typescripts [perhaps for *Electric Delights*]:

- PLO/732: a short tribute to Bertrand Russell, nd (1p. and copy)
- PLO/733: short story entitled *A presentable young man* (16pp.)
- PLO/734: poem entitled *The Little Old Clock* (3pp.)

## PLO/735 [February 1940]

Plomer's report on Alice Baines' *I was young then*, an autobiographical account of growing up in Ulster, and his advice that the book be turned down  
2pp.

## PLO/736 [nd.]

Manuscript copy by Plomer of *The half-recluse* by Po Chü-i, with brief factual notes at the end

Sketch for Naomi Pike

PLO/748

*Provenance:* Misc.2018/19:90

## Papers of other writers and artists

Manuscripts by JR Ackerley

PLO/375 - 376

PLO/375 December 1934

notebook of poems (manuscript, without corrections), dedicated "To a sailor." Noted on original envelope (by Plomer), "MS book of sad poems by Joe Ackerley given to W.P. by him in, I think, 1934."

List of contents

*Notes for a portrait of a sailor*, "Where are your friends, your familiars..." (9 pages)

*The forest*, last three verses, "and then I said I loved you..." (2 pages)

*Unfinished sonnet*, "Now that this sad and solitary year..." (1 page)

*Sonnet*, "How often with my every need contained..." (1 page)

*Sonnet*, "How can I ever think of you with blame..." (1 page)

*To an other*, "How good you are, and how considerate..." (1 page)

*Unfinished sonnet*, "My weary-waiting heart must learn at last..." (1 page)

*The jacket*, "I met your brother in the street..." (5 pages)

*The forest of silence*, "How could I face you now?..." (2 pages)

*Sonnet*, "Take courage, heart, for all expiring things..." (1 page)

poems not dated, but apparently accompanied letter of 20 Dec 1934, and marked as "? 1934" by Plomer

1 notebook &amp; envelope

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/1

This notebook appears to be that referred to as "this small sad collection" in his letter to Plomer of 20/12/1934 (PLO/1)

PLO/376 1942

Manuscript (fair copy) of poems, noted by Plomer, "given by [Ackerley] to W.P.".

List of poems

Includes *Destination D*, "First I must tell you that my house was wrecked..." (32 pages) and *Oddments* (four poems, 8 pages).

*Destination D* is [dedicated] "F.J.H." and includes a prefatory note: "Destination D was one of the official addresses of the B.E.F. to the Middle East in the winter of 1940. The two destroyers *Diamond* and *Wryneck*, loaded with evacuated troops from the Peloponnese and the Greek mainland, were both sunk with scarcely any survivors." It is dated "June 1941 - June 1942."

The "Oddments" include "This summer lays a finger to its lips..." (dated 1941), "What were you doing there? Could you have said?...", "War is now so swift and complicated..." and "And had not anything, but nothing, nothing..."

poems dated 1941-1942, but date when manuscript was given to Plomer is not stated

45 loose sheets (one blank)

Lilian Bowes-Lyon

PLO/377 - 391

letters, manuscripts and articles

## PLO/377 1941, 1944 - 1949

Letters written by Bowes Lyon (signed as "L.R.W.") to Plomer

## Outline of contents

Affectionate and honest letters, including comments and corrections for her own poems (published by Cape), and (increasingly) accounts of her own extreme pain and desperation.

Several letters include possible revisions for her poems, apparently in response to comments by Plomer, and to publications ( *A rough walk home*, 1946, and *Collected poems*, 1948). PLO 377/2 (1944) includes a reference to her article on London's East End (written as a letter and published anonymously in *Orion*, see PLO 380). PLO 377/6 (1946) has notes on the blurb for *A rough walk home* [written by Plomer]. Versions of and notes on *The stars go by* (published in *Uncollected poems*), with various draft titles, are in PLO 377/11, /13, /15 & /17 (1948). PLO 377/19 (1949) includes *Cut grass*. PLO 377/22 is a set of notes on [Cecil Day-Lewis'] introduction to her *Collected poems* (3 pages). PLO 377/23-24 are manuscript copies of, respectively, *Pray now for men* (published as *A choir of close-knit bones*, in *A rough walk home*) and *Burning leaves* (published in *Collected poems* as an addition to the collection *A rough walk home*).

Comments on the use of "pain-killing" drugs are in PLO 377/4-5 (1946). PLO 377/21 (June 1949) includes comments on the St Pancras Hospital, where she intends to visit others in the "chronic wards".

First letter annotated "1941" by (?) Plomer, but reference to Joe [Ackerley] and bombing also suggests 1941: Ackerley lived with Plomer May-November 1941 after their houses in Maida Vale were bombed: see Alexander's biography, pp.238-239. 21 letters plus 4 other items, 40 sheets, 14 envelopes and 1 photograph

## PLO/378 February 1949

Copy of *Collected poems* (Cape, 1948) with corrections by Bowes Lyon in manuscript (mostly minor), and accompanied by a sheet listing the corrections. Sheet is marked "in case reprinted."

Corrections undated, but apparently sent with (or just before) letter of 18 Feb 1949, PLO 377/19.

1 book & 1 sheet

## PLO/379 1948 - 1949

Poems not included in *Collected poems* but all published posthumously as *Uncollected poems* (Tragara Press, Edinburgh, 1981). Include notes on magazines where many of the poems were first published.

Mainly manuscript copies of the poems, with some corrections (by Bowes Lyon) and a few printed versions. Accompanied by envelope with note by Plomer.

List of poems

*New year*, "From deafening fears that have pursued me far..." (published in *Listener*, 1 sheet, manuscript)

*Secret light*, "Vital as though, a wing or a frond..." (published in *Listener*, 1 sheet, printed cutting)

*The guilty* (alternative title, *War criminals*, scored out), "The guilty stood. I counted six..." (published in *Listener*, 1948, 2 sheets, 2 manuscript copies)

*A failure*, "Around my friend his fate had built a wall..." (published in *Botteghe Oscure*, Rome, winter 1949, 3 sheets, 1 manuscript copy and 2 printed, one translated into Italian as *Destino fallito* by Nina Ruffini)

*Rhyme to a lamb*, "Lamb, in your coat of light, who killed you..." (published in *Listener*, 6 Jan 1949, 1 sheet, printed cutting)

*The sovereign ash*, "Young heifers, tousled in their tom-boy coats..." (published in *Time and Tide*, summer 1948, 2 sheets, 2 manuscript copies)

*The stars go by*, "A fox, in heaven's trap that gleams..." (published in *Orpheus II*, 1949, 1 sheet, manuscript)

*Cut grass*, "Grass of my body, long and lithe..." (apparently unpublished before *Uncollected poems*, 1 sheet, manuscript, with draft version on dorse)

*A woman in the park*, "She wept under a delicate tree furred with moisture..." (published in *Listener*, 1949, 1 sheet, manuscript)

*Four lines: to light*, "Heart, crying for night..." (apparently unpublished before *Uncollected poems*, 1 sheet, manuscript, dated Feb 1949 with notes by Bowes Lyon)

*The ford* (alternative title, *Plankey ford*, scored out), "Old age rode, and we the children waded..." (apparently unpublished before *Uncollected poems*, 1 sheet, manuscript, noted by Bowes Lyon "Too personal? But quite True!" and by Plomer as an early poem)

16 sheets & 1 envelope

## PLO/380 1945

Copy of *Orion: a miscellany* (Nicholson & Watson, London, 1945), including an essay on conditions and people in London's East End, noted by Plomer (on slip in front of book) as written by Bowes Lyon. Written as *A letter from another London* and addressed to "My dear William [Plomer]," pp.30-41.

1 volume

## PLO/381 1938

Fragment of prose piece by Bowes Lyon, *Beech avenue at home*

1 sheet

## PLO/382 26 August 1949

Letter to Plomer from Winifred ('Freda') Bowes Lyon (? sister to Lilian), referring to Lilian's letter to the *Times Literary Supplement* about *Evening in Stepney* and to a copy of some of her verses

1 sheet



PLO/383 1 August 1949

Letter to Plomer from Ronnie Bowes Lyon (brother to Lilian), thanking him for his appreciation in the *Times* and *Sunday times* and with news of her funeral and burial  
1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/384 14 January 1948

Letter to Plomer from Cecil Day Lewis, relating to his introduction to her *Collected poems* (Cape, 1948) and to her suggested amendments (as in PLO 377/22)  
1 sheet

PLO/385 undated

Copy of letter from Ian Parsons (Chatto & Windus) to Rupert [Hart Davis], relating to recent publication of one of Bowes Lyon's books by [Cape].

Contents of letter suggests 1945 or earlier (when Hart Davis left Cape publishers, who published all Bowes Lyon's books; Bowes Lyon's first book published 1934, *The white hare*), although reference to Royal Wedding (possibly November 1947) might suggest that either *A rough walk home* (1946) or *Collected poems* (1948) is referred to.

1 sheet

PLO/386 1937, 1947 - 1949

Press cuttings of reviews of Bowes Lyon's books.

Reviews include *Bright feather fading* (from *Times literary supplement*, 20 Feb 1937), *A rough walk home* (from *Spectator*, 10 Jan 1947), a letter from Edith Sitwell regarding an earlier review of *Collected poems* (from *New statesman and nation*, 9 Oct 1948) and *Collected poems* (from *Book review digest*, New York, Dec 1948, and from *New York herald tribune*, 30 Jan 1949)

5 cuttings

PLO/387 July 1949

Press cuttings of obituaries of Lilian Bowes Lyon, from *Daily Mail* (25 July, quoting Plomer), *Times* (26 July and 30 July, the latter written by Plomer) and *Sunday times* (31 July, "appreciation" written by Plomer)

3 cuttings

PLO/388 February 1966

Note by Plomer on Lilian Bowes Lyon, with very brief outline of her life, publications and articles about her. Noted by Plomer as "prepared in answer to an enquiry, via Cape, from the National Book League."

1 sheet

PLO/389

envelope originally containing PLO 381-388

1 envelope

PLO/390 1949

Copy of *The poetry review*, ed John Gawsworth, vol 40, number 5, Oct-Nov 1949. Includes an appreciation of Lilian Bowes Lyon by John Murray at pp.352-353, and a poem "in memoriam" by Peter Appleton, p.353.

1 volume

## PLO/391 1964

Copy of *The poetry review*, ed John Smith, vol 55, number 1, Spring 1964. Includes an article on the poetry of Lilian Bowes Lyon by Anne Treneer, pp.28-38 (with a few corrections by Plomer).

1 volume

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/272

## Benjamin Britten

PLO/392-406 1943-1973

letters, drafts and articles

## PLO/392 1948-1965

General correspondence from Britten to Plomer often refers to Britten's health, tours and collaborations. Of particular note are; Britten's letters to Plomer often refer to collaborations such as Britten's early outline for a children's opera based on Beatrix Potter, Tyco the vegan, and discussion of Gloriana (PLO/392/10-30); reference to UK performances of Gloriana (PLO/392/31-44) and overseas tours (PLO/392/61-63); brief discussions about Curlew River (PLO/392/64-74); the suggestion to perform Curlew River in a Church and diversions from the original Japanese inspiration for the opera (PLO/392/75-85); the Aldeburgh festival appeal (PLO/392/94-102); regarding Britten's War Requiem (PLO/392/109-121); developments to Curlew River (PLO/392/122-136); developments of The Burning Fiery Furnace (PLO/392/137-166) including page amendments (PLO/392/144) and detailed notes on the libretto (PLO/392/155); the production of The Prodigal Son with notes on the libretto (PLO/392/167-179); suggestion of an adaptation of Anna Karenina (PLO/392/177) Postscripts and attachments include:

Peter [Pears] and George [Harewood] (PLO/392/39)

Peter [Pears], Imogen [Holst] and Basil [Coleman] (PLO/392/52)

Peter [Pears] (PLO/392/60)

Peter [Pears], Imogen [Holst], Stephen [Reiss] and one other (PLO/392/96)

Typescript of hymn to Meradok from The Burning Fiery Furnace (PLO/392/157)

Peter [Pears] (PLO/392/162)

Letters from Jeremy [Cullum] with postscript from Rosamund [Strode] (PLO/392/186 and 187)

Peter [Pears] (PLO/392/180, 193 and 199)

Correspondence between Britten and Plomer, begins in 1943 and from 1951 the exchange is continuous to Plomer's death in 1943. It is not known how complete the correspondence is however it seems probable that Plomer retained most, if not all, of these letters.

166 letters, 67 cards, 3 telegrams, 1 enclosure

## PLO/393 1948-1973

Photocopies of letters from William Plomer to Benjamin Britten by Plomer, the originals are at Jedburgh.

## PLO/394 1962-1973

Letters and cards from Peter Pears to Plomer regarding performance schedules and arrangements, brief ideas for programmes and updates on Britten's health

10 letters, 2 cards

PLO/395 1973

Letter from Susan Pears-Phipps to William regarding Britten's health

1 letter

PLO/396 1970-1973

Letters from Barbara Britten to Plomer regarding their maternal aunt Sarah Fanny Hockey and Britten's health

2 letters

PLO/397 1970

Letters from Elsie Hockey regarding Britten's maternal aunt Sarah Fanny Hockey includes a manuscript copy of an extract from the letter in Plomer's hand

1 letter

Originally filed with letters from Barbara Britten PLO/396

PLO/398 1976

Photocopy of an unsigned letter from Britten to Sir Rupert Hart-Davis

1 letter

PLO/399 1968

Photocopies of letters from Plomer to Jeremy Cullum about Benjamin Britten

3 letters

PLO/400 1968-1973

One letter to William Servaes from Plomer and two unsigned photocopied letters from him to Plomer

3 letters

*Gloriana*

PLO/401 1953-1966

Scripts, correspondence and reviews for the opera *Gloriana*, the libretto by Plomer and music score by Britten

PLO/401/1/1-3 29 May 1953 - 10 June 1953

/1-2: Letters between L.A. Boosey to Sir A. Lascelles regarding special editions of Britten's vocal score for *Gloriana* to be sent to the Queen

/3: Letter from Lascelles to A. Gishford regarding the special edition of *Gloriana* to be sent to the Queen

3 sheets

PLO/401/2/1-2 29 May 1953 - 1 June 1953

/1: Letter from the Lord Chancellor's Office

/2: Letter from the Royal Opera House for Plomer

2 sheets

PLO/401/3 3 June 1953

Heavily annotated typed script for Plomer's BBC's talk on *Gloriana* 9pp.

PLO/401/4 8 June 1953

Invitation to the gala performance of *Gloriana*

1 sheet

PLO/401/5 [1953]

Typescript for the narration in *Gloriana*

9pp.

PLO/401/6 9 June 1953

Telegram to Plomer from Ian [Fleming]

PLO/401/7 19 June 1953

Plomer's handwritten copy of a review from *The Times Literary Supplement*

PLO/401/8 11 July 1953

Letter from Freya Stark to Sybil Cholmondeley about *Gloriana*

1 sheet

PLO/401/9 1953

Summer 1953 Summer edition of *Tempo* largely dedicated to discussing *Gloriana*

PLO/401/10 August 1953

*Opera*, volume 4, number 8. Includes symposium on *Gloriana*

PLO/401/11 1954

*Choral Dances from Gloriana for mixed voices*, Benjamin Britten (Boosey & Hawkes)

PLO/401/12 October 1963

Typescript draft of Plomer's article *Let's crab an opera* published in the London Magazine

PLO/401/13 [1963]

Proofs for Plomer's article *Let's crab an opera* for London Magazine

PLO/401/14 14 November 1963

article *A Neglected Masterpiece: Britten's Gloriana* by D. Mitchell published in *The Listener*

1 article

PLO/401/15 1963-1966

Reviews for *Gloriana* include:

/1: *Guardian*, 23 January 1963

/2-3: *The Times*, 23 June 1963

/4: *New Statesman*, 29 June 1963

/5: *Daily Mail*, 22 May 1966

/6: *The Times*, 22 May 1966

/7: *Sunday Telegraph*, 23 May 1966

/8: *Sunday Times*, 23 May 1966

8 clippings

PLO/401/16 29 May 1966

Letter from Sylvia Fisher to Plomer regarding opening night

PLO/401/17 1966

article by Plomer in *Saddler's Wells Magazine*, Autumn 1966 and an interview with Britten.

1 magazine

PLO/401/18 [Summer 1968?]

Plomer's manuscript draft of a talk on *Gloriana*, the text bears substantial annotation and amendments

20 pp.

PLO/401/19 6 June 1966

BBC transcript of Plomer's talk on *Gloriana* for BBC Radio 3 entitled *The librettist William Plomer reminisces about the origins of opera*

11pp., 1 envelope

*War Requiem*

PLO/402 1963-1964

letter article and review for *War Requiem*

/1: Letter from Imogen Holst to Plomer, 23 June 1963, 3pp.

/2: *Britten's War Requiem*, Peter Evans in *Tempo*, 1962, 9pp. (p.20-40)

/3: Review of *War Requiem*, October 1964, incomplete

*Curlew River*

PLO/403 1964

draft material and cuttings for *Curlew River*, the libretto by Plomer and music score by Britten

PLO/403/1-2 [1964?]

/1: Plomer's notes on Noh plays from *The Drama of the Medieval*, Karl Young, (OUP, 1951), 3pp.

/2: Plomer's additional notes on Noh plays, 2pp

PLO/403/3-7 [1964?]

Draft material for *Curlew River*

/3: Wrapper for PLO/403/4-7 with notes by Plomer, 1 p.

/4: An early typescript draft of *Curlew River* with annotations by Plomer in blue pen, 23pp.

/5: A later manuscript draft of *Curlew River* on blue paper, 30pp.

/6: Handwritten late draft revisions to *Curlew River* on green paper, superseded by PLO/403/7, 3pp.

/7: Late manuscript draft of *Curlew River* on green and lined paper, 40pp.

PLO/403/8 1964

*Curlew River* proof libretto (Faber), 32pp.

PLO/403/9 June - July 1964

*Curlew River* cuttings and reviews

/1: first night ticket, 13 June 1964

/2: *Times*, 14 June 1964

/3: *Radio Times*, 18 June 1964

/4: *Times*, 19 June 1964

/5: *Times*, 20 June 1964

/6: *Radio Times*, first broadcast, 21 June 1964

/7: *Observer*, 21 June 1964

/8: *Sunday Telegraph*, 21 June 1964

/9: *New Statesman*, 3 July 1964

/10: *Eastern Daily Press*, 22 July 1964

/11: *Curlew River* poster, Southwork Cathedral

PLO/403/10 18 July 1964

Letter to Plomer from Fr. de Zulueta about the Southwork Cathedral performance of *Curlew River*

1 letter

*The Burning Fiery Furnace*

PLO/404 and PLO/742

Plomer's draft material for *The Burning Fiery Furnace*

PLO/404 [1966?]

/1: Notebook rough first draft of the libretto

/2: Manuscript draft of *Strangers of Babylon*, 33pp.

/3: Manuscript and annotated typescript revisions, 23pp.

/4: Typescript draft with three pages of manuscript revisions on blue paper, 26 pp.

/5: Letter from Britten to Plomer regarding revisions to the libretto with a sheet of manuscript draft with responses from Plomer, 2 Feb 1966, 1 letter

/6: Typescript with Britten's corrections in pencil, 2 February 1966, 25 pp.

/7: Typescript draft, April 1966, 25 pp.

/8: Plomer's manuscript draft programme notes, 3pp.

PLO/742 [1966?]

Annotated proof copy of *The Burning Fiery Furnace*, annotations are mainly typographical

*The Prodigal Son*

PLO/405/1-13 1967-1968

drafts, letters and talks for *The Prodigal Son*

PLO/405/1 [1967?]

Red notebook containing an early draft of Plomer's *The Prodigal Son* libretto

PLO/405/2 1967-1968

An annotated carbon copy notebook. Contains:

pp.1-58: *The Prodigal Son* a draft libretto with additions

pp. 59-67: Introduction to Selected Poems of Ingrid Jonker by J[ack] C[o]pe and Plomer, [1968]

pp. 68-70: Corrections to the *The Prodigal Son*, 24 July 1967

pp. 71-86: *Forster as a friend* for a symposium, edited by Oliver Stallybrass

pp. 87-90: Notes on Anna Karenina libretto by Colin Graham

pp. 91-97: Additions and alterations to *The Prodigal Son*

pp. 98-99: Letter from Plomer to Britten, 29 January 1968

PLO/405/3 August 1967

Rough manuscript notes and corrections  
16pp.

PLO/405/4 20 January 1968

Letter from Britten to Plomer enclosing Colin Graham's handwritten notes on the temptations

1 letter, 2 pages of notes

PLO/405/5-10 [1968]

Draft typescript material includes:

- /5: *The Prodigal Son* libretto typescript draft, 22pp.
- /6: *The Prodigal Son* libretto typescript draft, 5 March 1968, 22pp.
- /7: Carbon copy of PLO/405/6 with corrections and programme notes, 23 pp.
- /8: Letter from Rosamund Stroodle to Plomer enclosing a sheet of notes and queries regarding the *The Prodigal Son* libretto, 6 March 1968
- /9: Final typescript *The Prodigal Son* libretto with an accompanying note from Jeremy Cullum, Easter 1968
- /10: Letter from Britten to Plomer enclosing revisions to the *The Prodigal Son* transcript, 29 April 1968

PLO/405/11 20 May 1968

Letter from Rosamund Stroodle to Plomer enclosing amendments to *The Prodigal Son* proofs

1 letter, 1 page of notes

PLO/405/12 27 June 1968

*Listener* article

PLO/405/13 28 June 1968

Plomer's BBC talk for *The Prodigal Son*

PLO/406 1968

drafts and material relating to Plomer's article *Britten's Church Operas*

PLO/406/1-4 [1968]

draft material:

- /1: Plomer's manuscript draft on blue paper of *Britten's Church Operas*, 6pp.
- /2: Plomer's manuscript draft introducing *Britten's Church Operas*, 7pp.
- /3: A shorter typescript of *Britten's Church Operas* for the Edinburgh Festival, 5 pp.
- /4: A longer typescript of *Britten's Church Operas* for the City of London Festival, 6pp.

6pp.

PLO/406/5-6 May 1968

Letter from William Thomley to Plomer regarding an article for the Edinburgh Festival Souvenir Programme (25 May 1968) and an acknowledgement from Thomley (20 May 1968)

2 letters

PLO/406/7-8 [1968]

Extracts from the Edinburgh Festival Programme including a biography of Britten with photograph and Plomer's article *Britten's Church Operas*, with photographs from the plays.

5pp.

PLO/406/9-10 April - May 1968

Letter from Jack Phipps to Plomer regarding an article for the City of London Festival Souvenir Programme (26 April 1968) and an acknowledgement from Phipps (8 May 1968).

Roy Campbell

PLO/407-417 1930-1972

PLO/407 1925-1930

Letters from Mary Campbell to Plomer, including one from Roy. Mary offers a brief critique of Plomer's *Turbott Wolfe* and poetry, discusses *Voorslag* and Plomer's experience of Japan.

23 letters

PLO/408 July 1925 - June 1927

Letters from Roy Campbell to Plomer, many of which are photocopies. Letters contain general literary critique, discussion of his work on *Voorslag*. Also includes detailed critique of Plomer's *Birkenhead* (PLO/408/4) and *Turbott Wolfe* (PLO/408/9); a memorandum and letters regarding articles about *Voorslag* (PLO/408/10-12); Campbell's outlook on politics (PLO/408/12), and South Africa more generally.

13 letters

PLO/409 1925-1930

Typescript extracts from letters by Mary and Roy Campbell to Plomer (probably sent to Prof. W.H. Gardner, 1958). Includes typescripts of letters in PLO/407 and PLO/408

19 pp.

PLO/410 7 May 1931

Typewritten note by Plomer on Roy Campbell

2 pp.

PLO/411 [c. 1920s?]

Typescript review of Roy Campbell's *Adamastor*, small amendments have been made in pencil

10 pp.

PLO/412 28 April 1957

Plomer's memories of Roy Campbell for a South African BBC *Across the line* broadcast

1 p.

PLO/413 29 September 1957

Geoffrey Grigson's review of Roy Campbell's *Collected Poems*, *The Observer*

PLO/414 1957-1958

Letters from W.H. Gardner to Plomer regarding Gardener's attempt to write about Roy Campbell

8 letters

PLO/415 1958

Letters to Plomer from Anna von Schubert regarding W.H. Gardener's intention to write the life of Roy Campbell

3 letters

PLO/416 July 1959

Galley proofs of Plomer's *Voorslag Days* for *London Magazine*

3 pp.



PLO/417 6 January 1972

Letters from Lennox-Short to Plomer enclosing an article about Roy Campbell by W.H. Gardner

1 letter

Ian Fleming

PLO/418 - 430

letters and articles

PLO/418 1962

Typescript of broadcast *The writer speaks*, a conversation between Fleming and Plomer, produced in cooperation with the New American Library  
9ff.

PLO/419 15 September 1964

Order of service for Fleming's funeral, at St. Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London (with address by Plomer)

1 sheet

PLO/420 [15 Sep 1964]

Typescript of Plomer's address at Fleming's funeral

10 sheets

PLO/421 26 August 1964

Letter from Joan Saunders (writers' research agent) to Plomer about Fleming, in connection with Plomer's intended funeral address

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/422 18 August 1964 - 1 October 1964

Correspondence between Plomer and Peter Fleming relating to Plomer's address at Ian Fleming's funeral, and to subsequent arrangements with Cape for its printing and distribution; includes notes on worldwide sales and translations of 'James Bond' novels

5 items, 8 sheets

PLO/423 August 1964 - 24 February 1965

Letters from Admiral John Henry Godfrey (Director of Naval Intelligence, 1939-1942), about Ian Fleming and in particular his alleged exploits during his service with the Naval Intelligence Division, 1939-1945. Many letters concern the possibility (and difficulty, given naval security requirements) of contributing to John Pearson's forthcoming biography of Fleming, and the letters include one from Vice Admiral Sir Norman Denning (Defence Intelligence Staff) to Plomer.

Includes typescript extracts from Godfrey's *Naval memoirs* regarding Ian Fleming (and Rudolf Burmester). One extract is headed "Appendix 5 to Vol V" and the other "XXXIV" but the extracts are substantially the same (in the ? final version the passage appears in chapter XXXIV of volume V of the memoirs).

16 items

PLO/424/1-6 10 January 1965 - 7 April 1965

Letters from John Pearson regarding his intended biography of Ian Fleming (published by Cape, 1966), in particular relating to meetings arranged with John Godfrey and Ian Denning (Naval Intelligence Division/Defence Intelligence staff).

6 items, 7 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/424/7 undated [1966-1973]

Letter from Richard Usborne regarding Ian Fleming, particularly his writing of *Casino Royale*. Letter refers to an intended book by Usborne on the fiction of spying, apparently not published.

Not dated, but refers to John Pearson's biography of Ian Fleming (published 1966), and probably dated shortly after that.

1 sheet

PLO/425 5 October 1964

Copy of letter from Kingsley [Amis] to Tom [Mascheler, Cape publishers], regarding his view of and theories on Ian Fleming's *The man with the golden gun* and enclosing a list of corrections to the book.

4 sheets

PLO/426 August 1964

Newspaper cuttings and obituaries following Ian Fleming's death on 12 August 1964

5 cuttings

PLO/427 28 August 1964

Typescript copy of Allen Dulles, "Our spy-boss who loved Bond," from *Life*, 28 August 1964 (written by former Director of CIA, USA)

2 sheets

PLO/428 1965

Offprint of PH Muir, "Ian Fleming: a personal memoir," from *The book collector*, Spring 1965, pp.24-33

PLO/429 9 December 1964

Letter from Robert Musel of United Press International asking how Plomer intends to spend the legacy left by Ian Fleming to him, with reference to American newspapers

1 sheet

PLO/430 31 December 1964

List of books by Fleming, apparently sold to Schwartz by Plomer, with list of inscriptions written by Fleming to Plomer in Fleming's books

List of inscriptions is not dated. List of books marked "sold" dated only "31 Dec" but on an envelope postmarked 29 Dec 1964.

1 envelope & 1 sheet

E.M. Forster

PLO/431 - 440

Notes and material accumulated by Plomer in connection with the proposal that he should write Forster's biography

In the event only the *Sunday Times* obituary was written by Plomer, the biography being written by PN Furbank. See Alexander's biography

1 folder

PLO/431 9 January 1959

Menu and seating plan for Forster's 80th birthday luncheon at King's College, Cambridge

1 card & 1 sheet

PLO/432 21 July 1960 - 14 August 1960

Letters from Jack Sprott, initially requesting that Plomer write Forster's biography, and (PLO 432/3) discussing the scope of the proposed life

3 letters, 5 sheets & 3 envelopes

PLO/433 23 August 1960

Autobiographical notes by Forster, noted by Plomer as "key to his private life."

Includes list of diaries and other personal notes (some marked "H"), and list of significant people ("importanti").

Dated on dorso by Plomer

1 sheet

PLO/434 23 August 1960

Notes by Plomer of a conversation between him and Forster, mainly comments on "H"

2 sheets

PLO/435 1943 - 1944

Verses written by Forster, including two noted "Chinese" and one (in French) "Cocteau"

One sheet undated. Other noted by Plomer, "enclosed in a letter to WP from EMF in 1943 or 1944" (annotated by library staff "30/v/43?").

2 sheets

PLO/436 3 November 1832

Letter from John [Jebb], bishop of Limerick, to "Miss Laura. Refers to visit from "Mr Forster" and to a manuscript to be copied by Laura. Noted by Plomer as "enclosed in a letter to Wp from EMF (of uncertain date)."

1 sheet

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also -

PLO/433

Forster's list of "autobiographicalia" includes a reference to "Bishop Jebb's Commonplace Book".

PLO/437 1960

Printed cutting from *The periodical* of an extract of Forster's "An idea for a novel" (written for introduction to "World's Classics" edition of *The longest journey*)

Undated, but *The longest journey* published in "The world's classics" series (Oxford University Press) in 1960

2 sheets

PLO/438 September 1960

Corrected typescript of notes by Forster on *Maurice*

8 sheets

PLO/439 January 1965

Typescript draft obituary of Forster, noted by Plomer as written for *Sunday Times*

7 sheets (one blank)

PLO/440 1 May 1967 - 9 March 1968

Letters from PN Furbank regarding Forster's biography (to be written by Furbank). PLO 440/1 is to May [Buckingham], regarding the previous arrangement that Plomer should write the biography.

PLO 440/1 dated only "Monday" but dated by library staff as 1 May 1967; PLO 440/2 has no year, but dated by the postmark on its envelope at 1968

2 letters, 3 sheets & 1 envelope

Admiral John Godfrey

PLO/441 1964

Notes and papers on Admiral JH Godfrey, *The naval memoirs*, including notes by Library staff (by Dr AI Doyle, typewritten) and by Plomer, and a corrected manuscript and fair typescript copy of Plomer's "epilogue" to the memoirs

4 items, 6 sheets

*Related material in other DUL collections:* PLO/423: , August 1964 - 24 February 1965

Ingrid Jonker

PLO/442 - 453

4 folders

PLO/442 22 September 1965

Letter from John Thompson, Farfield Foundation, New York, thanking Plomer for his poem "Taste of the fruit"

1 sheet & 1 envelope

PLO/443 6 November 1965 - 15 January 1968

Letters concerning translations (from Afrikaans) by Jack Cope and William Plomer (with assistance from Laurens Van der Post and Uys Krige) and publication of a selection of Jonker's poems (published as Jonker, *Selected poems* by Jonathan Cape, 1968)

Several letters include notes on the meanings or possible translations of particular Afrikaans words, and on translations into English by Jonker herself (especially PLO 443/16). Letters are from Jack Cope (Cape Town, South Africa, 16 letters), Tom Maschler (Jonathan Cape, London, 4 letters), Laurens Van der Post (London, 2 letters) and Ed Victor (Jonathan Cape, London, 1 letter).

23 letters, 39 sheets

PLO/444 16 August 1967 - 13 November 1967

Letters from David Lytton regarding a proposed "Third" (BBC radio) programme on Jonker's poetry

3 letters, 3 sheets

PLO/445 19 October 1968

Letter thanking Plomer and sending photographs following presentation of Ingrid Jonker prize to Sidney Clouts [awarded for his book of poetry, *One life*]. Photographs show Plomer, Clouts, Anthony Delius, Uys Krige and Roy McNab.

1 letter, 1 sheet & 2 photographs & 1 envelope

PLO/446 1966

Typescript contents notes and translations of extracts from *In memoriam Ingrid Jonker* (Human and Rousseau, Pretoria, 1966). Notes on contents are in English, and include some brief notes on the contributors. Essays or contributions that are translated from the original Afrikaans in the book are Prof Rob Antonissen, "Double-play on love" ("Dubbelspel om Liefde"), Jan Rabie, "Who is left?" ("Wie bly oor?") and Uys Krige, "Soos in Haarself..." (extracts)

18 sheets

PLO/447 1967

Fair copy (in Plomer's hand) of Ingrid Jonker, *Selected poems* (under the title, *The poems of Ingrid Jonker*), including list of contents but not preface. Copy is not corrected but differs slightly from final published version (see correspondence in PLO 443).

Copy undated, but apparently written before Jack Cope's letter of 14 July 1967 (PLO 443/16).

54 sheets

PLO/448 July 1967

Typescript copy of *Selected poems* (under title *The poems of Ingrid Jonker*), with several small corrections in Plomer's hand

Typescript undated, but notes that list of contents and request for translator's note posted to [Jack] Cope on 8th August.

78 sheets (last blank)

PLO/449 1967

Typescript drafts of preface for *Selected poems*. Includes fair copy typescript (apparently of an earlier version), and a corrected typescript marked up with notes for printing (of the final version).

Drafts not dated, but see letters to Jack Cope regarding preface at PLO 443/18-20.

5 sheets

PLO/450 May 1968

Uncorrected proof copies (3) of *Selected poems*, all with corrections by Plomer. PLO 450/2-3 are marked "return by May 29th" and "18 May 68" respectively; PLO 450/1 is undated but includes corrections that match the final published version.

3 volumes

PLO/451 December 1966

Copy of Jonker's short story "The Goat", cut from *London Magazine*, December 1966. The story is translated (originally "Die Bok") from the Afrikaans by Jack Cope, with a concluding note on Jonker's life and work by Cope.

6 ff.

PLO/452 March 1967

Article by Jack Cope on Ingrid Jonker for *Mademoiselle* (? New York), March 1967, under the title, "Black butterflies: the harshness of present-day South Africa proved too much for a brilliant, sensitive young poet, whose fame will outlive her detractors"

3 sheets

PLO/453 October 1968 - December 1968

Reviews of *Selected poems* from *Cape Times* (23 Oct 1968, South Africa, newscutting, review by Hazel Prinsloo), *Contrast* (Nov 1968, South Africa, cut from magazine, review by Adèle Naudé) and *London magazine* (Dec 1968, review by Alan Ross). The *Contrast* cutting also includes a note of award to Sidney Clouts of the Ingrid Jonker poetry prize.

5 sheets

Francis Kilvert

PLO/454 - 474

2 boxes

PLO/454 19 July 1870 - 6 August 1870

Original notebook (diary) of Revd Francis Kilvert, numbered by him "No 4", and relating to a holiday in Cornwall, with William and Emma Hockin

Volume is kept in a small box, which includes a note by Plomer that it was given to him by Mrs Essex Hope (née Smith), Kilvert's niece, in 1958, and referring to her destruction of all but 3 of the original 22 volumes.

1 volume (boxed)

Full edition of the notebook, with introduction and notes, and illustrated with photographs

Kilvert, Francis, *Kilvert's Cornish Diary*, ed. by Richard Maber and Angela Tregoning (Penzance, 1989)

PLO/455

Drafts for article or lecture, *Kilvert and his diary*. Includes manuscript draft (incorporating typescript extracts, presumably from an earlier article, annotated by Plomer), and a typescript copy, with a few corrections and deletions.

2 items, 65 sheets

PLO/456 19 July 1972

Drafts of *Francis Kilvert and his diary*, read by Plomer as Giff Edmonds Memorial Lecture 1972. Includes proof for printed slip advertising lecture, manuscript draft, and typescript draft (with additional corrections and changes).

3 items, 61 sheets

## PLO/457 1962 - 1963, 1973

Draft articles by Plomer on Kilvert and the diaries, and on the Kilvert Society, with correspondence with the *Sunday Times*.

List of items

Three draft articles at PLO 457/1-3:

/1: manuscript draft on the diary and Francis Kilvert, heavily corrected (3 pages), noted by Plomer, "To G.C.G. at Cape's (14 Feb)" and probably dating from 1973;

/2: typescript draft on the diary, Kilvert Society and Francis Kilvert (5 pages, possibly later version of PLO 457/3;

/3: manuscript draft on Francis Kilvert and the Kilvert Society (14 pages plus cover page), dated by Plomer 1 May 1963 and apparently submitted to *Sunday Times* (see letter at PLO 457/7)

Correspondence with *Sunday Times*, 14 Aug 1962 to 10 Sept 1963, relating to proposal (aborted) to publish article on Kilvert and photographs in the colour section (PLO 457/4-10, 7 sheets)

Article on diaries apparently written for Cape's (PLO 457/1) is not dated, but reference to the Kilvert Society "set up 25 years ago" suggests 1973.

1 folder, 30 sheets

## PLO/458 8 August 1941 - 22 July 1948

Letters to Plomer from T Perceval Smith (Kilvert's nephew, and then owner of the original diaries). 1941-1945 letters (PLO 458/1-3) relate to the restoration of Kilvert's grave (Bredwardine churchyard), and PLO 458/4-5 (1948) to the Kilvert memorial [bench in Bredwarding churchyard]. PLO 458/5 also refers to a suggestion that the original *MSS notebooks* be deposited with the Hereford library.

5 letters, 5 sheets & 2 envelopes

## PLO/459 19 June 1970 - 8 February 1973

Letters to Plomer from Revd David Lockwood, relating mainly to the Kilvert Society and in particular to plans for a (replacement) memorial plaque on Ashbrook House [in Clyro]

6 letters, 10 sheets

## PLO/460 6 June 1972 - 31 July 1973

Letters to Plomer from CTO ("Oswin") Prosser, secretary of Kilvert Society. Letters relate to general society business and (PLO 460/1) to evidence for Kilvert's school education.

4 letters, 4 sheets

PLO/461 6 April 1943 - 12 February 1973, undated

Letters to Plomer from miscellaneous members of the Kilvert Society, readers of the diaries, descendants of Francis Kilvert and others interested in the diaries.

Notes on particular documents

Several of the letters include notes on places or people mentioned in (or associated with) the diaries, in particular: a Cornish church "in the sand" near Gwithian (PLO 461/1), Daisy Thomas of Llanthomas (/2), photograph of Kilvert ("Capt de Wintons fishing party", /3), John Fredric Lowder (/6), Fanny Thomas, Nonsuch, Andrew Pope and Kilvert's schooling (/8, with copies of poems), Moccas Court and Sir William Cornwall (son of Kilvert's patron, with notes of corrections by him to the published diaries, /9), John Monkhouse of Stow (/10), Mary Dew (née Monkhouse, /11), Thomas Hardy and Henry Moule of Dorset (/17-18)

Notes on the diaries or other Kilvert manuscripts are in PLO 461/7 (1963, on manuscript letters apparently owned by Kilvert descendants), /20 (1973, on the "missing third notebook", apparently that deposited in National Library of Wales as XXXX)

PLO 461/12-13 (1967) relate to a proposal to dramatise parts of the diaries for a theatre production and a BBC film, by Alan Bennett and Patrick Garland (apparently dropped).

The last three letters (PLO 461/21-23) have no year but appear to date from 1970 (cf. PLO 461/16).

PLO/462 c.1970-1973

Duplicated lists of publications and information sheet for the Kilvert Society  
3 sheets

PLO/463 April 1970 - October 1973

Duplicated newsletters of the Kilvert Society (last newsletter accompanied by obituary of Plomer, written by CTO Prosser, secretary of the Society)

10 items

PLO/464 1969

Kilvert Society Service at Hereford and Plomer's address:

/1: Order of Service, Hereford Cathedral, 22 June 1969 (1 p.)

/2: Plomer's manuscript draft of an address for the service (15 pp.)

/3: Typescript of Plomer's address with his corrections (4 pp.)

3 items



## PLO/465 [1956-1970s]

## Miscellaneous Kilvert Society materials:

- /1: Poster of Kilvert Society, Bredwardine, 1956
- /2: Hereford Times 1962-1963 reprints regarding the Kilvert Society
- /3: Hereford Times 20 May 1967 reprint regarding the Kilvert Service at Worcester
- /4: Typescript of Canon R.W. Kilvert's address at the Kilvert Service, Langley Burrell, 25 June 1972 (7pp)
- /5: Kilvert Society Order of Service, St. John the Evangelist, Brecon, 24 June 1973
- /6: List of Diocesan Jubilee Main Events for the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, 1973
- /7: Obituary of Plomer and unveiling of a plaque for Kilvert in Clyro Hereford Times 28 September 1973,
- /8: Poster for Kilvert Service, Clyro

8 items

## PLO/466 28 July 1972- 5 January 1973

## Kilvert Memorial Plaque correspondence:

- /1: Prosser, the Kilvert Society Secretary, to members about the Kilvert Plaque at Clyro, 28 July 1972
- /2: Statement of permission for a plaque to be erected at Ashbrook House, Clyro
- /3: Joan Feisenberger to William Plomer on Ashbrook plaque, 1 July 1972
- /4: Joan Feisenberger typescript letter regarding the Ashbrook plaque, 1st August 1972
- /5: Carbon copy of above letter from Feisenberger
- /6: Kilvert Society notice about the plaque
- /7: Lawrence Le Quesue to Plomer, 13 August 1972
- /8: Oswin Prosser to Joan Feisenberger, 8 August 1972
- /9: Oswin Prosser to Plomer, 8 August 1972
- /10: Lawrence Le Quesue to Plomer, 13 August 1972
- /11: Joan Feisenberger to Plomer, regarding the plaque and Greater London Council information, 14 August 1972
- /12: Joan Feisenberger to Plomer, 25 August 1972
- /13: Oswin Prosser to Plomer, 5 January 1973

13 items

## PLO/467 [1970s?]

## Miscellaneous Kilvert materials:

- /1: Quote by William Gladstone, copied and handwritten by Plomer (1 p.)
- /2: William Plomer's mss. notes on the Kilvert diaries (2 pp.)
- /3: Tullimar, Sampson and Hockin family notes, typed. (1 p.)
- /4: Typed notes on the Thomas family in Llanigon. Includes a note from Oswin Prosser (2 pp.)
- /5: A statement by Kilvert's nephew, Pervical Smith (c.1945) in Plomer's handwriting (2 pp.)
- /6: The Macmillan Company special news bulletin flyer regarding the Kilvert Diaries, includes a party-statement, 9 June 1947, (1 p.)
- /7: Plomer's handwritten transcript of a letter from Mrs Amey of Cusop (September 1948) (2pp.)
- /8: Mounted typescript of the above letter from Mrs Amey with a handwritten note (September 1948)

8 items

## PLO/468 [1800s-1960s]

## Miscellaneous Kilvert material:

- /1: Typed transcript of a BBC discussion with Richard Hoggarton on Kilvert's diary with J.J. Norwich and Joyce Grenfell, much of the script has been censored with black marker (13 pp.)
- /2: Poster for Hay & Districts Historical Society meeting with a showing of the Kilvert County and special Kilvert church services, 2 April 1954
- /3-4: Plomer's notes of names and addresses and label for Kilvert material (2 pp.)
- /5: Typescript, notes of Moccas Court (1 p.)
- /6: Typescript entitled "Llansantffraed Church" (1 p.)
- /7: Information leaflet for Llanthony Monastery and its founder Father Ignatius of Jesus
- /8: 'The New Saint Ignatius' leaflet
- /9: One photograph of Wyesacle Archery Club (1880s) and one of Miss Henrietta Meredith Brown, known to Kilvert as 'Ettie', (1875)
- /10: 2 photographs of Plomer at Llysddinan, 23 June 1968
- /11: Colour photograph [of river Wye?], 1964

11 items

## PLO/469 1949

Souvenir of the Kilvert Commemoration Service at Clyro, 3rd July 1949. A home-made scrapbook of photographs presented to Plomer. Includes two extra copies of the final photograph.

## PLO/470 1939-1956

Red scrapbook album containing cuttings of articles, photographs, tickets, newspaper cuttings regarding Kilvert.

## PLO/471 June 1967

Plomer's "The death of Uncle Francis" from Kilvert Society notes and news 2 pp.

PLO/472 19 January 1864 -16th August 1866

Letters from Henry Duncan Skrine to Mr Long, and one letter to Skrine from William L. Nichols

8 letters

PLO/473 c. 1864

Miscellaneous Kilvert material:

/1-2: Letters from Adélaide Sophie Kilvert [to Mr Long], 1864

/3: Funeral verses copies from F[rancis] K[ilvert] [by Adélaide Kilvert]

/4: Latin verses by F[rancis] K[ilvert]

/5: "Written on a blank leaf of W.L[ong]'s 'Duties and responsibilities of the Magisterial Office'" by F[rancis] K[ilvert]

/6: Reprinted letter from the Bath and Cheltenham Gazette to the Editor from A.M. about the Archdeacon Denison

/7: Dr Kilvert's remains in a/c with S.N. Simms, a statement of accounts, 14 March 1864

7 items

PLO/474

Remains in verse and Prose of the Rev. Francis Kilvert, M.A. (Bath, Simms, 1866). Personal copy of William Long (plate), then of John Sparrow (plate and notes), and Plomer's inscription "given by John Sparrow to William Plomer at All Souls - 19 Feb 1967]

Alice Lemon

PLO/475 - 539

1 box

PLO/475 [1973]

Manuscript proof of *The girl in the State Paper office, or The private life of Alice Lemon*: edition of extracts from letters of Alice Lemon to Winifred Nicol, 1859-1862, prepared for publication with introduction and linking annotations by Plomer

List of contents and introduction include references to *Mrs Tonge looks back* (letters from a Mrs Tonge) and *He kept everything* (extracts from family papers of Richard Rumbold). Articles on both these collections were written by Plomer for the *Listener*, and references to them in the introduction have been scored out. The text does not survive as part of this item.

undated, probably June-July 1973 (see PLO 531-539)

350 + vi numbered pages plus 2 unnumbered

## PLO/476-486 [1859-1862]

Original letters and copies of drawings by Alice Lemon. The drawings were traced by Patrick Lowe-Holmes (one is apparently an original by Alice), and include a few annotations by him.

## List of items

/476-477: two original letters from Alice to [Winifred] Nicol, undated

/478: humorous verses written in pretend dialect, ending "Adoo false one for hever", possibly written by Alice

/479-480: two envelopes, one postmarked 20 Dec '62

/481: drawing (? by Alice) of three people at table, with note [by Lowe-Holmes] referring to breakfast and to the letter dated 30/9/60

/482: tracing of drawings, with note [by Lowe-Holmes] stating, "Jocy's first night in Q- T- Sept 13th"

/483-486: tracings of other drawings [by Alice]

9 sheets, 2 envelopes & 2 notes

## PLO/487-492 16 November 1972 - 1 June 1973

Letters from Patrick Lowe-Holmes to Plomer, concerning his purchase of the letters and notes from his researches into the Lemon family

6 sheets & 2 cards & 2 envelopes

## PLO/493-496 [1973]

Notes from Patrick Lowe-Holmes about the Lemon family and commenting on some of the letters

4 sheets

## PLO/497-524 26 January 1962 - 13 June 1962

Letters to Patrick Lowe-Holmes from various libraries and public bodies concerning his researches into the Lemon and Nicol families, together with a copy of pages about Nicol genealogy [at PLO 497, possibly from *The genealogy of the Nicol family*, and apparently sent with letter from Central Public Library, Edinburgh, at PLO 524] Letters include one from Penguin Books (PLO 503), rejecting possibility of publishing a book suggested by Lowe-Holmes (presumably an anonymous edition of some of the letters, as mentioned in his letter to Plomer of 16 Apr 1973 (PLO 489).

31 sheets and cards

## PLO/525-530

Copies of wills and probates of Mark Lemon (proved 1871), Robert Lemon (proved 1867) and George Garden Nicol (proved 1897); also copy of pages from *The history of Punch* [by RGG Price, 1957] on Mark Lemon (co-editor 1841-1870); all apparently collected by Patrick Lowe-Holmes

## PLO/531-539 27 April 1973 - 17 July 1973

Correspondence with Jonathan Cape publishers, with a genealogist and with a relation of Alice Lemon, relating to proposed publication of the Alice Lemon letters (referred to in most of the correspondence under the title *Burn these letters*)

File includes notes on Alice Lemon's descendants (PLO 534) and copy of letter from relation refusing publication of the letters (PLO 539).

24 sheets & 1 envelope

Richard Rumbold  
PLO/540 - 684  
10 folders

PLO/540 1942

Rumbold, "From a pilot's diary" (written sub nomine Richard Nugent), cut from *Penguin new writing*, [number 13]

Extract undated but dated to 1942 in Plomer's note of Rumbold's publications, PLO 683.

7 sheets

PLO/541-542 8 December 1944

Rumbold, "When I consider...", from *Spectator* (two copies)

2 sheets

PLO/543 18 October 1946

Rumbold, "With the Benedictines", from *Spectator* (two copies)

1 sheet

PLO/544 November 1960

Rumbold, "An evening with Paul Bowles" [on taking hashish], from *London magazine*, volume 7, number 11

6 sheets

PLO/545-547 1940

Photographs of Rumbold in the RAF

Only PLO 546 is dated, 10 June 1940.

3 photographs

PLO/548 April 1933 - January 1936

Scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, relating particularly to *Little victims*, and to Rumbold's subsequent excommunication and appeal to the Vatican (pp.1-43,47), and a court case ordering destruction of books seized from two London publishers in 1934 as 'obscene' (pp.44-46).

1 volume

PLO/549-559 3 March 1948 - 30 July 1958  
 Contracts and correspondence with publishers  
 List of items

- PLO 549: contract with Jonathan Cape for *The spring comes slowly*, 3 Mar 1948 (apparently never published)
- PLO 550-551: letters from Nigel Nicolson of Weidenfeld and Nicolson (publishers) concerning the firm's financial difficulties and payment of debts to Rumbold, 23-24 May 1951
- PLO 552: letter from Mark Bonham Carter of Collins (publishers), rejecting Rumbold's *Antoine de Saint-Exupery*, 30 June 1952 (published as *The winged life* by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1953)
- PLO 553: contract with Weidenfeld and Nicolson for *Saint Exupery* (later *The winged life*), 30 Oct 1952
- PLO 554: royalty statements for *The winged life* from Weidenfeld and Nicolson (3), 31 Dec 1953-31 Mar 1957
- PLO 555-556: letters from Jonathan Cape (of Cape publishers) regarding reprinting *My father's son*, 29 Aug-3 Oct 1957
- PLO 557: contract with Jonathan Cape for (reprint of) *My father's son*, 28 Oct 1957
- PLO 558-559: letters from G Wren Howard and Jean Mossop (secretary to Mr Cape) of Jonathan Cape publishers, regarding paperback reprint of *My father's son* by Penguin Books and sales of the Cape reprint, 15 May-30 July 1958

PLO/560-578 18 April 1940 - 3 March 1944, undated  
 Letters from Lord Alfred ("Bosie") Douglas (photostat copies), mainly concerning personal meetings with Rumbold and Douglas' own financial difficulties.  
 Comments on his relationships with Oscar Wilde are in PLO 564, and with his wife Olive in PLO 576. PLO 570 includes comments on the poetry of TS Eliot (and modern poets in general), and PLO 574 relates a dispute with the Royal Society of Literature regarding publication of a lecture by Douglas.  
 19 letters, 43 sheets (copies)

PLO/579 31 May 1947  
 Typescript note of "additional facts supplied by my aunt" (relating to Rumbold's forebears)  
 1 sheet

PLO/580 23 January 1954  
 Carbon copy of letter from Rumbold to Dom Bede [Griffiths], including notes on possible books by Rumbold with a religious or Roman Catholic theme  
 3 sheets

PLO/581 undated  
 Postcard to Plomer from Germany  
 Undated but 1944 or later (mentions Charles [Erdmann])  
 1 card

PLO/582 26 February 1959  
 Letter to Plomer regarding Plomer's role as Rumbold's literary executor, and the possibility of publishing posthumously Rumbold's diary and other writings  
 3 sheets & 1 envelope

PLO/583-592 14 February 1949 - 14 November 1957, undated

Letters to Rumbold from various correspondents

List of items

PLO 583: from Harold Nicolson, commenting on Plomer's [*Four countries*], 14 Feb 1949 (apparently shown by Rumbold to Plomer)

PLO 584: from Nevill [Coghill], concerning *My father's son*, with references to Coghill's own family upbringing and to relationships generally

PLO 585: Rosemary to Hilda [Young] and Rumbold about difficulty in her marriage, 9 April 1952

PLO 586: Keith [Nordeu, solicitor] to Rumbold about his sister [Rosemary's] suicide, 13 June 1957

PLO 587: Notice of funeral for Rumbold's sister, 14 June 1957

PLO 588: Phillipe [Jullian] to Rumbold, undated

PLO 589: Howard Glover, psychiatrist, to Rumbold, 30 August

PLO 590: Raymond [Mortimer] to Rumbold about his writing and possible collaboration, 4 May [1958?]

PLO 591: "After-thought" from Teddy, apparently referring to a letter by Alfred Douglas, aged about 25

PLO 592: Paddy [Patrick Leigh Fermor] to Rumbold, undated

PLO/593-602 1960-1964

Letters from Rumbold and Paul Bowles, and to Plomer regarding his edited edition of Rumbold's diaries

List of items

PLO 593: Bowles to Rumbold from Marrakesh, 22 June 1960

PLO 594: Bowles to Hilda [Young], with reference to London Magazine article by Rumbold, Tangier, 11 September 1960.

PLO 595: Bowles to Rumbold giving a detailed autobiographical account his life. Tangier, 28 September 1960 (3 pp.)

PLO 596: Rumbold to Bowles, Palermo, 5 March 1961

PLO 597: Bowles to Plomer with reference to a London Magazine article and Plomer's edition of Richard Rumbold's diaries, Tangier, 17 April 1962

PLO 598: Bowles to Plomer with comments on Plomer's edition of Richard Rumbold's diaries and references made to himself, Tangier, 17 April 1962

PLO 599: Bowles to Plomer with reference to the London Magazine article, Tangier, 17 May 1962

PLO 600: Bowles to Plomer re: Rumbold's diary, Tangier, 2 January 1963

PLO 601: Bowles to Plomer re: corrections made to Rumbold's diary, Tangier, 15 January 1963

PLO 602: Bowles to Plomer, 8 May 1964

PLO/603-615 1967

Plomer's correspondence with Solicitors, mainly Cameron Kemm Morden, regarding Rumbold's estate, royalties, rights and acknowledgements

12 items

PLO/616-637 1964

Press cuttings of reviews of A message in code: the diary of Richard rumbold 1932-1961, edited by Plomer (1964). Reviews mostly supplied by 'Durrant's Press Cuttings'

14 items

PLO/638-642 15 March 1961- June 1961

Dom Bede Griffith's correspondence

List of items

/638: Dom Bede to Hilda [Young] in reaction to Rumbold's death, 15 March 1961

/639: Dom Bede to Hilda [Young] about Rumbold's death, 10 April 1961

/640: Dome Bede to Fr. de Zulueta about Rumbold's faith, 15 April 1961

/641: Plomer's copy of his letter send to Bede regarding the return of Rumbold's letters and the diary, 12 April 1961

/642: Dom Bede to Hilda with his reaction to A message in code: the diary of Richard rumbold 1932-1961, edited by Plomer (1964) and about Rumbold, 21 June 1961



PLO/643-682 1962-1964

Miscellaneous correspondence, much related to Plomer's edition *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold

- /643: Yvonne [Rumbold] to [Mary Popoff], includes references to Rumbold's book [Little Victories], 8 April 1933
- /644: Partial letter from Charles E.A.L. Rumbold on the above letter, Rumbold's book and his nature [begins mid-way, no date]
- /645: Captain Rumbold to May [Popoff] regarding money, women in Society, education, morals and the importance of being independent (29 August 1933)
- /646: Card from Richard Rumbold to Plomer, September 1958
- /647: Arden Franklyn to Plomer My Father's Son refers to Rumbold and his family
- /648: Tom Rumbold to Plomer regarding Richard Rumbold's family background, 23 March 1962
- /649: Tom Rumbold to Plomer regarding the Rumbold family background, 30 March 1962
- /650: Tom Rumbold to Plomer regarding the Rumbold family background, 19 April 1962
- /651: Stephen [Spender] to Plomer, 29 November 1962
- /652: Harold Nicholson to Plomer regarding *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 30 November 1962
- /653: Arthur Koester to Plomer, 2 January 1963
- /654: Hilda [Young] to Plomer with her reaction to the drafts of Rumbold's diaries, notes on Paul Bowles and Hugh Gibb, 30 March 1963
- /655: B. Sasaki to Plomer about Richard Rumbold, 4 July 1963
- /656: Plomer's contract with Weidenfeld and Nicholson for *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 27 September 1963
- /657: Philippa McLeash, from the Society of Authors regarding the terms of Plomer's contract with Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 15 October 1963
- /658: Plomer's copy of a letter to Thompson of Weidenfeld and Nicholson about contracts, 18 October 1963
- /659: Nicholas Thompson of Weidenfeld and Nicholson to Plomer about contracts, 24 October 1963
- /660: Tom Rumbold to Plomer on receipt of *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold and regarding Rumbold family history, 29 April 1964
- /661: Lady Margaret Vane Tempest Stewart to Hilda [Young] about *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 1 May 1964
- /662: Stephen Bagnell to Plomer of the Rumbold diary and his memories on Rumbold, 18 May 1964
- /663: Father de Zulueta to Plomer about Rumbold's Catholicism, [nd.]
- /664: Copy of Plomer's response to Fr. de Zulueta [nd.]
- /665: Tom Rumbold to Plomer on Rumbold, his diaries and family, 23 May 1964
- /666: Stephen Bagnall to Plomer regarding the diaries, 26 May 1964
- /667: Jack Rathbone to Plomer offering congratulations for *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold
- /668: Hilda [Young] expressing gratitude for *A Message in Code*. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 29 May 1964

/669: Timothy d' Arch Smith to Plomer with notes on contracts and publications, 30 May 1964

/670: Tony [Aldeburgh] to Plomer, mainly about A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, also refers to Plomer and Britten's Curlew River, 17 June 1964

/671: A.J. Cornwall, the Oratory School, to Plomer seeking information on Rumbold, 21 June 1964

/672: Plomer's copy of his letter to A.J. Cornwall stating that Rumbold had been unhappy at the Oratory School, 25 June 1964

/673: A.J. Cornwell to Plomer, 25 June 1964

/674: Jim Lees-Milburn to Plomer about the Rumbold diary, 23 June 1964

/675: Lady Margaret Vane Tempest Stewart to Plomer, mainly about A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, also refers to Plomer and Britten's Curlew River, 5 July 1964

/676: Lady Margaret Vane Tempest Stewart to Plomer, [nd.]

/677: Terence Boughton who had been in the same flight squadron (B Flight, No 1 Squadron) as Rumbold, enclosed is a photograph of the squadron, 16th August 1964

/678: Agatha Nomian to Plomer congratulating him on A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 12 September 1964

/679: Anthony Derville to Plomer on A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold, 6 October 1964

/680: C.P. Blacker (the Simon Population Trust) enclosing a review of A Message in Code. The Diary of Richard Rumbold from The Eugenics Review, October 1964

/681: Alan Ross Smith to Plomer about Rumbold and psychology, 14 November 1964

/682: Rev. Stewart K.B. Elmslie, 9 April 1965

PLO/683-684 [c. 1960s]

Plomer's notes:

/683: Handwritten list of Richard Rumbold's publications and broadcasts, 7pp.

/684: Handwritten lists of Rumbold's correspondents, 1p.

2 items

Olive Schreiner

PLO/685 - 689

2 folders

*Related material in other DUL collections:* See also Plomer's correspondence with Zelda Friedlander at PLO/72 and PLO/252.

PLO/685-688 1914, 1955 and 1963 and undated [c.1965-1967]

Notes and papers relating to Olive Schreiner, sent to Plomer by Zelda Friedlander. Folder includes (apparently originally sent to Plomer by Friedlander) a letter from Joan Eden [née Smith] dated 3 Dec 1963, together with 3 postcards written by Schreiner (from Alassio, 1914) and cutting of letter about her, sent to the *Listener* by Sylvia Pankhurst (5 May 1955).

Friedlander's notes on Olive Schreiner are undated, but probably date from 1965-1967 while she was working (with help from Plomer) on *Until the heart changes: a garland for Olive Schreiner* (Tafelberg, Cape Town, 1967).

5 sheets & 3 postcards & 1 cutting & 1 envelope

PLO/689 1871 - 1896, 1955

Photographs of Olive Schreiner and friends, most or all sent to Plomer by Zelda Friedlander. With letter from South African Library, Cape Town, to the University Library dated 22 Oct 1986 (relating to photograph PLO 689/8), and negatives of photographs PLO 689/2 & 9.

List of items

- /1. Olive Schreiner's mother (Rebecca Lyndall), at Roman Catholic convent in Grahamstown
- /2. Schreiner at time of writing *The story of an African farm* (1973, aged c.18)
- /3. From a painting by Boonzaaier
- /4-5. Schreiner sitting at a desk (photograph printed as postcard, plus published paper copy)
- /6. Notes by Friedlander on PLO 689/7-11
- /7. Schreiner aged 16, 1871
- /8. Dr John and Mrs Mary Brown, taken in Lancashire
- /9. Schreiner with her black servant, Gangalezewe
- /10. Memorial plaque marking Schreiner's centenary year, 1955
- /11. Schreiner in 1884

10 photographs & 2 sheets & 2 envelopes & negatives

PLO/690-736

Reference numbers in use elsewhere within collection

Rupert Hart-Davis

PLO/737-738 and PLO/743

Papers collected by Hart-Davis about Plomer as a friend and as his literary executor.

*Provenance:* Misc.1998/1999:7

Obituaries

PLO/737 October- November 1973

Obituaries about William Plomer

7 items

Biographical papers

PLO/738/1-2 [c. 1970s]

Lists of biographical and bibliographical information compiled by Rupert Hart-Davis

738/1/1: copy of Hart-Davis' notes on Plomer's 'migrations', the places where he lived

738/1/2: page which looks to be torn from a book which lists references to Plomer's papers, possibly references from Richard Prebe's *Letters and manuscripts from South Africa* (Texas, African and Afro-American Research Institute, 1972) which is handwritten at the bottom

738/1/3: typescript list of books edited or with introductions by Plomer

738/1/4: typescript list of Plomer's contributions to Penguin *New Writing*

738/1/5: article about The Hogarth Press including a page on their well-known authors

738/2: handwritten list of documents regarding Plomer donated to Durham by Hart-Davis

Duplicate items sent to Hart-Davis, of PLO/337PLO/294 and PLO/278

Framed print

PLO/743 [n.d]

Framed print of Ali Pacha from a picture in the possession of G. Vivian by L.Dupre,  
9 March 1819.

*Size:* 34cm x 43cm

Reference numbers in use elsewhere within collection

## Photographs

Some photographs are also included in other sections eg. Kilvert, Rumbold and Schreiner

### Photograph Albums

#### PLO/Ph/A1-A6

##### PLO/Ph/A1 1901-1951

Includes photographs of WP's parents Charles Plomer and Edythe, WP as an infant with his brother Charles, with servants in Transvalle and with his Grandparents (1906-1911); WP at Beechmouth (1916-1918); James Plomer and Frances Plomer and his children, Wilhelmena and Deidre (1947-1951). Also includes other members of the family and trips overseas.

44 photographs

##### PLO/Ph/A2 1922-1926

Mainly of houses and views at Marsh Moor, Entameni, Mvuzame Valley. Also includes individual photographs of Nkiyankiya, Buzekile Mhlongo, Charles Plomer and Edythe Plomer

16 photographs

##### PLO/Ph/A3 1926-1929

WP, Roy and Mary Campbell; Umdoni Park; Roy Campbell, Mary Campbell, WP and Laurens van der Post

11 photographs

##### PLO/Ph/A4 1926-1952 and 1971

Photographs of WP and Laurens van der Post's trip to Japan include, Captain Katsue Mori (1926); WP's house at Kaminerima(1927) ; Higashi Nakano (1928-1929); W.P with students of the Tokyo Koto-Gakko (1929); Higashi Nakano (1928); Taro Shiomi, Lake Kawaguchi (1928); WP and Anna von Schubert at Chzenji (1927); Captain Mori (1952 and 1971)

29 photographs

##### PLO/Ph/A5 1930-1951

Photographs on WP on holiday in various locations in Greece, UK and France. Includes WP and Charles Erdman in London; with Sybil Cholmondeley in London (1948); in Houghton with Batty Tonge and David Horner (1951).

26 photographs

##### PLO/Ph/A6 1954-1969

WP's homes and friends including Rossida (1954); E.M. Forster (1954); Daniel George (1954); Laurens van der Post (1954); John Morris (1955); Christopher Isherwood, Don Bachardy (1956); Sheila Colman (1965); Edward Colman (1969);

### Loose Photographs

#### PLO/Ph/B

PLO/Ph/B1/1-39 and PLO/Ph/B7 1904-1970

Photographs and portraits of William Plomer:

PLO/Ph/B1/1-30: photographs of William Plomer in chronological order from infant into adulthood, in various locations, 1904-1970

PLO/Ph/B1/31-39: photographs of sculptures and portraits of Plomer by Moses Kottler, Edward Wolfe, Sava, Frances Baruch and Robert Butler, 1929-1970

PLO/Ph/B7: portraits of Plomer, and one of a sculpture of his head, file includes many duplicate copies

*Provenance:* PLO/Ph/B7 from Misc Acc: 1998/1999:7

PLO/Ph/B2 [c.1800s - 1893]

Early family photographs of Plomer's relatives and their friends, mostly portraits

- /1: George Woodroffe, Franklyn MP. Plomer's great grandfather
- /2: Mary Arden, Mrs Franklyn. Plomer's great grandmother
- /3: Hannah Ward, mother of Ann Alethea Franklyn. Born 1745, married 1765, died 1807
- /4: Ann Alethea Franklyn. Born 1768, died 1850
- /5: Edward Waite Brown. Plomer's grandfather
- /6: Edith Alethea Brown (née Franklyn). Daguerreotype of WP's grandmother
- /7: Edith Alethea [Browne] (née Franklyn)
- /8: Edith Alethea Browne (née Franklyn), seated and a sister
- /9: Edith Alethea Browne (née Franklyn) seated, holding a baby
- /10: Edith Alethea Browne (née Franklyn)
- /11: Note on reverse: 'My grandmother, Mrs Browne, and her step-daughter Beatrice Dalton, at Southwell, at the wedding of my aunt Hilda (Hayman)'
- /12-13: Easthorpe Lodge, Southwell, Notts. The house of Edith Browne
- /14: H. Franklyn. WP's great-uncle
- /15: Holland Franklyn
- /16: Mrs H. Franklyn
- /17: Mrs H. Franklyn and baby, (d. 1921)
- /18: Note on reverse: 'Charles James Augustus Rumbold - husband of Evelyn (Franklyn)'
- /19: Charles James Augustus Rumbold [WP's great-uncle]
- /20: Mary Agatha Rumbold, m[arried] Rev. Norman 1897
- /21: Charles Rumbold's sister, Agatha who m[arried] Rev. Bathurst Norman
- /22: C.E.A.L. Rumbold (Richard's father)
- /23: Mounted clipping of Mr Plomer by John Smart, 1740-1811
- /24: Lady (Sarah) Plomer married 1. William Plomer Kut 2. Thomas Lagan. Born circa 1776, died 1854
- /25: Sir Angus Campbell, 2nd Baronet and 17th Captain Dunstaffnage (1827-1863), eldest son of Sir Donald Campbell , 1st Bart and his wife, Caroline Eliza Plomer
- /26: John Henry Brown, Archdeacon of Ely
- /27: William Plomer, [Col? William Plomer]
- /28: Aunt Florence, c. 1893, born Wildman-Ludington, married Col. W Plomer
- /29: Helen Plomer, born Helen Lucretia Bush, 1834-1908 died
- /30: J.T. Plomer died Aug 16th 1908, WP's great-uncle Tom
- /31: Alfred Durham Plomer
- /32: Colonel, later General, Nodosy (friend of George Franklyn MP)
- /33: Col. Nadosy
- /34: Gen. Nadosy
- /35: Visiting card of Alexandra Nadosy von Nodo, K.K. General Major and Kamerer

PLO/Ph/B3 [c. 1908-1967]

Photographs of William Plomer's parents, uncles and aunts, mainly in portrait

- /1-7: Portrait photographs of Charles Plomer, WP's father in England and South Africa, c. 1908-1922
- /8-12 Portrait photographs of Edyth Mary Plomer, later Brown
- /13: WP with his mother at Easthorpe Lodge, Southwell, about 1905. Also includes on negative
- /14: Edyth Plomer, William and John, c. 1907
- /15-16: Edyth Plomer
- /17: Charles and Edyth Plomer
- /18: Charles and Edyth Plomer, and [WP]
- /19: Edyth Plomer
- /20-24: Franklyn Boyle, WP's uncle, as a child, a young man, in uniform and sketching and painting
- /25: Franklyn and Anita Browne, 24 June 1952
- /26: Franklyn, Anita Browne, Peter and Rosemary Hayman
- /27: Hilda Hayman at Gotherington painted by her brother Franklyn Brown, c. 1936
- /28: WP's aunt, Hilda Hayman
- /29: Photograph of a painting of the Red House, Shedfield, Southampton, sent as a postcard with Christmas greetings on reverse. Shows Arden and Geraldine Franklyn
- /30: Laura Horniman, nee Plomer
- /31: Aunt Laura (Horniman), later Mrs Horiman at Dresden, c. 1930
- /32: Laura Isabel Hornimann, 1915
- /33: Aunt Laura (Horniman) at Burford Priory, c. 1930



PLO/Ph/B4 1943-1967

Photographs of William Plomer's brother, nieces and nephews

- /1: James Plomer, WP's brother, as a young navel officer
- /2: James Plomer, with two other officers, 1943
- /3: James Plomer as a Commodore in the Royal Canadian Navy, 1960
- /4: Cutting of a short article about James about his retirement, with a photograph, 1962
- /5: James Plomer's wedding, with relatives including Plomer, 1945
- /6: James Plomer and Frances [née Randall] on their wedding day, 1945
- /7: Frances Plomer [née Randall]
- /8: James Plomer and baby
- /9: Frances Plomer and baby
- /10: Billie, daughter of James and Frances Plomer, as a small child with ducks, 1951
- /11: James' daughter Billie as a small child
- /12: Jamie, son of James and Frances Plomer as a small child in a highchair
- /13: Billie and Jamie Plomer as small children
- /14: Billie Plomer
- /15: Billie and Jamie Plomer
- /16: WP, Billie and Jamie at Swanbourne lake
- /17: Billie and Jamie with WP at Chy-Vean, Leatherhead
- /18: WP and Mrs Randall (Frances' mother), Billie and Jamie at Chy-Vean, Leatherhead
- /19: WP, Frances, Mrs Randall, Billie and Jamie at Chy-Vean, Leatherhead
- /20: Jamie snowballing at Kingsmere, near Ottawa
- /21: James, Frances, Billie and Jamie (?1957)
- /22: Frances, Deidre Billie and Jamie, Ottawa, (?1957)
- /23: Deirdre, [Ottowa?], 1957
- /24: Deirdre's wedding to John Lehmann, 12 September 1962
- /25: Billie's wedding to John Thompson (includes an index to family members in the group photograph)
- /26: Billie and John Thompson at their wedding
- /27: Jamie, 1967

PLO/Ph/B5 [c.1920s-1960s]

Photographs of William Plomer's Friends

- /1-4: Joe Ackerly, includes Don Windham, Ackerley's sister and Mrs Kirkup, [c. 1960s]
- /5: W.H. Auden and William Plomer
- /6-8: Bernard Bayes, with horse and on guard duty
- /9: Elizabeth Bowen at Bowen's Court, indoors with friends
- /10: Elizabeth Bowen in Ireland and one other
- /11: Lilian Bowes-Lyon
- /12-13: Anthony Butts
- /14-18: Lady Sybil Chomondeley, [c.1940s-1950s]
- /19: Rock and Sybil Chomondeley, [1958]
- /20: Rock Chomondeley in ceremonial dress
- /21: Sybil Chomondeley on Acropolis, 1960
- /22: Lady Aline Chomondeley and William Plomer at Houghton
- /23-24: Mrs Colville Hyde painted by her son, Anthony Butts
- /25: John Cuthbertson's son, William and his sister, 1957
- /26: Harry Doyle, an old friend, captioned by WP
- /27-32: Photographs to Charles Erdman, with WP
- /33: Ernestine Evans
- /34-36: E.M. Forster at his room in King's and Rastington, (1950s)
- /37-40: Morito Fukuzawa, 1928
- /41: Rupert Hart-Davis with his infant daughter [Bridget], 1935
- /42: June and Rupert Hart-Davis
- /43-45: René Janin
- /46: John Lehmann at Lake Cottage
- /47: Captain K. Mori on his 66th birthday, 1956
- /48: Captain K. Mori at Yasukuni shrine with Laurens van der Post and Mr Shirakawa, May 5th 1960
- /49: Congregation at the Durham University Newcastle division. University Vice Chancellor Sir James Duff with honorary graduates Lady Ridley, Lord Scarbrough (Chancellor), WP, and Charles Bosenquet, 4 July 1959
- /50: Richard Rumbold, Charles Erdman and WP, [c.1957]
- /51: Frank Sargeson and Una Platts, c.1949
- /52: Frank Sargeson, Wellington, 1953
- /53: Frank Sargeson and Harry Doyle, August 1964
- /54: Pauline Smith, January 1959
- /55: WP with John Sparrow at Wooton-by-Woodstock, September 1970
- /56: Stephen Spencer at Sellin at Rügen, June 1932
- /57-59: Stephen Spencer
- /60: Natasha Spencer at Rustington
- /61-63: Matthew Spencer as a child with Natasha in the background, 1946
- /64: Stephen Spencer and Matthew Spencer as a child
- /65: Natasha Spencer with her son [Matthew] and daughter,
- /66: Matthew Spencer at Lake Garda, 1951
- /67: Tania and James Stern and Charles Erdmann, c.1920. Captioned on back by WP: 'An unstill life, featuring friends, with the Master (Picasso) as centre piece.'

- /68: Charles Erdmann and Tania Stern, c. 1920. Captioned on back by WP: 'Satisfaction or I never tasted anyone better'.
- /69: Laurens Van der Post
- /70-71: Newspaper clippings of Virginia Woolf
- /72: Hilda Young at Montana
- /73: Hilda Young, Richard Rumbold and Charles Erdmann at Montana
- /74: Hilda Young and Charles Erdman at Montana
- /75: Postcard of Lord Berners' Tower, Fraingdon with an unidentified man in the foreground

PLO/Ph/B6

Miscellaneous photographs, mainly 'Victorian' photographs, mostly unidentified, few are annotated by WP and others

- /1: Martin Folkes, P.R.S. Bust of Roubiliac at Wilton
- /2: Copy of an engraving titled 'Lady Plomer's Palace on the summit of Hawke's, Bill Wood, Epping Forest
- /3: 'Prince Imperial'
- /4: 'With Mary Colline kind of love, 1872'
- /5-12: Victorian photographs of unidentified individuals
- /13: '?Kilvert?'
- /14-41: Victorian photographs of unidentified individuals
- /42: 'August 1828'
- /43-89: Victorian photographs of unidentified individuals
- /90: 'Pr[inc]ess Alice'
- /91: '?Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria or his Father Franz Josef'
- /92: 'Honble Mrs Cowper'
- /93-94: 'Empress Eugénie'
- /95: 'Napoleon III & family'
- /96: 'Napoleon III & Empress Eugénie'
- /97: 'Napoleon III'
- /98: 'Capt. Sanderson R.N.'
- /99: 'Colonel Horsford'
- /100: 'Cap. Lewis R.N., February 19th 1868'
- /101: 'Ch: Aug: Goulden Pasteur d' Amiens'
- /102: 'Captain and Mrs Robert Cadell 1867'
- /103: 'J. Walters M.P.'
- /104: 'Comte de Chambord'
- /105: 'Disraeli'
- /106: 'Lady Hoffard'
- /107: 'Francis Close, Dean of Carlisle'
- /108: 'Caroline Philips'
- /109: 'G. Garibaldi'

PLO/Ph/B7

Reference in use elsewhere within collection

PLO/Ph/B8 1904-1907

Autographed postcards of actors and actresses:

- /1: Maria Carmi as the Madonna in *The Miracle*
- /2: Marie Studholme
- /3: Ellaine Terris
- /4: Seymour Hicks
- /5: Gabrielle Ray
- /6-7: Pauline Chase
- /8: Irene Vanbrugh
- /9: Camille Clifford
- /10: Gerald du Maurier
- /11: G.H. Chirgwin
- /12: Edmund Payne, addressed to 'Mrs [Quintin?] Miller, Hereford' with the note 'do you remember this?'
- /13: Irene Vanburgh, signed to Miss K.G. Malone
- /14: Harry Relph, "Little Tich"
- /15: George Robey
- /16: George Mozart
- /17: Olive May
- /18: Nina Boucicault
- /19: Hilda Trevelyan
- /20: Emma [Don?]
- /21: Harry [Grattau?]
- /22: Maisy Villion
- /23: Jack Charman
- /24: [Irma?] Royston
- /25: Marie Dainton