

A Guide to the Papers of William McFee, 1916-1951

Papers of William McFee, 1916-1951

1916-1951

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library The Special Collections Department 6241-b

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

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History

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

Feb 20, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::viu02743::Papers of William McFee)//EN" "viu02743.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number

6241-b

Language

English

Physical Characteristics

This collection consists of 26 items.

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was deposited on 22 Jun 1965.

Preferred Citation

Papers of William McFee, Accession #6241-b, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content Information

The collection contains manuscript for introduction to *Innocent Aloft*.

Letters discuss the sale of his literary manuscripts; the publication of "Casuals of the Sea"; Joseph Conrad and Richard Curle's work on Conrad; royalties for "An Engineer's Notebook"; unauthorized reprints of his work; works on World War I; and his health and visits to England and Florida.

He also mentions "Command" as his favorite novel; Stefan Zeromski's "Ashes"; Joseph Henry Shorthouse's "John Inglesant"; Charles Reade's "The Cloister and the Hearth"; a Modern Language Association meeting in Chicago; Archibald Henderson; and George Bernard Shaw.

Correspondents include Lillian B. Bennett, Glen Walton Blodgett; Montgomery Evans, Crosby Gaige; Everett L. Getchell; E. J. Halter, Edward Lazare, Henry Goddard Leach, Christopher Morley, Howes Norris, Myriam Sieve, Harold Sinclair, and Paul M. Wheeler.

Contents List

Manuscript: Introduction to Innocents Aloft, by Henry Justin Smith n.d.

Extent AMsS(bound). 15 p.

Letters

William McFee to Howes Norris, Jr. 1922 Dec 17

Extent ANS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Provides autograph. Describes self as "a sea-going engineer."

W. McF. to Henry Goddard Leach 1923 Sep 15

Extent ALS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Is grateful for invitation to submit a topic; asks for suggestions and number of words. Is anxious to finish novel before taking on fresh work.

W. McF. to "Dear John" 1924 Jul 30

Extent ALS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Has located ms. of *[Letters From] an Ocean Tramp*, about which John had inquired.

W. McF. to [Crosby] Gaige 1924 Aug 7

Extent ALS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Replies to prospective buyer of ms. of *The Ocean Tramp*. Has asked his mother to send all other of his

mss. from London. Invites Gaige to visit him in Westport, Conn.

W. McF. to Editor of The World 1925 Apr 22

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

W/clipping of the letter as printed in the paper.] Printed 1925 April 25 in *The World*. Complains that wireless operators on ships and aircraft are called "heroic" while others more worthy are not.

W. McF. to [Lillian B.] Bennett 1928 Jan 24

Extent ALS. W/env. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Intends to get "Max" to autograph book; plans return to England for summer.

W. McF. to L. B. [1928 Feb 22] Wednesday

Extent ALS. W/env. 3 p.

Scope and Content

Complains about attacks of lumbago and rheumatism. May go on a cruise to England. Would like to sell his [Westport, Conn.] house.

W. McF. to "Dear Mr. Milkman" 1928 Mar 22

Extent ANS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Has just returned from hospital. Sends compliments.

W. McF. to Miss Myriam Sieve 1928 Jul 26

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Replies to letter received while in England. Discusses merits of several books on the late war and remarks on the need to resist aggressors. Would like to read *Ashes* by Stefan Zeromski.

W. McF. to M. S. 1928 Sep 10

Extent ALS. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Discusses historical novels. Mentions *The Cloister and the Hearth* by Charles Reade. Recommends *John Inglesant* by J[oseph] H[enry] Shorthouse. Gives travel plans.

W. McF. to L. B. 1931 Jan 14

Extent ALS. W/env. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Refuses to spend \$25 for a first edition for a friend who wants only "an ordinary copy." Dislikes New York.

W. McF. to Everett L. Getchell 1931 Feb 4

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Comments to professor at Boston University on subject of posterity. Enjoys the notice of his contemporaries.

W. McF. to Dr. [Paul M.] Wheeler 1931 Jun 3

Extent TLS. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Complains that his material has been reprinted so often without his receiving payment. Illustrates point with examples. Refers to the "mimeograph mind" of the book compiler.

W. McF. to Edward Lazare of G. A. Baker and Co., Inc. 1935 Aug 16

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Describes events of past year as a reason for not writing earlier. Had gone to Florida for winter, thence to London because of family illness, death.

W. McF. to E. L. 1935 Oct 28

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Intends to revise copy of his early book containing poem "About the Apprentices." Desires to change some of the prose; regrets previous issuance of this book.

W. McF. to E. L. 1936 Jan 16

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Invites Lazare to visit at new house; asks about possible job opening for son of an old friend.

W. McF. to "Dear Sir" 1940 May 23

Extent ALS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Relates publishing history of *Casuals of the Sea*.]

W. McF. to E. J. Halter 1945 May 9

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Says that while *Casuals of the Sea* has been his best selling novel, his own preference has always been *Command*.

W. McF. to Montgomery Evans 1951 Oct. 2

Extent TLS. W/env. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Refers to [Richard Henry Parnell] Curle's work on [Joseph] Conrad, and to Conrad's visit to New York. Mentions Archibald Henderson, [George Bernard] Shaw; his deafness.

W. McF. to M. S. n. y. Oct. 12

Extent ANS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Greetings. Thanks for letter.

W. McF. to L. B. n. d. Tuesday

Extent ALS. W/env. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Sends two books: the Lewis book is to go to president of United Fruit Co., the other to George Keating. Refers to latter's \$25 Conrad memorial.

John Held Jr. to Crosby Gaige n. d.

Extent ANS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

McFee can be reached in Westport.

W. McF. to [Christopher] Morley n. d. Thursday A. M.

Extent ALS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Asks C. M. how to get to Chicago for meeting of the Modern Language Assn; would like a reduced fare.

Complains of publishers' bad treatment of authors and rails against "free lunch counters in literature."

Miscellaneous

"William McFee" by Harold Sinclair, with "Checklist clipping Bibliography" on McFee. May 1937

Extent Magazine. 2 p.

"I Have Appendicites [sic]": self-portrait by W. McF. n. d.

Extent Pen and ink. Sketch. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Annotated and signed in author's hand.

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library