Inventory

Acc.13145

Michael Roberts

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Papers, 1922-1948, of William Edward Roberts (1902-1948), known as Michael Roberts, poet, critic, teacher and mountaineer. From Bournemouth School he went to King’s College, London, where he read chemistry (BSc, 1922). He then read mathematics at Trinity College, Cambridge (BA, 1925), where he took the name Michael through admiration for the Russian savant Mikhail Lomonosov.

From 1925 to 1941, Roberts was a schoolmaster; until 1931 and again from 1934 at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; from 1931-1934 at the Mercers’ School, London; and in summer 1934 at the King’s School, Chester. From September 1941 to March 1945 he worked for the European Service of the BBC. He then became principal of the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, and Anglican teacher-training college. He died of monocytic leukaemia in December 1948.

In 1935 he married Janet Adam Smith (1905-1999).


This collection includes correspondence and papers relating to the following published volumes by Michael Roberts:

- These our Matins (London: Elkin Matthews and Marrot, 1930).
- Elizabethan Prose. Selected and prefaced by M. Roberts (London: Jonathan Cape, 1933).
- Critique of Poetry (London: Jonathan Cape, 1934).
- Poems (London: Jonathan Cape, 1936).
- Orion Marches: poems (London: Faber and Faber, 1939)
- The Recovery of the West (London: Faber and Faber, 1941).
The Estate of Man (London: Faber and Faber, 1951).

Michael Roberts' correspondence relating to his editing The Faber Book of Modern Verse (London: Faber and Faber, 1936) was sold in 1977 by Janet Carleton (Janet Adam Smith) to the Berg Collection, New York Public Library. Materials relating to his T.E. Hulme (London: Faber and Faber, 1938) were donated by her in 1960 to the University of Keele (North Staffordshire). For correspondence concerning the Collected Poems see Acc.12342/185-186.

These papers have been selected and arranged by a son of Michael Roberts, Professor Andrew D. Roberts.

For the papers of Michael Roberts's wife, Janet Adam Smith, see Acc.6301, Acc.11164, Acc.12342 and Acc.13396.


The collection has been divided into the following sections:

1-52. Correspondence, 1922-1948.


7-29. Letters, 1925-1948, arranged by subject.


30-49. Letters, 1930-1948, arranged by correspondent.

30. George Barker.


37. William Empson.

38. George Every S.S.M.
41. Charles Madge.
42. Naomi Mitchison.
43. Kathleen Raine.
44. Richard Rees.
45. I.A. and Dorothy Richards.
46. Laura Riding and Robert Graves.
47. Stephen Spender.


53-60. Manuscripts and typescripts of poems, 1925-1948 and undated.

1-52. Correspondence, 1922-1948.


1. Letters, 1922, 1925, to Michael Roberts.
   Testimonial, 18 October 1925, of G.H. Crouch, secretary of the Cambridge branch of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

   Letters, 1926-1931, of J.D. Solomon:
   23 June and 3 July 1926
   28 January, 3 May, 5 July and 21 September 1927
   13 December 1928
   6 March, 3 September and 26 October 1929
   10 May and 9 June 1930
   12 January 1931
   3 letters and a postcard, ? 1924, 19 April, 14 June 1925 and undated, of James Smith.
   Letters, 1926-1931, of Dudley E. Littlewood:
   25 January 1926
   13 October 1929
   17 January, 27 May and 3 August 1930
   3 October ?1931
   1 undated letter and 1 undated postcard
Letters, 1924-1932, of Carew Meredith:

? 1924
6 January and 31 December ? 1925
7 April 1931
4 August 1932
Letter, 20 June 1930, of S.V. Keeling.


3 letters and 2 postcards, 18 November 1931, 20 April 1933, ? 1933, and 1 March and 8 June 1934, of W.H. Auden.

3 letters, 11 and 21 October 1932, and 14 January 1934, of T.O. Beachcroft.
Letter, 24 October 1933, of Julian Bell.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of R.E. Bradshaw.
Letter, 28 June 1934, of G.F. Brett.
2 letters, 6 January and 19 April 1932, of J. Bronowski.
Telegram, 30 December 1930, and letter, 2 October 1943, of Nancy Cunard.
Postcard, 1932 or 1933, of Gwenda David.
Letters, 1931-? 1936, of Cecil Day Lewis:

15 January, 23 September 1931, and ?autumn 1931
27 February, 18 October, and 14 November 1932
19 January, 23 March, 13 November 1933, and 1933
? 1936
Postcard, 22 March 1932, of Robin Fedden.

Letter, 1934, of Geoffrey Grigson.

Letters, 1933-1934, of Rayner Heppenstall:

9 November, 28 November (postcard), and 27 December 1933
2 January (postcard), 28 February, 9 June, 14 June (postcard), and 18 July 1934
3 letters, 11 November 1932, 24 February and 18 May 1933, of F.R. Leavis.
Letters, 1931-1933, of Walter Lowenfels:

7 May and 27 June 1931

9 January, 2 April (letter of Lillian Lowenfels), 5 May, and 18 June 1932

24 June and 27 July 1933

2 letters, 18 October 1930 and 8 January 1931, of Harriet Monroe.

4 letters and a postcard, 22 December 1931, 6 January ? 1932, 9 November and 18 November (postcard) 1934 and undated, of John Middleton Murry.

Letter, 27 April 1932, of A.R. Orage.

Letter, December 1932, of Richard Paget.


3 letters, 5 and 8 January 1932 and 6 February 1934, of William Plomer.

5 letters, 30 November 1932, 6, 12 January and 6 February 1933, and 24 November 1934, of Hugh Gordon Porteus.

Letters, 1932-1934, of George Reavey:

November and 6 December 1932

26 July and 6 October 1933

2 March (postcard), 6 September (postcard) and 11 October 1934

Letter, 6 March 1934, of D. Owen Robinson, a pupil at Mercers’ School.

Letter, 10 June 1934, of John Sparrow.

Letter, 1933, of Dylan Thomas.

Letter, 8 November 1934, of J.J. Thomson.


Letter, 17 July 1936, of Conrad Aiken.

Letter, 12 September 1938, of George Bell.

Letter, 27 October 1939, of Hilaire Belloc.

Letter, 5 June 1937, of Max Black.

Letters, 15 January and 12 February 1937, of Ronald Bottrall.

Letter, 4 March 1936, of Richard Church.
Letter, 14 October 1939, of R.G. Collingwood.

3 letters, 28 February 1934, 3 February 1938 and 19 December 1939, of E.M. Forster.

Letters, 1934-1937, of Ll. Wyn Griffith:
   27 September 1934
   10 March 1935
   7 and 10 March 1936
   6 March 1937

Letter, 12 May 1937, of Laurence Housman.


Letter, 8 November 1936, of Flavia Léopold.

   2 letters, 6 and 19 March 1939, of C.C. Martindale.
   2 letters, 23 January and 2 February 1937, of Robert Medley.
   3 letters, 10 November and 22 December 1938 and 16 April 1939, of Martin Moynihan.
   Letter, 23 May 1936, of Edwin Muir.
   Postcard, 11 November 1934, and letter, 31 March 1939, of Ezra Pound.
   5 letters, 26 February, 10 March, 4 May, ? May 1936 and [1936], of Frederic Prokosch.
   Letter, 7 March 1935, of Herbert Read.
   3 letters, 19 April 1936, 13 March 1938 and 25 May 1939, of Allen Tate.
   2 letters, 16 October 1935 and December 1936, of W.B. Yeats.
   Letter, 22 June 1937, of G.M. Young.

   Letter, 27 September 1948, of John Arlott.
   Letter, 14 April 1947, of Stanley K. Coffman.
   2 letters, 12 June 1943 and 18 April 1944, of David Cushing.
   Copy of a letter, June 1947, of Professor F.A. Hayek.
3 letters, 12 and 29 August, and 6 September 1948, of T.G. Longstaff.

3 letters and a postcard, 14 May, 23 May (postcard), 16 October 1946, and [1946], of Arnold Lunn.


4 letters, 6 November and 3 December 1944, 12 March 1945 and 6th April 1942, of Douglas McKie. [The letter of 6 April 1942 was added in 2015]

3 letters, 4 and 12 February and 21 May 1940, of Edward Marsh.


Letter, 1 July 1948, of Gwendolen Murphy.

Letter, 2 July 1941, of Herbert Read.

Letter, 15 December 1943, of D. Gordon Smith, with a letter, 12 April 1944, of Michael Roberts to D. Gordon Smith.

Letter, 22 October 1944, of Moira Sykes.

Letter, 26 January 1944, of Wen Yuan-Ning.

7-29. Letters, 1925-1948, arranged by subject.


This section also includes correspondence, 1976, of Janet Adam Smith (Acc.13145/17).

Letters, 1931-1932, to Michael Roberts and Gwenda David, concerning a proposed magazine.

For letters of C. Day Lewis concerning this proposed publication, see Acc.13145/3.

Undated typescript of ‘Concise Statement’.


Letter, 21 December 1931, of Edmund Blunden.

2 letters, 2 and 13 March 1932, of Donald Culver.

Letter, 10 December 1931, of J.B.S. Haldane.

2 letters, 16 June and 19 September 1932, of L.C. Knights.

Letter, 1 December 1931, of Frank Pakenham.
Letter, 4 December 1931, and postcard, 6 December 1931, of Herbert Read.
Letter, 16 December 1931, of Richard Rees.
3 letters, 8, 10 and 16 December 1931, of Geoffrey Sainsbury.
4 letters, 14 December 1931, 30 March, 10 May 1932 and [1932], of Sydney Schiff.
2 letters, 4 December 1932 and undated, of Henry Smith.
2 letters, 10 and 20 December 1931, of Geoffrey West.

Letters to Gwenda David:
Letter, 9 December 1931, of Bernard Brett.
Letter, 4 December 1931, of Naomi Mitchison, with a draft reply of Michael Roberts.
3 letters, 2, 7 and 10 December 1931, of Sydney Schiff.
Undated letter of Sally Cobden-Sanderson.
2 letters, 30 November and 2 December 1931, of J.B. Elias.

4 letters, 22 December 1932, 2 March, 4 May 1933 and undated, of T.O. Beachcroft.
Undated letter of Julian Bell.
Letter, 5 January 1933, of G.F. Brett.
Letter, 28 February 1933, of Richard Goodman.
4 letters, 12 November 1932, 2 January, 9 February 1933 and undated, of Christopher Isherwood.
Letter, 17 February 1933, of John Lehmann.
2 letters, 11 February and 23 March 1933, of Charles Madge, enclosing a poem, 'New Verse'.
5 letters, 4, 19 December 1932, 4, 10, 12 January 1933 and 2 postcards, 16 February and 25 March 1933, of William Plomer.
4 letters, 18 and 23 October and 22 November 1932 and 1933, of Stephen Spender.
Postcard, February 1933, of A.S.J. Tessimond.

4 letters, 9 November and 19 December 1932 and 12 January and 24 March 1933, of Edward Upward.

2 letters, 8 November 1932 and 20 April 1933, of Rex Warner.

Letter, ? 20 January 1933, of Arthur Ball.

3 letters, 19 December 1932 and 3 and 15 February 1933, of John Hampson Simpson.

5 letters, 19 October, 29 November, 2 December 1932, 24 and 27 January 1933, of Leonard Woolf.

3 letters, 6 and 19 December 1932 and 16 February 1933, of M. Scott Johnston of the Hogarth Press.

2 letters, 5 May and 17 July 1933, of Margaret West.

Letters concerning a possible new edition of *New Signatures*:

2 letters, 6 and 9 March 1934, of Margaret West.

4 letters, 16, 20 and 22 March and 11 April 1934, of Leonard Woolf.

Letters, 1934, concerning a BBC radio talk given by Michael Roberts, entitled ‘Whither Britain?’ This talk was published in *The Listener*, 28 February 1934.

Letter, 28 February 1934, of David Fell.

Letter, 27 February 1934, of Miss E. ? Kirit and Mrs C.M. Roberts.

Letter, 27 February 1934, of H.C. Prebble.


Letter, 28 February 1934, of M. Williamson.

Letter, 27 February 1934, of V. Stock, enclosing a flyer for a book.

Letter, 3 March 1934, of Fred Metcalfe.

Letter, 28 February 1934, of W.B. Forshaw.

Letter, 28 February 1934, of H.M. Chadwick.

Unsigned letter, 27 February 1934.

Letter, 28 February 1934, of B.W. Thomson.

Unsigned letter, 28 February 1934.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of C.M. Secombe.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of E. Goth.
Undated letter, of 'a Quaker'.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of J.G. Jones.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of A. Hindell.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of A.M. Kingsley.
Postcard, 27 February 1934, of Frank L. Morley.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of Walter M. Dimbleby.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of ? Fairweather.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of W.H. Barclay.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of William Taylor.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of F.S. Skinner.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of I. Winifred Butler.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of A.M. Sadler.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of W.E. Davies.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of J. Hijekema.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of Anthony Weldon.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of Angela M. Tuckett.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of Stephen Constantine.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of P. Whitney Evans.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of Annie B. Sharp.
Letter, 28 February 1934, of Sydney G. Beer.
Postcard, 28 February 1934, of Thomas Lyons.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of Albert W. Parker.
Letter, 27 February 1934, of an unidentified correspondent.
10. Letters, 1936, concerning an English number of the periodical *Poetry* (Chicago, January 1937).

6 letters, 16 September 1936 and undated, of W.H. Auden.
Letter, 19 March 1936, of George Barker.
Letter, 27 June 1936, of Ronald Botrall.
3 letters, 4 and 16 March and 1 April 1936, of Lilian Bowes Lyon, with enclosed poem.
Letter, 2 March 1936, of Richard Church.
3 letters, 28 February, 14 September and September or October 1936, of Cecil Day Lewis.
Letters, 4 and 21 March 1936, of Clifford Dyment.
5 letters, 22 May 1936 and undated, of William Empson.
Letter, 3 April 1936, of David Gascoyne.
2 letters, 22 March and 26 April 1936, of Graham Hough.
2 letters and a postcard, 4 April, 18 and 27 July 1936, of John Lehmann.
Letter, 19 March 1936, of Louis Macneice.
Letter, 15 March 1936, of Charles Madge.
Letter, 2 April 1936, of Naomi Mitchison.
Letter, 19 March 1936, of Edwin Muir.
Letter, 2 March 1936, of William Plomer.
2 letters, 5 March and 14 April 1936, of Herbert Read.
Letter, 6 May 1936, of James Reeves.
2 letters, 1 March and 8 June 1936, of Stephen Spender.
Letter, 22 March 1936, of Rex Warner.
7 letters, 21 March, 11 April, 11 July, 19 September, 16, 17 and 22 October 1936, of Morton Zabel, with a letter, 20 October 1936 of Geraldine Udell.
11. Typescripts of poems which were submitted for the January 1937 edition of *Poetry*, but which were not included in the published volume. This file includes poems by the following poets:

D.G. Bridson
Richard Church
Ll. Wyn Griffith
A. Desmond Hawkins
John Lehmann
Lilian Bowes Lyon
Michael Roberts (‘Limitations of Logic’)
Roger Roughton
John Short
R.E. Warner


For a further letter concerning this publication, see the letter of Herbert Read in Acc.13145/6.

Letter, 3 August 1941, of Dr Russell Brain.
Letter, 12 October 1941, of W. Bridges-Adams.
Letter, 6 June 1942, of J.R.M. Butler.
Letter, 19 August 1941, of D.S. Cairns to Lady Adam Smith.
Letter, 26 July 1941, of Cecily Goodhart to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 29 October 1941, of R.W. Jepson.
Letter, 1 November 1941, of Thomas Jones.
Letter, 5 November 1941, of W. Menzies to Lady Adam Smith.
Letter, 22 December 1942, of Captain M.J. Moynihan.
Letter, 3 February 1942, of J.W. Hunkin, Bishop of Truro.
Copy of letter, 22 November 1947, of Michael Roberts to P.G. Norberg.

Letters, 18 and 19 August 1941, of Edward Arnold and Co., publishers.
Postcard, 1 June 1941, of Norman Ault.
Letter, 24 September 1941, of Basil Blackwell.
2 letters, 25 May and 16 July 1941, of W. Bridges-Adams, and a letter, 13 July 1941, of Michael Roberts to W. Bridges-Adams.
Letter, 6 July 1941, of Eleanor Brougham.
3 letters, 22 August, 4 September 1941 and undated, of John E. Bushnell, and a letter, 21 August 1941, of Alice K. Bushnell to John E. Bushnell.
Letter, 15 October 1941, of Alice Bushnell.
2 letters, 30 June and 16 July 1941, of Walter de la Mare.
2 letters, 29 July and 29 October 1941, of Colin de la Mare.
Letter, 23 June 1941, of Peter de Vries.
Letter, 24 July 1941, of Alfred Douglas.
Letter, 6 August 1941, of Richard Eberhart.
Letter, 22 May 1941, of Colin D.B. Ellis.
2 letters, 15 July and 28 August 1941, of Geoffrey Faber.
Letter, 21 May 1941, of Robert Graves.
2 letters, 19 May and 16 June 1941, of C.M. Grieve (‘Hugh MacDiarmid’).
2 letters, 27 May and 7 June 1941, of George Rostrevor Hamilton.
2 letters, 16 May and 23 July 1941, of Gerard Hopkins.
2 letters, 11 and 22 October 1941, of Colin Hurly.
Letter, 4 November 1941, of Iliffe and Sons, publishers.
Postcard, 7 July 1941, of C.E.M. Joad.

Letter, 10 June 1941, of the editor of *John O’London’s Weekly*.

Letter, 28 May 1941, of E.V. Knox.


Undated letter of John Masefield.

Letter, 14 May 1941, of G.K. Menzies.

Letter, 29 September 1941, of Humphrey Milford.


Letter, 6 August 1941, of A.S. Andrews, of Sir Isaac Pitman Ltd.

Letter, 18 September 1941, of Cecil Palmer.

2 letters, 20 and 26 May 1941, of William Plomer, enclosing a poem, ‘Slightly foxed’.

Letter, 28 June 1941, of Arthur Quiller-Couch.

2 letters, 22 May and 4 June 1941, of Henry Reed.

Letter, 11 August 1941, of Scott Moncrieff and Trail.

Letter, 7 August 1941, of W.W. Skeat.

2 letters, 11 and 13 August 1941, of Clara L. Skeat.

Letter, 14 August 1941, of T.C. Skeat.


Letter, 21 September 1941, of Burton Stevenson.

Undated letter of G.W. Stonier.


Letter, 13 June 1941, of D.B. Wyndham Lewis.

Letters concerning ‘The Hunt for Warham St Leger’:

Typescript extract from *History of Punch*, pages 395-6.

Letter, 12 August 1941, of W.A. Parsons, of *Punch*.

Letter, 13 August 1941, of A & C Black, publishers.
Letter, 20 August 1941, of W & R Chambers Ltd, publishers.
Letter, 2 August 1941, of Lord Doneraile.
Letter, 15 August 1941, of Hilda St Leger.
Letter, 23 August 1941, of Asanne ?St Leger.
Michael Roberts’s query, Notes and Queries, 13 September 1941.
Letter, 17 September 1941, of Vera St Leger.
Letter, 9 October 1941, of Basil Gray.
Note of Michael Roberts concerning St Leger and Basil Gray.

Letter, 2 April 1942, of Michael Roberts to S. Gaselee.
Letter, 3 April 1942, of S. Gaselee to Michael Roberts.
Letter, 7 May 1942, of A. Keith, of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.
Letter, 2 May 1942, of J. Hilton.
Postcard, 24 May 1942, of J. Hilton.
Letter, 29 August 1946, of Captain A.W. Mallinson.
Letter, 5 September 1946, of Faber and Faber.
2 letters, 7 January and 12 February 1948, of G.C. Sadler.

15. Letters, 1941-1942, confirming permission to publish poems in The Faber Book of Comic Verse, and lists of fees paid.
W. Bridges-Adams, 2 March 1942
Colin D.B. Ellis, 2 March 1942
Robert Graves, 8 March 1942
G.K. Menzies, 1 March 1942
Henry Reed, 10 March 1942
D.B. Wyndham Lewis, 16 August ?1942
   See also Acc.12342/33.

   Letters, 1947-1948, to Michael Roberts:
   Letter, 12 April 1948, of G.D. Gray.
   Letter, 19 April 1948, of Elizabeth Paxton.
   Copy of letter, 18 February 1947, of Michael Roberts to J.T. Whetton.
   Copy of letter, 3 December 1947, of Michael Roberts to J.T. Whetton.
   Letter, 6 December 1947, of J.T. Whetton.

   Letters, 1948-1950, to Janet Roberts (née Adam Smith):
   Letter, 20 December 1948, of Hilda Collins.
   Letter, 16 May 1949, of Janet Roberts to Honor Croome.
   Letter, 3 June 1949, of Honor Croome.
   Letter, 17 June 1949, of Janet Roberts to Honor Croome.
   Letter, 5 July 1949, of Honor Croome.
   Letter, 11 April 1949, of T. Lindsay, enclosing notes of B. Kirk on chapter 6.
   Letter, 3 May 1950, of Janet Roberts to T.S. Eliot.
   Letter, 22 May 1950, of T.S. Eliot.


   Letters, 17 and 29 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Valerie Eliot.
   Letter, 2 April 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to William Empson.
   Letter, 17 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Peter du Sautoy.
   Letter, 19 March 1976, of M.E. Pindard to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 5 April 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to M.E. Pindard.
Letter, 26 April 1976, of M.E. Pindard to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 5 April 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Charles Monteith.
Letter, 12 April 1976, of Charles Monteith to Janet Adam Smith.
Memo, 2 April 1976, of Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 29 March 1976, of John Gross to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 6 May 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to John Gross.
Postcard, 13 May 1976, of John Gross to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 30 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Edward Mendelson.
Letter, 8 April 1976, of Edward Mendelson to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 17 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Frank Morley.
Letter, 21 March 1976, of Frank Morley to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 30 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Frank Morley.
Letter, 26 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Margaret ('Ludo') Read.
Letter, 15 April 1976, of Benedict Read to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 30 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Stephen Spender.
Letter, 12 April 1976, of Stephen Spender to Janet Adam Smith.
Letter, 2 April 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Allen Tate.
Letter, 30 March 1976, of Janet Adam Smith to Jon Stallworthy.
Letter, 5 April 1976, of Jon Stallworthy to Janet Adam Smith.

Letters, 1976, to Janet Adam Smith, following the publication of her article:
Letter, 19 June 1976, of Alan Bell.
Letter, 16 September 1976, of Alun Jones.
Letter, 21 June 1976, of George Lawson of Bertram Rota.
Letter, 28 June 1976, of Francis Mason of the Pierpont Morgan Library
Postcard, 24 June 1976, of Christopher Ricks.
Postcard, 26 June 1976, of Cuthbert Worsley.


Letter, 16 January circa 1931, of Allan Leahy.
3 letters, 22 February, 5 June and 9 July 1932, of L. Cusino.
3 letters, 5 October 1934, 26 August 1936, and 22 January 1940, of Jean Péju, with four photographs, 1939.
Letter, 14 October 1936, of P. Remounu.
Letter, 23 June 1938, of H.V. Hughes, Birmingham.
Letter, 16 February 1939, of Geoffrey Winthrop Young, Surrey.
Letter, 25 March 1940, of Frank S. Smythe.
Letter, 26 August 1946, of Rosalind Franklin and Jean Kerslake.
Letter, 1 January 1948, of Roland Abbatt, Didsbury.
Memo, July 1939, of Michael Roberts concerning plans for a Royal Grammar School party to Dauphiné.
Letter, 14 July 1939, of Michael Roberts to Johannes Brantschen.
3 letters to Janet Adam Smith concerning an article by Michael Roberts, ‘English Travellers to the Graians’:

30 December 1948 and 4 January 1949, of T.S. Blakeney


19 letters of Ottone Bron to Michael Roberts:

17 March, 20 May, 1 September, 13 November and 28 December 1933

1 March, 26 June, 15 August 1934, enclosing a photograph of Horace Bron, and a bill from La Grande Sassière, Tignes, and 22 December 1934

17 May and 30 June 1935

4 February, 22 May, and 13 August 1936

23 March, 18 May, 2 June, 9 August, 22 September, 11 October (receipt), 17 October, and 27 December 1937

21 March 1938

Letter, 30 December 1938, of Camille Bron.

Letter, 23 July 1939, of Camille Bron.

Copy of letter, 16 September 1938, of Michael Roberts to the editor of The Alpine Journal.


Letter, 5 September 1938, of Diana Cavendish.

Undated letter of Diana Cavendish.

Letter, 9 October 1938, of Diana Cavendish, enclosing two photographs of Ottone Bron.

Letter, 24 September [1938], of Honor Channon.

Two undated black and white photographs of Ottone Bron.

Printed prospectus for ‘Scuola Monte Bianco’, 1936.

9 press cuttings, 1938, concerning the death of Ottone Bron, from The Daily Express, La Provincia d’Aosta, La Stampa, The Times, and other unidentified newspapers.

20. Testimonial letters, 1925-1944, of:
   E. Fenwick, Bournemouth School, 16 April 1925.
   Samuel Smiles, King's College, London, 20 April 1925.
   Frank Smith, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 26 February 1931.
   George Holford, Birmingham, 27 February 1931.
   G. Lapsley, Trinity College, Cambridge, 28 February 1931.
   Frank Smith, University of Leeds, 12 May 1934.
   C.W. Baty, King's School, Chester, 3 October 1944.

   For a further letter, 2 February 1948, of Michael Roberts to R.W. Jepson, see Acc.13145/60.
   Letter, 26 May 1931, of R.W. Jepson, enclosing a form, 'Scheme for Retiring Allowances to Assistant Masters'.
   Copy of letter, 2 February 1934, of Michael Roberts to E.R. Thomas.
   Letter, 2 February 1934, of Denys Self.
   Letter, 3 February 1934, of S.F.H. Glynn.
   Carbon copy of letter, 8 February 1934, of Michael Roberts to R.W. Jepson.
   Letter, 19 February 1934, of R.W. Jepson.
   Letter, 28 February 1934, of R.W. Jepson.
   Letter, 11 October 1944, of R.W. Jepson.
   Letter, 15 March 1945, of B.C. Boulter.
22. 7 letters and 3 postcards, 1934-1936, of Charles W. Baty, of King's School, Chester.
   20, 23, 26 February, 8 March, 22, 23, 30 (postcard) April, 22 September (postcard), 15 October 1934 and ?1934 (postcard), and 14 January 1936.

23. Letters, 1944, concerning the College of St Mark and St John.
   For further letters concerning this subject, see a letter, 15 March 1945, of B.C. Boulter (Acc.13145/21), and letters, 1944-1945, of Douglas McKie (Acc.13145/6).
   Letter, 24 May 1944, of F.A. Cockin.
   Copy of letter, 20 July 1944, of Michael Roberts to Archbishop William Temple.
   7 papers concerning Church Training Colleges:
      ‘Church Training Colleges’, April 1943.
      ‘Council of the Church Training Colleges’, 1943.
      ‘Board of Supervision for Church Training Colleges’, 1944.
      ‘Religious Training in the Church Training Colleges’, undated.
      ‘The Church Training Colleges: some financial considerations’, undated.
   Letter, 10 October 1944, of R.A. Butler.
   Letter, 9 October 1944, of F.A. Cockin.
   Letter of Michael Roberts to the Secretary of the National Society, 13 October 1944, enclosing a curriculum vitae.
   Typescript copy of advertisement.
   Undated paper, ‘The College of St Mark and St John’.
   Letter, 13 December 1944, of F.A. Cockin.
   Letter, 22 December 1944, of Bishop Leslie Hunter.
   Letter, 31 December 1944, of Rev. V.A. Demant.
   Cutting from The Times, December 1944.
24. Correspondence, 1945-1948, of Michael Roberts as Principal of the College of St Mark and St John.

2 letters, 5 and 11 July 1946, of J.F Duff, University of Durham, with copy of a reply, 8 July 1946, of Michael Roberts.

Copy of a letter, 20 January 1948, of Michael Roberts to Graham Greene, with a reply, 23 January 1948, of Graham Greene.

Letter, 25 June 1947, of Michael Roberts to Professor W.R. Niblett, University of Hull.

Letter, 17 September 1945, of J.H. Oldham.

Letter, 4 July 1947, of J.H. Oldham, with copy of a reply, 5 July 1947, of Michael Roberts.

Letter, 20 January 1948, of General Sir Bernard Paget, with a reply, 23 January 1948, of Michael Roberts.

Letter, 2 April 1946, of Reverend Alan Richardson, with a reply of Michael Roberts, 5 April 1946.

Letter, 22 March 1948, of Michael Roberts to Dr Rinderknecht.

Letter, 7 November 1946, of Margaret Tatton, with a reply, 12 November 1946, of Michael Roberts.

Letter, 19 November 1947, of Reverend James Welch, with a reply, 21 November 1947, of Michael Roberts.

Postcard, 22 November 1947, of Reverend James Welch.

Letter, 9 October 1946, of Michael Roberts to Major Lyall Wilkes, M.P.

25. Letters, 1944, concerning offers of employment.

Letter, 16 March 1944, of Reverend J.W. Welch, of the BBC.

Letter, 21 November 1944, of W.R.L. Wickham of the British Council, with a reply, 22 November 1944, of Michael Roberts.


Letter, 15 December 1944, of Douglas Jerrold, of Eyre and Spottiswoode.
26-29. **Letters, 1927-1948, from publishers.**


16 and 19 February (to E.R. Thomas), 24 February, 5 and 9 March, 29 March (copy of letter of Michael Roberts to G.H. Bickers), 12 and 21 April, 7 and 9 May 1934, 30 January, and 19 February 1935.


Letter, 17 March 1933, of Hamish Miles.

2 letters, 26 April and 2 May 1933, of Jonathan Cape.

Letter, 29 May 1933, of N. Templeton Macan.

3 letters, 20, 28 September and 24 October 1933, of G. Wren Howard.

4 letters, 7, 10, 12, and 13 December 1935, of Rupert Hart-Davis.

2 letters, 16 December 1935 and 29 January 1936, of G. Wren Howard.

13 letters, 31 January, 4, 6, 11, 18, 20, and 28 February, 4 and 9 March, 15 and 30 May, 19 June and 6 July 1936, of Rupert Hart-Davis.

Letter, 14 July 1936, of Jonathan Cape.

3 letters, 6 and 18 August, 7 October 1936, of Rupert Hart-Davis.

15 letters, 1932-1933, of G. Wren Howard, N. Templeton Macan and other staff of Jonathan Cape concerning *Elizabethan Prose:*

17, 28 November, 2, 3, 7, and 13 December 1932.

19, 21, 25 April, 4 May, 2, 8, 9 June, 13 July and 8 September 1933.

Undated typescript of contents page.


Letter, 9 March 1927, of Chatto and Windus, rejecting ‘Beer’s my hobby’.
4 letters, 1930-1931, rejecting ‘Critique of poetry’:

- 7 November 1930 (N. Templeton Macan of Jonathan Cape)
- 24 November 1930 (G. Bell, publishers)
- 6 January 1931 (F.V. Morley of Faber and Faber)
- 18 November 1931 (Chatto and Windus)

Letter, 28 June 1934, of B.L. Richmond of the Times Literary Supplement requesting an article.


5 letters, 6 February 1947, 4 February, 24 May and 23 August 1948, of Jonathan Cape, requesting permissions.

Letter, 5 December 1947, of the National Library for the Blind, requesting permission to print a Braille version of the Faber Book of Modern Verse.

29. Letters, 1937, 1941-1942, of staff of Faber and Faber.

For letters of T.S. Eliot, see Acc.13145/36.

8 letters, 2, 5, 12, 15 February, 8, 16, 18 March and 20 April 1937, of Richard de la Mare, concerning The Modern Mind (London: Faber and Faber, 1937) with a letter, 5 May 1937 of B. Wrangham and 2 letters, 10 and 19 May 1937 of Morley Kennerley.

5 letters, 9, 13 and 29 May, 30 June and 4 July 1941, of Geoffrey Faber, concerning The Recovery of the West (London: Faber and Faber, 1941), with copies of 2 replies, 10 May 1941 and undated, of Michael Roberts.

Letter, 16 July 1942, of Geoffrey Faber, concerning the editorship of a series of selections from English classics.

30-49. Letters, 1930-1948, arranged by correspondent.

George Barker

30. 15 letters and a postcard, 1932-1933, 1935, of George Barker:

- 10, 30 September, 18 October, 11, 15, 28 November, 31 December 1932 and 2 undated letters, ?1932, one enclosing a poem.
16, 27 January, 6 March, 16 June, enclosing ‘Six Sonnets’, and 28 October 1933.
17 January, 19 March 1935.

Manuscripts and typescripts of 3 poems, ‘The Confluence’, ‘Four Didactic Ejaculations’ and ‘No Feeble Dream’.

**Edmund Blunden and Sylva Norman**


4 letters, 2 and 22 May, 16 December 1932, and 19 May 1933, of Sylva Norman.

**Richard Eberhart**

32. 45 letters and 3 postcards, 1930-1934, of Richard Eberhart to Michael Roberts:

23 January, 4 April, 18 June, 28 July, 4 October, 4, 14 November 1930 and ?1930.

8 January, 19 February, 16 (envelope only), 27 March, 3 June, 20 July, 27 October, 11, ?17 November, 10 December 1931, 2 postcards, 1931, and 2 undated letters, ?1931


23 February, 18 March, 20 May, 24 July (postcard), 2, 13 November 1933.

18 January, 22 February, 16 April, 23 September, 3 November 1934.

33. 29 letters and 3 telegrams, 1935-1939, of Richard Eberhart to Michael Roberts.


10, 18 January, 17 February, 10 March, 2, 4, 9, 11 (telegram), 14, 16 April, 8, 10 (telegram), 12 (telegram), 24 May, 6, 11 June, ?July, and 12 November 1936.

17 June, 27 September 1937.

18 February, 11 June, 29 September, 21 October 1938.

21 February, May, and 15 November 1939.
34. 4 letters and 2 postcards, 1934-1936, 1958, and 1962, of Richard Eberhart to Janet Roberts (née Adam Smith).
   1 October 1934 (photocopy).
   , 3 September 1935.
   23 April 1936.
   10, 11 (postcard) April 1958.
   22 December 1962 (postcard).

35. Manuscripts and typescripts, 1929-1930 and undated, of poems of Richard Eberhart.

Manuscripts of poems:
Notebook containing ‘Alphabet Book for a Boy’.
‘Mais l’amour infini me montera dans l’âme’ ['Her eyes were like putrid sores of infants']
‘Batu Room’, 1930.
‘Hartford’, 1930.
‘The Drunkard’, 1930.
‘Now is the air made of chiming bells’, 1930.

Annotated typescript list of poems, compiled by Janet Adam Smith.
‘Where are these high and haunting skies’
‘My bones flew apart’, 1937.
‘I saw my mistress change into an animal’
‘Job, horrible and indistinct’
‘If I could only live at the pitch’
‘As I sat by the evening sea’, 1934.
‘Opportunity, tired cup of tin’
‘Passion’s the exultance of pleasure’, 1930.
‘When Doris danced’, 1931.
‘The mind is full of teeth’

Typescript poems:

‘Lizard’
‘When Doris danced’
‘Passion’s the exultance of pleasure’
‘Hartford’
‘My seething heart’
‘Beware! you tread upon your grandparents’
‘Why must the dart eagle scream’
‘Cynic song’
‘When the golden eagle flies’
‘An Allowance’
‘Quern’
‘Caught upon a thousand thorns’, 1934.
‘Ode to Silence’, 1930.

Typescripts of poems selected by Richard Eberhart for publication, but rejected by Michael Roberts:

‘The Virgin’
‘Alphabet Book’
‘From “Twenty Sonnets”’
‘The Human Being’
‘Grave Piece’
‘Version Temporary’
‘Cover me over, clover’
‘A fierce creative being’
‘The scarf of June’

T.S. Eliot

36. 65 letters, 2 postcards and copies of 12 letters, 1931-1948, of T.S. Eliot to Michael Roberts.

See also Acc.13145/16.

The copies of letters were supplied by Valerie Eliot to Janet Adam Smith in 1969.

10, 17 (copy) March, and 12 November 1931.

30 January (copy), 19 April (copy), and 12 December 1932.

29 January, 22 March, 12 April, 25 May, 29 August, 17 (copy), 30 October, and 10 December (copy) 1934.

9, 14 January, and 12 November (copy) 1935.

18 June, 11 August, and 31 December 1936.

6, 11, 15 January, 1 February, 9 September, 1 (copy), 9 November, 8 (copy), and 13 (copy) December 1937.

22 March (copy), 1, 6 (postcard) July, and 16 September 1938.

31 January (copy), 8, 13 February, 4 April, 2, 11, 19 May, 16, 27 June, 26 July, and 7 September 1939.

30 January, 6, 8, 16 February, 29 March, 24 May, 9, 28 October, and 31 December 1940.

10, 11, 25 March, 20 May, 21 June, 1, 10, and 11 December 1941.

25 June 1942.

5, 20, 27 May, and 25 September 1943.

26 January, 5, 11 October, 15 November 1944.

29 November, and 22 December 1947.
1, 13 January, 2, 23 February, and 25 September 1948.

William Empson

37. 15 letters, 1931-1940, of William Empson.

For further letters of William Empson, see Acc.13145/10.

5 May 1931.

12 November, 7 December 1932 and ?1932.

2 April 1933.

28 March 1934.


? May, 4 December 1938.

12 January, 22 February, 16 May, 29 June, 8 August 1939.

14 February, 19 March 1940.

George Every

38. 20 letters and a postcard, 1937-1944, of George Every S.S.M.

30 June, 14, 22 July, 13 September, 9, 24 October, 30 November, 8, 14, 17 and 21 December 1937.

16 February (postcard), 3, 26 March, 6 May, 8 October, 20 November, and 15 December 1938, enclosing a letter, 10 December 1938, of a student at Kelham, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

25 October 1939.

1940.

6 July 1941.

17 March 1944.
Gaillard Lapsley

39. 6 letters, 1934-1942, of Gaillard Lapsley.

25 March, 18 May 1934, 21 January 1935, 24 December 1939, 14 May 1941 and
27 August 1942.

John Lehmann

40. 30 letters and 8 postcards, 1931-1935, of John Lehmann.

22 September, 10 November, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 29 December 1931.

5, 11, 12, 13, 26 (postcard) January, 1, 4, 8, 19 February, 15 March, 5 April (postcard),

6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 26 (postcard) January, 3 February (postcard), 4 April, 29 July
(postcard), 12 October (postcard) 1933, and [1933].

12 April (postcard), 10 August and 6 September 1934.

5 February 1935.

Charles Madge

41. 19 letters and a telegram, 1932-1935, 1941, of Charles Madge.

For further letters of Charles Madge, see Acc.13145/8.

25 December 1932.

31 October 1933, and six undated letters, ?1933.

7 March, 30 June, 19 August, 4 October, 20 November and 3 December 1934.

27 March, 4, 23, 24 July, and 5 December 1935.

10 April 1941.

Naomi Mitchison

42. 11 letters and 7 postcards, 1932-1938, of Naomi Mitchison.

For further letters of Naomi Mitchison, see Acc.13145/7 and Acc.13145/10.

3 undated letters, ?1932.

18 June (postcard), ?, 14 July, ?, 27 September and 12 December (postcard) 1933.
?, 22 (postcard), 25 (postcard) January 1935.
January 1938.

Kathleen Raine
43. 7 letters, 1938-1941, 1948, of Kathleen Raine to Michael Roberts and Janet Adam Smith.
21 October, and 13 December 1938
9, 21 June, and July 1939.
7 May 1941.
1948.

Richard Rees
44. 22 letters and 10 postcards, 1930-1934, of Richard Rees.
29 May 1930.
5 March, 11, 13 November 1931, and 1 undated letter, 1931
20 (postcard), 22 (postcard) January, 23 March, 21 July, 7, 13 (postcard), 19 (postcard),
31 (postcard) October, 21, 27 November, 13, 19, and 22 December 1932.
5 (postcard), 11 (postcard), 22 January, 7 February, 2 March, 9 April, 16 May, 6
(postcard), 9 October 1933, and 1 undated letter, 1933.
23 January, 19 February (postcard), 1 March (postcard), and 21 December 1934.

I.A. and Dorothy Richards
45. 4 letters and 6 postcards, 1932, 1936, 1948, of I.A. and Dorothy Richards.
20 December (postcard) 1932 and postcard, 1932.
6 August, 7 December (2 letters), 1936.
3 (postcard), 10 (postcard), 12, 20 (postcard), and 31 (postcard) October 1948.
Laura Riding and Robert Graves

46. 21 letters and 3 postcards, 1930-1940, of Laura Riding, and 7 letters, 1928-1929, 1936-1939, of Robert Graves.

For further letters of or to Robert Graves, see Acc.13145/13 and 13145/17 and for a letter to Laura Riding, see Acc.13145/50.

Letters of Laura Riding:

17 July 1930, and a postcard, ?1930.

? 1931.

?1932.

31 August 1934 (postcard).

29 April, 28 June, 22 August 1936 and 1936.

January (postcard), 8, 29 March, 31 May, 4, and 9 September 1937.

3 February, 8, and 18 December 1938.

5 January, 10 March, and 8 April 1939.

19 February, 8 July, and 25 December 1940.

Letters of Robert Graves:

8 May 1928.

?1929.

18 May ?.

12 March 1936.

18 January, 12 March 1937.

13 February 1939.

Stephen Spender

47. 11 letters and a postcard, 1932, 1934-1936, 1940, of Stephen Spender.

For further letters of and to Stephen Spender, see Acc.13145/8, Acc.13145/10 and Acc.13145/17.

17 February ?1932.
2, 8 November 1934, and ?1934.
30 January, 9 September (postcard) 1935.
December 1935 or January 1936.
22 February, 4 August and 14 December 1936.
14, 22 February 1940.
Undated typescripts of 3 poems, ‘The Thin Will’, ‘Easter Monday’ and ‘The Bride’

**A.S.J. Tessimond**

48. 9 letters and 2 postcards, 1931-1933, of A.S.J. Tessimond.
   11 and 15 December 1931.
   4 March, 9 June (postcard), 5 (postcard), 27 July 1932, and 3 undated letters, 1932.
   26 March 1933.
   Undated letter.
   Typescripts of poems.

**E.R. Thomas**

49. 47 letters and a postcard, 1932-1934, 1941-1944, of E.R. Thomas.
   1 and 12 January 1932.
   24 March 1933.
   Carbon copy of letter, 2 February 1934, of Michael Roberts to E.R. Thomas.
   10, 13, 18, 18 (postcard), 20, 21, 22, 26 February, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, 24, 30 April, 2, 3, 6,
   20, 24, 28, 30 (2 letters), 31 May, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 14, 20, 26 June, 2, 4, 12 July, 24
   August, 24 September, 21 October 1934 and 1 undated letter, 1934.
   4 September 1941.
   14 and 24 February 1943.
   7 October, 18 December 1944.

50. Letters, 1931-1948, of Michael Roberts to various correspondents.
   Letter, 19 July 1934, to Lady Adam Smith.
   Letter, 6 and 7 May 1945 to Janet Roberts (née Adam Smith).
   Letter, 8 May 1945, of Janet Roberts to Michael Roberts.
   Copy of a letter, 5 June 1947, to J.E.Q. Barford.
   Carbon copy of a letter, 16 February 1945, to Lady Caroline Bridgman.
   Letter, 12 March 1947, to Barbara Frampton.
   Photocopy of letter, 7 October 1939, to Gaillard Lapsley.
   Copy of letter, 1946 or 1947, to Jack Longland.
   Letter, 1931, to Walter Lowenfels. This letter was sent by Walter Lowenfels to Janet Adam Smith in March 1958.
   Letter, 4 July 1934, to Naomi Mitchison.
   Undated letter of Naomi Mitchison to Janet Adam Smith.
   Copy of letter, 12 February 1936, to George Reavey.
   Letter, 13 February 1941, to Laura Riding.
   Copy of letter, 16 May 1938, to T.O. Robinson.
   Letter, 5 January 1940, to Paul Shuffrey.
   Letter, 18 April 1943, to Ruth Speirs.
   Copy of letter, 16 December 1938, to Helen Sutherland.
   Copy of letter, 18 December 1943, to Helen Sutherland.
   Copy of letter, 14 February 1947, to Helen Sutherland.
   Copy of letter, 14 June 1946, to S.H. Wood.

51. 26 letters and a postcard, 1937-1941, 1948, to George Every.
   These letters were returned by George Every to Janet Adam Smith in 1967, and this file includes a letter, 13 February 1967, of Janet Adam Smith to George Every.
[July], 19 September, 18 October, 27 November, 2, 5, 9, 13, 17, 18 December 1937, and [1937].


14 May 1939.

6 February 1940.

31 March, 3 May, 7 June, 26 August and 4 November 1941.

19 March 1948.

52. Typescript and press cuttings of letters, 1934-1945, of Michael Roberts to editors.

‘Whither Britain?’, The Listener, 18 April 1934.

‘Culture Emergent’, The Listener, 30 May 1934, with editorial comment.


‘Mr Wells and Christianity’, The Guardian, 12 January and 9 February 1940.

Typescript of ‘War Aims’, a letter, 29 January 1941, to The Times, which was not published.


‘The War of Mr Young’s Ear’, The Spectator, 27 June 1941.

‘Cheering up Mr Woolf’, New Statesman, 9 August 1941, concerning Leonard Woolf’s review of Recovery of the West.

‘Spanish Commentary’, New Statesman, 3 November 1945, concerning the BBC.
53-60. Manuscripts and typescripts of poems, 1925-1948.

53.  ‘List of Verses’.


Typescript of ‘Time and the Crystal Image’. This poem was published in *These our Matins* (London: Elkin Mathews and Marrot, 1930).

Typescripts of poems which were published in *Poems* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1936):

  ‘Black funnel spouting black’
  ‘Earth, Impact’
  ‘81°43’
  ‘And if this mountain cease’
  ‘The Wave’
  ‘The Wave II: Anadyomene’
  ‘Elegy ... part V’

Manuscript of ‘Poem in Dedication’ for *Poems* (1936)

Typescript of ‘The Caves’. This poem was published in *Orion Marches: poems* (London: Faber and Faber, 1939).

Manuscript and typescript drafts and notes for ‘Chingis Khan’. This poem was published in *Orion Marches: poems* (London: Faber and Faber, 1939), pages 55-96.


These poems were published in the *Collected Poems* (London: Faber and Faber, 1958) or *First Time in America. A Selection of poems never before published in the U.S.A.*, collected and introduced by John Arlott (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1948).

  ‘For a lost leader’
  ‘Assault of Angels’
  ‘The Bowed Head’
  ‘Der Arme Poet’
  ‘And the great angel turned’
‘Tignes, 1946’ (with manuscript copy by Janet Adam Smith)
‘Disappointment River’, with notes.
‘The World’s End’
‘If my old man’
‘On Glaramara: 1947’
‘Death has its own reply’ (with manuscript copy by Janet Adam Smith)
‘The Crystal Bones’
‘Already, said my host’
‘Sick Heart River’
‘Everest 1948’
‘Something still echoes inside us’
‘I came out of the wind’
‘Question and answer’

56. Typescript and press cuttings, 1925-1940, of poems published in periodicals, but excluded by Michael Roberts from his own books of poems.

Typescript of ‘Folly’, Gownsman, 1925.
‘Disused Mine’, Adelphi, November 1930.
‘Siesta’, Poetry (Chicago), February 1932, with a proof.
‘Note on Θ, Φ and Ψ’, New Statesman, 23 March 1935.
‘Image of War: Hills to the South of Uzes’, Contact (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), December 1935.
57. Manuscripts and typescripts of poems.


60. Manuscripts and typescripts, 1933 and undated, of poems collected by Janet Adam Smith for publication in Collected Poems with an introductory memoir by Janet Roberts (London: Faber and Faber, 1958).

‘One Book Less’

‘Letter to Vivyan’, February 1933

Undated typescript note, ‘And poetry is an answer...’.

Manuscript draft, possibly of a letter, ‘Why worry because you’re reactionary?’

Manuscript note for an essay on Yeats.


Copy of letter, 2 February 1948, of Michael Roberts to R.W. Jepson about poem ‘In Time of Peace’.


61. ‘Exhortation to F.R. Leavis’, 1932.

Unpublished draft, 1934, of ‘Introduction to The Modern Mind’.


62. Manuscript and typescript, circa 1945, of ‘Easter Skiing, 1936’.

63. ‘Charles Madge’, circa 1940.
Undated notes on statistics, probability, price of securities and argument by exclusion.
‘Waitress and customer’, May 1935.
‘College of S. Mark and S. John: Rules 1945’.
‘You’ve been listening...’, 1947 or 1948.

64. ‘Two Lemon Parables’, 1934.


Manuscript and typescript of ‘Wit and Humour’.
‘Imagism’.
‘Housman, Kipling’.
‘Nicols, Gallienne, Bottomley’.
‘Milne, Barker, H.D.’
‘Ransom, Tate’.
67. Notes for prose articles.

Notes, [1941], for The Faber Book of Comic Verse.

Notes, [1941], for a proposed ‘Faber Book of Children’s Verse’.

Manuscript of ‘Courage’, 1947 or 1948.

Undated typescript of ‘A Touch of Petulance’.


For talks written for the BBC European Service, see Acc.13145/96. For the text of ‘Whither Britain? No. 8’, see The Listener, 28 February 1934.

‘Modern Poetry’, a talk for the BBC schools service, 10 December 1937.

‘Dante’, a talk for the BBC schools service, 6 March 1939.

‘Comic Verse up to 1850’, a talk for the BBC Eastern Service, 18 August 1945, with a letter of the BBC, 30 May 1945.


‘English Comic Verse’, a talk for the BBC Czech Service, ?May 1947, with 2 letters, 30 April and 12 May 1947, of the BBC.


List, compiled by Janet Adam Smith, of talks broadcast, with a letter, 6 July 1960, of the BBC to Janet Adam Smith.

Correspondence, 1961, of Janet Adam Smith with the British Institute of Recorded Sound concerning their acquisition of recordings of talks by Michael Roberts, including ‘Whither Britain?’.

69. Manuscripts and typescripts, 1930s, of talks on poetry.

‘Flights of Fancy’.

‘Literary Tastes’, [1935]

‘Poets and Politics’.

Untitled talk on poetry and politics.
‘Why Read Modern Poetry?’

‘English Poetry 1579-1637’

Notes, July 1937, for ‘Derby Lecture. Poetry and Education’.

‘The Fantastic Element in English Literature’, 1937.

Notes for a talk entitled ‘Learning to Write’. This talk was reported in The Scotsman, 29 October 1938.

Notes for a talk entitled ‘Tennyson Today’.

Undated notes, circa 1935.

70. Press cuttings, 1933, 1937-1938, 1948, of reviews of talks. [The press cuttings of 1933 and 1937 were added in 2015]

71. Manuscripts and typescripts of talks and lectures, 1944-1948.

Printed notes on a lecture entitled ‘Christianity and the use of power’, delivered at the SCM Schools Conference, Rugby, 6-8 October 1944.


Manuscript and typescript of notes for a talk on ‘Poetry, Emotion and Religion’.

Manuscript of a talk entitled ‘Matter, Life and Spirit’.


Manuscripts and typescripts, 1946-1948, of Principal’s Lectures.

Manuscript notes on ‘Language/Modern Heresies’.

Letter, 11 May 1944, of Eric Fenn of BBC Religious Broadcasting, inviting Michael Roberts to talk on poetry on 15 September 1944, and enclosing a printed memorandum of the 1944 Horsham conference, held by the BBC Religious Broadcasting Department.


This section also includes letters, 1948-1949, to Janet Adam Smith (Acc.13145/97).

Michael Roberts’ wartime career in the European Service of the BBC began in the Intelligence Department, where he gathered information about the reception of BBC broadcasts in both German-occupied and neutral Europe. From March 1943 to May
1944 he served on committees which considered the media requirements of Europe once Allied reoccupation got underway.

In June 1943 Roberts took up the new post of Clandestine Press Editor; with one assistant, he prepared a series of twice-weekly programmes addressed to the editors of the underground press in occupied Europe. These programmes provided context for war news but also discussed long-term questions; they were initially broadcast in English, French and Dutch. They continued until December 1944; in all there were 205, for which only seven scripts are missing from this collection. (The BBC’s set, at the Written Archives Centre, Caversham, is only half complete.)

This assignment was interrupted from May to August 1944 by Roberts’ appointment – a stop-gap measure – as head of the Czech Section. On resuming his post as Clandestine Press Editor, he also supplied weekly book summaries (by himself and others) to re-connect book-starved European listeners with current thought in the “free world”. The series covered science, poetry and literary criticism as well as politics, social philosophy and journalism. In December 1944 Roberts joined the Talks section of the European Service.


Letter, 8 September 1941, of Ag. Overseas Establishment Officer, offering Michael Roberts the post of General Intelligence Assistant.

Letter, 17 June 1943, of Michael Roberts to the Controller of the European Service, reporting the offer of a PID post.

Letter, 24 January 1944, of J.H. McMillan, of the PID Editorial Unit to the Chief Administrative Officer, requesting the appointment of Michael Roberts to PID.

Letter, 5 April 1944, of Michael Roberts applying for the post of Czechoslovak Editor.

Letter, 31 March 1945, of Douglas Ritchie, Director, European Broadcasts, complimenting Michael Roberts’ work for the European Service.

Printed ‘Guides to the BBC’, numbers 3, 7 and 8.

73. Papers, 1942-1945, written by Michael Roberts for the BBC, the Political Intelligence Department and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

‘Intelligence Extract’, 22 January 1942, and a letter, 29 January 1942, of Vere Pilkington of the Ministry of Information Censorship Department.

‘Ruritania’, 2 June 1942.

‘Proposed Questionnaire for Listeners in Portugal and Colonies’, February 1942.

‘Themes of German Propaganda to France, Belgium and Holland since the Invasion’, ? August 1942.
'What the Free World Broadcasts to the Enslaved', November 1943.

'The Clandestine Press in Occupied Europe', June 1944.

'The New Forces in Europe', October 1944, for the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

General News Inscripts:

'The Rising Birth-Rate', 18 January 1944.


'Upper and Lower Silesia', 24 January 1945.


'The Annexation of Austria', 12 March 1945.

'European Talks', a memorandum, 16 March 1945, of Michael Roberts to Arthur R. Birley.

74. Typescripts of articles and reviews by Michael Roberts.

These articles were cleared by the BBC for publication, 1942-1945.

'Broadcasting to Europe', Britain Today, number 73, May 1942, pages 15-20.


'What does Mr Read believe?', a review of Herbert Read The Politics of the Unpolitical (London: Routledge, 1943), Kingdom Come, 3 (12), Autumn 1943, pages 142-144.

'What we’ll find in Belgium and Holland', Current Affairs, 66, 8 April 1944, pages 4-16.

'Some Problems of France – and of Europe', La France Libre, 7(42), 15 April 1944, pages 404-408, with comments from an anonymous correspondent, Paris, 1944.


'Britain and the Intellectual Life of Europe', 7 February 1944. This article was submitted to Manya Harari, editor of the Changing World series. Copy of a letter, 19 August 1943, of Michael Roberts.

Extracts from The Recovery of the West, La Revue du Monde Libre, 6 (June 1943), pages 38-43.
75. Correspondence concerning talks and lectures by Michael Roberts, 1943-1944.

Royal Institute of International Affairs, *Advanced Course on International Affairs*:

- ‘The Outlook of the Peoples’; ‘Propaganda to be anticipated’. (Michael Roberts).

- ‘The Outlook of the Peoples’ (Michael Roberts):
  1. France, Belgium, Holland
  2. Germany, Italy

Letter, 10 November 1943, of Captain S.A. Green, inviting Michael Roberts to an Army Bureau of Current Affairs/BWP Instructors’ Course, 7-8 December 1943, on Post-war Problems in Europe, with printed notes by Michael Roberts.

Letter, 22 September 1943, of Charity James of the War Office, concerning a lecture by Michael Roberts on teaching international affairs to the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Letter, 17 April 1944, of J.R.M. Butler, inviting Michael Roberts to give a talk on ‘What we may expect to find in Belgium and the Netherlands’ at the Civil Affairs Staff Centre, with a reply, 20 April 1944, of Michael Roberts, and two further letters, 15 and 24 May 1944, of J.R.M. Butler.

Correspondence, May-October 1944, between Michael Roberts and the Royal Institute of International Affairs concerning ‘New Forces in Europe’.

Letter, 29 November 1944, of Captain Kennedy.


76. Correspondence concerning the BBC European Service Intelligence Department, 1942-1943.

Letter, 11 March 1942, of J.M. Rose Troup, to the ADPA European Service, concerning arrangements for Michael Roberts to visit Portugal, with notes of Michael Roberts.

Correspondence, 1942-1943, concerning the organisation of the Intelligence Department.

Letters, 12 and 16 December 1942, of Michael Roberts to R.J.T. Griffin.

Letter, 9 January 1943, of Michael Roberts to the European Intelligence Department.

Circulars, 26 and 28 January 1943.
Publication schedule for Regional Surveys, 28 January 1943.

Letter, 21 April 1943, of Michael Roberts.

Letter, 22 April 1943, of R.J.T. Griffin to Michael Roberts.

Letter, 23 April 1943, of Michael Roberts to R.J.T. Griffin.

Undated manuscript memorandum by Michael Roberts.

Letters, 30 April, 1 and 17 June 1943, of Michael Roberts.


Correspondence about Radio Reception

16 items, April - June 1943

Michael Roberts to Jonathan Griffin, 1 June 1943

Jonathan Griffin to Michael Roberts, 21 June 1943

Michael Roberts to Jonathan Griffin, 22 June 1943

Roger Frewen (Berne) to Michael Roberts, 24 June 1943, and telegram, 9 August 1943

Michael Roberts to Roger Frewen, 12 August 1943

Roger Frewen to Michael Roberts, 2 September 1943

77. Printed European Intelligence Papers, 1941-1943.

Series 2: Studies in European Audiences:


13. ‘The Non-German audience for BBC broadcasts in German’, 17 March 1943.
Printed reports on radio reception in Europe, 1942.

‘Principles of Jamming; Reception Conditions in Europe; Effect on the Listener; Measures to Minimise effects of Jamming’, 31 January 1942.

‘General Summary; Reports from Listening Posts; Regional Reports 1500m; Slow Speed Bulletin; Spanish; E. Telegraph; Effects on the Listener; Suggestions from Listeners; Neutral Reaction'; Conclusions; Recommendations’, 24 March 1942.

‘General Summary; Reactions of the Listener; Voice vs. Jamming; ‘Features’ and Jamming; Jamming and the Moffen-Zeef; miscellaneous proposals; other points’, 30 June 1942.

5 monthly printed reports on conditions in Europe, January-May 1943, mainly compiled from letters written to the BBC.

Printed circulars produced by the Intelligence Department, 1942-1943.


‘Notes for Intelligence Officers’, 18 March 1943.

‘Compendium of Planning Information’, 5 March 1943.

‘Routine Instructions, no. 1’, 12 May 1943.

Agendas, minutes and papers of the Joint Political Warfare Executive /Ministry of Information/BBC Re-Occupation Committee, 1943.

For further similar papers, see Acc.13145/82, 83 and 85.

Agendas, 5 and 19 April, 24 June, 15 July and 5 August 1943.

Minutes, 1 and 15 April and 5 August 1943.


‘Recommendations from Radio Equipment Sub-Committee’, 13 April 1943.

'Propaganda and Political Warfare in Liberated Territories', 3rd revision, 16 April 1943.

'Propaganda and Political Warfare in Liberated Territories', alternative 3rd revision, 16 April 1943.
‘Supply of Radio Receivers to Reoccupied Territories’, 4 August 1943.

82. Correspondence concerning books and films, 1943.

83. Correspondence, 1943, concerning the Films sub-committee of the Joint Political Warfare Executive / Ministry of Information / BBC Re-occupation Committee.

84. Minutes and papers, 1943-1944, concerning meetings of the Joint Ministry of Information / Political Intelligence Department sub-committee on books and publications.

85. Correspondence, 1943, concerning the Joint Ministry of Information / Political Intelligence Department sub-committee on books and publications.

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