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Inventory

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Michael Roberts

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Correspondence, personal and literary papers, published articles and reviews, and photographs, 1891-2015, 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).

For further accounts, see *A Portrait of Michael Roberts*, edited by T.W. Eason and R. Hamilton (1949); *Michael Roberts: selected poems and prose*, edited by F. Grubb (1980), the entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004) and Andrew D. Roberts. "Michael Roberts and the BBC", in Wm. Roger Louis, ed., *Irrepressible Adventures with Britannia* (IB.Tauris, 2013).

For further papers of Michael Roberts, see Acc.13145.

This material was presented in 2017.

The papers are divided into the following sections:

1	Correspondence
2-13	Personal papers
14-49	Literary papers
50-54	Published articles/reviews
55-58	Mountaineering papers

1 CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Correspondence of Michael Roberts, David Robertson, H Tyndale and Helen Sutherland, 1941-1948. (11 items)

See also **Literary Papers** for additional correspondence accompanying poetry.

2-13 PERSONAL PAPERS

2-4 School and University Certificates, 1916-1925

- 2 Bournemouth Secondary School Junior and Senior Certificates awarded to William E Roberts [aged 14-16], December 1916, December 1917 and December 1918. [3 items]
- 3 Officers Training Corps Certificates "A" and "B" awarded by the War Office to William Edward Roberts, 1 May and 21 July 1922. [2 items]
- 4 University of London and University of Cambridge awards in Science and the Arts to William E Roberts, 1920-1925. [4 items]

5 School and college magazines, 1918-1933

- 5 15 items, including:
 - *The Cambridge Magazine*, vol. 7, No.19, 16 February 1918 [fragile] and vol. 7, No.21, 2 March 1918
 - *The Trinity Magazine* - March 1923, March 1924, June 1924, December 1924 and June 1925
 - *The Cambridge Mercury*, No. 15, 1st November 1924 and No. 16, 1st December 1924
 - Notebook on *The Hypocrites Club*, formed at Trinity College Cambridge, 1924
 - Trinity College Concert programmes, 1924 and 1925
 - Mercers' School Magazine, vol. 31, No. 3, September 1932 (mountaineering entry, pgs. 121-125)
 - Mercers' School List of Camps, Summer 1933
 - Bournemouth School Centenary Celebration Magazine, 1901-2000.

6-7 Amateur dramatics, with photographs, 1926-1930

- 6 Programmes for five plays put on by 'The Castrian Play', produced by Michael Roberts:
- *'The Man with the Dumb Wife'*, Christmas 1926, with four mounted b/w photographs of the cast in action [in separate sleeves]
 - *'The Old Wives' Tale'*, New Year 1928
 - *'The Man in the Bowler Hat'*, February 1929
 - *'The Honorable Historie of frier Bacon and frier Bongay'*, Christmas 1929
 - *'The Knight of the Burning Pestle'*, November 1930, with three mounted b/w photographs of the cast in action [in separate sleeves].
- 7 Programmes for plays put on by 'The Valley Players', in which Michael Roberts was a member of the cast:
- *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'*, December 1926
 - *'Amyntas'*, December 1927
 - *'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary'*, October 1928
 - Four short pieces including *'Scenes from Hamlet'*, December 1928
 - *'Half-an-Hour'* and *'The Dumb Man of Manchester'*, December 1929
 - *'The Man with a Load of Mischief'*, Hexham, March 1930 with four b/w photographs of the cast in action [in separate sleeves]. Michael Roberts played the Innkeeper.
 - *'Mrs Moonlight'*, December 1930
 - Unidentified mounted b/w photo of young male cast in action [in separate sleeve].

8-10 The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1930-1980

- 8 *The Novocastrian*, the Royal Grammar School magazine, for 1942, 1949, 1950, 1958, 1976, 1979, with *'List of Camps'*, 1930 and 1931 and loose articles from the magazine for 1931, 1932 and 1980. [11 Items]
- 9 Newspaper cuttings on the end of the evacuation of pupils from the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, to Penrith for the duration of the war, July 1944.

10 Michael Roberts' address book, c.1930s-1940s.

11 The College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, 1945-1948

11 Correspondence about the career of Michael Roberts as Principal of the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, 1945 until his death in 1948. With published information on the history of the College, details of the Memorial Service in his honour, January 1949, and a draft article on his career, written by T W Eason.

12 Obituaries, memorials, newspapers cuttings and articles on the life and works of Michael Roberts, 1948-2015

12 Including:

- *'Impressions of Michael Roberts at Bonneval, 1948'* - an account of a climbing expedition in the Alps written by C E Fitchett, a colleague at the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea
- Memorial Address by Lesley S Hunter, Bishop of Sheffield, January 1949
- *Elegy on the Death of Michael Roberts* by George Barber, and other tributes to him published in *The Marjon*, 1949
- Notes and correspondence on the life of Michael Roberts, for entries in various publications, including the Myers Literary Guide and Wikipedia, 2009- 2011 and 2014-2015.

13 Photographs and negatives, c.1900s-1951

Box 13a Black/white photographs, c. 1900s–1946, including:

- Michael Roberts as a child, with family and friends, as a young man, a teacher, in the military, and in amateur theatricals
- on holiday and mountaineering, including trips to St. Adrien, Dipton, Stratford, Jura, Provence, Cumberland, Mont Blanc, New Forest, Tignes and Val d'Isere.

Box 13b Photographs, c.1931- c.1948

- black/white photographs on holiday and mountaineering in the New Forest, Aiguille Percée, Pourri, Val d'Isere and Tignes, 1933-1938

- black/white photographs with family, 1943
- small brown photograph album of b/w pictures of mountaineering /walking trips in Val d'Isere and Bonnerat, c.1947-1948
- colour photograph of portrait of Michael Roberts, c.1940s
- Correspondence from photography firms about photographs of the late Michael Roberts, 1949. (4 items)
- A4 envelope of negatives, some dated from 1931-1932.

14-49 LITERARY PAPERS

14-15 Poetry, 1934 -1948

- 14 Papers, including:
- Correspondence of Michael Roberts to Janet Adam Smith, enclosing a selection of his poems, 1934-1935
 - Collection of poems, put together by Michael Roberts, following their previous publication in various magazines, including *The Adelphi*, *The Listener*, and *The Spectator*, 1936
 - A set of proofs of *Orion Marches*, with other draft poems, c. 1939.
- 15 Papers, including:
- Draft compilation of Michael Robert's poems, in four parts, with introduction by Janet Roberts, c.1948:
 - Early Poems
 - Poems, 1935
 - Orion Marches
 - Last Poems
 - Fragments of poems by Michael Roberts and others, October-December 1948
 - Notes for poems and essays, including *Jura*, with various quotations from other writers, undated.

16-23 Novels and prose, c. 1938-1951

16 *The Estate of Man*

- 16 Notes for *The Estate of Man* with press cuttings on various topics used as research material, 1938-1951.

17-19 *Trelawnie*

- 17 Draft typescript of *Trelawnie*, Chapters 1-28, undated.
- 18 Draft typescript of *Trelawnie*, Chapters 29-53, undated.
- 19 Typescript and notes on the writing of *Trelawnie*, undated.

20 *Black Magic*

- 20 Typescript, notes and fragments for the novel, *Black Magic*, undated.

21 *Recovery of the West*

- 21 Notes and drafts for various chapters for *Recovery of the West* [published 1941].

22-23 Untitled novel – draft chapters

- 22 Chapters 1-7, undated.
- I, *Apology by Richard Carbery*, pgs.1-2
(3 copies – 2 annotated drafts and one completed typescript)
- II, *The Birth of Henry-Joe*, pgs.1-14
(3 copies – 2 annotated drafts and one completed typescript)
- III, *Post Hoc, Ergo Propter Hoc*, pgs.15-24
(2 copies – annotated draft and completed typescript)
- IV, *Untitled*, pgs.25-34
(2 copies – annotated draft and completed typescript)
- V, *The Music of the Spheres*, pgs.35-53
(2 copies – annotated draft and completed typescript)
- VI, *Untitled*, pgs.54-64
(2 copies – annotated draft and completed typescript)

VII, *The Madraporarian Skeleton*, pgs.65-81
(2 copies – annotated draft and completed typescript).

23 Chapters 8–15, 21 & 24, undated.

VIII, *Easter, 1921*, pgs.82-89
(3 copies – 2 annotated drafts and one completed typescript)

IX, *The Natterjack Business*, pgs.90-97
(3 copies – 2 annotated drafts and one completed typescript)

X, *The Cuddling Curate*, pgs.98-104
(3 copies – 2 annotated drafts and one completed typescript)

XI, *Bertorelli's*, pgs.1-9
(3 copies – completed typescripts)

XII, *The Earthly Paradise*, pgs.1-6
(1 typescript copy)

XIII, *The Commercial Traveller's Story*
(4 copies – 3 typescript versions and one draft)

XIV, *Conspiracy*, pgs.1-7
(3 copies – completed typescript)

XV, *Scene in Museum*, pgs.1-14
(1 draft)

XXI, *Meditation and Melodrama*, pgs.1-7
(1 typescript draft)

XXIV, *Ashes and Divine Sparks*, pgs.1-11
(1 typescript).

24 Drafts of various works, undated

24 Complete and incomplete works, several starting with quotations from other writers, undated:

- II, *To Oxford, with sundry irrelevant quotations*

'The pen is mightier than the thought'
(1 incomplete typescript, undated)

- **III, *Of Folly and of Bridges***
*'And malt does more than Milton can
To justify God's ways to man*
A E Housman
(1 completed typescript, undated)
- ***Woods and Waysides***: an account of the wanderings of Michael Roberts from the unpublished works of '*Hoppy*'
(1 completed typescript, undated)
- ***The Antiquary***
*More strange than true: I never may believe
These antique fables, nor these fairy toys.*
Shakespeare
(1 completed typescript, undated)
- ***The Extravagancy***
With a lengthy quotation from L. A. G. Strong, starting:
*'This is the wisdom of the road: to love
All you can find to love, and love it wholly.*
(1 completed typescript, undated)
- ***Juicy Gubbins: his tale***
With a quotation from an Old Hampshire Rhyme, starting:
*'Oft in the vorrest wild
I've sat un'thought un'smiled*
(various drafts and typescript versions, undated)
- bundles of miscellaneous incomplete draft typescripts, undated.

25-27 Notes of Michael Roberts, 1929-1947

- 25 Press cuttings, reviews and notes, including notes on *Prolegomena to Any Future Whatnot* and *The Function of the Intellectual*, 1929-1933.
- 26 Press cuttings and notes, including notes on *The English Poet*, 1935-1938.

- 27 Fragments of poetry, most undated, but some dated from pre-1932, 1932, 1942 and 1947, with notes and typescript copies of other poets work, including:
- *The Long Road* by John Gray
 - *Villanelle* by W Empson
 - *Hidden Ice* by Louis MacNiece
 - *The Mediterranean* by Allen Tate.

28-31 Michael Roberts' notes on Literature, 1930s

- 28 Notebook on *Poetry, 1579-1637*.
- 29 Notebook on *Jacobean and Caroline Prose*.
- 30 Notebook on the works of *Thomas Nashe*.
- 31 Blank notebook entitled, '*NEC*', containing loose notes on poets, including Shelley and Coleridge.

32-47 Notebooks of Michael Roberts, 1933-1939

- 32 Notebook, undated.
- 33 Notebook, 'The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne', titled '*Library Books to Order, 1939*'.
- 34 Notebook, 'The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne', titled *Michael Roberts*, undated.
- 35 Notebook, 'The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne', titled *B*, undated.
- 36 Notebook, 'Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne', undated.
- 37 Notebook, 'The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne', undated.
- 38 Notebook, 'The Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne' undated.
- 39 Notebook, 'The King's School, Chester', titled *Themes A*, undated.

- 40 Notebook, 'R Waugh, 4 Ridley Place, Newcastle', April 1937.
- 41 Notebook, 'R Waugh, 4 Ridley Place, Newcastle', May 1938.
- 42 Notebook, 'R Waugh, 4 Ridley Place, Newcastle', titled *France*, undated.
- 43 Notebook, headed *English Political Thought*, 27 February 1934.
- 44 Notebook, headed 'Michael Roberts, Arnold House, Chester', 5 May 1934.
- 45 Notebook, headed 'Michael Roberts, 23 Fitzroy Square', undated.
- 46 Notebook, headed 'Michael Roberts, 23 Fitzroy Square, W1', undated.
- 47 Notebook, headed 'Michael Roberts, 23 Fitzroy Square, W1', undated.

48- 49 Miscellaneous notes and press cuttings, 1922-1960

- 48 Notes and press cuttings, 1928-1930's, including:
- Notebook A - notes on '*Exhortation to FR Lewis*' and '*Letter to a Headmaster*', undated
 - Notebook B - notes on '*A Knack to Know a Knave*' DHL, undated
 - Notebook D - notes and thoughts, some on '*Ecstasy*' and '*The Schoolmaster*', 1928 - c.1932?
 - Notes on science, c. 1930s.
- 49 Miscellaneous notes, drafts, autobiographical fragments and memorabilia, 1922-1960, including:
- a typescript copy of essay/article *The West Country*, undated
 - song sheets, with music and lyrics in French, undated
 - a French programme for *Galerie Carmine* and *Prix de la Piste a l'Ecran*, 1938
 - an English programme for *The Player's Theatre*, Piccadilly, 1942.

50 - 54 PUBLISHED ARTICLES/REVIEWS

Folders containing copies of literary magazines, edited by Michael Roberts, with copies of his articles and reviews on books, poetry and essays, 1930-1948.

- 50 Printed editions of '*The Poetry Review*', 1930-1933, '*The Adelphi*', 1930-1935, and '*The Listener*', 1932-1946, containing articles and reviews by Michael Roberts.
- 51 Reviews by Michael Roberts of books, essays and collections of poetry [some with accompanying list and proofs] for '*The Criterion*', 1932-1938, '*The Spectator*', 1933-1948, and '*The London Mercury*', 1934-1939.
- 52 Articles and reviews by Michael Roberts for various publications, 1931-1948
- *Saturday Review*, 1931
 - '*Time and Tide*', 1931, 1932, 1939-1940
 - '*Twentieth Century*', 1932, 1933
 - '*The New English Weekly*', 1932 & 1939
 - '*Times Literary Supplement*', 1933-1936
 - *The Philosopher*, 1934
 - '*The New Statesman*', 1935
 - *Life and Letters*, 1935
 - Press cuttings on *Dr Robert Hooke's Diary*, 1935
 - *Purpose*, 1936
 - *Annals of Science Review*, 1936
 - '*Threes*', 1936-1937
 - *Now and Then*, 1937
 - *Night and Day*, 1937
 - *The Yorkshire Post*, 1937
 - '*The Student Movement*', 1938
 - '*Southern Review*', 1938
 - '*Theology*', 1939, 1940
 - '*Times Educational Supplement*', 1940
 - '*The Guardian*', 1940
 - *Horizon*, 1941
 - *Cambridge Review*, 1941
 - '*Britain Today*', 1941-1947
 - *Kingdom Come*, 1943
 - *Tribune*, 1945
 - *The New English Review*, 1945
 - Review of *The Pendulum of Politics* by Aubrey Jones, 1946

- *International Affairs*, 1948.

- 53 Michael Roberts' contributions to published books, 1933-1940
- Essay, *Gubbins in Love* published in 'Contemporary Essays', edited by Sylva Norman, 1933
 - Introduction to *Reading the Spirit* by Richard Eberhart, OUP, 1937
 - Short commentary in *The World and Ourselves, Part Four: The Answers* by Laura Riding, 1938
 - Tredegar Memorial Lecture for 1939, *The Dignity of English Thought*, published in 'Essays by Divers Hands', in Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom, 1940.
- 54 Copies of unpublished reviews by Michael Roberts, undated
- *The Theory of Knowledge and Existence* by W T Stace for OUP
 - *Second Impressions* by T Earle Welby for 'The Conservative Critic'
 - *Science and Wisdom* by Jacques Maritain, translated by Bernard Wall
 - *Shakespeare's Last Plays* by E M W Tillyard for 'The London Mercury'.

55 - 58 MOUNTAINEERING PAPERS

55 - 56 Mountaineering trips, 1930-1948

- 55 Notebook for the *Alpine Camp*, 1935, with maps.
- 56 Details of Michael Roberts' mountaineering trips, including:
- Miscellaneous hotel receipts and expenses for trips, 1930-1947
 - List of Michael Roberts' climbs for *The Alpine Club*, 1932-1948
 - Michael Roberts membership card for the *Club Alpin Francais*, 1948
 - A b/w photograph of shepherds and flock of sheep
 - Notes of items needed for a climbing trip, undated.

57- 58 Mountains and mountaineering, 1891-1949

- 57 Articles, poems and reviews on mountains and mountaineering by Michael Roberts, including:
- ‘*Ski-ing: a Novice in the Savoie*’ for the publication ‘*Overseas*’, in draft, 1933
 - Various reviews published in *The Alpine Club*, *The Alpine Journal*, *The Listener* and *The Spectator*, 1935-1948
 - *The Poetry and Humour of Mountaineering*, for *The Alpine Club*, 1939
 - *Tignes: 1946*, a poem published in *The Alpine Journal*, 1949
 - ‘*English Travellers in the Graians*’ published in ‘*The Alpine Journal*, 1947-1948, in draft and completed
 - ‘*Two Days on Mount Pourri*’ for the publication ‘*Alpine Journal*, in draft, 1949.
- 58 Notes, articles and press cuttings on mountains and mountaineering, in English and in French, including references to the Alps, Jura and St Tropez, 1891-1948.