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McCracken, Lorna, collector

Collection of literary papers, 1909-1965.
1/2 box and 1 oversize folder.

Collection of correspondence from John Galsworthy, W.W. Jacobs, Blanch Patch, and Helen Waddell; typescript copy with many manuscript revisions of Galsworthy's The Pigeon; and photographs of, and clippings about these people.

Arrangement: Chronological under each author.

Gift of Lorna Kane McCracken in 1991.

Finding aid: ask at Reference Desk.

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CONTAINER LIST

Galsworthy, John, 1867-1933

Seventeen letters from John Galsworthy to Whitford Kane, 1911-1931, many of which concern the first production of Galsworthy's play The Pigeon (London, 1912) in which Kane appeared as Christopher Wellwyn, a role which he created. Kane was a brother of Hugh Kane whose papers are in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

undated

Folder 1 May 19. AN. Writes that "you may treasure the early script, if so you will."

ANS. Can let him have this "cut about copy to keep" which is legible and up-to-date.

Folder 2 January 21, London. ALS. 2 p. "Now that rehearsals have got so far I wanted to tell you what little things I can to help you make the utmost of what must be a very trying part." Gives advice and makes suggestions for Kane's role as Christopher Wellwyn.

June 15. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 2 p. Writes about the production of one of his plays in Australia and Kane's appearance in it. "And is it wise to throw over the beginnings of a good success that you have made in London?" Suggests that he enquire about other acting opportunities in England and Scotland.

June 22. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 2 p. Thanks him for his letter and writes that it's unlikely that any of his plays will be performed in London until the autumn. Would like for him to play the young advocate if possible.

November 24. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 1 leaf. Received his note. "We heard you at Oxford and thought you splendid."

Folder 3 1909

December 1. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 1 leaf. Thanks him and thinks "'The Troth' a fine little thing and will recommend it to Barrie as a curtain raiser if Mayne wishes". [Rutherford Mayne, an

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Folder 3 1909 (Cont'd)

Irish dramatist, wrote this one-act play , first produced in London, 1908]

1910

September 22. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 1 leaf. Has written to Australia about his play "Strife". Will try to get him the role of the young advocate in the productions at Manchester and Oxford.

1911

August 5. Cushendun, Co. Antrim. ALS. 1 leaf. Asks where he is as would like for his to have "a very important part in London in a new play of mine."

August 21. London. ALS. 1 leaf. Is glad to have him for the part of Wellwyn; will send him a copy of the play before the first rehearsal [The Pigeon].

August 24. London. ALS. 1 leaf. Thanks him for returning the play, for his letter and photo. Will send him the script of "The Pigeon" soon "if you'll keep it carefully & not let it into other hands."

November 7. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 2 p. Has sent him a copy of "The Pigeon" so that he can make alterations in it and return it.

Folder 4 1912

November 6. Bovey Tracey, Devon. ALS. 1 leaf. Wishes him good luck in America.

1919

February 20. New York. ALS. 1 leaf. Was pleased to get his letter, but unable to see him in the play "for every night is full." With envelope.

1922

November 15. London. TL. 1 leaf. Thanks him for the letter with the cuttings. Would like to see him again as Wellwyn.

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Folder 4 (Cont'd)

1927

April 10. Bury, nr Pulborough. ALS. 1 leaf. Was pleased to hear from him again and "shall like you doing 'The Pigeon' & other of my plays at Chicago."

1929

October 8. London. ALS. 1 leaf. Gives him permission to reproduce the letter but it was in his wife's handwriting and signed by him.

1930

June 5. London. ALS. 2 p. Thanks him for his letter and would like for him to return. With envelope.

Folders 5-7 Galsworthy, John. "The Pigeon; a Play".
 3 acts. Typescript, carbon copy with manuscript revisions. 3 folders.

Folder 8 "Valley of the Shadow" John Galsworthy, O.M. born August 14th, 1867 - died January 31st, 1933. Folder. 2 leaves. print. Note of thanks for letter of sympathy.

Mapcase Kane, Whitford, 1881-1956. Obituaries, newspaper clippings.

Jacobs, William Wymark, 1863-1943

English writer of short stories, some of which have been collected; some have been dramatized: "Beauty and the Barge", "The Monkey's Paw".

Folder 9 Seven letters from William Wymark Jacobs to Nancy Pyper, director at Hart House Theatre, Toronto, 1937-1939.

1938

January 10. London. ALS. 2 p. Apologizes for his tardiness in answering her letter. "I put it aside to answer at my leisure and I expect you know, lazy men never have any leisure." Comments on her letter: the story of the old man, the Hart House Theatre, and on her drawing "I wish I had your gift of

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Folder 9 1938 (Cont'd)

drawing & to be polite, I wish I had Mrs. Pyper's gift of colour." With envelope.

December 31. ALS. 1 leaf. Thanks her for card and good wishes and hopes "that 1939 will be all that you desire." With envelope.

1939

July 15. London. ALS. 2 p. Thanks her for the copy of The Evening Telegram and comments on it. "As a loyal subject I am delighted to find that the Queen shares some of my tastes. In picking you out for a chat she did exactly what I would have done." With envelope.

1940

March 8. London. ALS. 2 p. Apologizes for delay in answering her letter with its Christmas greetings, but it disappeared after he returned to London from Devonshire and "it has now materialized". Writes about the blackouts; wishes Mr. Pyper the best of luck if he becomes correspondent and hopes to see him in London.

Jacobs to Pyper

1940

"Is pleased that she likes Dialstone Lane. It is the book Mark Twain was so kind about. At present the B.B.C. are helping me to keep the pot boiling by doing some of my stories as Radio Plays." With envelope.

September 3. London. ALS. 2 p. Thanks her for the newspaper and writes about the air raids. "Thrilling, but most objectionable to a man fond of sleep. We have from three to five a day; those at night generally last until dawn... What wonderful help we are getting from Canada... I have just heard over the wireless that we are to have fifty destroyers from the U.S.A. This is excellent news." Mentions the lack of amateur performances in England but has just received a cheque from Samuel French "made up almost entirely from performances in Canada!" With envelope.

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1941

January 1. Worcester. ALS. 2 p. Is sorry that her husband is ill and that he could not see him. Comments on the calm and peace "although it is very unpleasant to hear German planes overhead on their way to bomb the Midland towns." Thanks her for the photographs and encloses one of his present house which he describes. With envelope.

March 8. Worcestershire. ALS. 2 p. Thanks her for the case of fruit. Hopes that her husband is better and will phone sender when he is in London again. Comments on the war, the scarcity of food, and speculates on the economic situation after the war. With envelope.

Patch, Blanch, 1878-1966

Folder 10 Twelve letters from Blanch Patch, secretary to George Bernard Shaw, 1920- 1950, to Nancy Pyper, director at Hart House Theatre, 1937-1939.

1945

July 3. London. ANS. 1 leaf. Is sending her a photo "having rather a 'Soul's Awakening' appearance, but I hope it may please you."

1947

June 4. London. ALS. 1 p. Thanks her for the parcel and is using the note "for a bit of joke with Lady Astor whose name is also Nancy." Comments on the heat wave and her recent visit to Shaw who was bearing the heat well. "If his legs are feeble his brain is still very active."

July 4. London. TLS. 1 p. Received answer from Nancy Astor to her note who "was delighted with it." Has had no reply from Grant Macdonald and could find no phone number for him so could not phone him. Refers to her comment about Granville Barker

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Folder 10 Patch to Pyper 1947 (Cont'd)

and Shaw, and wonders if "GBS said something so wounding that Barker made a vow never to speak to him again." Will be leaving for a 3-week holiday on the 7th.

December 10. London. TLS. 1 leaf. Thanks her for the letter, Christmas card, and looks forward to the rum cakes. Comments on Arthur Rank and a knighthood, and her recent tea with Noel Coward which she enjoyed. Is busy writing Christmas letters.

Folder 11 1948

February 2. London. TLS. 1 leaf. Thanks her for letter with picture of the pot of crocus. "We shall soon be seeing them growing in the parks here, and that is how I like to see them." Refers to her question about butter, and says that she prefers ordinary biscuits to rum cake. Doesn't visit Shaw often in the winter because "the house is so dreadfully cold, and GBS is not really much company." Writes about his new play which he may issue as a book. "I think he feels it is not quite up to his old mark ..."

March 3. London. TLS. 1 leaf. Thanks her for the "lovely box of mixed biscuits ... just arrived." Spent a recent weekend with Shaw "and found him in good trim, though he still complains of the shakiness of his legs." Mentions having tea with Maurice Colbourne and Barry Jones and other guests, and there being no Malvern Festival this year so that Shaw's new play will not be staged then.

November 19. London. TLS. 1 leaf. Thanks her for the book which arrived yesterday. Is sorry about her family sorrows and troubles. May send her a comic book written and illustrated by H.G. Wells for children and enjoyed by adults. Will be spending the weekend with Shaw "a dull companion when he has become used to one at meals. He is quite honest when he says he has a gift for solitude."

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Folder 11 1949

August 10. London. TLS. 1 leaf. Hopes that she will get this before she leaves. Says that the Complete Prefaces will be impossible to buy as it is out of print and secondhand copies are scarce. Telephoned her message to Maurice Colbourne. Attended the new Shaw play Buoyant Millions at the Malvern Festival.

"I was not very taken with it when I typed it but it may work out better on the stage." Had tea with Mary Bishop; saw Black Chiffon, Flora Robson's new play; went with Gertrude Lawrence to Sotheby's sale of Shaw's books. Is glad Pyper got book autographed.

September 14. London. TLS. 1 p. Writes about her visit to Malvern where she knew some of the theatre people and saw Shaw's new play. "In a way it is quite interesting, but somehow I can't see it having a success in London." Mentions seeing Helen Waddell with Mr. Kyllmann of Constable's; spending a few days in Oxford with friends before returning to London; the photograph in Trafalgar Square; and buying new winter clothes.

December 27. London. TLS. 1 p. Thanks her for the tin of cookies and the box of Black Magic chocolates which came at the same time. Writes about the mild weather, asks if she received the Maurice Colbourne book, and mentions Shaw's new play "rather a flop in London".

1962

April 22. London. ALS. 1 p. Encloses a photograph of herself in Trafalgar Square taken in about the same spot as "you & I once stood when we were in summer garb". Writes about the "spate of books about Shaw--most of them by people who never met him"; a recent wireless talk that she gave, Lady Astor; and her own health.

1965

November 24. London. ALS. 1 leaf. Was happy to see her again, and apologizes for

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Folder 11 1965 (Cont'd)

being too late to send her a Christmas card. Describes the Hesketh Pearson autobiography which she has just read. "I found it very interesting as I thought I knew him well & this book shows how we all have what one may call private lives."

Excerpts of 2 ALS from Patch to Pyper.

Anecdote about George Bernard Shaw and Blanch Patch. manuscript. 1 leaf.

Folder 12 Photographs

Blanch Patch and Nancy Pyper in Trafalgar Square, 1949. 1 black and white print.

Blanch Patch in Trafalgar Square, 1962. See ALS, April 22, 1962. 1 black and white print.

Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1950

Folder 13

1949

June 6. Mr. Bernard Shaw's readers ... Ayot Saint Lawrence, Welwyn, June 17, 1949. Printed card. With holograph note, initialled. 2 copies: 1 on white with holograph revision; 1 on blue-green with Pyper's name and address on verso.

June 21. Ayot Saint Lawrence. ANS. To Nancy Pyper. "No, Nancy Pyper: you can never hear my voice again."

Photographs

Folder 14

Negatives of June 6. Mr. Bernard Shaw's readers. With holograph revision of white card; June 21, ANS to Nancy Pyper.

Shaw sitting on chair in garden. Negative.

Prefaces by Bernard Shaw. Inscribed by Shaw on flyleaf to Charlie, 24 July 1934. Negative.

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Folder 15 Sixteen Self Sketches. Inscribed by Shaw to Nancy Pyper, 7 July 1949. Negative.

Print

Folder 16 Shaw, Bernard. The Art of Rehearsal. New York: Samuel French, c1922, c1928. 12 p.

Folder 17 Clippings about Shaw sent from Patch to Pyper, 1950.

Folder 18 Clippings about Blanch Patch, 1951 and 1966.

Waddell, Helen, 1889-1965

Folder 19 Irish-English teacher, scholar, writer, and translator.

Two letters from Helen Waddell and one from her sister, Meg, to Nancy Pyper.
 undated

August 17. London. ALS. 1 leaf. Is sad not to have seen her on the weekend, but is sending "an S.O.S. to Harriet Roberts. I suppose she hadn't a spare copy of the typescript." Asks her to send address of the Hart Theatre [Hart House Theatre].

1949

December 2. London. ALS. 1 p. Thanks her for the tin which came last week "diffusing jollity, just like Falstaff". Asks for her right address as wants to send her Stories for Holy Writ which she wrote when nursing her stepmother in Belfast.

1959

January 14. Bainbridge. ALS. Folder. Martin, Meg Waddell, to Pyper. Thanks her for the box of candies and writes about Helen's health and the people who look after her. Gives biographical sketch of Helen and mentions her writing the novel about Peter Abelard.

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Folder 19 (Cont'd)

Excerpt of ALS from Waddell to Pyper inviting her for tea with directions to get there. With Pyper's holograph notes about it on verso.

Folder 20 Photographs

"My beloved Helen's two sisters: older & younger". 1 black and white print.

"Beloved Helen's grave". 4 black and white prints.

Print

Folder 21 Obituaries for Helen Waddell, 1965.

1992 Accession

Folder 22 1945
 May 30, London, TLS. folder. Seymour, Katherine to Nancy Pyper. Invites her to meet with the Queen on June 13 at 12:30 p.m. to tell her about "the great work that you have done." Gives her instructions for the meeting. Written on stationery with Buckingham Palace letter head.

Folder 23 1957
 May 25. Roquebrume - Cap Martin, A.M., France. TLS. 1 leaf.
 Churchill, Winston, Leonard Spencer, Sir, to J.G. McClelland. Thanks him for sending book about Canadian political scene which he looks forward to reading.