

Guide to the Lawrence & Wishart Records

GEN MSS 703



by Jennifer Meehan

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 703

CREATOR: Lawrence & Wishart

TITLE: Lawrence & Wishart records

DATES: 1927-1951

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.63 linear feet (12 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of correspondence, business and financial records, artwork, and photographs relating to the early years of the British publishing company Lawrence & Wishart, its predecessor company Wishart & Company, and the founding partner Ernest Edward Wishart. Correspondence includes letters to, from, and about various authors, journalists, lawyers, and booksellers, among others. There is extensive correspondence concerning the publication of Jack Butler Yeats's book *Sligo* (1930), the sales of Nancy Cunard's book *Negro Anthology* (1934), and the libel case regarding Gerard Kersh's book *Jews Without Jehovah* (1934). Business and financial records include estimates from printers and binders, sales figures, royalty statements, stocktaking records, loan documents, minutes of director's meetings, and reader's reports. Also present is material documenting the company's involvement in the Publishers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland and its collaborations with the Left Book Club and Workers' Bookshop, as well as original cover artwork for *Several Occasions* by Mary Butts, among other books.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lawrence>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lawrence>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Company on the Library Associates Fund, 1999.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Lawrence & Wishart Records is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Lawrence & Wishart Records. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as: Uncat MSS 13 and Uncat MSS 187. The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition in 1999. Further organization, rehousing, and description were carried out in 2010.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Existence and Location of Copies

The Gerald Kersh and George Padmore correspondence is also available on microfilm.

Lawrence & Wishart

Lawrence & Wishart is an independent British publishing company that was founded in 1936 through the merger of Martin Lawrence, the Communist Party's press, and Wishart Ltd., a family-owned liberal and anti-fascist publisher. During the late 1930s, the press was involved in the political and cultural life of the

Popular Front, and published literature, drama, and poetry, as well as political economy, working-class history and the classics of Marxism. From 1936 to 1938, Lawrence & Wishart published *New Writing*, a biannual literary anthology edited by John Lehmann.

Lawrence & Wishart has evolved over the years, but continues to publish works that examine the relationship between politics and culture.

Historical information drawn from the publisher's website: <http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/about.html> (accessed on 5 August 2010).

Wishart & Company and Ernest Edward Wishart (1902-1987)

Ernest Edward Wishart established the publishing house Wishart & Company in the late 1920s. The company published *Scrutinies* by various writers edited by Edgell Rickford (the first volume appeared in 1928, and the second volume followed in 1931); *Sligo* (1930) by Jack Butler Yeats; *Negro Anthology* (1934) edited by Nancy Cunard; and *Jews Without Jehovah* (1934) by Gerald Kersh.

Wishart was born in Dulwich, England in 1902, and was educated at Rugby School and Cambridge. In 1927 he married Lorna Garman, the younger sister of his friend Douglas Garman who worked with him at Wishart & Company, and they had two sons, Michael and Luke. Wishart retired from the publishing business in the 1950s and went on to pursue other interests. He died in 1987.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, business and financial records, artwork, and photographs relating to the early years of the British publishing company Lawrence & Wishart, its predecessor company Wishart & Company, and the founding partner Ernest Edward Wishart. Correspondence includes letters to, from, and about various authors, journalists, lawyers, and booksellers, among others. There is extensive correspondence concerning the publication of Jack Butler Yeats's book *Sligo* (1930), the sales of Nancy Cunard's book *Negro Anthology* (1934), and the libel case regarding Gerard Kersh's book *Jews Without Jehovah* (1934). Business and financial records include estimates from printers and binders, sales figures, royalty statements, stock-taking records, loan documents, minutes of director's meetings, and reader's reports. Also present is material documenting the company's involvement in the Publishers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland and its collaborations with the Left Book Club and Workers' Bookshop, as well as original cover artwork for *Several Occasions* by Mary Butts, among other books.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1927-1948. II. Business and Financial Records, 1928-1951. III. Artwork and Photographs, 1932-1936.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1927-1948

1.67 linear feet (4 boxes)

Arranged largely in alphabetical order by name of correspondent. A group of early correspondence of Wishart & Co. is arranged at the beginning of the series and a group of miscellaneous correspondence is arranged at the end.

b.1	Early correspondence, Wishart & Co. <i>4 Folders</i>	1927-1930
b.1	"A" General	1937-1939
b.1	Anand, Mulk Raj	1937-1939
b.1	"B" General	1936-1938
b.1	Barker, George	1937
b.1	Blakeston, Oswald	1937-1939
b.1	Bolton, Pitt & Breden	1938-1939
b.1	Bose, Subhas Chandra	1938-1939
b.1	Burt, Brill & Edwards	1934-1940
b.1	Bunting, Basil	1929
b.1	Butts, Mary	1929-1930
b.1	Byron, Robert	1937
b.2	"C" General	1937-1938
b.2	Cockburn, Claude	1933
b.2	Collett Smith & Co.	1937-1939
b.2	Connolly, Cyril	undated
b.2	Cunard, Nancy	1937-1939
b.2	"D" General	1937-1939
b.2	Davenport, John	1937
b.2	Dunn (H. W. Birks & Co) <i>3 Folders</i>	1935-1940
b.2	"F" General	1937-1939
b.2	Fisher, Frances George	1930
b.2	"G" General	1937-1938

b. 2	Garman, Douglas <i>3 Folders</i>	1927-1933
b. 2	Goldring, Douglas	1930
b. 2	Greenidge, Terence	1937
b. 2	Guthrie, Tyrone	1937
b. 2	"H" General	1937-1939
b. 2	Heslop, Harold Includes drawings by Pearl Binder for book jacket of Heslop's novel <i>Last Cage Down</i>	1938
b. 2	Higgins, Bertram	1929; 1938
b. 2	Holtby, Winifred	1933
b. 2	Horrabin, Winifred	1930-1931
b. 3	James, Norah C.	1937
b. 3	Kersh, Gerald <i>6 Folders</i> Also available on microfilm.	1934-1939
b. 3	Lambert, Constant	[circa 1929]
b. 3	Leavis, F. R.	1939
b. 3	Left Theatre	1935
b. 3	Lindsay, Jack	1929
b. 3	"M" General	1937-1939
b. 3	Mordaunt, Myles	1934-1939
b. 3	"P" General	1937-1940
b. 3	Padmore, George	1937-1939
b. 3	Paramount Printing	1945-1948
b. 3	Plomer, William	1930
b. 3	Powys, Llewellyn and Alyse Gregory	1932-1938
b. 4	"R" General	1935-1937
b. 4	Reavey, George	1938
b. 4	Richards, Grant	1930
b. 4	Rickword, Cecil and Edgell	1929-1938
b. 4	Rowe, Newton Allen	1932-1942

b. 4	Saffronova (Moscow publishers) <i>2 Folders</i>	1938
b. 4	Salt, Henry Stephens	1938-1939
b. 4	Scott-Moncrieff, George	1937-1938
b. 4	"T" General	1937-1939
b. 4	Turner, W. J.	1939
b. 4	"W" General	1937-1939
b. 4	Whyte, Alexander Frederick	1935
b. 4	"Wilson"	1938; undated
b. 4	Wintringham, Tom H.	undated
b. 4	Yeats, Elizabeth C.	1930
b. 4	Yeats, Jack Butler	1931
b. 4	Miscellaneous correspondence <i>3 Folders</i>	1927-1940

Series II: Business and Financial Records, 1928-1951

2.71 linear feet (7 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

b. 5	Address book of E. E. Wishart	undated
b. 5	Destruction of premises, correspondence	1940
b. 5	Estimated income <i>2 Folders</i>	1938-1939
b. 5	Estimates from printers and binders <i>15 Folders</i>	1938-1941
b. 6	Estimates from printers and binders <i>3 Folders</i>	1930-1939
b. 6	Expenses: bills, invoices, receipts <i>2 Folders</i>	1928-1938
b. 6	Figures <i>5 Folders</i>	1936-1939
	Financial	
b. 7	Loans	1929-1951
b. 7	Material relating to financial position Includes proof of Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation of Martin Lawrence and Wishart, Ltd.	1936-1939
b. 7	Personal finance (E. E. Wishart), mostly stock market transactions	1939-1946
b. 7	Miscellaneous financial	1937-1938
	Ledgers	
b. 7	Movement of stock	1932-1935
b. 7	Record of book sales	1934-1936
b. 7	Left Book Club Scheme	1938-1939
	Lenin Works	
b. 7	Lenin's Selected Works, notes on stock and sales	1938
b. 7	The Teachings of Karl Marx, binder's copy	1939
b. 7	Minutes of Meetings of Directors <i>2 Folders</i> Also includes sales and financial reports.	1936-1939
b. 8	Memos and related material flagged "For attention"	1938
b. 8	Miscellaneous	1932-1939

b. 8	Press clippings <i>2 Folders</i>	1934-1944
b. 8	Printed material	1938-1939
b. 8	Publicity	1938, undated
b. 8	Publisher's Association of Great Britain and Ireland <i>6 Folders</i>	1935-1939
b. 9	Publisher's Association of Great Britain and Ireland <i>2 Folders</i>	1939
b. 9	Readers' reports	undated
b. 9	Royalty statements <i>2 Folders</i>	1937-1938
b. 9	Sales ledger accounts	1934-1936
	Stocktaking	
b. 9	Printers and binders statements of stock <i>2 Folders</i>	1938-1939
b. 10	Wishart stock <i>2 Folders</i>	1937-1938
b. 10	Soviet Union and the Path to Peace	undated
b. 10	L. W. Stock <i>2 Folders</i>	1937-1938
b. 10	Taxes	1939-1942
	Workers Bookshop	
b. 10	"Plebs" (Left Book Club)	circa 1938
b. 10	Liquidation	1938-1939
b. 10	A Yell of a Night: movie	1932-1938
b. 10	Unsorted material <i>3 Folders</i>	
b. 11	Unsorted material <i>6 Folders</i>	

Series III: Artwork and Photographs, 1932-1936, undated*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

b. 12 (Oversize)	Cover art for: <i>Several Occasions</i> , by Mary Butts, pen and ink watercolor, signed by Gabriel Atkins	undated
b. 12 (Oversize)	Cover art for: <i>Ten Thousand Yesterdays</i> , Mrs. Percival Connellan, pen and ink watercolor	1932
	Cover art by Pearl Binder for: <i>Last Cage Down</i> , by Harold Heslop See: Series I, Correspondence/Heslop, Harold, Box 2	
b. 12 (Oversize)	Cover art for: <i>Shot Whilst Escaping</i> , by Walter Schönstedt, photographic collage	1934
b. 12 (Oversize)	<i>Murder Among Friends</i> , by Simon, dust jacket artwork	1933
b. 12 (Oversize)	Two unidentified watercolor drawings	undated
b. 12 (Oversize)	Photographic portrait, signed "Love, Pippy"	1936
b. 12 (Oversize)	Photographic portrait, Wieser, Prague, of unidentified man	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Authors and publishers -- Great Britain -- 20th
Century
Publishers and publishing -- Great Britain --
20th Century

Names

Anand, Mulk Raj, 1905-2004
Barker, George, 1913-1991
Binder, Pearl, 1904-1990
Blakeston, Oswell
Bose, Subhas Chandra, 1897-1945
Bunting, Basil, 1900-
Butts, Mary, 1890-1937
Cunard, Nancy, 1896-1965 (Negro anthology)
Garman, Douglas, 1903-1969
Kersh, Gerald, 1911-1968 (Jews without
Jehovah)
Rickword, Edgell, 1898-1982
Rowe, Newton Allan, 1900-
Wishart, Ernest Edward
Yeats, Elizabeth Corbet, 1868-1940
Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler), 1871-1957 (Sligo)

Corporate Bodies

Lawrence & Wishart
Wishart & Company