

University of Victoria Special Collections

Betjeman, John, 1906-1984

SC015-Accession 2000-010-Series I-Box 17-Box 17, Folder 12

Inventory of the Eliot, T.S.-Eliot, Valerie Folder in the John Betjeman Fonds

Prepared by Samuel Adesubokan in 2019

**Title**

Eliot, T.S.-Eliot, Valerie

Box 17, Folder 12:

**Correspondence**

Eliot, T.S.

- 17.12.1 From T.S Eliot to John Betjeman, 16 December 1936, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, with autograph corrections, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Reply to Betjeman's 10 December 1936 request for a lunch date. T.S. Eliot apologizes for not being able to publish Betjeman's book; expresses interest in Betjeman's mention of knowing him at Highgate Junior School; requests the arrangement of a lunch date with Betjeman.
- 17.12.2 From T.S. Eliot to John Betjeman, 4 January 1937, typed Faber & Faber postcard, signed by T.S. Eliot's secretary.  
Confirmation of lunch date for 12 January 1937, 1:15 pm at the Oxford and Cambridge Club.
- 17.12.3 From T.S. Eliot to John Betjeman, 8 April 1937, 1 p. typed letter, signed, with autograph notes, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Request for a lunch date with Betjeman on either 20 or 22 April.
- 17.12.4 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to John Betjeman, 23 April 1937, 1 p. typed letter, signed by secretary, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter acknowledging the correctness of an earlier remark by Betjeman.
- 17.12.5 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 7 May 1938, 1 p. typed letter, signed, with autograph notes, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter confirming receipt of Betjeman's recommendation of Charles R. Ashbee and request to arrange a meeting with him.

- 17.12.6 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 18 May 1937, typed Faber & Faber postcard, signed by secretary.  
Postcard informing Betjeman of T.S. Eliot's absence and uncertain availability for a proposed 31 May lunch date.
- 17.12.7 From T.S. Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 25 May 1937, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter confirming with certainty T.S. Eliot's unavailability for a 31 May lunch date.
- 17.12.8 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 27 May 1937, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
T.S. Eliot informs Betjeman of his unavailability for a 31 May lunch date.
- 17.12.9 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 4 June 1937, typed Faber & Faber postcard.  
Confirmation of lunch for an unstated date with a comment about an unnamed person getting food poisoning from eating fish.
- 17.12.10 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 30 September 1937, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Invitation to lunch on a date Betjeman may freely choose.
- 17.12.11 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 22 June 1938, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead with autograph markings and note saying markings were accidental.  
Letter expressing agreement to spend the weekend at Bristol with Betjeman and a question wanting to know if a dinner event scheduled for 30 June with Betjeman requires formal dressing.
- 17.12.12 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 19 July 1938, 1 p. typed letter, signed, with autograph marking, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter persuading Betjeman to accept a speaking invitation by George Every, S.S.M. of Kelham at the Student Christian Movement, Swanwick, summer course.
- 17.12.13 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 22 July 1938, typed postcard with autograph correction of Betjeman's address.  
Reminder to send in an article for the September number of *The Criterion*.
- 17.12.14 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 3 August 1938, 3 pp. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Notification about publishing preparations for Betjeman's forthcoming essay, "The Bressey Report", and the acceptance of Betjeman's memo for a proposed book too.

- 17.12.15 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 25 August 1938, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter asking questions about illustrations in Betjeman's proposed book.
- 17.12.16 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 14 October 1938, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter inquiring about a contact of Betjeman's in the *Spectator* and mentioning an enclosed cutting of the person's image. [But no such cutting exists in the file]
- 17.12.17 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 3 November 1938, 1 p. typed letter, signed, with autograph notes, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Invitation for Betjeman to join T.S. Eliot and Ralph Hodgson at a lunch date.
- 17.12.18 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 1 February 1939, 1 p. typed letter, signed, with autograph postscript, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Confirmation of lunch date; asks if Betjeman is inviting someone else to the date.
- 17.12.19 From Anne Bradly (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 6 February 1939, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Letter confirming a lunch date with T.S. Eliot for 1:15 pm at Hotel Victoria on an unspecified date.
- 17.12.20 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 19 July 1939, holograph photo postcard, initialed with autograph correction to Betjeman's address.  
Postcard mentioning a certain place, Chipping Campden, that has a fireplace in its vicinity.
- 17.12.21 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 8 August 1939, 2 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Letter commenting on the poems of one Mr. Pennethorne, a friend of Betjeman.
- 17.12.22 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 7 September 1939, 1 p. typed letter, signed by Anne Bradly in Eliot's absence, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
Request for a lunch date.
- 17.12.23 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 13 September 1939, 1 p. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead.  
Letter at the beginning of World War II proposing a lunch date, also asking after Betjeman's welfare.
- 17.12.24 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 18 September 1939, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead, 2 undated drafts of the letter on onionskin papers.  
T.S. Eliot informs Betjeman about a meeting at a pub in Redcliffe Square for drinks; a religious debate at Golders Green; a visit to the Woofls; a remark about a friend, a certain Jennings, "odious negro servant"; and a list of names recommended to Betjeman for enlistment consideration into the BBC's wartime effort.

- 17.12.25 From T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 19 September 1939, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead, 2 undated drafts of the letter on onionskin paper. T.S. Eliot recommending John Hayward and Martin Browne for employment in the BBC wartime efforts.
- 17.12.26 From Reverend E.C. Bowring to T.S. Eliot, 20 September 1939, 1 p., duplicate copy on onionskin paper [This item perhaps belongs to the T.S. Eliot Collection]. Acknowledgement of T.S. Eliot's list of recommended names and invitation to meet in October at Phaeton.
- 17.12.27 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 6 October 1939, typed Faber & Faber postcard. Notice about the postponement of a weekend date due to a cold. Proposes a potential future date.
- 17.12.28 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 25 November 1939, 1 p. typed, letter, signed, *The Criterion* letterhead. Enquiry after Betjeman's welfare and notice about a long unavailability for weekend dates.
- 17.12.29 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 7 March 1940, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead. Request for a meeting to discuss a book writing project.
- 17.12.30 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 17 March 1940, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, with autograph note about a typing error, *The Criterion* letterhead. Acknowledgement of Betjeman's correction of a topography detail in a poem by T.S. Eliot. Encourages Betjeman to read Miss Window Thompsons's poems, which T.S. Eliot finds beautiful.
- 17.12.31 From L.M.A. Melton (T.S. Eliot's Secretary) to Betjeman, 21 March 1944, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead. Request for Betjeman's confirmation of availability for a March 30 lunch date with T.S. Eliot and a certain Mr. Hollering.
- 17.12.32 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 27 January 1948, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead. Letter persuading Betjeman to accept his election into the Literary Society [Royal Society of Literature], a writers' club.
- 17.12.33 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, Candlemas [2 February] 1948, 1 p. typed letter, signed. T.S. Eliot's reply to Betjeman's 29 January letter informing Betjeman of his unavailability for a 10 February dinner date but promises to be available for a subsequent one.
- 17.12.34 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, St, Jeane d'Arc [30 May] 1949, 1 p. typed letter, signed. Request for Betjeman's comments on an unspecified item accompanying the

letter; apologizes for the delay in sending the item due to his attendance of an Academy Banquet and a visit to Nottingham University.

- 17.12.35 T.S. Eliot to Betjeman, 25 August 1950, 1 p. typed letter, signed, Faber & Faber letterhead.  
T.S. Eliot announces that “the Lord seems to have stricken *Time & Tide*”, a left-wing, feminist literary magazine. Informs about going for a trip to America in September and the need to get “some spiritual advice” before undertaking the writing of a book on Ezra Pound.

#### Valerie Eliot

- 17.12.36 Valerie Eliot to Betjeman, Easter Monday [7 April] 1969, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, with typed and autograph postscript notes about enclosed poems, and a blue line across the letter’s first page.  
Letter seeking Betjeman’s recommendation of suitable publishers for the poems of a certain Miss Mary Lascelles whose poems have been previously rejected by the Oxford University Press. Also announces leaving for Venice to meet Ezra Pound for her book project on T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land*.
- 17.12.37 Valerie Eliot to Betjeman, 25 July 1969, 2 pp. typed letter, signed, with a pencil line drawn across its first page.  
Thanks Betjeman for his advice concerning Miss Lascelles poems but remarks that Lascelles may not accept Betjeman’s suggestion that she should publish her poems in a magazine. Also congratulates Betjeman for his new Knighthood, and comments about her trip to Venice that “Ezra [Pound] could remember nothing about ‘The Waste Land’, not even what some of his comments meant.”

#### **Other University of Victoria Collections with T.S. Eliot Material**

There are approximately 82 letters, 2 photographs, a lecture typescript draft, and autograph comments on a copy of Herbert Read’s *The Education of Free Men* in the T.S. Eliot Collection; 78 T.S. Eliot letters and commentary in the Herbert Read fonds.