

University of Victoria Special Collections

Durrell, Lawrence

SC040

Title

Lawrence Durrell collection

Dates

1950-2001

Extent

9 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Lawrence Durrell was born in India and educated there and in England. He was refused admission to Cambridge University and left England in 1935. He edited "The Booster" with Henry Miller and Alfred Perlès 1937-39. He later worked in various government, newspaper and teaching positions in such places as Egypt, Greece, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, and Argentina. He became a full time writer in 1957 and moved to France. He was mainly a writer of poetry and novels, but also worked as a playwright, short story writer, translator, travel writer, and editor. His major works include "The Alexandria Quartet" "The Black Book", "Tunc" and "Nunquam". He also wrote many volumes of poetry and travel literature. He won several awards for his work. He also wrote under the pseudonyms "Charles Norden (Panic Spring) and Gaffer Peeslake (Bromo Bombastes). He had a close friendship, spanning many years, with Henry Miller and Alfred Perlès. He died in Sommieres, France.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of correspondence from Durrell to Alfred Perlès, William Woods, John Lehmann, Peter Russell, Tambimuttu (LD's notes on Dylan Thomas in the form of a letter), and others; also included are a corrected proof of "Balthazar"(sent to Perlès); a sketch (1959) by Eve Miller of Henry Miller, Alfred Perlès and Durrell; and, a watercolour by "Oscar Epfs" (pseud. of L. Durrell) done for a record sleeve "Songs of Greece" plus a Xmas card reproduced from the painting in 1964. Alfred Perlès later changed his name to Alfred Barret, and was often addressed by Durrell and Miller as Joe or Joey in their letters to him.

Finding Aids

Item list available.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the collection.

SC040
Durrell, Lawrence George, 1912-1990
1 Box

The Lawrence Durrell Collection
Revised by Terry Humby
University of Victoria Special Collections
2006

Box 1:

Correspondence

Lawrence Durrell to Alfred Perlès

Belgrade

- 1.1 ALs "Jan. 3" [1951?], "Dear Joe-". Letterhead: "British Legation, Belgrade", 2 pp.
- 1.2 ALs n.d. [Jan. or Feb. 1951?], "Joey...". Letterhead: "British Legation, Belgrade", 2 pp.
- 1.3 ALs n.d. [Jan. 1950?] "Belgrade", "Dear Joe", 3 pp.
- 1.4 ALs n.d. [Jan. 1950?] "Belgrade", "Dear Joe:", 2 pp.
- 1.5 ALs n.d. [Feb. 1950?] "Belgrade", "Joey dear-", 4 pp.
- 1.6 ALs n.d. [March 1950?], "Dear Joe:". Letterhead: "British Legation, Belgrade", "Belgrade" also written in pen, 2 pp.

Les Saints and Nimes

- 1.7 ALs n.d. [1957] "Les Saintes", "Dear Joe-", 1 p.
- 1.8 ALs "14 th October [1958]", "Joey me boyo-", 2 pp.
- 1.9 TLs n.d. [1961] "Dear Joe;", 1 p.
- 1.10 TLs n.d. {1962} "Nimes", "My Dear Joe:", 1 p.
- 1.11 TLs "21 st Oct. !963", "masmichel engances par NIMES Gard FRANCE", "Dear Joe;", 2pp.
- 1.12 TLs airletter postmarked Nimes 12-3-1959, "Dear Joe:", 1 p.
- 1.13 TLs airletter n.d. [1959] "mazet michel engances pres Nimes", "DEAR JOE" 1 p.
- 1.14 TLs airletter postmarked 1959, "mazet michel engances pres Nimes", "Dear Joe:" 1 p.
- 1.15 TLs n.d. [1959?] " mazet michel engances pres Nimes", "DEAR JOE" 1 p.
- 1.16 APCs postmarked 26-8-1959, " mazet michel Nimes etc.", 2 p.
- 1.17 TPC postmarked Nimes 28-7-1962, "My dear Fred", 1 p.

Sommieres and London

- 1.18 TL n.d. [1958?] "Sommieres", "Dear Joe:", 1 p.
- 1.19 ALs n.d. [1958?] "Sommieres", "Dear Joe:", 1 p.
- 1.20 APCs postmarked Sommieres 10-9-1958, "Dear Joe", 2 pp.
- 1.21 TLs n.d. [ca 1958] "SOMMIERES", "DEAR JOE", 1 p.
- 1.22 TLs n.d. [ca 1958] "SOMMIERES", "DEAR JOE:", 1 p.
- 1.23 TLs n.d. [ca 1958] "SOMMIERES", "JOE:", 1 p.
- 1.24 TLs n.d. [Sommieres?], "Dear Joe:", 1 p.
- 1.25 CTLs n.d. "FRANCE", "Joe:". 1 p.
- 1.26 APCs postmarked London 20-3-1961, "Dear Joe", 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to William Woods (Novelist, Screenwriter)

- 1.27 ALs [4-2-1957] "51 St Albans Avenue Bournemouth", "My dear Bill and Kato", 1 p.
- 1.28 TLs [20-4-1957] "Villa Louis Sommieres Gard France", "Dear Bill: 2 pp. (with envelope)
- 1.29 TLs [28-6-1957] "Villa Louis Sommieres Gard France", "MY DEAR BILL" 1 p.
- 1.30 TPCs postmarked Sommieres 3-7-1957, "DEAR BILL", 1 p.
- 1.31 APCs postmarked Sommieres 10-7-1957, "DEAR Bill--", 1 p.
- 1.32 TLs [17-1-1958] "SOMMIERES", "DEAR BILL", 1p.
- 1.33 TLs airletter postmarked 15-12-1958, "le mazet michel, engances , chemin d'uzes pres Nimes. Gard France", "DEAR BILL", 1 p.
- 1.34 TLs airletter postmarked 17-1-1958, "mazet michel engances / chemin d'uzes NIMES / GARD France", "Dear Bill", 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to Mildred Meyer

- 1.35 TLs "Jan 1 [1958]", "As from Faber and Faber / 24 Russell Square London", "Dear Miss Meyer:", 1 p. (with envelope, posted from Sommieres 2-1-1958).
- 1.36 TLs Envelope postmarked Sommieres, 22-2-1958. "Post Restante / SOMMIERES EN LANGUEDOC / GARD FRANCE", "DEAR MISS MEYER:", 1 p.
- 1.37 TLs "24 Mars [1958]", "VILLA / LOUIS / SOMMIERES / GARD / FRANCE", "DEAR MISS MEYER", 1 p. (with envelope)
- 1.38 TLs [April? 1958] " Sommieres" "Dear Miss Meyer.", 1 p.
- 1.39 ALs [May? 1958] "Villa Louis / Sommieres / Gard France" "Dear Miss Meyer", 1 p.
With envelope'
Enclosure: TLs n.d., To Mildred Meyer from Claude Durrell, 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to John Lehmann

- 1.40 TLs "Feb 29 [1952]", "The British Embassy / Belgrade / Yugoslavia", "Dear John Lehmann", 1 p.
Enclosures: CTL Lehmann to Durrell, Feb. 25, 1952, 1 p. and typed quotation from Durrell's letter, 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to Peter Russell (Poet)

- 1.41 TLs "21 st March [1963]", "France / As from Faber 24 Russell Sq London", "Dear Peter Russell", 1 p.
- 1.42 ALs Envelope postmarked Geneve, 15-5-1963, "Friday", "Dear Russell", 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to John Rolph (Scorpion Press founder)

- 1.43 TPCs postmarked Sommieres 20-2-1958, "dear mr Rolph", 1 p.
- 1.44 TLs postmarked 4-5-1959, "Nimes", "Dear Mr Rolph", 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to T. J. Searle

- 1.45 TLs "Dec 9 [1960], Paris.", "Dear Sir", 1 p. With envelope.

Lawrence Durrell to "Mr. Jacob"

- 1.46 TLs "Feb 20 1958", "Sommieres Gard France", "Dear Mr. Jacob:" 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to Tschup Tschick

- 1.47 ALs [1944?] "Beirut", "Dear Tschup Tschick" 1 p. (sketching in margins)

Lawrence Durrell to F. Warren

- 1.48 APCs postmarked Nimes, 6-2-1961, 1 p.

Lawrence Durrell to "Madam"

- 1.49 TLs n.d., "British Embas[s]y / Belgrade"

Anne Ridler (Durrell's agent) to John Bayless

- 1.50 APCs "11 May 1942", "6 King St, Kirkwall, Orkney", 1 p.
Box 2:

Manuscripts

- 2.1 Memoir of Dylan Thomas
"2nd February 1954 / Bellapaix, Cyprus"
Typescript, 4 pp. in the form of a letter to editor Tambimuttu.
With Durrell's and printer's corrections.
Typed signature, "Larry Durrell" with the first name crossed out and "Lawrence"
printed in pencil.
Enclosed with 2.1:

- 2.2 TPC postmarked Sommieres 13-3-1954
Durrell to Tambimuttu; requests return of the notes in order that Durrell may sell them since "I am very broke indeed."
On addressed side, faintly in pencil: "1st on list / Existing on credit now / hope for stability".
- 2.3 Balthazar, Faber and Faber, 1958
Unbound, "first corrected proof / L.D."
Leaf before title page inscribed: "Joey- for your amusement / Larry"
Proof has autograph corrections throughout, along with the prefacing "Note" crossed out and a typed page-length "Note" taped in with typed signature: " L.D. / Ascona, 1957."
Durrell has additional autograph remarks to printer on the last leaf.

Box 3:

Artwork

- 3.1 Watercolour by Lawrence Durrell (pseud. "Oscar Epfs") 22x35cm.
(Reproduced on record sleeve of Songs about Greece (London: Jupiter Recordings, 1964).
Enclosure: Greeting Card reproduction watercolour 3.1.
- 3.2 Pen and ink sketch by Eve Miller of Henry Miller, Lawrence Durrell and Alfred Perlès.
20x26cm.
"25-6-59 / Terrace Chez Durrell / Henry, Fredl, Larry--with so much love, always --
Eve"

Box 4:

Audio Media

- 4.1 Songs About Greece (London: Jupiter Recordings, 1964) 7" 45 rpm.
Includes renditions of Lawrence Durrell's poems "Lesbos" and "In Arcadia".
Lawrence Durrell created the sleeve art under the pseud. "Oscar Epfs" (see 3.1).

Durrell, Lawrence George

2007-019

I. Dissertations/Theses

File 1-2. Badsha, Abdulla K.

"Durrell's Heraldic Universe and the Alexandria Quartet:
A Subaltern View"

Dissertation. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 2001.

iv, 361 p.

3-4. Bloshteyn, Maria R.

"The Pornographers and the Prophet: Henry Miller, Anaïs Nin,
and Lawrence Durrell reading Dostoevsky"

Dissertation. York University. 1998.

x, 270 p.

5. Cartwright, Michael P.

"The Alexandria Quartet: A Comedy for the Twentieth Century
Or Lawrence Durrell, the Pardoner, and his Miraculous Pig's
Knuckle"

Dissertation. University of Nebraska. 1970.

[5], 106 p.

6. Gifford, James D.

"Epistemological Skepticism in the Novels of Lawrence Durrell:

A Study in the Development of Postmodern Fiction and its
Subsequent Effects on Analytic Methodologies"

Thesis. California State University Dominguez Hills. 2000.

vii, 195 p.

7. Goldberg, Frederick

"The Movement Toward Survival: Remystification in the Works
of Lawrence Durrell"

Dissertation. Emory University. 1975.

[6], 161 p.

8. Goldman, Marilyn R. "Lyn"

"Journey Through Alexandria: Darley and the City in Lawrence
Durrell's *The Alexandria Quartet*"

Thesis. University of Regina. 1980.

[1], v, 106 p.

Dissertations/Theses (Cont'd.)

File 9. Khattab, Abdul-Qader Abdullah

"Encountering the Non-Western Other in Lawrence Durrell's *The
Alexandria Quartet*"

Dissertation. University of Ohio. 1999.

233 p.

10. MacDonald, Ann Carton
"Spirit of Place: The Role of Landscape in the Poetry of Lawrence Durrell"
Thesis. Carleton University. 1988.
vii, 145 p.
- 11-12. Papayanis, Marilyn
"From the Metropolis to the Margins: The Ethics of Expatriation from Lawrence to Ondaatje"
Dissertation. State University of Rutgers, New Jersey. 2001.
xiii, 322 p.
13. Young, Susan H.
"Quantum Fiction: Relativity and Postmodernism in Lawrence Durrell's The Alexandria Quartet"
Dissertation. City University of New York. 2000.
vi, 165 p.

Videos

14. B.B.C.
"Lawrence Durrell's Egypt"
VHS dubbed from CBC programme "Spectrum" November 1980
plus memo explaining dub was for Lyn Goldman
(see thesis above)

15. Venne, Catherine
VHS: Le Passage à Alexandrie: extraits
19 Decembre 2000

Transcript

16. Venne, Catherine
Le Passage à Alexandrie
tss.
104 p.

Scrapbook

o/s scrapbook contains:

-93 colour photographs of "Lawrence Durrell at State College"
[Pennsylvania State University], April 11/12, 1986.

The photos were taken by Rubi Rubrecht

a list of the photographs is loose inside the front cover

-pc of Peabody Book Shop and Beer Stube, Baltimore, MD

-map of Pennsylvania State University

-tls from the Lawrence Durrell Society 21 July 1987

-subscription form for "Numbers" sent from State University of New York
(MacNiven) with envelope postmarked 22 July 1987. enclosed are
photocopies of photographs in the album

Durrell, Lawrence, collection

2011-027

Box 1

Manuscripts

- 1.1 “Pied Piper of Lovers” by LD edited by James Gifford (2008)
-tss, corr 2, viii, 3-281 p.
- 1.2 “Panic Spring: a Romance” by Charles Norden (ie. LD)
edited by James Gifford, introduction by Richard Pine (2008)
-tss, corr 2, xxv, vii, 3-250 p.
- 1.3 “Sappho” adapted from a work by LD
dramatization in French and English (2007)
two copies + one copy of programme
one copy double-sided
-tss
- 1.4-10 “Autumn Gleanings” by Theodore Stephanides
memoirs of LD plus TS’ poems
edited by Richard Pine et al. (2009)
seven files from 1975 drafts to proofs

Durrell, Lawrence, collection
2011-029 [housed with
2011-027]

Box 1

VHS Cassettes

- 1.11 “Une Amité Parisienne” (Durrell, Miller, Perlès) (1989)
-Fuji E-60
-Sony T-120
- 1.12 “Quiet Days in Sommieres”
-3M T-120
- 1.13 “Justine”
-commercial product (1989)
- 1.14 “India #1” (1997)
-Sony T-120
“India #2 (1997)/ “Paris” (1997)
-SonyT-160
- 1.15 “Spirit of Place: Lawrence Durrell’s Egypt”
-Sony T-120, J. Brigham signature on cover
-Fuji T-60, Part one (Spectrum 1980)
-Fuji T-60, Part two (Spectrum 1980)

Durrell, Lawrence, collection
Accession 2011-076

- Box 1 Audio Recordings (non-commercial)
- 1.1 “Durrell, By Himself”
Sony C-60 cassette
CBC ‘Telescope’ 1968
- 1.2 “Lawrence Durrell reads An Irish Faust”
Sony C-90 cassette
1963?
- 1.3 “Scottish Music (Burns Night)”/”Lawrence Durrell, By Himself”
Transonic C-90 cassette in Fuji case
1968?
- 1.4-5 [musical selections]
Maxell C-60 cassette, Maxell C-120 cassette
n.d. ca.1981?
- 1.6 “Geoffrey Poole Vocal Compositions 1975-85”
TDK compact disk
(includes ‘Bone of Adam’ by Lawrence Durrell)
with 3 p. tss explanatory notes on the 5 compositions
- 1.7 Correspondence
Poole, Geoffrey/James Gifford e-mails 2002
-3 in
2 out
re ‘Bone of Adam’ by Lawrence Durrell
- 1.8 Vittorio Celentano/James Gifford/Anna Lillios e-mails 2006-07
-VC out to AL
-12 VC out to JG
-5 JG in to VC
-plus JG to AL
re Lawrence Durrell biography by Ian MacNiven and Kato Havas’
“The Violin and I”

Miscellaneous

- 1.9 list of books from Lawrence Durrell's Library, now at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale (purchased May 1990)
tss, photocopy 95 p.
- 1.10 conference paper. M.G. Vassanji "The Boy in the Street: A View From Across" On Miracle Ground XII: Conference of the International Lawrence Durrell Society. University of Ottawa, 2002.
tss, photocopy with h corr 11 p.
re LD's Alexandria Quartet
- 1.11 catalogue. Geoffrey Poole. compositions and recordings, 1970-2001
tss 12 p.