

# Guide to the Letters to Herbert Van Thal

GEN MSS 464



by Timothy G. Young

February 2000

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## Collection Overview

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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 464

**CREATOR:** Van Thal, Herbert, 1904-1983

**TITLE:** Letters to Herbert Van Thal

**DATES:** 1921-1980

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.6 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters to Herbert Van Thal from various writers, critics, readers, and actors, including James Agate, Alan Dent, Adrian Conan Doyle, Roger Fulford, Elspeth Huxley, Noel Langley, James Pope-Hennessy, Leonard Russell and Paul Scott. Many letters concern projects proposed by Van Thal, such as memoirs by famous persons, or are in response to queries placed by Van Thal soliciting information or leads for compilations of letters he was preparing. Other letters concern his work as a writers' agent.

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Bertram Rota on the George Henry Nettleton Fund, 1999.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Letters to Herbert Van Thal. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

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## HERBERT VAN THAL (1904-1983)

Herbert Van Thal's career in literary matters was varied and successful, Beginning as a bookseller's assistant, he worked for publishers before establishing his own firm, Home and Van Thal. In 1937, he edited the collection *The Royal Letter Book*, beginning a series of anthologies and reprints of classics that would bear his name. In the 1960s and 1970s, he earned a niche of renown for his anthologies of horror stories. Along the way, he acted as literary agent for a number of writers and wrote original works, such as *Eliza Lynn Linton: The Girl of the Period*. More information can be found in his autobiography, *The Tops of the Mulberry Trees*.

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## Scope and Contents

The letters to Herbert Van Thal consist of items from various writers, critics, readers, and actors, including James Agate, Alan Dent, Adrian Conan Doyle, Roger Fulford, Elspeth Huxley, Noel Langley, James Pope-Hennessy, Leonard Russell and Paul Scott. Many letters concern projects proposed by Van Thal, such as memoirs by famous persons, or are in response to queries placed by Van Thal soliciting information or leads for compilations of letters he was preparing. Other letters concern his work as a writers' agent.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">"A" general</a>	1964, n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	<a href="#">Acton, Harold</a>	1942 Dec 14
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Agate, James</a> Includes letter from JA's sister, May (ca. 1947)	1926-47
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">Alwyn, William</a>	1966-73
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">Ashbrook, William</a>	1961-64
b. 1, f. 6	<a href="#">Atholl, Katharine</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">"B" general</a>	1936-79
b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">Balcon, Michael</a>	1954 Sep 1
b. 1, f. 9	<a href="#">Barry, Gerald</a>	1951 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 10	<a href="#">Bates, Ralph</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	<a href="#">Beaverbrook, Max Aitken, Baron [Lord Beaverbrook]</a>	1956, 1962
b. 1, f. 12	<a href="#">Bellezza, Vincenzo</a>	1958 Mar 22
b. 1, f. 13	<a href="#">Bentley, Phyllis</a>	1948-70
b. 1, f. 14	<a href="#">Berners, Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson, Baron [Lord Berners]</a>	1942 Aug 8
b. 1, f. 15	<a href="#">Blackwell, Basil</a>	1955 Oct 13
b. 1, f. 16	<a href="#">Bland, J. O. P.</a>	1922 Mar 31
b. 1, f. 17	<a href="#">Blount, Trevor</a>	1972 May 24
b. 1, f. 18	<a href="#">Bogarde, Dirk</a>	1976-77, n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	<a href="#">Boult, Adrian</a>	1949 Apr 28
b. 1, f. 20	<a href="#">Bowen, Marjorie</a>	1949-50
b. 1, f. 21	<a href="#">Butler, R. A. B. [Butler of Saffron Walden, Richard Austen Butler, Baron]</a>	1974
b. 1, f. 22	<a href="#">"C" general</a>	1935-72
b. 1, f. 23	<a href="#">Carter, John</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	<a href="#">Cockerell, Sydney Carlyle, Sir</a>	1949
b. 1, f. 25	<a href="#">Cohen, Harriet</a>	1934 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 26	<a href="#">Collins, Vere H.</a>	1952, 1959
b. 1, f. 27	<a href="#">Coward, Thomas R.</a>	1953 Feb 26
b. 1, f. 28	<a href="#">Curran, Charles</a>	1947 Feb 21

b. 1, f. 29	<a href="#">"D" general</a>	1949, 1972
b. 1, f. 30	<a href="#">Denison, Michael</a>	1973 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 31	<a href="#">Dent, Alan</a>	1935-73
b. 1, f. 32	<a href="#">Dodge, David</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	<a href="#">Doyle, Adrian Conan</a>	1947-48
b. 1, f. 34	<a href="#">Dobree, Bonamy</a>	1933 Jul 22
b. 1, f. 35	<a href="#">Downs, Brian</a>	1951 Jul 10
b. 1, f. 36	<a href="#">Easson, Angus</a>	1973 Oct 20
b. 1, f. 37	<a href="#">Elizabeth II</a> From a Lady in Waiting	1948 Jan 30
b. 1, f. 38	<a href="#">Elizabeth, Queen [consort]</a> From a secretary	1948, 1951
b. 1, f. 39	<a href="#">Evans, Margiad</a>	1953 May 1
b. 1, f. 40	<a href="#">"F" general</a>	1952-74, n.d.
b. 1, f. 41	<a href="#">Fairfield, Letitia</a>	1974, n.d.
b. 1, f. 42	<a href="#">Flower, Desmond</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 43	<a href="#">Foyle, Christina</a> Includes letters from the Prime Minister's secretary in response to HVT's recommendation of CF for an Honour (1962, 1965)	1965 Feb 2
b. 1, f. 44	<a href="#">Fulford, Roger</a>	1935-73, n.d.
b. 1, f. 45	<a href="#">"G" general</a>	1943, 1947, n.d.
b. 1, f. 46	<a href="#">Gillet, Eric</a>	1974 Jan 26
b. 1, f. 47	<a href="#">Gish, Lillian</a>	1946 Jul 26
b. 1, f. 48	<a href="#">Gordon, John</a>	1961 Dec 22
b. 1, f. 49	<a href="#">Gribble, George Dunning</a>	1925 Mar 3
b. 1, f. 50	<a href="#">Grylls, R. Glynn</a>	1939 Aug 21
b. 1, f. 51	<a href="#">Guinness, Alec</a>	1965 May 9
b. 1, f. 52	<a href="#">Gwynn, Stephen</a>	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 54	<a href="#">Haight, Gordon S.</a>	1947 Jun 8
b. 1, f. 55	<a href="#">Haley, William</a>	1965-66

b. 1, f. 56	<a href="#">Harding, James</a>	1965-79, n.d.
b. 1, f. 57	<a href="#">Harling, Robert</a>	1954-59
b. 1, f. 58	<a href="#">Heath, Edward</a>	1964 Jun 3
b. 1, f. 59	<a href="#">Henrey, Robert, Mrs.</a>	1950 Aug 27
b. 1, f. 60	<a href="#">Hoeck, Mary C.</a> Includes photographs of letters to Mary Hoeck from Jean Cocteau (ca. 1956-59)	1965 Aug 27
b. 1, f. 61	<a href="#">Hoppe, A. J.</a>	1941 Sep 5
b. 1, f. 62	<a href="#">Hughes, David</a>	1950, 1956
b. 1, f. 63	<a href="#">Hughes, Gervase</a>	1971 Sep 15
b. 1, f. 64	<a href="#">Huxley, Elspeth</a> Includes letter from unidentified associate of EH (1969)	1969-80
b. 1, f. 65	<a href="#">Israel, H. E., Mrs.</a>	1939
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b. 1, f. 67	<a href="#">"Kemsley"</a>	1944 Sep 25
b. 1, f. 68	<a href="#">King, Robin</a>	1960, n.d.
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b. 1, f. 70	<a href="#">Knoblock, Edward</a>	1941
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b. 1, f. 72	<a href="#">"L" general</a>	1949-76
b. 1, f. 73	<a href="#">[Laughton?], Charles</a>	1938, 1958
b. 1, f. 74	<a href="#">Langley, Noel</a>	1959-60, n.d.
b. 1, f. 75	<a href="#">Lehmann, Beatrix</a>	n.D.
b. 1, f. 76	<a href="#">Leslie, Shane</a>	1959 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 77	<a href="#">Lewis, W. S.</a>	1959 Jul 20
b. 1, f. 78	<a href="#">Lytton, Victor Alexander George Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Earl</a>	1939-47
b. 1, f. 79	<a href="#">"M" general</a>	1935-65
b. 1, f. 80	<a href="#">Marceau, Félicien</a>	1956 Sep 1
b. 1, f. 81	<a href="#">Maxwell, Henry</a> Includes copy of letter from HVT	1939, 1950
b. 1, f. 82	<a href="#">Miller, Jonathan</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 83	<a href="#">Mitford, Nancy</a>	1942 Mar 24

b. 1, f. 84	<a href="#">Morley, Frank V.</a>	1980 Jul 29
b. 1, f. 85	<a href="#">Morshead, Owen</a>	1948
b. 1, f. 86	<a href="#">Mortimer, Raymond</a>	1957 May 7
b. 1, f. 87	<a href="#">Newman, Ernest</a>	1954 Dec 16
b. 1, f. 88	<a href="#">Osborne, Eric</a>	1958-59, n.d.
b. 1, f. 89	<a href="#">"P" general</a>	1965, 1974
b. 1, f. 90	<a href="#">Painter, George</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 91	<a href="#">Parish, James</a> Letter from a lawyer on behalf of JP	1948 Oct 21
b. 1, f. 92	<a href="#">Parry, Edward Abbott</a>	1930 May 28
b. 1, f. 93	<a href="#">Partridge, Eric</a>	1974, 1976
b. 1, f. 94	<a href="#">Pritchett, V. S.</a>	1944, n.d.
b. 1, f. 95	<a href="#">Philby, H. St. J. B.</a>	1943 Jun 8
b. 1, f. 96	<a href="#">Playfair, Nigel</a>	1926 Feb 17
b. 1, f. 97	<a href="#">Pope-Hennessy, James</a>	[1949?], n.d.
b. 1, f. 98	<a href="#">Pope-Hennessy, Una, Dame</a>	1947, 1949
b. 1, f. 99	<a href="#">Powell, Dilys</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 100	<a href="#">Price, Nancy</a>	1947 Oct 30
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b. 2, f. 102	<a href="#">"R" general</a>	1941-70
b. 2, f. 103	<a href="#">Rank, J. Arthur</a>	1943-44
b. 2, f. 104	<a href="#">Rawlings, Margaret</a>	1941 Mar 1
b. 2, f. 105	<a href="#">Rolph, C. H.</a>	1965 Aug 1
b. 2, f. 106	<a href="#">Russell, Leonard</a>	1954-55
b. 2, f. 107	<a href="#">"S" general</a> Includes copies of letters from HVT	1931-72
b. 2, f. 108	<a href="#">St. John-Stevas, Norman</a>	1973 Dec
b. 2, f. 109	<a href="#">Sansom, William</a>	1956-73
b. 2, f. 110	<a href="#">Scott, Paul</a>	1975, 1977
b. 2, f. 111	<a href="#">Selms, F. M.</a>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 112	<a href="#">Shawe-Taylor, Desmond</a>	1962 Nov 21



b. 2, f. 113	<a href="#">Simpson, Helen</a> Includes copy of letter from HVT	1935
b. 2, f. 114	<a href="#">Smiles, Aileen</a>	1949
b. 2, f. 115	<a href="#">Speaight, Robert</a>	1954, 1958
b. 2, f. 116	<a href="#">Speilmann, M. H.</a>	1924 Jan 31
b. 2, f. 117	<a href="#">Stonier, G. W.</a>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 118	<a href="#">Stern, G. B.</a>	1935, n.d.
b. 2, f. 119	<a href="#">Stopes, Marie</a>	1933 May 12
b. 2, f. 120	<a href="#">Stuart, Dorothy Margaret</a>	1951 Sep 21
b. 2, f. 121	<a href="#">Swallow, Alan</a>	1949
b. 2, f. 122	<a href="#">Swanwick, Betty</a>	1959 Jan 31
b. 2, f. 123	<a href="#">"T" general</a>	1953-76, n.d.
b. 2, f. 124	<a href="#">Thurston, Herbert</a> Includes copy of letter from HVT	1935 May
b. 2, f. 125	<a href="#">Tweedsmuir, Susan</a>	1947 Jul
b. 2, f. 126	<a href="#">Unwin, Stanley</a>	1960 Jun 10
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b. 2, f. 130	<a href="#">Williams, George Charles</a>	1936 Feb 25
b. 2, f. 131	<a href="#">Wilson, Mary</a>	1963 Feb 19
b. 2, f. 132	<a href="#">Unidentified</a>	1947-76

## **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, English -- 20th Century  
Literary agents  
Literary agents -- Great Britain -- Archives

### **Occupations**

Authors

### **Names**

Agate, James, 1877-1947  
Dent, Alan, 1905-1978  
Doyle, Adrian Conan  
Fulford, Roger, 1902-1983  
Huxley, Elspeth, 1907-1997  
Langley, Noel, 1911-1980  
Pope-Hennessy, James  
Russell, Leonard, 1906-  
Scott, Paul, 1920-1978  
Van Thal, Herbert, 1904-1983