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Guide to the Enid Bagnold Papers

GEN MSS 78



by Susie R. Bock

February 1987

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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 78

CREATOR: Bagnold, Enid

TITLE: Enid Bagnold papers

DATES: 1912–1971

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers contain personal and professional correspondence and other papers, including a scrapbook, which document Bagnold's personal life and writing career.

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

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.bagnold>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were purchased by The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library in April 1982 from the George S. MacManus Company with income from the Herman W. Liebert Book Fund.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 4: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Enid Bagnold Papers are 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

Enid Bagnold Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

ENID BAGNOLD, LADY JONES (1889-1981)

Enid Bagnold, a twentieth-century British author, is best known for her novel *National Velvet* (1935) and her play "The Chalk Garden" (1955). Born in Rochester, England she spent much of her early life abroad. As a child Bagnold lived in Jamaica where her father was stationed with the Royal Engineers. She was educated in Germany and France.

During World War I, Bagnold served in an English hospital and drove an ambulance for the French army. Drawing on these experiences, she wrote her first novels, *Diary without Dates* (1918) and *The Happy Foreigner* (1920). Bagnold married Sir Roderick Jones in 1920, settled in London, traveled in high society and literary circles, and for the next three decades continued writing fiction. In 1924, she published *Serena Blandish* and in 1938 *The Squire* (published under the title *The Door of Life* in the United States). After losing her first chance to be on stage, Bagnold turned to playwriting. A friend suggested she use her experience as the plot of a play: "Lottie Dundass" (1941) was the result. She became devoted to the theater and wrote "Poor Judas" (1951), "Gertie" (1952), "The Last Joke" (1960), and "The Chinese Prime Minister" (1964). Her plays were produced in both England and America.

After her husband died in 1962, Bagnold remained active, built new friendships, and continued to write. In 1967 she began her autobiography, which was published in 1969. Although many of her plays were unsuccessful, her enthusiasm for the theater never waned. She flew to Philadelphia in 1977 to attend her play "A Matter of Gravity" starring Katherine Hepburn. Bagnold died in 1981.

Scope and Contents

The Enid Bagnold Papers contain personal and professional correspondence and other papers which document the life and career of the author of *National Velvet* and "The Chalk Garden." The papers span the years 1912-71.

The Bagnold Papers are divided into two series: Personal Papers and Correspondence. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written to Bagnold, although there are also letters by Bagnold and a small quantity of third party correspondence.

[Series I, Personal Papers](#), is divided into three sections: copies of letters from Bagnold where no other correspondence exists, correspondence with booksellers regarding *The Door of Life*, and a scrapbook. Bagnold's letters are arranged chronologically, with the notes, drafts, and miscellaneous material following. *The Door of Life* correspondence consists of chronologically arranged postcards distributed by the William Morrow & Company, publisher, for comments from book vendors, replies to those postcards, and unsolicited reviews. The scrapbook has been photocopied and the original letters placed in the correspondence series. Original material that did not fit in correspondence has been placed in a separate folder.

[Series II, General Correspondence](#), is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, and unidentified correspondence has been placed at the end of the series. Most third person correspondence has been placed in Series I.

Series II does not contain a significant quantity of correspondence from any single individual. There are several groups of ten or more letters, but most individuals wrote just a few letters. The letters are predominantly personal in content, but they also include some discussion of Bagnold's work. The collection contains a handful of business letters.

Almost all the correspondence dating from 1918-19 comments on her first novel *Diary without Dates*. The production of "Lottie Dundass" is discussed in the Charles Cochran correspondence, while Thornton Wilder's letters critique the play. Probably the best documented work is her play "The Chalk Garden." Letters from Christopher Busney give some hint as to the genesis of the play, while Bagnold's correspondence with Sir James Cassels demonstrates how she acquired legal facts for her plot. Finally some information on the New York and London productions of "The Chalk Garden" can be found in the Irene Selznick and the Brandt & Brandt Dramatic Department correspondence.

Bagnold's correspondence with Arthur Calder-Marshall and William Heineman Limited demonstrates her business manner. There is a rich correspondence with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, a friendship that arose when Bagnold offered them the leading roles in "The Chinese Prime Minister." Another interesting correspondent is Hugo Rumbold, who wrote to Bagnold using the name "Marie." Known in the theater world as "Binkie," Hugh Beaumont, corresponded with Bagnold and is often mentioned in other correspondence.

The collection also contains letters from such prominent political and literary figures as Irene Selznick, Stanley Baldwin, William Somerset Maugham, J. B. Priestley, Thornton Wilder, and Katherine Mansfield.

The fragile papers in Box 4 consist of originals for which preservation photocopies have been made.

Collection Contents

Series I: Personal papers

Series I, *Personal Papers*, Folder 1 contains copies of letters by Bagnold arranged chronologically. Notes and other material follow the letters. The correspondence with booksellers is also arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence and notes	1962-63
b. 1, f. 2	Correspondence with booksellers re: <i>The Door of Life</i> :	1938
	Scrapbook	
	Photocopy of scrapbook See: Oversize, Box 3, folder 63	
b. 1, f. 3	Material from scrapbook	n.d.

Series II: General correspondence

Series II, *General Correspondence*, Within the series, letters are arranged alphabetically. For each individual, correspondence is in chronological order, with undated letters at the end.

b. 1, f. 4	Alfonso, Maria Francisco Antonio Diego and Alfonso, Beatriz	1925-68
b. 1, f. 5	Arlen, Michael	n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	Asquith, Emma Alice Margaret, Countess of Oxford and Asquith	1919, 1942
b. 1, f. 6	Asquith, Violet, Baroness of Yarnsbury and Bonham Carter, Maurice, Sir	1918-49
b. 1, f. 7	Asselin, Maurice	1916, n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	Bagnold, Alexander	ca. 1918
b. 1, f. 8	Baker, Sylvia	1934 Jan 8
b. 1, f. 8	Baldwin, Stanley	1931
b. 1, f. 8	Balfour, W. J.	1935 Apr 24
	Barker, Lee See: Doubleday & Co., Box 1, folder 27	
b. 1, f. 8	Beaton, Cecil	1943, n.d.
	Beauchamp, Kathleen See: Mansfield, Katherine, Box 1 folder 36	
b. 1, f. 9	Beaumont, Hugh	1955
b. 1, f. 10	Beaverbrook, William Maxwell Aitken, 1st Baron	1962, n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	Bedford, Sibylle, Lady Cunard	1925-71
b. 1, f. 12	Beer-Hoffmann, Gabriel	1936 Feb 15
b. 1, f. 13	Behrman, S. N.	1928-67
b. 1, f. 14	Bell, Arthur Clive Howard	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	Bell, Quentin	1970 Nov 7
b. 1, f. 14	Bellingham-Smith, Hugh	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	Belloc, Hilaire	1939 Aug 7
b. 1, f. 14	Beresford, John Davys	1920 Mar 6
b. 1, f. 15	Besant, Annie	1912 Aug 15
b. 1, f. 15	Birkenhead, Frederick Edwin Smith, 1st Earl	1950, n.d.
b. 1, f. 15	Birrell, Augustine	1918-32
b. 1, f. 15	Blackwood, Basil, Sir	1916

b. 1, f. 15	Blumenfeld, Ralph D.	1935 Apr 11
	Bonham-Carter, Maurice, Sir See: Asquith, Violet, Baroness of Yarnsbury, Box 1 folder 6	
	Bonham-Carter, Violet See: Asquith, Violet, Baroness of Yarnsbury, Box 1 folder 6	
b. 1, f. 16	Brandt & Brandt Dramatic Dept.	1952-56
	Brandt, Carol See: Brandt & Brandt Dramatic Dept., Box 1 folder 16	
b. 1, f. 17	Buckingham, Gwen, Lady	ca. 1962
b. 1, f. 18	Burroway, Janet	1971 Nov 23
b. 1, f. 18	Busney, Christopher	1971
b. 1, f. 19	Calder-Marshall, Arthur	[1953]
b. 1, f. 20	Camrose, Mollie Patricia, Viscountess	[1956?] Jan 15
b. 1, f. 20	Cassels, James Dale, Sir	1952
b. 1, f. 20	Cecil, David, Lord	1948 Nov 9
b. 1, f. 20	Chamberlain, Anne, Lady	1938-39
b. 1, f. 20	Churchill, Clementine Oglivy Spencer, Baroness	1945-62
b. 1, f. 21	<i>The Clarion</i>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 21	Clark, Dora	1963
b. 1, f. 22	Cochran, Charles Blake	1941-45
b. 1, f. 23	Compton, William Bingham, 6th Marquess of Northampton	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	Compton-Burnett, Ivy	1955 Feb 19
b. 1, f. 24	Connolly, Cyril Vernon	1973, n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	Cooper, Diana, Lady	1963
b. 1, f. 25	Cooper, Reginald See also: Oversize, Box 3, folder 64	1951
b. 1, f. 25	Cowan, S. Hunter	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	Cunard, Emerald, Lady	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26	Cutmore, F. B.	ca. 1940
b. 1, f. 26	<i>Daily Mail</i>	1918 Jan 28
b. 1, f. 26	D'erlanger, Catherine, Baroness	n.d. Jul 3

b. 1, f. 27	Desborough, Ethel	1918 Mar 4
b. 1, f. 27	Doubleday & Co.	1953 Nov 24
b. 1, f. 27	Dramatists Guild	1956 Feb 1
b. 1, f. 27	[Du Paty de Clam, Champlouis?]	1919 Apr 9
b. 1, f. 28	[Duff, Juliet, Lady?]	ca. 1941
b. 1, f. 28	Dyson, William	n.d.
b. 1, f. 28	Elliott, Mary	n.d.
	Evans, Dwyne See: William Heinemann, Ltd., Box 2 folder 57	
	Fontanne, Lynn See: Lunt, Alfred, Box 1 folder 35	
	Freedman, Harold See: Brandt & Brandt Dramatic Dept., Box 1 folder 16	
b. 1, f. 28	Fry, Christopher	1970 Feb 20
b. 1, f. 29	Garvin, James Louis and Garvin, Viola	1920-33
b. 1, f. 30	Gordon, Ruth	1952, 1962
b. 1, f. 30	Gosse, Edmund William, Sir	1918 Mar 2
b. 1, f. 30	Gutherie, William Tyrone, Sir	1954 Jan 22
b. 1, f. 30	Hall, Rosalind	1952 Jan 24
b. 1, f. 30	Hamilton, Cicely	[pre-1928] Jul 28
b. 1, f. 31	Harding, Gilbert Charles	1959
b. 1, f. 31	Harris, Jed	n.d.
b. 1, f. 31	Hartley, Leslie Poles	1962
b. 1, f. 31	Hodgson, Ralph	1956 Sept 3
b. 1, f. 32	Horobin, Norah M.	1962
b. 1, f. 32	Houghton Mifflin Co.	1958 Jul 28
b. 1, f. 32	Huxley, Julian Sorell	1969 Jan 22
b. 1, f. 32	Jeffer, Julian	1963
b. 1, f. 32	Jesse, Fryniwyd Tennyson	1912, n.d.
b. 1, f. 33	Kelly, Felix	1961 Jun 7

b. 1, f. 33	Kingsmill, Hugh	1915-39
b. 1, f. 33	Knoblock, Edward	n.d.
	Kouyoumdjian, Dirran See: Arlen, Michael	
b. 1, f. 34	Krishnamurti, Jiddu	1928
b. 1, f. 34	Laverly, John, Sir	1932 Nov 16
b. 1, f. 34	Lovat, Laura, Lady	1942 Dec 28
	Lunn, Hugh See: Kingsmill, Hugh, Box 1 folder 32	
b. 1, f. 35	Lunt, Alfred and Fontanne, Lynn	[1962]-73
b. 1, f. 36	Lutyens, Edwin Landseer, Sir	1928, 1935
b. 1, f. 36	McIndoe, Archibald, Sir	1956 Dec 15
b. 1, f. 36	Mais, Stuart Petre Brodie	1951 Feb 20
b. 1, f. 36	<i>Manchester Guardian</i>	1918 Jan 28
b. 1, f. 36	Mansfield, Katherine	n.d.
	Marowe, G. S. See: Beer-Hoffmann, Gabriel, Box 1 folder 12	
b. 1, f. 37	Marsh, Edward Howard, Sir	1916 Jun 20
b. 1, f. 37	Mason, Alfred Edward Woodley	1943 Aug 23
b. 1, f. 37	Massey, Vincent	1957 Aug 8
b. 1, f. 37	Massie, Chris	1931 Dec 13
b. 1, f. 37	Massington, Harold John	1918 Jan 31
b. 1, f. 38	Massingham, Henry William	n.d. Jun 3
b. 1, f. 38	Maugham, William Somerset	n.d. Aug 29
b. 1, f. 38	Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	1942 Nov 23
b. 1, f. 39	Meynell, Viola	1942, n.d.
b. 1, f. 39	[Moore, Marcia?]	1962 Nov 14
b. 1, f. 39	Moorehead, Alan McCrae	1956 Dec 1
b. 1, f. 40	Morand, Paul	1931-1965
b. 1, f. 41	Murray, Rosalind	1912 Oct 31
b. 1, f. 41	Neale, Randal	1936, n.d.

b. 1, f. 41	Nicholson, William Newzman Prior, Sir	1943
b. 1, f. 41	Orage, Alfred Richard	n.d.
b. 2, f. 42	Painter, George Duncan	1965 Dec 18
b. 2, f. 42	Pearson, Edward Hesketh Gibbons	1962 May 14
b. 2, f. 42	Poole, Reginald Ward Edward Lane, Sir	1935 May 28
b. 2, f. 42	Priestley, John Boynton	1952 May 20
b. 2, f. 42	Quentin, Pol	1963 Sep 16
b. 2, f. 43	Ravenshill, H. C.	n.d.
	Richardson, Constance Stewart See: Stewart-Richardson, Constance, Box 2 folder 43	
b. 2, f. 43	Rider, Dan	1918 Mar 2
	Rothenstein, Albert Daniel See: Rutherston, Albert Daniel, Box 2 folder 45	
b. 2, f. 44	Rouse, A. L.	[1951?] Jun 9
b. 2, f. 44	Rumbold, Hugo	1917
b. 2, f. 44	Rumbold, Richard	1942, n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	Rutherston, Albert Daniel	1914-1919
b. 2, f. 46	Sampson, George	1918 Mar 13
b. 2, f. 46	Sands, Ethel	1933, n.d.
b. 2, f. 47	Sasson, Philip Albert Gustave David	1918
b. 2, f. 47	Seaman, Owen	1911, 1918
b. 2, f. 47	Selincourt, Irene de	1963
b. 2, f. 47	Selznick, Daniel Mayer	1955
b. 2, f. 47	Selznick, David O.	1956
b. 2, f. 48	Selznick, Irene Mayer	1956, 1962
b. 2, f. 48	Shebel, Victor	n.d.
b. 2, f. 48	Shepard, Ernest	1913 Jul 27
b. 2, f. 48	Shumlin, Herman	1951, 1952
b. 2, f. 48	Sichel, Walter	1918 Jan 27
b. 2, f. 49	Simon and Schuster, Inc.	1958
b. 2, f. 50	Smith, Logan Pearsall	1918, 1924

b. 2, f. 51	Smyth, Ethel Mary, Dame	1919-40
b. 2, f. 52	Stein, Toby	1963, n.d.
b. 2, f. 52	Stewart-Richardson, Constance	n.d.
b. 2, f. 52	<i>Sunday Times</i>	1938 Nov 8
b. 2, f. 52	Thirkell, Angela Margaret	1942 May 27
b. 2, f. 53	<i>Times Literary Supplement</i>	1951 Sep 11
b. 2, f. 53	Tonks, Henry	1933 Dec 25
b. 2, f. 53	Tree, Herbert Beerbohm, Sir	1913 Oct 17
b. 2, f. 54	Tritton, Robert	1956 May 24
b. 2, f. 54	Turner, Walter James	1918 Nov 5
b. 2, f. 54	Van Druten, John William	1956 Jan 1
b. 2, f. 55	[Walker, Leslie J.?)	1935 Nov 5
b. 2, f. 55	Waller, Harold	1938, 1954
b. 2, f. 55	Weales, Gerald	1959 Mar 10
b. 2, f. 55	Webb, Alan	1963
b. 2, f. 56	Wedgwood, Cicely Veronica	1959 Dec 19
b. 2, f. 56	Whiting, John Robert	1951 Sep 15
b. 2, f. 56	Wilder, Thornton	1941, 1972
b. 2, f. 57	William Heinemann, Ltd.	1952-53
b. 2, f. 58	William Morrow & Co.	1957 Jul 18
b. 2, f. 59	Willis, Irene Cooper	1941, 1954
b. 2, f. 59	Woodman-Smith, Cecil Blanche	1955 May 24
b. 2, f. 59	Woolf, Leonard Sidney	1962 Oct 3
b. 2, f. 60	Worsley, T. Cuthbert	1962-63
b. 2, f. 61	Young, Filson	1914 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 61	Young, Frances Brett	1919 May 8
b. 2, f. 61	Yule, J. S., Lt. Col.	1955
b. 2, f. 62	Unidentified Correspondents	n.d.

Oversize, n.d.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. Photocopy of scrapbook
63

n.d.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. Cooper, Reginald: Musical score
64

n.d.

Restricted Fragile Papers*0.25' (1 box)*

Box 4, *Restricted Fragile Papers*, contains fragile originals and the material is arranged in folder order.

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 1 65	1962 Jan 6
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 1 66	1911 Jun 2
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 2 67	1938
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 4 68	1952 Mar 22
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 5 69	1942 Sep 1
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 13 70	1929 Jan 2
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 15 71	1950, n.d.
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 16 72	1956
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 19 73	[1953], n.d.
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 20 74	1945 Oct 12
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 22 75	1942
b. 4 (Oversize), f. Box 1, folder 41 76	n.d.

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

Autographs
Dramatists
English drama -- 20th Century

Occupations

Authors

Names

Alfonso, Beatriz
Alfonso, Maria Francisco Antonio Diego
Bagnold, Enid
Bedford, Sybille, 1911-2006
Behrman, S. N. (Samuel Nathaniel), 1893-1973
Calder-Marshall, Arthur, 1908-
Cochran, C. B. (Charles Blake), 1872-1951
Fontanne, Lynn, 1887-1983
Lunt, Alfred, 1892-1977
Morand, Paul, 1888-1976
Selznick, Irene Mayer, 1907-1990
Smyth, Ethel, 1858-1944
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975