

SARAH GRAND ARCHIVE

c.1920s,30s

ABSTRACT

The International Centre for Victorian Women's Writers has a small collection of letters and artefacts which belonged to the New Woman Writer Sarah Grand which are housed in Augustine House Library, Canterbury

Augustine House Library Canterbury Christ Church University



Sarah Grand Archive

Biographical history

Sarah Grand (Frances Clarke) was born in County Down, Ireland in 1854. Like other intelligent women of her generation, she was denied an education comparable to her brothers'.

A vocal opponent of the Contagious Diseases Acts, she made a disastrous early marriage in 1870 to David Chambers McFall, whose work at the notorious lock hospitals directly informs The Beth Book (1897). The marriage broke down in 1888 with Grand's move to London and the start of her literary career. Her most controversial novel, The Heavenly Twins was published in 1893 and includes an emotive treatment of syphilitic death, attributed to the prevalent belief that young women should remain 'innocent' of sexual issues before marriage. She is widely credited with coining the term 'the New Woman' in 1894.

Grand moved to Tunbridge Wells in Kent in 1898, where she became President of the local branches of the National Council of Women and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. She moved to Bath in 1920, serving as Lady Mayoress from 1922 to 1929. She died in Wiltshire in 1943. Of her eight novels, only *The Beth Book* is currently in print (published by Victorian Secrets).

The ICVWW acquired the Sarah Grand Collection of Personalia in 2019. Housed in Grand's monogrammed suitcase, this collection includes Grand's passport, photograph album and personal items such as a monogrammed fruit knife, engraved powder pot, engraved cigarette casket and even the remains of one of her used cigarettes. There is also more than a decade's worth of correspondence dating from Grand's time in Bath, including letters and a Valentine's Day card from close friend Gladys Singers-Bigger.

Custodial History

Most of the material in the collection was created or acquired by Sarah Grand. It was acquired by the International Centre for Victorian Women Writers, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Education, Canterbury Christ Church University c. 2019 from Trinity Antiques Ltd, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire. Further accruals are not expected.

Extent

4 x A1 boxes, plus suitcase

Access

Access to the collection is during core library hours, between 9.00-5.00 Monday to Friday. Please email library.canterbury@canterbury.ac.uk to order material in advance of your visit.

All images ©ICVWW

Language of material English.

Preferred citation

Sarah Grand MSS, International Centre for Victorian Women Writers, Canterbury Christ Church University, SG/00.1 (etc).

Scope and Content

The collection is extensive and is housed in Sarah's monogrammed suitcase. The collection includes Sarah Grand's original passport, photograph album and personal items such as a silver and mother of pearl monogrammed cased fruit knife, name engraved silver powder pot, silver and glass name engraved cigarette casket with personal dedication (mentioned in a published book) and even the remains of one of her used cigarettes. Also included is more than a decade of correspondence with friends, family, banks, insurance companies etc. The collection also includes letters and a Valentine's Day card from Gladys Singers-Bigger who became a very close friend of Sarah Grand. Gladys was known to have documented every visit, emotion and correspondence with Sarah, later publishing over 7 volumes of work. The relationship between the two women was complex and fascinating; it has been the subject of many contemporary books and studies.'

System of arrangement

The archive has been arranged into the following series:

CC/U/SG/A/A1-A12 Artefacts CC/U/SG/001-030 Archives

CC/U/SG/A/A1-A12 Artefacts

CC/U/SG/A

Monogrammed suitcase



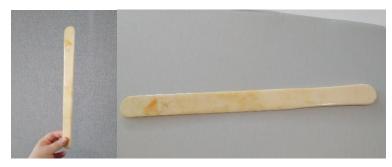
Box A – CC/U/SG/A/A1-12

CC/U/SG/A/A1



Magnifying glass ivory/bone

CC/U/SG/A/A2



Paper knife ivory/bone

CC/U/SG/A/A3

One of Sarah Grand's used cigarettes with travelling brass ashtray.

CC/U/SG/A/A4

Silver and mother of pearl fruit knife monogrammed with her married initials "F.E. Mcfl" before she changed her name in 1893. The fruit knife hallmarked for Sheffield date letter Z for the year 1867, maker's letters J.B. for Jonathan Bell of South Street, Sheffield Moor. In original brown leather case, lined in purple silk, retailer's stamp slightly indecipherable ???Bros, 3? Donegal St, Belfast.



CC/U/SG/A/A5

A non-hallmarked, 19th century continental silver powder box with chased all over decoration. Central cartouche inscribed "Sarah Grand". Having a mirror to the interior lid and inner gilt lining. Containing remains of Sarah's face powder.



CC/U/SG/A/A6

A sterling silver etched glass cigarette case/vesta monogrammed "S.G. from Chambers" – this dedication is from her stepson Chambers Haldane Cooke Mcfall 1860-1928, artist and novelist. The silver case fully hallmarked for London Assay office date letter S for the year 1893, makers initials W.G. J.L. of William Gibson & John Lawrence Langman who worked for the top-class Goldsmith and Silversmiths Company, London. Also, the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Regent Street, London retailer's mark stamped to the interior lip of the base. The glass has a historic crack to the vesta section on the rear and a small chip to the top left corner of the lid.



CC/U/SG/A/A7

Yellow metal cased agate fob seal on original jump ring and black silk ribbon. The agate matrix monogrammed with the letter 'F' for Frances with engraved Dolphin over and the Latin legend Malo Mori Quam Foedari – 'Death rather than dishonour'.



CC/U/SG/A/A8

Ebonised wooden desk seal with citrine coloured glass matrix. The yellow glass matrix engraved with a Garter ribbon design with small central flower and the name SARAH above. Small split to the wood handle.



CC/U/SG/A/A9

Leather photo case with black and white photograph of a little girl.



CC/U/SG/A/A10

Leather coin purse monogrammed "S.G." (containing newspaper cuttings), a small leather purse.



CC/U/SG/A/A11

Leather coin purse with miniature portrait. Leather coin purse, Paris.

CC/U/SG/A/A12

A group of miscellanies German lead hand painted cricket figure pencil sharpener. Silver aspirin case. Miniature black basalt model of a cat. Clarocit Bakelite case. Thorens case.

CC/U/SG/001-30 Archives

Box 1 - CC/U/SG/1/001-010

CC/U/SG/1/001

Will of Miss M.H.E Clarke, stapled together top left corner (28/05/1937) The will of Sarah Grand's youngest sister, Miss Marianne Harriet Eleanor Clarke (died 1939) made in 1937. SG is bequeathed some furniture, blue candlesticks, vase; contains descriptions of Eleanor Clarke's jewelry that she left to people in her will.

CC/U/SG/1/002

Miss Marianne Harriet Eleanor Clarke (died 27th March 1939) Executorship accounts 1940 – Executorship accounts of deceased sister Miss Marianne Harriet Eleanor Clarke. Assortment of letters addressed to Sarah Grand and notes by Sarah Grand. Used checkbook

CC/U/SG/1/003

List of linen etc. Sarah Grand's shopping list. May 31.1943

CC/U/SG/1/004

1932 A collection of letters from the bank regarding mortgages and stock holding all addressed to Sarah when she was living at 7, Sion Hill, Bath in 1932. (Approximately 13 plus documents), 6 of them held together by a pin. Approximately 4 pieces of blank paper.



2 documents "stapled" together by a pin.

1929-19 LPM 50/0 Was Shil NE

MRS. F. E. McFall receipts from Westminster Bank Limited for purchasing stocks in Africa and New Zealand in August and September 1932

CC/U/SG/1/005

1939 – Approximately 10 documents addressed to Sarah Grand from the bank regarding Mrs McFall's will and income tax, army's widow pension. Assortment of other miscellaneous letters addressed to Sarah Grand.

CC/U/SG/1/006

A letter to the executor on 29th December 1931, approximately 11 pages, and a blue note which was pinned to one of the pages by a pin. Page 15, 16, and 2 other pages were originally pinned together. 26 sheets of blank lined paper



CC/U/SG/1/007

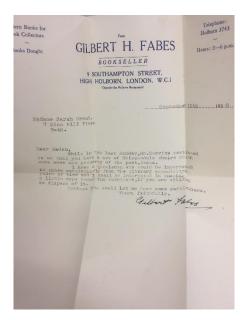
Exercise book (inside a memorandum) 1938

CC/U/SG/1/008

1941 – Remains of Sarah Grand's cheque book, miscellaneous note

CC/U/SG/1/009

Contains correspondence between Mrs. McFall and Hughes & Sons Solicitors and Westminster bank regarding her will in 1938. 1933 – Paying in book for the Westminster Bank Limited with approximately 3 further documents addressed to Sarah relating to shares. 1938 – A letter to Sarah Grand from the bookseller Gilbert H. Fabes. In the letter Fabes inquires after a set of Chippendale chairs owned by Sarah Grand which were once the property of the poet Keats. Pension payment record to Sarah Grand, from her late husband's army pension. Approximately 10 documents addressed to Sarah Grand regarding her will from 1938. A few miscellaneous letters addressed to Sarah Grand from decorators, insurance companies etc.



CC/U/SG/1/010

Letter from SG to Archie dated 15th July 1935, approximately 9 sheets of paper that were stapled together. – signed "Sarah Grand" and features an embossed "7, Sion Hill, Bath" monogram to each page (picture below).

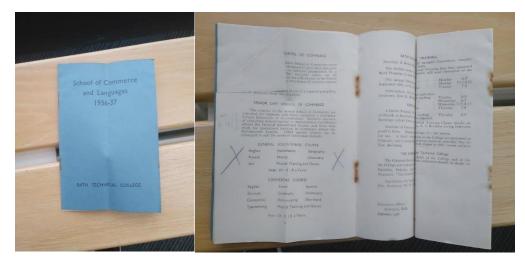
15" guty, 1935. 7. STORI HAR PLAGE My dea helpe. This letter is an michan to had this to dende boyn I have had this to denie the one deted Will the denotion enterned mi that the denotion which i have interval a share which I have teen team to theme on article he 1931 ties on a proch and the about of how and and much amelite while I hope and trust will prove Delin action to all an-cerned. If I die byou I me am-pletet this heller plan act on box deiesteing chat and will be delate bogos it is for as it fre.

Income tax document 1935 for SG, 3 sheets of correspondence between Sarah Grand, Mrs. McFall, and Thring Sheldon & Ingram regarding Mrs. McFall's will 1935,1936. 1935

Box 2 - CC/U/SG/2/011-019

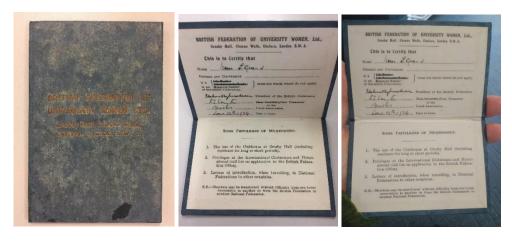
CC/U/SG/2/011

1936 – Bath Technical College, School of Commerce and Languages pamphlet 1936-7 with penciled crosses next to the "general courses" paragraph and fees. Sarah Grand's cheque book from 1936, income tax letter to Sarah Grand 1936. Approximately 4 other miscellaneous documents relating to Sarah's will and income tax payments.



CC/U/SG/2/012

1934 – A British Federation of University Women LTD card belonging to Sarah Grand. Sarah Grand's memo book, entries in her hand with dates ranging from 1932 onwards, only 4 pages of entries the rest is empty. Approximately 7 further correspondences from the solicitor Thring Sheldon and Ingram relating to changing Sarah's will.



CC/U/SG/2/013

Letter from Westminster Bank regarding Mrs McFall's investments in stocks 1934, and other miscellaneous documents regarding the stocks.

CC/U/SG/2/014

Unused cheque book, miscellaneous spending receipts and lists, last will, 1940.

CC/U/SG/2/015

Birth certificate of John Wreford Richards 1927 and death certificate of Frank George Wreford Richards 1952.

CC/U/SG/2/016

Blue exercise book containing 'The memorandum for the use of my executors' dated April 1937 and signed Frances C. McFall. Sarah Grand's writing exercise book from 1936-1938 which appears to be a handwritten draft of will, approximately 1/10th of the book used with the rest being empty. Further written notes on her will. Further notebook regarding will. Sarah Grand's ledger with approximately 4/10 full of text.

CC/U/SG/2/017

Red account book beginning the 18th October 1928 and continuing until July 1939 containing some loose notes, lists, a newspaper cutting and a letter from R, Mary Tindall dated 18 February 1938 and one from Nellie dated 17 October 1936.

CC/U/SG/2/018

Correspondence that was held together with an old (original) paper clip regarding the sale of "the Cottage" in 1932 between Mrs. McFall and her solicitor/Westminster bank and letters regarding mortgage loan and payments. Dated 21 March 1932.



CC/U/SG/2/019

Mrs. Frances Elizabeth McFall's passbook sheet and overview of cheques and credit balance from Westminster Bank from July- August 1939 (Previously in SG/1/05)

CC/U/SG/2/020 - reassigned

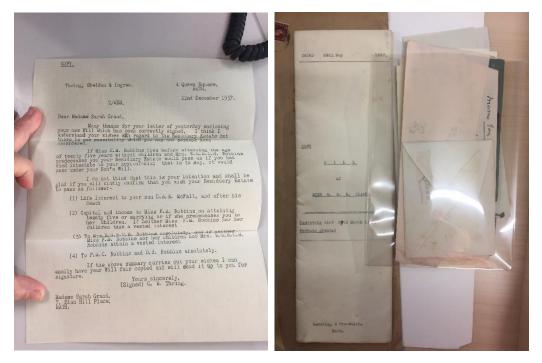
CC/U/SG/2/021 - reassigned

Box 3 - CC/U/SG/3/022-30

CC/U/SG/3/022

Envelope addressed to Madame Sarah Grand	undated
Calculated expenditure	1939
Letter in envelope, addressed to Madame Sarah Grand	1939
Westminster bank cheque book,	1936-1938
Letter from solicitors	16/12/1937
Letter from solicitors	20/12/1937
Letter from solicitors	17/12/1937
Letter from solicitors	18/04/1935
Letter from J. & P. Coats	31/12/1937
Letter from Paymaster General's office	28/06/1937
Letter from solicitors	22/12/1937

Sarah Grand's paying in book. A handwritten letter to Sarah Grand. Approximately 7 further correspondences from the solicitor Thring Sheldon and Ingram relating to changing Sarah's will.



CC/U/SG/3/023

Sarah Grand's photograph album from 1920 which is signed and dated. Featuring well known scenes of Bath and its environs, each photograph is inscribed with the location. Also features her own personal

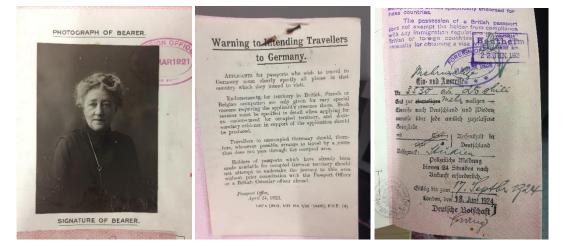
photographs of Crowe Hall where she lived with Miss Tindall and brother when she first moved to Bath in 1920.





CC/U/SG/3/024

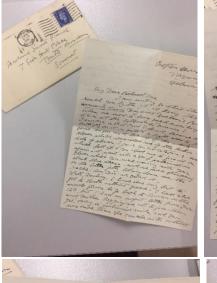
Sarah Grand's passport from the year 1921.



CC/U/SG/3/025

A collection of private letters to Sarah Grand including a Valentine's Day card from Gladys Singers-Bigger, dated 1943 and letters from her son Archie. Approximately 14 letters.

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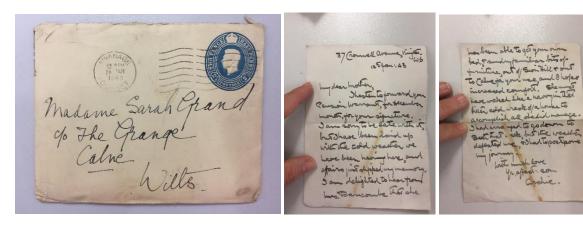
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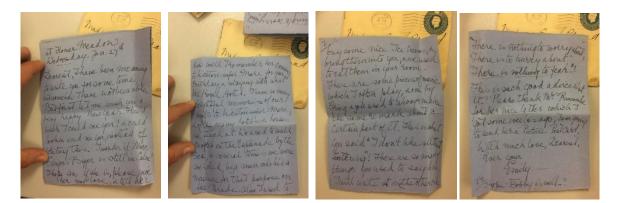
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2 letters from Gladys 1941, 1942





2 letters from Archie 1941, 1943

Friday 31th 1987. POST CARD 55 TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE Dearest granny Slave arrived safely madame Sarah grand write on Sunday. Lets of home wiele 7 Sion Still Place Lots of Rome Bath from Somesset. Felice.

1 Postcard dated 1937

1 y. Conye R. " Sol March 20. 1992. 25 unded by the peatot kind dess those -I dad a vice letter from John's Fuch a Ding long time series wife tering me they have made hopes of a baby in August. They sote. Nurse tells me are so pleased. He has an You keep tairly well. appointment in Edinburgh, Thave had a long cold as Wing-Commanda . Jak. tit has taken much out of to ago 20 mentow him as playing Stre- But lain fetting on 3 at lach, tam writing this "Demon" Patience sthe jor, o me at Crows . Jon are not protected in the City - This Wood ser, as she for about often has enqueries "up" in my 200m ! Kade had nice books to is 2ead, or to always have our. In 752 1 + 5m from 1/2 Lord Mayor of Bristol ! The other Day. to the h Grand Phase (Will in filete The was away from Bath Juring the Blig . Ile pector glen Liphill R And a gar for a fo Madame barah brand Calne. dear from Dairy . AE, 17. Liphill Rd. Wilt Ve stickase our extra little Calne. Hamily go: but, so far, have Wilto: la capid dueping" bitteless to Som De Officed the dining 255m. So I suppose they have The and a series of strat Jon tound accommontation else 5 the near you 1 rinver there. Many have, I Think, Jon an boll No an all orth - But I n hear from Thing of her at all show histourpena ac Ho. ?!

2 letters from Rachel Mary

1 letter from Compton and Son

I have called once 100 ? PAPER 3.2.41. 4. Mount Beacon Rou BONE twice to enquine about Bath. you, but all that I can Grand discover is ty Below 1 HOW S FEB A MER that you seem to Place. efficient canetaker to look after you. yours with love Pout. ME Sonnie. Miro Tindall's serie health. Can you give news of her and of yourself

1 letter from Mrs Sonnie 1941

Madame Sar 7.5. H. Hotel was very full when I was there last month a large Aile was there as I month a line party of Jews arrived & took passession of the Aote I' also the Browley proprietors were butting up their prices a bit. The riew from the room Jam writing in faces cast and uniting in faces cast and time day one can see the Isle time day one can see the Isle time day one can see the Isle time another point up the hill Bournemonth is visible. New Langton Hotel Swanage - Drevet. merse Deares I, I must write you little letter to day thingh thave not much news. Um see Jam Stillin Swamp by the next time June, to can, Thope to be able to tell you when Jesepeet to be 25 back in Bath - Jam trying to get a bed: sitting room ato there, as the Browley

vang Jaran yang nadame Sarah Co 7. Sion Hill Pla RAT Thave not met many than Wales, & now they have here, but there is one The hardly anything - I pla ago a Mussian Mer some Puesian music Lo the 2046 she from the Trincess ohe Prouboteko au have a little formarc about 2 miles from Swanaeje hous Tame Seeing you She has lunches here much lo a week, when to do their sho you they were immense very large Postates, bil

2 letters from Emily, 1940 and 1943 mentioning Gladys Singer Biggs

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1 letter from Neville 31 March 1938

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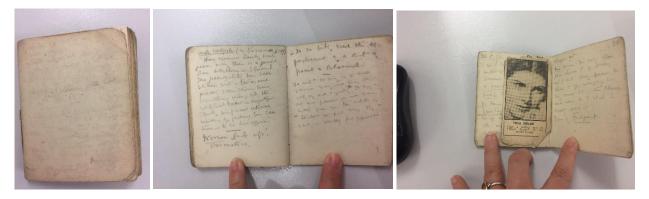
1 letter about Sarah's brother William Darke's grave and the arrears owing on its upkeep.

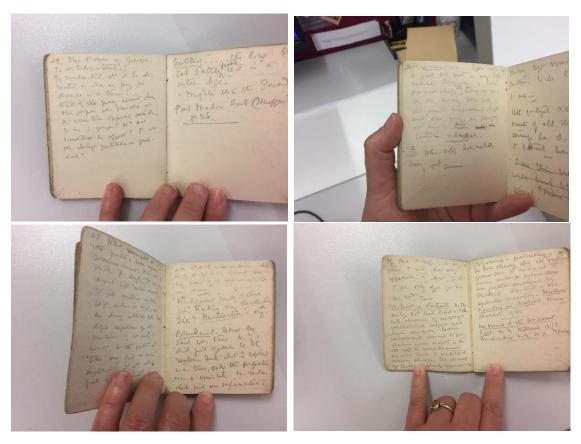
CC/U/SG/3/026

1934 A collection of documents relating to the Norwich Union Fire Insurance LTD.

CC/U/SG/3/027

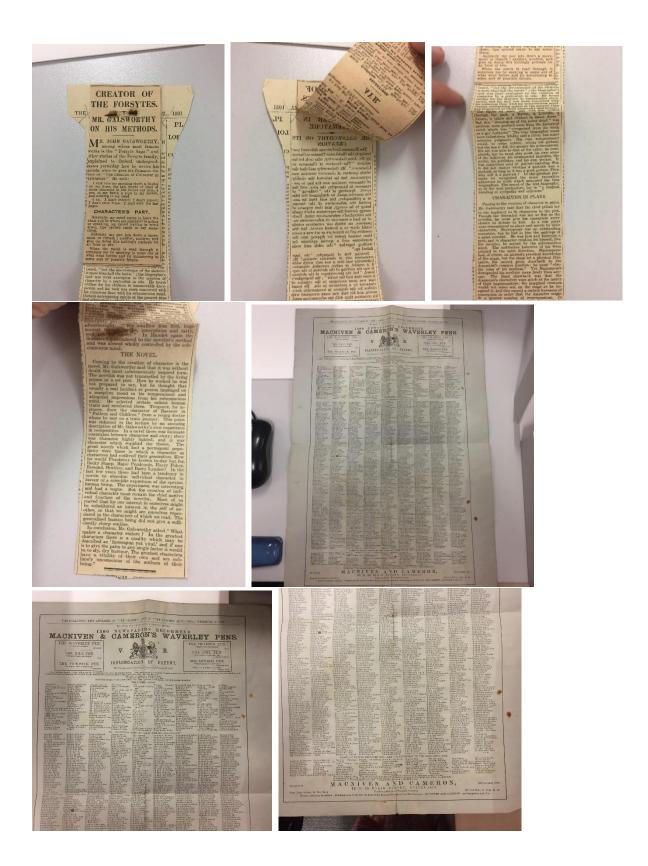
A small notebook, faded and illegible in parts. Selected images below.

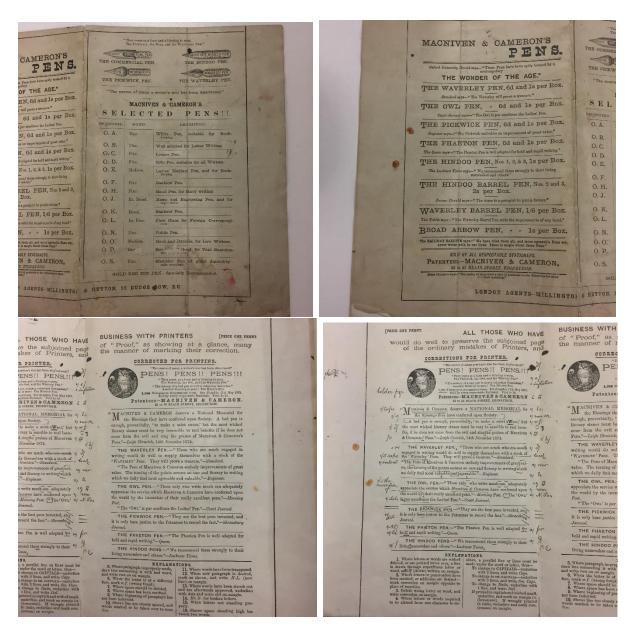




CC/U/SG/3/028

A collection of miscellaneous documents, papers, newspaper cuttings.



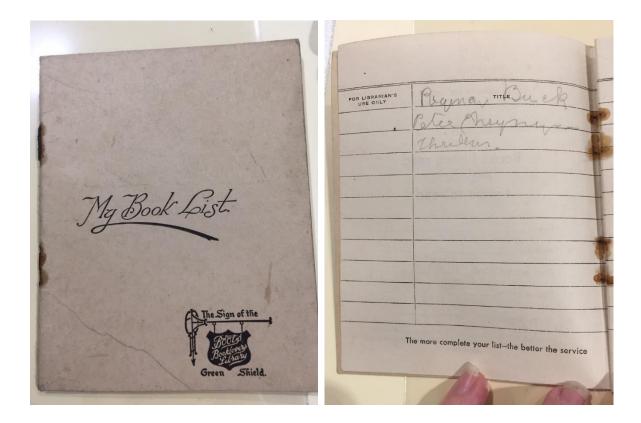


CC/U/SG/3/029

A collection of miscellaneous letters.

CC/U/SG/3/030

My book list. Produced by Boots Booklover's Library. Words are Regency Buck [Georgette Heyer] and Peter Cheyney thrillers.



Related Items in other archives

Sarah Grand to the Institute, 19 Feb 1904, Women's Library Archives GB 106 9/15/12<u>https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb106-9/15/9/15/12</u>

Sarah Grand to Miss VCC Collum, 22 Jan 1914, Women's Library Archives GB 106 9/07/101 <u>https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb106-9/07/9/07/101</u>

Letter from Sarah Grand to Mr McIntee, 4 October 1905, Newcastle University Special Collections and Archives

GB 186 SW/1/7/33 https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb186-sw/sw/1/7/33