

St. John G. (St. John Greer) Ervine:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ervine, St. John G. (St. John Greer), 1883-1971
Title:	St. John G. (St. John Greer) Ervine Collection
Dates:	1911-1960, undated
Extent:	3 boxes (1.26 linear feet)
Abstract:	Includes manuscripts and letters written by the Irish playwright and drama critic St. John Greer Ervine, as well as letters he and his wife received. Among the correspondents are Noel Coward, Lady Isabella Gregory, John Masefield, W. S. Maugham, A. A. Milne, Sean O'Casey, Terence Rattigan, Siegfried Sassoon, George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, and W. B. Yeats among others.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-1333
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Jamie Hawkins-Kirkham, 2011 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

Bernard Shaw, typescript with few handwritten revisions, 35 pages, undated.

Container
1.1

People of our class; a comedy in three acts, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 159 pages in 3 notebooks, 1936. Opening of Act I. by George Bernard Shaw.

Container
1.2

People of our class; a comedy in three acts: Act I, typescript with handwritten emendations by George Bernard Shaw, 3 pages, 1938. Scene written to precede original opening of play.

Container
1.1

Letters:

4 TLS to Charques, Richard D., 1930-1945.

Container 1.3

TLS to Curren, Ivo, 3 November 1951. Concerns George Bernard Shaw.

9 TLS to Ferguson, Rachel, 1933-1942.

ALS to Guinan, John, 7 January 1914? Letterhead: Abbey Theatre.

TL / incomplete to Hone, Joseph Maunsell, 17 May 1951.

TLS to Purdom, Charles Benjamin, 31 October 1931. Included with this: TccL / reply by Purdom, 3 November 1931.

ALS, 21 TLS to Rattray, R. F., re George Bernard Shaw, 1952-1955.

TNS to Shaw, George Bernard, 10 November 1921. Written on this: ANS to Ervine from Shaw, 1921.

TLS to Shaw, George Bernard, 11 May 1926. Written on this: ANS to Ervine from Shaw, 11 May 1926.

Recipient:

Unidentified author. ALS to Ervine, undated.

Container 1.4

Unidentified author. TN to Ervine, 1940.

Agate, James E. ALS, 4 TLS to Ervine, 1922-1933.

Archer, Charles, 1861-1941. ALS to Ervine, 14 July 1931.

Archer, William, 1856-1924. ALS, TLS to Ervine, 19 May 1922, 9 July 1923.

Ashton, Winifred. 2 ALS, 2 ALI to Ervine, undated.

Ashwell, Lena Simson, 1871-1957. 4 ALS, TLS to Ervine, undated.

Bennett, Marguerite. 9 ALS to Ervine, 1921-1931.

Budden, Lionel Bailey, 1887- . ALS to Ervine, 4 June 1936. Removed from NA 2310 L54 HRC.

Coward, Noel Pierce, 1899- . 9 ALS, TLS to Ervine, 1928-1947.

Douglas, Alfred Bruce, Lord, 1870-1945. 5 ALS to Ervine, 1939-1940. Attached to 12 February 1939 ALS: TccL / reply 18 February 1939; TL / copy Douglas to The Catholic Herald, 6 February 1939; TL / copy from The Catholic Herald to Douglas 9 February 1939.

Drake, Fabia. 2 ALS, ALS / incomplete to Ervine, undated. Included with these: 2 autographed menus celebrating 300th and 500th performances of Anthony and Anna, 31 July 1936, 22 January 1937.

Drew, Charles D. TLS to Ervine, 27 February 1940. Letterhead: Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society.

Drinkwater, John, 1882-1937. 2 TLS, 3 TccL / copies to Ervine, 1922-1923, undated.

Floden, Gwen. TLS to Ervine, undated.

Gregory, Isabella Augusta Persse, Lady, 1852-1932. 5 ALS, TLS to Ervine, 1931, undated.

Hale, Stephen King. ALS, TLS to Ervine, 14 April 1932, undated.

**Container
1.5**

Hardcastle, J. A. L. 2 ALS to Ervine, 27 August and 1 September 1955.

Hardy, Florence Emily Dugdale. 2 ALS, 2 TLS to Ervine, 1921-1926, undated.

Hardy, Thomas, 1840-1928. Greeting card to Ervine, 1927.

Harwood, F. J. TLS to Ervine, 7 August 1953.

Heinemann (William) Ltd. TLS Arnold Gyde to Ervine, 12 December 1938.

Horniman, Annie Elizabeth Fredericka, 1860-1937. 3 ALS to Ervine, 1930-1935, undated.

Huxley, Julian Sorrell, Sir, 1887- . ALS, TLS to Ervine, 22 March 1933, 24 August 1936.

Irving, Laurence Henry Forster, 1897- . 5 ALS to Ervine, 1951.

Jackson, Barry, Sir, 1880?-1961. ALS, 5 TLS, 2 TL to Ervine, 1932-1953. Included with these: partial list of plays performed by Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

John, Augustus Edwin, 1878-1961. ALS to Ervine, undated.

Kerrigan, J. M., 1886?-1964. ALS to Ervine, undated.

Kisilensky, Stanislaus. TLS to Ervine, 27 April 1937.

Knight, Laura Johnson. ALS to Ervine, 15 April no year.

Knoblock, Edward, 1874-1945. 5 ALS, ALI to Ervine, 1932-1939.

Kyle, Galloway, 1871- . TLS to Ervine, 26 April 1943. Letterhead: The Poetry Society.

Leacock, Stephen Butler, 1869-1944. ALS to Ervine, undated.

Macaulay, Rose, Dame, 1881-1958. ALI, TLS, APCI to Ervine, 1936-1937, undated.

Container
2.1

Masefield, Constance de la Chrois Crommelin. 2 ALS to Ervine, undated.

Masefield, John, 1878-1967. ALS, 6 TLS to Ervine, 1942, undated.

Matthews, Margaret. ALS to Ervine, undated.

Matthews, Walter Robert, 1881- . 7 ALS, TLS, TLI to Ervine, 1939-1946, undated.

Maugham, William Somerset, 1874-1965. 3 ALS, ALI, 2 TLS, ANS to Ervine, 1932-1954, undated.

Milne, Alan Alexander, 1882-1956. 5 ALS, ALI, ANS to Ervine, 1921-1946, undated.

Monkhouse, Allan Noble, 1858-1936. 2 ALS to Ervine, 2 October 1919, 22 April 1920.

Monte, E. H. 2 ALS to Ervine, 30 May and 3 June 1940.

Montague, Charles Edward, 1867-1928. 3 ALS to Ervine, 1911-1922.

Morgan, Charles, 1894-1958. 30 ALS, 2 ALI, 14 TLS, APCS to Ervine, 1928-1957, undated. **Container**
2.2

Murray, Gilbert, 1866-1957. TLS to Ervine, 3 November 1950. **Container**
2.1

Murry, John Middleton, 1889-1957. ALS to Ervine, 23 September 1929.
Letterhead: The New Adelphi.

Nichols, Robert Malise Bowyer, 1893-1944. 10 ALS to Ervine, 1929-1939. **Container**
2.4

O'Casey, Sean, 1884-1964. 6 ALS, 8 TLS to Ervine, 1928-1939, undated. Enclosed with one undated letter: typed copies of telegram and letter from George Russell to O'Casey, 1 June 1928. **Container**
2.3

Palmer, John Leslie, 1885-1944. 8 ALS, TLS to Ervine, 1915-1941, undated.

Palmer, Mildred. 2 ALS to Ervine, Whit Sunday 1917, 4 September 1944.

Parsons, Alan, 1887-1933. ALS to Ervine, 2 December 1929.

Pemberton, Max, Sir, 1863-1950. TLS to Ervine, 6 July 1933.

Phillpotts. Eden, 1826-1960. 11 ALS, 2 ALI to Ervine, 1919-1957.

Plunkett, Horace Curzon, Sir, 1854-1932. 2 ALS, 3 TLS, TLI to Ervine, 1916-1922.

Plunkett (Horace) Foundation. TLS secretary M. Digby to Ervine, 15 July 1946.

Poel, William. ALS to Ervine, 21 March 1914.

Purdom, Charles Benjamin, 1883-1965. TccL to Ervine, 3 November 1931. **Container**
Included with TLS Ervine to Purdom 31 October 1931. 1.3

Rattigan, Terence Mervyn, 1911- . 2 ALS to Ervine, 7 September and 11 September 1935. **Container**
2.3

Richardson, Henry Handel, 1880-1946. 3 ALS to Ervine, 1930-1934.

Robinson, Lennox, 1886-1958. ALS, TLS to Ervine, 16 June and 27 November 1955. Enclosed with ALS: mimeo copy of letters to directors of Abbey Theatre presenting August John bust of W. B. Yeats, 23 November 1955.

Robson, Flora, Dame, 1902- . 3 ALS, 7 TLS, 1 printed PC to Ervine, 1960, undated.

Russell, George William, 1867-1935. 20 ALS, TccLS to Ervine, 1915-1933, undated. **Container 2.5**

Russell, Mary Annette Beauchamp Russell, 1866-1941. 2 ALS, APCS to Ervine, 1921, undated. **Container 2.3**

Sassoon, Siegfried Lorraine, 1886- . 2 ALI to Ervine, 12 November 1929, 11 September 1955. **Container 2.6**

Shaw, Charlotte Frances Payne-Townshend, 1876-1943. 8 ALS, ALI, TLS, ANS, ANI, APCS, Christmas card to Ervine, 1912-1938, undated. Enclosed with TLS: typescript / copy of comments by George Bernard Shaw on Vulliamy biography of Shelley. **Container 2.7**

Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1950. 3 ALS, 8 ALI, 16 TLS, 21 TLI, TL, ANI, 2 APCS, 31 APCI, APC to Ervine, 1912-1950:

Undated; 1912-1920. **Container 2.8**

1921-1928. **Container 2.9**

1931-1936. Included with these: ALS Charlotte Shaw to Ervine, 6 August 1934. Enclosed with TLS 6 August 1934: The new boy. He became famous, by Canon Duke with ANS by Shaw on verso. Enclosed with TLS 28 April 1936 and May 11: handwritten manuscript / notes by Shaw re his family. **Container 2.10**

1937-1950. **Container 2.11**

42 TccL / transcripts, 1912-1950, undated. **Container 2.12**

Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1950. TLS, TLI to Ervine, 22 May 1918, 27 July 1944. **Container 2.6**

Simon, John Allsebrook Simon, 1873-1954. TLS to Ervine, 14 January 1943.

Sitwell, Osbert, Sir, 1892-1969. ALS, TLS, APCS to Ervine, 1942, undated.

Terry, Ellen, Dame, 1848-1928. ALS to Ervine, 16 June no year.

Thorndike, Sybil, Dame, 1882- . 4 ALS, 2 TLS to Ervine, 1922-1954, undated.
Included with these: ALS to Mrs. Ervine, 6 February no year.

Western Gazette. TLS editor John Goodchild to Ervine, 29 February 1940.

Yeats, William Butler, 1865-1939. FLS to Ervine, February 1937. As president of
Irish Academy of Letters.

Zangwill, Israel, 1864-1926. 2 ALS to Ervine, 12 December and 27 December
1921.

Miscellaneous:

- Aston, Winifred. 2 ALS, 5 ALI to Ervine, Leonora, undated. **Container 3.1**
- Bennett, Arnold, 1867-1931. 10 ALS, 7 ALI, TLS, TLI, ANI, APCI, 1920-1927. **Container 3.2-3**
- Bone, James, 1872- . TLS to Ervine, 1 May 1928. Enclosure: To A. N. M., proof copy, May 1928. **Container 3.1**
- Brown, Ivor John Carnegie, 1891- . ALS to Ervine, Leonora, 10 June no year.
- Drinkwater, John, 1882-1937. TLS to Ervine, Leonora, 24 April 1921.
- Ervine, St. John Greer, 1883- . Mr. Thomas Hardy / communique on Hardy birthday tribute, 2 mimeos, 3 pages each, 1921. Included with these: addresses of subscribers; list of signatories; circulation directive to signatories.
- Granville-Barker, Harley Granville, 1877-1946. 9 ALS to Ervine, 1920-1933.
- Hardy, Florence Emily Dugdale. 18 ALS to Ervine, Leonora, 1921-1933, undated. **Container 3.4**
- Jackson, Harry, Sir, 1880-1961. TLS to Ervine, 4 March 1940. **Container 3.5**
- Knight, Laura Johnson, Dame. ALS to Strange, Mrs., undated.
- Knoblock, Edward, 1874-1945. ALS to Ervine, Leonora, 3 November 1936.
- Kommissarzhevshĭi, Fedor Fedorovich, 1882-1954. 3 ALS to Ervine, Leonora, 1927-1932.
- Masefield, John, 1878-1967. ALS, TLS to Ervine, Leonora, 25 January 1914.
- Moore, George, 1852-1933. The coming of Gabrielle: Preface, page proofs with handwritten revisions, 31 pages, 21 October and 1 November 1920. **Container 3.6**
- Moore, George, 1852-1933. ALS, TLS to Ervine, 26 November 1920, 21 November 1926.
- Pinero, Arthur Wing, Sir, 1855-1934. 4 ALS, 4 TLS, 5 ANS, 3 TNS to Ervine, 1920-1933. **Container 3.7**
- Russell, Mary Annette Beauchamp Russell, 1866-1941. 2 ALS, 2 APCI to Ervine, Leonora, 1923, undated. **Container 3.5**

- Russell, George William, 1867-1935. Conference (poem), handwritten manuscript with emendations, 1 page, undated. Written on back of form for Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, Ltd.
- Sassoon, Siegfried Lorraine, 1886- . ALS, APCS to Ervine, Leonora, 19 May 1922, 20 October no year.
- Shaw, Charlotte Frances Payne-Townshend, 1876-1943. 33 ALS, 3 ALI, 2 APCS, 2 APCI to Ervine, Leonora, 1922-1940. **Container** 3.8
- Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1950. APCS to McEvoy, Charles A. re Ervine, 15 May 1918. **Container** 3.5
- Shaw, George Bernard, 1856-1950. 3 ALS, 2 ALI, 2 TLS, 3 APCS, 10 APCI to Ervine, Leonora, 1916-1945, undated. Enclosed with ALI 16 November 1939: TLS Blanche Patch to Leonora Ervine, same date. **Container** 3.9
- Sitwell, Osbert, Sir, 1892-1969. Rat week, typescript, 2 pages, undated. **Container** 3.5
- Vanbrugh, Irene, Dame, 1872- . 13 ALS, ANS to Ervine, 1922-1949. **Container** 3.10
- Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941. 12 ALS, TLS to Ervine, Leonora, 1920-1928. **Container** 3.5
- Walpole, Hugh, Sir, 1884-1941. 13 ALS, TLS to Ervine, 1920-1940. **Container** 3.11
- Wells, Herbert George, 1866-1946. 9 ALS, 6 ANS, APCS to Ervine, 1920-1922, undated. **Container** 3.12
- Yeats, William Butler, 1865-1939. 11 ALS, 4 TLS, 10 ANS to Ervine, 1912-1917, undated. One TLS from Stone Cottage, Coleman's Hatch, 1916, was dictated to and typed by Ezra Pound. **Container** 3.13

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date