Gerald Brenan:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987
Title: Gerald Brenan Collection
Dates: 1911-1978
Extent: 21 boxes (8.75 linear feet) and 2 oversize folders
Abstract: British author Edward Fitzgerald Brenan briefly entered the Bloomsbury circle in 1919, introduced by his friend Ralph Partridge, before moving semi-permanently to Spain later that year. Brenan's works dealt with the Spanish culture and literature, and his feelings of exile during the years of the Spanish Civil War, which forced him and his wife to leave the country between 1934 and 1953. The collection contains holograph and typescript drafts for eight of Brenan's books including *A Holiday by the Sea* (1961) and *South from Granada* (1957). Also present is a large accumulation of correspondence with various Bloomsbury artists, most notably Dora Carrington and Ralph Partridge.

RLIN Record #: TXRC98-A15
Language: English.
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by: Chelsea Jones, 1998
Repository: Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin
Biographical Sketch

Edward Fitzgerald Brenan (1894-1987), was born in Malta, the son of an English army officer. He spent his earliest years in India and South Africa before being sent to England for his formal education. He studied first at Radley College and then at the Military Academy at Sandhurst, but studied art, poetry, and philosophy on his own with the help of John Hope-Johnstone. With Hope-Johnstone, Brenan traveled through France, Italy, and Dalmatia when he was eighteen, before joining the 5th Gloucesters in 1914. With his regiment he saw action in the Ypres salient, on the Somme, and in the second battle of the Marne. In 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

In 1919 Brenan was introduced into the Bloomsbury group by Hope-Johnstone and his fellow officer and friend, Ralph Partridge. It was through Partridge that Brenan met Lytton Strachey and Dora Carrington. In the fall of 1919, Brenan set out for Spain, settling in the primitive village of Yegen, living there more-or-less continuously until 1934. Partridge and Carrington, recently married, and Strachey visited him in 1920, and Carrington's fondness for Brenan is thought to have started on this trip. She carried on a voluminous correspondence with Brenan for the next several years and in 1922 they had a brief affair, which was soon discovered by Partridge. There was a year of silence between the three, before reconciliation took place and an often stormy friendship continued for the remainder of their lives.

Brenan remained in Spain, marrying the American poetess Gamel Woolsey in 1930, and working on poetry and beginning several novels. In 1934 the Brenans left Yegen for Churriana and then for Gibraltar, seven weeks after the civil war started. They were unable to return to Spain until 1953. They spent this time in Aldbourne and Brenan expressed his feelings of exile from Spain by completing three major works on Spanish life and literature. On his return to Spain he began a series of autobiographical works, including South from Granada, A Life of One's Own, and A Personal Record.

In 1969 Brenan moved to the mountain village of Alhaurin el Grande. He was awarded the Order of Commander of the British Empire in 1982 and in 1984, after a brief stint in a nursing home, he was declared a living monument of Spain and was supported by the municipality of Alhaurin until his death in January 1987.

Sources


Scope and Contents
Holograph and typescript manuscripts, and correspondence represent the majority of the Gerald Brenan Collection, 1911-1978. The collection is organized into three series, with materials arranged alphabetically by title or author: I. Works, 1912-1969 (9 boxes), II. Correspondence, 1911-1978 (10.25 boxes), and III. Miscellaneous, 1912-1964 (1.75 boxes). Many items in this collection include notes on date and context, added by Brenan while gathering his papers together. This collection was previously accessible through a card catalog, but has been re-cataloged as part of a retrospective conversion project.

The Works Series contains holographs and typescripts for eight of Brenan's books, including *A Holiday by the Sea* (1961), *A Life of One's Own* (1979), *A Personal Record* (1977), and *South from Granada* (1957). Also included are individual articles, poems, and reviews written by Brenan and a notebook of his early verses. Several of the diaries, upon which he based his autobiographical works, are present, including ones that cover his service in World War I, his relationship with Dora Carrington, and his later friendship with Joanna Carrington, Dora's niece. The titles in this series are indexed in the Index of Works at the end of this guide.

The Correspondence Series is composed of large accumulations of letters between Brenan and many members of Bloomsbury, as well as other artists, in addition to individual letters written to and from friends and acquaintances. Incoming and outgoing letters are interfiled, arranged alphabetically and then chronologically where possible. Where dates are unknown, letters from Brenan precede within the folders the ones he received. Particularly well represented in this collection by almost 900 letters is correspondence between Brenan and Dora Carrington. Other correspondents include Roger Fry, David Garnett, John Hope-Johnstone, Ralph and Frances Partridge, V.S. Pritchett, and Gamel Woolsey Brenan. Additional correspondents can be identified using the Index of Correspondents in this guide.

The Miscellaneous Series is composed primarily of letters between Brenan's friends. This includes 21 letters from Ottoline Morrell to Dora Carrington, 75 letters from Frances Partridge to Gamel Woolsey Brenan, and 107 letters from Gamel Brenan to Llewelyn Powys. Also included are a diary and page proofs for a book by Gamel Brenan, and the statement of release for Charles Claridge and Hope-Johnstone from Monfalcone prison. Letters in this series are also listed in the Index of Correspondents.

**Separated Material**

Elsewhere in the Ransom Center are 78 photographs of Brenan, his friends and family, and landscapes, located in the Literary Files of the Photography Collection, one Vertical File of newspaper clippings about Brenan and his works, and several books from his personal library.

**Index Terms**

Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987
Correspondents

Bell, Clive, 1881-1964
Bell, Vanessa, 1879-1961
Carrington, Dora de Houghton, 1893-1932
Fry, Roger Eliot, 1866-1934
Garnett, David, 1892-1981
Hope-Johnstone, John
Morrell, Ottoline Violet Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, Lady, 1873-1932
Partridge, Frances, 1900-
Partridge, Ralph
Powys, John Cowper, 1872-1963
Powys, Llewelyn, 1884-1939
Powys, Theodore Francis, 1875-1953
Pritchett, V.S. (Victor Sawdon) 1900-
Purdy, James
Taylor, Ernest
Woolsey, Gamel

Subjects

Authors, English--20th century
Bloombury group
Spain--Civil war
Spain--Politics and government
Spain--Social life and customs

Document Types

Christmas cards
Diaries
Love letters
Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987

**Series I. Works, 1912-1969**

Unidentified

A-D

The Bustard Shoot, typescript with edits, 1963, 25pp

Diaries of the war years, 1914-1919, 147pp

Diary notes, 1919-1924, 56pp and 1 notebook

Diaries, 9 holograph notebooks, 1925-1964

E-K

Early verses, holograph and typescript, 1912-1950, 112pp

*The History of Poor Robinson*, typescript, 1925, 74pp

A Holiday by the Sea

Holograph and typescript with corrections, 1936-1950, 524pp

Holograph and typescript, 223pp

Typescripts with edits, 344pp

Author's notes, holograph, 9pp

Rejected pages, holograph, 23pp

L-O

A Life of One's Own

Holograph and typescript with significant revisions, 1952-1961, 125pp
Typescript with edits, ca. 1950, 420pp

Typescript with author's edits and some printer and editor marks, 444pp

Typescript, 444pp (continued)

Typescript with author edits, inserts and paste-ins, 388pp

Typescripts with author edits, 428pp

Typescripts with edits, 441pp

Chapters XIII and XIV, holograph, 154pp

The Life of St. Teresa

Holograph draft with revisions, 1926, 200pp (removed to oversize folder 1)

A Chapter on St. Ignatius, holograph draft with revisions, 1926, 135pp (removed to oversize folder 2)

The Lighthouse Always Says Yes

Holograph with edits, 650pp

Holograph, 650pp (continued)

Discarded pages, holograph and typescript, 158pp

Insertions for final revision, holograph and typescript, 158pp

Notes, holograph, 17pp

*The Oued Draa*, typescript with edits, 1959, 50pp

P-R

A Personal Record
Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987

Holograph with author revisions, 1966-1969, about 1000pp

Holograph, 1000pp (continued)

Typescript, 1966-1969, 747pp

Typescript, 747pp (continued)

Poems: 1944-1960, typescripts with edits, 87pp

S-Z

South from Granada

Holograph and typescript with edits, 428pp

Holograph, 205pp

Author's note, holograph, 2pp

Typescript, early draft, 434pp

Typescript, 356pp
Series II. Correspondence, 1911-1978

Unidentified; A-G

Anrep, Helen, 1925-1943

Carrington, Dora, 1919-1932
  Extracts and copies of letters
  1919-May 1920
  June-Dec. 1920
  1921
    Jan.-July
    Aug.-Sept.
  1922
    Jan.-May
    June-Dec.
  1923
    Jan.-May
    June-Dec.
  1924
    Jan.
    Feb.-Mar.
    Apr.
    May-June
    July-Aug.
    Sept.
Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987

Oct.-Dec. folder 2

1925

Jan.-Feb. box 13 folder 3

Mar.-Apr. folder 4

May-June folder 5

July-Dec. folder 6

1926 box 14 folder 1

1926, unsent letters to Carrington folder 2

1927

Jan.-Apr. box 14 folder 3

May-Dec. folder 4

1928-1932 folder 5

Davis, Bill and Annie, 1957-1976 box 15 folder 1

Fry, Roger, 1925-1934 folder 2

Garnett, David, 1929-1969 folder 3

H-Z folder 4

Holroyd, Michael, 1967-1969 folder 5

Hope-Johnstone, John, 1911-1922 box 15 folder 6

1911-1914

1915 box 16 folder 1

1916-1917 folder 2

1918 folder 3

1919-1922 folder 4

MacCarthy, Mary, 1927-1934 folder 5

Partridge, Frances, 1927-1969
1927-1960
1961-1965
1966-1969

Partridge, Ralph, 1915-1960

1915-1923
1924-1932
1933-1952
1953-1954
1955-1960

Powys, Llewelyn, 1931-1936

Powys, Theodore Francis, 1930-1936

Pritchett, Victor Sawdon, 1940-1978

Undated letters
Undated (continued)
1940-1949
1950-1960
1961-1978

Purdy, James, 1957-1966
Rhys, Jean, 1967-1968
Taylor, Ernest, 1914-1915
Waley, Arthur David, 1927-1932

Brenan, Gerald, 1894-1987

box 16 folder 6
box 17 folder 1
folder 2
box 17 folder 3
folder 4
folder 5
box 18 folder 1
folder 2
folder 3
folder 4
box 18 folder 5-7
box 19 folder 1
folder 2
folder 3
folder 4
folder 5
folder 6
box 20 folder 1
folder 2
Series III. Miscellaneous, 1912-1964

Unidentified; A-Z

Brenan, Elisabeth Gamel

Diary, letters and works

Letters to Powys, Llewelyn, 1930-1939

Incoming correspondence, A-Z

Partridge, Frances, 75 letters to Gamel Brennan, 1932-1964

Partridge, Frances (continued)

One Way of Love, page proofs, 288pp

Poems, 1954-1962

Carrington, Dora

Incoming correspondence, A-Z

Morrell, Lady Ottoline, 21 letters to Dora Carrington, 1918-1932

Synopses of Brenan's correspondence with Bill and Annie Davis

Taylor, Ernest, 16 letters to John Hope-Johnstone, 1913-1915

Envelopes
Gerald Brenan Collection—Index of Correspondents

- Allen, Jay--10.1 (to Brenan, nd)
- Anrep, Helen--
  - 3 to Brenan, 1934--10.2
  - 5 from Brenan, 1925-1943--10.2

- Araquistáin, Luis, 1886-1959--10.1 (5 to Brenan, 1940-1944)
- Bagenal, Barbara Hiles--10.1 (3 to Brenan, 1922-1923)
- Birell, Francis, 1889--10.1 (to Brenan, nd)
- Bell, Clive, 1881-1964--21.4 (to Dora Carrington, 1919)
- Bell, Vanessa, 1879-1961--21.4 (7 to Dora Carrington, 1931-1932)
- Brenan, Elisabeth Gamel--See Woolsey, Gamel
- Brenan, Gamel--See Woolsey, Gamel
- Brenan, Hugh Gerald--
  - to Brenan, 1947--10.1
  - from Brenan, 1916--10.1

- Carrington, Dora de Houghton, 1893-1932--
  - 465 from Brenan, 1919-1932--10.3-14.5
  - 434 to Brenan, 1919-1932--10.3-14.5
  - 2 to Gamel Woolsey, 1931--20.3
  - 2 to John Hope-Johnstone, 1922--20.3

- Connolly, Cyril, 1903-1974--10.1 (5 to Brenan, 1953-1963)
- Davenport, John--10.1 (10 from Brenan, 1949-1955)
- Davis, Annie and Bill--15.1 (140 to and from Brenan, 1957-1976)
- Duncan, Rose Marie, 1916--10.1 (to Brenan, 1948)
- Fry, Roger Eliot, 1866-1934--
  - 17 to Brenan, 1925-1934--15.2
  - 3 to Dora Carrington, 1917-1926--21.4
  - to Gamel Woolsey, 1934--20.7

- Garnett, David, 1892-1981--
  - from Brenan, 1929-1969--15.3
  - 37 to Brenan, 1929-1969--15.3

- Garnett, Rachel Alice--10.1 (to Brenan, 1931)
- Gregory, Alyse, 1884-1967--
  - 2 to Brenan, 1947--10.1
  - to Gamel Woolsey, 1947--20.7

- Hamish Hamilton Ltd.--15.4 (2 to Brenan, 1965)
- Holloway, John, 1920--20.3 (1 to Alyse [Gregory], 1959
- Holroyd, Michael--15.5 (13 to Brenan, 1967-1969)
- Hope-Johnstone, John--
  - 70 from Brenan, 1911-1922--15.6-16.4
  - 34 to Brenan, 1911-1922--15.6-16.4
  - 9 to John Davenport, 1943-1952--20.3
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- John, Robin--20.7 (to Gamel Woolsey, 1959)
- Keynes, John Maynard, 1883-1946--21.4 (7 to Dora Carrington, 1917-1920)
- MacCarthy, Mary--
  - from Brenan, 1927-1934--16.5
  - 17 to Brenan, 1927-1934--16.5
  - 2 to Gamel Woolsey, 1940--20.7
- McGee, Hetty--15.4 (to Brenan, 1959)
- Morrell, Ottoline Violet Anne Cavendish-Bentinck, Lady, 1873-1932--21.5 (21 to Dora Carrington, 1918-1932)
- Partridge, Frances, 1900- --
  - from Brenan, 1929--16.6
  - 114 to Brenan, 1927-1969--16.6-17.2
  - 75 to Gamel (Woolsey) Brenan, 1932-1964--20.8-21.1
- Partridge, Ralph--
  - 5 from Brenan, 1915-1960--17.3-18.2
  - 141 to Brenan, 1915-1960--17.3-18.2
  - 5 to Gamel Woolsey, 1953-1959--20.7
- Penrose, Alec--15.4 (from Brenan, 1927)
- Powys, A.R. (Albert Reginald), 1881-1936--15.4 (to Brenan, 1935)
- Powys, Llewelyn, 1884-1939--
  - from Brenan, nd--18.3
  - 32 to Brenan, 1931-1936--18.3
  - 2 to Gamel Woolsey, 1931--20.7
- Powys, Theodore Francis, 1875-1953--18.4 (18 to Brenan, 1930-1936)
- Pritchett, Dorothy Roberts--15.4 (6 from Brenan, nd)
- Pritchett, V.S. (Victor Sawdon), 1900- --
  - 542 from Brenan, 1940-1978--18.5-19.4
  - 45 to Brenan, 1940-1978--18.5-19.4
  - 2 to Gamel Woolsey, 1940--20.7
- Purdy, James--19.5 (9 to Brenan, 1957-1966)
- Ransome, Algernan Lee, 1883- --15.4 (to Brenan, 1962)
- Rhys, Jean--19.6 (9 to Brenan, 1967-1968)
- Russell, Peter, 1921- --15.4 (from Brenan, 1940)
- Strachey, Alix, 1892-1973--
  - to Brenan, 1932--15.4
  - to Dora Carrington, 1923--21.4
- Swan, Susie--15.4 (5 from Brenan, 1924-1925)
- Taylor, Ernest--
  - 5 from Brenan, 1914-1915--20.1
  - 16 to Brenan, 1914-1915--20.1
  - 16 to John Hope-Johnstone, 1913-1915--21.7
- Thomas, Hugh--15.4 (to Brenan, 1964)
- Tracy, Honor, 1915-- --15.4 (2 to Brenan, nd)
Trevor-Roper, H.R. (Hugh Redwald), 1914- --15.4 (2 to Brenan, 1967)
Waley, Alison, 15.4 (2 to Brenan, 1967)
Waley, Arthur--20.2 (10 to Brenan, 1927-1932)
Williamson, P.L.--15.4 (to Brenan, 1962)
Woolley, Janetta--20.7 (to Gamel Woolsey, 1960)
Woolsey, Gamel--
  • to Alyse Gregory, nd--20.4
  • 107 to Llewelyn Powys, 1930-1939--20.5-6
  • to V.S. Pritchett, nd--20.4

Wright, Ralph--20.3 (to David Garnett, nd)
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- All the Beautiful Ladies--8.4 (part of To —)
- Announcement--1.2
- Ariel to Miranda--1.2
- At Last a Sensible Project for the Pacification of Ireland--1.2
- The Bullet, the Brickbat, and the Peachstone--1.2
- The Bustard Shoot--1.3
- Café Ideal, Seville--1.2
- The City of Sybarites--1.2
- Dedication: to the Princess of Georgia--1.2
- Dialogue in Heaven--1.2
- Diary, 1941--1.2
- Diary of my Life--1.2
- Dr. Partridge's Almanack--1.2
- Doggerel verses for Joanne--1.2
- The Engine Driver--1.9
- An English Writer Discovers Malaga--1.9
- Events in the Life of Don G.--1.9
- Fable of Hen and Egg--1.9
- The Factory--1.9
- Fawn Poems--1.9
- The Forest--1.9
- The Great Frost--1.9
- He Thought He Was Young--1.9
- Hetty Blues: for Hetty McGee--1.9
- The History of Poor Robinson --2.1
- A Holiday by the Sea --2.2-7
- Hymn to the Personal Pronoun - Thou--1.9
- Imaginary Map Drawn at Radley--1.9
- Immortality: the Gift of Antonia Fuentes--1.9
- Joanna--1.9
- A Life of One's Own --3.2-5.4
- The Life of St. Teresa --oversize folders 1-2
- The Lighthouse Always Says Yes --5.5-6.4
- The Lord of the Castle and His Prisoner--3.1
- Lust Inactive--3.1
- The Mirror--6.6 (on verso of Phoenixes)
- Miss Harum Scarum--3.1
- Mortuary--3.1
- A New Libidium or Dictionary of Human Desire: Preface--3.1
- On Ford's 'Tis pity she's a whore'--3.1
- The Oued Draa --6.5
- Paper on Ezra Pound--6.6
- Parade--6.6
- "The peace of the trees..." --6.6
- A Personal Record--6.7-8.2
- Phoenixes--6.6
- Poems: 1944-1960 --8.3
- Poem on Ideal Beauty--8.4 (part of To —)
- Portrait of Joanna--6.6
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- The Prado--6.6
- Preface for *Babel in Spanish* by John Haycraft--6.6
- Promises of Happiness--6.6
- Quelques sé guidilles foits parle douanier Brenan dans son Mauvias Patois--6.6
- Reader's Report: Surrealism in Spain, Poetry by Paul Ilie--6.6
- The Rendezvous--6.6
- Review of
  - *My Mission to Spain* by Claude G. Bowers--6.6
  - *The People of the Sierra* by J.A. Pitt-Rivers--6.6
  - Relaciones entre lo popluar y lo culto (Popular Influences in Spanish Lyric Poetry)--6.6
  - *The Structure of Spanish History* by Americo Castro--6.6
  - Two Books on Spain--6.6
- Ritter von dem Heiligen Geist--6.6
- The Sage--8.4
- Selections from Ezra Pound's shorter poems--8.4
- The Seminarists--8.4
- Song of the Babes in the Woods--8.4
- Sonnet--8.4
- *South from Granada* --8.5-9.7
- Spain Yesterday and Today--8.4
- The Spanish Caliphate--8.4
- The Spanish Club--8.4
- The Stork, the Eagle, and the Swallow; and the Plover--8.4
- Three Threshing Coplas--8.4
- To — --8.4
- To Antonia Fuentes--8.4
- To the Parasites of Literature--8.4
- To Those Who in All Ages Crucify Christ--8.4
- Unfinished Poem--8.4
- Verses to D.C. --8.4
- Verses Written on the Mersea Bus--1.9 (on verso of The Factory)
- Virginia: Notes written for a talk on the B.B.C.--8.4
- Why I Chose the Pseudonym George Beaton--8.4
- Word Poem on the Folly of Not Going to Windsor--8.4
- The Zegen Bestiary: Dediction to D.C.P.--8.4