

Gerald Brenan:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom 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 <i>A Holiday by the Sea</i> (1961) and <i>South from Granada</i> (1957). Also present is a large accumulation of correspondence with various Bloomsbury artists, most notably Dora Carrington and Ralph Partridge.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-00504
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Gifts and purchases, 1963-1996 (R1248, R1611, R2847, R3520, R4347, R5170, R7969, R8284, R11698, R13799)
Processed by	Chelsea Jones, 1998
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The 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

Who's Who in Bloomsbury. Alan and Veronica Palmer. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987).

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

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

Series I. Works, 1912-1969

Unidentified	box 1 folder 1
A-D	folder 2
The Bustard Shoot, typescript with edits, 1963, 25pp	folder 3
Diaries of the war years, 1914-1919, 147pp	folder 4
Diary notes, 1919-1924, 56pp and 1 notebook	folder 5
Diaries, 9 holograph notebooks, 1925-1964	folder 6-8
E-K	folder 9
Early verses, holograph and typescript, 1912-1950, 112pp	folder 10
<i>The History of Poor Robinson</i> , typescript, 1925, 74pp	box 2 folder 1
A Holiday by the Sea	
Holograph and typescript with corrections, 1936-1950, 524pp	box 2 folder 2-3
Holograph and typescript, 223pp	folder 4
Typescripts with edits, 344pp	folder 5
Author's notes, holograph, 9pp	folder 6
Rejected pages, holograph, 23pp	folder 7
L-O	box 3 folder 1
A Life of One's Own	
Holograph and typescript with significant revisions, 1952-1961, 125pp	box 3 folder 2

Typescript with edits, ca. 1950, 420pp	folder 3-4
Typescript with author's edits and some printer and editor marks, 444pp	folder 5-6
Typescript, 444pp (continued)	box 4 folder 1-2
Typescript with author edits, inserts and paste-ins, 388pp	folder 3-4
Typescripts with author edits, 428pp	folder 5-7
Typescripts with edits, 441pp	box 5 folder 1-3
Chapters XIII and XIV, holograph, 154pp	folder 4
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	box 5 folder 5-6
Holograph, 650pp (continued)	box 6 folder 1
Discarded pages, holograph and typescript, 158pp	folder 2
Insertions for final revision, holograph and typescript, 158pp	folder 3
Notes, holograph, 17pp	folder 4
<i>The Oued Draa</i> , typescript with edits, 1959, 50pp	folder 5
P-R	folder 6
A Personal Record	

Holograph with author revisions, 1966-1969, about 1000pp	box 6 folder 7-8
Holograph, 1000pp (continued)	box 7 folder 1-6
Typescript, 1966-1969, 747pp	folder 7
Typescript, 747pp (continued)	box 8 folder 1-2
Poems: 1944-1960, typescripts with edits, 87pp	folder 3
S-Z	folder 4
South from Granada	
Holograph and typescript with edits, 428pp	box 8 folder 5-6
Holograph, 205pp	box 9 folder 1
Author's note, holograph, 2pp	folder 2
Typescript, early draft, 434pp	folder 3-5
Typescript, 356pp	folder 6-7

Series II. Correspondence, 1911-1978

Unidentified; A-G	box 10 folder 1
Anrep, Helen, 1925-1943	folder 2
Carrington, Dora, 1919-1932	
Extracts and copies of letters	box 10 folder 3
1919-May 1920	folder 4
June-Dec. 1920	folder 5
1921	
Jan.-July	box 10 folder 6
Aug.-Sept.	folder 7
Oct.-Dec.	folder 8
1922	
Jan.-May	box 11 folder 1
June-Dec.	folder 2
1923	
Jan.-May	box 11 folder 3
June-Dec.	folder 4
1924	
Jan.	box 12 folder 1
Feb.-Mar.	folder 2
Apr.	folder 3
May-June	folder 4
July-Aug.	folder 5
Sept.	box 13 folder 1

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	
1911-1914	box 15 folder 6
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	box 16 folder 6
1961-1965	box 17 folder 1
1966-1969	folder 2
Partridge, Ralph, 1915-1960	
1915-1923	box 17 folder 3
1924-1932	folder 4
1933-1952	folder 5
1953-1954	box 18 folder 1
1955-1960	folder 2
Powys, Llewelyn, 1931-1936	folder 3
Powys, Theodore Francis, 1930-1936	folder 4
Pritchett, Victor Sawdon, 1940-1978	
Undated letters	box 18 folder 5-7
Undated (continued)	box 19 folder 1
1940-1949	folder 2
1950-1960	folder 3
1961-1978	folder 4
Purdy, James, 1957-1966	folder 5
Rhys, Jean, 1967-1968	folder 6
Taylor, Ernest, 1914-1915	box 20 folder 1
Waley, Arthur David, 1927-1932	folder 2

Series III. Miscellaneous, 1912-1964

Unidentified; A-Z	box 20 folder 3
Brenan, Elisabeth Gamel	
Diary, letters and works	box 20 folder 4
Letters to Powys, Llewelyn, 1930-1939	folder 5-6
Incoming correspondence, A-Z	folder 7
Partridge, Frances, 75 letters to Gamel Brennan, 1932-1964	folder 8
Partridge, Frances (continued)	box 21 folder 1
<i>One Way of Love</i> , page proofs, 288pp	folder 2
Poems, 1954-1962	folder 3
Carrington, Dora	
Incoming correspondence, A-Z	box 21 folder 4
Morrell, Lady Ottoline, 21 letters to Dora Carrington, 1918-1932	folder 5
Synopsis of Brenan's correspondence with Bill and Annie Davis	folder 6
Taylor, Ernest, 16 letters to John Hope-Johnstone, 1913-1915	folder 7
Envelopes	folder 8

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
- Cannan, Gilbert, 1884-1955--21.4 (7 to Dora Carrington, 1915-1916)
- 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
- 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, John Cowper, 1872-1963--15.4 (2 to Brenan, 1934, 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, Algernon 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
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- Wright, Ralph--20.3 (to David Garnett, nd)

Gerald Brenan Collection--Index of Works

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- 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
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- The Engine Driver--1.9
- An English Writer Discovers Malaga--1.9
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- Fable of Hen and Egg--1.9
- The Factory--1.9
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- He Thought He Was Young--1.9
- Hetty Blues: for Hetty McGee--1.9
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- Imaginary Map Drawn at Radley--1.9
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- Joanna--1.9
- *A Life of One's Own*--3.2-5.4
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- *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
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- A New Libidinum or Dictionary of Human Desire: Preface--3.1
- On Ford's 'Tis pity she's a whore'--3.1
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- Paper on Ezra Pound--6.6
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- "The peace of the trees..."--6.6
- A Personal Record--6.7-8.2
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- *Poems: 1944-1960*--8.3
- Poem on Ideal Beauty--8.4 (part of To —)
- Portrait of Joanna--6.6

- The Prado--6.6
- Preface for *Babel in Spanish* by John Haycraft--6.6
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- 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
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 - *My Mission to Spain* by Claude G. Bowers--6.6
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- Song of the Babes in the Woods--8.4
- Sonnet--8.4
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- 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
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