

John Guest Collection

MS 4624

A collection of around 500 personal and business letters from over 100 literary figures. They include 52 letters from Sir John Betjeman 1949-1979; 33 letters from Christopher Fry 1949-1989; 25 letters from Mary Renault 1960-1983, with further letters from her partner Julie Mullard and obituaries; 25 letters from Harold Nicolson 1949-1962; 17 letters from David Storey 1963-1994; 26 letters from Francis King 1950-1957, mainly concerning his British Council service in Greece; 12 letters from L.P. Hartley 1966-1970; 18 letters from William Plomer 1966-1972, mostly concerning the judging of the Cholmondeley Award for Poetry; 12 letters from Joan Hassall c.1954-1987; 12 letters from Laurence Whistler 1955-1986; 14 letters from A.N. Wilson 1979-1988, and 14 letters from Mary Wilson 1969-1986. Other correspondents include Rupert Hart-Davis, Christopher Hibbert, Mollie Hamilton (M.M. Kaye), Irene Handl, Stevie Smith, Stephen Spender and Muriel Spark.

The Collection covers the year's c. 1949-1991.

The physical extent of the collection is c. 500 items.

Introduction

John Guest was born in 1911 in Warrington, Cheshire, and was educated at Fettes, Edinburgh, and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was first employed in the publishing industry as a proofreader and subsequently junior editor for Collins, before serving in an artillery regiment during the war. In 1949 he was appointed literary advisor to the publishing firm Longmans, with a brief to rebuild their general trade list, at which he was very successful. He subsequently held the same position at Penguin Books, after the merger with Longmans in 1972, where he remained until his retirement. A Fellow of the Royal Literary Society, he was the author of *Broken Images* (1949), a record of his wartime experiences, and also compiled the first anthology of the work of his friend, the poet Sir John Betjeman, entitled *The Best of Betjeman* (1978). He died in August 1997.

MS 4624 A *Correspondence*
c. 1949-1991

MS 4624 A/1 Letters from Richard Adams to John Guest
CLOSED until 2024. Please contact the University
Archivist for details
1 folder
c.1975-1985

MS 4624 A/2 Letters from Lord Alexander of Tunis to John Guest
With note by John Guest
2 docs
c.1956

MS 4624 A/3 Letters from Mark Allen to John Guest

2 docs
c.1982

MS 4624 A/4 Letter from Jeffrey Archer to John Guest

1 doc
1981

MS 4624 A/5 Letters from Aman Ashraf to John Guest

6 docs

1977-1981

MS 4624 A/6 Letters from Chiquita Astor to John Guest

2 docs

Undated

MS 4624 A/7 Letter from Lord Avon [Anthony Eden] to John Guest

1 folder

1975

MS 4624 A/8 Letters from Michael Ayrton to John Guest

2 docs

1975

MS 4624 A/9 Letters from Nina Bawden to John Guest

1 folder

c.1987

MS 4624 A/10 Letter from Walter Baxter to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/11 Letters from John Betjeman to John Guest

1 folder

1960s-1980s

MS 4624 A/12 Letters from Lord Birkenhead to John Guest

1 folder

1958-1975

MS 4624 A/13 Letters from Ronald Blythe to John Guest

1 folder

1979-1986

MS 4624 A/14 Letter from Dirk Bogarde to John Guest

1 doc

1989

MS 4624 A/15 Letter from Chris Bonington to John Guest

1 doc

1977

MS 4624 A/16 Letter from Basil Boothroyd to John Guest

1 doc

1971

MS 4624 A/17 Letters from Lucy M. Boston to John Guest

1 folder

c.1977-1986

MS 4624 A/18 Letters from Elizabeth Bowen to John Guest

3 docs

1949-1968

MS 4624 A/19 Letter from John Braine to John Guest

1 doc

1960

MS 4624 A/20 Letters from Arthur Bryant to John Guest

2 docs

1952

MS 4624 A/21 Letters from Dame Clara Butt to John Guest

2 docs

1924, 1932

MS 4624 A/22 Letters from Fr Philip Caraman to John Guest

4 docs

1963-1977

MS 4624 A/23 Letter from Charles Causley to John Guest

1 doc

1979

MS 4624 A/24 Letter from Elizabeth Cavendish to John Guest

1 doc

1989

MS 4624 A/25 Letters from Hester Chapman to John Guest

2 docs

1959, 1969

MS 4624 A/26 Letter from J.F.G. Chapple to John Guest

1 doc

c.1972

MS 4624 A/27 Letter from Richard Church to John Guest

1 doc

1955

MS 4624 A/28 Letter from Clementine Churchill to John Guest

1 doc

1958

MS 4624 A/29 Letter from Sam Clutton to John Guest

1 doc

1956

MS 4624 A/30 Letters from Jilly Cooper to John Guest

1 folder

1976, 1994

MS 4624 A/31 Letter from A.E. Coppard to John Guest

1 doc

1936

MS 4624 A/32 Letter from John Cornwell to John Guest

1 doc

1989

MS 4624 A/33 Letter from Bishop of Coventry to John Guest

1 doc

1963

MS 4624 A/34 Letters from Noel Coward to John Guest

2 docs

1964-1965

MS 4624 A/35 Letter from Edward Crankshaw to John Guest

1 doc

1958

MS 4624 A/36 Letters from Maurice Cranston to John Guest

2 docs

1952, 1982

MS 4624 A/37 Letter from Michael Croft to John Guest

1 doc

1954

MS 4624 A/38 Letter from Fr. M.C. D'Arcy to John Guest

1 doc

1952

MS 4624 A/39 Letter from Cecil Day Lewis to John Guest

1 doc

1968

MS 4624 A/40 Letters from Paul Dehn to John Guest

3 docs

1956-1959

MS 4624 A/41 Letters from William Delafield to John Guest

5 docs

c. 1974-1975

MS 4624 A/42 Letter from John Van Druten to John Guest [transcript of
letter]

1 doc

Undated [pre 1957]

MS 4624 A/43 Letter from Maurice Edelman to John Guest

1 doc

1959

MS 4624 A/44 Letters from T.S. Eliot to John Guest

Includes 2 letters from T.S. Eliot and 1 copy of a letter from
John Guest to T.S. Eliot

3 docs

1949, 1956

MS 4624 A/45 Letter from James G. Farrell to John Guest

1 doc

1973

MS 4624 A/46 Letter from E.M. Forster to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/47 Letter from Ernest Frost to John Guest

1 doc

1952

MS 4624 A/48 Letter from Christopher Fry to John Guest

1 doc

1949-1989

MS 4624 A/49 Letters from Roger Fulford to John Guest

4 docs

c.1949-1980

MS 4624 A/50 Letter from Dora Gaitskell to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/51 Letters from David Garnett to John Guest

2 docs

c.1966

MS 4624 A/52 Letters from John Garratt to John Guest

2 docs

1958

MS 4624 A/53 Letters from John Gielgud to John Guest

2 docs

1963

MS 4624 A/54 Letter from Daniel George to John Guest

1 doc

1950

MS 4624 A/55 Letters from Winifred Gérin to John Guest

5 docs

1978-1980

MS 4624 A/56 Letters from Stella Gibbons to John Guest

2 docs

1951

MS 4624 A/57 Letters from Anthony Godwin to John Guest

2 docs

1963

MS 4624 A/58 Letters from Martyn Goff to John Guest

2 docs

1972, 1995

MS 4624 A/59 Letter from Chloe Green to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/60 Letter from Graham Greene to John Guest

1 doc

1949

MS 4624 A/61 Letters from Vivien Greene to John Guest

2 docs

Undated

MS 4624 A/62 Letters from James Guest to John Guest

2 docs

1956-1957

MS 4624 A/63 John Guest

Includes some letters to unidentified people, list of party attendees, some notes and articles

1 folder

1960s-1980s

MS 4624 A/64 Letters from Rosalie Habgood to John Guest

1 folder

1980s-1990s

MS 4624 A/65 Letter from Sir George Rostrevor Hamilton to John Guest

1 doc

1957

MS 4624 A/66 Letters from Mollie Hamilton [M.M. Kaye] to John Guest

1 folder

1977-1987

MS 4624 A/67 Letters from Irene Handl to John Guest

1 folder

c. 1974-1986

MS 4624 A/68 Letters from Rupert Hart-Davis to John Guest

1 folder

1982-1983

MS 4624 A/69 Letters from L.P. Hartley to John Guest

1 folder

1966-1970

MS 4624 A/70 Letters from Joan Hassall to John Guest

1 folder

1950s-1980s

MS 4624 A/71 Letters from Christopher Hibbert to John Guest

1 folder

1965-1982

MS 4624 A/72 Letters from Tristram Hillier to John Guest

2 docs

1953

MS 4624 A/73 Letters from Harold Hobson to John Guest

2 docs

1959

MS 4624 A/74 Letters from Harry Hoff [William Cooper] to John Guest

3 docs

1952

MS 4624 A/75 Letters from Alan Hollinghurst to John Guest

3 docs

1988

MS 4624 A/76 Letter from Michael Holroyd to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/77 Letters from Lord Alec Home of the Hirsal to John Guest

1 folder

1978-1989

MS 4624 A/78 Letters from Lady Elizabeth Home to John Guest

1 folder

1970s-1980s

MS 4624 A/79 Letter from Mary Hyams to John Guest

1 doc

1975

MS 4624 A/80 Letter from Robert Rhodes James to John Guest

1 doc

1964

MS 4624 A/81 Letter from Storm Jameson to John Guest

1 doc

1949

MS 4624 A/82 Letters from Elizabeth Jenkins to John Guest

3 docs

1976, 1985-1986

MS 4624 A/83 Letters from C.E.M. Joad to John Guest

2 docs

1950, 1952

MS 4624 A/84 Letter from Ludovic Kennedy to John Guest

1 doc

1954

MS 4624 A/85 Letters from Moira Kennedy [Shearer] to John Guest

1 folder

1950s?

MS 4624 A/86 Letters from Sir Geoffrey Keynes to John Guest

1 folder

1967-1982

MS 4624 A/87 Letters from Francis King to John Guest

1 folder

1950-1995

MS 4624 A/88 Letters from Nigel Kneale to John Guest

1 folder

1951

MS 4624 A/89 Letter from Tony Lacey to John Guest

1 doc

1989

MS 4624 A/90 Letter from Osbert Lancaster to John Guest

1 doc

1974

MS 4624 A/91 Letter from Susan Lasdun to John Guest

1 doc

1979

MS 4624 A/92 Letters from Rosamond Lehmann to John Guest

2 docs

1956, 1974

MS 4624 A/93 Letter from John Lehmann to John Guest

1 doc

1956

MS 4624 A/94 Letters from R.G. Longman to John Guest

2 docs

1958, 1966

- MS 4624 A/95 Letter from Walter Lord to John Guest
Consists of a drawing of an aeroplane by Walter Lord,
author of A Night to Remember
1 doc
c. 1927
- MS 4624 A/96 Letters from Sir Robert Lusty to John Guest
4 docs
1958-1977
- MS 4624 A/97 Letter from Rose Macaulay to John Guest
1 doc
1958
- MS 4624 A/98 Letter from Compton Mackenzie to John Guest
1 doc
1951
- MS 4624 A/99 Letters from Sir Edward Howard Marsh to John Guest
3 docs
1948-1949

MS 4624 A/100 Letters from Kenneth Matthews to John Guest

1 folder

1976-1986

MS 4624 A/101 Letter from Robin Maugham to John Guest

1 doc

1966

MS 4624 A/102 Letter from Gavin Maxwell to John Guest

1 doc

Undated [c.1960s]

MS 4624 A/103 Letters from Peter Mayer to John Guest

2 docs

c. 1982

MS 4624 A/104 Letter from Nancy Mitford to John Guest

1 doc

1958

MS 4624 A/105 Letters from Charles Morgan to John Guest

3 docs

1954-1956

MS 4624 A/106 Letters from Raymond Mortimer to John Guest

3 docs

1964-1969

MS 4624 A/107 Letters from Lady Diana Mosley to John Guest

4 docs

1978-1982

MS 4624 A/108 Letters from Iris Murdoch to John Guest

5 docs

c.1962-1979

MS 4624 A/109 Letters from Harold Nicolson to John Guest

1 folder

1958-1990

MS 4624 A/110 Letter from Beverley Nichols to John Guest

1 doc

1953

MS 4624 A/111 Letters from John Julius Norwich, The Viscount Norwich to
John Guest

3 docs

1981, 1986

MS 4624 A/112 Letter from Ivor Novello to John Guest

1 doc

1949

MS 4624 A/113 Letter from Fr Humphrey Pawsey to John Guest

1 doc

1956

MS 4624 A/114 Letters from Esme Percy to John Guest

2 docs

1956

MS 4624 A/115 Letters from William Plomer to John Guest

1 folder

1968-1972

MS 4624 A/116 Letter from J.B. Priestley to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/117 Letter from Alan Pryce-Jones to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/118 Letter from Raja Rao to John Guest

1 doc

1957

MS 4624 A/119 Letter from J. Redwood-Anderson to John Guest

1 doc

1956

MS 4624 A/120 Letters from Mary Renault [Mary Challans] to John Guest

1 folder

1960-1983

MS 4624 A/121 Letter from Tim Rix to John Guest

1 doc

1988

MS 4624 A/122 Letters from L.T.C. Rolt to John Guest

3 docs

1954-1955

MS 4624 A/123 Letters from Tim Rose to John Guest

2 docs

1976-1978

MS 4624 A/124 Letter from Liz Rosenberg to John Guest

1 doc

1960

MS 4624 A/125 Letter from A.L. Rowse to John Guest

1 doc

1978

MS 4624 A/126 Letter from William Sansom to John Guest

1 doc

1967

MS 4624 A/127 Letters from Paul Scott to John Guest

2 docs

1977

MS 4624 A/128 Letters from Edward Seago to John Guest

3 docs

c. 1956

MS 4624 A/129 Letters from Ronald Searle to John Guest

1 folder

1952-c.1960

MS 4624 A/130 Letters from Osbert Sitwell to John Guest

4 docs

1951

MS 4624 A/131 Letters from Stevie Smith to John Guest

1 folder

c.1970-1971

MS 4624 A/132 Letters from C.P. Snow to John Guest

2 docs

1952-1953

MS 4624 A/133 Letter from Pamela [Hansford-Johnson] Snow to John
Guest

1 doc

1952-1953

MS 4624 A/134 Letters from Muriel Spark to John Guest

1 folder

1961-1963, 1994

MS 4624 A/135 Letters from Stephen Spender

1 folder

c.1949-1954

MS 4624 A/136 Letter from Howard Spring to John Guest

1 doc

1949

MS 4624 A/137 Letters from David Storey to John Guest

1 folder

1963-1994

MS 4624 A/138 Letters from A.J.A. Symons [photocopies]

1 folder

1938

MS 4624 A/139 Letters from Wilfred Thesiger to John Guest

2 docs

c. 1982

MS 4624 A/140 Letter from Anthony Thwaite to John Guest

1 doc

1981

MS 4624 A/141 Letter from Viscount Tonypandy to John Guest

1 doc

1986, 1991

MS 4624 A/142 Letter from Sir Charles Trevelyan to John Guest

1 doc

1949

MS 4624 A/143 Letter from Stephen Tumin to John Guest

1 doc

1995

MS 4624 A/144 Letters from Barry Unsworth to John Guest

1 folder

1976-1985

MS 4624 A/145 Letter from Wynford Vaughan-Thomas to John Guest

1 doc

1958

MS 4624 A/146 Letter from Doreen Wallace to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/147 Letter from Auberon Waugh to John Guest

1 doc

1970

MS 4624 A/148 Letters from Evelyn Waugh to John Guest

5 docs

Undated

MS 4624 A/149 Letter from Dame Rebecca West to John Guest

1 doc

1958

MS 4624 A/150 Letters from Laurence Whistler to John Guest

1 folder

1955-1986

MS 4624 A/151 Letter from Antonia White to John Guest

1 doc

1951

MS 4624 A/152 Letters from Thornton Wilder to John Guest

6 docs

1966

MS 4624 A/153 Letter from Sir Kyffin Williams to John Guest

1 doc

1986

MS 4624 A/154 Letter from Henry Williamson to John Guest

1 doc

1969

MS 4624 A/155 Letters from A.N. Wilson to John Guest

1 folder

1981-1988

MS 4624 A/156 Letter from Andrew Wilson to John Guest

1 doc

Undated

MS 4624 A/157 Letters from Angus Wilson to John Guest

5 docs

1956-1968

MS 4624 A/158 Letters from Harold and Mary Wilson to John Guest

2 folders

1960s-1980s

MS 4624 A/159 Letters from Dom Wulstan to John Guest

2 docs

1957

MS 4624 B/1 Index book

Compiled by T.F.S. Scott [not complete]

1 doc

1996