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## Introduction

The novelist Stephen Gilbert was born in Newcastle, County Down in July 1912. His father was William Gilbert, a Belfast seed and tea merchant. His upbringing was thoroughly middle class, and the young Gilbert was sent away to boarding schools in England and Scotland. Although he concealed a dislike of the private school experience, it was here that his budding literary talents were first made manifest. Gilbert, occasionally helped by school friends, produced *The Broadcaster*, a handwritten and illustrated digest of stories, news and essays which he would post to relatives back home. After finishing his education he worked as a reporter on the *Northern Whig* between 1931 and 1934, when he joined his father in the family associated business of Samuel McCausland Ltd. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War Gilbert joined the 3rd Ulster Searchlight Regiment serving as a gunner. He saw action in the British Expeditionary Force retreat to Dunkirk and in 1940 he was awarded the Military Medal. He was commissioned as an officer in 1941, and was moved around many barracks in England. Soon after, he was released from service to return to the McCausland's agricultural business.

Gilbert married in the mid 1940s and set up home in a farmhouse in Gilnahirk, dividing his time between business and farming. In the 1960s he was also active in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, acting as secretary to the Northern Ireland branch for two years and helping organize marches and demonstrations in support of the movement. At the time Gilbert felt that 'what was the good of all the writers, all human achievement, if there was going to be no audience'. Whilst Reid used his writing as a retreat into an Edenic dreamscape or imagined past, Gilbert feared that a horrific future would rend apart all art and civilisation. His writing incorporated the shock of the new but did not retreat from it. Themes of horror, and corruption of the natural order, seeped through his work. Although his first novel *The Landslide* (1943) was a wonder story of a lighter hue, conflict between past and present, and the antagonistic nature of modern humanity were nevertheless strong elements. His other novels were darker fantasies; *Monkeyface* (1948) told the story of an intelligent ape exploited by its human masters, whilst *The Burnaby Experiments* (1952) dealt with quasi scientific and occult researches ending in death and possession. Whilst in 1960 Gilbert felt that he 'may be finished as a writer' his most successful piece was yet to come. *Ratman's Notebooks* (1968) is a horror concerning an emotionally deadened, but embittered, youth who trains rats to attack and kill his enemies – the pied piper thus becomes a sociopath, one who would fit into the world of *A Clockwork Orange*. The book was twice made into the film *Willard*, and the book was reissued under the same title. It has also been translated into German, Italian, Dutch and Japanese.

Gilbert also wrote *Bombardier* (1944), which the playwright John Boyd considered one of the best written novels of the Second World War, and which was based on Gilbert's experiences in the British Expeditionary Force.

The Stephen Gilbert Collection is strong in terms of draft autograph and typescript manuscripts of novels and short stories, proof copies and quires, correspondence, notes, synopses, draft speeches, draft poems, juvenilia, school

reports, photographs, scrapbooks, and postcards. The correspondence includes letters written by authors such as a Walter de la Mare, George Buchanan, Forrest Reid and E M Forster.

The mechanics of, and inspiration behind, the act of creative writing is well demonstrated within the collection. The process of writing is often sharply debated in letters, and creative processes are further illuminated in the heavily revised and densely annotated drafts of works, both published and incomplete. Notebooks and transcriptions evidence the research, memory aids, and layered construction inherent in crafting prose, as notes and jottings are added to skeletal plotlines and chapter headings.

The bonds and tensions between Gilbert, and the author Forrest Reid (MS44) are also apparent within his personal papers. The two writers were friends, but being separated by almost four decades, it was a relationship of mentor and protégé, and at times, a difficult friendship.

The collection also holds complete drafts of unpublished novels such as 'The Bloody City' and 'Dear Granny and Sweet Child', also known as 'Granny Carson's Sex Fantasy' or 'Granny Carson's Diary'.

Dr. Kristian Brown, 2008



## About the Collection:

### Gilbert Collection (MS45) - Listing

The papers of novelist Stephen Gilbert (1912-2010). Includes draft autograph and typescript manuscripts of novels and short stories, proof copies and quires, correspondence, notes, synopses, draft speeches, draft poems, juvenilia, school reports, photographs, scrapbooks, and postcards. The correspondence includes letters written by authors such as a Walter de la Mare, George Buchanan, Forrest Reid and E.M. Forster.

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The following is an inventory of the items held in the Gilbert Collection.



## MS45 Outline

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### Abbreviations used:

**ACS:** autograph card signed

**ALCS:** autograph lettercard signed

**ALCU:** autograph lettercard unsigned

**ALS:** autograph letter signed

**ALU:** autograph letter unsigned

**ANU:** autograph note card unsigned

**APCS:** autograph postcard signed

**APCU:** autograph postcard unsigned

**ATr:** autograph transcript

**Ms./Mss.** Manuscript/Manuscripts

**n.d.** no date

**n.p.** no place

**p./pp.** page/pages

**TLS:** typewritten letter signed

**TLTS:** typewritten letter, typewritten signature

**TLU:** typewritten letter unsigned

**TTr:** typewritten transcript.

## **MS45/1 Correspondence**

The correspondence includes letters written by authors such as a Walter de la Mare, George Buchanan, Forrest Reid and E M Forster.

### **MS45/1/1 J D Andrews**

Letter from J D Andrews, a clergyman in Scotland.

1. 23/03/194? 14 Bright's Crescent, Newington, Edinburgh. TLS, 1 p.

### **MS45/1/2 George Buchanan**

Letters from George Buchanan

1. 31/05/1947 Roe Park, Limavady. ALS, TLS, 2 pp.  
(letter regarding volume commemorating Forrest Reid, and transcript of letter to de la Mare Re same)
2. 05/05/1951 Roe Park, Limavady. ALS, 2 pp.  
(letter regarding 'The Burnaby Experiments' interesting asides on FR's influence on Gilbert's writings)

### **MS45/1/3 Lord David Cecil (1902-1986). Scholar and biographer.**

Cecil was Professor of English Literature at New college, Oxford from 1948-1969. He was a member of the Inklings. He was very appreciative of Gilbert's work Bombardier.

1. n.d. [1943] New College, Oxford. ALS. 2 pp.
2. 22/01/1945 New College, Oxford. ALS, 2 pp.

### **MS45/1/4 Cunningham, Knox (Cunningham, Samuel (Businessman and politician, 1862-1946)**

1. 22/12/1936 n.p. ALCS, 1 p.

### **MS45/1/5 P S Dealtry**

Letters from P S Dealtry, the headmaster of The Leas school, to William Gilbert, the father of Stephen. S G was boarding at the Leas.

1. 13/02/1920 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
2. 28/03/1922 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
3. 23/06/1922 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
4. 08/12/1922 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
5. 15/12/???? The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
6. 13/01/1923 Hotel Rubens, SW1. ALS, 2 pp.
7. ?/01/1923 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 1 p.
8. ?/03/1923 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 3 pp.
9. 29/06/1923 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 4 pp.
10. 19/01/1924 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 3 pp.
11. 20/06/1924 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
12. 05/07/1924 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
13. 11/12/1924 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.

14. 28/03/1925 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
15. 04/05/1925 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.
16. 14/01/1926 The Leas, Hoylake. ALS, 2 pp.

**MS45/1/6**

**Walter de la Mare**

Letters from Walter de la Mare regarding Gilberts own writing, and the possibilities of a memorial edited work on Forrest Reid. Some MSS additions to letters, most of which have envelopes.

1. 15/09/1936 Hill House, Taplow. TLS, 2 pp.
2. 21/02/1943 The Old Park, Penn. ALS, 2 pp.
3. 10/02/1947 The Old Park, Penn. TLS, 3 pp.
4. 24/02/1947 The Old Park, Penn. ALS, 2 pp.
5. 09/03/1947 The Old Park, Penn. ALS, 2 pp.
6. 24/03/1947 The Old Park, Penn. TLS, 2 pp.
7. 19/05/1947 The Old Park, Penn. TLS, 2 pp.
8. 07/06/1947 The Old Park, Penn. ALS, 4 pp.
9. 09/06/1947 The Old Park, Penn. TLS, AMS, 2 pp.  
(significant mss additions)

**MS45/1/7**

**Gilbert, Helen**

Letters written to Helen Gilbert, mother of Stephen. Most are written in July of 1940 congratulating her on Stephen's safe evacuation from Dunkirk, and his decoration with the Military Medal.

1. 04/07/1940 33 Bedford Street, Belfast. ALS, 2 pp.  
(illegible signature)
2. 04/07/1940 6 Chlorine Gardens, Belfast. ALS, 2 pp.  
(from Nellie Stephens)
3. 04/07/1940 Lisnagreevey, Lisburn. ALS, 2 pp.  
(from J Thompson)
4. 04/07/1940 Glenburn, Cairnburn Road, Belfast. ALS, 1 p.  
(unknown signature)
5. 04/07/1940 47 Wellington Park. ALCS, 1 p.  
(from 'May and Sue')
6. 04/06/1940 11 Galwally Ave . ALCS, 1 p.  
(from 'LK')
7. 05/07/1940 Innerslaid, Cliftonville Road, Belfast. ALS, 1 p.  
(from 'T M Barr')
8. 05/07/1940 5 Downshire Park, Bangor. ALS, 2 pp.  
(from Etta Gilbert)
9. 06/07/1940 Knockmore, Cherryvalley, Knock. ALS, 1 p.  
(from 'Ethel')
10. 09/07/1940 103 Leinster Road, Dublin. ALS, 3 pp.

- (from unknown)
11. 09/07/1940 53 Belmont Ave, Donnybrook. ALS, 4 pp.  
(from E R Hoey)
  12. 19/07/1940 Sandylands, Ballyhalbert. ALS, 1p.  
(illegible signature)
  13. 14/08/1940 12 Duff Road, Houghton, Joburg . ALS, 2 pp.  
(from 'Win'. Interesting asides on wartime political disorder in S Africa)
  14. 08/01/1945 102 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta. ALS, 6 pp.  
(from Henry Gilbert. Remarks made on The Landslide and Bombardier)
  15. 27/09/1945 N.P. ALS, 8 pp.  
(from unknown. Lists wedding presents and senders, wedding telegrams, sent to Gilbert and Topsy, his wife)

**MS45/1/8**

**Stephen Gilbert**

Letters written by Stephen Gilbert. Includes letters written by the young Stephen Gilbert from his boarding schools. The letters are written to his father William, and feature numerous interesting details about his health, interests, public school life and attitudes regarding class, careers and the Empire. Envelopes for two of the letters. There are also carbons/copies of later correspondence to Knox Cunningham, regarding both mundane political matters and the acceleration towards the 'Troubles'

1. 27/01/1924 The Leas, Hoylake, Cheshire. ALS, 1 p.
2. n.d. Loretto, Musselburgh. ALS, 1 p.
3. 23/11/1928 Loretto, Musselburgh. ALS, 4 pp.
4. 26/02/1957 The Limes, Annadale Ave, Belfast. TLS, 1 p.  
(very badly damaged and stained, but mostly legible)
5. 31/07/1966 Pembroke Lodge, Dunmurray. TLS, 1 p.  
(Outlines Gilbert's fairly liberal political views, dislike of Paisley and demagogues, cold war with Republic of Ireland etc)

**MS45/1/9**

**Grandmother of Stephen Gilbert**

Letter written to the young Stephen Gilbert from his grandmother.

1. n.d. [1915/16?] Eglinton Terrace, Newcastle Co. Down. ALS, 1 p.

**MS45/1/10****James Greenlees**

Letters from James R C Greenless, the headmaster of Loretto School, to William Gilbert, the father of Stephen. S G was boarding at Loretto.

1. 25/09/1928 Loretto, Musselburgh. ALS, 5 pp.
2. 06/10/1928 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, 1 p.
3. 14/11/1928 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, 1 p.
- 08/05/1929 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, 2 p.
5. 06/06/1929 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, 2 pp.
6. 08/01/1930 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, AMS, 2 pp.  
(Manuscript pencil notes on reverse of letter)
7. 03/02/1930 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, 1 p.
8. 01/04/1930 Loretto, Musselburgh. TLS, AMS 2 pp.  
(Manuscript pencil notes on reverse of letter)
9. n.d. Hotel de FI???, Hautes Pagines. ALS, 2 pp.  
(some damage, staining to letter)

**MS45/1/11****Lyric Theatre Company**

1. 14/07/1966 Lyric Theatre, 23 Grosvenor Road, Belfast. ANCS.  
(Notecard with Mss, and Stephen Gilbert's membership season card for Lyric theatre)

**MS45/1/12****Muriel (??)**

- Letter from 'Muriel' a friend of the Gilbert family
1. 07/07/1940 16 Annesley Park, Ranelagh, Dublin. ALS, 2 pp.

**MS45/1/13****John Nixon**

Letter to the Gilbert family from relative John Nixon, a cousin of Gilbert's.

1. 01/08/1970 Albany Road, Blackridge, Pietermaritzburg. ALS, 1 p.

**MS45/1/14****Forrest Reid (1875-1947. Author, critic and friend)**

Letters from Forrest Reid to Stephen Gilbert

1. n.d. n.p. ALS, 2 pp.  
(includes enclosed ALS 1p. letter from Monkhouse to FR, dated 30/7/1931)
2. 12/08/1931 Carrickmines, Co. Dublin. ALS, 6 pp.
3. 16/08/1931 Carrickmines. ALS, 5 pp.
4. 24/12/1931 Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 5 pp.
5. 01/02/1932 n.p. ALS, 2 pp.  
(Relates to a story called 'Sea Magic' probably a draft of Brian Westby.)
6. 17/05/1932 26 Brunswick Square, London W.1.) ALS, 3 pp.
7. 22/05/1932 Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 4 pp.
8. [?/05/1932] Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 2 pp.
9. 28/05/1932 Lochinver. ALS, 3 pp.



10. 26/12/1932 Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 3 pp.
11. 01/01/1933 Brunswick Square. ALS, 7 pp.
12. 05/01/1933 Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 3 pp.
13. [?/04/1933] n.p. ALS, 4 pp.  
(less a letter, than several verses written in French)
14. 02/12/1933 Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 2 pp.
15. 06/12/1933 Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 2 pp.
16. 09/12/1933 Hill House, Taplow, Buckinghamshire. ALS, 4 pp.
17. [?/12/1933] n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(re experiment in automatic writing; also attached is memoranda) ALS, 2 pp.
18. n.d. Lochinver, Little Heath, Potters Bar. ALS, 4 pp.
19. 05/06/1935 The Meadow House, Potters Bar. ALS, 2 pp.
20. 11/06/1935 The Meadow House. ALS, 2 pp.
21. 13/06/1935 The Meadow House. ALS, 2 pp.
22. 16/06/1935 The Meadow House. ALS, 2 pp.
23. 22/07/1935 n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(Poem sent to SG on his Birthday. Entitled 'For a Birthday'.)
24. [14/04/1936] n.p. ALS, 1 p.
25. 10/05/1936 The Meadow House, Potters Bar. ALS, 3 pp.
26. 13/05/1936 The Meadow House, Potters Bar. ALS, 3 pp.
27. 17/05/1936 West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 7 pp.
28. ??/1936 n.p. APCS, 1 p.
29. 21/05/1937 Hill House, Taplow. ALS, 2 pp.
30. [03/11/1936] n.p. ALS, 1 p.
31. [17/12/1936] n.p. ALS, TLS, 2 p.  
(FR ALS note and enclosed rejection letter from Alex Glendinning to FR regarding SG's Mss. novel The Assailants. TLS, dated 14/12/1936, 1 p.)
32. [12/01/1937] n.p. ALS, 1 p.
33. 27/04/1937 26 Brunswick Square. ALS, 2 pp.
34. 01/05/1937 The Meadow House, Potters Bar. ALS, 2 pp.
35. 06/05/1937 The Meadow House, Potters Bar. ALS, 3 pp.
36. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
37. [12/08/1937] n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(appears to be letter of explanation following quarrel with SG)
38. [12/08/1937] n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(appears to be another letter of explanation following quarrel with SG, written later that same day)
39. 24/04/1938 n.p. ALS, 2 pp.  
(some notes about monsters and art of Bosch)
40. [01/05/1938] The Meadow House. ALS, 2 pp.
41. [23/12/1938] n.p. APCS, 1 p.
42. [16/08/1939] 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 1 p.
43. 23/08/1939 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 1 p.

44. 29/08/1939 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 2 pp.
45. 29/09/1939 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 4 pp.  
(contains excellent asides on Belfast society's attempts to cope with the outbreak of war – rationing, shortages, black outs, business life etc)
46. 6/10/1939 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 2 pp.
47. 27/10/1939 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 2 pp.  
(Advises SG to keep journal if he wishes to exploit his military experience in writing; FR refers to a journal he once kept. FR refers to self jokingly as animal 'More than ever I feel that I was Given the wrong shape, and was intended to go on all fours')
48. 22/04/1940 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 6 pp.
49. 03/09/1940 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, TLS, 7 pp.  
(Letter includes typescript 6 page review of SG's The Landslide.)
50. 03/12/1940 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 8 pp.  
(some interesting sections re wartime life)
51. 28/12/1940 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 10 pp.  
(contains reference to Machen's Angel of Mons and surrounding myth)
52. 11/03/1941 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 6 pp.  
(contains brief criticism of some short poems by SG inc. 'The Rats')
53. 27/03/1941 13 Ormiston Crescent, Knock. ALS, 4 pp.  
(Criticism of SG's 'The Rats'; Sketch of Hugh Shearman)
54. [19/12/1944] n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(Christmas card; enclosed is sample of wallpaper)
55. 04/07/1945 13 Ormiston Crescent. ALS, 1 p.  
(FR is replying to SG's letter announcing his engagement. It amounts to the giving of his blessing and wishes him happiness)
56. 14/03/1946 n.p. ALS, 1 p.
57. ??/1946 Roe Park. ALS, 1 p.  
(references to Hugh Shearman)
58. 26/10/1946 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 2 pp.  
(some references to forthcoming work that would become Denis Bracknell)
59. 30/10/1946 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 2 pp.  
(some references to forthcoming work that would become Denis Bracknell)
60. 14/11/1946 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 4 pp.  
(relates to his weakening health)
61. 21/11/[1946?] 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 3 pp.  
(letter from FR to SG's wife Topsy, thanking her for her offer of assistance in his convalescence)
62. 27/11/1946 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 4 pp.
63. n.d. 15 Seaview, Warrenpoint, Co. Down. ALS, 2 pp.
64. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(letter of apology to SG)
65. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
66. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.

67. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
68. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
69. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
70. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.
71. n.d. [12/1943?] n.p. ALCS, 1 p.  
(Christmas card to SG from FR. Note reads 'with love from Wolf, Procyon and Gran'papa', alluding to the characters in SG's The Landslide.)
72. n.d. n.p. ALS, 2 pp.  
(A 4 verse poem written by FR and sent to SG entitled 'The Pear Tree')
73. n.d. n.p. ALS, 1 p.  
(A 4 verse poem written by FR and sent to SG. Simply headed 'S.

**MS45/1/15**

**Robertson, John Henry (pseud. John Connell, biographer and journalist, 1909-1965)**

2 ALS. Robertson was an army major in the Directorate of Public Relations, New Delhi. He writes of Gilbert's work (The Landslide and Bombardier), and of his colonial travels in the Middle East and India.

1. 02/06/1943 Directorate of Public Relations, New Delhi. ALS, 4 pp.
2. 22/01/1945 Indian Army Public Relations, GHQ. ALS, 3 pp.

**MS45/1/16**

**Saunders, Marion (authors and publishers representative)**

1. 01/02/1945 104 East 40th Street New York. TLS, 1 p.  
(asking Gilbert if he wishes to publish short stories in USA)

**MS45/1/17**

**Smith, Grace**

1. 23/04/1964 239 Elgin Avenue W9. TLS, 1 p.

**MS45/1/18**

**Forster, E M (Author 1879 -1970)**

E.M. Forster's letters, 1936 to 1947, to Stephen Gilbert. None of the following four letters were catalogued in Mary Lago, Calendar of the Letters of E. M. Forster.

1. 31/08/1936 [date appended after signature]. No location provided. ALS, 2 pp.  
EMF responds to a recent letter from Stephen Gilbert\* thanking EMF for his advice on revising the MS of The Assailants (see MS44/1/22/173 and MS44/1/22/174). EMF offers some further advice on the treatment of a number of characters. For instance, EMF critiques Gilbert's employment of a pair of maiden aunts: 'For one thing there are scarcely any aunts left – I don't think I know anyone who retains a maiden pair keeping house jointly – so that their introduction has rather the air of a literary device, and shouldn't be emphasised.' EMF concludes with some advice about adolescent diction: 'My little cousin (aged 14) came over the other day, and I watched him with an eye to your diction. The sort of thing he did was to go up to some posts which were connected by chains, shake the chains, discover that some of the links were more worn than others, and then exclaim in tones of intense excitement "I say! Jolly interesting!" No doubt he is particularly foolish, still he confirmed my suspicion that

your boys talk and behave too much like little men. Some touches of silliness would inform them!

2. 24/02/1943 West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2 pp. (envelope included)  
EMF thanks Stephen Gilbert\* 'for sending me your Legend [The Landslide, 1943]. Also for your letter, which arrived next day, and by then I had almost finished the book. I think that it is a lovely idea, and that you attacked the technical difficulties involved with skill. One problem, of course, was that of conversation outside of speech; if I had been tackling this I should probably have stylised the animals' talk, and also cut it down in length.' EMF continues by declaring he 'thought the dream better than the drama: that is to say the coming of the animals, their meditations, and the jungle-valley were excellent, but their fight with the men was too slow in developing, and never quite got underway.' EMF playfully states: 'I mentioned the book to my two cats, naturally. They replied that they had read it many years ago, and then fell into a still profounder sleep. Cats are so bad at discussing literature.' EMF asks Gilbert to relay greetings to FR and promises Gilbert he will mention The Landslide in 'my book-talk to India next week.' EMF also enquires after Knox Cunningham\* and says that 'I was so surprised to see that he was standing for Parliament, and both surprised and sorry to see that he failed.'
3. 17/03/1943 West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 1 p. (envelope included)  
EMF thanks Stephen Gilbert\* for a recent 'interesting letter' and responds with an enclosure that Gilbert is to share with FR (enclosure missing, but presumably the text of a broadcast talk on a handful of books). EMF comments on Knox Cunningham's\* political fortunes (see MS45/1/18/2): 'I had no idea that Knox was such a politician and agree with you in wishing that he stood upon a different platform.' EMF concludes with playful remarks about the cats (see MS45/1/18/2). EMF's postscript relates to the missing enclosure and shows his sensitivity to contemporary Northern Irish identity politics: 'Please excuse "Irishman" if it is not a right description: I put it in for the sake of focusing the Indian audience on the fact that the book isn't an English one.'
4. 04/04/1947 King's College, Cambridge. ALS, 2 pp. (envelope included)  
EMF acknowledges receipt of 'kind letter' from Stephen Gilbert\* and the gift of a bowl from FR's estate. EMF declares that the bowl 'now stands on the old family mantelpiece designed seventy years ago by my father [see MS44/1/22/217]. I am much moved and pleased by it, and value it greatly.' EMF writes to Gilbert 'as Forrest Reid's executor' and enquires 'if there should be any question of parting with any of [FR's books] – particularly the Henry James' – would you let me know.' EMF mentions plans regarding 'going to America on the 14th for a couple of months' but would like to see Gilbert in Cambridge or London upon his return. In a postscript EMF mentions the inscription he would like to have engraved on FR's bowl that Gilbert has just sent to him: 'I think that I shall have a further inscription put on the bowl: "From F.R. to E.M.F. 1947," perhaps.'

## **MS45/2        Drafts and Proofs**

**Drafts and proofs of published works by Gilbert. There are also many manuscript and typescript drafts of unpublished or unfinished material by Gilbert.**

### **MS45/2/1                The Assailants [1936]**

n.d. [1936?]

'The Assailants'.

Autograph manuscript draft.

Story relates to a boyhood experiences in public boarding school including themes of violence and revenge. \*EM Forster comments on the draft in letters to Reid (MS44/1/47) and Gilbert (MS45/1)\*

61 Chapters.

Heavily corrected and revised in manuscript.

Each chapter separately paginated.

695 pp.

### **MS45/2/2                McComb's [19??]. Multiple drafts.**

1.        n.d. [19??]

'McComb's'.

Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.

Autograph manuscript draft.

Corrected and revised in manuscript.

Each chapter separately paginated.

27 chapters. Several pages virtually destroyed by vermin.

c.400 pp.

2.        n.d. [19??]

[McCombs]

Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.

Autograph manuscript draft. Second draft.

Corrected and revised in manuscript.

Plot and character notes also attached.

Each chapter separately paginated.

11 chapters.

c. 300 pp.

3.        n.d. [19??]

[McCombs]

Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.

Autograph and typescript manuscript draft, but very fragmentary and disjointed.

Corrected and revised in manuscript.

Each section separately paginated.

c.400 pp.

4. n.d. [19??] [McCombs]  
 Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.  
 Autograph manuscript draft, but very fragmentary and disjointed.  
 Some pages typescript.  
 Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
 Each section separately paginated.  
 c.220 pp.
5. n.d. [19??] [McCombs]  
 Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.  
 Autograph manuscript draft, but very fragmentary and disjointed.  
 Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
 Each section separately paginated.  
 c.350 pp.
6. n.d. [19??] [McCombs]  
 Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.  
 Autograph manuscript draft, but very fragmentary and disjointed.  
 Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
 Each section separately paginated.  
 c.350 pp.
7. n.d [19??] [McCombs]  
 Draft story relating to business life in Belfast.  
 Autograph manuscript draft, but very fragmentary and disjointed.  
 Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
 Each section separately paginated.  
 Gilbert has made notes concerning his wife's criticism of the story through the draft.  
 This may be the final version of the draft; a comment on the final page reads 'End of it all right'  
 92 pp.

**MS45/2/3**

**The Girl Who Made Mistakes - a Farcical Tragedy**

1. n.d. [1950s] Incomplete draft for a play, set in an office.  
 Also titled *Wanted a Young Lady*  
 Autograph manuscript draft in ink.  
 Includes character notes.  
 Corrected and Revised in manuscript.  
 49 pp.

2. n.d. [1950s] 'The Girl Who Made Mistakes'  
Fragmentary draft of a story, presumably a novelisation of MS45/2/3/1. First few beginning pages only.  
Autograph manuscript draft in ink.  
Corrected and revised in manuscript  
8 pp.

**MS45/2/4**

**Untitled Story**

1. Fragmentary draft of untitled novel or novella, first three chapters only.  
Story is set in rural parish, and main protagonist is a clergyman.  
Autograph manuscript, with 15 pages in typescript.  
Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
72 pp.

**MS45/2/5**

***The Landslide***

1. [1936/7] *The Landslide.*  
First draft of novel.  
Autograph manuscript in ink, with some pages in typescript.  
Includes plot synopses and character notes.  
Also illustration of animal character, reference material on exorcism rite.  
Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
c.330 pp.
2. 1937 *The Landslide.*  
Second draft of novel.  
Autograph manuscript in ink  
Includes plot synopses and character notes.  
Corrected and revised in manuscript.  
c.320 pp.
3. 1937 *The Landslide.*  
Draft of novel. Typescript manuscript.  
Many corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
259 pp.

**MS45/2/6**

***Bombardier***

1. 1944  
Typescript of Gilbert's semi-autobiographical novel of service in wartime France.  
Typescript manuscript.  
Many corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Some water staining in middle sections (pp250-300). In later sections (from p300 approx.) larger degree of water and mould damage; some vermin damage.  
c. 400 pp

**MS45/2/7****Monkeyface**

1. [1947] Monkeyface  
Autograph manuscript in ink. Probably final draft.  
Many corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
There are also attached ideas, notes and self-criticism relating to chapters 26 and 27 written in pencil on small notepaper.  
Note on original box read 'Monkeyface final MS. First draft contained 65 chapters but was rejected completely. It was told through Michael. Begun Autumn 1942 finished 31/8/1947'  
c.340 pp.
2. 1948 Monkeyface  
Typescript manuscript.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
321 pp.

**MS45/2/8****The Burnaby Experiments**

1. n.d. [1950] [The Burnaby Experiments.]  
Probably first draft.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Parts of MS are fragmentary. Original order of papers preserved, but display evidence of shuffling/re-ordering.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Attached is an 11pp chapter by chapter synopsis of the novel.  
80 pp.
2. n.d. [1950] [The Burnaby Experiments.]  
Early draft. Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Parts of MS are fragmentary. Original order of papers preserved, but display evidence of shuffling/re-ordering.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
c.250 pp.
3. n.d. [1950] The Burnaby Experiments.  
Early draft. Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Includes numerous drafts of title/title page.  
Parts of MS are fragmentary. Original order of papers preserved, but display evidence of shuffling/re-ordering.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
c.300 pp.



4. n.d. [1950?] The Burnaby Experiments.  
Typewritten manuscript.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
c.366 pp.

5. 1952 The Burnaby Experiments.  
Unbound proof copy quires of the novel.  
Corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Some pages display vermin damage.  
272 pp.

**MS45/2/9 Screwey – The Biography of a Mystic.**

1. n.d.[1952] Screwey – The Biography of a Mystic.  
Early draft of The Burnaby Experiments.  
Another provisional title is 'Acrostic'.  
Autograph manuscript.  
Manuscript corrections and revisions.  
c. 400 pp.

**MS45/2/10 Ratman's Notebooks**

1. 1967 [Ratman's Notebooks].  
Early draft[s]. Autograph manuscript in ink.  
MS is fragmentary. Original order of papers preserved, but display evidence of shuffling/re-ordering.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
46 pp.

2. 1967 *Ratman's Notebooks.*  
Early draft[s]. Typewritten in ink.  
MS is fragmentary. Original order of papers preserved, but display evidence of shuffling/re-ordering.  
Many corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
c. 90 pp.

3. [1967] *Ratman's Notebooks.*  
Typewritten manuscript.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
The ending is slightly different from the published version.  
278 pp.

4. [1967] *Ratman's Notebooks.*  
Typescript manuscript.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
278 pp.

5. [1967] *Ratman's Notebooks.*  
Carbon of typescript manuscript above.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
278 pp.

**MS45/2/11**

***Samuel Gaston***

1. n.d. *Samuel Gaston*  
Story about young man growing up in a middle class Belfast family.  
Draft of unfinished novel. Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Includes character notes and chapter synopses.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Possibly written in late 1940s.  
127 pp.

**MS45/2/12**

***Micky, Kathleen and Frank***

1. n.d. Themes of Republican political violence, and sectarian tensions, set in rural Ulster.  
Possibly inspired by Border campaign of the 1950s.  
Partial and highly fragmentary draft of unfinished novel.  
Autograph and typescript manuscript.  
15 pages in typescript.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
43 pp.

**MS45/2/13**

***They Have Their Reward.***

1. n.d. [1950s] Draft unpublished novel.  
In a note Gilbert defined one of the themes as "Businessmen from whom the face of Christ is Hidden"  
A story of upper middle class social and business life, adoption and family secrets.  
Set in 1930s and 40s.  
Typescript and autograph manuscript.  
Plot synopsis in autograph.  
Various other titles for the piece are suggested on the first page.  
Notes, corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
94 pp.

**MS45/2/14*****The Bloody City***

1. n.d. [1970-71] Draft of unpublished novel set against the emerging conflict in 1960s Belfast.  
Themes of political violence and sexuality.  
Many descriptions of civil disorder etc.  
Typescript manuscript.  
Notes corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Autograph note on original box read  
'First full draft in novel form though not quite finished'  
289 pp.
2. 1971 Draft of unpublished novel set against the emerging conflict in 1960s Belfast.  
Themes of political violence and sexuality.  
Many descriptions of civil disorder etc.  
Typescript manuscript.  
Notes corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Autograph note on original box read  
"1" version. Frank = "1". Finished Autumn 1971'  
402 pp.

**MS45/2/15*****Dear Granny and Sweet Child***

1. 1974 Draft of unpublished novel set against the emerging conflict in Belfast.  
A story of recaptured youth and reawakening sexuality.  
Typescript manuscript.  
Notes corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
Title pages stained.  
343 pp.
2. 1974 Second version. This version titled *Granny Carson's Diary*.  
Title page further reads '(From a manuscript found in a bag at Belfast Airport after a bomb scare). Slightly abridged by Stephen Gilbert'.  
Carbon copy of typescript manuscript.  
Notes corrections and revisions in manuscript.  
311 pp.

**MS45/ 2/16*****Nature Suppressed***

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'Nature Suppressed'.  
Incomplete typescript draft of three novel chapters.  
Corrected in MSS  
29 pp.

**MS45/2/17****The First Day of Summer**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'The First Day of Summer'.  
Short story. Autograph draft manuscript in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
18 pp.
2. n.d. [1930s?] 'The First Day of Summer'.  
Short story. Typed draft manuscript in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
7 pp.

**MS45/2/18/****The Seagull and the Hens**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'The Seagull and the Hens'  
Short story. Autograph draft manuscript in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
8 pp.
2. n.d. [1930s?] 'The Seagull and the Hens'  
Short story. Draft typed manuscript.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
Some vermin damage on top right corner.  
4 pp.

**MS45/2/19****For Sale**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'For Sale'.  
Short story. Autograph draft manuscript in pencil.  
Story told from a dog's eye view. The runt of the litter is put down.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
18 pp.
2. n.d. [1930s?] 'For Sale'  
Short story. Draft typed manuscript.  
Story told from a dog's eye view. The runt of the litter is put down.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
4 pp.

**MS45/2/20****The Water Sprites**

1. n.d. [1930s] 'The Water Sprites'. Short story. Autograph manuscript in ink.  
A story recounting boyhood love of nature.  
Some corrections in manuscript.  
4 pp.

2. n.d. [1930s] Fragmentary sections of text which made their way into  
'The Water Sprites' short story.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
1 p.

**MS45/2/21****The Cloud**

1. n.d. [1930s] 'The Cloud'. Short story. A homesick schoolboy imagines himself travelling through the sky to home.  
Typescript draft, with 2 pp of appended  
Manuscript notes in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
6 pp.

**MS45/2/22****The Red Curtain**

1. n.d. [1930s] 'The Red Curtain'. Short story.  
A convalescent boy communicates with the dead.  
Manuscript draft in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
Some vermin damage, but most text legible. Some rust staining.  
12 pp.

**MS45/2/23****Untitled**

1. n.d. [1930s] Fragmentary draft of untitled short story.  
In waking sleep, an older man's consciousness seems to flit periodically into that of a teen aged boy.  
Manuscript draft in pencil.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
6 pp.

**MS45/2/24****The Cat**

1. n.d. [1930s] 'The Cat'. Short story.  
A story of a family pet's urban existence, told from the cat's eye view.  
Typescript draft.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
6 pp.

**MS45/2/25****Outward Bound**

1. n.d. [1930s] 'Outward Bound'. Short Story.  
A boy on his school holidays falls in love with the sea.  
Typescript draft.  
Corrected in manuscript.
2. n.d. [1930s] 'Outward Bound'. Short Story.  
A boy on his school holidays falls in love with the sea.  
Autograph manuscript draft.  
Corrected in Manuscript.  
4 pp.

**MS45/2/26****Untitled**

1. n.d. [1940s?] Untitled. Short story, or perhaps fragment of longer work.  
Vignette of office life in a small firm. A middle aged businessman is resentful of his wife, and causes unease amongst his staff.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
10 pp.

**MS45/2/27****Untitled**

1. n.d. [1940s?] Untitled. Fragment from a short story.  
Appears to be first draft of MS45/2/B12  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
2 pp.

**MS45/2/28****Untitled**

1. n.d. [1930s] Untitled. Short story.  
A boy visits his sickly grandfather in his country Mansion. The house is haunted by apparitions of a sadistic Lord.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
32 pp.

**MS45/2/29****Untitled**

1. n.d. [1940s] Untitled. Short story/vignette.  
Story concerns routine operations of an Army searchlight detachment.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
4 pp.

2. n.d. [1940s] **Untitled. Short story/vignette.**  
Story concerns routine operations of an Army searchlight detachment  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrected in manuscript.  
Originally held in Reid MS44/1/47, but not attached to any correspondence.  
2 pp.

**MS45/2/30**

**A Dream?**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'A Dream?' Short story with accompanying publisher's  
Rejection letter. Story concerns dreamlike political rebellion  
Or revolution. Fragmentary text, much vermin damage.  
Typescript text, and typescript letter signed.  
3 pp.

**MS45/2/31**

**Up Perilous Stairs**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'Up Perilous Stairs'. Draft first chapter of possible novel.  
Boyhood story set in Northern Ireland in early 1920s. Interesting insights on social world and  
political upheavals of that period.  
Autograph Manuscript in pencil.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
57 pp.

**MS45/2/32**

**Up Perilous Stairs**

1. n.d. [1930s?] 'Up Perilous Stairs'. Three draft chapters of possible novel.  
Boyhood story set in Northern Ireland in early 1920s. Interesting insights on social world and  
political upheavals of that period.  
Typescript and Autograph Manuscript in pencil.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
74 pp.

**MS45/2/33**

**Untitled Draft Chapter**

1. n.d. [1930s] Draft chapter of untitled novel  
The draft appears to have similarities, and been  
A precursor to the 'Ratman's Notebooks' plot.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
4 pp.

**MS45/2/34****Untitled Draft**

1. n.d. [1940s?] Draft chapters of Untitled Novel.  
Two chapters. The draft appears to have similarities, and been a precursor to the 'Ratman's Notebooks' plot.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
13 pp.

**MS45/2/35****Untitled Draft**

1. n.d. [1940s] Draft Chapters of Untitled Novel  
Part One, Eleven chapters. The plot closely resembles 'Ratman's Notebooks' in plot characterization and tone. However, the characters names are different and it is written in the third person.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
89 pp.

2. n.d. [1940s] Draft Chapters of Untitled Novel  
Part Two, Eleven chapters. The plot closely resembles 'Ratman's Notebooks' in plot, characterization and tone. However, the characters names are different and it is written in the third person.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text. 52 pp.

**MS45/2/36****Untitled Draft**

1. n.d. [1940s] Partial draft of untitled story bearing similarities to *Ratman's Notebooks*.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
Some pages may be missing.  
7 pp.

**MS45/2/37****Untitled Draft**

1. n.d. [1940s] Partial draft of untitled story.  
Story is first person narrative, concerning a Middle class boy and mother who struggle to make ends meet following the death of the father.  
Although no year is given, each of the five chapters is dated between Jan and April.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
23 pp.



**MS45/2/38****Illyria**

1. 1938  
First opening drafts of story possibly entitled 'Illyria'.  
Fragmentary.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
Dated 20th November 1938.  
2 pp.
  
2. 1938  
Partial drafts of story possibly entitled 'Illyria'  
Story concerns a young reporter. Reference made to reporting of police courts, thieves, prostitutes and political criminals.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Manuscript corrections in text.  
Dated 20th November 1938.  
11 pp.

**MS45/2/39****Untitled Draft Story**

1. n.d. [1930s?]  
Fragments of draft short story.  
Story seems to be of magical, visionary type.  
Autograph manuscript in pencil.  
Un-paginated. Some vermin damage.  
4 pp.

**MS45/2/40****Never Again**

1. n.d. [1930s]  
'Never Again'. Draft short story.  
A student spies a lost childhood friend at an exam.  
Autograph manuscript in pencil.  
Some manuscript corrections.  
Also some shorthand notation on first page.  
Originally held in Reid MS44/1/47, but not attached to any correspondence.  
13 pp.

## MS45/3 Poetry

Draft manuscript and typescript poems by Gilbert, largely unpublished. Includes 'The Rats' which influenced Gilbert's novel 'Ratman's Notebooks'.

### MS45/3/1

#### Poems 1

1. 1940-1946 Bundle of unpublished poems  
Typescript drafts of twelve poems, loose leaf and unbound.  
Titles include 'The Rats' (1941), 'The Sentry' (1940), 'Dream of Dreams' (1940), 'The Victim' (1943), 'The Toad' (1943), 'The Lost Land' (1946). Others untitled.  
Typescripts manuscript. Some corrections in manuscript.  
12 pp.

### MS45/3/2

#### Poems 2

1. n.d. [1930s?] Four draft poems, written on small notepaper.  
Five leaves in total. Different sizes.  
All poems untitled.  
Three are in autograph ink manuscript, one is in pencil.  
Some corrections in manuscript.  
5 pp.

### MS45/3/3

#### Poems 3

1. n.d. [1930s?] 10 draft poems. All poems untitled.  
Many of the poems are fragmentary, with many corrections.  
Nine poems are in autograph pencil manuscript, one is in ink. Also includes heavily corrected and fragmentary poems jotted down on a backing board.  
11 pp.

### MS45/3/4

#### Poems 4

1. n.d. [1940s?] 8 Draft poems by Stephen Gilbert.  
7 poems are in autograph manuscript in ink, one is in pencil.  
Titles include 'The Cry of a Lost Soul', 'The Sighing Sea', 'Glenagivney and Belfast'. Others are untitled. One untitled piece is annotated 'Written at Lille Aerodrome...in intervals of firing a Lewis gun, chiefly at Messerschmidt fighters. 19/5/1940'.  
Some corrections in manuscript.  
Poems are unbound, of loose leaves.  
9 pp.

**MS45/3/5****Poems 5**

1. 1940-1946

10 Draft poems by Stephen Gilbert.

9 poems are in autograph manuscript in ink, one is in pencil.

Titles include 'While All the World is Tumbling Down' (1940), 'The Kingdom of My Mind' (No Date), 'In My Eyrie' (No Date), 'Typing' (No Date), 'Red Blossoms on the Hawthorn Tree' (1943), 'The Victim' (1943), 'The Lost Land' (1946). Others are untitled.

Some corrections in manuscript.

Poems are unbound, of notepaper sized loose leaves.

10 pp.

**MS45/3/6****Poems 6**

2 Typewritten draft poems by Stephen Gilbert

1. 1940

'While All the world is Tumbling Down'

Typewritten manuscript.

Some rust staining on paper.

1 pp.

2. [1940]

'The Sentry'

Typewritten Manuscript.

Some rust staining on paper.

1 pp.

**MS45/3/7****Poems 7**

1. n.d. [1940s]

6 draft poems by Stephen Gilbert.

5 poems are in autograph manuscript in pencil,

one is in ink. All are untitled. Some corrections in manuscript.

Poems are unbound, of notepaper sized loose leaves.

7 pp.

**MS45/4****Notes and Synopses**

Story and character notes and chapter synopses for published and unpublished works by Gilbert.

**MS45/4/1****The Happy Island (1936)**

1. n.d. [1936?] 'The Happy Island'.  
Synopsis of a story variously titled 'The Happy Island', 'The Lighthouse' and 'The Lighthouse Keeper'.  
Concerns the relations between a tourist, a lighthouse keeper and his son, and the details of life on a remote Irish island.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
5 pp.
  
2. 1936 Detailed chapter synopses of 'The Happy Island' story.  
Concerns the relations between a tourist, a lighthouse keeper and his son, and the details of life on a remote Irish island.  
Plotted for 13 chapters. Also attached are a fragmentary 3 pp. of the story's draft introduction, dated 15th September 1936.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Numerous corrections in manuscript  
6 pp.

**MS45/4/2****Arcos (1930s)**

1. n.d. [1930s] *Arcos*  
Synopsis of a story titled 'Arcos', Concerns the development from childhood to manhood of a sensitive individual, his relations with his family and lovers, and his changing attitudes towards sex, love and religion.  
Includes character sketches, and description of some scenes.  
Autograph manuscript in ink.  
Corrections in manuscript.  
12 pp.

**MS45/4/3****Notes on *The Landslide***

1. n.d. [1940s] Notes on *The Landslide*  
Gilbert's notes re revision of his novel  
*The Landslide*, includes advice from George [Birmingham?].  
Autograph manuscript in pencil.  
1 p.

**MS45/4/4****Plot Synopsis for Untitled Novel.**

1. n.d. [1940s?]

Plot Synopsis for Untitled Novel.

Plot relates to a youth who is forced to work for an oppressive employer, in order to support his family, following the death of his father.

Some similarities to 'Ratman's Notebooks' plot.

Autograph manuscript in pencil.

Many corrections in manuscript.

2 pp.

**MS45/4/5****Synopsis of *Rattigan's Diary*.**

1. [1938]

Plot synopses for *Rattigan's Diary*

Various titles *The Ratman Takes Control* or *Rattigan Takes Control*. Plot closely follows 'Ratman's Notebooks' but with crucial differences. Character names are different; the 'Ratman' is at once more sympathetic and put upon, and more embittered, vengeful and murderous. The tone is more apocalyptic and horrific, Rattigan plots a war against humanity, and humanity reacts with machine guns, armoured cars and electric fencing.

Detailed plot synopses, including some dialogue and scene description.

Dated 2nd December 1938.

Autograph manuscript in pencil.

Manuscript corrections.

Some minor staining and tearing.

14 pp.

**MS45/4/6****Synopsis of Untitled Story**

1. n.d. [1940s?]

Plot Synopsis of Untitled Story.

Story synopsis is an early draft of 'Ratman's Notebooks' but with crucial differences, in terms of characterization and plot development. Also various notes and fragmentary dialogue, scene sketches etc.

Autograph manuscript in ink.

Manuscript corrections.

Some minor staining and tearing.

31 pp.

**MS45/4/7****Notes on Rats and Other Rodents**

1. n.d. [1940s]

Detailed research notes on rats and other rodents, as made by Gilbert.

Includes facts on habits, biology, appearance of Brown and Black rats in particular, together with reports of their attacks on humans and other animals, methods of extermination etc.

Notes on colourful stories, and 'urban myths' re rats.

Autograph manuscript in pencil.

Manuscript corrections.

Some minor staining and tearing.

9 pp.

## **MS45/5 Photograph Albums and Scrapbooks**

**Photograph albums showing Gilbert family circle and friends. Scrapbooks featuring many magazine pictures.  
Loose photographs of Forrest Reid and E M Forster.**

### **MS45/5/1 Photograph Album 1**

1. n.d. [1920?] Photograph Album which belonged to Stephen Gilbert.  
Contains 31 sepia toned black and white.  
Photographs relating to Gilbert's family, pets and holidays.  
Autograph manuscript notes.  
Possibly produced around 1920.  
10 pp.

### **MS45/5/2 Photograph Album 2**

1. n.d. [1920?] Photograph Album which belonged to Stephen Gilbert.  
Contains 70 sepia toned black and white photographs relating to Gilbert's family, pets and holidays.  
Possibly produced around early 1920s.  
14 pp.

### **MS45/5/3 Scrapbook 1**

1. n.d. [1910s?] Scrapbook 1.  
Scrapbook featuring numerous cut and pasted magazine pictures of many themes.  
?? pp.

### **MS45/5/4 Scrapbook 2**

1. n.d. [1910s?] Scrapbook 2  
Scrapbook featuring numerous cut and pasted magazine pictures of many themes.  
?? pp.

**MS45/5/5****Assorted Loose Photographs**

1. [1930s] Kodak film wallet containing 5 small photographs.  
2 of the photographs are of Forrest Reid. Others appear to relate to a seaside excursion.
2. n.d. Black and white photograph of unidentified woman.  
Probably relation of Gilbert's taken circa 1915-1920.  
Held in brown and white card envelope.
3. n.d. Black and white photograph of dog in a garden. Probably Gilbert family pet.  
Held in white card envelope.
4. n.d. Black and white photograph of E M Forster and Forrest Reid.  
Taken circa 1920s?. good condition.
5. n.d. Kodak film wallet containing 8 small photographs.  
1 of the photographs is of Forrest Reid. Others feature domestic Servants, Gilbert family members (?) and pets.



## **MS45/6 Postcards**

**Substantial collection of postcards, many of which were sent to Gilbert as a child. Scenic and patriotic themes, v. typical of the period (c. 1915-1920)**

### **MS45/6 Postcard Collection**

Postcards sent to or collected by Stephen Gilbert.

106 postcards. Most with manuscript.

Many of holiday/seaside, patriotic/wartime or animal theme.

From 1915-1921.

Most of the postcards have manuscript notation and when addressed to the young Stephen Gilbert typically reference childlike themes.

Other postcards are addressed to members of Gilbert's extended family.

Postcards were originally housed in bound blue postcard album.

## **MS45/7 Juvenilia and Related Documentation**

**Handwritten and hand drawn newsletter *The Broadcaster* produced by Gilbert, and associated school reports and exam papers.**

### **MS45/7/1**

#### ***The Broadcaster***

1920s

There are 27 hand drawn and written issues of *The Broadcaster* magazine. Only one copy of each periodical was produced.

*The Broadcaster* was produced by the young Stephen Gilbert, and some friends, whilst he was boarding in schools in England and Scotland (The Leas, Hoylake and Loretto, Musselburgh, Midlothian).

He sent *The Broadcaster* home, to keep his family updated of recent events whilst at school, and the periodical also included creative writing such as short stories and adventure serials, as well as illustrations and commentary on wider vents of the day.

All the issues are undated, but would have been produced in the early to mid-1920s.

### **MS45/7/2**

#### **School Reports - The Leas**

11/1922-07/1925

18 School reports for Stephen Gilbert from The Leas school Hoylake.

### **MS45/7/2**

#### **School Reports - Loretto School**

12/1925-Spring 1930

14 School reports for Stephen Gilbert from Loretto school Musselburgh.

### **MS45/7/3**

#### **Common Examination for Entrance to Public Schools**

06/1925

11 papers relating to this examination process from June 1925. Subjects include – Latin, English History, Arithmetic, Algebra, French, Scripture, Geography, etc. etc.

### **MS45/7/4**

#### **Prospectus of Loretto School .**

01/1924

Prospectus for Stephen Gilbert's public school. Some staining on cover. 14 pp



**MS45/8        Miscellanea**

**Miscellaneous personal documentation belonging to Gilbert.**

**MS45/8/1                Military Documentation**

1.        1939                Soldier's Service and Pay Book  
Stephen Gilbert's service book relating to his service in the Reserve.  
20pp.
  
2.        1939                Army Form B279  
Notice to be Given on Enlistment in the Militia
  
3.        1940                Certificate of Discharge  
Certificate of Discharge for Gilbert, having been appointed to a Commission. 13 December 1940
  
4.        1939                Certified Copy of Attestation – Army Reserve  
Gilbert's attestation form for Royal Regiment of Artillery.

**MS45/8/2                Draft Address for Forrest Reid Commemoration, 1952.**

Two copies of the speech which SG delivered at memorial event for Forrest Reid, 10th October 1952.

1.        1952                Draft typescript 5 page address by Stephen Gilbert.
  
2.        1952                Draft typescript 5 page address by Stephen Gilbert.

**MS45/8/3                Assorted Fragments and Paper Scraps from the Stephen Gilbert Archive.**

Brief notes, torn manuscript, of very transient nature.  
6 items.

**MS45/8/4                Cigarette holder.**

Amber cigarette holder and case, belonging to Stephen Gilbert

**MS45/8/5                Programme and Flyers**

11/06/2015                Book launch of The Bloody City by Stephen Gilbert edited with an introduction by Andrew Doyle. Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

## Appendix 1

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