

**Brian G Caraher and Emma Hegarty**

**Forster Correspondence MS44/1/22**

**Edward Morgan Forster**

(British novelist and essayist, 1879-1970)

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The Edward Morgan Forster – Forrest Reid (1875-1947) correspondence covers a period of thirty-four and a half years (31<sup>st</sup> January 1912 – 18<sup>th</sup> August 1946) and includes 217 letters and cards from E.M. Forster, many of which deal directly and at length with literary and cultural matters. These very revealing and personal letters are indicative of the high esteem in which E.M. Forster held Forrest Reid. The letters contain detailed discussions considering the role of the arts, expose Forster's insecurities and anxiety regarding his creative output, and provide insight into the conception and development of hugely significant literary works, not only by Forster and Reid but numerous established and new writers in the early part of the twentieth century. Such works include Forster's *A Passage to India* (1924), which helped to shape Anglophone literary modernism, and *Maurice*, his homoerotic novel published posthumously in 1971. The honest and serious discussions of homosexuality at a time when these matters could have been the focus of public scandal or prosecution, the impact and social consequences of two World Wars on literary figures and cities such as Belfast and London, and the bearing and significance of social and political crises such as the Third Irish Home Rule Bill and Irish Partition are of particular sociological and historical interest across these letters.

While 209 of these letters have been mentioned, not infrequently with various errors in detail and dates, in a published list of correspondence (see Mary Lago's *Calendar of the Letters of E.M. Forster*, 1985), only eleven have been published (sometimes with errors in transcription) in the two-volume Collins edition of *Selected Letters of E. M. Forster* (1983, 1985) and the Belknap Press/ Harvard UP edition of *Selected Letters of E. M. Forster, Volume I, 1879-1920* (1983) & *Volume II, 1921-1970* (1985), jointly edited by Mary Lago and P. N. Furbank.

This catalogue will describe and annotate briefly all 217 letters and cards written to Forrest Reid by E.M. Forster. The catalogue also includes four additional letters written to Forrest Reid's friend and protégé, Stephen Gilbert, who acted as Reid's literary executor following the latter's death on 4th January 1947. This catalogue will use the abbreviations EMF and FR for Forster and Reid respectively. A list of additional abbreviations follows immediately below.

**Abbreviations:**

**ACS:** autograph card signed

**ALCS:** autograph lettercard signed

**ALS:** autograph letter signed

**APCS:** autograph postcard signed

**APCU:** autograph postcard unsigned

**SL, EMF:** *Selected Letters of E.M. Forster*. Edited by P.N. Furbank and Mary Lago.

**TLS:** typewritten letter signed

### List of friends and acquaintances frequently mentioned in the correspondence:

Throughout the correspondence between E.M. Forster and Forrest Reid frequent references are made to the following acquaintances and literary figures:

**Ackerley, Joe Randolph ('Joe'):** (1896-1967), employee of the BBC, writer and literary editor (*The Listener*), friend of EMF.

**Buckingham, May (née Hockey):** (1908-?), wife of Robert Buckingham.

**Buckingham, Robert Joseph ('Bob'):** (1904-75), police constable, close friend of EMF (from 1930 until Forster's death).

**Cunningham, Sir Samuel Knox ('Knox'):** (1909-77), Northern Irish barrister, businessman and politician, friend of FR.

**Daley, Harry:** (1901-71), police constable, acquaintance of EMF.

**De la Mare, Walter:** (1873-1956), poet, fiction writer, friend of FR and EMF.

**Dickinson, Goldsworthy Lowes:** (1862-1932), scholar, friend of EMF.

**Hart, J.N.:** Close friend of FR, with whom Reid frequently stayed, in Potter's Bar, during his trips to England.

**Gilbert, Stephen:** (1912- ), Northern Irish novelist, friend and literary executor of FR.

**Hamilton, Kenneth:** (1904-27?), sailor for the Merchant Service, friend of FR (with whom Reid compiled and edited *Kenneth's Magazine* – see **MS44/2** for originals) but who apparently disappeared without a trace in Australia in his early twenties.

**James, Henry:** (1843-1916), American novelist, became a British citizen in 1916.

**Masood, Syed Ross:** (1889-1937), lawyer, friend of EMF (who was his tutor in Latin before Masood attended Oxford).

**Mauron, Charles:** (1899-1966), French writer and translator of Forster's *A Passage to India* (1924), close friend of Forster (married to Marie Mauron).

**Meredith, Hugh Owen:** (1878-1963), academic, Professor of Economics at Queen's University of Belfast, friend of EMF whom he met at King's College Cambridge.

**Plomer, William Charles Franklyn:** (1903-73), poet and novelist, friend of Forster (was originally appointed by Forster to write his biography, which was eventually written by P.N. Furbank).

**Reid, Forrest:** (1875-1947), Belfast-born, Northern Irish novelist, literary critic, art critic and translator, who developed a long-standing friendship with EMF and Forster's circle.

**Ross, Robert Baldwin:** (1869-1918), American-born friend and confidante of Oscar Wilde, journalist and gallery owner.

**Rutherford, Andrew:** (brother of James and Willie), worked with FR as an apprentice for Henry Musgrave at his wholesale tea and sugar warehouse (1893-?), trained in law and then medicine.

**Rutherford, James (Reverend):** (brother of Andrew, twin of Willie), clergyman, lived with Forrest Reid from 1908 until his marriage (sometime during 1914-8).

**Rutherford, William ('Willie'):** (brother of Andrew, twin of James), teacher, died in France during WWI.

**Simpson, John Frederick Norman Hampson:** (known as John Hampson from 1925, but referred to in these letters by EMF as John Simpson), (1901-55), novelist, friend of Forster.

**Catalogue of EMF's Correspondence  
(QUB Special Collections MS44/1/22)**

EMF's letters in this collection are preceded by a single page of standard stationery letter-paper upon which Stephen Gilbert has constructed in black ink and occasionally corrected in black pencil a simple inventory of the majority of the contents under the title: "Letters or cards from E.M. Forster to Forrest Reid." The inventory largely consists of six columns of dates, postmarks and sundry comments.

**MS44/1/22/1 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, pp. 126-7; # 97]**

31/01/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3 pp.

EMF praises *The Bracknells* (1911, FR) for its realism, character drawing and artistic construction. EMF states: 'Most books give us less than can be got from people, but yours gives more, for it has a quality that can only be described as "helpful."' EMF continues: 'You show so very clearly that intelligence and even sympathy are superficial – good enough things in their way – they do what they can and would gladly do more; but the real thing is "being there;" and the worst of it is no two human beings can be in the same place. The book has moved me a good deal; it is what a friend ought to be but isn't; I suppose I am saying in a very round about and clumsy way that it is art.' EMF questions FR's 'visions of evil' in the novel.

[See Taylor, p62, for partial transcript of this letter and Reid's reply. Reid's reply, provided by E.M. Forster, was included in the 1953 exhibition of Reid's work in Belfast.]

**MS44/1/22/2 [not in Lago's Calendar]**

08/02/1912. Belfast, QUB stamp, [Professor Hugh O. Meredith's\* stationery]. ALS, 3 pp.

EMF's response to FR asking about *The Celestial Omnibus and Other Stories* (1911, EMF). EMF proposes a meeting at the Carlton Restaurant, Donegall Place, where he 'shall wear lightish cloth cap, purple and white scarf, and great coat,' since he is in Belfast visiting Meredith\*. Forster proposes discussing 'visions of evil' further: 'Are they clouds across the moon, or spots in it? That was my difficulty' (see **MS44/1/2/1**).

[FR cites this letter in his reminiscence about first meeting EMF on pp. 115-7 of *Private Road* (1940).]

**MS44/1/22/3 [not in Lago's Calendar]**

11/02/1912. Hotel Russell, St Stephen's Green, Dublin. ALS, 1 p.

EMF accepts FR's invitation to lunch on the following Tuesday.

**MS44/1/22/4 [not in Lago's Calendar]**

15/03/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2 pp.

EMF, who is to give lecture on modern fiction, has thought of the supernatural and asks FR to recommend reading and mentions several writers of supernatural fiction: Oliver Onions (1873-1961), Arthur Machen (1863-1947), Algernon Henry Blackwood (1869-1951). EMF also mentions Henry James\*, *The Two Magics: The Turn of the Screw, Covering End* (London, Heinemann, 1898), *The Return* (1910, Walter de la Mare\*) and *The Kingdom of Twilight* (1904, FR). Final sentences of letter appear to allude to Third Home Rule Bill crisis: 'I suppose the distress is awful at Belfast.'

**MS44/1/22/5 [not in Lago's Calendar]**

25/03/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2 pp.

EMF thanks FR for his help regarding the lecture (see **MS44/1/22/4**). EMF mentions *The Kingdom of Twilight* (1904, FR) in response to FR suggesting it is a bad book, and stresses again his enjoyment of *The Bracknells* (1911, FR). EMF criticises Arthur Machen (writer, 1863-1947).

**MS44/1/22/6**

04/05/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 4 pp.

EMF discusses his lecture on the supernatural and argues there must be beauty as well as horror. He mentions *The Monastery* (1820, Walter Scott, 1771-1832) and *The Turn of the Screw* (1898, Henry James\*), *The Return* (1910, Walter de la Mare\*), *The Bracknells* (1911, FR) and *The Grey World* (1904, Evelyn Maud Bosworth Underhill, 1875-1941). EMF calls Algernon Henry Blackwood (novelist, 1869-1951) 'rotten.' EMF comments on play *Rutherford & Son*, which was 'like fire-irons clanging for three hours in an empty grate.' EMF recommends Putnams as American publisher for FR.

**MS44/1/22/7**

27/05/1912. King's College, Cambridge. APCS.

EMF accepts dedication in FR's next novel (*Following Darkness*, 1912). Letter is brief due to the effects of 'a violent bicycle ride' on EMF.

**MS44/1/22/8 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, p. 136; # 104]**

19/06/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3 pp.

EMF looks forward to reading FR's next book *Following Darkness* (1912) but imagines he may not like it as much as *The Bracknells* (1911, FR). EMF discusses story and plot in general. EMF mentions "The Ghost Ship" (1924, Richard Middleton, 1882-1911), which he has recently read and enjoyed. EMF notes having recently seen the Abbey Players in *Cathleen ni Houlihan* and *The Playboy of the Western World*.

**MS44/1/22/9**

15/09/1912. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 1 p.

EMF asks FR to send him a copy of *Following Darkness* (1912, FR). EMF gives his winter address c/o Thomas Cook & Sons in Bombay, India.

**MS44/1/22/10**

12/11/1912. C/o Thomas Cook, Bombay, India. ALS, 2pp.

EMF thanks FR for his copy of *Following Darkness* (1912, FR) and gives his initial and lengthy response – better than *The Bracknells* (1911, FR) in treatment of the supernatural and style, but less pleasing in characterisation and narrative. EMF compares the characters of Peter Waring and Denis Bracknel.

**MS44/1/22/11 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, pp. 172-3; # 115]**

13/12/1912. Guest House, Bhopal, India. ALS, 4pp.

[Damaged by fly ointment as noted by EMF.]

EMF gives a more thorough analysis of *Following Darkness* (1912, FR), again in comparison with *The Bracknells* (1911, FR). EMF notes that '[t]o be frank one must be very lengthy, but such is the nature of things.'

**MS44/1/22/12 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, pp. 187-8; # 120]**

02/02/1913. Sohbatia Bagh, Allahabad, India. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses press reviews and friends' opinions (including Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\*) of *Following Darkness* (1912, FR). EMF then discusses his own work: 'I am dried up.' EMF states: 'The only book I have in my head is too like *Howards End* (1910, EMF) but discusses the idea of 'a Knight errant born too late in time who finds no clear issue to which to devote himself: our age demands patient good tempered labour, not chivalry' (later developed as *Arctic Summer* – published 1980). EMF dismisses his idea as not 'good enough.' EMF aspires to 'something beyond the field of action and behaviour' which India would seem to promise him. EMF asks FR if he has read *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (1905, EMF).

**MS44/1/22/13 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, p. 200; # 126]**

23/03/1913. H.H. The Nizam's Mint, Hyderabad, Deccan, India. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses an abandoned draft of a story entitled *Arctic Summer* (1980, EMF) (see **MS44/1/22/12**), commenting on restrictions governing chivalric hero ('straight issues') and stories for boys and girls.

**MS44/1/22/14 [Location not provided in Lago's calendar - R57]**

26/04/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF wants to arrange meeting on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 1913, with FR in London at the Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club, 47 Leicester Square, for dinner and *Hamlet* that evening.

**MS44/1/22/15**

01/05/1913. c/o Mrs Aylward, Holmleigh, Salisbury. ALS, 2pp.

EMF makes various arrangements for FR to come to EMF's home in Weybridge in early May 1913.

**MS44/1/22/16**

29/05/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses and illustrates the use of omniscient narrative technique (use of personal pronoun should be avoided). EMF emphasises difference between himself and Henry Fielding (author and magistrate, 1701-54) and William Thackeray (novelist, 1811-63) with regard to point of view. EMF sees himself 'as a creator, not a constructor.' EMF encloses unpublished story (returned by Reid) and discusses his dislike of *A Room with a View* (1908, EMF): he prefers *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (1905, EMF) and *The Longest Journey* (1907, EMF). EMF suggests that *Howards End* (1910, EMF) 'panders to the public too much.'

**MS44/1/22/17**

16/07/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF makes plans to come to Belfast on 15th August 1913. He will stay with Hugh Meredith\*, then with FR. EMF mentions *Following Darkness* (1912, FR) briefly, then proposes going ahead with Reid's publication of next book in October: *The Gentle Lover: A Comedy of Middle Age* (1913). EMF asks FR if he has read *Women of the Country* (1913, Lady Gertrude Bone, 1876-1962).

**MS44/1/22/18**

21/07/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds to FR's complaint about views expressed in previous letter. EMF arranges visit to Belfast and to FR for mid-August 1913.

**MS44/1/22/19**

23/08/1913. 55 Bryansburn Road, Bangor, Co. Down. ALS, 3pp.

EMF thanks FR for recent hospitality. EMF wants to go to Newcastle with Willie Rutherford\* on 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> September. EMF plans to see FR again soon.

**MS44/1/22/20**

28/08/1913. 55 Bryansburn Road, Bangor, Co. Down. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses potential trip to Newcastle with Willie Rutherford\*. He asks FR for an advance copy of his new book (*The Gentle Lover: A Comedy of Middle Age* - 1913). EMF mentions favourably *Following Darkness* (1912, FR) and *Belchamber* (1904, Howard Overing Sturgis, 1855-1920; see Forster's article "Howard Overing Sturgis," *Abinger Harvest*, 1936, pp. 142-50).

**MS44/1/22/21 [Errors in location and pagination in Lago's calendar – R64]**

14/09/1913. Beech Lodge, Esplanade, Harrogate. ALS, 2pp.

EMF asks for *Times* cuttings to be returned by James Rutherford\*. He discusses stay in Newcastle (early September 1913) which he much prefers to Harrogate. EMF thanks FR for 'delightful holiday.' EMF mentions Algernon Henry Blackwood (1869-1951), writer of supernatural fiction.

**MS44/1/22/22 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, p. 207; # 130.****Error in location in Lago's calendar – R65]**

05/10/1913. Beech Lodge, Esplanade, Harrogate. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds to unidentified story (murder) by FR. He mentions the possibility of FR sending a copy of *The Gentle Lover* (1913, FR) to EMF. EMF has been reading *Life and Habit* (1878, Samuel Butler, 1835-1902). He requested *Les Chansons de Bilitis* (1894, Pierre Louys, 1870-1925) from the London Library but received instead *Byblis* 'which smelt of the boudoir rather than the forest, but I liked it.'

**MS44/1/22/23**

15/10/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 6pp.

EMF's lengthy response to *The Gentle Lover* (1913, FR). EMF praises the character of Brian and 'the atmosphere' of the novel, but criticises some of the other characters and 'the action' and 'theatricalities' of the plot. EMF remarks: 'Bruges and Paris I should say you have "got." Your Italy is impressive and consistent. There is no doubt that the novel was worth doing.'

**MS44/1/22/24**

26/10/1913. Savile Club, 107 Piccadilly W., London. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses press reviews of FR's work and asks if FR has read *The Nebuly Coat* (1903, John Falkner, 1858-1932), since FR was compared to Falkner. EMF reassures FR that *The Gentle Lover* (1913, FR) will be appreciated by the average reader 'who won't see all you're up to, no doubt, yet won't see anything you aren't up to.' EMF reports Willie Rutherford\* to visit him in early November 1913.

**MS44/1/22/25**

09/11/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 1p.

EMF returns various press cuttings and comments on Willie Rutherford's\* visit (see **MS44/1/22/24**): 'a very jolly time.'

**MS44/1/22/26**

20/12/1913. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses the comment of Sir Edward Grey (Viscount Grey of Fallodon, 1862–1933) to Mr Robert Ross\*: 'the most remarkable book I have read for a long time is *Following Darkness*' (1912, FR). EMF mentions *The Longest Journey* (1907, EMF), with reference to Sir Edward Grey and also discusses a good notice in *The Spectator* of *The Gentle Lover* (1913, FR).

**MS44/1/22/27**

12/02/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF relates plans to come to Belfast ('Ireland') from 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 1914 to present a paper on 21<sup>st</sup> March. His topic will be either: "Samuel Butler" (writer and artist, 1835-1902) – 'a simple exposition, written for an ignorant and prudish audience' - or "The Feminine Note in Literature" – 'an old paper, very literary and subtle.'

**MS44/1/22/28**

08/03/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF will present Samuel Butler paper in Belfast on 21<sup>st</sup> March (see **MS44/1/22/27**). EMF discusses his book reviewing. EMF offers to send FR *Mort de Quelqu'un* (1911, Jules Romains, 1885-1972) and comments on impending trip to Belfast.

**MS44/1/22/29**

23/03/1914. 55 Bryansburn Road, Bangor, Co. Down. ALS, 2pp.

EMF comments on draft of a short story by FR ("Michael ....") and offers criticism of characters and atmosphere. EMF wishes to visit FR's household again.

**MS44/1/22/30**

17/04/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF informs FR that Rolfe Arnold Scott-James (journal editor and literary scholar, 1878-1959) is interested in publishing a story ("Costello's Story") by FR in the *New Weekly*. EMF encloses postcard from a friend ('Eddie'; Sir Edward Howard Marsh, 1872-1953, diplomat, editor of *Georgian Poetry* [5 vols. 1912-33] and patron of artists and writers) praising *Following Darkness* (1912, FR). EMF returns the novel *The Three Mulla-Mulgars* (Walter de la Mare\*, 1910, republished as *The Three Royal Monkeys*, 1946) to FR and calls it 'beautiful.' EMF comments on Joseph Conrad's *Chance* (1913), finding Conrad's depiction of despicable characters worthy: 'What bores these big people dare be, but how unquestionably big. The Fynes, both tiresome and dead, ought to have killed the book, but they destroy nothing but their

immediate surroundings, whereas if I introduce dead matter, it festers for miles.' EMF is interested in reading essay by FR on "Moral Sense" and comments anecdotally on a case 'of very bad behaviour' in a female acquaintance.

**MS44/1/22/31**

15/05/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF agrees with FR and Conrad's Marlow 'that there is this tragic gap in human response.' EMF welcomes FR's advice about 'my Indian book' (*A Passage to India* – published 1924, but first 7 chapters written before outbreak WWI), but he fears 'my literary future is an abyss into which I dread to peer.' EMF says 'creation of some kind or other now appears to me one's only possible justification for rambling the earth – one's only justification, that is, after the vividness that was youth is over.'

**MS44/1/22/32 [misplaced at end of 1914 in Lago's calendar - R83]**

Undated, probably May to June 1914.

[Harnham, Monument Green] Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF starts this letter with an allusion to the current Home Rule Crisis in Ireland, spring and summer 1914: 'Is there going to be a blaze?' EMF's brief letter asks FR for more information and queries whether or not Barger children should go to Bangor or Meredith\* children should be removed from Belfast to England.

**MS44/1/22/33**

01/07/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF encloses 'some journalism'- in particular, a review of *The Gods of India* (1914, E.O.Martin) which was published in the *New Weekly* for 30<sup>th</sup> May 1914, Vol.1, p. 38; enclosed article not in collection. EMF reports that Scott-James (see **MS44/1/22/30**) prefers *Following Darkness* (1912, FR) to "Costello's Story" (1914, FR), but will publish it soon. "The Story of the Siren" by EMF has been rejected by Austin Harrison (1873-1928, editor of the *English Review*, 1909-23) ("The Story of the Siren" was published 1920). EMF discusses having been in 'an ugly Nietzschean abyss – learning it is quite impossible to live by sympathy and unselfishness, yet not sighting an alternative.' EMF discusses his recent trip to Isle of Wight and asks if FR will come to London soon.

**MS44/1/22/34**

25/07/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF again alludes to Home Rule Crisis (see **MS44/1/22/32**). EMF plans to 'come over to fetch the Meredith children' if things get worse.

**MS44/1/22/35**

01/10/1914. Location not provided [Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge?].

Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF asks FR: 'Should correspondance [sic] cease?' EMF plans to stay in London and work despite outbreak of the Great War. EMF still concerned about the Hugh Meredith\* children in Belfast (see **MS44/1/22/32** and **MS44/1/22/34**).

**MS44/1/22/36**

11/10/1914. Location not provided [Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge?].

Not on headed paper. ALS, 3pp.

EMF's fulsome response to FR's *At the Door of the Gate* (1915) after his first reading. EMF praises FR's general treatment of Belfast and 'the spiritual scenery' but raises question about 'treatment of physical love.' EMF comments on effects of war including a Belgian refugee (Jules Quilley, 'brave Belge') who is to stay with EMF.

**MS44/1/22/37**

25/10/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 4pp. + notes of criticism 6pp.

EMF provides more detailed commentary on *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR), emphasising issues and problems in characterisation. Six pages of notes appended to the main body of the letter offer chapter by chapter corrections, suggestions and praise.

**MS44/1/22/38**

29/10/1914. Location not provided [Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge?].  
Not on headed paper. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses revision of *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR) and advises FR to start writing his commissioned Yeats book (*W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study*, 1915). EMF engages in a lengthy discussion of the war and its effects and comments on the 'Union of Democratic Control' as 'the only people who have kept their heads.' Belgian refugee (Jules Quilley) to arrive soon at EMF's (see **MS44/1/22/36**).

**MS44/1/22/39**

21/11/1914. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF asks FR about his terms with the publisher of FR's Yeats book (Martin Secker) because he wants to write on Samuel Butler (writer and artist, 1835-1902) in order to make some money. EMF jokes about Belgian eating all the marmalade in addition to devouring 'masses of Anatole France & Renan' (see **MS44/1/22/36** and **MS44/1/22/38**).

**MS44/1/22/40**

22/12/1914. [Harnham, Monument Green] Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF's proposed book on Butler may be off (see **MS44/1/22/39**). EMF describes having seen a performance of *The Dynasts* (Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet, 1840-1928) and is scathing about the production's flaws. EMF asks FR if he has read *Les Confessions* (1849, Alphonse de Lamartine, 1790-1869). EMF discusses his main criticism of FR's 'R.S.' (Richard Seawright, a character from *At the Door of the Gate*, 1915).

**MS44/1/22/41 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, pp. 217-18; # 139]**

23/01/1915. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses having met D.H. Lawrence (writer, 1885-1930) at a dinner party (hosted by Lady Ottoline Morrell). EMF discusses the existence of *Maurice* in draft form (drafted 1913-14, published posthumously in 1971) – 'a novel which cannot be published,' but that EMF fears 'might put a severe strain on our friendship.' EMF wants FR to read the manuscript but approaches the matter very delicately.

**MS44/1/22/42**

02/02/1915. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses arrangements to send manuscript (of *Maurice*, 1971) to FR (see **MS44/1/22/41**). The final paragraph of the letter evokes EMF's state of mind: 'I'm pessimism at bottom, I do think: neither friends nor interests nor the consciousness that I *have done* work (which is more to me than to you) – can touch that. We must be pessimists if we neither hope for a future state nor care about improving this world.'

**MS44/1/22/43**

Undated, but probably February 1915.

Oxford and Cambridge Musical Club, 6 Bedford Sq., London. ACS, recto/verso, 2pp.

EMF provides details of posted MS of *Maurice* (see **MS44/1/22/41** and **MS44/1/22/42**). EMF notes his work on the National Gallery catalogue and states: 'The Hugh Lane pictures rest despised and rejected in our basements.'

**MS44/1/22/44**

13/03/1915. Location not provided [probably London]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 8pp.

EMF offers a lengthy reply to FR's reading of the draft MS of *Maurice* (1971, EMF), in which a variety of homosexual relationships and identities are discussed. EMF declares: 'I do want to raise these subjects out of the mists of theology: Male and Female created He not them.' EMF discusses the term 'perverts' and the differences among platonic and physical love between men, clarifying the different kinds of relations in his draft novel. EMF states: 'My defence at any Last Judgement would be "I was trying to connect up and use all the fragments I was born with." - well you had it exhaustingly in *Howards End*, and *Maurice* [first time EMF uses this working title], though his fragments are more scanty and more bizarre than Margaret's.' EMF discusses at length the motivations for writing his novel, though he fears publication. EMF states: 'It may get published some day, though scarcely in my lifetime or England's.' EMF requests FR to send along a copy of *Escal Vigor* (1899, a novel that examines homosexuality), written by Georges Eekhoud, Belgian novelist (1854-1927), whom FR seems to have recommended.



**MS44/1/22/45**

17/03/1915. Location not provided [probably London]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF provides further response and comments on FR's reading of *Maurice* (1971, EMF); see **MS44/1/22/44**. EMF discusses negative effect of reception, especially with regard to homoeroticism, of *The Garden God: A Tale of Two Boys* (1905, FR) on FR (see Taylor, pp. 40-5). EMF mentions the prospect of reading *Escal Vigor* (see **MS44/1/22/44**): 'which will quite possibly shock me - !!' EMF comments that 'we don't want Gitons [Gito, a character in Petronius's *The Satyricon*, is the young and lascivious servant of Encolpius, the narrator] – nor Messalinas [Messalina, the third wife of the Roman Emperor Claudius, was termed 'that whore-empress' by Juvenal in *Satire VI* and was notorious for her lasciviousness] either: you only think Gitons worse because you mind so much more about them being bad. The sex of a prostitute's neither here nor there.'

**MS44/1/22/46 [mistake in pagination in Lago's calendar: 2pp - R89]**

25/03/1915. Location not provided [probably London]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses having read *Escal Vigor* (see **MS44/1/22/44**) and compares it to *Maurice* (1971, EMF). EMF discusses *Maurice*, homosexual love and unorthodox practices more generally. EMF admits to FR: 'I have wanted very violently to comfort you and to tell you that your sense of sin is a delusion and yet though believing this to the bottom of my soul, I feel I haven't the right to say it.'

**MS44/1/22/47**

31/03/1915. National Gallery, London, letter-paper. ALS, 4pp.

EMF comments on the friendship and personalities of himself and FR. EMF discusses the nature of 'social satire' and the character of Richard Seawright from *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR): 'It's all right ragging Belfast or the suburbs when one's young and does it with gaiety, but at our age one settles into a growl or a whine – imperative to write about what's interesting, then.' EMF mentions having enjoyed *The Garden God: A Tale of Two Boys* (1905, FR) and suggests the possibility of FR writing a book like *Maurice* (1971, EMF). EMF discusses having spent time with DH Lawrence and his wife – 'an incredible couple.' EMF recommends *The Voyage Out* (1915, Virginia Woolf, 1882-1941) to FR.

**MS44/1/22/48**

17/05/1915. [Harnham, Monument Green] Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF comments on reading *Evan Harrington* (1861, George Meredith, novelist and poet, 1828-1909), a novel he is ambivalent about. EMF mentions his notes to FR on *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR). EMF discusses returning to the draft of a book that will become *A Passage to India* (1924, EMF): 'I am taking up that Indian novel again. I know what I want to do now, and even what I must have been wanting – which I didn't at the time. It will be quite different from the other books – no character development.'

**MS44/1/22/49**

07/08/1915. [National Gallery letter-paper cancelled]  
[Harnham, Monument Green] Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF asks for proofs of remaining chapters on FR's book on Yeats (*W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study*, 1915) and discusses the quality of FR's writing in his book on Yeats so far. EMF mentions briefly the contrast between FR's recent visit and 'this senseless brooding about the war.'

**MS44/1/22/50**

23/08/1915. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses the rhythmical and grammatical difficulties of the title of *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR). EMF compares it less favourably to FR's Yeats book (*W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study*, 1915).

**MS44/1/22/51**

25/08/1915. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions further flaws in *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR) but then contrasts the merits of *W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study* (1915, FR) to it.

**MS44/1/22/52**

15/10/1915. National Gallery, London, letter-paper. ALS, 3pp.

EMF pronounces a review of *At the Door of the Gate* (1915, FR) in *The Times* as 'swill.' EMF does not want to review *W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study* (1915, FR), but will do so if required. EMF mentions having 'just been to see the "damage"' of a Zeppelin attack on London and says: 'The Zepp itself impressed me more: one flew close over us at Weybridge.' EMF expects to be sent soon to Egypt as a 'Searcher' with the Red Cross.

**MS44/1/22/53**

17/10/1915. Location not provided [probably London]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF has been asked to write an article for the *International Journal of Ethics*, but 'it is impossible so long as I live at home.' EMF states: 'Egypt grows more certain.' EMF notes 'Squire' (Sir John Collings Squire, 1884-1958?) to review FR's *W.B. Yeats: A Critical Study*, 1915.

**MS44/1/22/54 [erroneously placed at the end of 1919 in Lago's calendar – R109]**

'Sunday' and 'Monday' [probably 24/10/1915 to 25/10/1915].

Location not provided [probably London or in transit to Weybridge].

Not on headed paper. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses plans to go to Egypt and intends to 'take my Indian novel with me' (*A Passage to India*", 1924). EMF discusses Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\*. In an addendum EMF asks for more information on *The Spring Song* (1916, FR) and says 'I will write from Egypt.'

**MS44/1/22/55**

27/10/1915. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF responds to an unidentified book FR has lent him. EMF mentions Edward Carpenter (writer, 1844-1929) and discusses leaving for Egypt. He expects to be away for three months and asks about reviews of FR's Yeats book and progress on *The Spring Song* (1916, FR). EMF mentions the war diffidently: 'I have almost given up thinking about the war and not even a Zeppelin over this house had power to restart me.'

**MS44/1/22/56**

07/12/1915. Red Cross, St Mark's Buildings, Rue de l'ancienne Bourse, Alexandria. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses having seen Willie Rutherford\* in his ward in Alexandria. EMF discusses some of his activities in Egypt, including making inquiries on behalf of others. EMF asks FR to finish *The Spring Song* (1916) soon and send it to him.

**MS44/1/22/57**

25/01/1916. Red Cross, St Mark's Buildings, Rue de l'ancienne Bourse, Alexandria. ALS, 4pp.

EMF responds at length to a very frank letter from FR on male friendship and relationships. A reconsideration of *Maurice* appears to be at issue as well as 'tenderness,' 'passion' and what EMF calls 'a cocoon of frustrated desires.' EMF praises and respects FR's views even more. EMF mentions briefly a few incidents relating to life and war in Cairo and says: 'In England I suffered much pain – out here comparatively little. I came to gain ease and must hope I really needed it and that the power to write – which brings the only *living happiness* I have ever known – may afterwards return.'

**MS44/1/22/58**

21/07/1916. Red Cross, Alexandria. ALS, 4pp.

EMF has been impressed by *Davenport* (1915, Charles Marriott, novelist and critic, 1869-1957) and asks FR if he has read it. EMF alludes to a relationship that FR had mentioned starting earlier, and EMF says he may 'have just begun a relationship (in one respect similar) myself – or just started a train of emotions in me: perhaps that is all.' (EMF's new relationship may possibly have involved Muhammad el Adl, a tram conductor that EMF met on this trip to Egypt; see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 36-41). EMF continues to discuss the nature of this relationship: 'But I get a bit bored by leading the life of the spirit as you know; led with conviction, nothing is more splendid but in my case it trends toward old-maidishness, and I get no satisfaction from noting that my passions are increasingly under control.' EMF has seen Willie Rutherford\*, but in a context constrained by the war and he discusses Rutherford as 'a damned good writer,' particularly WR's 'paper on sexual education.'

**MS44/1/22/59**

28/11/1916. No. 19 General Hospital, Alexandria. ALS, 1p.

EMF provides a strong response to *The Spring Song* by FR (1916): 'It just fell in to all the misery and muddle of my mind like an angel, and cleansed it.' EMF also discusses his current hospitalisation for jaundice.

**MS44/1/22/60 [SL, EMF, Vol. I, pp. 298-9; # 193]**

10/01/1919. Cairo. ALS, 4pp.

EMF expresses pleasure on receiving FR's book (*A Garden by the Sea: Stories and Sketches*, 1918). FR has informed EMF about the death of Willie Rutherford\* in the war. EMF's response to the news of WR's death prompts a reflection on such loss: 'These deaths are so unreal to me.' EMF continues: 'I wish I had your vision to see it as tragedy and not as filthy horror. You and I have come through it – that is to say through its German phase: God knows what the next will be – and for my own part I've learnt nothing and feel that most people have likewise learnt nothing, despite the assurances of the newspapers to the contrary. I can't even feel that the dead have died in our defence.' EMF mentions writing his 'superior sort of guide book with a good deal of history in it.' This book will be published as *Alexandria: A History and a Guide* (1922). EMF discusses two stories by FR from *A Garden by the Sea* ("Kenneth" and "A Trial of Witches"). EMF asks about FR's domestic circumstances and requests 'a photograph of Kenneth [Hamilton\*] to look at.' EMF notes his departure from Egypt soon, but he 'shall miss Egypt when it comes to the point – miss it dreadfully.'

**MS44/1/22/61**

14/02/1919. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 1p.

EMF asks FR to look over the unfinished MS of a novel for a friend and for £2. EMF discusses returning from Egypt to the UK: 'I am hopelessly denationalised and want neither to write about, work for, or look at the U.K.'

**MS44/1/22/62**

20/02/1919. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 1p.

EMF acknowledges arrival of a package from FR with Kenneth Hamilton's\* poems enclosed, and this letter accompanies return of packet of photographs of Kenneth Hamilton and Reid. EMF comments on MS entitled *Roger*, by an unnamed acquaintance, which FR has agreed to review (see **MS44/1/22/61**).

**MS44/1/22/63**

28/02/1919. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF welcomes FR's views on MS of *Roger*: both writers agree on deficiencies of this draft novel (see

**MS44/1/22/61** and **MS44/1/22/62**). EMF wants to retain MS of Kenneth Hamilton's\* poetry and to show it to Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\*.

**MS44/1/22/64 [erroneously dated to 1923 in Lago's calendar - R130]**

'Tuesday'. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

[Undated but attributable to March 1919, see reference to the dating of correspondence in **MS44/1/22/63** and **MS44/1/22/65**.]

EMF responds to an upsetting letter from FR about Belfast schoolboy Kenneth Hamilton\*; in responding EMF discusses gangs and bullying at some length. EMF notes he was bullied at school and advises that Kenneth Hamilton 'shouldn't generalise these urchins – i.e. regard them as the functioning of some hostile and anonymous power – and, from the sensitiveness of his poems, there may be danger of this.' EMF mentions views of G.L. Dickinson\* on Hamilton's poems, especially regarding the youth of the poet. EMF mentions having seen a lot of Thomas Hardy (novelist and poet, 1840-1928) recently, whom he greatly admires (see Furbank, Vol. II, p. 55).

**MS44/1/22/65**

29/10/1919. Location not provided, but probably Isle of Wight [see final paragraph of the letter]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF proposes to review *Pirates of the Spring* (1919, FR) in the *Daily News*. EMF wishes to renew his correspondence with FR: 'It must have been in March that we were last in touch; and you ended with an interesting but rather disquieting letter, to which I sent a matter of fact reply?' (see **MS44/1/22/64**). EMF notes he is on holiday in the Isle of Wight with his mother but would like to meet with FR in person again.

**MS44/1/22/66**

22/11/1919. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF returns letters forwarded to him from FR, letters probably concerning unfavourable reviews of *Pirates of the Spring* (1919, FR). EMF promises to send FR a copy of his good review of *Pirates of the Spring* written for the *Daily News* (published as "The Work of Forrest Reid" in *Nation*, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1920 and reprinted as "Forrest Reid" in *Abinger Harvest*, 1936, pp. 92-8).

**MS44/1/22/67**

11/12/1919. 48 St Alban's Road, Edinburgh. ALS, 1p.

EMF's 'Good news': he is coming via Glasgow to Belfast on 15<sup>th</sup> December to stay with Meredith\* and he wishes to visit FR.

**MS44/1/22/68 [not in Lago's calendar]**

21/02/1920. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF comments variously on his recent visit to Belfast (see **MS44/1/22/67**). EMF discusses writing 'a general article' on FR for the *Nation* (see **MS44/1/22/66**). EMF mentions Walter James Turner (literary editor of the *Daily Herald*, 1920-3, 1889-1946) and Siegfried Sassoon (poet and writer, 1886-1967). EMF discusses his recent sense of failure as a 'creator': 'I don't raise a wail of general failure – in other ways I have had great and not undeserved success. But I have failed as a creator, both from the popular and spiritual standpoint.' EMF mentions having met George Bernard Shaw (playwright and polemicist, 1856-1950) to discuss EMF's piece on Egypt ("The Government of Egypt", published by the Labour Research Department, 1920). EMF mentions he doesn't care to join the Labour Party but is willing to write occasional pieces for them. EMF recommends *Le Livre de Goha le Simple* (1919, Albert Adès and Albert Josipovici).

**MS44/1/22/69**

03/03/1920. 1917 Club, 4 Gerrard Street, W 1 [London]. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses his inability to write: 'I think that I've stopped creating rather than become uncreative: you are quite right there. I have never felt I'm used up. It's rather that the scraps of imagination and observation in me won't coalesce as they used to.' EMF discusses at some length psychoanalysis, self-analysis and 'my sexual life.' EMF declares: 'I should be very reluctant to let them meddle with me and make me change my estimate as to what is within myself. What they call a toad may be something that I call a precious stone. I have always tried to examine myself, and in particular, my sexual life sincerely: and I have seen in the latter some tendencies that I think right and others I think wrong, and a letter such as yours helps me to fight what I think wrong. But I must keep this job mine, not an expert's, be he Jungite or Freudian. I cannot suffer my inside to be overturned, on the chance of seeing it in a truer perspective.' EMF resists the work of Ernest Jones and Sigmund Freud and what it brings to literature, but acknowledges that 'Psycho-Analysis is a valuable study, which I particularly welcome because it may lead to freer discussions about sex. But its practice until more is known is of doubtful value to the patient, especially if he be in creative difficulties as he usually will be.' EMF concludes by drawing attention back to his unfinished article on FR (see **MS44/1/22/66**).

**MS44/1/22/70**

19/03/1920. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF has finally received copy of *Pirates of the Spring* (1919, FR). EMF remarks on taking up the literary editorship of the *Daily Herald* and asks FR if he will review for it. EMF asks FR's opinion about whether he 'should accept a permanent and full time job at the Foreign Office,' which EMF has just been offered.

**MS44/1/22/71**

27/03/1920. Location not provided. On '1917 Club' paper crossed out. ALS, 1p.

EMF discusses reviews by and about FR, including EMF's piece for the *Nation* (see **MS44/1/22/66**). EMF notes turning down the post with the Foreign Office (see **MS44/1/22/70**).

**MS44/1/22/72**

07/04/1920. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF comments on reviews of *Pirates of the Spring* (1919, FR). EMF is annoyed that his survey article of FR's work is to be published as a review of *Pirates*. EMF mentions an advance copy of latest Henry James\* book (possibly *The*

*Letters of Henry James*, ed. by Percy Lubbock, 1920) that FR is to review for the *Daily Herald*. EMF comments briefly on *Pirates of the Spring* (1919, FR): 'it was pleasant and charming but not lyrical enough – it didn't sing.'

**MS44/1/22/73**

10/04/1920. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF comments on the various publications of reviews of FR's work, including his own essay in today's *Nation* (see **MS44/1/22/66** and **MS44/1/22/71**).

**MS44/1/22/74**

18/04/1920 [date appended after signature].

Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. APCS.

EMF writes compact postcard complaining about the difficulties of being a literary editor and of writing reviews and defending their quality.

**MS44/1/22/75**

03/05/1920. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes variously on issues and problems he has as literary editor.

**MS44/1/22/76**

16/05/1920 [date appended after signature].

Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF attempts to get more reviewing work for FR. EMF supports FR's intention to write on Henry James\*, and he defends himself as a good critical reviewer: 'I'm piqued that you think me no critic. Read me this week on Tagore!'

**MS44/1/22/77**

26/05/1920. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes more on the difficulties of getting work reviewing for FR. EMF encourages again FR to write promptly a book on Henry James\* (see **MS44/1/22/76**): 'I want you to write on him: that has to go in. I am reading the *Letters* [see **MS44/1/22/72**] with the feeling that the mystery is soluble and that if you can check your admiration from passing into reverence – as you did in the book on Yeats – you might solve it.'

**MS44/1/22/78**

04/02/1921. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. TLS, 2pp.

EMF remarks on his recent silence and connects it to his current state of mind: 'As you say, I shall go some long and fantastic journey: but we do not yet know whither or when. I am so sad at the bottom of my mind – but I've told you this before and it's useless saddening a letter.' EMF then talks frankly about his love, respect and affection for FR. EMF discusses the possibility of FR getting work as a reviewer for the *New Statesman*. EMF comments diffidently on Kenneth Hamilton\* getting work in a bank.

**MS44/1/22/79**

17/02/1921. Lyme Regis. ALS, 2pp.

EMF notes arrival of a cable 'from the Maharajah of Dewas asking me to go for six months and be a Prime Minister or something, and if I can get a Passport and passage I am off on March 4<sup>th</sup>.' EMF continues to try to get reviewing work for FR, and he says he understands FR's disappointment that his novels have not been as well-received as anticipated. EMF has read *Regiment of Women* (1917, Winifred Ashton, pseudonym Clemence Dane, 1888-1965): EMF notes Dane has recently praised FR's work. EMF discusses certain things he cannot tell FR but that relate to *Maurice*: 'I have not told you, and probably never shall tell certain facts in my life, but you have read my unpublished novel, which is more illuminating than the facts, and which I didn't mind you disliking, except when you disliked it for literary reasons!' EMF notes that Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\* is with him at Lyme Regis and a sense of peace has come in the midst of political turmoil: 'I am with Lowes Dickinson who has forgotten the League of Nations, the Vienna University relief Fund, the Famine in China, the French in Syria, the depreciation of the Mark, the lynching of negroes in America, the depopulation of the South Sea Islands, and the unrest in Ireland for a little, and sits in a little mandarin's cap translating Faust with satisfaction and rapidity. All is peace and pearly grayness, and the cat and the dog, both female, lie down to sleep in each other's arms or sit on the deserted parade and watch the gulls.'

**MS44/1/22/80**

22/02/1921. Location not provided, but probably West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF again tries to arrange work for FR as a reviewer and thinks he may have had success with Henry Massingham (editor of *The Nation*, 1907-23, 1860-1924). EMF comments on the effects of four inoculations he has received prior to his departure for India. (EMF departs for India on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1921 and is resident in Dewas State, India from March to November 1921. EMF remains in India through mid-January 1922; see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 67-104.)

**MS44/1/22/81**

30/03/1922. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 1p.

EMF remarks on Kenneth Hamilton\* joining the Merchant Service and on FR's new book *Pender among the Residents* (1922). EMF wants FR to write to him. EMF remarks obliquely on what going to India may mean to him: 'I don't think my Bethlehem's in the East. My Calvary may be, but that is not accomplished yet.'

**MS44/1/22/82**

13/07/1922. Hunny Hill, Brighstone, Isle of Wight. ALS, 1p.

EMF remarks on the news that Kenneth Hamilton\* is 'unhappy' and FR 'in trouble.' EMF intends to write to Hamilton.

**MS44/1/22/83**

20/01/1923. Harnham, [Monument Green,] Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF notes the changes in newspaper owners for *The Nation*, recently sold 'to a group of "young" liberal financiers – J.M. Keynes & others.' EMF attempts to sort out a problem of a returned review by FR. EMF encloses a notice for *Alexandria: A History and a Guide* (1922), and asks FR if he would be interested in a copy (single-paged printed notice enclosed).

**MS44/1/22/84**

Early 1923 [undated, but most probably late January to early April].

Location not provided. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses and praises *Pender among the Residents* (1922, FR) at some length: '*Pender* confirms me in my notion that your main activity is reconsideration: the notion may be wrong, but I do not put it aside. You are always turning over in your mind something that happened long ago, and are hoping to find a more perfect expression of it than you have yet succeeded in finding. I feel that you know clearly what you're after, more clearly than any writer of my acquaintance, and that one can say little to you that would seem helpful.' EMF adds, 'I thought the scene with the spectres a success, though complexities opened before which H.J. [Henry James\*] would have quailed.'

**MS44/1/22/85**

08/04/1923. Location not provided [probably Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 1p.

EMF arranges a visit by FR to his aunt's house in Dorking for April 1923.

**MS44/1/22/86**

12/04/1923. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF tries to arrange FR's potential visit to London and Dorking. EMF comments on some difficulties of getting reviewing work for FR. EMF advises FR to have Walter de la Mare\* introduce him to Walter James Redfern Turner (poet and literary critic, 1889-1946) and Siegfried Sassoon (poet and writer, 1886-1967).

**MS44/1/22/87**

15/05/1923. Location not provided [probably London]. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses FR's reviews in *The Nation*, and he mentions Leonard Woolf (author and publisher, 1880-1969) and his intention to spread his reviews among numerous reviewers. EMF comments on the 'quarrel' between *The Nation* and *The New Statesman*: 'Everyone is dispirited and either writing their worst or not at all.' EMF remarks that he has accepted Arnold's offer of terms for his new novel, *A Passage to India*: 'Now to finish it. But I too am feeling low.' EMF compliments FR on securing a deal for his own autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926) and comments on the enjoyment he had

with FR's visit to him in April: 'I expect I have not often been able to convey the great affection I have for you. English & Irish are awfully different in their surface-apparatus, I feel certain.'

**MS44/1/22/88**

02/06/1923. Hunny Hill, Brighstone, Isle of Wight. ALS, 2pp.

EMF encourages the possibility of meeting FR on the western shores of the Isle of Wight, either Alun Bay or Totland Bay, in June 1923. EMF 'glad' Kenneth Hamilton\* has cabled FR from his merchant ship. EMF encourages progress on FR's autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926; see **MS44/1/22/87**).

**MS44/1/22/89**

01/05/1924. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge [though EMF writes from his aunt's home in Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF offers FR his 'Winchester' edition of Jane Austen novels which he bought with the money he received as a college prize. EMF mentions *A Passage to India* which is to be published in June 1924 and promises FR a presentation copy that will 'pander to the lowest of your tastes.' EMF discusses his aunt's recent 'nervous breakdown.'

**MS44/1/22/90**

06/05/1924. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 3pp.

EMF responds to FR's diffidence about being sent the Jane Austen collection (see above **MS44/1/22/89**). EMF discusses the possibility of FR's reviewing *A Passage to India* (1924, EMF). EMF remarks on his new book: 'I take very little interest in the book of any sort – so tired of it for one thing, so much domestic worry for another.' EMF mentions that his publisher Arnold is arranging a boozy dinner for 40 booksellers on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1924 to market the new novel. EMF mentions Hugh Meredith\* and some social slights in the final paragraph of the letter.

**MS44/1/22/91**

17/05/1924. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF's Jane Austen collection (see above **MS44/1/22/89** and **MS44/1/22/90**) will be posted to a grateful FR. EMF mentions the death of his aunt. EMF requests FR to 'make' his autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926) 'as frank as possible, and that if you don't put all in you will write an unpublished chapter, in order that your life may become clear to your pen' (see **MS44/1/22/87** and **MS44/1/22/88**).

**MS44/1/22/92**

26/05/1924. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses the issues of frankness and reticence in the writing of FR's autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926; see **MS44/1/22/91**). EMF asks to borrow a novel: *God's Orchid* by Hjalmar Bergman (published 1919, trans. 1924, Swedish writer, 1883-1931). EMF mentions concluding family arrangements following his aunt's death.

**MS44/1/22/93**

14/06/1924. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge [but letter written from the Isle of Wight]. ALS, 1p.

EMF writes hasty letter filled with bits of news. Jane Austen collection posted to FR (see above **MS44/1/22/89**, **MS44/1/22/90** and **MS44/1/22/91**) and EMF will post back *God's Orchid* by Hjalmar Bergman (published 1919, trans. 1924, Swedish writer, 1883-1931). EMF declares: 'This is not a letter.'

**MS44/1/22/94**

09/01/1925. Harnham, Monument Green, Weybridge. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses plans to move himself and his mother into deceased aunt's house in West Hackhurst, Dorking. EMF also comments on new rooms he has taken in London at 27 Brunswick Square, W.C. and offers FR accommodation there. EMF comically remarks on an evening spent with the Hugh Meredith\* family at Hemel Hempstead.

**MS44/1/22/95**

05/02/1925. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF arranges transmission of 22 draft chapters of FR's autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926). EMF complains of the difficulties of having moved house recently. EMF will go to his rooms in London within the week and may visit with T.E.

Lawrence (intelligence officer and author, 1888-1935): 'a mysterious figure whom you wd like I think. I am looking forward to this outing very much, as home life has got rather difficult.'

**MS44/1/22/96 [dated inaccurately in Lago's calendar – R138]**

10/03/1925 [see internal evidence] and 11/03/1925 [internal date appearing above the final three paragraphs]. Location not provided. Not on headed paper. 3pp.

EMF provides a lengthy response to having read a draft of FR's autobiography (*Apostate*, 1926; see **MS44/1/22/95**). EMF discusses draft chapter 10 in detail and makes an oblique reference to *Maurice* in passing. EMF criticises the abrupt ending of FR's draft book and recommends the end of Rousseau's *Confessions* as a model.

**MS44/1/22/97**

25/03/1925. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF provides additional comments on FR's autobiography (**MS44/1/22/96**). EMF remarks on FR and Walter de la Mare's\* friendship. EMF notes his departure for France the following week; he is going to stay with Charles Mauron\*, the French translator of *A Passage to India*.

**MS44/1/22/98**

06/06/1925. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF reports on having broken his wrist while in Provence (see **MS44/1/22/97**) and comments about his inability to write until now. EMF asks FR whether he is coming to London this year and offers the hospitality of his rooms.

**MS44/1/22/99**

29/03/1926. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

EMF notes long gap in his correspondence with FR. EMF comments on having seen a notice for *Apostate* (1926, FR) and discusses publication details. EMF remarks on the unlikely event of writing his own autobiography: 'But I have never had the centralising experience. The *form* of your life, as apart from its meaning, is as plain as a rainbow, whereas I know neither the form nor the meaning of mine – sometimes, with astonishment, I catch a glimpse of a receding landscape through which I never realised I had passed.' EMF asks for advice about a series of lectures to be given in Cambridge in 1927 on any subject related to English literature (lectures become *Aspects of the Novel*, 1927). EMF has been called for jury service. EMF intends to go to France for a holiday and to the USA as lecturer in order to pay his way. EMF discusses the difficulties of living with his mother and his own lack of productivity. EMF asserts: 'My only ambition is connected with that unpublished novel [*Maurice*, 1971] which I showed you years ago (and which you didn't think very good). I should like – not necessarily by publishing it but by some means or other – to leave the world less mad than I have found it on that particular point, and adjacent points.'

**MS44/1/22/100**

08/04/1926 [date appended after signature]. Location not provided, but probably West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. Not on headed paper. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses difficulties with FR's publisher and his own lectures in preparation (see **MS44/1/22/99**). EMF notes FR's 'really valuable' idea regarding the word 'amateur': 'Was Trollope one? or Jane Austen? or is A.E.? Or does "amateur" mean a freshness and unsophistication in the soul? in which case one should have to include Blake.' EMF would like FR to read the MS of *Maurice* (1971) again: 'My problem in that novel was to show something that the world thinks queer without taking up a "special" attitude to it myself. If your criticism is correct, I have failed: but I feel it isn't correct entirely though one can't ever know about one's own work. I would like you to read it again some time, but the MS is grubby and distasteful to handle.'

**MS44/1/22/101 [Lago does not give location in calendar – R143]**

06/06/1926. [Gloucestershire, on evidence of final paragraph.] ALS, 1p.

EMF has received published copy of *Apostate* (1926, FR) but has missed meeting FR in London. EMF asks FR: 'Do you read Defoe? Yes, no doubt, and years ago. I am just doing it and find him very good.'

**MS44/1/22/102 [mistake with regard to pagination in Lago's calendar – R144]**

20/07/1926. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking.. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses rereading *Apostate* (1926, FR) with pleasure and notes he is leaving soon for Sweden where he will meet Hjalmar Bergman (Swedish writer, 1883-1931). EMF states that FR's publisher Sadlier 'was most pleased with the reviews' of the new book.



**MS44/1/22/103**

20/07/1927 [date appended after signature]. Mas Blanc, Tarascon [France]. ALS, 1p.

EMF offers FR his London rooms, suggesting from the 20<sup>th</sup> August onward. EMF comments on his trip to France, where he has visited the translator of *A Passage to India* (1924), Charles Mauron\* and his wife (see also **MS44/1/22/97**). EMF's Cambridge lectures are to be published in October (*Aspects of the Novel*, 1927). EMF mentions 'bad news' about Walter de la Mare\*.

**MS44/1/22/104**

03/08/1927 [date appended after signature].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF welcomes news of FR's trip to London and domicile in EMF's rooms (see **MS44/1/22/103**). EMF will miss FR's radio broadcast, however.

**MS44/1/22/105**

11/08/1927. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF provides information and directions for FR's upcoming trip to Dorking and the London flat (August - September 1927).

**MS44/1/22/106**

24/08/1927. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF makes plans for FR to stay in EMF's rooms in London and to visit Dorking (possibly over the weekend Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 1927).

**MS44/1/22/107**

31/08/1927 [date appended after signature].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF confirms plans for FR's visit to Dorking (2<sup>nd</sup> September 1927) and alters plans regarding the availability of the London flat starting 17<sup>th</sup> September. EMF notes he 'shall be with the Woolfs on the 10<sup>th</sup>' and will not require his London rooms until the following weekend.

**MS44/1/22/108**

08/09/1927. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF apologises to FR for 'your catastrophe at Dorking' and accepts the blame for the discomfort in collecting his friend. EMF makes arrangements for FR staying on in his London rooms (the following week or two). EMF remarks on the pleasurable visit of FR to Dorking and says that 'I have felt for so long that part of my outlook on life might repel you, but this fear has vanished, partly because you liked those two stories – they come more from my heart than anything else.' EMF notes he has made 'the alteration' in "The Life to Come" suggested by FR: 'the missionary now gets stabbed.'

**MS44/1/22/109**

24/09/1927. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking.. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds positively to *Demophon: A Traveller's Tale* (1927, FR) and discusses FR's recent visit to England (late August and early September 1927).

**MS44/1/22/110**

12/11/1927. King's College, Cambridge [first year of EMF's three-year fellowship at King's College: see Furbank, Vol. II, p. 144]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF says he is 'greatly distressed at the pain my book [*Aspects of the Novel*, 1927] has caused you [FR]' and declares 'I wish I had never sent you the damned book.' EMF concludes 'I really don't want to write any more' but looks forward to visiting FR next spring.

**MS44/1/22/111**

02/04/1928 [date appended after signature].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF plans to visit FR and Belfast by the end of April 1928.

**MS44/1/22/112**

06/04/1928. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF provides further details on his planned visit to Belfast (end of April 1928; see **MS44/1/22/111**).

**MS44/1/22/113**

15/05/1928. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF remarks on his recent travels, including to Belfast (end of April 1928). EMF notes that André Maurois (writer, 1885-1967) will lecture in Cambridge on biography and EMF 'gave him *Apostate* [1926, FR] for his aid.' EMF discusses his own work, suggesting he will continue to write 'more fiction or invention' but does not expect to publish it. EMF comments more generally about the fragmentary tenor of his life: 'the weak sprawling curve of one's orbit is full of fine subjects, and if one manages to avoid mentioning what belongs to another subject, strength comes at once.'

**MS44/1/22/114 [first of three penny postcards written and posted over a fortnight in mid-September 1928]**

06/09/1928. Postmarked Abinger Hammer, Dorking, 06/09/1928. APCS [photographic image on postcard is presumably taken in the back garden of EMF's home in Dorking].

EMF asks FR to let him know when and where he reaches London.

**MS44/1/22/115**

15/09/1928. Postmarked Dorking, Surrey, 16/09/1928. APCS [photographic image on postcard is presumably of the front of EMF's home in Dorking].

EMF arranges to see FR on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, presumably in London. EMF directs FR to contact Joe Ackerley\*, now with the BBC.

**MS44/1/22/116****[location missing and misdated as "late Aug? 1928" in Lago's calendar – R156]**

Postmarked Abinger Hammer, Dorking, 20/09/1928. . APCS [photographic image on postcard is of a building and clock tower in central Abinger Hammer].

EMF gives FR rail and bus directions to Dorking North from London (Waterloo) for Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September. EMF arranges to meet FR at 'the object overleaf' – that is, the Abinger Hammer clock tower.

**MS44/1/22/117 [mistake with regard to pagination in Lago's calendar – R159]**

02/10/1928. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses MS of FR's new book *Illustrators of the Sixties* (1928) and recalls enjoying FR's visit with him in Dorking (September).

**MS44/1/22/118**

28/10/1928. 48 St Albans Road, Edinburgh. ALS, 1p.

EMF thanks FR for his copy of *Illustrators of the Sixties* (1928, FR) and discusses his own lecture tour (now finished in Scotland). EMF mentions the court case concerning *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall (novelist, 1880-1943), and he fears that he may be 'called as a witness for the book's decency.'

**MS44/1/22/119**

02/04/1929. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF remarks that an Indian friend, Syed Ross Masood\* (see Furbank, Vol.I, p. 143), is to send his children to EMF's for a week of their holidays. EMF asks FR for an instruction booklet on how to play croquet. Charles Mauron\* is to visit with his wife after 'the Indian children' leave. EMF also outlines his upcoming trip to Africa commencing 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**MS44/1/22/120**

07/05/1929. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. TLS, 1p.

EMF thanks FR for the very useful loan of the "Croquet Year Book" which he returns with this letter (see **MS44/1/22/119**). EMF looks forward to FR's new book on De la Mare\* (*Walter de la Mare: A Critical Study*, 1929). EMF notes that 'Cyril Conolly has just called me a prudish Bloomsbury spinster, and my head is unbloody and unbowed.' EMF discusses recent visitors (children of Masood\* and Charles Mauron\*) and his June trip to Africa (see **MS44/1/22/119**).

**MS44/1/22/121 [mistake in Lago's calendar: Lago divides single three-page ALS into two separate, incomplete letters - R163 and R164]**

22/06/1929. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses pleasurably 'the passage about myself' in FR's new book (*Walter de la Mare: A Critical Study*, 1929). EMF mentions his preparations for the June expedition to Africa (see **MS44/1/22/119** and **MS44/1/22/120**), as well as the preparations for his domestic help who are all attending the Aldershot Tattoo that evening.

**MS44/1/22/122**

04/04/1930. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. TLS, 1p.

EMF tries to persuade FR to visit London and to use his new flat (26 Brunswick Square, W.C.) in May 1930.

**MS44/1/22/123**

10/04/1930. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. TLS, 1p.

EMF invites FR to tea (2<sup>nd</sup> May 1930) at the new flat in London after FR attends the opera and EMF gives a paper on Edward Carpenter (writer and campaigner for homosexual rights, 1844-1929). EMF offers an anecdote about his entering a London bookseller's in the company of 'the Indian boys,' 'my oriental train,' and confronting the bookseller, Hugh Lunn, about some of EMF's private letters which have apparently been offered for sale in the shop.

**MS44/1/22/124**

23/04/1930 [date unclear, probably 23<sup>rd</sup> April]. Location not provided [postmarked Abinger Hammer, Dorking; postmark date unclear, probably 23<sup>rd</sup> April]. APCS.

EMF looks forward to FR's visit to him in London on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and provides contact information.

**MS44/1/22/125**

24/04/1930. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. TLS, 1p.

EMF apologises for making alterations in the plans for FR's visit to London, mostly prompted by EMF's mother's intention to attend his lecture on Edward Carpenter on 2<sup>nd</sup> May (see **MS44/1/22/123**).

**MS44/1/22/126**

01/05/1930. 26 Brunswick Square, W.C. [London]. ALS, 1p.

EMF rearranges FR's visit to his London rooms and offers to meet on 8<sup>th</sup> May for an early tea at 3.45pm.

**MS44/1/22/127**

13/05/1930. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. TLS, 2pp.

EMF notes how enjoyable it was to see FR and arranges for FR to stay on in his London rooms in the second half of May, including offering a ticket for the opening day of the Chelsea Flower Show. EMF mentions Robert Joseph Buckingham ('Bob')\* for the first time: 'Bob and I thought well of one another, and are to meet again shortly. Dostoevsky is his line, but I have lent him the *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* [1916, James Joyce, 1882-1941] too, and the course is to culminate in *A Passage to India*' (1924).

**MS44/1/22/128**

16/05/1930. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. TLS, 1p.

EMF discusses details of FR's impending visit to EMF's flat in London, particularly with regard to various complications. EMF notes that while FR dines with an acquaintance, he 'will invite Bob [Buckingham\*] to play the gramophone and tell me why he broke his engagement off' (see **MS44/1/22/127**).

**MS44/1/22/129**

04/06/1930. London. APCU.

EMF records the time of 5pm on this postcard and expresses disappointment at FR's failure to meet him at 4 that afternoon. EMF notes the need 'to go to Cambridge soon.'

**MS44/1/22/130 [misplaced and dated solely as 1930 in Lago's calendar - R177]**

No date [probably Autumn 1930, letter certainly follows **MS44/1/22/129** and precedes **MS44/1/22/131** and **MS44/1/22/132**].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF notes his intention to have written 'that good long letter that is always in my mind for you' but starts a newsy update instead. EMF remarks on FR having read and liked Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* (1928). EMF discusses a number of acquaintances including: Joe Ackerley\*, Syed Ross Masood\* and his children, and Bob Buckingham\*. EMF wants FR to visit London around Christmas and indicates general activity around then. EMF notes that Bob Buckingham 'has neither read nor returned the *Portrait of the Artist*' (see **MS44/1/22/127**) but has apparently misplaced it. EMF discusses being bored 'doing my lectures,' 'growing old in a not unpleasant way' and that 'small contacts are now sufficient for romance, instead of "adventures" or "affairs" which I used to require and of course seldom achieved.'

**MS44/1/22/131**

15/12/1930 [date appended after signature].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF writes a very short note in response to a new letter from FR.

**MS44/1/22/132**

21/12/1930. W.H. [West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking].

ALS within prepaid postal letter card, 1p.

EMF enquires after *Uncle Stephen* (1931, FR) and says that: 'I hope, when I read it, you'll let me read what you've cut out as well. It's wretched when stuff that's made itself vital can't get printed.' EMF replies that he hasn't read a new book by Walter de la Mare\* (possibly his novel *On the Edge*, published 1930) or FR's 'essay on the 80s' ("Minor Fiction in the Eighties", published in *The Eighteen Eighties: Essays by Fellows of the Royal Society of Literature*, Cambridge UP, 1930 and reprinted in the *London Mercury*, October 1930). EMF recommends to FR: *His Monkey Wife* (1930, John Collier, 1901-80) and *A Note in Music* (1930, Rosamond Lehmann, 1901-90). EMF declares that he is 'bored and terrified by my lectures' which he is preparing for Cambridge in the new year.

**MS44/1/22/133 [not in Lago's calendar but in SL, EMF, Vol. II, pp. 102-4; # 283]**

17/03/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses the possibility of coming to Ireland around the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1931, first to Dublin and then to Belfast to visit FR. EMF mentions plan 'to be at Aberdeen on April Fool's Day' to accept an honorary degree in law. EMF discusses *Saturday Night at the Greyhound* (1931, John Hampson Simpson\*) and compares aspects of the novel to the fiction of D.H. Lawrence. EMF mentions Leonard and Virginia Woolf in relation to two unpublished manuscripts by Simpson, including one on a homosexual theme that the Woolfs admired but couldn't publish. EMF discusses his recent lectures in Cambridge (see **MS44/1/22/132**) and mentions Bob Buckingham\*, Joe Ackerley\* and Harry Daley\* (see Furbank, Vol. II, pp.141-3). EMF concludes with regret concerning *Uncle Stephen* (1931, FR): 'I hope that sacred love didn't quite absorb profane in Uncle Stephen.'

**MS44/1/22/134**

07/04/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF provides FR with details of his visit to Belfast from 15<sup>th</sup> May 1931. EMF wishes to arrange a stay with FR after the 18<sup>th</sup>. EMF notes lunching with Marc André Raffalovich (writer, 1864-1934), an acquaintance of FR, in Edinburgh.

**MS44/1/22/135**

13/04/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

Following FR's suggestion, EMF alters dates of visit to Belfast and will now arrive on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1931.

**MS44/1/22/136**

23/04/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF seeks to confirm arrival on 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> May in Belfast to commence his visit to Ireland with FR (see **MS/44/1/22/135**).

**MS44/1/22/137**

04/05/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF provides details of the arrival of his boat from Liverpool on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May and requests details of tram route to Knock, Belfast.

**MS44/1/22/138**

Wednesday [probably 06/05/1931].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF provides details of his travels from Dorking to London to Liverpool in order to catch the Friday evening boat to Belfast (see **MS44/1/22/137**).

**MS44/1/22/139**

03/06/1931. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF invites FR to visit him in London and offers his Brunswick rooms from the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1931. EMF thanks FR for an enjoyable visit to Belfast in May and invites FR to lunch with him in London on the 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**MS44/1/22/140 [misdated as 25/04/1930 in Lago's calendar – R170]**

Friday [05/06/1931]. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF renews his invitation for FR to visit him in London in June (see **MS44/1/22/139**), and he makes arrangements for FR to stay in his Brunswick rooms, especially how to get the key from a neighbour.

**MS44/1/22/141**

08/06/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF makes arrangements for lunch with FR on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June. (Letter appears posted to FR at John Hart's residence at Potter's Bar.)

**MS44/1/22/142 [erroneously dated to 24/04/1930 in Lago's calendar – R169]**

Thursday. [presumably 11/06/1931].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF notes complications in his plans to visit with FR in London. EMF mentions: 'I did enjoy it when I did see you so much, and I took to myself some of the things that you were saying to Joe [Ackerley\*] in that bizarre Café Royal.'

**MS44/1/22/143**

15/06/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF decides to come to London later on in the week of 15<sup>th</sup> June. EMF remarks: 'I hope that you, Joe [Ackerley\*], and your [problems, crossed out] crises go on all right' (see **MS44/1/22/142**).

**MS44/1/22/144**

12/07/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ACS, 2pp.

EMF sends this card with 'some prints' from a Mrs Morrow. EMF mentions that he has 'seen a lot of Bob [Buckingham\*]. I fear he will get married sooner or later, but one must endure such things.' EMF mentions that he has 'got on all right with the America articles.' (See four articles EMF published under the collective title "Incongruities" in the *New York Herald Tribune* for 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September 1931. All four pieces reprinted in *Abinger Harvest*, 1936, pp. 233-62.)

**MS44/1/22/145**

17/07/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

EMF mentions Stephen Gilbert\* for the first time and rather playfully wants to hear more about him from FR. EMF mentions his uneasiness regarding FR's 'constant polishing and altering' of *Uncle Stephen* (1931), suggesting he has damaged his own work by doing the same 'through too much labour.' EMF mentions his growing fondness for Bob Buckingham\* but comments disparagingly about Bob's future wife, May Hockey\* ('this horrid nurse'). EMF mentions various acquaintances, including Hugh Walpole (novelist, 1884-1941) and Somerset Maugham (writer and playwright, 1874-1965).

**MS44/1/22/146**

20/08/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF mentions Stephen Gilbert\* once more, hoping to hear what FR has to say about him (see **MS44/1/22/145**). EMF returns *Le Grand Meaulnes* (1913, Alain Fournier, 1886-1914), mentioning how much he enjoyed it. EMF discusses his imminent trip to France with Bob Buckingham\* (they leave England Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1931), noting they will stay in Arles, Provence, for one week. EMF mentions Joe Ackerley\* and the positive outcomes from FR's conversation with Ackerley (see **MS44/1/22/142** and **MS44/1/22/143**).

**MS44/1/22/147**

**[erroneously attributed to West Hackhurst in Lago's calendar - R189]**

06/10/1931. [Plymouth, on internal evidence, but composed on West Hackhurst stationery]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF offers FR five late-Victorian novels he no longer wants. EMF states: 'I write from Plymouth, where I am helping my mother through a tiresome & perhaps ruinous legacy which has descended on her.' EMF discusses his happiness with Bob Buckingham\*.

**MS44/1/22/148**

12/10/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF comments sympathetically to FR about a holiday that 'closed sadly,' perhaps due to an unidentified companion.

**MS44/1/22/149**

23/10/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF thanks FR for his copy of *Uncle Stephen* (1931) and mentions he has been asked to review it for the *Daily News* (review entitled "On a Novel that Stands Apart," eventually published in the *News Chronicle*, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1931). EMF mentions Stephen Gilbert\* and Bob Buckingham\* - the latter 'is rapidly ceasing to read cultivated books.' EMF asks FR to recommend some phonograph records for his 'lovely gramophone,' a recent gift from Joe Ackerley\*.

**MS44/1/22/150**

28/10/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF sends FR uncorrected typescript of his review of *Uncle Stephen* (1931) and comments that he would like to have had more input into its revision (see **MS44/1/22/149**). EMF concludes with a comment about assessing 'a woman's thesis for the Ph.D. degree – "Fiction and the Reading Public, a study in social anthropology".'

**MS44/1/22/151**

10/12/1931. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF welcomes FR's plan to visit him in London after Christmas, and EMF asks if they can meet for a meal on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

**MS44/1/22/152**

19/01/1932 [date appended after signature].

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF encloses single-page typewritten letter from Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\* to EMF dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 1932. Lowes Dickinson comments at length about the pleasurable effects of reading FR's new novel, *Uncle Stephen*, especially the 'wish fulfilment' aspect of the relationship between Uncle Stephen and Tom. EMF briefly notes FR's recent visit to London and remarks on Bob Buckingham's\* favourable view of FR.

**MS44/1/22/153**

22/03/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF records meeting John Hampson Simpson\* for the first time at Leonard and Virginia Woolf's house and notes they will likely meet again. EMF notes news regarding Bob Buckingham\*, Harry Daley\* and Joe Ackerley\*: 'Bob well and happy,' but 'a libellous postcard' from Daley to Ackerley has caused problems. EMF depicts 'Harry as an obscene imp and Joe as an angel.' In a postscript, EMF mentions: 'Hilton Young [Edward Hilton Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Kennet of the Dene, naval hero, barrister, politician, financial journalist and university friend of EMF, 1879-1960], an old admirer of yours, thinks Uncle Stephen your best work. How has it sold?'

**MS44/1/22/154**

04/05/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF invites FR to visit London from Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1932. EMF provides FR with Joe Ackerley's \* new address and Bob Buckingham's\* work address. EMF mentions: 'After Whitsun I may be going to Roumania.'

**MS44/1/22/155**

14/05/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF provides further details regarding FR's visit to London in May 1932 (see **MS44/1/22/154**). EMF concludes the letter with comments about different styles of male friendship: 'My catch is so very different from yours that comparisons between them make me smile. Even when our hours are the same length they are measured by different clocks.'

**MS44/1/22/156**

23/05/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF comments on some aspects of FR's recent stay in London, including meetings with John Hampson Simpson\*. EMF appears diffident concerning his 'odd expedition' to Romania, including planned meetings with the Romanian Premier and 'our minister in Sofia' (see **MS44/1/22/154**).

**MS44/1/22/157**

02/12/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF, 'ashamed at my long silence,' writes about his sadness, 'partly Dickinson's\* death, partly Bob [Buckingham\*] marrying a hospital nurse.' EMF asks for dates of FR's anticipated visit to J.N. Hart's\* at Potter's Bar over Christmas.

**MS44/1/22/158**

17/12/1932. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF suggests available dates for FR to visit him in London over the Christmas and New Year period.

**MS44/1/22/159**

23/12/1932. 26 Brunswick Square, [London]. ALS within prepaid postal letter card, 1p.

EMF provides details of FR's visit to and overnight stay at the London flat on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 1933.

**MS44/1/22/160**

Undated [presumably after 23/12/1932]. 'as from 26 Brunswick Square,' London [composed on West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking stationery]. ALS, 1p.

EMF encloses the key to the London flat and asks FR 'to help me through the mild tea party which begins about 4.0' on New Year's Day 1933.

**MS44/1/22/161 [erroneously dated to 25/08/1937 in Lago's calendar - R223]**

25/03/1933. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions his upcoming trip 'next week ... to Dingle' (EMF visited southern Ireland, especially County Kerry, Dingle and the Blasket Islands in April 1933). EMF remarks on Joe Ackerley's\* move that very day to a new flat near Maida Vale and comments on the positive influence of 'our new acquaintance William Plomer\*.' EMF notes Harry Daley\* 'has apologised to me, so I can't help feeling friendlier, but I do not like him and prefer to keep out of his way' (see **MS44/1/22/153**). EMF describes Bob Buckingham\* as being 'happily married and in love with his wife,' although EMF expresses diffidence and distrust about the situation. EMF declares: 'When the child [of Bob and May Buckingham] has been born I may see clearly' (Robert Morgan Buckingham was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1933, and EMF was asked to be the child's godfather; see Furbank, Vol. II, p. 184). EMF notes that he and Bob are still to spend a week's holiday together in June 1933. EMF mentions that he is working on his Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson\* book (*Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson*, 1934).

**MS44/1/22/162**

04/07/1933. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

EMF comments on FR's news that a recent illness may prevent him from receiving in person an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast. EMF remarks that 'the only bright spot is that Stephen [Gilbert\*] has been able to look after you.' EMF mentions holiday news concerning some acquaintances including John Simpson\*, Joe Ackerley\*, William Plomer\* and the Buckingham\*. EMF sketches playfully and familiarly the Buckingham family, and notes that '[l]arger Bob enjoyed Uncle Stephen intensely and has often verged on writing to you.' EMF mentions that he is 'giving a school treat here, with Punch and Judy and dog Toby, towards the end of the month' and has even enjoyed reading Walter de la Mare's\* new collection *The Fleeting and Other Poems* (1933). EMF concludes by stressing his need to 'finish the Lowes Dickinson memoir' by 'the end of the year' (see **MS44/1/22/161**).

**MS44/1/22/163**

16/07/1933. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF expresses great sympathy for FR's continuing poor health and congratulates him on his honorary degree (see **MS44/1/22/162**). EMF anticipates entertaining Bob Buckingham\* in London and Indian acquaintance Ali Akbar (see Furbank, Vol. II, pp.101-2) 'who is in for the tennis tournament at the beginning of August.'

**MS44/1/22/164 [misplaced to summer 1935 in Lago's calendar - R209]**

27/07/1933. Instow, Devon. APCS.

A co-written picture postcard to FR from EMF and Bob Buckingham\* who 'are concluding a successful ten days' tour in someone else's car' of Devonshire, Cornwall, Wales, Cheddar and the Wye Valley. Bob Buckingham\* writes: 'have read "Uncle Stephen," enjoyed it immensely, my wife also thinks it fine' (see **MS44/1/22/162**).

**MS44/1/22/165**

05/12/1933. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. APCU.

EMF arranges details for meeting FR at the Reform Club in London on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 1933 at 1.15pm.

**MS44/1/22/166**

12/03/1934. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

EMF thanks FR for his copy of *Brian Westby* (1934), but says 'I don't care for it as much as for Uncle Stephen' (see Stephen Gilbert, "A Successful Man," *Threshold* 28 [Spring 1977], p.110; Brian Taylor, pp. 138-48). EMF discusses the imminent publication of *Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson* (1934) and adds: 'I am inclined to write more, and feel for the moment rather public voiced, but that is because I broadcast last night' (see EMF, "Seven Days' Hard," *Listener*, 14th March 1934, p. 452; broadcast on the BBC, 10<sup>th</sup> March 1934). EMF mentions Joe Ackerley\*, Bob Buckingham\* and Mrs Thomas Hardy: Buckingham 'will probably collide with Mrs Thomas Hardy over a glass of sherry and enjoy that too' at EMF's West Hackhurst home. EMF notes he must write two articles: one on 'Censorship' for *The Author* and another on 'Spring' for the *Spectator*. EMF concludes by asking FR for help in locating a poem by Yeats: 'I have Yeats collected



poems, but don't find a sonnet against George Moore [writer, 1852-1933], comparing him to a pissing dog. Could you help me in this?'

**MS44/1/22/167**

24/04/1935. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions hearing about FR's trip to Potter's Bar in the summer and encourages a mutual visit. EMF notes he may 'go to Paris on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for a conference of anti-fascist writers' and must 'present a literary prize, in London,' on 12<sup>th</sup> June. EMF mentions Stephen Gilbert\*, Joe Ackerley\* and Bob Buckingham\* - the latter 'has had a terrible lot of trouble' due to his wife's serious illness.

**MS44/1/22/168**

05/06/1935. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes a rather feisty letter admonishing FR: 'You're nice and mean. [Y]ou lunch with Joe yesterday and I only get a scribble to day offering vague hopes for next week.' EMF tersely presents FR with a request to come to the London flat or to ring it (phone number provided: 'Terminus 5804 – you are such a dab at the telephone') on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June between 12.00pm and 12.30pm. EMF suggests a weekend stay in Dorking, 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June, but also mentions his obligation to present a prize in London on the 12<sup>th</sup> (see **MS44/1/22/167**).

**MS44/1/22/169 [SL, EMF, Vol. II, p. 139, #312]**

17/01/1936. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions preparations for the second part of the operation on his prostate (see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 210-1). EMF comes out against the publisher's idea of FR updating *Following Darkness* (Peter Waring, 1937). EMF 'shall enjoy your early Tom' (*The Retreat; or The Machinations of Henry*, 1936). EMF mentions that Peter Burra, who wrote favourably about EMF ("The Novels of E.M. Forster," *The Twentieth Century and After*, 116 [1934], pp. 581-94), 'is now writing about you' (FR). EMF mentions Bob Buckingham\*, Joe Ackerley\*, John Simpson\*, Stephen Gilbert\* and Hugh Meredith\*.

**MS44/1/22/170**

20/03/1936 [date appended after signature]. 19 Manchester Street, W.1 [London]. APCS.

EMF writes briefly from hospital (see **MS44/1/22/169**) to thank FR for a copy of *The Retreat; or The Machinations of Henry* (1936), indicating that he 'enjoyed it and liked the magic particularly. How good the scene in school is!'

**MS44/1/22/171**

26/04/1936 [date appended after signature].

[Heytesbury House, Wiltshire, on evidence of final paragraph]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions being available in either London or Dorking in May for FR's next visit. EMF discusses how *Abinger Harvest* (1936) may be the subject of a libel case. EMF writes from Siegfried Sassoon's (poet and writer, 1886-1967) place in Wiltshire. EMF notes the good review of FR in the *Listener*, and confesses 'I was so pleased to see Somerset Maugham not only put in his place but put into it beside yours.'

**MS44/1/22/172 [misplaced and erroneously dated in Lago's calendar – R214]**

15/05/1936 ['Thursday']. London [date and place as clearly postmarked]. APCS.

EMF instructs FR about rail and bus connections from Waterloo station to Abinger Hammer for Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> May. EMF also notes the easiest route for FR's onward journey on Monday from Abinger Hammer to Taplow, the home of Walter de la Mare\*.

**MS44/1/22/173 [erroneously placed after 19/08/1936 in Lago's calendar – R215]**

Undated, 'Monday' [probably June, July or early August 1936].

Location not provided. ALS, 1p.

EMF enquires after MS by Stephen Gilbert\* (*The Assailants*, unpublished MS) and offers to 'be helpful' – that is 'would look at it' if FR so advised. EMF reports on some ill health, a good weekend in Dover with Bob Buckingham\*, Joe Ackerley\* and William Plomer\*.

**MS44/1/22/174**

19/08/1936. Dover. ALS, 3pp.

EMF discusses at great length the MS of *The Assailants* by Stephen Gilbert\*. EMF provides a detailed critical response of the storyline, characters, background, language, artistry, imagery and climax. EMF particularly notes 'the early and the later sleep walkings: - all that's amazingly well-conceived & placed, and whether S[tephen] has constructed consciously or unconsciously he has great architectural power. The later part of the book, when I felt sure of the author, gripped me and I thought the end a success, a rare achievement in a novel.' EMF criticises weak background to characters, lengthy dialogue, the construction of some major and minor characters and the use of sexually explicit language. Even though a book MS about schoolboys and a claustrophobic boarding school setting 'did not find me [EMF] in a receptive mood, as *my* nightmare is the present situation in Europe and the dangers for friends who live there,' EMF nevertheless declares that '[t]he loveliest passage in the book was the comparison of a school to a ship of emigrants.'

**MS44/1/22/175 [mistake in pagination in Lago's calendar: 5pp – R216]**

03/01/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

EMF discusses a particular scene from *The Retreat* (1936), noting and praising FR's clever use of realistic detail. EMF sends New Year's greetings to FR and to Stephen Gilbert\* and asks whether the latter has revised his novel (see **MS44/1/22/174**). EMF discusses the difficulties he has incurred with regard to securing libel protection for editing the letters of his friend T.E. Lawrence (intelligence officer and author, 1888-1935): 'I am having great trouble with the Lawrence trustees, as they won't guarantee me against libel, and I can't possibly risk another case being brought against me. It is possible that, after months of work, I may have to throw up the editing of the letters' (see also **MS44/1/22/171** and Furbank, Vol. II, p. 211). EMF notes plans to go to Brussels with Bob Buckingham\* in mid-January and records a delightful time spent on the previous Sunday at the Buckingham's household: 'a big party of his family, nearly all of whom I like.' EMF notes various bits of domestic news and the fact that he is 'reading a lot of Greek – Sophocles, I read chiefly the translation.'

**MS44/1/22/176**

06/01/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF remarks that a lengthy article written by Peter Burra on FR (see **MS44/1/22/169**) 'is not altogether successful and I doubt him finding a market for it, but there are several interesting things in it and some charming ones.' EMF offers to send this unpublished piece to FR.

**MS44/1/22/177**

10/01/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF encloses the article by Peter Burra on FR (see **MS44/1/22/169** and **MS44/1/22/176**), with advice about which passages to dwell on. EMF cautions FR that Burra's essay 'may irritate you by its pryingness' but then playfully indicates its emphases: 'Dogs and boys! While liking them both, I think I am for men and cats really. Anyhow not for women and horses.'

**MS44/1/22/178**

20/01/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds to FR's interest in the article by Peter Burra (see **MS44/1/22/169**, **MS44/1/22/176** and **MS44/1/22/177**). EMF apologises for a link between Henry James\* and FR that the latter objects to: 'I am sorry about the H.J. reference, for which I am to blame, and have told him [Burra] it must be deleted. I heard of the matter from two separate quarters: from yourself and from Percy Lubbock [see **MS44/1/22/72**] who was (I think) stopping with H.J. at the time – he mentioned it to me independently.' EMF concludes by stating that '[t]he Lawrence affair is off. They would only give me a limited guarantee, which I don't find sufficient. Such a nuisance!' (see **MS44/1/22/175**).

**MS44/1/22/179**

20/04/1937. 'as from' West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF has '[j]ust returned to England' and apparently writes from London inviting FR to 'come round to 26 Brunswick Sq. on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> for lunch.' EMF notes he returns home the following day and directs post there.

**MS44/1/22/180**

20/08/1937. 33 Marine Parade, Dover. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds quickly and sympathetically to FR's disclosure of complications in his friendship with Stephen Gilbert\*. EMF offers touching and sensible advice and consolation.

**MS44/1/22/181**

22/08/1937. 33 Marine Parade, Dover. ALS, 6pp.

EMF continues to sympathise and advise FR at some length regarding the complications which have befallen his friendship with Stephen Gilbert\* (see **MS44/1/22/180** and Taylor, p. 163). EMF offers FR 'the London flat at any moment if you suddenly felt that a week's change would help you' as well as offers to 'come over for a couple of days' to Belfast if needed.

**MS44/1/22/182**

26/08/1937. ['as from,' West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF apparently writes for a third time from Dover advising FR about handling the rupture in his friendship with Stephen Gilbert\* (see **MS44/1/22/180** and **MS44/1/22/181**). EMF writes that 'I am very glad that my friendship should help you at this time, and I count on you to let me know if there is anything concrete which I can do.' EMF notes that FR has apparently 'done no harm' and that Knox Cunningham\* has made a useful intervention. EMF encourages FR 'to write to me whenever you feel the need' and directs him to use his West Hackhurst address.

**MS44/1/22/183**

02/09/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF acknowledges receipt of his copy of *Peter Waring* (1937, FR), including the dedication to him which prompts him to discuss 'a friendship [that] has endured many years.' EMF mentions that the Dover flat has been offered 'to Bob [Buckingham\*] and his wife and child' for a September holiday. EMF declares that Bob's wife May 'has turned out a decent friendly woman and will take good care of him.' EMF mentions that Hugh Meredith\* resides 'in an adjoining village, performing [his] translation of the Orestes in a surrealist setting. I can hardly believe Euripides ever was like that, but the performance was lively and inventive.'

**MS44/1/22/184**

19/10/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF offers FR a limited edition volume of letters from Aubrey Beardsley (illustrator, 1872-98) to Leonard Smithers (publisher and bookseller, 1861-1907). EMF mentions Knox Cunningham\* and Bob Buckingham\*, especially with reference to various illnesses of Bob's child.

**MS44/1/22/185 [erroneously dated to 'Summer 1939' in Lago's calendar – see R232]**

Undated. 'Tuesday' (apparently late November 1937; content of the letter follows that of **MS44/1/22/184** [19/10/1937] and predates that of **MS44/1/22/186** [28/11/1937]).

West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 1p.

EMF comments on the problems between FR and Stephen Gilbert\*, as reflected over the last few months (see **MS44/1/22/180**, **MS44/1/22/181** and **MS44/1/22/182**). EMF promises to post a book to FR 'on Friday' (presumably the letters from Aubrey Beardsley mentioned in **MS44/1/22/184**). EMF requests postal address and correct surname of Knox Cunningham\* whom he wishes to invite over to London as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month. Second half of letter dwells on EMF's recent trip to Paris (early November 1937) to see the Paris Exhibition of 1937 for which he was commissioned to write an article by John Lehman for *New Writing*, Autumn 1937, No. 4, pp. 1-5 (article published in November 1937 and reprinted in 1951 in *Two Cheers for Democracy*, pp. 3-8). EMF remarks on how much he believes FR could have used 'a complete change' from Belfast and how much he would have enjoyed the 'retrospective of French Art, from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1900' 'connected with the Exhibition' in Paris.

**MS44/1/22/186**

28/11/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions seeing Knox Cunningham\* and discussing the difficulties that have befallen FR's and Stephen Gilbert's\* friendship (see **MS44/1/22/180**, **MS44/1/22/181**, **MS44/1/22/182** and **MS44/1/22/185**; see Taylor p. 163, though Taylor misattributes a phrase from this letter to 1936). EMF remarks on an operation for tonsillitis and incipient consumption that has affected Bob Buckingham's\* child recently (see **MS44/1/22/184**).

**MS44/1/22/187**

05/12/1937. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF comments on Stephen Gilbert's\* choice of a career: '[i]t is queer Stephen taking to finance, and I don't much care for such a trait in a boy; not that there's anything wrong in it in a world built like this one, but it does tempt people to shut their eyes to other values, such as friendship poetry art and disinterested thought.' EMF mentions having discussed Stephen Gilbert's MS book (*The Assailants*) with Knox Cunningham\*: 'I think much better of it that K. does, it seemed to me to have form' (see **MS44/1/22/174**). EMF invites FR to come to England for a while so that FR 'needn't stay chained in Knock awaiting local developments.' EMF reports positive developments with regard to the health of Bob Buckingham's\* child (see **MS44/1/22/186**). EMF, Bob, Joe Ackerley\* and William Plomer\* plan to see *Mourning Becomes Electra* (1931), by Eugene O'Neill (American playwright, 1888-1953), on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. EMF appends a comment that he has 'a strong prejudice against Andrew Lang [Scottish poet, novelist and critic, 1844-1912], so look forward to your article' (see FR's "Andrew Lang and Longman's," *London Mercury*, March 1938, pp. 502-8; reprinted in FR's *Retrospective Adventures*, 1941).

**MS44/1/22/188**

10/04/1938. [Dover] 'as from: c/o Charles Mauron, Mas d'Angirany, St Remy de Provence, B. du R., France.' ALS, 1p.

EMF writes to FR from Dover on the eve of departure for France on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1938 and directs FR to write him care of his French translator, Charles Mauron\*. EMF offers FR the London flat for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April and suggests various contingencies to gain access.

**MS44/1/22/189**

Undated. 'Thursday' (probably 1938, presumably when FR is visiting J.N. Hart\*). West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 1p.

EMF invites FR to 'lunch with me in London on Monday.' EMF remarks that he liked a review by FR in *The Spectator* that mentions EMF: 'didn't know you thought I wrote so well' (FR wrote at least 57 reviews of current fiction for *The Spectator* from 28<sup>th</sup> May 1937 to 8<sup>th</sup> September 1939, none of which have been reprinted).

**MS44/1/22/190**

03/03/1939. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds to FR's latest letter in which FR has related a new 'anxiety' in his friendship with Stephen Gilbert\* (see **MS44/1/22/180**, **MS44/1/22/181**, **MS44/1/22/182**, **MS44/1/22/185** and **MS44/1/22/186**). EMF comments: 'I don't think of myself as old either: though I don't make any new young friends, now I come to think of it. I've been so worried by the political situation that I've had no interest left over for *that* type of personal trouble.' EMF provides news regarding mutual friends: John Simpson\* (and his friend Bill Dodd), Joe Ackerley\*, Harry Daley\*, Bob Buckingham\*. EMF relates that Harry Daley\* 'suddenly dropped a mad and abusive letter on me for no reason at all.' EMF mentions that he has gotten to like May Buckingham\* 'and I am very fond indeed of the child.' EMF notes that he and Bob Buckingham\* will 'go to Cambridge on Monday to see the *Antigone* in Greek, and to stay with the Provost at King's! I have been to Cambridge a good deal this term, partly over politics. It is nice to visit but oh my God what a place to live in, and how snobby!' EMF plans a trip to Dublin the following week but regrets he will not be able to travel to Belfast. EMF concludes this lengthy letter with the following comments on his friendship with FR: 'You sign yourself my affectionate old friend, so I must do the same to you. As the years pass we have *that*, and it is something which no young person can have or understand. I don't know why one has this deep feeling over faithfulness [no punctuation] But with you I have it.'

**MS44/1/22/191**

05/09/1939. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF renews correspondence with FR after a substantial break: 'It is time we exchanged a few words again – we may not often have the chance. I want to know how you are – I do trust better. And I want to know how and where Stephen [Gilbert\*] is.' EMF comments more explicitly on the war (commenced 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939), in particular the fact that his 'cousin Percy and his wife [have] arrived here for duration' and the opinion expressed by Bob Buckingham\* that

EMF 'shall give up my Brunswick Square flat, owing to its dangerous situation.' EMF expands at some length upon the importance of Bob to him: 'We fear we shan't have much more happiness together. But we understand what faithfulness and loyalty is, so there is something left when happiness has to stop. You will follow what I mean here – most people couldn't. Until I met Bob, my life though it was often intelligent and amusing and romantic, really made no sense whatever.' EMF mentions two admirers of FR's work: John Sparrow (Fellow, All Souls, Oxford) and L.F. Giblin ('a professor in Australia'). EMF notes that 'I ought to be [in] Sweden at the present moment, attending an International PEN Conference!' (but the start of war has intervened).

**MS44/1/22/192**

01/10/1939. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes late in the evening about the life of his extended household (see **MS44/1/22/191**) during the early weeks of the Second World War. EMF asks FR about Stephen Gilbert\* who has enlisted: 'Stephen's silence as to where he is training is probably the result of stringent orders. All the lads seem very reticent. I expect they will tire of it soon and start chattering, and then we shall know what is already known to the Germans.' EMF mentions he has 'got a new flat (9 Arlington Park Mansions, Chiswick, W.4 is the address).' The flat 'is nice, near Bob [Buckingham\*], and out of danger as things go, and it is half the price of the Brunswick Square one.' EMF mentions wanting to see John Simpson\* again and gives some news about Joe Ackerley\*. EMF queries FR about the war: 'Have you any clear ideas on the war? Would you fight if you could? Do you think the things we care for will ever come up again? I don't mean in the same form, like again reading Dante, but something parallel to reading Dante, where poetry & integrity will again have some scope?'

**MS44/1/22/193 [mistake with regard to location in Lago's calendar – R235]**

13/02/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking

[EMF writes from 'my new flat' in Chiswick, London, see **MS44/1/22/192**]. ALS, 4pp.

EMF provides FR the postal address of Geoffrey Grigson (poet, writer and broadcaster, 1905-85) but comments disparagingly on Grigson. EMF mentions Stephen Gilbert\* and some of the effects of war on London, especially aeroplanes. EMF looks forward to dining out with Bob Buckingham\* and Stephen Tennant 'at the Savoy on oysters and so on, much excitement.' EMF enquires after Knox Cunningham\*.

**MS44/1/22/194**

30/05/1940. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF discusses *Private Road* (1940), which he has just received from FR, and praises it at some length as 'one of the most successful things you have written, I do think.' EMF also reflects on their friendship in the context of reading FR's new book: 'Reading, I felt not only my habitual affection and admiration for you, but a sense that there has after all been some sort of pattern in my own life. One can only get that sense through someone whom one has known and kept straight with for many years: it is a result of faithfulness. Faithfulness, like mercy, is an abstraction which I understand (Innocence, like justice, is an abstraction I have difficulty over – though others find it simple.)' EMF declares FR 'must be very happy to have got this book out. It shows such control, both over style, and over the fluid stuff which we have to strain and coagulate before we can make our lives intelligible even to ourselves.' EMF mentions he has declined an invitation to review *Private Road* for the *Spectator*, not merely due to his commitment to the *New Statesman* as a reviewer, but because 'I don't feel like praising up such a book in print, it lies too close to me.'

**MS44/1/22/195**

14/06/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF sends FR some money and hopes that he will accept it 'as a token of my admiration and love.' EMF then dwells on the war: 'I am thankful that Stephen [Gilbert\*] is in temporary safety [following his evacuation from Dunkirk, 26<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June]. As you say, it is all so senseless and wasteful, the cruelty and suffering apart. If there was not some slight pattern in one's personal life, one would go mad.' EMF also adds that 'I am just finishing the pamphlet I am doing at the request of the Ministry of Information.' EMF mentions that he has bought a Van Gogh reproduction in London: 'It is of the Saintes Maries boats. Two are on shore, the rest sail off into a sea which seems never to end.' EMF adds a postscript: 'The Censor opened your letter. He has some hopes!'

**MS44/1/22/196**

21/06/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF sympathises with what FR has related earlier about ‘your time with Stephen’ Gilbert\*. EMF is ‘so glad that the present was acceptable’ (see **MS44/1/22/195**). EMF mentions that he has ‘at last finished my pamphlet and sent off the M.S. [see **MS44/1/22/195**]. The preparation of it has taken it out of me rather, the material was so hideous and so depressing. What evil the Nazis do! It is unbelievable. They ruin our little worlds from pole to pole. They must have got to the south of France now, and destroyed the frail happiness of my beloved Charles & Marie Mauron\*, and they keep trying to take Stephen from you.’

**MS44/1/22/197 [misdated as 13/04/1940 in Lago’s calendar – R236]**

13/09/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes a long ‘garrulous’ letter about the effects of the war and his responses to them. EMF thanks FR ‘for Stephen[ Gilbert’s\*] poem and for the picture-cutting of him ... It is strange that he could have written that gentle poem after all those horrors in France.’ EMF offers to look after Stephen Gilbert\* if he comes back to England, ‘so that I may show him such kindness as is possible in these strange times. For the moment, all I care to do is to show kindness, and it is an unsatisfactory activity, nor does it always succeed, being balked by irritation or depression.’ EMF goes on to mention that, in spite of the war, ‘I do do some reading as well, and you would approve of it: *Portrait of a Lady* [1881, Henry James\*] and *Sindbad the Sailor* [*The Arabian Nights*]. I admired the James more than ever before – it is so serious about people, not merely serious about itself. Indeed it so enamoured me of seriousness that I have attacked *Middlemarch* [1871-2, George Eliot, 1819-80] and see every prospect of getting through it. But oh dear the lass is heavy. Heavy and sterling.’ EMF entertains himself by playing ‘mostly Beethoven’s Sonatas, on which I am gradually writing a sort of commentary.’ EMF juxtaposes these remarks on artistic activities to pointed thoughts about the war: ‘I don’t intend, so long as I remain alive, to float helplessly on this tide of wickedness and rubbish. One can direct one[’s] course a little still, and books and music help one. What doesn’t help me[] though are all the lovely times I’ve been abroad. They come back to me too poignantly. And the circle narrows. I can’t get as far as the sea now. It’s doubtful whether I shall ever get to London on Sunday (I have to broadcast there). “Mais vain se lamenter (même un peu vulgaire)” Charles Mauron\* remarks in almost the last letter I’ve got from him.’ (See comments about the war, France and his friends, the Maurons, in **MS44/1/22/196**). EMF mentions wartime holidays of Joe Ackerley\* and of Bob Buckingham\*. EMF concludes his letter with a domestic sketch: ‘Things go on as usual here, my mother is very fine. All the time I write German bombers are forging overhead, but she has gone to bed quite calmly. The animals too go on as usual, a disturbed blackbird squawks in the moonlight, the cats frown at one another because each is sitting upon the other’s kitchen chair. The truth is there are two worlds – the old one and this loathsome new one, and the old world has been overlain – not killed.’

**MS44/1/22/198 [SL, EMF, Vol. II, pp. 181-4; # 348]**

30/09/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 4pp.

(+ 2pp. notes on Beethoven, Opus 90, “Sonata in E Minor”).

EMF describes having been ‘to London for a few hours on Friday’ and reports on varying degrees of bomb damage. EMF mentions Bob Buckingham\*, Knox Cunningham\* and Joe Ackerley\* in passing. The lengthy second paragraph and the long appendix to the letter (two pages of notes on performing both the first and second movements of Opus 90, “Sonata in E Minor”) elaborate upon EMF’s enjoyment at playing Beethoven’s Sonatas (see **MS44/1/22/197**). EMF mentions *Le Grand Meaulnes* (1913, Alain Fournier, 1886-1914) and has been reading *La vie intime de Voltaire aux Délices et à Ferney, 1754-1778, d’après des lettres et des documents inédits* (1885, Lucien Perey and Gaston Maugras) which EMF discusses with reference to his trip the previous year to Switzerland ‘with my beloved and lost Charles Mauron\*’ (see **MS44/1/22/196** and **MS44/1/22/197**; see Furbank, Vol. II, p. 233).

**MS44/1/22/199 [mistaken in pagination in Lago’s calendar: 1p. – R241]**

15/10/1940. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF asks FR ‘to look up a soldier,’ ‘Pte C.J. Bone, 6095608,’ who is the third son of EMF’s gardener, Charlie Bone, and who has been stationed with his regiment at Brooklynne House on Knock Road in Belfast. The entire letter is taken up with relaying personal and familial information about the two Bones, father and son.

**MS44/1/22/200**

29/10/40. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF relates bits of news about several friends, including Bob Buckingham\*. EMF tells FR not to worry about getting in touch with the soldier, Charlie Bone (see **MS44/1/22/199**). EMF mentions reviewing *Friends of a Lifetime*:

*Letters to Sidney Carlyle Cockerell* (edited by Viola Meynell) and comments on the news of FR's poor health as relayed in a letter from FR dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 1940.

**MS44/1/22/201**

08/02/1941. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF asks FR to accept another gift of money (see also **MS44/1/22/195**), saying 'I have a great deal of money in hand, since certain American securities have paid me up.' EMF mentions being disappointed that Knox Cunningham\* was not able to visit him recently, and EMF asks for news of Stephen Gilbert\*. EMF remarks on friends of the family who are staying with them because of damage from the Blitz and notes '[p]oor Brunswick Square is all knocked about now.' EMF discusses going to London once a week to his flat in Chiswick and also frequently seeing Bob Buckingham\*, who 'is well and full of beans, intellectual and physical. He has a really good mind, and I believe it is the stronger and fresher for not being trained.' EMF plans to go away for a week in early March 1941 with Bob to visit various friends. EMF recommends books by L. C. White.

**MS44/1/22/202**

27/03/1941. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF has visited Knox Cunningham\* in hospital earlier in the day and relates at length news of Knox's weakened condition, prospect of a long hospitalisation and his ambivalence toward the presence and hospitality of Knox's wife. EMF offers to go and see Stephen Gilbert\* whom Knox has mentioned is reportedly stationed 'at Harley' (phrase in FR's hand at the top left-hand side of the letter reads 'S at Eastbourne'). EMF comments on his 'week's motoring with Bob' (Buckingham\*; see **MS44/1/22/201**). EMF describes his hectic timetable: 'I have been very busy and public-platforming lately, hope and think it is now over.' EMF notes he will deliver a 'Lecture on Indian Novelists writing in English to the Peterborough Literary Society on Wednesday.'

**MS44/1/22/203**

11/04/1941. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF is pleased to hear that FR has taken his report on Knox Cunningham\* in hospital and his offer of entertaining Stephen Gilbert\* in England well (see **MS44/1/22/202**). EMF mentions that he has been bedridden since 1<sup>st</sup> April with the threat of pleurisy. EMF mentions having shown a poem by Stephen Gilbert\* (see **MS44/1/22/197**) to Joe Ackerley\*: 'I showed Stephen's poem to Joe the day I got it. He fears it isn't suitable, and I don't think myself it comes off. In a short poem, defective technique matters much more than in a long one, don't you think, and the rhyming of "wood" & "food" makes the end so flat. If "food" could have come first and "wood" last it might have sounded better, for some reason not clear to me.'

**MS44/1/22/204**

04/05/1941. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF writes helpfully and anecdotally about Richard Porson (scholar, 1759-1808) in response to FR's strong interest in his work and life. EMF suggests Alfred Edward Housman (poet, classicist and scholar, 1859–1936) was authority on Porson, but EMF turned down the opportunity to write on Porson with Housman's help because 'Housman was so detestable and so alarming a person.' EMF advises FR to contact the scholar Professor George Thompson of Birmingham University if he intends to pursue learning and writing about Porson. EMF queries: 'Is the Library at Queen's University alright? What is the use in their giving you a degree if you don't use it? I'm afraid it won't be possible to post books from the L.L. [London Library] to you.' EMF offers a revealing anecdote concerning Housman's character: 'Housman once began an after dinner speech with: "It is credibly reported that on one occasion Wordsworth was drunk and Porson sober. A greater scholar than Wordsworth and a greater poet than Porson, I stand before you this evening betwixt and between."' EMF mentions news regarding John Simpson\* and Bob Buckingham\*.

**MS44/1/22/205**

17/07/1941. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF confirms having received a copy of *Retrospective Adventures* (1941, FR) and 'I enjoyed them. Of the critical work the Howells interested me very much.' EMF writes casually about domestic news, various reading and asks after Stephen Gilbert\*.

**MS44/1/22/206**

31/01/1942. 'From: E.M. Forster,'

West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF was to do 'a broadcast for India on the subject of Aldous Huxley's [writer, 1894-1963] *Grey Eminence*, which is sure to be a muddle' (*Grey Eminence: A Study in Religion and Politics*, 1941), but prefers instead to write to FR. EMF enquires after Knox Cunningham\* and Stephen Gilbert\*. EMF notes his pleasure with Bob Buckingham\* having gotten 'a picture into the Civil Defence Artists Show in Bond Street. The subject is Morning on the Canal, and we are very much pleased.' EMF mentions Joe Ackerley\*, John Simpson\* and Ralph Meredith's recent marriage. EMF concludes his letter with a paragraph about his activities in the context of the current war: 'I am reading a great deal, partly as an escape from my thoughts, partly in order to know a little more about human endeavour and achievement while I have still the eyesight and the time. Our disastrous age will accomplish nothing, but that does not mean that all has been or will be vain. – If you can get hold of the Dec. number of a magazine called *Horizon*, do have a look at it – there is an article by me called "The New Disorder," and I do believe you would agree with it' (see EMF, "The New Disorder," *Horizon*, December 1941, Vol. 4, pp. 379-84; reprinted as a sixteen-page pamphlet in New York, *The New Disorder*, 1949).

**MS44/1/22/207**

04/09/1942. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 6pp.

EMF remarks on a book by Virginia Woolf (possibly *Between the Acts*, 1941) that he had the publishers send to FR earlier in the year, and he also mentions Woolf's *Flush: A Biography* (1933). Extraordinary second paragraph of the letter commences with chat about health, then turns to remarks on death, the war, peace and love: 'My mother keeps well and active, though terribly authoritarian. Old women frighten me when I think of them: they are really giving all those orders and prohibitions to Death, and ordering Him to keep away from them and from their houses. I don't myself take much notice of death so far, or regard him as more than an instrument which will release me from a universe which I can't understand. I see no end to this war, and if there is peace it will not resemble any previous peace. Yet I believe in the constancy and endurance of the human spirit, and in its power to love when it is given the chance to love.' EMF asks after Stephen Gilbert\* and Knox Cunningham\* and declares 'I look forward to reading S's book [probably *The Landslide*, 1943], but don't do any reviewing now – only broadcasting to Indians on matters likely to interest them locally.' EMF has recently been 'to Manchester to attend the rehearsal in the B.B.C. studio there of the dramatised version of *The Celestial Omnibus* [1911]. It was a strange experience and on the whole a pleasant one.' EMF mentions various bits of news about his friends John Simpson\*, Joe Ackerley\* and Bob Buckingham\* and also remarks on 'a charming Chinese youth called Hsiao Chien' who has written to the Forsters, mother and son, from Edinburgh and 'who is now going to Cambridge to study British Fiction.' This lengthy letter concludes with chatty anecdotes about Forster's cats and reminiscences of the past.

**MS44/1/22/208**

16/12/1942. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF records receiving and reading 'with pleasure' a copy of *Notes and Impressions* (1942, FR) and declares that he '[h]ad forgotten how effectively mischievous [FR] had been about Jacob's Room' (Virginia Woolf, *Jacob's Room*, 1922). EMF states: 'I also approve of the rehabilitation of Caliban, though he was rather more like Bob [Buckingham\*] than you quite realise. By the way, Prospero let him off quite lightly at the end, and merely tells him to tidy the room up. Which I suppose he does, looking somewhat sulky and treading on a chessman.' EMF remarks: 'I get a lot of broadcasting to India, and am also "leading" a discussion in a Search Light Unit near here every week. Am well and a little weary of life



sometimes but not always.’ EMF mentions Joe Ackerley\* and John Simpson\*. EMF recommends *The Development of William Butler Yeats* (1942, V.K. Narayana Menon, 1911 - ?) as ‘an excellent study.’

**MS44/1/22/209 [misdated as 16/10/1947 in Lago’s calendar – R257;  
FR died 04/01/1947 and Lily Forster passed away 11/03/1945]**

16/10/1943. West Hackhurst. [Abinger Hammer, Dorking] ALS, 3pp.

EMF replies to a ‘mislaidd’ letter in which FR discussed ‘a holiday with Stephen’ (Gilbert\*) and his new book *Young Tom* (1944). EMF reports reading two novels about youth by Mark Twain (1835-1910): ‘I have been reading Tom Sawyer [*Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, 1876], and reading, for the first time, Huck Finn [*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, 1884]. I don’t like this so well, a bit written up surely. Tom Sawyer I’d put very high. Then I have gone on to the Ordeal of Mark Twain by Van Wyck Brook [American literary scholar, 1886-1963], a tiresome psychological study, which made me feel I was going through the same ordeal myself, and failing.’ EMF reports being very busy. EMF describes a personal experience he knows may have great resonance not just for himself but for FR as well: ‘My most moving experience lately has been sleeping a night at “Howards End” – Rooksnest; so unchanged, the farm unchanged and all so friendly and affectionate. With houses at all events, on n’aime qu’une fois – la première, and I have realised that there, between the ages of 4 and 14, I left my heart, and that I have never cared for West Hackhurst. Odd isn’t it. But you will probably understand. The love is reinforced by the incredible beauty of this part of Hertfordshire, which as a child I had missed. In childhood one doesn’t notice huge views. I have been putting down my West Hackhurst memories lately – clever, bitter, and not valuable. No tenderness.’ EMF enquires after Knox Cunningham\* and mentions ‘[m]y mother keeps fairly well for her age – 88.’ EMF reports news of Bob Buckingham\*, Joe Ackerley\* and John Simpson\*.

**MS44/1/22/210 [misdated as 25/12/1943 in Lago’s calendar – R251]**

29/12/1943. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF confirms he has received a copy of FR’s *Poems from the Greek Anthology* (1943), based upon FR’s own selections and translations from *The Palantine Anthology*, and states that he ‘enjoyed the poems, and felt all through the pleasure you had had in the selection and translation. I wish I had some such little garden myself.’ EMF continues: ‘I have been writing down, you will be glad to hear, some reminiscences but they concern only this house and its fortunes, and are not very seductive. Early in the year, I did some reading about the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and touched some of your material from another side – e.g. Palladas, whom you don’t as a matter of fact touch. I feel that the period comes nearer to our own than any other in the past, and was looking for interpretation there. Did you ever tackle St Augustine? I have at last managed to mingle respect with my dislike. – Thank you for sending the book to me. Many of the poems I didn’t know. The dogs on p. 68 & 70 are both charming’ (see FR’s *Poems from the Greek Anthology*, especially the second poem by Macedonius on p. 68 and the second poem attributed to Anonymous on p. 70). EMF then turns to ‘another and somewhat unexpected topic.’ EMF introduces warily and playfully a young American acquaintance to FR: ‘An American Variety Show, “This is the Army” is shortly coming to Belfast, and I know a boy in it whom you might like and who would certainly enjoy seeing you. I am quite aware that you are now indisposed to read this letter further but beg you to continue. By profession he is a serious actor (you feel bored), is gay and charming (feeling of boredom continues) and an ardent bibliophile (interest awakened?). If you feel inclined to get in to touch with him, please write as soon as the show is billed’ (EMF provides contact information for Corporal William Roerich of the U.S. Army; see Furbank, Vol. II, p. 246 and Wendy Moffat “‘So Much Generosity and Affection’: Some Newly-Discovered Letters of E.M. Forster,” *Modern Language Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1&2, 2003, pp. 6-23). EMF concludes with some news regarding Christmas: ‘My nicest time at Christmas was eating a goose at Bob’s [Buckingham\*], plus Xmas Tree, etc. Eight of us, three children, and all so good tempered and charming.’

**MS44/1/22/211**

28/01/1944. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF relates William Roerich’s news about the splendid time he has had visiting FR in Belfast (see **MS44/1/22/210**). EMF provides various news of his friends Bob Buckingham\*, Joe Ackerley\* and John Simpson\*. EMF comments affectionately, ‘Bob is all right and a blessed tower of strength. I have become very fond too of his wife and boy, and often go round to their hospitable house.’ EMF comments bleakly, ‘[t]his war seems to have been for ever, and I

fear will be for ever as far as your and my life times are concerned. We are lucky to have memories, which we can sometimes recapture, of a former age.'

**MS44/1/22/212**

16/05/1944. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF relates news concerning the visit of John McKibbin and is 'delighted to hear from you about my broadcast' (presumably "Books that Influenced Me," published as "Books in General" in the *New Statesman and Nation*, N.S., 15<sup>th</sup> July 1944, p. 43; reprinted as "A Book that Influenced Me," *Two Cheers for Democracy*, 1951, pp. 212-15). EMF hears too late about FR's broadcast reading of his own work recently. EMF provides news of a lecture in Glasgow and of five-days holidaying alone in the Lake District.

**MS44/1/22/213**

12/06/1944. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions his enjoyment in reading *Young Tom* (1944, FR) and comments at some length about various features of Tom's character and some details of the book. EMF mentions John Simpson\*, William Plomer\*, Joe Ackerley\*, Harry Daley\* ('Harry the Sinister') in passing. EMF refers to Stephen Gilbert's\* *The Landslide* (1943) in a postscript.

**MS44/1/22/214 [misdated as 16/04/1945 in Lago's calendar – R255]**

14/04/1945. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 2pp.

EMF responds to FR's condolences on death of EMF's mother, Lily (see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 255-6). EMF confides: 'This is a scrappy note, dear F.R., but I suddenly felt I could write, and you must excuse. I wish I could see you. Possibly I might get over to Ireland later in the year – this also I have suddenly felt.' EMF concludes: 'At the moment I am alone with our old servant, struggling with the family accumulations of nearly 150 years. More than that in some cases, for I have just come across, dated 1759, my great-great-grandmother's manuscript "Book of Receipts." The first receipt is "Raison Wine" and the last is "To destroy Bugs." – This I shall preserve, but most must go.'

**MS44/1/22/215 [not in Lago's Calendar]**

Undated. [Postmarked 01/10/1945. Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. APCS.

EMF provides his postal address in New Delhi, India where he will attend (as chief speaker) the PEN conference in Jaipur (from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1945; see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 259-61). EMF will travel for the first time 'by air' and expects 'to return in the middle of December.'

**MS44/1/22/216 [not in Lago's calendar]**

21/04/1946. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions John Boyd (Belfast friend of FR who has written a doctoral thesis at Trinity College Dublin on FR; see Taylor, p. 172, and John Boyd, "From a Journal: Notes on Forrest Reid," *Threshold* 28 [1977], pp. 123-33) who will visit him soon in London. EMF reports he has 'returned from India to be greeted with notice to quit this house in the autumn. I thought it might come; but, selfish and heartless though the Farrers [Lord Farrer and family, landlord of West Hackhurst; see Furbank, Vol. II, pp. 202-4] are, I did not think it would come at a time when homes are unattainable. Fortunately I have just been made an Honorary Fellow of King's, and the College is most kindly assigning me rooms – two small ones "out" and a large one "in," which will take most of my furniture and books. I am very grateful to Cambridge, and only wish I could feel enthusiastic too. My heart just sinks all round, and I am 67, and fear I shall never again have a home of my own.' EMF mentions the auction of 'a lorry-load of furniture' in Dorking Market, the relocations of various servants and the cats and Lord Farrer coming last in the poll for the local Parish Council due to the animosity generated. EMF asks FR if he would 'want Leach's Pictures from Punch, in a series in paper covers.' EMF mentions a new talk to be given on BBC radio on Mohammed Iqbal on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1946 (actually given on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1946, "A Great Indian Poet-Philosopher," reprinted as "Mohammed Iqbal" in *Two Cheers for Democracy*, 1951, pp. 282-4). EMF mentions Bob Buckingham\* ('an eternal refuge, if flesh and blood such as his can be eternal'), Joe Ackerley\* and John Simpson\*.

**MS44/1/22/217**

18/08/1946. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp.

EMF mentions he has 'enjoyed The Milk of Paradise [*The Milk of Paradise: Some Thoughts on Poetry*, 1946, FR], and have just been recommending it in an Indian broadcast.' EMF dwells on his 'impending move. It is a heartrending

experience, and I can't tell what I shall be like when it is over [see **MS44/1/22/216**], but if my health holds I want to come to Belfast for a few days in order to see you.' EMF mentions in passing a pleasant visit with John Boyd (see **MS44/1/22/216**) who may find accommodation for EMF when he visits Belfast. EMF states that his 'room inside [King's] College, which is very large, is being done up. The mantelpiece which my father designed in 1876, is already there, and when it is up I shall sit down in front of it, as I have done ever since babyhood, and shall think What next? The future answers us uncertainly, does it not, dear FR.' EMF concludes with a paragraph on spending time with Bob Buckingham\*, family and friends on a houseboat on the Thames.

### **Catalogue of EMF's Correspondence (QUB Special Collections MS45/1/18)**

The papers of Stephen Gilbert\* deposited with Special Collections, Queen's University Belfast, contain four additional autograph letters by E.M. Forster. As an appendix as well as a coda to the foregoing catalogue of Forster's letters to Forrest Reid, we have chosen to include the catalogue of E.M. Forster's letters, 1936 to 1947, to Reid's friend and literary executor, Stephen Gilbert. None of the following four letters were catalogued in Mary Lago, *Calendar of the Letters of E. M. Forster*.

#### **MS45/1/18/1**

31/08/1936 [date appended after signature]. No location provided. ALS, 2pp.

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!'

#### **MS45/1/18/2**

24/02/1943. West Hackhurst, Abinger Hammer, Dorking. ALS, 2pp. (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.'

#### **MS45/1/18/3**

17/03/1943. West Hackhurst [Abinger Hammer, Dorking]. ALS, 1p. (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/?/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/?/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.'

**MS45/1/18/4**

04/04/1947. King's College, Cambridge. ALS, 2pp. (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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.'

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