## H. Montgomery Hyde:

### An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

## **Descriptive Summary**

Creator: Hyde, H. Montgomery (Harford Montgomery), 1907-.

**Title:** H. Montgomery Hyde Collection

**Dates:** 1907-1989

**Extent:** 6 boxes (2.52 linear ft.), 1 galley folder, 4 oversize folders

**Abstract:** The Collection contains Hyde's work and correspondence relating to

his research and writings about Roger Casement, an Irishman who worked for the British Consulate Service and was hung after being convicted of treason in 1916. Much of the controversy regarding Casement centered around the authenticity of his diaries, which contain many homoerotic passages. Included are typescript and research materials related to his works: *Trial of Sir Roger Casement* (1960), *A History of Pornography, The Trials of Oscar Wilde* and

Henry James at Home.

Call Number: Manuscript Collection MS-02108

**Language:** English

**Access:** Open for access.

### **Administrative Information**

**Acquisition:** Purchase, 1974; Gift, 1976

**Processed by:** Deborah Shelby, May 1994; Revised 1995, David Hatfield Sparks;

Chelsea Dinsmore, 2002

**Repository:** Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

### **Biographical Sketch**

Harford Montgomery Hyde was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1907. His parents were James Johnstone Hyde, a linen merchant, and Isobel G. Montgomery, a distant cousin of Henry James. Hyde attended Sedbergh School at Queen's University, Belfast, Magdalen College, and Oxford where he read history and law. He began his practice of law as a barrister in London and on the North-Eastern Circuit in 1934. He and his wife Dorothy, a member of the World War II Fire Service, were married in April 1939. Later that year, Hyde joined the British Army Intelligence Corps. He became a Lieutenant-Colonel in the service and traveled to many countries including America, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Sweden, and Russia.

Beginning in 1947, Hyde spent two years as the legal advisor for the British Lion Film Corp. He served as a member of Parliament from the Belfast North Division in the House of Commons from 1950-59. He played a prominent role in the fight to abolish the death penalty for murder and became involved in efforts to bring about legal and social reform in the areas of censorship, pornography, and civil rights for homosexuals. Hyde also acted as a United Kingdom delegate for the Council of Europe Consultative Assembly in Strasbourg, France, from 1952-55. From 1959 to 1961 he was a professor of history and political science at Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan.

The Rise of Castlereagh, Hyde's first published work, appeared in 1933. He published more than 40 books on various topics, including several volumes in the Notable Trial Series. As a scholar of trends in criminal law and social history, he focused particularly on pornography and scandal and wrote numerous works on Oscar Wilde, Alfred Douglas, Henry James, Roger Casement, and Judge Jefferys. Some of his titles include: Air Defense and the Civil Population (1937), Mexican Empire (1946), Privacy and the Press (1947), The Trial of Oscar Wilde (1948), The Trial of Craig and Bentley (1954), Trial of Sir Roger Casement (1960), Oscar Wilde: The Aftermath (1963), A History of Pornography (1964), Henry James at Home (1969), The Love that Dared Not Speak Its Name (1970), Oscar Wilde: A Biography (1975), Crime Has Its Heros (1976), The Annotated Oscar Wilde (1982), and Secret Intelligence Agent (1982), an autobiographical account of Hyde's activities during World War II. Hyde died in the summer of 1989, just after completing the introduction to his final work, The Lady Chatterley's Lover Trial, published in 1990.

## **Scope and Contents**

The H. Montgomery Hyde collection is arranged in five series: Series I. Correspondence, 1935-1971 (1 box); Series II. *Trial of Roger Casement*, 1910-1974 (1 box); Series III. *A History of Pornography*, 1963-1964 (.5 box); Series IV. Oscar Wilde, 1946-1967 (2.5 boxes); and Series V. Henry James, 1897-1970 (bulk 1954-1970) (1.5 boxes). The social and legal issues raised during the trials of Roger Casement and Oscar Wilde form the nucleus of Hyde's research, literary output, and advocacy, culminating in 1967 with the

adoption of the recommendations of the Wolfenden Committee and the eventual rise of the modern gay rights movement in England.

The Correspondence series, 1935-1971, is chronologically arranged with carbon copies of Hyde's outgoing letter occasionally interfiled with the incoming letters. Hyde's correspondence pertains to his research on Roger Casement's diaries and trial and the history of pornography as well as the publication of his two books, *Trial of Sir Roger Casement* (1960) and *A History of Pornography* (1964). While the majority of the correspondence in the collection focuses on the editorial and publishing process, several letters, such as those from Michael Francis Doyle (Casement's American counsel), Letitia Denny Fairfield, Gerald Hamilton, Frank MacDermot, Herbert O. Mackey, and Alfred Noyes, seek additional detailed information about Casement and efforts to return Casement's remains to Ireland. Other significant correspondents include Neville Braybrook, James H. Hodge, J. W. Lambert, Allen Lane, Harold Macmillan, and Leonard Russell. Correspondents in this series are listed in the Index of Correspondence at the end of this guide.

Series II pertains to Hyde's work on Roger Casement, an Irishman who worked for the British Consulate Service and was hung after being convicted of treason in 1916. Much of the controversy regarding Casement centered around the authenticity of his diaries, which contain many homoerotic passages describing explicit sexual encounters between Casement and other men. A draft of the *Trial of Sir Roger Casement* is incomplete, however numerous articles and research notes are present, including information from the National Library of Ireland pertaining to the Asquith papers, litigation reports from Scotland Yard (1916), a typed transcript of Casement's 1910 diary, and a draft of the text of Casement's trial. Also found here are reproductions of Casement's legal papers and poetry. Other items present include Hyde's B.B.C. radio script, 1961, and several folders of clippings, 1957 to 1971. Correspondence found here concerns criticisms of Hyde's work on Casement, the return of Casement's remains to Ireland, and authentication of Casement's authorship of the *Black Diaries*.

Series III contains material for *A History of Pornography* (1964) including an annotated and corrected typescript. A 1974 note on the title page suggests that this is the only remaining typescript. Also present are two attorney reports and correspondence (including Hyde's responses) discussing the legal ramifications of certain possibly obscene passages in *A History of Pornography*.

The Oscar Wilde series contains page proofs of *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* as well as draft front and end matter. Also present are a few essays about Wilde written by Hyde at different times. A number of legal documents concern a disagreement between Warwick Film Productions, Hyde, 20th Century Fox, and others. The bulk of material in this series is correspondence generated by Hyde while researching Wilde. Generally the letters are to Hyde, however quite a number of Hyde's carbon copies are interfiled. Correspondents of note include Vyvyan Holland, Muriel Sherard, and Francis Queensberry. All correspondents in this series are listed in the Index of Correspondence at the end of this guide.

Series V is made up materials collected by Hyde while researching his book *Henry James at Home* and correspondence generated by its publication. Of particular note is the correspondence between Hyde, Leon Edel, John Cullen, J. Alan White, and the members of the Waterlow family regarding certain accusations of plagiarism lodged by Edel against Hyde. All correspondents in this series are listed in the Index of Correspondence at the end of this guide. A large number of photocopies of James' letters to Alvin Coburn and Violet Hunt are present which may not be reproduced without the permission of the owning libraries.

#### **Related Material**

Other materials associated with Hyde include his book collection on the history of pornography, which also includes books on sexuality and obscenity. Other materials may be found in the following manuscript collections at the Ransom Center:

- Carter, J.
- Croft-Cooke, Rupert
- Gogarty, Oliver St. John
- Hamilton, G.
- Hopkins, Kenneth
- Mackenzie, Compton, Sir
- Wilde, Oscar

#### **Index Terms**

#### **People**

Casement, Roger, Sir, 1864-1916.

James, Henry, 1843-1916.

Wilde Oscar, 1854-1900.

Braybrooke, Neville, 1923-.

Cullen, John.

Doyle, Michael Francis.

Edel, Leon, 1907-.

Fairfield, Letitia Denny.

Gulliot de Saix, Leon, 1885-.

Hamilton, Gerald, 1890-.

Hodge, James, (James Hozier), 1906.

Holland, Vyvyan Beresford, 1886-1967.

Lambert, J. W. (Jack Walter), 1917-1986.

Lane, Allen, Sir, 1902-1970.

MacColl, Rene, 1905.

MacDermont, Frank.

Mackey, Herbert O.

Macmillan, Harold, 1894-.

Noyes, Alfred, 1880-1958.

Queensberry, Francis Archibald Kelhead Douglas, 10th Marquis, 1895-.

Russell Leonard, 1906.

Secker, Martin, 1882-1978.

Sherard, Muriel.

Singleton-Gates, Peter.

White, J. Alan.

Wilkinson, Louis, 1881-1966.

#### **Subjects**

Authors, American, 19th century, biography.

Consuls, Great Britain.

Erotic literature, History and criticism.

Homosexuality, Law and legislation, Great Britain.

Nationalists, Ireland.

Obscenity (law), Great Britain.

Pornography.

Sodomy, Great Britain.

#### **Places**

Great Britain, Politics and Government.

Lamb House, Sussex.

### **Document Types**

Diaries.

Galley proofs.

Legal documents.

Scripts.

# Series I. Correspondence, 1935-1971

1956-1957 Box	1 Folder 1
1958-1959 June	Folder 2
1959 July-1964	Folder 3
1965-1971, n.d.	Folder 4
Correspondence and other material removed from Hyde's book collection, 1935-61, n.d.	Folder 5

# Series II. Trial of Roger Casement, (1960) 1910-1971

Casement diary, 1910, (typed transcript.)	<b>Box</b> 1 <b>Folder</b> 6
Interrogation of Roger Casement at Scotland Yard, April 1916, (copy.)	Folder 7
Roger Casement, verdict of the court and articles, (1950, n.d.)	Folder 8
Notes from the National Library of Ireland (*portion removed to oversize folder	Box 2 Folder 1*
Typescripts, correspondence, and newspaper clippings, 1960-65	Folder 2
Original B.B.C. typescript, 1961	Folder 3
Typescript, "Preface: The Trial of Sir Roger Casement" (1964)	Folder 4
Clippings, 1956-1971	
Articles by Hyde, 1956-1967	Box 2 Folder 5
Casement, Roger, 1957-1960, n.d.	Folder 6-7
Criticism, 1960-1971	Folder 8
Letters to the Editor, 1956-1968	Folder 9
Return of Casement's remains to Ireland, 1958-1965, n.d.	Folder 10

## Series III. A History of Pornography(1964), 1963-1964

Typescript with annotations

Box 3 Folder 1-2

Reproductions of attorney reports and correspondence, 1963

Folder 3

Folder 6

Folder 7

## Series IV. Oscar Wilde, 1946-1967

Holland, Vyvyan

I-Z

Works	
A-Z; Unidentified	Box 3 Folder 4
The Trials of Oscar Wilde	
Page proofs on uncut galley sheets, 9 sheets, 1962 (*removed to ga	lley folder) Folder
Front matter and appendix, typescripts with author revisions	Box 3 Folder 5
Legal Documents	
Contracts, depositions, and judgment in case between Warwick Film F Ltd., 20th Century Fox and others, 1960-67	Productions, Box 3 Folder 6
Minutes of agreement with William Hodge & Co., photocopy, 1960 (* oversize folder 2)	removed to Folder
Minutes of agreement with Hyde, two drafts, 1960 (*removed to overs	size folder 3)
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British Broadcasting Corporation	Folder 8
Corporate Entities	Folder 9-10
Gregory, Rowcliffe, & Co.	<b>Box</b> 4 <b>Folder</b> 1
Hall Brydon, Solicitor	Folder 2
International Literary Management	Folder 3
Elles, Reeve, & Co.	Folder 4
Guillot de Saix, Leon	Folder 5

Hyde, H. Montgomery (Harford Montgomery), 1907	Manuscript Collection MS-02108
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Methuen & Co.	Folder 9
Mills, James	Folder 10
Penguin Books	Folder 11
People interested in Wilde	Folder 12-13
People interested in Wilde (cont.)	Box 5 Folder 1
Queensberry, Francis	Folder 2
Renaud de St. Georges, Anne-Marie	Folder 3
Rupert-Hart Davis, Ltd.	Folder 4
Secker, Martin	Folder 5
Sherard, A. Muriel	Folder 6
Trinity College, Dublin	Folder 7
University of California, Los Angeles	Folder 8
Wilkinson, Louis	Folder 9
William Hodge and Co.	<b>Folder</b> 10-11

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## Series V. Henry James, 1897-1970 (bulk 1954-1970)

Works

"Henry James: A Tribute " tynescrint of broadcast on the tittieth anniversary of the	Box 5 Folder
"Henry James and Theodora Bosanquet," typescript with author revisions, 18pp F	F <b>older</b> 13
The Story of Lamb House Rye, typescript with author revisions and parts of "The Lamb House Library of Henry James", 1966-1967	F <b>older</b> 14
"The Ulster Background of Henry James," transcript of radio broadcast, 1954, 7pp F	F <b>older</b> 15
Correspondence	
A-I Box 5 Fold	der 16
Cullen, John, 1965-1968 Fold	der 17
Edel, Leon, 1963-1969, includes newspaper clippings  Fold	der 18
J-Z Box 6 Fol	lder 1
White, J. Alan, 1967-1969	older 2
Collected materials	
Correspondence, A-Z  Box 6 Fo	lder 3
Coburn, Alvin Langdon, letters from Henry James, photocopies of originals and transcripts, 1905-1914 (*originals housed in the Clifton Waller Barrett Collection at the University of Virginia Library)	Folder 4*
Hunt, Violet, 54 letters from Henry James, transcripts and photocopies of originals, 1898-1912 (*originals housed in the Clifton Waller Barrett Collection at the University of Virginia Library)	Folder 5*
"Half-Hours with the Dialects of England," by Max Beerbohm, specimen chapter, typescript with author revisions and pencil sketches by Beerbohm, nd, 8pp	F <b>older</b> 6

"Henry James: The War Years, 1914-1916," Willy Cohen's thesis (1964), phot of typescript with author's inscription, includes Cohen's correspondence from lefforts to procure a plaque at James' residence in Cheyne Walk, 1967	<b>*</b> •
Inventory of the contents of "Lamb House" Rye, Sussex, 1916, 30pp	Folder 8
James Family genealogy, correspondence and charts describing the Irish and N York branches of the James family, 1908-1928 (*oversize family charts removoversize folder 4)	
Legal documents, lease for "Lamb House" Rye, Sussex, 1897, and the Last Wittenstein Testament of Henry James, photocopy, 1916, 7pp	ill and <b>Folder</b> 10
"Recollections of Henry James in His Later Years," transcript of radio broadca 1956, 34pp	rst, <b>Folder</b>
Various newspaper clippings, 1927-1969	Folder 12
Withdrawals	Folder 13

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- Barton, John M. T. (John Mackintosh Tilney), 1898- -- 1.3
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- Beerbohm, Max, Sir, 1872-1956--3.7
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