

# A. P. (Alan Patrick) Herbert:

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

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### Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Herbert, A. P. (Alan Patrick), 1890-1971
- Title:** A. P. (Alan Patrick) Herbert Collection
- Dates:** 1931-1960, undated
- Extent:** 7 boxes (2.94 linear feet)
- Abstract:** The collection of A. P. Herbert, English humorist, novelist, and playwright includes several plays and novels, as well as several works of non-fiction and an autobiographical work, *Independent Member*. Also represented in the A. P. Herbert collection are the author's satirical novels which voice his criticism of various British laws.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-1916
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. **Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days' notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: [reference@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:reference@hrc.utexas.edu).**
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### Administrative Information

- Acquisition:** Purchases, 1960-1963 (R1251)
- Processed by:** Joan Sibley and Jamie Hawkins-Kirkham, 2011
- Note:**  
This finding aid replicates some information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
- Repository:** The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center





**Works:**

- Untitled poem, O most unnatural of the orbs of night!..., handwritten manuscript/ draft/ unfinished, 1 page, undated. **Container** 1.1
- Unidentified statement on his stand on certain political issues, handwritten manuscript/ draft/ fragment with emendations, 1 page, undated.
- The ayes have it, or the story of the marriage bill, signed handwritten manuscript with typed insert and few handwritten revisions, 251 pages bound, undated. **Container** 1.2
- Better dead, a play in three acts, based on the book Made for man by the same author, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions and typed inserts, 219 pages bound, 21 June- 24 September 1959. **Container** 1.3-4
- Big Ben
- A light opera in two acts, signed handwritten manuscript with few revisions, 68 pages bound, undated. **Container** 1.5
- Lyrics and sketch of plot, handwritten manuscript with few revisions, 58 pages, undated. Bound with this: Joan of England. **Container** 1.6
- Broadcast, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 31 pages, undated. **Container** 2.1
- The fine on fun; the comic, but tragical, history of the entertainment's duty, signed handwritten manuscript with handwritten revisions and typed inserts, 321 pages bound, undated. Published as No fine on fun. **Container** 2.2
- Helen of Troy, or Lovely Helen/ English version of La belle Hélele by Offenbach, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 234 pages bound, undated. **Container** 2.3
- The house by the river, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 448 pages bound, undated. **Container** 2.4
- Independent member, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 998 pages bound, undated. **Container** 3.1
- Introduction to a book by Bliss on canoeing, signed handwritten manuscript with emendations, 4 pages, undated. **Container** 3.2
- Made for man
- Signed handwritten manuscript/ original draft with revisions, 422 pages bound, undated. Enclosed with this: ANS, 16 January 1958. **Container** 4.1

Carbon typescript with few handwritten corrections, 99 pages, 24 September 1959.	<b>Container</b> 3.3
Signed carbon typescript/ second draft with few handwritten corrections, 95 pages, March- April 1960.	<b>Container</b> 3.4
Mr. Pewter works it out, signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 384 pages bound, undated. Enclosed with this: ANS, 14 June 1960.	<b>Container</b> 4.2
 Notebooks	
I., handwritten manuscript with revisions, 30 pages, undated. Contents: A thing about rocks; Travelers; Welcome home.	<b>Container</b> 4.3
II., handwritten manuscript with revisions, 31 pages, undated. Contents: The channel; Essay on Banyan and The cultivation of tea; Happy Ship; Pop goes the weasel.	<b>Container</b> 5.1
III., handwritten manuscript with revisions, 34 pages, undated. Contents: Banyan; Blue Sea Club; New Zealand day; Pastoral; Who dun it?	<b>Container</b> 5.2
 Number nine, or, the mind-sweepers	
Signed handwritten manuscript with revisions, 190 pages bound, undated. Act III, Scene I bound separately.	<b>Container</b> 5.3
Signed handwritten manuscript with handwritten revisions and typed inserts, 622 pages bound, undated. Title on second title page: Foul anchor.	<b>Container</b> 5.4
Act III, Scene I, handwritten manuscript/ first version? with few revisions, 46 pages bound, undated.	<b>Container</b> 5.5
Peace, typescript with few handwritten revisions, 313 pages, undated.	<b>Container</b> 6.1
Pilot of the pools, 2 handwritten manuscripts/ notebooks with revisions, 98 pages, circa 1952-1953. Drafts and working for series on the betting pools in England. Loosely laid in: printed and handwritten supplementary materials.	<b>Container</b> 6.2
Sad song (for massed crooners), carbon typescript, 1 page, undated. Marked "for 27 July," probably for Punch magazine.	<b>Container</b> 6.3
 Streamline	
Alive and kicking, handwritten manuscript/ workings, 4 pages, 1934. Lyrics for a musical number.	<b>Container</b> 6.4
Be undie-minded, or Fashions for men, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 8 pages, 1934. Dialogue and plot for skit.	

Don't strike dat butterfly, nigger, handwritten and typed carbon manuscript, 2 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

Double bass, or Featuring the band, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 4 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

Entente cordiale, handwritten manuscript with emendations, 2 pages, 1934. Dialogue for skit.

Faster! Faster!, or Never sit still!, handwritten manuscript/ draft with revisions, 6 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

The first valse, or The king's messenger, 2 handwritten manuscripts/ drafts with revisions, 7 pages and 16 pages; 1 carbon typescript/ draft with handwritten revisions, 3 pages; 1934. Dialogue and plot for skit.

Fragments, handwritten manuscripts/ fragments with revisions, 2 pages, 1934.

Hamlet P. C., handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 13 pages, 1934. Dialogue and plot for skit.

Have a good time, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 8 pages; carbon typescript with emendations, 3 pages; 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

I dunno -- Life's difficult, ain't it?, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 4 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

I will, or The fairy registrar, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 9 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

L'amour anglais, handwritten manuscript/ draft with revisions, 5 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical skit.

The language of Shakespeare, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 5 pages, 1934. Dialogue for skit.

The liars, or Isn't that grand?, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 6 pages, 1934. Lyrics and plot for musical number.

A little commission, initialed handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 8 pages, 1934. Lyrics for musical number.

The mouth-organist, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 6 pages, 1934. Dialogue and plot for skit.

Not a blush: An operetta by Turbot and Mulligan, handwritten manuscript/ draft with revisions and typed page, 27 pages, 1934. Lyrics, dialogue, and plot.

Notes for program, initialed handwritten manuscript, 1 page, 1934.

Opening and finales, handwritten manuscript with emendations, 15 pages, 1934.  
Summary of ideas for the production.

Parody playlets, rough ideas for, handwritten manuscript with emendations, 2 pages, 1934.

Pink knickers, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 3 pages, 1934.  
Lyrics for musical number.

Record, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 4 pages, 1934.  
Dialogue and plot for skit.

Selling sex, handwritten manuscript/ draft with revisions, 4 pages, 1934. Lyrics for musical number.

Speech day, or Character counts, handwritten manuscript/ draft with emendations, 17 pages, 1934. Dialogue, lyrics, and plot for musical skit.

Unholy matrimony, or Behaving like a gentleman, signed typescript with handwritten revisions and typed inserts, 525 pages bound, 31 December 1933.

**Container**  
6.5

Why Waterloo?, signed handwritten manuscript with few revisions, approximately 1,030 pages bound 16 October 1951.

**Container**  
7.1

**Letters:**

TLS to Nelson, 17 November 1931.

**Container 7.2**



**Recipient:**

Cochran, Charles Blake, 1872-1951. TLS to Herbert re Streamline, 5 October 1934.

**Container**  
7.3

Figgis, Ebenox. ALS to Herbert, 31 December 1952.

Mann, Cathleen, d. 1959. ALS to Herbert, undated. Signed Cathleen Queensberry.

Morgan, Charles, 1894-1958. ALS to Herbert re review of Streamline, 3-4 October 1934.

Smith, Dorothy Gladys, 1896-. ALS to Herbert re Streamline, 29 September 1934.

**BAR CODE LIST**

- Box 1: 059188000065307
- Box 2: 059188000065318
- Box 3: 059188000065329
- Box 4: 059188000065330
- Box 5: 059188000065340
- Box 6: 059188000065351
- Box 7: 059188000065362

## **Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog**

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

### **Organization of Collections:**

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
  - **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
  - **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
  - **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
  - **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

### **Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:**

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date