

Edith Morley Collection

MS 938

This collection contains correspondence, newspaper cuttings and excerpts, essays by Morley, lecture note books containing notes taken by Morley as a student and as a lecturer, photographs, theses and sundry papers.

The Collection covers the year's 1811-1945.

The physical extent of the collection is 9 boxes.

This collection brings together material previously accessioned and/or catalogued under the following references: MS 297; MS 528; MS 562; MS 563 and MS 5304.

Introduction

Edith Julia Morley, (1875–1964), literary scholar and suffragette, was born at 25 Craven Hill Gardens, London, the fourth of six children of Alexander Morley (d. 1915), surgeon-dentist, and his wife, Leah Reyser (1840–1926).

Educated at Doreck College in Kensington, she attended a finishing school in Hanover in 1889, where she became fluent in German and French. On her return in 1892, the question of continuing her education in the year before she 'came out' led to her studying at King's College women's department, University of London, in Kensington. Morley read for the Oxford honour school of English language and literature. She was both placed in the first class of the English honour school at Oxford in 1899. A bar on women matriculating at King's when she began her studies denied her a degree when she took her London final examinations in June 1899. She was offered and accepted the associateship of King's College, subsequently, King's College for Women honoured her with a fellowship of the college, and in 1926 she was granted an Oxford honorary MA degree.

Morley taught at King's women's department with a class in Germanic philology. She was to remain there, teaching English literature, until the department was subsumed into the main college in 1914. In 1902 she had also accepted a post as an assistant lecturer in English, with some German teaching, at Reading College. After working as a lecturer in English language and literature from 1903 to 1907 at Reading, she was awarded her professorship in English Language in 1908, becoming the first woman professor at a British university or university college.

The experience of the college parliament at King's encouraged Morley's interest in politics, and at Reading her concern for the suffrage issue led to her becoming a suffragette, joining the Women's Social and Political Union. In 1908, deserting her family's adherence to the Conservative Party and becoming a socialist, Morley

joined the Fabian Society. She worked with organizations such as the British Federation of University Women, of which she was an original member of the London association, formed in 1909. She also undertook work at St Helen's Settlement in Stratford-at-Bow. In the 1930s she helped to establish the Reading branch of the Townswomen's Guilds, which educated women in their rights and responsibilities as citizens. She was a member of the Howard League for Penal Reform, and appointed a magistrate in 1934, and was later chair of the Reading probation committee.

During the First World War, Morley worked for the National Council of Women's Voluntary Patrols, the forerunner to women police, gave talks for the Ministry of Food, and assisted Belgian refugees. But it was her work for refugees during the Second World War which gained her an OBE in 1950. In 1938 she had set up the Reading Refugee Committee.

The focus of Morley's research and publications is best shown in her editing of the three-volume Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and their Writers (1938). However, *Women Workers in Seven Professions* (1914), which she edited for the studies committee of the Fabian women's group, is still referenced by historians. She regularly published a lengthy roundup of recent scholarship in English Literature under the heading "The Eighteenth Century" in the bibliographical review entitled *The Year's Work in English Studies*.

Edith Morley died at her home, 96 Kendrick Road, Reading, on 18 January 1964.

The Collection is arranged as follows:

- MS 938/1 Correspondence
- MS 938/2 Newspaper Cuttings and Excerpts
- MS 938/3 Essays
- MS 938/4 Note Books
- MS 938/5 Photographs
- MS 938/6 Theses
- MS 938/7 Sundry Papers

- MS 938/1** Correspondence
1811 - 1951

24 files
- MS 938/1/1** Letter to Thomas Robinson from Henry Crabb Robinson
14 Dec 1811
Incomplete transcript

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/2** Letter to Edith Morley from A.C. Bradley
1 Jun, undated

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/3** Letter to Edith Morley from Dora E Yates
10 Mar, undated

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/4** Letter to Edith Morley from Rev. G.F. Stanley Atkinson M.A.
17 Oct, undated

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/5** Letter to Mr Stephany from T. J. Goldstein
2 Apr 1914

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/6** Letter to Edith Morley from W.P. Ker
11 Nov 1918

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/7** Letter to Edith Morley from W.P. Ker
10 Jun 1921

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/8** Letter to Edith Morley from Stephen K Jones
10 Oct 1927

1 file (1 item)

- MS 938/1/9** Letter to Edith Morley from J.M. Dent & Sons, publishers,
Canada
28 Sep 1928

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/10** Letter to Edith Morley from C.J.E.S
17 Mar 1935

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/11** Postcard to Edith Morley from Eleanor F Rathton
8 Apr 1935

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/12** Letter to Edith Morley from A.T. Carlyle
19 May 1935

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/13** Letter to Edith Morley from Stephen K Jones
25 Oct 1938

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/14** Letter to Edith Morley from J. Crofts
28 Oct 1938

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/15** Letter to Edith Morley from W M Childs
3 Nov 1938

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/16** Letter to Edith Morley from C.J.E.S
6 Jan 1939

1 file (1 item)
- MS 938/1/17** Letters to Edith Morley from Gerald Gould
30 May 1906 - 3 Aug 1909
These letters were found in books owned by Morley entitled
'Lyrics' and 'On the Nature of Lyric', by Gerald Gould. Includes a
newscutting review of 'Lyrics'.

1 file (2 items)
Acc.MS563

MS 938/1/18 Letter to Edith Morley from H R Bennett
21 Dec 1912
This letter was found enclosed in a volume of Yeats' poems from 1912 which was donated to the main Library collection. Bennett talks about his memories of being taught by Morley.

1 file (1 item)
Acc.MS562

MS 938/1/19 Letter to Edith Morley from Harrison S Morris
19 Dec 1931
This letter was found enclosed in a book by Harrison S Morris on Walt Whitman owned by Morley.

1 file (1 item)
Acc.MS563

MS 938/1/20 Letter to Edith Morley from George McLean Harper
25 Jun 1939
Harper thanks Morley for her contribution to a volume of "Wordsworth and Coleridge" published in his honour.

1 file (1 item)
Acc.MS297

MS 938/1/21 Postcard to Edith Morley from Anne Pritchard
18 Jun 1928
A postcard of William Blake's cottage, which the writer thought Morley would like.

1 file (1 item)
Acc.MS5304

MS 938/1/22 Letters to Edith Morley from University of Liverpool staff
27 May 1942 - 28 May 1942
Letters from J F Mountford and L C Martin expressing their thanks for her work with the Department of English Literature, Faculty of Arts, University of Liverpool during the war.

1 file (2 items)
Acc.MS5304

- MS 938/1/23** Letters which originally accompanied pamphlets sent to Edith Morley
20 Dec 1923 - 29 Aug 1934
Letter from R W Chambers, (20 December 1923), which accompanied his pamphlet entitled, 'Concerning Certain Great Teachers of the English Language, an inaugural lecture delivered in University College, London.'; Note from Marjorie Williams, (undated, c.1933), which accompanied her pamphlet entitled, 'William Shenstone, Letter-Writer', reprinted from The Review of English Studies, Vol.IX, No. 35, July 1933; Letter from William B Brierley, (29 August 1934), which accompanied his pamphlet entitled, 'Some Viewpoints of an Applied Biologist', reprinted from The Annals of Applied Biology, Vol.XXI. No.3. pp.352-378, August 1934.
- 1 file (3 items)
Acc.MS5304
- MS 938/1/24** Letters which originally accompanied a book sent to Edith Morley
14 Mar 1951 - 16 Mar 1951
Letters from J H P Pafford to Edith Morley which originally accompanied his book entitled, 'W P Ker 1855-1923, A Bibliography'.
- Publication Note: Pafford, J H P. (1950) W P Ker 1855-1923 A Bibliography. London: University of London Press Ltd.
(RESERVE 801.9 KER/PAF)
1 file (2 items)
Acc.MS2650
- MS 938/2** Newspaper Cuttings and Excerpts
c.1905-c.1945
- 10 items
- MS 938/2/1** Excerpts from Kings College Magazine and others
c.1905
- 1 folder
- MS 938/2/2** Newspaper cuttings referring to the book, Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson with the Wordsworth Circle
1927
- 1 folder

- MS 938/2/3** Newspaper cuttings referring to a lecture on Commercial English given in Birmingham by Edith Morley
Nov 1928

1 folder
- MS 938/2/4** Newspaper cuttings referring to the book, Crabb Robinson in Germany
1929

1 folder
- MS 938/2/5** Newspaper cuttings referring to The English Association
c.1931

1 folder
- MS 938/2/6** Newspaper cuttings referring to the book, The Life and times of Henry Crabb Robinson
1935

1 folder
- MS 938/2/7** Newspaper cuttings referring to, Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and their writers
1939

1 folder
- MS 938/2/8** Newspaper cuttings referring to the book, Boswell in the light of recent discoveries
1939

1 folder
- MS 938/2/9** Extract from the report of the Care of Children Committee
c.1945

1 folder
- MS 938/2/10** Sundry newspaper cuttings
undated

1 folder

- MS 938/3** Essays
c.1895

4 folders
- MS 938/3/1-4** Collection of essays by Edith Morley written while she was a student
c.1895

2 boxes
- MS 938/4** Note Books
1893-1914
Note books numbered 1-31 were written by Morley when she was a student and note books numbered 32-61 were written by Morley in her role as a lecturer.

61 items
- MS 938/4/1** Lecture note book on English Literature
1893

1 volume
- MS 938/4/2** Lecture note book on The Poets of Johnson's period
3 Dec 1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/3** Lecture note book on Literature
1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/4** Lecture note book on Literature
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/5** Lecture note book on Poets of the early 19th Century
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/6** Lecture note book on 13th and 14th Century Literature
c.1895

1 volume

- MS 938/4/7** Lecture note book on The History of English Criticism
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/8** Lecture note book on Romances at the beginning of the 15th
Century
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/9** Lecture note book on Anglo Saxon translations
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/10** Part of a lecture note book on literature
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/11** Lecture note book on Literature
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/12** Lecture note book on Literature
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/13** Lecture note book on Literature
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/14** Lecture note book on Literature 1727-1850
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/15** Notes on Beowulf Vol I
c.1895

1 volume

- MS 938/4/16** Notes on Beowulf Vol II
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/17** Lecture note book on Anglo Saxon translations
c.1895

1 volume
- MS 938/4/18** Lecture note books on Literature
c.1895

These note books are unbound

1 folder (6 items)
- MS 938/4/19** Lecture note book on English Language
23 Jan 1896

1 volume
- MS 938/4/20** Lecture note book on Old English Notes
1896

1 volume
- MS 938/4/21** Lecture note book marked 'Gothic'
1896

1 volume
- MS 938/4/22** Lecture note book on English Literature
1896

1 volume
- MS 938/4/23** Lecture note book on Literature
1897

1 volume
- MS 938/4/24** Lecture note book entitled 'Sir Gawayn and the Greene Knygt'
1897

1 volume

- MS 938/4/25** Lecture note book on Elizabethan Literature
2 Mar 1897

1 volume
- MS 938/4/26** Lecture note book on English Literature
11 Oct 1897

1 volume
- MS 938/4/27** Lecture note book on English Literature
19 Oct 1897

1 volume
- MS 938/4/28** Lecture note book entitled 'Middle English II'
1897

1 volume
- MS 938/4/29** Lecture note book on Vowel changes in Old English and English
1898

1 volume
- MS 938/4/30** Lecture note book on Shakespeare
1899

1 volume
- MS 938/4/31** Lecture note book entitled Gothic lectures and syllabus for
Oxford Honours students
1899

1 volume
- MS 938/4/32** Lecture note book on Historical English Syntax
1899

1 volume
- MS 938/4/33** Lecture note book entitled 'The Arthurian Legend'
1899

1 volume

- MS 938/4/34** Lecture note book entitled Relations between French and English Literature
Mar 1900

1 volume
- MS 938/4/35** Lecture note book on Shakespeare
1900

1 volume
- MS 938/4/36** Lecture note book on Literature
1900

1 volume
- MS 938/4/37** Lecture note book on Literature
1902

1 volume
- MS 938/4/38** Lecture note book on English prose 1830-1870 Vol II
Apr 1902

1 volume
- MS 938/4/39** Lecture note book on the History of English criticism
1903-1905

1 volume
- MS 938/4/40** Lecture note book on 13th and 14th Century literature
1904-1905

1 volume
- MS 938/4/41** Lecture note book on Leaders of English ethical thought
1905-1906

1 volume
- MS 938/4/42** Lecture note book entitled Beowulf lectures
1906

1 volume

- MS 938/4/43** Lecture note book on Tennyson
1906-1907

1 volume
- MS 938/4/44** Lecture note book on Poets
1907

1 volume
- MS 938/4/45** Lecture note book on Literature
1907-1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/46** Lecture note book entitled 'In Shakespeare's England'
1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/47** Lecture note book on writers
Feb 1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/48** Lecture note book on Historical Grammar
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/49** Lecture note book on Teaching of English in Schools
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/50** Lecture note book on Literature
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/51** Part of a Lecture note book on literature
c.1908

1 volume

- MS 938/4/52** Lecture notes for A Midsummer Night's Dream
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/53** Lecture note book on the teaching of Shakespeare in schools
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/54** Lecture note book on The principals of English Language
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/55** Lecture note book beginning 'Defoe, Compleat Gengleman (sic)'
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/56** Lecture note book on Mysticism lectures
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/57** Notes of lectures delivered
undated
unbound sheets, between boards

1 volume
- MS 938/4/58** Lecture notes on H. James
c.1908

1 volume
- MS 938/4/59** Lecture note book beginning, 'The Pearl'
1910

1 volume
- MS 938/4/60** Lecture note book on Literature
1913-1914

1 volume

- MS 938/4/61** Lecture note book on English Language
undated

1 volume
- MS 938/5** Photographs
c.1893

5 items
- MS 938/5/1** Small album of personal photographs taken by the river
undated

1 volume
- MS 938/5/2** Mounted photograph of unidentified woman in theatrical
costume
undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/5/3** Mounted photograph of unidentified man in theatrical costume
undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/5/4** Mounted photograph of unidentified young girl
undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/5/5** Photograph of Edith Morley in her College gowns
c.1893

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/6** Theses
1914 - 1921

5 items
- MS 938/6/1** Thesis entitled Literary Parody and Burlesque of the 17th and
18th centuries by H R Bennet
1914

1 volume

- MS 938/6/2** Thesis entitled Henry Francis Cary, translator of Dante by R W King
Jun 1919

1 volume
- MS 938/6/3** Thesis entitled The Origin, Development and structure of the short story in English by an unknown author
1921

1 volume
- MS 938/6/4** Thesis entitled The social life of the town as represented by some of the Elizabethan dramatists by Mabel N Howlett
undated

1 volume
- MS 938/6/5** Thesis entitled The works of Dr Samuel Johnson by an unknown author
undated

1 volume
- MS 938/7** Sundry Papers
1869-1945

14 files
- MS 938/7/1** A book entitled Sermon on the Ploughers by Hugh Latimer, ex Bishop of Worcester
1869
Reprint

1 volume
- MS 938/7/2** Album of signatures presented to Edith Morley by Reading University Old Students Association on her retirement
1940

1 volume
- MS 938/7/3** Scroll containing a list of signatures to accompany a presentation for the 70th birthday of Edith Morley, given by refugees she helped during the war
1945

1 folder (1 item)

- MS 938/7/4** A typed manuscript of Edith Morley's autobiography with additional notes, entitled, 'Looking before and after'
undated
3 copies
- Publication Note: Before and after: reminiscences of a working life / by Edith Morley; edited by Barbara Morris. Reading: Two Rivers Press: University of Reading, 2016. [TWO RIVERS PRESS COLLECTION--110]
1 folder (3 items)
- MS 938/7/5** Index to Henry Crabb Robinson's diary of letters
Undated
- 1 folder
- MS 938/7/6** Catalogue of some of Henry Crabb Robinson's letters with a few transcripts
Undated
- 1 folder
- MS 938/7/7** Blotter with embossed cover
Undated
- 1 object
- MS 938/7/8** Examination paper for degree
1899
- 1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/9** Draft test question papers
Undated
- 1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/10** Manuscript 'notes to Auch'
Undated
- 1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/11** Press cutting and typescript of poems and letters re. J. Keats
Undated
- 1 folder (1 item)

- MS 938/7/12** Manuscript page for typing on the correspondence of Pope by Edith Morley together with typed copies
Undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/13** B A examination answer paper marked 'Utrecht, March 15 1920' entitled 'Rossetti and the Pre-Raphaelite movement'
Undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/14** Typed manuscript entitled 'The Comedians'
undated

1 folder (1 item)
- MS 938/7/15** Morley's O.B.E medal
c.1950
Replica O.B.E medal
Metal and ribbon medal

1 folder (1 item)
Acc.MS5304
- MS 938/7/16** Papers gathered by Morley relating to her work with various organisations
1922-1963
Annual reports, printed addresses and essays, leaflets and correspondence from the following societies and organisations: National Peace Council; American Association for International Conciliation; United Nations Association: Reading Branch; Howard League for Penal Reform; Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women; London Child Guidance Clinic; Invalid Children's Aid Association; Association of Headmasters, Headmistresses and Matrons of Approved Schools; National Council for Civil Liberties; The Fabian Society; Home Office, Whitehall; Probation Service and the British Federation of University Women; League of Nations Union.

1 folder
Acc.MS5304
- Ms 938/7/17** Transcript of pages from a refugee's diary entitled 'Emigranten in Florenz'
Dec 1956

Typed pages from the diary of Helene [Jurnan?] written during 1938-1939. Helene sent the transcript to Morley with the following dedication: "To Prof. E. J. Morley, The fighter for the refugees in England, I am presenting these pages of my diaries of 1938/39 written just before we were driven out of The Florentine Paradise. Xmas 1956, Reading"

1 folder (1 item)
Acc.MS5304