

The Beckett Collection Pamela Mitchell correspondence 1953-1970

Summary description

Held at: Beckett International Foundation, University of Reading
Title: The Correspondence of Pamela Mitchell
Dates of creation: 1953 - 1970
Reference: Beckett Collection--Correspondence/MIT
Extent: 57 letters and postcards from Samuel Beckett to Pamela Mitchell
1 telegram from Beckett to Mitchell
14 letters from Mitchell to Beckett
Language of material English unless otherwise stated

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The correspondence was donated to the Beckett International Foundation by the estate of Pamela Mitchell in 2002.

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Preferred Citation

Preferred citation: Correspondence of Samuel Beckett and Pamela Mitchell, Beckett International Foundation, Reading University Library (RUL MS 5060)

Access Conditions

Photocopies of the original materials are available for use in the Reading Room. Access to the original letters is restricted.

Historical Note

1922? Born
Sept. 1953 As a representative of Harold Oram Incorporated, met Samuel Beckett in Paris to negotiate the rights for the American premiere of *Waiting for Godot*
1954 Returned to Paris for nine months as Oram's European account executive
1954-1955 Had a love affair with Samuel Beckett
1955 Jan. Returned to the USA, but maintained correspondence with Beckett until 1970

2002, 10 Feb. Died, Newport Hospital, Rhode Island

Pamela Mitchell studied American History at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York and worked in Naval Intelligence during the latter part of World War II. She subsequently found employment with Harold Oram Incorporated, a fund-raising

organisation which supported humanitarian worthwhile causes. In the early 1950s, the company made its first major foray into the theatrical world by financing a Broadway production of Louis Peterson's play, *Take a Giant Step*. Thornton Wilder alerted Oram to Beckett's play, *En attendant Godot*, which was having a huge impact on the Paris theatre at the time. Oram sent Mitchell to Paris in 1953 to negotiate the rights for the American premiere of the play. A relationship between Beckett and Mitchell began shortly after this initial encounter, which continued when Mitchell returned to live in Paris the following year as Oram's European Account Executive. Their brief, intense affair was interrupted by the news that Beckett's brother, Frank, had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Beckett returned to Ireland, where he remained until his brother's death on 13 September 1954. Beckett and Mitchell remained in contact until 1970, although the correspondence tails off markedly after 1956. Mitchell died on 10 February 2002 in Newport Hospital, Rhode Island.

Scope and content

The collection represents the entire correspondence between Samuel Beckett and his friend and lover, Pamela Mitchell, between November 1953 and January 1970. All the letters from Beckett were written exclusively to Pamela Mitchell. There are 14 letters from Mitchell to Beckett.

System of arrangement

The letters are arranged chronologically and are numbered 1-72 within the Beckett Collection--Correspondence/MIT sequence.

This hand-list is also available in paper format in Reading University Library's Special Collections Reading Room.

Subject headings

Corporate names

- Arts Theatre Club (London)
- Cirque Médrano (Paris)
- Criterion Theatre (London)
- Merlin : revue trimestrielle
- Moorfields Eye Hospital
- Phoenix Theatre (New York)
- Schiller-Theater (Berlin)
- Schiller-Theater Werkstatt (Berlin)
- Théâtre de Babylone (Paris)
- Théâtre-Hébertot (Paris)
- Wadja (Restaurant : Paris)

Personal Names

- Alberry, Donald
- Beckett, Frank Edward
- Beckett, John

- Blin, Roger
- Bowles, Patrick
- Brando, Marlon
- Campbell, Patrick, Mrs., 1865-1940
- Carpentier, Georges
- Cassou, Jean, 1897-
- Claudel, Paul, 1868-1965
- Deschevaux-Dumesnil, Suzanne
- Drobny, Jaroslav
- Erion, George
- Francis, Dick
- Freeling, Nicholas
- Genet, Jean, 1910-1986
- Glenville, Peter
- Guinness, Alec, 1914-2000
- Hayden, Henri, 1883-1970
- Haydn, Franz Joseph, 1732-1809
- Hayter, William
- Hoad, Lewis
- Ionesco, Eugène, 1912-1994
- Joyce, Stephen
- Keaton, Buster, 1895-1966
- Kerz, Leo
- Lieberson, Goddard, 1911-1977
- Lindon, Jérôme
- Magee, Patrick, 1924-1982
- Oram, Harold L.
- Patty, Budge
- Richardson, Ralph, Sir, 1902-1983
- Robinson, Sugar Ray, 1920-1989
- Rosset, Barney
- Schneider, Alan
- Seaver, Richard
- Trocchi, Alexander, 1925-
- Wanamaker, Sam

Topics

- Alberti, Rafael, 1902- – Criticism and interpretation
- Baudelaire, Charles, 1821-1867 – Fleurs du mal
- Beckett, Samuel, 1906-1989 – Criticism and interpretation
- Benson, Ben – Lily in her coffin
- Campbell, Patrick, Mrs., 1865-1940 – Correspondence
- Camus, Albert, 1913-1960 – Etranger
- Carr, John Dickson, 1906-1977 – Seat of the scornful
- Céline, Louis-Ferdinand, 1894-1961 – Voyage au bout de la nuit
- Christie, Agatha, 1890-1976 – Crooked house
- Claudel, Paul, 1868-1965 – Annonce faite à Marie
- Dumas, Alexandre, 1802-1870 – Sphinx rouge
- Forbes, Esther – Paul Revere and the world he lived in
- Forster, E.M. (Edward Morgan), 1879-1970 – Hill of Devi
- Francis, Dick – Criticism and interpretation
- Freeling, Nicholas – Criticism and interpretation
- Green, Julien, 1900- – Léviathan

- Hayden, Henri, 1883-1970 – Exhibitions
- Huxley, Aldous, 1894-1963 – Doors of perception
- Inge, William – Picnic
- Inge, William – Dramatic production
- Ionesco, Eugène, 1912-1994 – Dramatic works
- Maurois, André, 1885-1967 – Prométhée; ou, La vie de Balzac
- Morgan, Charles, 1894-1958 – Fountain
- O’Neill, Eugene, 1888-1953 – Desire under the elms
- O’Neill, Eugene, 1888-1953 – Dramatic production
- Orieux, Jean, 1907- – Voltaire; ou, La royauté de l’esprit
- Peterson, Louis, 1922- – Take a giant step
- Peterson, Louis, 1922- – Dramatic production
- Proust, Marcel, 1871-1922 – A la recherche du temps perdu
- Renard, Jules, 1864-1919 – Journal
- Rosten, Leo Calvin, 1908- – Joys of Yiddish
- Roussin, André – Petite hutte
- Roussin, André – Dramatic production
- Salinger, J.D. (Jerome David), 1919- – Catcher in the rye
- Sartre, Jean-Paul, 1905-1980 – Nausée
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 – Coriolanus
- Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 – Dramatic production
- Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894 – Correspondence
- Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950 – Correspondence
- Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745 – Journal to Stella
- Synge, J.M. (John Millington), 1871-1909 – Playboy of the Western world
- Synge, J.M. (John Millington), 1871-1909 – Dramatic production
- Weiss, Peter, 1916-1982 – Verfolgung und Ermordung Jean Paul Marats dargestellt durch die Schauspielgruppe des Hospizes zu Charenton unter Anleitung des Herrn de Sade
- Weiss, Peter, 1916-1982 – Film and video adaptations
- Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975 – Skin of our teeth
- Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975 – Dramatic production
- Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler) 1871-1957 – Criticism and interpretation
- Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler) 1871-1957 – Exhibitions
- Zingarelli, Nicola, 1860-1935 – Vocabolario della lingua italiana
- Zola, Emile, 1840-1902 – Assommoir

Catalogue

Beckett Collection--Correspondence/MIT

- MIT/001 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^{me}, 26 September 1953
- En attendant Godot* is running in Paris. Roger Blin, Barney Rosset and Patrick Bowles were all at the production.
Jérôme Lindon.
Beckett reminisces about the time he spent with Mitchell in Paris.
Harold Oram.
- MIT/002 Letter dated Paris, 5 October 1953
- Beckett encloses a theatre programme for *En attendant Godot*. Details of production.
Jérôme Lindon.
Harold Oram.
Beckett has been advised to cut down on his smoking and alcohol intake by his doctor.
Beckett plans to travel to Ussy the following day.
- MIT/003 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 East 48th Street, New York 17, NY, 14 October 1953
- Mitchell thanks Beckett for the theatre programme of *En attendant Godot*.
Mitchell has been involved with a production of Louis Peterson's *Take a Giant Step*.
Jérôme Lindon.
Harold Oram.
Mitchell's work on various committees.
Mitchell's feelings for Beckett.
- MIT/004 Letter dated Paris, 27 October 1953
- Beckett is translating *Molloy* into English and *Watt* into French.
En attendant Godot production is to tour in Germany after the run in Paris ends. The play is also to be produced in Scandinavia.
Mitchell's work problems.
André Roussin's *La petite hutte*.
Beckett's plans to go to Ussy in November and plant trees.
- MIT/005 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^e, 1 November 1953
- Mitchell's ill health.
Beckett went to see *En attendant Godot* the previous night. Claims he dislikes the play.
Harold Oram.
Beckett plans to travel to Ussy.
Beckett is currently translating *Molloy* and *Watt* and rehearsing the touring production of *En attendant Godot*.
Beckett offers to send Mitchell reading material.
- MIT/006 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett dated 229 East 48th Street, New York 17, NY, 16 November 1953
- Beckett's plans for tree planting in Ussy.
Mitchell has been recuperating after leaving hospital and has now returned to work.
Mitchell has started drinking and smoking again.

- MIT/007 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^{me}, 25 November 1953
- Beckett suggests possible causes of Mitchell's pneumonia.
Beckett has recently been working on translations into English. He is currently revising the English translation of *En attendant Godot*.
Beckett mentions the possibility of a New York production of *Waiting for Godot*. The London premiere, to be produced by Peter Glenville, now seems certain.
Jérôme Lindon/Harold Oram.
The original production of *En attendant Godot* is now on a successful tour of Germany.
Beckett has recently read and been impressed by J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*.
Beckett mentions a production of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire under the Elms* in Paris.
Merlin.
Beckett and Patrick Bowles have completed the translation of the first half of *Molloy*.
An extract is to appear in *New World Writing*.
Richard Seaver.
Beckett has to start the translation of the second part of *Molloy* and *Watt*.
- MIT/008 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett dated 229 E[ast] 48, NYC 17, NY, 27 November 1953
- Talks between Lindon and Oram regarding the American premiere of *Waiting for Godot*.
Thanksgiving.
Mitchell has just finished Ben Benson's *Lily in her Coffin* and has begun E.M Forster's *The Hill of Devi*.
Mitchell's health.
- MIT/009 Letter dated Paris, 21 December 1953
- Quotation from Jonathan Swift's *Journal to Stella*.
Harold Oram and Barney Rosset are negotiating for the American premiere of *Waiting for Godot*. Beckett has finished revising the English translation.
Beckett is currently dividing his time between Paris and Ussy. Enjoys the peace of the country. His tree planting seems to have been successful.
Sends Christmas and New Year greetings.
- MIT/010 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett (undated)
- Mitchell's Christmas and New Year celebrations.
Esther Forbes.
Mitchell has recently seen the film *Roman Holiday* and read *Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Patrick Campbell: their correspondence*.
Chess.
Jonathan Swift's *Journal to Stella*.
- MIT/011 Letter dated Paris, 12 January 1954
- Beckett plans to travel to Ussy and then to Switzerland.
Beckett has had a Christmas card from Harold Oram.
Beckett's melancholy. He is struggling to write an essay on Jack Yeats for his exhibition in Paris the following month.
Beckett has recently read two plays in manuscript by Alberti and Ionesco.
Beckett has met the Spanish translator of *En attendant Godot*. The Paris production is still running.
Beckett is busy with translation work: German and English translations of *Molloy*, French translation of *Watt*, Spanish translation of *En attendant Godot* and the proofs of the English translation. Work is about to begin on the German translation of *Malone meurt*.
Beckett's essay on Jack B. Yeats.

Beckett is going to the Cirque Médrano with Jean Martin to see Buster Keaton.

MIT/012 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett dated 7 February 1954

Spring weather.
Jack B. Yeats's exhibition in Paris.
Mitchell has read *Waiting for Godot* and *Watt*.
Beckett's planned visit to Zurich.
Charles Morgan's *The Fountain*.
Spanish translation of *En attendant Godot*.
Mitchell has been to see William Inge's *Picnic* and Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* at the Phoenix Theatre.
Harold Oram, George Erion and work issues.
Jonathan Swift's *Journal to Stella*.

MIT/013 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 E[ast] 48, NYC 17, NY, 21 February 1954

Mitchell's health problems. She has recently had mumps.
Aldous Huxley's *The Doors of Perception*.
Mitchell encloses a newscutting about trees.

MIT/014 Letter dated Paris, 28 February 1954

Beckett sympathises with Mitchell's health problems.
Beckett refers to the newscutting about trees.
Beckett hasn't been to Ussy for a long time. Progress of the trees he planted there.
Beckett has recently been working on the revision of translations.
En attendant Godot is still playing at the Théâtre de Babylone. Beckett claims he doesn't like it any more. The Zurich première took place the previous week.
Harold Oram.

MIT/015 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated NYC 17, NY, 6 March 1954

Mitchell's health problems.
Plans to go away to Westport when her health improves.

MIT/016 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^o, 13 March 1954

Mitchell's health.
Beckett has recently been to Ussy. His trees are surviving.
En attendant Godot is still playing at the Théâtre de Babylone.
Beckett's brother is ill. He plans a trip to Ireland to see him.
Beckett is reading Alexandre Dumas's *Le Sphinx Rouge*.
Beckett talks about leaving his estate to the Euthanasia Society (if it exists).
Harold Oram.

MIT/017 Letter dated Paris, 6th April 1954

Mitchell is still deaf in one ear.
Beckett has returned from Ussy. His niece is arriving from Dublin shortly.
Beckett has been invited to Munich to see the production of *En attendant Godot* there.
Beckett's brother's health has improved, so he no longer needs to go to Dublin.
Beckett's garden in Ussy and the progress of the trees he has planted.

MIT/018 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 East 48th Street, New York 17, NY, 15 April 1954

Mitchell has been given two months' paid sick leave. She plans to travel to Paris.

- MIT/019 Letter dated Ussy, 21 April 1954
- Beckett offers to meet Mitchell in Paris.
Gardening work in Ussy.
Problems with Lord Chamberlain and *Waiting for Godot* in London. Alec Guinness has been suggested to play Estragon.
- MIT/020 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 E[ast] 48, NYC 17, NY, 1 May 1954
- Mitchell arranges to meet Beckett in Paris on 12 May.
Waiting for Godot production in London.
- MIT/021 Card dated [Paris], 8 May 1954
- Beckett confirms arrangements to meet Mitchell at the Montalembert hotel on 12 May.
- MIT/022 Letter (undated) headed Ussy-sur-Marne, 'Wednesday night'
- Beckett addresses Mitchell as 'Mouki'.
Beckett's brother is ill and he has to travel to Dublin.
- MIT/023 Letter headed 'Dublin' in Beckett's hand (undated); postmarked 2 June 1954
- Beckett's brother's health.
Harold Oram.
- MIT/024 Letter on notepaper headed 'Shottery, Killiney, Co. Dublin', dated 5 June 1954
- Beckett's brother's health.
Beckett has been thinking about his parents' deaths.
- MIT/025 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett dated Paris, 7 June 1954
- Mitchell is trying to calm the intensity of her feelings for Beckett and is trying to enjoy being in Paris.
- MIT/026 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett on notepaper headed 'Hotel Montalembert, 3 Rue de Montalembert, Paris VII^o', dated Paris, 9 June 1954
- Mitchell is missing Beckett. She is due to move to another hotel.
She enquires after Beckett's brother.
- MIT/027 Letter on notepaper headed 'Shottery, Killiney, Co. Dublin', dated 10 June 1954
- Beckett's brother's health. Beckett's health.
Delacroix museum in Paris. Beckett suggests visiting the Saint-Sulpice church.
Beckett is going to try and work on Patrick Bowles's translation of *Molloy*.
- MIT/028 Letter dated Shottery, Killiney, Dublin, 15 June 1954
- Beckett's brother's health has stabilised.
Beckett has spent most of the time indoors and has been working on Bowles's translation of *Molloy*.
Barney Rosset.
Beckett refers to the proverb about sharing sorrows/troubles.
Beckett's health.

- MIT/029 Letter headed 'Dublin' (undated); postmarked 18? June 1954
- Beckett's brother's health – little change.
Beckett is struggling to work.
Wishes he could go for long walks, but can't.
- MIT/030 Letter dated Dublin, 23 June 1954
- Beckett's brother has become weaker.
Beckett has given up trying to see friends and claims he doesn't want to anyway.
Beckett has received a letter from London listing the Lord Chamberlain's requirements.
Alec Guinness.
Barney Rosset.
Beckett claims he has never felt less like writing and jokes about the Irish slogan "Die in Ireland".
- MIT/031 Letter dated Dublin, 30 June 1954
- Mitchell has found a new apartment in Paris.
Beckett refers to his stabbing in 1938.
Beckett's brother's health. Beckett is doing domestic jobs around the house and garden.
Beckett has heard nothing more from London or from Barney Rosset.
Beckett has not managed to work on Bowles's translation of *Molloy*.
A total eclipse of the sun is about to happen.
Beckett watched a cricket match the previous day.
Beckett has listened to a tennis match between Drobny and Hoad on the radio.
Drobny is to play Patty that day.
- MIT/032 Letter dated Dublin, 12 July 1954
- Mitchell has moved to new premises in Paris.
Beckett's brother's condition.
Beckett has recently been to see a production of Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, which didn't impress him greatly.
Beckett is finding it difficult to write.
Wadja restaurant in Paris.
- MIT/033 Letter dated [Dublin], 22 July 1954
- Beckett thanks Mitchell for the photographs she has sent.
Beckett's brother's condition is deteriorating, but he has no pain.
Someone has to be with him all the time, so Beckett has been taking that role.
Frank's children are returning home on holiday the following week.
Beckett is finding it impossible to work.
Beckett has had a tooth abscess which has been removed.
- MIT/034 Letter dated [Dublin], 25 July 1954
- Beckett's brother's condition – little change.
Beckett is needed in London in connection with the premiere of *Waiting for Godot*.
Alec Guinness will not be playing Estragon.
Peter Glenville is busy with other projects, so another producer is needed.
Beckett's tooth abscess.
Atmosphere in the house. Beckett has been going for long walks along the shore.
Merlin journal.

- MIT/035 Letter dated Dublin, 6 August 1954
- Mitchell has been visiting Spain and is now back in Paris.
Beckett once visited Perpignan with his mother.
Beckett is reading Robert Louis Stevenson's letters.
Beckett has spoken to Frank about his death. His children are away visiting friends.
Beckett spends the days in the house and the evenings walking along the beach.
Autumn is approaching.
- MIT/036 Letter dated Dublin, 19 August 1954
- Beckett has not received a copy of *Merlin* which includes his story *The End*.
Spanish translation of *En attendant Godot* is due to arrive for proofreading.
Beckett suggests a list of books for Mitchell to read.
- MIT/037 Letter dated 27 August 1954
- Mitchell has sent Beckett a copy of *Merlin*. *The End* includes many mistakes, as Beckett Did not have the opportunity to proofread it. Beckett has written to Alexander Trocchi.
Beckett is not going to London for the production of *Waiting for Godot*. Ralph Richardson has been discussed as a possible participant.
Mitchell is enjoying Paris.
- MIT/038 Letter dated Shottery, Killiney, Dublin, 7 September 1954
- Beckett's brother's condition has deteriorated.
Beckett has been working on the Spanish and American texts of *En attendant Godot* and revising Patrick Bowles's translation of *Molloy*.
- MIT/039 Letter headed Shottery, Killiney, Co. Dublin, dated 17 September 1954
- Beckett's brother has died. Beckett plans to return to Paris the following week and then go straight to Ussy.
- MIT/040 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 6 October [sic] 1954; envelope postmarked 6 November 1954
- Beckett is still in Ussy. He plans to return to Paris the following week.
- MIT/041 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 12 November 1954
- Beckett is unable to travel to Paris that week.
- MIT/042 Letter headed Saturday (undated); envelope postmarked 27 November 1954
- Beckett wants to end the relationship. Claims he doesn't love anybody and that he has no hope of happiness. All he wants is silence.
Beckett's brother's death.
Beckett wants to meet Mitchell the following Monday, so that they don't part without seeing each other one last time.
- MIT/043 Letter dated [Paris], 15^o, Wednesday, 8 December 1954
- Beckett has a cold. He offers to meet Mitchell the following Friday.

- MIT/044 Letter dated [Paris], 'Samedi', 15 December 1954
- Beckett is still ill.
- MIT/045 Letter headed Paris, Monday (undated); envelope postmarked Paris, 20 December 1954
- Beckett offers to meet Mitchell the following day before leaving for Ussy.
- MIT/046 Letter dated Ussy, 27 December 1954
- Jean Cassou, director of the Musée d'Art Moderne.
Beckett is completing his revision of Patrick Bowles's translation of *Molloy*.
L'Innommable.
Beckett offers Mitchell financial help if she needs it.
Beckett went for a walk and spent it thinking of walks he took with his father and brother many years previously.
Beckett plans to return to Paris on 10 January.
Beckett has been reading J.D. Salinger.
- MIT/047 Letter dated Paris, 10 January 1955
- Beckett arranges to meet Mitchell on 12 January.
- MIT/048 Letter headed Ussy-sur-Marne, Friday (undated); postmarked January 1955
- Beckett suggests he and Mitchell will meet up again one day.
Beckett has had a terrible Christmas and New Year.
Beckett is currently battling with the local Ussy authorities.
Beckett has completed the revision of *Molloy*.
Beckett refers to a play which has not been published, as he has refused permission.
He hopes to write another play that year.
Beckett is planning to return to Paris the following week.
Mitchell was planning to a trip to Bern.
Beckett quotes from Baudelaire's 'Recueillement'.
Beckett is pleased that Mitchell enjoyed *L'Innommable*.
Beckett spends the evenings playing chess with himself
- MIT/049 Letter dated Paris, 29 January 1955
- Beckett talks about his last meeting with Mitchell and her departure for the USA.
Beckett is waiting for news about a production of *Waiting for Godot* in New York.
Beckett is missing Mitchell and feels lonely without her.
- MIT/050 Letter dated Paris, 7 February 1955
- Mitchell has returned to the USA on the Liberté.
Beckett has had Barney Rosset send the Grove edition of *Waiting for Godot* to Mitchell.
Alec Guinness has definitely withdrawn from the London production of *Waiting for Godot* and Peter Glenville has refused to produce unless he has a comparable star.
Donald Albery. Sam Wanamaker.
Beckett is still struggling with the second act of his next play (*Fin de partie*).
Beckett has recently met with Roger Blin.
En attendant Godot has been attacked by the Roman Catholic press in Holland. The production was to be banned on the grounds of homosexuality.
Beckett has been reading about Noah and the flood in the Bible and Baudelaire.

- MIT/051 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 17 February 1955
- Mitchell has paid back money to Beckett that he lent her.
 Mitchell's mother is ill.
 Progress of the trees Beckett planted.
 Peter Glenville has withdrawn from the London production of *Waiting for Godot*.
 Donald Albery has acquired the rights.
 Leo Kerz of the New Repertory Theatre, New York has asked for permission to stage the play on Broadway with Buster Keaton and Marlon Brando.
 Details of the fees Beckett will be paid.
 Jérôme Lindon.
 Details of *Fin de partie*, which Beckett is currently writing.
 Beckett has decided against going to Holland.
 Forthcoming exhibition of William Hayter's work. Beckett has supplied him with a poem to illustrate: "je voudrais que mon amour meure"
 Beckett has sent the translation of *Molloy* to Barney Rosset.
 John Dickson Carr's *The Seat of the Scornful*.
 Beckett is currently reading Agatha Christie's *Crooked House* in French.
 Beckett has been reading Zingarelli's Italian vocabulary book, which Mitchell gave him, in order to brush up on his Italian.
 Beckett is lonely without Mitchell.
- MIT/052 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 23 February 1955
- Beckett is alone in Ussy.
 Mitchell's mother's health is improving.
 Beckett has nearly finished the first draft of *Fin de partie*
 Beckett plans to return to Paris at the end of the month.
 Beckett offers to buy Mitchell a subscription to *Combat*.
 Beckett has decided not to go to Holland.
 Leo Kerz/Buster Keaton/Marlon Brando.
 Beckett refers to the Tolka river in Dublin.
 Paul Claudel died the previous day. His *L'Annonce faite à Marie* is currently playing at the Comédie Française in Paris.
 Beckett is missing Mitchell.
 Beckett refers to Proust.
 Beckett is about to play chess with himself.
 Beckett refers to J.D. Salinger.
- MIT/053 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 13 March 1955
- Beckett suggests that Mitchell should ask Barney Rosset for help.
 Mitchell's mother is better.
 Beckett hasn't heard from London about the proposed production of *Waiting for Godot* and decided not to travel to Holland. Suzanne went instead.
 Beckett is concerned about his heart.
 Beckett has finished *Fin de partie*, but claims he has to rewrite it.
 Beckett is currently reworking old texts for a new collection to be published by Lindon. The *Textes pour rien* are to be included.
 The translation of *Molloy* is completed. *Malone meurt* has to be translated next.
 Beckett is about to arrange a subscription to *Combat* for Mitchell.
 Beckett has been playing roulette in Paris.
 Beckett's typewriter has broken.
 Beckett has a boil on his neck.
 Georges Carpentier.
- MIT/054 Letter dated Paris, 26 March 1955

Beckett is back in Paris until the end of the month.
Beckett is to be a witness at Stephen Joyce's wedding.
Beckett has almost finished the book of short texts for Editions de Minuit. He has decided he needs to rewrite *Fin de partie*.
Barney Rosset has written concerning the proofs of *Molloy*.
Proofs of *Waiting for Godot*.
Paris is in the middle of a heat-wave.
Beckett has dined with the Haydens.
Beckett is being visited by a lot of friends, relatives and other people from Ireland.

MIT/055 Letter dated Paris, 18 April 1955

Mitchell has not received *Combat*.
Stephen Joyce's marriage.
Beckett hopes to return to Ussy soon.
An Argentine publisher wants to translate and publish Beckett's novels.
Mitchell has a new job.
Beckett has had no news about the planned London production of *Waiting for Godot*.
Beckett has abandoned *Fin de partie* for the moment.
English translation of *Molloy* has appeared; the American edition is to follow.
Beckett is now translating *Malone meurt*.

MIT/056 Letter dated Ussy-sur-Marne, 5 May 1955

Combat has been delivered to the wrong address.
Mitchell's new job.
Beckett is finding it difficult to work.
Weather. Gardening.
The English translation of *Molloy* has been published, but not the American edition.
Beckett has no news of the London production of *Waiting for Godot*.
Beckett is reading Zola's *L'Assommoir*.

MIT/057 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^o ('USSY' written in Beckett's hand at top of page), 18 August 1955

Mitchell has sent a photograph of herself. She is enjoying her new job.
Beckett asks after Mitchell's mother.
Beckett is spending as much time as possible in Ussy.
Waiting for Godot has opened at the Arts Theatre Club in London to a mixed critical reaction. Beckett does not plan to travel to London for the production. There are plans to transfer the production to a larger theatre.
Donald Albery. There have also been further propositions from people in New York.
Beckett claims he is tired of the play and the misunderstanding it provokes.
The American edition of *Molloy* is to appear in the next few months.
Beckett has finished the first draft of the English translation of *Malone meurt*.
Beckett has problems with moles in Ussy.
Beckett is reading the Italian magazine *Oggi*.
Beckett has to go to Paris the following day.
Beckett has not made any further progress with *Fin de partie*, but plans to return to the play. He has also written a ten-minute mime.
Beckett has completed the revision of the texts for Jérôme Lindon.
Barney Rosset has become a father.
Beckett's has concerns about his heart.

MIT/058 Letter dated 6 Rue des Favorites, Paris 15^{me}, 16 December 1955

Beckett has decided not to go to New York for the production of *Waiting for Godot* there, despite being invited by the producer Michael Myerberg.

Beckett has just returned from London, where he was working with Alan Schneider. Schneider's production of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*. *Waiting for Godot* is now running at the Criterion Theatre in London. Recently had a party to celebrate the thousandth performance. Beckett is going to Ussy the following day. Barney Rosset. Beckett has sent his English translation of *Malone meurt*. There are plans to produce Beckett's mime. John Beckett has written the music for it. *Nouvelles et Textes pour rien* has been published. Beckett mentions Sugar Ray Robinson.

MIT/059 Letter dated 6 rue des Favorites, Paris 15^e, 12 March 1956

Beckett is finding it difficult to write. Beckett is now in Ussy. Tree planting. Beckett has written a two act play, but doesn't like it. He hopes his mime piece will be performed later that year. The Dublin production of *Waiting for Godot* ends soon. The London one continues. Michael Myerberg/New York production of *Waiting for Godot*. Barney Rosset has published a cheap American edition of the play. Beckett plans to go to London in June for a cricket match. Beckett has corrected the proofs of *Malone dies* for Rosset and has started translating *L'Innommable*. He claims he hates his own work. Beckett is approaching his 50th birthday.

MIT/060 Letter dated 6 rue des Favorites, Paris 15^e, 28 September 1956

Beckett asks after Harold Oram. Beckett wants to spend as much time as possible in Ussy. Beckett has completed *Fin de partie* - although the play does not yet have a title. He suggests calling it 'Haam' [sic], after the lead character, and describes the three other characters: Clov and a moribund Darby and Joan who have no legs and live in dustbins. He hopes the play will be performed at the Théâtre-Hébertot, Paris, along with the mime he has written. Roger Blin will direct and possibly play Haam; Jean Martin will play Clov. Beckett has no plans to translate the play at present. Beckett has also completed a radio script for the BBC. Now he has to return to translating *L'Innommable*. Barney Rosset and Michael Myerberg have visited. Goddard Lieberon of Columbia Records has also visited. He gave him a recording of the Broadway production of *Waiting for Godot*. Beckett is pleased at Myerberg's suggestion of a production of the play with a black cast. Beckett claims he will never leave France again.

MIT/061 Letter dated 38 Boulevard St. Jacques, Paris 14^{me}, 26 March 1961

Mitchell is staying in Paris at the Montalambert Hotel. Beckett arranges to call her on 14 April to arrange a meeting.

MIT/062 Telegram from the French Cable Company, dated Paris, 11 March 1968

Beckett cannot leave Paris to see Mitchell. He offers what help he can from a distance.

MIT/063 Card Dated Paris, 29 March 1968

Beckett has been at a funeral in Ireland. He offers to help Mitchell if he can.

MIT/064 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017,

27 March 1968

Mitchell had a hysterectomy before Christmas, which was successful, but she suffered emotional problems as a result. She sent a telegram to Beckett in desperation. She became dependent on alcohol to overcome her problems, but is now much improved.

Someone has proposed marriage to Mitchell.

Mitchell has visited Iceland.

Mitchell asks about Beckett's eyesight.

MIT/065 Letter dated Paris, 30 January [sic] 1968; envelope postmarked 31 March 1968

Beckett sympathises with Mitchell's physical and mental problems.

Beckett suggests a trip to Europe to recuperate.

Beckett has been approached by *Esquire* to do an interview. Apparently, Ionesco and Genet have accepted the magazine's approach.

Beckett has been to Ireland for a family funeral. He is pleased to be back in France.

Beckett's eyesight. He plans to visit Moorfields Eye Hospital in London in July. He does not plan to return to the eye specialist in Bern.

Poèmes has been published by Editions de Minuit.

Beckett has completed the French translation of *Watt*.

Beckett claims he is contemplating writing a second version of *Krapp's Last Tape*.

Beckett is going to Ussy the following day. Plans to play Haydn on the piano.

MIT/066 Letter dated Ussy sur Marne, 21 April 1969

Mitchell's aunt has been ill.

Beckett has had an abscess on his lung. He spent the winter on an island near Madeira and is now almost fully recovered.

Beckett is struggling to write.

Beckett plans to direct a production of *Krapp's Last Tape* in Berlin in August-September.

Alan Schneider is to make a television version of the play with Patrick Magee.

Peter Weiss's *Die Verfolgung und Ermordung Jean Paul Marats*.

MIT/067 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017, 4 May 1969

Mitchell commiserates with Beckett about his lung problems.

Spring weather.

Alan Schneider/*Krapp's Last Tape*.

Beckett's Berlin production of *Krapp's Last Tape*.

Mitchell refers to Beckett's proposed second version of the play.

Mitchell plans to travel to France in the autumn.

Mitchell's family problems (her mother and aunts are ill and/or aged).

Mitchell's financial situation and her charitable trust work.

Harold Oram.

Mitchell has been given Jean Orieux's biography of Voltaire, André Maurois's biography of Balzac and books by Dick Francis and Nicholas Freeling.

Beckett's eyesight.

MIT/068 Letter dated Paris, 1 June 1969

Beckett's lung problem. He has given up smoking as a consequence.

Beckett is to direct *Krapp's Last Tape* at the Schiller-Theater, Berlin in September.

Alan Schneider visited the previous week to discuss the proposed television version of *Krapp's Last Tape* with Patrick Magee. But the meeting had to be cancelled.

Beckett is struggling to write.

Mitchell's family situation.

Orieux's biography of Voltaire.
French presidential elections.

- MIT/069 Letter from Mitchell to Beckett, dated 229 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017,
13 July 1969
- Beckett's health.
Mitchell is reading Leo Rosten's *The Joys of Yiddish*; she gives examples from the book.
Mitchell's aunt's health.
Mitchell plans to travel to France in October.
Mitchell wishes Beckett luck for his directorial work in Berlin.
- MIT/070 Postcard of 'Ehem. staatl. Museen Berlin: Nationalgalerie, Gustave Courbet, 1819-
1977: Die Welle, 1870', dated Berlin, 28 September 1969
- Beckett is rehearsing *Krapp's Last Tape* and is pleased with the actor and the work.
Phe pans to travel to Tunis afterwards.
- MIT/071 Postcard of 'Hôtel Fourati - Hammamet (Tunisie)', dated 7 October 1969
- Krapp's Last Tape* has opened in Berlin; the production is a success.
Beckett doesn't plan to return to Paris until mid-November.
- MIT/072 Postcard of 'Portugal: Moinhos', dated Cascais, 13 January 1970
- Beckett and Suzanne have been ill with flu.
Beckett plans to return to Paris in ten days.

Compiled in June 2006 by Dr Julian A Garforth, Samuel Beckett Research Fellow