

### The Percy Withers Collection, Somerville College.

dd. Audrey and Monica Withers, 1976, given **'To Somerville College in memory of their parents Percy Withers and Mary Withers (born Summers, and a student at Somerville around the year 1890 [1889]) from their daughters Monica Withers and Audrey Kennett (at Somerville 1924-27)'** . Further items added in 1977 & 1982.

*Percy Withers (1867-1945) was a G.P. trained in Manchester who worked in Lancashire, the Lake District and Worcestershire before retiring to Souldern Court and then Epwell Mill in Oxfordshire. He was not conspicuously successful as an author himself (although he tried); his greatest legacy is in the volume of correspondence he left to his daughters. Dr Withers had a rare talent for friendship, and cultivated a distinguished literary and artistic coterie of the most notable figures of the day. They obviously valued his genuine interest in their work, and his personal and professional support. Most appear to have had great affection for him – including the famously reserved poet A.E. Housman – and frequently enjoyed his hospitality at Souldern Court and Epwell Mill.*

*Audrey Withers OBE (1905-2001) was his younger daughter, a journalist who edited Vogue in London between 1940 and 1960. Her autobiography Lifespan (see PW/14) was published by Peter Owen in 1994.*

#### Scope and Content:

15 boxes, 2 folders & 4 separate volumes. This core of this collection dates from 1915 to 1945, comprising personal correspondence, original poetry and artwork, unpublished and published biography, photographs, offprints, pamphlets & newspaper cuttings.

- 1-4 Correspondence
- 5 Literary Mss.
- 6-8 Albums
- 9 Literary obituaries
- 10 Photographs
- 11, 15 Miscellany
- 12 Cuttings books
- 13 Pamphlets
- 14 Audrey Withers
- 16 Unpublished autobiography
- 17 Bridges Testament of Beauty
- 18 Papers: acquisition
- 19 Papers: research on the collection

PW= Percy Withers

MSW=Mary Summers Withers (PW's wife)

AW=Audrey Withers (PW's daughter)

MW=Monica Withers (PW's daughter)

### Significance:

This collection presents in a unique light the output, personal relationships and working practices of some of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century's most important writers and artists, particularly **Robert Bridges, A.E. Housman, Walter de la Mare**, and members of the Dymock group of poets. Their correspondence with Dr Withers is candid, even unguarded, since Withers was neither rival nor critic. He was a connoisseur, however, and in gratitude for his friendship and hospitality he is gifted original artwork and poetry, as well as the confidence of a remarkably wide range of distinguished friends.

The correspondence concerning the social reform group, the **Ancoats Brotherhood (PW/15)** is also notable.

### Principal correspondents:

**Abercrombie, Lascelles** (1881-1938). 'Dymock' poet, who lived in the Gloucestershire village, as did Rupert Brooke & Robert Frost. Prof. of English at Leeds and London Universities; Reader at Oxford University (1935).

**Alexander, R.G.** ?Editor at the *News Chronicle*.

**Anderson, J.R.** (1883-1964). Poet and teacher based in Hull.

**Ashbee, Charles Robert** (1863-1942). Designer and typographer; founder of the Guild and School of Handicraft (1888).

**Asquith, Lady Cynthia** (1887-60). Writer (particularly of ghost stories) and anthologist.

**Asquith, Raymond** (1878-1916). Barrister and intellectual.

**Bacon, Francis** (1909-92). Artist.

**Beerbohm, Max** (1872-1956). Essayist, novelist and caricaturist.

**Binyon, Cicely** (1876-1962). Translator and historian; m. Laurence Binyon 1904.

**Binyon, (Robert) Laurence** (1869-1943). Poet, dramatist, curator at the British Museum.

**Bottomley, Gordon** (1874-1948). Verse dramatist and art collector; friend of Paul Nash.

**Blunden, Edmund** (1896-1974). Poet, literary editor, Professor of Poetry at Oxford (1966).

**Blunt, Wilfrid** (1840-1922). Diplomat, traveller and poet.

**Bridges, Edward**, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron (1892-1969). Civil servant; son of Robert and Monica Bridges.

**Bridges, Monica** (Mrs Robert) (1863-1949). Cousin of Margery & Roger Fry.

**Bridges, Robert** (1844-1930). Poet Laureate 1913-30. Trained, like PW, as a medic.

**Bullen, Arthur Henry** (1857-1920). Editor, publisher and founder of the Shakespeare Head Press.

**Carpenter, Edward** (1844-1929). Poet, philosopher, activist for homosexual rights and pioneer of the Labour Party. Reputed to be the inspiration of E.M. Forster's 'Maurice'.

**Clark, Kenneth** (1903-1983). Author, broadcaster, museum director and art critic.

**Corelli, Marie** (1855-24). Popular novelist.

**Craig, E. Gordon** (1872-1966). Actor, director and theatrical theorist. Son of Ellen Terry.

**Daglish, Eric Fitch** (1892-1966). Engraver and natural historian.

**De la Mare, Walter** (1873-1956). Poet, novelist and critic.

**Dobree, Bonamy** (1891-1974). Academic (English literature).

**Dobson, Austin** (1840-1921). Poet, essayist and biographer.

**Doughty, Charles Montagu** (1843-1926). Traveller and poet; author of *Arabia Deserta*.

**Drinkwater, John** (1882-1937). 'Dymock' poet and dramatist.

**Elton, Oliver** (1861-1945). Literary scholar and translator based in Liverpool.

**Fairbank, Alfred** (1895-1982). Calligrapher and font designer.

**Fausset, Hugh l'Anson** (1895-1965). Biographer, critic and poet.

**Flower, Robin** (1881-1946). Deputy Keeper of Mss. At the British Museum; poet and Anglo-Saxon scholar.

**Forster, Edward Morgan** (1879-1970). Novelist.

**Frazer, Sir James George** (1854-1941). Anthropologist.

**Freeman, John** (1880-1929). Poet and essayist.

**Gale, Norman** (1862-1942). Poet and critic.

**Galsworthy, John** (1867-1933). Novelist.

**Gibson, Wilfrid Wilson** (1898-1962). Poet; Literary Executor of Rupert Brookes with Lascelles Abercrombie and Walter De la Mare.

**Gissing, George** (1857-1903). Novelist.

**Gittings, Robert** (1911-1922). Biographer and critic.

**Gordon, George** (?1881-1942). ?President of Magdalen College, Oxford.

**Gosse, Edmund** (1849-1928). Poet and critic.

**Gow, Andrew** (1886-1978). Scholar of classical poetry.

**Griggs, Frederick Landseer Maur** (1876-1938). Illustrator.

**Herbert, A.P.** (1890-1971). Humourist and Poet.

**Hine, Reginald.** Local historian, Hitchin.

**Hodgson, Ralph** (1871-1962). Poet.

**Hogarth, D.G.** (1862-1927). Archaeologist.

**Holmes, Edmond** (1850-1936). Writer and poet.

**Housman, Alfred Edward** (1859-1936). Poet.

**Housman, Laurence** (1865-1959). Playwright and illustrator; brother of A.E. Housman.

**Lambert, Richard Stanton** (1894-1981). Founder of the Stanton Press.

**Masefield, John** (1878-1967). Poet Laureate 1930-67.

**Meynell, Alice** (1847-1922). Writer and suffragist.

**Meynell, Francis** (1891-1975). Founder of the Nonesuch Press; son of Alice Meynell.

**Meynell, Viola** (1885-1956). Writer; daughter of Alice Meynell.

**Meynell, Wilfrid** (1852-1948). Editor; husband of Alice Meynell.

**Monkhouse, Allan** (1858-1936). Journalist (*Manchester Guardian*) and playwright.

**Montague, Charles Edward** (1867-1928). Journalist (*Manchester Guardian*) and novelist.

**Moore, Henry** (1898-1986). Sculptor.

**Moore, T. Sturge** (1870-1944). Poet and artist.

**Nash, John** (1893-1977). Artist.

**Nash, Paul** (1889-1946). Artist; brother of John.

**Page, Frederick.** Literary editor.

**Quiller-Couch, Sir Arthur** (1863-1944). Writer, critic and academic.

**Rawnsley, Canon Hardwicke Drummond** (1851-1920). Poet and hymn-writer.

**Richards, Grant** (1872-1948). Publisher and biographer.

**Robbins, Ruth.** ?would-be biographer of C.M. Doughty.

**Rothenstein, Sir William** (1872-1945). Artist.

**Rutherford, Sir Ernest** (1871-1937). New-Zealand physicist and Nobel Laureate.

**Sabatier, Paul** (1854-1941). French chemist and Nobel Laureate.

**Sadler, M.E.** (1861-1943). Historial and educationalist.  
**Sassoon, Siegfried** (1886-1967). Poet and writer.  
**Shaw, George Bernard** (1856-1950). Playwright.  
**Sitwell, Sacheverell** (1897-1988). Writer and critic.  
**Sothorn, Edward** (1859-1933). American Shakespearean actor.  
**Sothorn, Julia** (Mrs Edward) (1865-1950). American Shakespearean actress, wife of Edward.  
**Sparrow, John** (1906-1992). Barrister and academic.  
**Spencer, Gilbert** (1892-1979). Artist.  
**Street, George** (?1892-1966). ?Possibly the farmer and writer A.G. Street.  
**Summers, Gerald** (1899-1967). Designer; nephew of MSW.  
**Sutherland, Graham** (1903-1980). Artist.  
**Thurber, James** (1894-1961). Cartoonist, journalist and wit.  
**Trevelyan, George Macaulay** (1876-1962). Historian.  
**Trevelyan, Robert C.** (1872-1951). Poet and translator; brother of George M..  
**Vulliamy, Edward** (1886-1971). Artist and Cambridge linguist.  
**Walker, Emery** (1851-1933). Arts and Crafts movement photographer, engraver and printer.  
**Walker, Ethel** (1861-1951). Artist.  
**Wilson, Mona.** ?Historian of Queen Elizabeth 1.  
**Wordsworth, Gordon** (1860-1935). William Wordsworth's grandson.  
**Yeats, William Butler** (1865-1939). Poet.  
**Young, George Malcolm** (1882-1959). Historian.

**PW/01** Percy Withers Correspondence A-B

Abercrombie, Catherine (Mrs Lascelles) to PW (x 3, 1940-3)  
Abercrombie, Lascelles to PW (x 58, 1925-38, including 2 ms. poems)  
Abercrombie, Lascelles to MSW (x 5, 1921-33)  
Abercrombie, Lascelles to MW (1928)  
Abercrombie, Lascelles: letters to PW (plus enclosures) re Civil List Pension from  
    Asquith, Raymond (x 3, 1915)  
    Bridges, Robert (x 3, 1915)  
    Davies, David (PS to the PM, x 5, 1915)  
    Gibson, Wilfrid (x 2, 1915)  
    Hardy, Thomas (1915)  
    Herford, C H (1915)  
    Meynell, Alice (1915)  
    Quiller-Couch, Arthur (1915)  
Abercrombie, Patricia to PW (1942)  
Abercrombie, Patricia to MSW (1944)  
Abercrombie, Mrs S A to PW (n.d.)  
Anderson, John Redwood to PW (x 20, 1923-43)  
Anderson, John Redwood to MSW (x 2, 1924 & 1945)  
Anderson, John Redwood to AW (x 10, 1924-32)

Anderson, John Redwood to MW (x 3, 1927)  
Binyon, Cicely (Mrs Laurence) to PW (x 3, n.d.)  
Binyon, Cicely to MSW (x 2, n.d.)  
Binyon, Laurence to PW (1938)  
Binyon, Laurence to MSW (x 2, 1941)  
Binyon, Laurence to AW (x 4, 1933-38, with 2 enclosed letters of introduction)  
Binyon, Laurence to MW (x 3, 1928-38)  
Bottomley, Emily (Mrs Gordon) to MSW (x 2, 1943-6)  
Bottomley, Gordon to PW (x 85, 1922-44)  
Bottomley, Gordon to MSW (x 18, 1925-46)  
Bottomley, Gordon to AW (x 5, 1923-33)  
Bottomley, Gordon to MW (x 10, 1921-48)  
Bridges, Elizabeth (Mrs Daryush) to PW (x 5, 1934-44)  
Bridges, Elizabeth (Mrs Daryush) to MSW (x 4, 1937-45)  
Bridges, Monica (Mrs Robert) to PW (x 61, 1924-45)  
Bridges, Monica to MSW (x 7, 1926-42)  
Bridges, Monica to AW (1933)  
Bridges, Robert to PW (x 30, 1923-30)  
Bridges, Robert to MSW (n.d.)  
Bridges, Robert to SW (x 2, 1891; SW=Stanley Withers, possibly one of PW's brothers)

**PW/02** Percy Withers Correspondence C-F

Craig, E Gordon to PW (x 23, 1923-32, including a letter to AW)  
De la Mare, Walter to PW (x 78, 1917-23, including 1 ms. poem)  
De la Mare, Walter to MSW (x 3, 1922-45)  
De la Mare, Walter to AW (x 5, 1935)  
De la Mare, Walter to MW (x 4, 1929-51)  
Dobree, Bonamy to PW (x 18, 1931-45)  
Dobree, Bonamy to MSW (1945)  
Drinkwater, John to PW (x19, 1913-30)  
Drinkwater, John to AW (x2, 1931)  
Drinkwater, John (2 ms. poems)  
Elton, Oliver to PW (x25, 1922-45)  
Fausset, Hugh to PW (x102, 1919-45)  
Fausset, Hugh to MSW (x6, ?1924-45)  
Fausset, Hugh to AW (x30, 1922-31)  
Fausset, Hugh to MW (x5, 1924-33)  
Flower, Robin to Laurence Binyon (1924)  
Flower, Robin to PW (x44, 1924-44)  
Flower, Robin to MSW (n.d.)  
Flower, Robin to MW (1932)  
Freeman, Gertrude (Mrs John) to PW (x9, 1929-42)  
Freeman, John to PW (x72, 1922-9)

Freeman, John to MSW (n.d.)  
Freeman, John (ms. poem 'Souldern Pool', 1922)  
[Withers, MS to AW (fragment re John Freeman, 1922)]

**PW/03** Percy Withers Correspondence G-M

Gibson, Wilfrid to PW (x135, plus 3 fragments, 1915-45)  
Gibson, Wilfrid to MSW (x8, 1919-45)  
Gibson, Wilfrid to MW (x7, 1953-6)  
Griggs, F.L. ('Maur') to PW (x38, 1921-37)  
Griggs, F.L. to MSW (x4, 1921-7)  
Griggs, F.L. to AW (x48, 1921-37)  
Griggs, F.L. to MW (x3, 1921-2)  
Griggs, F.L. (Christmas Greetings 1931, 1937)  
Griggs, Nina (Mrs F.L.) to AW (1938)  
Housman, A.E. to PW (x66, 1918-36)  
Housman, A.E. to MSW (x10, 1918-35)  
Housman, A.E. to AW (1933)  
[Housman, A.E. (correspondence re publication of letters, including from Monica Bridges, Laurence Housman)]  
Meynell, Alice to PW (x28 c.1911-20, plus 2 ms. poems 'The Two Poets' & 'Renounce', both differing from the published versions)  
Meynell, Francis to PW (1927)  
Meynell, Viola to PW (x4, n.d.)  
Meynell, Wilfrid to PW (x6, n.d.)

**PW 0/4** Percy Withers Correspondence N-Z & Misc. A-Z

Nash, Paul to PW (x27, 1922-44)  
Nash, Paul to MSW (x7, including a sketch, 1922-46)  
Nash, Paul to AW (x51, including several sketches, mostly n.d.)  
Nash, Paul to MW (x3, n.d.)  
Nash, Mrs Paul to AW (x2, 1948-50, plus photograph of Paul Nash by Lance Slevking)  
Smith, Nowell C. to PW (x46, 1933-45)  
Smith, Nowell C. to MSW (x4, 1934-45)  
Withers, Percy to AW (x18, 2 possibly incomplete, 1922-38)

Misc.

Alexander, R.G. to PW (x3, 1941-2)  
Ashbee, C.R. to PW (X3, 1940-1)

Asquith, Lady Cynthia to PW (1937)  
Bacon, Francis to PW (n.d.)  
Blunden, Edmund to PW (x2, 1922)  
Blunt, Wilfrid to PW (x2, 1910, n.d.)  
Bridges, Edward, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron to PW (x2, 1938-45)  
Bullen, A.H. to PW (x8, 1909-17)  
Carpenter, Edward to PW (n.d.)  
Clark, Kenneth to PW (x2, 1933-7)  
Corelli, Marie to PW (x2, 1920)  
Daglish, Eric Fitch to PW (1924)  
Daglish, Eric Fitch to AW (x3, 1924-7)  
Dobson, Austin to PW (1910)  
Doughty, Charles Montagu to PW (1924)  
[Doughty, Charles Montagu (misc. correspondence re Doughty)]  
Fairbank, Alfred to MW (1947)  
Forster, E.M. to MW (1943)  
Gale, Norman to PW (1910)  
Galsworthy, John to PW (x3, 1910)  
Gittings, Robert to MW (1959)  
Gordon, George to PW (x5, 1930-36)  
Gordon, Mary (Mrs George) to MSW (1934)  
Gordon, Mary to PW (x2, 1942-3)  
Gosse, Edmund to PW (x4, 1910-22)  
Herbert, A.P. to AW (1938)  
Hine, Reginald L. to PW (x3, 1942)  
Hine, Reginald L. to AW (x2, 1942)  
Hodgson, Ralph to PW (x7, plus 1 ms. poem 'The Mystery', mostly n.d.)  
Holmes, Edmond G.A. to PW (x3, 1911)  
Housman, Laurence to PW (1912)  
Lambert, R.S. to PW (1924)  
Masefield, John to PW (x4, n.d.)  
Masefield, John to MSW (x2, n.d.)  
Masefield, John to AW (x4, n.d.)  
Monkhouse, Allan to PW (x7, 1914-28, plus Gissing Memorial enclosure)  
Montague, C.E. to PW (x13, 1913-27)  
Montague, Mrs M to PW (1929)  
Moore, Henry to AW (1948)  
Moore, T. Sturge to PW (1922)  
Nash, John to PW (x2, n.d.)  
Page, Frederick to PW (1949)  
Rawnsley, Edith (Mrs H.D.) to PW (n.d.)  
Rawnsley, Canon H.D. to PW (n.d.)  
Richards, Grant to PW (x4, 1928-39)  
Rothenstein, Sir William to PW (x4, 1917-41)  
Rutherford, Lord Ernest to PW (x2, 1925-31)

Sabatier, Paul to PW (1903)  
 Sadler, M.E. to MSW (1933)  
 Sassoon, Siegfried to PW (x2, 1924-36)  
 Shaw, George Bernard to AW (1942)  
 Sitwell, Sacheverell to 'Miss Withers' (1945)  
 Smith, Matthew to AW (on reverse of letter from AW, 1944)  
 Sothern, Edward H. to PW (x2, 1920)  
 Sothern, Julia (Mrs H.) to PW & MSW (x20, 1919-34)  
 Sparrow, John to PW & MSW (x6, 1938-42)  
 Spencer, Gilbert to PW (x3, n.d., 1943)  
 Spencer, Gilbert to MSW (1945)  
 Stephen, H.L. to PW (1936)  
 Street, ?George to PW (1932)  
 Summers, Gerald to PW (1927 or 37)  
 Sutherland, Graham to AW (1957)  
 Thurber, James to AW (1958)  
 Trevelyan, George Macaulay to PW (x2, 1937-40)  
 Trevelyan, Robert Calverley to PW (x5, plus 1 to AW, 1933-44)  
 Vulliamy, E. to PW (x4, 1923-42)  
 Walker, Emery to PW (x 2, plus 1 to MSW, 1924-6)  
 Walker, Ethel to PW (x3, c.1940-5)  
 White, Dorothy to PW (x3, 1925)  
 Wilson, Mona to PW (x4, 1927-42)  
 Wilson, Mona to MSW (1932)  
 Wordsworth, Gordon G. to PW (1926)  
 Yeats, W.B. to PW (x8, 1912, n.d.)  
 Young, G.M. to PW (x5, 1937, n.d.)

**PW/05** Literary Mss. a-d

a) Abercrombie, Lascelles. *Deborah* . Mss.

b) Anderson, John Redwood. Als, 15 Apr 1924.

2 bound vols. of draft poetry including *Trinity*, 'for Audrey', Oct 1922 & Apr 1924.

Poetry drafts, including *A Village* and *Interior*.

*Exodus*, Jan 1924.

c) Bottomley, G. *The Riding to Lithend*. A one-act Play with drawings by James Guthrie (Flansham: Pear Tree Press, 1909). Proof copy with amendments by GB, including a memorial dedication to Edward Thomas.

d) Drinkwater, John Draft of *The Storm*, with als, 7 Oct 1915.



**PW/06 a – b** Autograph albums

a)

- 1 Anderson, J Redwood Poem. Souldern, 15 Sep 24
- 2 Doughty, Charles M 2 alss, Sissinghurst, 10 & 21 Oct 1924
- 3 Frazer, J G Als, Cambridge, 8 Jan 1925
- 5 Binyon, Laurence 'Fandango for Porcupines' & 'Contemplate Silence...'
- 6 Beerbohm, Max 2 alss, Stroud, 2 Oct & 19 Dec 1916
- 7 Bottomley, Gordon Als, Kinloch-Rannoch, 25 Jun 1925
- 9 Craig, E Gordon Als, Geneva, 2 Jul 1925
- 10 [Gibson] Wilfrid Als and a poem, Saundersfoot, 9 Dec 1925
- 11 Round Table National Liberal Club 4 menus 1909-1912, with autographs including Hilaire Belloc, Lawrence Binyon, GK Chesterton, Sydney Cockerell, Walter Crane, William Orpen, W Rothenstein
- 12 De la Mare, Walter 2 poems, 'The Tulip' and 'The Vocalists' 16 Jul 1926
- 13 Flower, Robin Poem 'Troy'

b) [All letters excised.]

**PW/07 a-d** Paradise of Dainty Devices; Visitors' Books (x2); Autograph Book.

- a) 'Paradise of Dainty Devices' (1913-30): fine gilt-tooled tan pigskin binding (by Katharine Adams). With ms. poems or original sketches, usually signed and dated, as follows:

Abercrombie, Lascelles. 'The Queen of Sheba', f.3  
Anderson, J. Redwood. 'A Girl', f.36  
Armstrong, Martin. 'The Buzzards', f.42  
Beerbohm, Max. 'Lines Written in Deprecation', f.11  
Beerbohm, Max. Pencil & watercolour sketch 'Swinburne in 1862', f.14  
Binyon, Laurence. 'Spring has leapt into Summer...' f.21  
" " " 'For Mercy, Courage, Kindness...' f.22  
Bottomley, Gordon. 'New Year's Eve', 1913, f.17  
" " " 'A Surrey Night', f.18  
" " " 'The Ploughman', f.19  
Bridges, Robert. 'Cheddar Pinks', f.29  
Davies, W.H. 'The Kingfisher', f.43  
Davies, W.H. 'The Rain', f.44  
De la Mare, Walter. 'The Mountains', f.15  
" " " 'The Song of Shadows', f.16  
Doughty, Charles. [A quotation], f.38  
Drinkwater, John. 'Symbols', f.5

“ “ “ ‘A Town Window’, f.6  
 Fausset, Hugh l’Anson. ‘What think you then...’ f.25  
 Flower, Robin. ‘After Holiday’, f.41  
 Freeman, John. ‘The Caliphs’, f.31  
 Gibson, Wilfrid Wilson. ‘The Chase’[?]. ff.7-10  
 Gosse, Edmund. ‘Apologia’, f.33  
 Graves, Robert. ‘Knowledge of God’, f.34  
 Griggs, F.L. Pencil & watercolour sketch, f.35  
 Hodgson, Ralph. ‘The Gipsy Girl’, f.24  
 Housman, A.E. ‘Illic Jacet’, f.20  
 Masefield, John. ‘Let that which is to come...’ f.23  
 Meynell, Alice. ‘A Faikir[?] of Women’, ff.1-2  
 Moore, T. Sturge. ‘Beauty’, f.32  
 Nash, Paul. Pencil & watercolour sketch ‘Souldern Court 1922’ f.27  
 Nash, John. Untitled pencil & watercolour sketch, f. 40  
 Nash, Tom. Gouache sketch, ‘The Raising of Jairus’s Daughter’, f.50  
 Rothenstein, William. Pencil sketch ‘Max on his (almost) native heath...’ (with Rothenstein), f.12  
 Turner, M. ‘Ecstasy’, ff.48-9  
 Vulliamy, E. Pencil & watercolour sketch, f.47  
 Wolfe, Humbert. ‘Iliad’, f.45  
 Yeats, W.B. ‘When You are Old’, f.30

- b)** Visitors’ Book: ‘Souldern Court Epwell Mill’ finely-rebound in tan pigskin by Bumpus. With entries & comments from 1896-1948 (but thin on the ground for the years covered by the second book below) and an inscription from M.M.H., June 1896. Includes Cornelia Sorabji (several visits; she was a contemporary & lifelong friend of Mary Withers) & Mary Sorabji (1923); most of the individuals included in ‘Dainty Devices’ with the odd verse & sketch.
- c)** Visitors’ Book, inscribed from Mona [Wilson?], July 1902. With entries & comments from 1902-1910. Includes Cornelia Sorabji (27 July 1903).
- d)** Monica Withers’s Autograph Album, with 6 entries (c.1912-13) including a poem ‘For Bicycling’ by Lascelles Abercrombie written here (according to Monica) ‘many years before it was published’.

**PW/08 a-c** Albums: Abercrombie, Bottomley & Gissing. All bound in half-blue pigskin and boards, gilt-lettered (by Katherine Adams).

- a)** Abercrombie, Lascelles. 130 alss, 1909-1925.
- b)** Bottomley, Gordon. 76 alss, 1917-1925.
- c)** Gissing, George. ‘The George Gissing Memorial in the University of Manchester: being Autograph Mss & Letters Relating Thereto’. Indexed, including letters from Arnold Bennett, John Galsworthy, Edmund Gosse, Thomas Hardy, John Masefield & H.G. Wells; a loosely-inserted sketch by Eric Gill and the ms. of an article by A.C. Benson.

**PW/09 a-c** Literary obits & memorials.

- a) [Abercrombie, Lascelles.] Correspondence re PW's article in *English*, 1943 (see 'pamphlets' item 20 above), including letters from members of Abercrombie's family, Cicely Binyon, Gordon Bottomley, Bonamy Dobree *inter alia*. With 5 duplicate copies of the pamphlet, one inscribed to Mona [Wilson?] from PW, and another Order of Service (see 'pamphlets' item 22 above).
- b) [Housman, A.E.] Misc. printed and manuscript material re AEH, including a t/s from his cardiologist to PW, 28 Jun 1935; a proof copy of PW's memorial A Buried Life (1940) with the incomplete ms., and copies of PW's *New Statesman and Nation* tribute.
- c) [Thompson, Francis] 10 alss from C.H. Herford to PW, 1911-14 discussing a memorial to poet Francis Thompson, with a sketch by Eric Gill.

**PW/10 a-b** Photographs with ms. list & most with negatives;

Material relating to Paul Nash.

a) Photographs:

Abercrombie, Lascelles x 4 images

Anderson, J. Redwood x 1

Beerbohm, Max x 1 ©Daily Sketch (no neg.)

Binyon, Laurence x 5 (2 with wife Cicely)

Bottomley, Gordon x 4 (some with wife Emily and the Witherses)

Bridges, Robert x 6, plus 2 of Edward Bridges & 1 of Elizabeth Daryush (Bridges) & a separate envelope of published and unpublished images of Bridges.

De la Mare, Walter x 4 (some with wife Elfrida and Mary Withers)

Drinkwater, John x 5 (some with others)

Fausset, Hugh l'Anson x 1

Flower, Robin x 3

Freeman, John x 2

Gibson, Wilfrid x 5 (some with family members)

Griggs, F.L. x 1 (with wife Nina; 2 copies)

Housman, A.E. x 4 (1 with others)

John, Augustus & Piper, John

Nash, Paul x 5, plus 1 with his wife Margaret & 1 of Margaret alone

Nowell-Smith x 2

Rowley, Charles x 1 (with different negs.)

Sutherland, Graham and Kathy, with Audrey Withers

Walker, Emery x 2

Wemyss, Countess of x 1 (with daughter Lady Charteris)

Wilson, Mona x 1

Withers, Percy x 3 & 1 of Mary Withers

Mounted enlargements of Binyon; Bridges (x 3); Housman (x 3, plus a published photograph)

Souldern Court x 4; Epwell Mill x 2 & 1 each of Abbot's Bay & Broadway

Photograph of an unfinished portrait of Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) by Augustus John

Misc. negatives , with a list, made for Mrs (Penelope?) Fitzgerald

b) Paul Nash:

'Aerial Flowers': a brochure designed by PN & published posthumously. Number 747/100, 1946; with presentation 'to Audrey from Margaret [Mrs Nash]'.

'Monster Field': brochure, 949/100, 1946.

Memorial Exhibition catalogue, 1948.

Flyer for a book on Wagner illustrated by Nash.

'Abstract no. 1... for Audrey'. Mounted woodcut in decorative covers.

Christmas card to Percy from Paul & Margaret Nash; another (with a William Blake illustration) to Audrey from Bunty.

Loose photographs, postcards (including 1 to Percy from PN, 1935, and 1 to Mary, 1942) and printed illustrations, several of Souldern or Epwell.

**PW/11** a-c Miscellany.

a) Obit pamphlets of Herbert J Mothersill (1868-1937), PW's best man; Arthur William Crossley 1869-1927, possibly a friend from Owens College days.

b) Misc printed poems, broadsheets &c. (numbered according to ms. list in box)

1 Christmas card inscribed to PW by John Nash.

2 Newspaper cutting 'I.M.H.' poem.

3 Verse pamphlet 'Gorillas'.

4 Gibson, W.W. 'Highland Dawn', inscribed by the author to PW, April 1932.

5 Binyon, L. 'Dante', inscribed by the author to PW, Nov 1925.

6 Christmas card inscribed to PW by J. Redwood Anderson, 1942.

7 Anderson, J. Redwood. 'Standing Waters', inscribed by the author to PW, Nov 1931.

8 Trevelyan, R.C. 'From the Shiffolds', 1944.

9 Bottomley, G. 'On the New Memorial to Bishop Elphinstone...', inscribed by the author to PW, Nov 1931.

10 Bottomley, G. 'Before Daybreak', inscribed by the author to PW & MSW, Dec 1942.

11 De la Mare, W. 'Haunted' (hand-coloured), 1939.

12 De la Mare, W. 'The Old Summer House', inscribed by the author, 1937.

13 De la Mare, W. 'Thus Her Tale', 1923.

14 De la Mare, W. 'Two Poems', inscribed by the author to PW, Christmas 1931. With a ms. note on the poems' previous publication.

15 De la Mare, W. 'A Snowdrop', inscribed by the author ('J') to PW, Christmas 1929.

16 De la Mare, W. 'A Ballad of Christmas', inscribed by the author to PW.

17 Spenser, Gilbert & Ursula, printed Christmas card.

18 Hodgson, Ralph. 7 illustrated broadsheet poems.

19 Nash, John or Paul (illus.) 'The New Broadside' series.

a) Pound, E. 'An Immorality', illus. PN

b) Stevenson, R.L. 'Windy Nights', illus. JN

c) Whitman, R. from 'Song of Myself', illus. JN

d) [anon] 'Sister Awake', illus. JN

All inscribed to PW by the illustrator.

20 Drinkwater, J. 'The Witchball'.

21 Offprint, *Slavonic Review*, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW, April 1945.

22 " " " vol. XXI, 1943, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW.

23 " " " vol. XX, 1941, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW, 1942.

24 Offprint *Slavonic Year-Book*, vol. XIX, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW, 1940.

25 a-f: offprints, *Slavonic Review*, 1935-8, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW.

26 Offprint, *Slavonic and East European Review*, vol. XXI, 1943, inscribed by translator O. Elton to PW.

27 Elton, Oliver. Tls to PW, 2 Sep 1943.

28 Rakić, M. Typed poems 'The Peony' and 'Chinese Madrigal', 1942.

c) Misc. pamphlets & occasional correspondence (numbered according to ms. list in box)

1 [Housman, A.E.] Cutting of PW's recollections from *New Statesman and Nation*, 1936.

- 2 [Elton, Oliver. Lascelles Abercrombie 1881-1938: see PW/13]  
 3 Friends of the Bodleian, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, 1938-9. Notes gifts from PW.  
 4 [Sir Emery Walker obituary: see PW/13]  
 5 Wilson, Mona. Als to PW, 2 Feb 1926.  
 6 Withers, Audrey. Single sheet of an als..  
 7 Drinkwater, J. 'Penelope's Trees', inscribed by the author to PW, 1930.  
 8 [Bridges, Robert] 'Poor Poll', with note by PW recording its presentation by 'the Laureate', 1923.  
 9 [Morris, William. The Decorative Arts: see PW/13]  
 10 [Evans, John. Posy-Rings: see PW/13]  
 11 Lee, Sir Sidney. Tls to PW, 26 Nov 1924.  
 12 Wordsworth, Gordon. Als to PW, 27 Nov 1924.  
 13 Wordsworth, Gordon. Als to PW, 18 Dec 1924.  
 14 Wordsworth, Gordon. Als to PW, 10 Oct 1922.  
 15 Wordsworth, Gordon. Als to PW, 19 Dec 1929, with copy of a letter from Mary Wordsworth to Sarah Hutchinson.  
 16 [Dobree, Bonamy. Arts Faculties: see PW/13]  
 17 [Nowell Smith. The English Association: see PW/13]  
 18 [Nicolson, Harold. The Poetry of Byron: see PW/13]  
 19 *English*, vol. IV no. 23, 1943. Inscribed by J Redwood Anderson to PW, 1943.  
 20 *English*, vol. IV no. 24, 1943. With homages to Lascelles Abercrombie, including PW's (also present in original ms.).  
 21 Withers, Audrey. Als. to PW, 28 Oct 1938.  
 22 [Abercrombie, Lascelles.] Order of (Memorial) Service, 12 Dec 1938.  
 23 Bottomley, Gordon. 'I.M. Lascelles Abercrombie', 1941, signed by author.

#### **PW/12 a-d Percy Withers's Cuttings Books**

1 quarto and 3 octavo volumes of cuttings, reviews, flyers & printed lectures.

#### **PW/13 Literary Pamphlets**

A collection of 38 pamphlets & offprints, some privately printed, mostly by PW's correspondents and listed by him(?), including presentation copies from Lascelles Abercrombie, Laurence Binyon, Gordon Bottomley, Bonamy Dobree, John Drinkwater, Oliver Elton, John Evans, Robin Flower, F.L.Griggs (with an als), Nowell Smith, Mona Wilson, G.M. Young.

#### **PW/14 Audrey Withers *Lifespan***

Material relating to Audrey Withers's memoir, including negatives, photographic reproductions and 1 tls from AW to Pauline Adams, 9 Jul 1996.

**PW/15 a-h Misc. & Personal Papers**

- a) Tributes to PW: 3 copies of a printed tribute by Hugh l'A Fausset & Elizabeth Daryush, written for the Times 'but held out through lack of space'. With ms. originals and an als from Fausset to Audrey, 29 Jun 1945.
- b) A Buried Life [PW's tribute to A E Housman, 1940]: Letters of appreciation (1940-3) from John Redwood Anderson, C R Ashbee, Laurence Binyon, John Blackie, E H Blakeney (x 2, with insert), Gordon Bottomley, Monica Bridges, Olwen Campbell (x 2), ? Collins (with a page of comments), Elizabeth Daryush (x 2), Walter de la Mare, Basil de Selincourt, Bonamy Dobrée, Oliver Elton, Hugh Fausset (x 2), Adam Ferguson, Robin Flower (x 2), Wilfrid Gibson, Eleanor Goodall, Lionel Gough, Andrew Gow (x 2), E. Heffer, M. Hervey, G. Heywood (x 2), Sandra Housman, Laurence Housman, Marian McNeill, L S Prowse, [indecipherable: Renshaw??], William Rothenstein, Gerard Sheldon, Nowell Smith (x 3), [indecipherable: Spain??], H F Stewart, F Stratton, Katherine Symons, E Vulliamy, Mona Wilson (x 2), [indecipherable], Cecil , [unfinished & unsigned, not addressed to PW but about the book].
- c) In a Cumberland Dale: Letters of appreciation (1914-20) from Catherine Abercrombie, A H Bullen (x 2), Lewis Chesterton, Mary de Navarro (x 2), Hugh Fausset, E L Griggs, Theo Hall, Charles Hargreaves, P Lister, A Monkhouse, C Montague, Grant Richards, Peter ?Thorpe, H Valentine.
- d) Alice Meynell: the poems 'The Unknown God', 'The Fugitive' and 'Beyond Knowledge' written out in ms. by her daughter Olivia and 'yet unpublished'.
- e) Miscellaneous correspondence: to PW from Paul Nash (1944) & 'N'; to Audrey Withers from ?Gilbert Spenser (1939) & J. Mabbott (n.d.); to A Symonds from Lord Rosebery (1885) & ?; to Dr Pyne from R. Garnett (1900); to unnamed correspondents from B Jowett (1888) & F Shields (1881); a quotation from Helena, Lady Martin (1886).
- f) Ancoats Brotherhood correspondence (a progressive society founded by Charles Rowley in 1888 to raise money and awareness of the slums of Manchester, with members including George Bernard Shaw and William Morris): letters to Charles Rowley from artist Frederic Shields (x 20, 1876-1910 & undated); to D G Rosetti from Shields (n.d.); to Rowley from William Rosetti (x 6, 1904-7 & undated); to Rowley from Theodore Watts Dunton (x 3, 1901-11); to Rowley from William Morris (x 3, 1892-4 & undated); postcard to Rowley from George Bernard Shaw (1908); to [?D G] Rosetti from William Sharp (x 2, 1882-4); to various correspondents from T H Huxley, James Martineau, David Masson, J Halliwell-Phillips, Herbert Spencer, Agnes Strickland & W.B. Yeats.
- g) Ancoats Brotherhood: number of programmes, 1930-20.
- h) Ancoats Brotherhood: typescripts of 3 talks given by PW at Ancoats: 'The Cry of the Children', 'Ancoats – the Way Out' and 'Consider the Lilies of the Field'.

**PW/16** PW's Unpublished Autobiography. (scanned in 'Percy Withers Autobiography' folder, Image Drive).

**PW/17** Bridges, Robert. Presentation copy of the limited edition of *Testament of Beauty*, privately printed 1927-29, signed by Bridges and bound in full pigskin by Bumpus.

**PW/18** Details of the collection's acquisition, and correspondence between the College and the donors..

**PW/19** Ongoing file of researchers' letters including 3 from Penelope Fitzgerald (6.4.78, 8. & 26.9.83),