
Charles Morgan letters to Mrs. Hotson
1945-1946

Abstract: These four holograph letters were written by British author Charles Morgan to an American friend from Maine named Mrs. Hotson. Morgan wrote to thank Mrs. Hotson for parcels of food and necessities sent by her to assist the Morgans with shortages caused by World War II.
Descriptive Summary

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Title: Charles Morgan letters to Mrs. Hotson
Inclusive Dates: 1945-1946
Extent: 4 items (13 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

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Biographical Note

British writer Charles Langbridge Morgan wrote several plays, eleven novels, and numerous essays.

Charles Langbridge Morgan was born on January 22, 1894, in Bromley, Kent. He was a cadet in the Royal Navy and later attended naval colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth. From 1911-1913 he served in the Atlantic and China before resigning to pursue a literary career. However, at the outbreak of World War I Morgan volunteered for reenlistment in the Royal Navy, joining the Naval Brigade forces at Antwerp. In the fall of 1914 Morgan was taken prisoner in Holland, where during his internment Morgan began writing his first novel, The Gunroom (1919) in which he was critical of the British Navy. Though critical of the Royal Navy, Morgan again volunteered for service during World War II, and he served in the British Admiralty from 1939-1944.

After studying at Oxford, beginning in 1921 Morgan worked as a drama critic for The Times of London. In 1926 he became the paper’s principal drama critic, a post he held until 1939.

In the 1930s and 1940s, when Morgan’s success as a writer was at its peak, he won three important literary prizes for his novels: the Prix Fémina-Vie Heureuse (1929); the Hawthornden Prize (1932); and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize (1940).

Morgan was one of the few foreigners to become an Académicien in the Institut de France. He also received honorary doctorates from St. Andrews University (LL.D., 1947), Université de Caen (1948), and Université de Toulouse (1948). Morgan died in London, on February 6, 1958.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

These four holograph letters were written by British author Charles Morgan to an American friend from Maine named Mrs. Hotson. Morgan wrote to thank Mrs. Hotson for parcels of food and necessities sent by her to assist the Morgans with shortages caused by World War II.

Writing in the first two years following World War II, Morgan expressed his gratitude, but also provided his opinions on economic circumstances in Great Britain. Morgan criticized Britain's acceptance of loans from the United States and lamented the limits on travel outside of Great Britain. Morgan also mentioned his son in the Grenadier Guards and provided glimpses of daily life in Britain just after the war.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Morgan, Charles, 1894-1958--Correspondence.

Hotson, Mrs.--Correspondence.

**Corporate Names**


**Topical Terms**

World War, 1939-1945--Economic aspects--Great Britain.

Authors, British--20th century.

**Geographic Names**

Great Britain--History--20th century--Sources.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Letters (correspondence)

**Personal Contributors**

Hotson, Mrs., correspondent.

**Related Materials in this Repository**

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 397, Charles Morgan letters to Ronald Armstrong
Arrangement

The letters are arranged chronologically.
**Detailed Description of the Collection**

Autograph letter signed, 1945 December 31 [Box 59 F850]

1 item (6 p.)

Extensive letter thanking Mrs Hotson for a recent parcel. Morgan commented on the economy in post-war Great Britain, opposed accepting American loans, lamented the difficulties in financing travel outside of the island, mentioned his son, who served as a Grenadier Guard, and expressed his concerns about Russia's aggressive movements.

Autograph letter signed, 1946 April 9 [Box 59 F850]

1 item (2 p.)

Morgan again thanked Mrs. Hotson for a recent arrival and mentioned a future trip to teach in Switzerland.

Autograph letter signed, 1946 April 16 [Box 59 F850]

1 item (3 p.)

In this letter Morgan not only thanked Mrs. Hotson for a package but also an invitation to visit Maine. Morgan also discussed the continued shortages, his reluctance to travel to the United States because of currency issues and tomorrow's departure for Switzerland.

Autograph letter signed, 1946 June 14 [Box 59 F850]

1 item (2 p.)

Written on his return from Switzerland, Morgan celebrated another parcel and mentioned the recent Victory March in London.