

April 2013
Revised June 2013



Janet Adam Smith

Inventory

Acc.13396

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Letters, 1933 – 1988, to Janet Adam Smith, author, journalist and mountaineer (1905-1999), with some responses. Correspondents include Beatrix Potter, John Masefield, Sir Stephen Spender and Osbert Lancaster. With typescripts, 1951, of two talks on mountaineering.

Janet Buchanan Adam Smith was born in Glasgow in 1905, the daughter of Sir George and Lilian Adam Smith. She was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College and Somerville College Oxford. She then joined the BBC, becoming assistant editor of *The Listener* in 1930.

In 1935 she married Michael Roberts (1902-1948), poet, teacher and mountaineer. The family settled in London after the war, and after the death of her husband in 1948, Janet Adam Smith joined the staff of *The New Statesman*, becoming literary editor in 1952. In 1965 she married John Carleton (1908-1974), headmaster of Westminster School.

As literary editor and critic she wrote on a wide range of literary and cultural topics, and produced major editions and studies of Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry James and John Buchan. She also wrote about her own mountaineering activities and those of the many climbers and mountaineers whom she knew.

Janet Adam Smith was a Trustee of the National Library of Scotland from 1950 to 1985. She was President of the Royal Literary Fund from 1976 to 1984. She received an honorary LI.D from the University of Aberdeen in 1962 and was appointed OBE in 1982.

See also Acc.6301, Acc.11164 and Acc.12342

Presented, 2013

1 Five letters, 1933 – 1934, undated, of John Masefield, Poet Laureate, (1878-1967)

Seven letters, 1933? – 1935, undated, of Sir Stephen Harold Spender, poet and critic (1909 – 1995)

Letter, 1934?, of Sir Herbert Edward Read, poet and philosopher of art (1893-1969)

Letter, March 1935?, of Charles Henry Madge, poet and sociologist, (1912-1996)

Two letters, 1943, of Helen Beatrix Heelis, author, née Potter, 'Beatrix Potter' (1866-1943), with a draft reply, undated

Eight letters, 1959 – 1960, Allen Tate, American poet (1899 – 1979)

Letter, 1960, of Arthur Mizener, American poet and critic (1908-1988)

Two illustrated letters and a postcard, 1973 – 1975, undated, of Osbert Lancaster, cartoonist, author and critic (1908-1986) and a copy reply, 1973, and two of Anne Scott Lancaster, née James, 1972, 1986

- 2 Annotated typescript, 1951, of notes and a list of slides for a talk on 'Mountains and Literature' given to the Mountaineering Club at Imperial College, London, May 1951 and typescript of 'The Artist and the Mountain', a talk given at Edinburgh College of Art, autumn 1951.