
Guide to the Robert E. Bason Collection of Christopher Morley

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Guide to the Robert E. Bason Collection of Christopher Morley, 1912-1997

Collection number: Mss 165

Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert E. Bason Collection of Christopher Morley,

Date (inclusive): 1912-1997

Collection Number: Mss 165

Collector: Bason, Robert E.

Extent: .08 linear feet (2 document boxes)

Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010

Physical Location: Del Sur

Language: English.

Access Restrictions

None.

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Donated by Robert E. Bason, 1998 and 2000.

Biography

Christopher Darlington Morley was born in Haverford, Pennsylvania on May 5, 1890, the son of the noted mathematician Frank Morley and his wife Lilian, a musician. Morley's family moved to Baltimore in 1900, but he returned to attend Haverford College from 1906 to 1910. He spent the following three years studying at Oxford University in England as a Rhodes scholar. While there, his first book of poems, *The Eighth Sin* (1912), was published by a prominent English

bookseller. Returning to the United States, where he would eventually settle in New York, Morley worked as an editor and columnist, while finding success as a novelist. He married Helen Booth Fairchild in 1914, and they would have four children together. His first novel, *Parnassus on Wheels*, was published in 1917. His most popular novel, *Kitty Foyle*, was published in 1939 and the next year was made into a movie with Ginger Rogers. For the length of his career, Christopher Morley was very popular in literary, academic, theatrical, and publishing circles, and his nearly thirty-year service on the editorial board of the popular Book-Of-The-Month Club allowed him to exert a tremendous influence on the reading habits of America at large. After suffering a series of severe strokes, Morley died in March 1957.

Robert E. Bason was born February 10, 1939 in Des Moines, Iowa. Having decided at an early age that he would be a Methodist minister, Bason spent the 1960s attending a Christian college in Illinois and going to Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California. At this time he married Carol Hamman, and they soon had two daughters. However, he quickly became disenchanted with the work of a pastor and found that his true calling was as a professional fundraiser. After serving as director of African Enterprises, Inc., which raised money for missionaries, Bason moved to Santa Barbara to take a fundraising post at Westmont College, a private Christian academy. Then, in 1972 he accepted the position of Director of Development at the University of California Santa Barbara. After two years, however, he decided to establish his own consulting firm, Charitable Funding Services, Inc., which he ran for many years. He returned to UCSB for a time in the early 1980s, serving as Assistant Chancellor. It was around this time that Bason began collecting books, and in the rare-book shops of Santa Barbara he found some inexpensive works of Christopher Morley, who by that time had faded into obscurity. However, reading the books soon made Bason a fan, and he rapidly amassed a large collection of Morley books, letters, and ephemera. Having become a confirmed bibliophile, Bason served on UCSB's Friends of the Library committee, and eventually decided to donate his Morley collection. Then, in 2001, he purchased Santa Barbara's Capra Press and now serves as its owner and publisher.

Scope and Content of Collection

The materials described in the container list are part of a much larger collection of printed materials which have been cataloged individually and can be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB University Libraries online catalog.

This portion of this collection contains items laid in the Morley books, including advertising materials, privately-printed commemorative books and pamphlets, programs, catalogs, clippings, and correspondence, as well as manuscript materials and other ephemera.

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| Box 1: 1 | <i>America's Town Meeting of the Air: Literature and Life, 1935</i>
Abstract: [Includes remarks by Morley, who served as leader of this radio symposium), December 26, 1935.] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>Andrew McGill's Idea of Happiness, ca. 1930</i>
Abstract: [Single-fold pamphlet from Alfred P. Lee inscribed by Morley.] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>BR's Secret Passion, 1935</i>
Abstract: [Brief essay by Morley about his friend Bruce Rogers, September 1935.] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>The Book-Collectors' Odyssey or "Travels in the Realms of Gold", 1938</i>
Abstract: [Gotham Book Mart catalog listing 24 Morley items for sale, plus a brief biography, Winter 1938.] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>Advertising Scarf, ca. 1949</i>
Abstract: [Silk scarf depicting the covers of several Morley books, probably issued to advertise <i>The Man Who Made Friends With Himself</i>] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>Arundel Antiquarian Books catalogue, ca. 1990</i>
Abstract: [lists 112 Morley items for sale from Arundel Antiquarian Books of Los Angeles] |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>Autographed slip signed by Morley., n.d.</i> |
| Box 1: 1 | <i>Book review: Fanny Kemble: A Passionate Victorian, ca. 1938</i>
Abstract: [Pamphlet reprinting Morley's review of the book by Margaret Armstrong.] |

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- Box 1: 1 **Book review: *Lost Island*, ca. 1944**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet reprinting Morley's review of the book by James Norman Hall.]
- Box 1: 1 **Book review: *Wind, Sand, and Stars*, ca. 1939**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet reprinting Morley's review of the book by Antoine de Saint Exupery.]
- Box 1: 2 ***A Choice Group of Rare Books* , 1933**
 Abstract: [Introduction by Morley to this catalog from Dawson's Book Shop of Los Angeles, includes typed carbon copy of Morley's foreword.]
- Box 1: 2 ***A Christmas Salute*, 1935**
 Abstract: [Booklet containing a Morley Christmas poem printed for Philip C. Duschnes, December 1935.]
- Box 1: 2 ***Christopher Morley: A Biographical Sketch*, 1922**
 Abstract: [Booklet containing detailed biography and bibliography of Morley.]
- Box 1: 2 ***Christopher Morley: His History*, 1927**
 Abstract: [Updated booklet containing detailed biography and bibliography of Morley.]
- Box 1: 2 ***The Child and the Book* , 1922**
 Abstract: [Single-leaf essay by Morley printed by the American Library Association, July 1922.]
- Box 1: 2 ***The Christmas Tobacco*, 1920**
 Abstract: [Single-leaf poem by Morley with inscription to his friend Ted Robinson, December 1920]
- Box 1: 2 ***Cronyn & Lowndes Galleries program*, 1934**
 Abstract: [With foreword by Morley for a George Pearse Ennis show, March 1934.]
- Box 1: 3 ***A Golden String*, 1925**
 Abstract: [Essay by Morley about the literary anthology *The Bibelot*, October 27, 1925.]
- Box 1: 3 ***An Exhibition of CDM*, 1961**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet for a Morley exhibition at the University of Texas, Austin.]
- Box 1: 3 ***Dedication for a Bookseller's Window*, 1937**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet with poem by Morley for opening of new Kroch's Bookstore in Chicago, includes envelope, November 19, 1937.]
- Box 1: 3 ***Dinner of the Mid-West Regional Conference of the American Booksellers Assn.*, 1938**
 Abstract: [Program inscribed and signed by Morley and others who spoke at the dinner, October 17, 1938.]
- Box 1: 3 ***Epigrams in a Cellar*, 1927**
 Abstract: [Booklet of poems by Morley, includes slip imprinted with "Good Cheer," November 1927.]
- Box 1: 3 ***Franklin Bookshop Catalogue No. 2*, ca. 1939**
 Abstract: [Lists 85 Morley items for sale.]
- Box 1: 3 ***Franklin Bookshop Catalogue No. 4*, ca. 1940**
 Abstract: [Lists 584 Morely-related items for sale.]
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- Box 1: 4 **"It's a Kind of Memorabilia", 1937**
 Abstract: [Booklet reprinting a letter by Morley to Frank Frazier regarding *The Trojan Horse*, October 1937.]
- Box 1: 4 **A Letter to Leonora, 1928**
 Abstract: [Booklet containing an essay by Morley, includes envelope; two copies, one signed, August 15, 1928.]
- Box 1: 4 **Moments of Millennium, 1959**
 Abstract: [Reprints excerpt from Morley's *John Mistletoe*, December 1959.]
- Box 1: 4 **The Gutenberg Address, 1942**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet containing a wartime essay by Morley, July 1942.]
- Box 1: 4 **The Journalization of Thought, 1934**
 Abstract: [Contains introduction by Morley to this chapter from the book *The Victorian Aftermath* by Esme Wingfield-Stratford.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Felix Riesenber, Jr., 1935**
 Abstract: [September 11, 1953.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Horace A. Eaton, 1933**
 Abstract: [February 14, 1933.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Horace A. Eaton, 1933**
 Abstract: [April 19, 1933.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Jackson Selsor, 1936**
 Abstract: [Includes envelope, February 28, 1936.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Jeannette Desclaux, 1938**
 Abstract: [Includes envelope, May 18, 1938.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Katherine Haviland Taylor, 1921**
 Abstract: [June 19, 1921.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Kay Lawlor, 1935**
 Abstract: [September 27, 1935.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Reverend Arthur Russell Taylor, 1918**
 Abstract: [March 14, 1918.]
- Box 1: 4 **Letter to Robert E. Bason from Kelmscott Bookshop of Baltimore, 1997**
 Abstract: [Regarding Morley items for sale, April 24, 1997.]
- Box 1: 5 **"Rare" Books , 1935**
 Abstract: [Booklet containing an essay by Morley.]
- Box 1: 5 **Prize Awards for Student Libraries, ca. 1935**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet containing "Eumenides of Book-Collecting" by Morley, two copies.]

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- Box 1: 5 **Publishers' Weekly, 1922**
 Abstract: [two pages containing an article making reference to Morley's *Parnassus on Wheels*, includes photo of Morley.]
- Box 1: 5 **Rubaiyat of Account Overdue, 1935**
 Abstract: [Unnumbered copy of a limited edition pamphlet printed for Frances Steloff.]
- Box 1: 5 **Newspaper clipping assortment, n.d.**
 Abstract: [Includes two undated photos, a review of *Thunder on the Left* by Babette Deutsch [circa 1926] and a review of *Gentlemen's Relish* by David M. Stocking dated April 10, 1955.]
- Box 1: 5 **Old Rialto Theatre clipping assortment, n.d.**
 Abstract: [Includes two advertisements for *After Dark* [circa 1928, 1929] and a newspaper article dated February 4, 1930.]
- Box 1: 5 **Old Rialto Theatre programs, ca. 1928**
 Abstract: [Printed for *After Dark*, dated "February 4th, 1868" and "August 26th, 1868."]
- Box 1: 5 **Photo of Alfred P. Lee's collection of Morley books and ephemera, ca. 1936**
Box 1: 5 **Postcard to Milton J. Ferguson, 1944**
 Abstract: [May 23, 1944.]
- Box 1: 6 **The Saturday Review of Literature , 1930**
 Abstract: [Contains excerpt from Morley's *John Mistletoe*.]
- Box 1: 6 **The Saturday Review of Literature , 1931**
 Abstract: [Contains excerpt from Morley's *John Mistletoe*, January 3, 1931.]
- Box 1: 6 **The Saturday Review of Literature , 1931**
 Abstract: [Contains excerpt from Morley's *John Mistletoe*, January 10, 1931.]
- Box 1: 6 **The Saturday Review of Literature , 1931**
 Abstract: [Contains essay "The Folder" by Morley, January 17, 1931.]
- Box 1: 7 **A Selection of Choice Items, 1933**
 Abstract: [Introduction by Morley to this catalog from Gelber Lienthal, Inc. of San Francisco, April 1933.]
- Box 1: 7 **A Short List of First Editions, 1930**
 Abstract: [Catalog listing 10 Morley items for sale from Keswick Books of Baltimore.]
- Box 1: 7 **Sir Kenelm Reads in Bed, 1937**
 Abstract: [Booklet containing Christmas-themed essay by Morley, includes envelope, December 1937.]
- Box 1: 7 **Thorofare, 1942**
 Abstract: [Advertising card for Morley's novel from Gotham Book Mart of New York.]
- Box 1: 7 **Thoughts at the Bottom of a Mug of Cider, 1928**
 Abstract: [Preface to Hampshire Bookshop catalog from Northampton, MA.]
- Box 1: 7 **Thunder on the Left: An Appreciation of Christopher Morley's New Novel , ca. 1926**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet with a review by Hugh Walpole of Morley's book *Thunder on the Left*.]
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- Box 1: 8 **Thursday Evening, n.d.**
 Abstract: [a play by Morley in booklet form, published by Stewart Kidd]
- Box 1: 8 **Thursday Evening, n.d.**
 Abstract: [A play by Morley in booklet form, published by Longmans, Green, and Company.]
- Box 1: 8 **To Fra Giovanni at Pontassieve, Near Firenze, 1939**
 Abstract: [Leaflet by Morley done in the medieval style, includes the original document (an epistle from "Fra Giovanni" by Ernest Temple Hargrove), a brief note to Dr. Alfred P. Lee from Elsie and Will Hanbridge, all enclosed in envelopes within an outer envelope addressed to Dr. Lee in Philadelphia.]
- Box 1: 8 **Tolmanisms, 1949**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet containing an excerpt from Morley's *The Man Who Made Friends With Himself*.]
- Box 2: 1 **Manuscripts of Seven Poems by Christopher Morley, n.d.**
 Abstract: [folio actually containing six manuscripts, for "Autumn Colors," "When Shakespeare Laughed," "A Grub Street Recessional," "The Spoon River Anthology: a Palinode," "To All My Friends," and "To a U-Boat."]
- Box 2: 2 **More Than a Place to Live - Morley - Original MS., n.d.**
 Abstract: [folio containing manuscript sheets for Morley's unpublished poem "More Than a Place to Live - A Way of Living"]
- Box 2: 3 **Barns, 1934**
 Abstract: [Pamphlet containing Morley essay.]
- Box 2: 4 **The Eighth Sin , 1912**
 Abstract: [Morley's first book of poems, includes letter to Robert Bason from Black Sun Books of New York.]
- Box 2: 5 **Rubaiyat of Account Overdue, 1935**
 Abstract: [Broadside version of Morley's poem.]
- Box 2: 6 **Ballade of Simple Effluxion, 1943**
 Abstract: [Poem by Morley clipped from the *Saturday Evening Post*, June 5, 1943.]
- Box 2: 6 **Letter from Thomas R. Burns of Doubleday & Company, Inc. advertising Morley's *The Man Who Made Friends With Himself*,, 1949**
 Abstract: [Includes book review by Clifton Fadiman, April 19, 1949.]
- Box 2: 7 **Morley (Abromson) Collection - Swann Galleries, Inc., 1992**
Box 2: 8 **Morley (Bason) Collection, n.d.**