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7 N.W. Jacobson: "paid more than any other English writer of the time except Keats."
8 "Profoundly makes compensation" He a printed rubbish in the critic.

vii The Letters of Evelyn Waugh and Mark Amory. Penguin Books, 1988
Preface: The art of writing letters has been pronounced dead as if it were the rose & with more reason. So perhaps Evelyn Waugh will turn out to have been one of its last great practitioners. The telephonic is rightly scorned as the main enemy though never so bad for the moment as he had a sufficiently force character to oppose most others from approaching him. viii "He is least that caricatures are willing to pay good money for the stock of the letters he left, he expresses a delight that there is another bulwark against posterity in old age, though he never sold anything & appears to disappear when he thinks Cyril Connolly is doing so. When I inquired if his handwriting was hard to read, as I had supposed that a word here & there in the diaries had proved indecipherable, I was reassured: "No, no, you are he wrote his letters in the morning, when he was a scriber. He wrote his diaries at night when he was drunk."
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x To Dudley Carver: Did you yourself honestly think your last letter adequate. If you did our correspondence ceased.
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錢鍾書手稿集



No.136



original size: 159 × 210 mm

1. The letters of Evelyn Waugh
2. Letters of E. Schapiro
3. John Updike, Haggerty the shoe

C. Day Lewis, the Buried Day, p 159: "the spectacle
of Harold Acton chattering vivaciously with the group
that trailed beside him - a group which often included
the indistinguishable-looking figure of Evelyn Waugh?"

Evelyn Waugh: "Nobody cares for me in the
least / Fremman thinks I'm a horrible beast"

1. W. W. Jacobs was paid more than any other English writer of the time except Kipling.
 3. "Proximity makes companionship." The assorted rubbish in the attic.

vii The Letters of Evelyn Waugh, ed. Mark Amory, Penguin Books, 1982

Preface: the art of writing letters has been pronounced dead as often as the novel & with more reason. So perhaps Evelyn Waugh will turn out to have been one of its last great practitioners. The telephone is rightly seen as the main enemy. Waugh never cared for the instrument & had a sufficiently fierce character to prevent others from approaching him. ^{viii} When he heard that universities are willing to pay good money for the stock of the letters he left, he expressed delight that there is another bulwark against poverty in old age, though he never sold anything & appears disapproving when he tutored Cyril Connolly in doing so. When I inquired if his handwriting was hard to read, as I had noticed that a word here & there in the diaries had proved indecipherable, I was reassured: "No, no, you see he wrote his letters in the morning, when he was sober. He wrote his diary at night when he was drunk."

^{xix} [The age gap & the fact that Alec was in the First World War, made a barrier between the two brothers. Evelyn has said, & Alec accepted, that they were more like nephew & uncle than brothers; but a friendly nephew & uncle, & so they remained. ^{xx} In that day he was "pleasant-featured but not good-looking." He went up to Oxford; Hartford was a "respectable but dreary" college. Soon many of his friends were Etonians, many were flamboyantly homosexual, many were spending & drinking as if there were no tomorrow. It was a brave new world.]

[†] To Dudley Carver: Did you yourself honestly think your last letter adequate. If you did our correspondence ceases.

[‡] To Dudley Carver: I am not yet the centre of my group but on the fringes of many... Yesterday my tutor said to me "Damn you... If you can't show industry

I at least have some right to expect intelligence!" I had just translated Erasmus as Erasmus.

To Tom Driberg: ⁷ A bridegroom apologized to a man who had lent his country house to him for the honeymoon! "On the first evening we went out into the garden under the moon & feeling very sentimental I tried to pick her a rose... I stuck a thorn into my finger... It bled a little & Mary was rather concerned. Next morning we were going to have breakfast in bed & the butler was bringing it in on a tray when my wife leaned over & said: 'How is your poor prick this morning dear?' And the butler dropped the tray." What wines will Princeps Mary & [Henry] d'Arceville [6th Earl of Weswood] drink on their wedding night? She will open her 24 year old port & he will indulge in cider (in side her).

To Dudley Cadew: ⁸ I feel a prig now giving advice. My former counsel of imperfection was largely womanly taunts... You force me to be a Polonius at eighteen.

To Tom Driberg: ⁹ It is said to think of Bond [the school clergyman whose wife was then pregnant] propagating his species... O for a Celibacy of priesthood to avoid this multiplying of persons... ¹⁰ I have been elected secretary of the Hertford debating Society an onerous but not honorific post.

To Dudley Cadew: ¹² Of course no one in our class need ever starve because he can always go to a prep school master as a pleasant job but all roads lead to Dodom... My life has been extremely precarious "unstable equilibrium"

To Harold Acton: ²³ You must think that I have, with all else, left out manners & friendship behind that I have taken so long to thank you for it [An Indian Ass]... [Correcting history essays] a boy had written "at this time it was reported"

that James II gave birth to son but others supposed that was conveyed to his bed in a hot water bottle." ... Silvia [Gropes] is so much the more amusing of the family tho' her painting is horrid — all iron bedsteads & Sicks it. I must say I think the old man is tiresome.

To Anthony Powell: ²⁵ I thought Miss Morris a most detestable woman ...

²⁵ How do novelists make their books so long. I'm sure one could write any novel in the world on two post cards.

²⁸ To the Editor of The T. L. S.: Your reviewer of the Life of D. G. Rossetti refers to me throughout as "Miss Waugh." My Christian name, I know, is occasionally regarded by people of limited social experience as belonging exclusively to one or other sex; but it is unnecessary to go further into my book than the paragraph charitably placed inside the wrapper for the guidance of uneducated critics, to find my name with its correct prefix of "Mr." Surely some such investigations might in more courteous hands have been taken before your reviewer tumbled into print with such phrases as "a Miss of the Sixties!"

³¹ To Arthur Waugh: I dined at the Consulate Lat Pout Sai [the other evening]. You can imagine what it was like when I saw that after dinner the Consul's wife led the women guests from the room with the words "Goodbye darling men. Keep your naughty little stones for us." ... ³² The Consul's host wife... opened her mouth & invited me to throw sugar into it.

To Harold Acton: ³³ The Sphinx is a complete fraud — a shapeless lump of reasoning ... I sent you some photographs from Pout Sai. I hope that they were not confiscated in the post.

* Two of Evelyn Gardner's sisters had been divorced
 ** p. 40. To Henry Yorke: My honor & detestation of the present boy are unqualified.
 ... p. 41. one conclusion I am coming to is that I do not like Evelyn & that really
 Heygate is about her cup of tea. Make the best you can from
 these words to the best.

To Henry Yorke: ³⁴... a fashionable wedding is worth a year's column reviews in the Times
 Literary Supplement & a week's list. A luncheon at the Embassy in Istanbul I
 found myself completely surrounded by Sitwells while H. E. the Ambassador
 with gallantry & back of the Corps diplomatique was making extensive & accurate
 judgements from Decline & Fall to a woman next to him, having been told
 by a secretary that one of his guests had written it, & thinking it was her.

To Catherine & Arthur Wrench: ³⁸ I asked Alice to tell you the sad & to me
 radically shocking news that Evelyn has gone to live with a man to live with a
 man called [John] Heygate... May I come & live with you sometimes? Evelyn's
 defection was preceded by no kind of quarrel or estrangement... It must be
 some hereditary tic.*

To Harold Acton: A note to tell you what you may have already heard. That
 Evelyn has been pleased to make a cuckold of me with Heygate & that I
 have filed a petition for divorce... Certainly the fact that she should have
 chosen a ramshackle old like Heygate adds ³⁹ a little to my distress... I
 did not know it was possible to be so miserable & live but I am told that
 this is a common experience.

To Max Beerhopf: ⁴⁸ I am more proud of your kind reference to my writing than
 of all the sales.

Recommendation to those wish to preserve Oxford: ^{xxx} Would it not be better to
 pursue a policy less of preservation than of judicious destruction?

⁵⁰ To W. N. Rossetti: Also tell those Americans not to cable so much. It all
 comes from hysteria & laziness. There is not such a frantic hurry that they
 * * * Robert Byron had written in the Architectural Review that the Oxford Preservation Fund
 ought not to preserve but demolish every building that is put up in the town, & anything
 the smallest one would.

P.S. Waugh stuck pins into Cecil Beaton at their private school in 1914. "The scars on his long eyelashes used to provoke the sadism of youth" ("A Little Learning", p. 90). Tom Balston of Duc Kworth deceived various Commissioned Valerius E. E. Tolstoy's whose publication was paid for by the author's maternal uncle referred to by Constant Lambert as "poor Poems by Rich Poets".

Can't write letters — as the cables are charged to me I object strongly.

To Patrick Balfour: ⁵³ Caught David Cecil with Lady & Mary Patenham. I think that is a case.

To Henry Yorke: ⁵⁶ I have found out more very shady things about ^{Born a} Maurice's continental relaxation.

To Lady Mary Dygon: ⁶⁷ Now you would like to hear of my new friends. Well there is a lascivious beast called Weld — a captain — called Surridge — & good news how Surridge sweats — worse than Lady Juliet at Venice.*

To Lady Mary & Lady Dorothy Dygon: ⁷⁰ None of the damned degen can speak the King's English & the lascivious beast who is Swiss is too ill with jers, to talk any language at all.

To Lady Mary & Lady Dorothy Dygon: ⁷⁹ Alfred L. Dygon I... has behaved very well so far except for once jerting at Lady Dorat. There are several beasts of various religions & they are jealous of each other.

To Lady Mary Dygon: ⁸¹ Just heard yesterday that my divorce comes on today as we elated & popped Julietian to Dutch girl [Terisa Jangman] & got half raspberry. So that's that, eh. Stiff upper lip & dropped cock.

To L. A. G. Strong: ⁸² Many thanks for your kind invitation to contribute to "How I began" [Beginnings, 1935]. I have an idea that the title has been used for a book of sex instruction for children.

To Lady Mary & Lady Dorothy Dygon: ⁸³ There were very little Arab girls of fifteen & sixteen for ten francs & a cup of mint tea. So I bought one but I didn't enjoy her very much because she had a skin like sandpaper & a huge ^{Fez, Morocco} ^{* A priest — from the Limerick: "There was a young choirboy of Devon / Who was raped in the vestry / by seven African priests — / lascivious beast — / of such is the kingdom of Heaven." 1/20/77} ^{† Lady Juliet Duff! Lady Cahard: "Juliet smells like a pub."}

* Gen's ⁸⁶ *X uncooperative - ⁸³ from the attitude of Toksa Jangman who was of Dutch extraction

stomach which didn't show until she took off her clothes, & then it was too late... ⁸³ The five to two's* have their own part of the veen because the Arabs think they smell... No love to any except your dear selves.

To Lady Mary Dygon: ⁸⁴ ... in a brothel... I have formed an attachment to a young lady called Fatima. She is not all Dutch... She has a gold tooth she is very proud of but as we can't talk each others language there is not much to do in between rogering.

To Lady Mary Dygon: ⁸⁶ If you are coming to 5 to 2 land [Palestine] for Easter, you must start packing your pepparics now... Lots of love for all & Sunday.

To Lady Mary Dygon: ⁹⁰ So yesterday talking of this & that what should I mention but fucking. Oh said Sir Robert [Abdy] in great pain with crocodile tears coursing down cheeks, oh you have a low view of love. I am so high minded I never think of a thing like fucking. To me, he said, love is a spiritual & aesthetic matter, the worship of beauty & noble soul.

To Lady Dorothy Dygon: Darling Poll, did you know that in the glorious epoch 1900-1914 the word "poll" was used by our gallant boys (so soon... to lay down their lives for you & me on foreign soil, & to mean what? ... I was told it yesterday. So now I shall give up calling you Poll... ⁹¹ [Lady Diana Abdy] has a scintilly frog book called *Le jardin parfume* it says that in rogering the cock should never be withdrawn so much as a millimetre & this gives the maximum pleasure to the lady on account of pressing her bladder.

To Laura Herbert: ⁹¹ Any time will suit me as I have no engagements that I cannot gladly break.

* The 15 guineas the BBC would pay for a proposed talk was considered inadequate.
 ** Sybil Barnardo, fashionable decorator. Married to Somerset Maugham 1926-29
 off infra p. 223

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To W. N. Prynne: B. B. C. I. S. D. N. B. G.*

⁹³ To Lady Mary Sygon: Laura came to London with me yesterday but it was not a success for I had a hangover... & was sick & prodded on the table so perhaps the romance was shattered. Farter** gave a party... but I did not go on account of F's great smell.

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To Laura Herbert: Darling darling Laura please don't find that you are just as happy without me. I am not nearly as happy without you... The Daily Mail have given me a type writer... I thought it best to practice on you... ⁹⁶ I hope you realise that I am using all eight fingers and no X and then the thumb & that it's the first day so it is not bad at all... ¹⁰⁰ ps it is odd I don't say more about love to your mother and Gabriel etc that is to be taken for granted.

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To Penelope Betjeman: I am celibate since Aug 1st on account of the altitude [a bitterly cold Mountain] which reduces the carnal appetite, the great ugliness & disease of Abyssinian women, & my love for Miss L. Herbert.

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To Laura Herbert: In fact it's a lousy proposition. On the other hand I think I could... reform & become quite strict about not getting drunk & I am pretty sure I should be faithful. Also there is always a fair chance that there will be another bigger economic crash in which case if you had married a nobleman with a great house you might find yourself starving, while I am very clever & could probably earn a living of some sort somewhere... Also I have practically no living relatives except one brother whom I scarcely know. You would not find yourself involved in a large family & all their rows... All these are very small