



INSTITUTE OF GERMANIC & ROMANCE STUDIES

University of London

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference:	EMB
Title:	Elsie Marian Butler papers
Dates:	1919-1959
Level:	fonds
Extent and Medium:	4 boxes
Name of Creator:	Butler, Eliza (Elsie) Marian (1885-1959) German scholar

CONTEXT

Biographical/Administrative History: Eliza Butler, or Elsie as she was more generally known, was born in Bardsea, Lancashire, into an old Irish family. She learnt German initially from her Norwegian governess and was then sent at the age of 11 to a private school in Hannover. From there at the age of 15 she went on to a college in Paris for British, American and French girls. At 18 she moved on to a reform college in household management in the Harz region of Germany at Reifenstein. At the age of 21 she entered Newnham College, Cambridge.

Having decided to concentrate her studies on German, she travelled to Bonn in 1913 but her adverse impressions and experiences there almost quenched her resolve. During her brief stay she became deeply interested in Hebbel and his works. On the outbreak of war the following year she returned to England. She devoted herself to various tasks including teaching in girls' schools. Already bilingual in German/English, she began to learn Russian and was put in charge of a party of four nurses bound for the Russian front. Travelling through Norway, Sweden, Finland and Bessarabia she reached Odessa and Reni. She worked in a field hospital which followed the Russian advance until they were a few miles from the Serbian frontline in Macedonia. Her experiences during this time left deep and lasting impressions on her and her attitude to Germany and its people.

She caught malaria and was invalided back to England in 1918. Here she faced a dilemma, to abandon or to continue her German studies in the light of her feelings for Germany. She received sound guidance from Professor J.G. Robertson, who recommended that she study Heine, whose feelings for Germany mirrored her own to a considerable extent. Her nomination for the Newnham College Jubilee Fellowship gave her the opportunity to travel and study without financial worries for the next three years. She returned to Germany to visit Leipzig (1923) and Berlin (1924). Her doctoral thesis on the Saint-Simonians in Germany was published in 1926.

She returned to Germany yet again in 1927 (Berlin) to pursue a deepening interest in Prince Pückler-Muskau. Her studies and findings confirmed one of the abiding themes of her subsequent research - the occult. Her first publication after this visit, *The Tempestuous Prince* earned her enemies and harsh criticism. This reaction caused her a crisis of confidence in her way forward.

In response she created the 'Sherry Club' which was composed of a handful of kindred spirits. From this stemmed another book, on Sheridan (1931). Again the critics were hostile, and again their reaction caused her to doubt her ability. She escaped to India in the company of a friend and her experiences of Hindu society at this time were as beneficial as they were profound. They culminated eventually in her book on *The Tyranny of Greece over Germany* (1935), which again provoked an outraged response particularly in Germany where translation was banned.

In spite of all this she was invited to take the Henry Simon Chair of German Language and Literature in the University of Manchester in 1936. By way of some kind of preparation for this she returned to Germany but was utterly appalled by what she saw of the excesses of the National Socialist regime. A few years later she wrote her book on Rilke (1941) with these feelings still running strongly.

In 1945 she became the Schröder Professor of German at Cambridge and the following year gave her inaugural lecture on 'The Direct Method in German Poetry'. Her research was still concerned with magic and the occult, particularly the figure of Faust in folklore and literature. Between 1948 and 1952 she published three volumes on this theme in connection with her studies of Goethe. Her scholarship was impeccable although her stance was against 'received wisdom' and out of kilter yet again with prevailing thought. Her work was not even mentioned at the Goethe celebrations of 1949.

She gave vent to her feelings in an unpublished sketch which has since been lost, 'The Goethe Bicentenary or Chaos is come again'. If her unconventional views made her unpopular with her peers, her students loved and respected her.

She returned to Germany three times after the World War Two, at the instigation of the British Foreign Office, to give a series of lectures. In 1951 she retired but remained research-active until her death. Her last major undertaking was a book on Napoleon and the poets for which she translated many examples of European poetry into English. She was awarded honorary degrees by London and Oxford Universities. Apart from her scholarly works, Elsie Butler wrote several novels and an autobiography, *Paper Boats* (1959).

CONTENT

Scope and Content: Correspondence and professional papers of Eliza (Elsie) Marian Butler, including research notes and teaching materials.

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts: English, German

System of Arrangement: The papers are arranged in 4 series: Teaching, Research, Correspondence and Miscellaneous.

Conditions of Access: Open for research. Access to individual items in the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies archival collections may be restricted under the Data Protection Act or the Freedom of Information Act. Researchers should apply to consult material at least forty-eight hours in advance by letter, facsimile, e-mail or telephone; the Library staff need a name and contact number, a concise and clear idea of the nature of the enquiry and a date and time for consultation.

Conditions of Reproduction: Photocopies may be made, although this is at the discretion of the Librarian and is dependent on the nature and condition of the material.

EMB.1.1 Student handouts with examples of German poetry of the 19th and 20th Centuries undated [c1919-1951]

Covering the following poems:

Anonymous: 'Ehe' (1901).

Stefan George: 'Der Brand des Tempels'; 'Der Dichter in Zeiten der Wirren'; 'Der Krieg' (1917); 'Der Mensch und der Drud'.

Heinrich Heine: 'Für die Mouche'.

Friedrich Hölderlin: 'Brot und Wein'; 'Der Rhein'.

Nikolaus Lenau [Nicolaus Franz Niemsch, Edler von Strehlenau] : 'Das Waldgespräch'.

Conrad Ferdinand Meyer: 'Die Sterbende Meduse' (with Butler's attached notes, comparing the poem with Percy Bysshe Shelley's treatment of the theme).

Rainer Maria Rilke: 'Aus den Gedichten des Grafen C.W'.

Carl Spitteler: 'Das Weltenklagebuch'.

12 items (29 folios)

EMB.1.2 Lecture notes on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Rainer Maria Rilke undated [c1940-1951]

Covering the following topics: Poetry and Rainer Maria Rilke; Rilke and Orpheus; Rilke and Orpheism; Rilke and Russia; [Rilke] Dates; Germany and Greece; Goethe on his times; Legend and literature in Faustian rituals. Pagination of the notes on poetry and Rilke is not continuous.

Originally in a ring-backed folder labelled 'Unpublished'. As well as (or instead of) lecture notes, some of the text may have functioned as early drafts for books (some of the writing, particularly on Orpheism, is very similar to parts of Butler's biography of Rilke, for instance).

?8 items

EMB.2.1.1 Napoleon and the Poets [c1951-1959]

Napoleon and the Poets - unfinished manuscript of a book dealing with Napoleon's influence on European poetry; contents page and chronology of Napoleon and the poets. The text includes English translations made by Butler herself.

In several instances the text has been typed onto the

blank dorsos of pages from typed and annotated drafts of 'Byron and Goethe: analysis of a passion' (Bowes and Bowes, 1956), and of Butler's autobiography 'Paper Boats' (Collins, 1959).

1 item (107 pages)

EMB.2.1.2 Life-lines which crossed or mere gossamer threads

**undated
[c1951-
1959]**

Cross-referenced notes on the life, work, characteristics and connections between Napoleon and the poets Chateaubriand, Byron, Heine, Leopardi, Lenau, Espronceda and Lermontov. Pages numbered 13-49 (there is no evidence other than the pagination to suggest that this work was ever part of a longer manuscript).

1 item (37 pages)

EMB.2.2.2 Erinnerungen an Rilke

**undated
[c1930-
1939]**

An account of Gerhard Ouckama Knoop's impressions on meeting Rilke, of whom he was a long-standing friend. The account begins with their very first meeting in Paris in April 1909. This material was made available by Gerhard's wife, Gertrude Ouckama Knoop.

2 pages

EMB.2.2.3 Sonnets to Orpheus written in remembrance of Vera Ouckama Knoop at Chateau Muzot, February 1922 by Rainer Maria Rilke

**undated
[c1930-
1939]**

Translated into English and with a dedication by Richard Francis Carrington Hull (1913-1974); Sonnet 5 in Part I has two versions, annotated by Butler in pencil at the foot. With a separate set of translations of Part I only (9 folios), where Sonnet 5 is in the earlier version criticised by Butler. Unpaginated.

67 folios

EMB.2.2.4 Duino Elegies

**undated
[c1930-**

- 1939]**
- English translations of the Duineser Elegien.
Translator unspecified [?Richard Francis Carrington Hull]. Unpaginated.
- 25 folios
- EMB.2.2.5 Requiem [für eine Freundin]** **undated
[c1936-
1939]**
- English translation of a poem Rilke wrote in October-November 1908 in Paris, as an elegy to the artist Paula Modersohn-Becker. Translator unspecified [?Richard Francis Carrington Hull]. Unpaginated.
- 6 folios
- EMB.2.2.6 Roman Sarcophagi** **undated
[c1936-
1939]**
- English translation of Rilke's poem 'Römische Sarkophage', in the 'Neue Gedichte' collection, composed in 1906. Translation probably by Richard Francis Carrington Hull [?with annotated title by Butler].
- 1 page
- EMB.2.2.7 The Sundial** **undated
[c1936-
1939]**
- English translation of Rilke's poem 'Die Sonnenuhr' composed in 1908 in the second 'Neue Gedichte' collection. [?Translation by Richard Francis Carrington Hull].
- 1 page
- EMB.2.2.8 Aber die Welt wird dadurch weiter... [first line]** **undated
[c1936-
1939]**
- Unpublished poem [?by Rilke] dated Vienna 1906. Possibly part of the corpus of unpublished material made available to Butler by an anonymous friend for use in her Rilke biography.

1 folio

EMB.2.2.9 Transcript of letters from Rainer Maria Rilke to Hugo von Salus (writer).

**undated
[c1930-
1939]**

(i) Contrasts the ambience [on the Baltic Sea coast] with the Mediterranean coast (Hôtel Wenninghoff, Ostseebad Zoppot bei Danzig [now Sopot, Poland], 16 April 1898). (ii) Enjoys the pleasure of a roof terrace, finds it magical with Florence spread out below and the sky with the changing times of day above and around; enjoyed 'Alpendorf' as a true sample of Salus's work; mentions that Detlev von Liliencron has written to him and will be visiting Prague later in the month; asks Salus to look after him (Florence, 18 June 1898). (iii) Has been in Russia for three weeks and has met Tolstoy; describes his sensations here; sends greetings to Herr Austerlitz; encloses two poems: 'Enkel' and 'Spruch' (Maison Versailles, St Petersburg, 7/19 May 1899). (iv) Fulsome thanks for two books he has received which include a book of poems: 'Reigen' - some textual criticism, together with praise for the poem of the same title as the book; apologises for not having the time to give more of his own news; postscript mentions that Heinrich Vogeler has been there for three days to set up his exhibition which is splendid; the title-page of 'Reigen' is most unsuitable (Schmargendorf bei Berlin, 2 December 1900). Marked 'Property of F.W. Pick, Elizabeth College, Whitehall, Buxton, Derbyshire'. The 1898 letters annotated by Butler as unpublished.

4 pages

EMB.3.1 From Allexandro, Necromancer to Butler

**1951
January 08**

Letter (on headed paper) expressing appreciation of the the books on magic, in particular 'Myth of the Magus'; recalls works by and about Madame Helena Blavatsky. Address: New Brunswick, New Jersey.

1 item

- EMB.3.2 From Wing Anderson, writer and psychotherapist, to Butler** **1949
December
14**
- Letter (on headed paper) re Butler's book 'Ritual Magic'; recommends his own book 'Oahspe' together with an English agent. Address: 2206, West Eleventh Street, Los Angeles 6, California. The letter is printed with an advertisement from 'The Man Who Talks in Your Sleep'.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.3 From Professor Joseph W Angell to Butler** **1950
January 30**
- Letter (on headed paper) expressing appreciation of 'The Myth of the Magus'; recounts an expansion of the Saint-Germain legend in America connected with the 'I Am' cult; recommends reading 'These also Believe' (Macmillan, 1949) by Charles S Braden. Address: Pomona College, Department of English, Claremont, California.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.4 From T D Barlow to [Butler]** **1948 May
30**
- Letter re reactions to reading 'Myth of the Magus'; mentions his own studies of astrology: Hermes Trismegistus, Cornelius Agrippa, Sven Marsilio Ficino; low opinion of the human race and thinks Lord Raglan attaches too much significance to the power of magic on it; coming to Cambridge in April. Address: Manchester. The printed heading and telegraph address have been heavily scored out.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.5 From Eric A Blackall to Butler** **1948 May
30**
- Letter reporting on the reaction to his recently published work on Stifter; comments on 'Myth of the Magus' and wishes it had not been published separately from Butler's other proposed volume on Faust; critical of the inclusion of Christ; acknowledgement of Butler's sending him reading lists. Address: Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

1 item

EMB.3.6 From E H Blakeney to Butler

**1948
August**

Notelets re 'Myth of the Magus', which he has read with great interest; regrets that there is no mention of Rasputin - recalls a clerical friend's experiences in Russia at the time of Rasputin's assassination. Reflects on the definition of an 'agnostic' and mentions Thomas Hardy's attitude; recommends reading 'The Unknown God' [author unclear]. Address: 17 Edgar Road, Winchester. The first letter is written to 'Dear Sir': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.

2 items

EMB.3.7 From Sir Maurice Bowra to Butler

**[1948]
February 8**

Letter enthusiastically acknowledging 'Myth of the Magus' - only regrets interruptions of work preventing his reading it at one go. Address: Wadham College, Oxford.

1 item

EMB.3.8 From Michael Burt to Butler

**1947 June
02-July 03,
1948
February
27-April 19**

Letters expressing great interest in Butler's researches into the occult; mentions his own novels including one forthcoming 'The Case of the Laughing Jesuit'; comments on a present-day self-confessed magus, Aleister Crowley, and a fellow Catholic, Father Montague Summers, who has a deep interest in the occult; looking forward to Butler's forthcoming books on the subject. Seeking information (in response to an enquiry) concerning 'Forlong Dux', mentioned by Crowley in 'Magick in Theory and Practice'. Reports Father Summers' comments on Crowley's mention of 'Forlong Dux' and adds some speculation of his own; comments on the portraits of Crowley by [?Augustus] John and in a publicity leaflet. Congratulations on

'Myth of the Magus'; as a Catholic he disagrees with many points including the treatment of Christ and the biased conception of the Church's attitude to witchcraft and magic; picks up a few factual and typographical errors; comments on recent death of Crowley. Gratified at Butler's reaction to his latest novel [see above]; further comment on misconceptions as to the Church's attitude to magic, etc, quoting various authors of articles in the Catholic Encyclopædia; looking forward to reading 'Ritual Magic'. Acknowledges a copy of 'The Tempestuous Prince' and comments on the works of Charles Williams and Eudo Colecestra Mason; chance of Oxford education foiled by World War I. Enthusiastic response to reading the book on Pückler-Muskau; reports on the progress of his current novel; offers to lend Denis de Rougemont's 'Talk of the Devil'. Acknowledges return of lent book [?de Rougemont] and sends best wishes for Butler's German tour. Address: 2 Fern Road, Storrington, West Sussex.

8 items

EMB.3.9 From C E Carrington to Butler

**1948
February 10**

Letter (on headed paper) reflecting on the mental levels of attitudes towards ritual magic; mentions Aleister Crowley, Rasputin, Madame Helena Blavatsky, Lord Raglan's 'Hero', Marx, Freud, Einstein, Lenin and Hitler. Address: Cambridge Univeristy Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London NW1.

1 item

EMB.3.10 From Lord David Cecil to Butler

**1950 June
29**

Letter (on headed paper) acknowledging praise from Butler concerning his book (probably 'Early Victorian novelists: essays in revaluation', 1934) and her choice of the essay on Emily Brontë; reflects on some other essays (Anthony Trollope and George Eliot). Address: Oxford.

1 item

EMB.3.11 From E R Curtius to Butler

1948 May

21

Letter expressing the pleasure he and his wife experienced at Butler's visit. It echoed his feelings at their first meetings in Pouligny and Paris; mentions Miss Harrison and her kind sympathy on the death of his grandfather; congratulates Butler on her book 'The Myth of the Magus'; mentions a letter from Mr Kirk. No address.

1 item

EMB.3.12 From Richard W ('Dick') David to [Butler]

**1948
January 01**

Letter (on headed paper) sending congratulations on 'The Myth of the Magus', of which he has read a proof copy; last minute hitch in publication schedule - awaits instructions. Address: Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London NW1.

1 item

EMB.3.13 From Angus Davidson to [Butler]

**1945
December
05**

Letter congratulation Butler on her book 'The Tempestuous Prince'; asks for information concerning an early relative, Harriet Douglas, who had a proposal of marriage from the Prince. Address: Wellside, Barley, Royston, Hertfordshire.

1 item

EMB.3.14 From E R Dodds to Butler

**1950 March
22**

Letter acknowledging the copy of 'Ritual Magic' sent to him by Butler; enjoyed it very much and recounts a couple of examples of the classical lore which Butler cites in her text. Address: Old Marston, Oxford.

1 item

EMB.3.15 From T W Donald, lawyer, to Butler

**1948 June
25-July 8**

Letters re 'The Myth of the Magus', which he has read with great interest and has numerous questions concerning the proceedings against Urbain Grandier [i.e. the 'Grandier Pact']. Has photocopied the Pact and is prepared to send Butler an enlargement; is looking forward to reading "Ritual Magic". Address: 172 St Vincent Street, Glasgow. The first letter is written to 'Dear Sir': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.

2 items

EMB.3.16 From Brian W Downs to Butler

**1948 April
17**

Letter sending congratulations on 'The Myth of the Magus', which he enjoyed very much. Address: Christ's College, Cambridge.

1 item

EMB.3.17 From C F Eccleshare to Butler

**1950 March
13**

Letter notifying Butler that 'Ritual Magic' has been chosen for the Exhibition of British Book Design at the National Book League. Address: Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London NW1.

1 item

EMB.3.18 From John Evelyn, author, to Butler

**1959 June
04**

Covering letter for sending Butler a copy of his latest book [either 'The Comedy of Faust' or 'The Tragedy of Faust'] hopes to meet her for lunch soon. Address: London W1.

1 item

EMB.3.19 From Letitia Fairfield, medical doctor (formerly working or London County Council) to Butler

**[?1949] May
05**

Letter sending congratulations on 'The Myth of the Magus' and 'Ritual Magic'; claims to be a student of witchcraft from the historical and psychological point of view; cites Montague Summers, Father Thurston and Margaret Murray. Address: 60 Beaufort

Mansions, London SW3.

1 item

EMB.3.20 From Ronald Fuller to Butler

**1947
November
22**

Letter anxious to correct misunderstanding of a phrase he uses in his book 'Hellfire Francis' which Butler has quoted; discusses other shortcomings and doubts. Address: 1 Cranfield Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

1 item

EMB.3.21 From Arthur Gartaganis, [?]Harvard undergraduate, to Butler

**1949 April
12**

Letter requesting information on items in the bibliography of 'Ritual Magic', which he has read and enjoyed; observations on the Book of Solomon, the Kabbalah and Le Clermont. Address: Eliot J-51, Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Name and address written in green ink at the top of the first page.

1 item

EMB.3.22 From Johann Gundlach to [Butler]

**1948 April
25**

Letter (on lined paper) re Jacquetta Hawkes's review of 'The Myth of the Magus'; expounds the Christian view of supernatural powers; invites Butler to enter into a dialogue on the subject. Address: 181 Dänneckerstrasse, Frankfurt am Main.

1 item

EMB.3.23 From William Keith Chambers Guthrie to Butler

**1948
February 18**

Letter thanking Butler for sending him a copy of her new book ['The Myth of the Magus'] and for mentioning him in the preface. Address: Peterhouse, Cambridge.

1 item

EMB.3.24 From Gertrude W Hockinson (Mrs A G Hockinson) to Butler 1949
February 21

Letter severely critical of the purported shallowness of Butler's study 'The Myth of the Magus' - points to statements which are untrue; defends Madame Helena Blavatsky and the Theosophical Society, of which she is herself a member. Address: 404 Woodlawn Avenue, Zanesville, Ohio.

1 item

EMB.3.25 From Harold Stein Jantz to Butler 1952
September 29

Letter (on headed paper) discussing the relevance of Butler's three magus and Faust books to his own work, particularly his recently published book ['Goethe's Faust as a Renaissance Man: parallels and prototypes (Princeton University Press, 1951)]; mentions books on magic he has read from the library of John Winthrop the Younger (brought over to the United States in 1631), which in turn came from the collection of John Dee who had annotated them with valuable new information, particularly on the manuscripts of Paracelsus; is a specialist in American-German studies and will be visiting professor at the University of Hamburg in April 1953; is looking forward to Butler's forthcoming published research on Goethe and Byron. Address: The College of Liberal Arts, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

1 item

EMB.3.26 From E Kaiser to Butler 1949 July 31

Letter (on headed paper) discussing translations of Rilke; offers to obtain a copy of the first selection of the poems of Franz Baermann Steiner as soon as published. Address: 9A Eton Road, London NW3. [Note: the relevant volume is probably that eventually published as 'Unruhe ohne Uhr: ausgewählte Gedichte aus dem Nachlass Franz Baermann Steiner; mit einem Nachwort von H G Adler' (Heidleberg: L Schnieder, 1954.)]

1 item

- EMB.3.27 From Gertrude Ouckama Knoop (wife of Gerhard Knoop) to Butler** **1938**
January 18-
February 6
- Letters containing personal reminiscences of Rainer Maria Rilke; very interested in Butler's intention to write a book on Rilke and is very glad to put hitherto unpublished information at her disposal; gives information about Clara Westhoff, Rilke's sculptress wife, and about her own husband Gerhard Knoop and his family; wishes Butler every success. Address: [Munich]. The first letter is written to 'Herr Butler': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.
- 2 items
- EMB.3.28 From Rudolf Walter Leonhardt to [Butler]** **1951 May**
11
- Letter containing a somewhat bitter, but humourous, account of his attempts to settle into the post-war German social and professional scene; cannot find any mention of Butler's three magus books or her novel in Germany; intends to visit a mutual friend in Zürich, Ernst Leisi. Address: (i) Bonn; (ii) Velbert, Rhineland.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.29 From C S Lewis, writer, to Butler** **1940**
August 18-
October 14
- Letters discussing the differences between symbolism, allegory, myth and symbolical narrative, and cites Kafka's 'Castle' and 'Trial', Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress', O Barfield's 'Poetic Diction', Maud Bodkin's 'Archetypal Patterns in Poetry', David Lindsay's 'Voyage to Arcturus'. Replying to Butler's comments on Goethe and Novalis. Discussion of Butler's essay on the direct and the indirect; cites Ibsen, Shaw, Dante and H G Wells; discusses the 'spirit of poetry' and objects to Butler's view of T S Eliot's turning to Anglo-Catholicism; recommends a book he wrote with Tillyard: 'The Personal Heresy'. Discusses agnosticism, mythologies and religions;

questions Butler's opinions and puts forward his own detailed analysis of her arguments. Confesses to the ambiguity and hypocrisy he had detected in himself. Address: The Kilns, Headington Quarry, Oxford.

5 items

EMB.3.30 From James Walter McFarlane to Butler

**1946
January 11**

Letter re researches into editions and manuscripts pertaining to Rilke; comments on the reaction from the Kippenbergs, especially Katharina, the re-establishment of the Insel Verlag in Wiesbaden, and the post-war state of the Rilke archive. Address: St Catherine's Society, Oxford.

1 item

EMB.3.31 From Thomas Mann to Butler

**1948
October 20**

Letter regretfully declining an invitation to lecture at Cambridge; expresses the hope that the Cambridge students may come to hear his lecture at Oxford. Address: 1550 San Remo Drive, Pacific Palisades, California.

1 item

EMB.3.32 From Eudo Colecestra Mason to Butler

**1945
September
03**

Letter mentioning a new private edition of Rilke's letters, Mason's reviews on Rilke in the Basel National-Zeitung, the Rilke/Romanelli letters, Joyce's 'Finnegans Wake', Professor L A Willoughby, William Rose, Professor Bruford, and Mason's efforts to find a post at a British University. Address: 61 Ravensbourne Avenue, Shortlands, Kent.

1 item

EMB.3.33 From Heinrich Meyer to Butler

**1949 March
03**

Letter expressing delight at reading the article on 'Goethe and Cagliostro'; finds agreement with certain aspects of Goethe's life in his own work about to be published ['Goethe - Das Leben im Werk' (Hamburg: Stromverlag, 1951)] - promises to send Butler a copy as soon as it is published; mentions Goethe's 'Die natürliche Tochter' and Elizabeth Wilkinson's analysis of 'Torquato Tasso'. Address: Rt 1, Ammaus, Pennsylvania.

1 item

EMB.3.34 From Victor Misrahi to Butler

**1954
October 04-
16**

Letters expressing gratitude for 'The Tyranny of Greece over Germany' which he read while in London in 1936 and which kept alive his love of Hölderlin while a prisoner-of-war in Silesia; would have liked to be able to translate it into French but feels it beyond his powers. Delighted and proud at Butler's response to his book 'Pour Saluer Hölderlin'; encloses a poem he has just written 'Haute-lice' as a tribute. Address: Brussels.

2 items

EMB.3.35 From Professor Günther Müller, University of Bonn, to Butler

**1948 May
14, 1949
June 10-
October 23,
1950
December
01, 1951
June 12-
July 31**

Letters (on headed paper) thanking Butler for the gifts of food sent by Mr Kirk and Professor Farrell; remarks that food is a feature of magic; remembers her stay in Bonn while on her lecture tour with pleasure; hopes that her choice of Herr Leonhard will be vindicated. Expresses his deepest thanks for making his stay in Cambridge so fruitful and memorable. Reiterates his lasting pleasant memories of his stay in Cambridge with warm thanks; is delighted with his honorary degree - can hardly believe it; exchanges greetings with Willoughby and with James Mark; Leonhardt has smoothed the way for his return home; would like to

continued discussing the themes of their Cambridge evenings. Appreciated the role Butler played as chair at the recent London conference; thanks her for a volume of Kafka. Compares the recent conference in Frankfurt unfavourably with the previous conference in London; his own paper was received very well together with those of Willoughby, Speiser, Bluutschli; kept to the company of the English delegates whenever possible; withdrawn to Bad Soden in Taunus for respite. Discusses an article on Goethe 'Poet or Sage?' in the Times Literary Supplement, which he has been receiving regularly through Dr Auty for the past three years; regards it as very significant because it considers Goethe's greatness rests on his poetic creativity, not his philosophical approach - cites Faust as an example; regards the interpretation of the Paria poem as outstanding. Has read 'The Tyranny of Greece over Germany' and enters into a lengthy and enthusiastic discussion of various chapters: Goethe's relation to Herder and Schiller, the nature of tragedy, Winckelmann, Heine, Hölderlin, Lessing's 'Laokoon'. Gives some details of a former postgraduate student of his, Ingrid Becker, whom he thinks Butler should see; is coming to England in February 1950 for a conference and thereafter Oxford, Birmingham and Edinburgh; will visit Cambridge last of all. Draws her attention to the review of a new book on Rilke; he is busy evaluating a thesis by a Rilke enthusiast; he and his wife are living with his mother-in-law in Honnef while they look for another house. Writing to note Butler's retirement and hopes that it will be fruitful in terms of further research and publications; still uses her works on Greece and Ritual Magic as the basis of his lectures and seminars; had hoped to send an offprint of a recent article by him but must send a typescript copy instead. Apologises for not writing sooner but they have been embroiled in complicated legal and other processes in obtaining their new house; they have fled the city life of Bonn which has become unbearably changed; knows that after her own recent upheaval Butler will understand; is delighted with 'Daylight in a Dream'. Address: (i) Bonn; (ii) Trinity College, Cambridge; (iii) Bad Soden im Taunus.

10 items

EMB.3.36 From Leonid Pasternak, artist, to [Butler]

**1937
October 17**

Letter expressing willingness to give Butler information about Rainer Maria Rilke, whom he knew personally, for her forthcoming book; apologises for his poor German and switches to writing in Russian since Butler has told him she understands it. Address: Berlin. Enclosure: galley proofs of an extract about his encounters with Rilke from a monograph by M Osborn 'Leonid Pasternak' (1932). The letter is written to 'Herr Professor': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.

1 item

EMB.3.37 From Professor Ronald Peacock, University of Manchester, to Butler

**1948 June
18**

Letter (on headed paper) expressing support and citing Russell's very fair review in the Guardian, of Butler's 'Myth of the Magus'; looking forward to the sequels; would like to discuss Barker Fairley's recent book ['A Study of Goethe' (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1947)] and [Eric Albert] Blackall's book on Stifter ['Adalbert Stifter: a critical study. (Cambridge University Press, 1948)] when he meets Butler at the forthcoming conference; is about to start work on his book on Goethe's poems for William Rose's commemorative volume. Address: Department of German Studies, University of Manchester.

1 item

EMB.3.38 From Robert Pick to Butler

**1948 July
15**

Letter re getting his dates boxed for a lecture by Trier; half way through reading 'Myth of the Magus' and thoroughly enjoying it; paints a vivid recollection of Butler at work. Address: 9 Collegiate Crescent, Sheffield.

1 item

EMB.3.39 From Agnes Platt to Butler

**1948 March
24**

Letter re 'The Myth of the Magus', which she has read with great enjoyment and almost total agreement; hopes it will not set off further bigotry and prejudice from the Christian church; looks forward to 'its two promised successors'. Address: Loxhore,

Barnstaple, North Devon.

1 item

EMB.3.40 From Professor Michael Polanyi, University of Manchester (physical chemist and Fellow of the Royal Society), to Butler **1948**
February 11

Letter (on headed paper) thanking Butler for sending him a copy of 'The Myth of the Magus'; dares to send her his own book ['Science, Faith and Society'] in return and plans to write another on Growth of Thought in Society; briefly discusses the nature of truth. Address: Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester.

1 item

EMB.3.41 From FitzRoy Richard Somerset (Lord Raglan) to Butler **1948**
February 09

Letter (on headed paper) acknowledging a copy of 'The Myth of the Magus', which he has read with interest; regrets a few omissions: John of Kent and W F J Knight; recalls his pre-war days at Cambridge and mentions Mrs Chadwick and Margaret Murray; sending a copy of an address he read to the Anthropological Society. Address: Cefntilla Court, Usk, Monmouthshire.

1 item

EMB.3.42 From R E Rewell to Butler **1949**
December
29, 1950
January 05

Letters (on headed paper) re 'The Myth of the Magus', which he has read with great interest; discusses the phenomena experienced when undertaking conjuration as having a probably scientific and medical explanation; recommends a book by C K Drinker: 'Carbonmonoxide Asphyxia'. Sending a copy of a paper he read before the Biological Society at the Royal College of Science. Address: Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW8.

2 items

- EMB.3.43 From Thelma Reynolds to Butler** [?1949]
- Letter re 'The Myth of the Maga [sic]', which she has just read; is trying to find titles for and get published various papers of a mystic nature; has read Eudora Welty's 'The Robber Bridegroom'; has a literary agent called Irv Leiberman. Address: Memphis, Tennessee. The letter is written to 'Dear Sir': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.44 From Professor Gerard van Rijnberk to Butler** 1948 March 14
- Letter (on headed paper) re the 'The Myth of the Magus' which he has read with great pleasure; has found interesting material in the archives in Copenhagen re Cagliostro and Saint Germain; recommends his own book: 'Mélanges d'Esotérisme, extraits de la correspondance inédite de J B Willermoz et du Prince Charles de Hesse'. Address: Casa Sole, Blaricum.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.45 From S C Roberts, Secretary, Cambridge University Press, to Butler** 1948 February 10
- Letter (on headed paper) explaining that he will be leaving Cambridge University Press before the publication of Butler's complete trilogy; his interest will remain, however. Address: University Press, Cambridge.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.46 From Bertrand Russell to Butler** 1948 June 02
- Letter (on headed paper) re 'The Myth of the Magus' , which he has read twice with great pleasure; comments on Butler's treatment of Pythagoras compared with his own in 'History of Western Philosophy' and the figure of Faust; also mentions, in jest, Tagore; his daughter is coming back from the USA - could Butler see her? Address: Penralltgoch, Llan Ffestiniog, Merioneth.
- 1 item

- EMB.3.47 From Georg Salzberger to Butler** **1948 March 31**
- Letter (on headed paper) explaining that his daughter has passed him a copy of 'The Myth of the Magus' which he has read with great interest; is particularly interested in the chapter on Solomon and recounts an old Jewish legend; refers to two of his own works ['Salomo-Sage in der semitischen Literature ...' (Berlin, 1907); 'Salomos Tempelbau und Thron in der semitischen Sagenliteratur' (Berlin, 1912)]. Address: 17 Hodford Road, Golders Green, London NW11.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.48 From Edward Sackville-West to Butler** **1949 February 13-March [?]11**
- Letters (on headed paper) re 'The Myth of the Magus', which he has found interesting and amusing. Offers a few criticisms and is upset by Butler's reaction to them. Apologises for not remembering that there are two more books to follow. Address: Long Crichel House, Wimborne, Dorset.
- 3 items
- EMB.3.49 From George C Schoolfield to Butler** **1953 February 09**
- Letter making several enquiries about Butler's research on Rilke, her article on Rilke and Tolstoy, and the present whereabouts of the Rilke-Archive. Address: Graz, Styria.
- 1 item
- EMB.3.50 From John Tresidder Sheppard to Butler** **1948 February 17, 1948 November 8**

Letters (on headed paper) sending a courteous and warmly enthusiastic acknowledgement of his copy of 'The Myth of the Magus'; compares her work to that of Jane Harrison, especially 'Prolegomena to the study of Greek religion' [Cambridge University Press 1903]. Deplores the crass review by Hutton and begs Butler not to be upset. Address: King's College, Cambridge.

2 items

EMB.3.51 From Hermann Sinsheimer, author and critic, to Butler **1948 June 18**

Letter re 'The Myth of the Magus' ,which he has just read - would like to make a few relevant observations about the magus figure from Jewish cultural tradition (Elijah, the pseudo-messiah, Hohe Rabbi Loew, Trebitsch-Lincoln); also mentions Rasputin and points out a few inaccuracies in Butler's text. Address: Kensington, London.

1 item

EMB.3.52 From L Sprague de Camp to Butler **1949 November 08**

Letter re his enjoyment of 'The Myth of the Magus'; makes a few criticisms and comments - discusses Helena Blavatsky as priestess of the occult and enquires after Butler's source material for Zarathustra's descent. Address: Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

1 item

EMB.3.53 From Simon Staughton to Butler **1948 May 16-20**

Letters (on headed paper) re' The Myth of the Magus - would like the source reference for instances of Christ's destructive miracles; is writing a novel on witchcraft. Thanks Butler for prompt reply with information on the New Testament Apocrypha; muses on the folly of excluding inconvenient material from the bible. Address: Cadogan Lodge, 4 Cadogan Lane, London SW1.

2 items

EMB.3.54 From Rev G C N Webb to Butler

**1951
January 02**

Letter Butler's book [probably *The Myth of the Magus*], which he has just read; has studied the subject of magicians in a small way and makes some observations them, and on magic and belief in general. Thanks her for recommending a book by Seabrooke [not identified]; is in bed with 'flu; some philosophical musings on prayer, mind and blessing. Address: Southwick, Hampshire.

2 items

EMB.3.55 From Leonard Ashley Willoughby to Butler

**1948
February 08**

Letter (on headed paper) expressing delight with his copy of *'The Myth of the Magus'* - envies Butler her fluency in writing so many good books; is still struggling with his work on Goethe and won't finish it before he retires in two years' time; would like Butler to contribute something from her book for *German Life and Letters*. Address: Briarclough, Cross Oak Road, Berkhamstead.

1 item

EMB.3.56 From Nancy Wunderly-Volkart to Butler

**1940 March
19**

Letter apologising for not replying sooner - she is in hospita; eulogises over Rilke whom she knew intimately and about whom she has never changed her opinion - The *Elegien* were the high-point of his creativity; very pleased to send Butler material on Rilke for her book; has done this for Professor Jean Rodolphe de Salis's book [*Rainer Maria Rilkes Schweizer Jahre*] (Leipzig, 1936); a Mr [Eudo Colecesta] Mason, who lectures in the Univeristy of Basel, has just given her a copy of his book [*Rilke's Apotheosis*] (Oxford, 1938)]. Address: Lake Zürich. The letter is written to 'Monsieur': the writer is apparently unaware that Butler is female.

1 item

- EMB.4.1.1 Briefe R M Rilkes aus den Jahren 1914 bis 1921** **undated**
[c1927-1946]
- Review of a new edition of these letters [?Insel-Verlag edition]. By 'E K'.
- 1 item
- EMB.4.1.2 Eine neues Rilke-Buch** **1941**
December
17
- Review of Christianne Osann: 'Rainer Maria Rilke. Der Weg eines Dichters' (Orell Füßli, Zürich). By Eudo Colecestra Mason, in National Zeitung.
- 1 item
- EMB.4.1.3 Rilke-Deutung** **1944**
- Review of 'Werner Günther - Weltinnenraum' (Paul Haupt, Bern). By Eudo Colecestra Mason, in National Zeitung 25. Jahrgang, Nr.13.
- 1 item
- EMB.4.1.4 Wandering, waiting, working** **1945**
November
03
- Review of 'Letters of Rainer Maria Rilke, 1892-1910'. Translated by Jane Bannard Greene and M D Herter Norton (W W Norton and Company). By Rolphe Humphries, in The Nation.
- 1 item (2 pages)
- EMB.4.1.5 Drei Neuerscheinungen über Rilke** **1946 May**
13-14
- 3 reviews: (i) Elisabeth von Schmidt-Pauli: 'Rainer Maria Rilke. Ein Gedenkbuch' (Benno Schwabe, Bern). Hans Gebser: 'Rilke und Spanien' (Oprecht, Zurich). (iii) Marga Wertheimer: 'Arbeitsstunden mit

Rainer Maria Rilke' (Oprecht, Zurich). By Eudo Colecestra Mason, in National Zeitung.

1 item

EMB.4.1.6 Regina Ullmann über Rilke

**1946
February 24**

Review of 'Errinerungen an Rilke' (Tschudy-Verlag, St.Gallen), in which the poet Regina Ullmann recalls her friendship with Rilke, on the occasion of her 60th birthday. By Eudo Colecestra Mason, in Sonntags-Beilage der National-Zeitung, 27.Jahrgang, Nr.91.

1 item

EMB.4.1.7 Erinnerungen an Rainer Maria Rilke und Stefan George

**1946 July
20**

Extracts from 'Buch der Erinnerungen' (Ferdinand Enke-Verlag, Stuttgart) by Professor Max Dessoir. Whole issue of Literatur der Zeit: Beilage der Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, Jahrgang 2, Nr.70.

1 item

EMB.4.2.1 Rilke im Kriegsarchiv

**undated
[c1927-
1946]**

Account of a brief time spent working with Rainer Maria Rilke in the archive of wartime papers in Vienna at the end of World War I. By Sil Vara.

1 item

EMB.4.2.2 Tributes to Rainer Maria Rilke

**1927
January 14**

Whole issue of Die Literarsche Welt (Berlin), 3.Jahrgang, Nr.2. Contents include: Dank der Jugend an Rainer Maria Rilke (with picture); Rainer Maria Rilke und Frankreich (with facsimile illustration of a letter from Rilke to Walter Mehring); various reminiscences; and the text of "Gegen di Zeit: ein unbekanntes Sonett" by Rilke (1923). Articles by Klaus Mann, Hans Kafka, Walter Mehring, Eduard Korrodi, André Gide, Paul Valéry, Maurice Betz and Paul Medina.

1 item

EMB.4.2.3 Zur deutschen Literatur. Aus dem Nachruf für Rilke 1927
January 28

2 extracts from Musil's memorial speech at the Rilke commemoration organised by the Berlin Renaissancetheater (intended to be included in a volume to be published by Ernst Rowohlt Verlag, Berlin). By Robert Musil: a whole issue of Die literarische Welt (Berlin), 3.Jahrgang, Nr.4.

1 item

EMB.4.2.4 Rainer Maria Rilke an einen jungen Dichter 1927 June
03

Account of a letter written in March 1926 to a hopeful young poet, Hans Ullbricht, which the latter interpreted as encouragement to make writing his career. The text of the letter, in the possession of Carl Mumm, is reproduced alongside two poems by Ullbricht and prefaced by remarks from the reporter and a short account by Dr Mumm. By 'W H': a whole issue of Die Literarische Welt (Berlin), 3.Jahrgang, Nr.22.

1 item (8 pages)

EMB.4.2.5 Die Mär von der Heerfahrt Igors. Uebertragen von Rainer Maria Rilke; Germanoslavica: Zu Rilkes Uebertragung des Igorliedes 1930
February 16

2 articles: (i) Rilke's rendering of the 'Igorlied' in parallel text with the Russian original (translation highlighted in crayon); (ii) appraisal of slavic influence in Rilke's work; by 'Mgr'. In Dichtung und Welt: Beilage zur "Prager Presse", Nr.7

1 item (3 pages)

EMB.4.2.6 Rainer Maria Rilke, der Infanterist. Eine Kriegserinnerung 1934
November
16

Reminiscences of an encounter with Rilke during the First World War. By Franz Karl Ginzkey, in Münchner Zeitung.

1 item (2 pages)

EMB.4.2.7 Eine venezianische Liebe Rainer Maria Rilkes 1941
October 05

Description of the platonic relationship between Rilke and a young girl of good Venetian family, who loved him until the day he died and confessed her love in her letters to him (at the time of writing the article, this lady was still alive and her name is therefore withheld). German translations of quotations from the letters are included (the correspondence was originally in French). By 'R K', in Sonntagsblatt der Basler Nachrichten, 35.Jahrgang, Nr.40.

1 item

EMB.4.2.8 Rilke und Frankreich. Zum Gedenken seines 70. Geburtstages [?1945]

Critique of Rilke and his work, with a few extracts from his poems. By Edgar Glässer, in Die Rheinpfalz.

1 item (1 page)

EMB.4.2.9a Artistische Sprechkunst: Wolfgang Beneckendorff rezitierte Rilke 1946
February 02

Account of a "Rilke-Programm" held in the civic hall in Hanover. Beneckendorff read from "Malte Laurids Brigge" and from "Buch der Bilde". By Friedrich Rasche, in Hannover Nachrichtenblatt.

1 item

EMB.4.2.9b Rolf (Wolfgang) Beneckendorff sprach Rilke 1946
February 05

Account of recitations from "Malte Laurids Brigge" and "Buch der Bilder" in Hanover's civic hall. By 'T', in Neuer Hannoverscher Kurier, p.5 "Feuilleton".

1 item

- EMB.4.2.10 Rainer Maria Rilke. Zu dem Vortrag von Prof. Dr. Kunisch** 1946
February 13
Account of a lecture on Rilke. By W Gollbach, in Fulda Volkszeitung.

1 item
- EMB.4.2.11 Die politische Ohnmacht des deutschen Geistes. Ein Gespräch mit Rudolf Kessner** 1946
February 01
Interview in which the influence of the German intellectual scene on and by the German State is discussed. Kessner was a friend as well as a critic of Rilke and his "Buch der Erinnerungen" is mentioned. In Die Weltwoche, 14.Jahrgang.

1 item (1 page)
- EMB.4.2.12 Dokumente der Empfindsamkeit. Unveröffentlichte Aufzeichnungen von Rainer Maria Rilke und Fanny Reventlow** 1946 June
03
Article giving a short history of Fanny Reventlow's career as a painter and diarist; publishes for the first time the text of two letters, one from Rilke (1901) and the other from Reventlow (1895). In Die Neue Zeitung: Feuilleton- und Kunstbeilage.

1 item (1 page)