



## MG 464 – Robin Maugham fonds

**Dates:** 1967-1981 (inclusive)

**Extent:** 0.2 m textual records.

**Biography:** Robert (Robin) Cecil Romer Maugham was born on May 17, 1916 in London, England to Viscount Frederic Herbert, a judge and Lord Chancellor of England, and Helen Mary Maugham (nee Romer). Originally trained in law at Eton and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Maugham gave up his career as a barrister after he was wounded while serving in the Western Desert campaign during World War Two. While recovering from his wounds, he wrote his first book, *Come to Dust*, and decided to become a writer full-time. He was the author of novels, plays, film scripts and non-fiction books, including two books of reminiscences about his uncle, Somerset Maugham. Much of Maugham's work is related to themes of homosexuality. A new novel, *The Deserters*, was in press at the time of his death. Maugham died on March 13, 1981 in Brighton, England after a long illness.

**Custodial History:** This material was originally acquired, arranged, and catalogued by the Special Collections department of the University of Saskatchewan Library for the manuscript collection. It was transferred to the University Archives in 2013.

**Scope and Content:** This fonds consists of a small portion of Maugham's manuscript and published items. The majority of the material relates to *The Deserters* and includes manuscripts, proofs and a published copy of this work. The incident which forms the central theme of *The Deserters* is a meeting between an English and German soldier during World War Two. This incident is based on an event that happened to Maugham while he was fighting in the Western Desert during World War Two.

The fonds also includes heavily annotated manuscripts of *Winter in Ischia: A Novel* and *The Account: A Novel*. *The Account: A Novel* was based on Maugham's play *Enemy*. There is also a manuscript of the play, *A Question of Retreat*. The fonds also includes a first printing paperback copy of *The Wrong People*, a monograph which was originally published by Maugham under the pseudonym David Griffin. The fonds includes a handwritten note and published tribute written by Peter Burton, who worked closely with Maugham for many years and was one of his literary executors. The fonds also contains newspaper clippings.

**Arrangement:** This material was originally acquired by the Special Collections department and was arranged and numbered by the librarian at the time of acquisition. The original numbering scheme has been left intact to facilitate listings in the University of Saskatchewan Library catalogue for retrieval of this material. The fonds has been arranged into the following series:

- I. Manuscripts
- II. Published Material
- III. Correspondence
- IV. Reviews of Maugham's Literary Works

**Restrictions:** No restrictions on access. Use, publication and/or reproduction of records are subject to the terms and conditions of the *Copyright Act*.

**Notes:** Former call number assigned by Special Collections: MSS 54.

**Notes:** Accn 1113-021.

*Finding aid originally created by Norlayne Scott. Updated for formatting by Bonnie Dahl, 2019.*

**Box 1****I. Manuscripts**

## A. Monographs

1. *The Deserters: A Novel*. – 1980.

Typescript draft with minor annotations and corrections.

1.a. *The Deserters: A Novel*. – 1980.

Draft copy printed by Scripts Limited with no annotations.

2. *Winter in Ischia: A Novel*. – [197-].

Typescript copy with minor annotations and corrections.

2.a. *Winter in Ischia: A Novel*. – [197-].

A bound typescript copy with extensive annotations and editorial changes. The annotations indicate that Maugham has turned a play into a novel.

3. *The Account: A Novel*. – [197-].

A typescript copy with extensive annotations and editorial changes.

## B. Plays

1. *A Question of Retreat*. – [197-].

Typescript copy.

**Box 2****II. Published Material**

## A. Monographs

1. *The Deserters*. – 1981.

Published monograph.

1.a. Proofs for *The Deserters*. – 1981.

Photo composition proof and dust jacket proof with notes for edits to the proofs.

2. *The Wrong People*. – 1967.

Published monograph.

**III. Correspondence**

1. Personal correspondence. – 1981.

A greeting card from Peter Burton to Ed in which he makes reference to an article he has written about Maugham published in *Gay News*.

#### IV. Reviews of Maugham's Literary Works

##### A. Plays

1. *Enemy!*. – 1970.

Article by Maugham in *The People*, 25 January 1970, p. 10.

2. *A Question of Retreat*. – 1981.

A copy of *Gay News*, No. 212, 2-15 April 1981 which includes a review of *A Question of Retreat* on page 4 of the supplement and a review of the life and literary works of Maugham written by Peter Burton on pages 19-20 of the issue.