Hesketh Pearson Collection

Hesketh Pearson (1887 – 1964) was born in Hawford, Worcestershire, England, and after working in a shipping office, he turned to a theatrical career in 1911. He joined the army during World War I, fighting in Mesopotamia and Persia from 1914 to 1918. After the war, he returned to the stage as both actor and director. He began a writing career in 1921 with the publication of *Modern Men and Mummies* which contained amusing portraits of his contemporaries in the theater. He continued to research and write popular biographies of famous literary and artistic figures. His posthumous autobiography, *Hesketh Pearson, by Himself* appeared in 1965 (Eng P3615Z).

This collection of Hesketh Pearson manuscripts consists of the holograph notebooks he kept for several of his biographies as well as some miscellaneous research notebooks. All are contained in bound, ruled notebooks, written in pencil with work dates and word counts recorded by Pearson. The McCormick Library has cataloged the proof copies for each book, and call numbers for these are given in the guide below. The collection was donated by a Chicago bookseller in 1981.

spp 7/00

Box 1

   Notes taken from various secondary sources in preparation for biographies.


*Dickens; his character, comedy, and career.* 7 vols. 20 cm. August 4, 1947 –
   August 31, 1948. Holograph ms.

*Dizzy; the life and nature of Benjamin Disraeli.* 5 vols. 20 cm. June 17, 1949 –

Box 2

*Walter Scott; his life and personality.* 7 vols. 20 cm. July 1, 1953 – February 3,
   1954. Holograph ms.

*Sir Herbert Tree; his life and laughter.* 5 vols. 23 cm. November 7, 1954 – April 21,
1955. Holograph ms.
Proof copy: Pearson, H.  
**Beerbohm Tree; his life and laughter.**  London, 1956.  
Eng P3615b

Holograph ms.  

Box 3

**Merry Monarch; the life and likeness of King Charles II.**  3 vols.  23 cm.  
May 10, 1958 – February 2, 1959.  Holograph ms.  For additional notes, see misc. notebooks.  
Eng P3615c

**The Pilgrim Daughters (some marrying Americans).**  3 vols.  23 cm.  
April 14 – August 21, 1960.  Holograph ms.  For additional notes, see misc. notebooks.  

For additional notes, see misc. notebooks  

Holograph ms.  