

George Cecil Ives:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Ives, George Cecil, 1867-1950
Title:	George Cecil Ives Papers
Dates:	1874-1949
Extent:	5 boxes and 79 volumes (11 linear ft)
Abstract:	The papers consist of 122 volumes of diaries in addition to published works, lectures, and notes. Correspondence includes letters regarding Ives' writings and lectures on prison reform, sodomy, the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology, and other topics. Additional materials relating to secret societies and the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology are also present.
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchase, 1977
Processed by	Deborah Shelby, 1993
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

George Cecil Ives was born on October 1, 1867. He was raised by his father's mother, Emma Ives, and referred to her as his mother. Ives and his grandmother primarily resided in England at Bentworth Hall, or in the South of France. Ives was educated at home and at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

In 1892, Ives met Oscar Wilde at the Authors' Club in London. By this time Ives had accepted his homosexuality and was working to promote the end of the oppression of homosexuals, what he called the "'Cause'." Ives hoped that Wilde would join the Cause but Wilde did not have the same compassion towards this movement that Ives did. Lord Alfred Douglas met Ives in 1893 and introduced him to several Oxford poets, whom Ives encouraged to join the "Cause."

By 1897, Ives understood that the "Cause" would not be accepted openly in society and must therefore have a means of underground communication. Thus he created and founded the Order of Chaeronea, a secret society for homosexuals. The name, Order of Chaeronea, was inspired by the battle of Chaeronea in 338 BC when the 300 members of the Sacred Band of Thebes (composed entirely of friends and lovers) were slaughtered by the army of Philip of Macedonia. Ives and other members dated letters and other materials based on this date, so that 1899 would be written as C2237. An elaborate system of rituals, ceremonies, a service of initiation, seals, codes, and passwords were used by the members. The Secret Society became a worldwide organization and Ives took advantage of every opportunity to spread the word about the "Cause."

The developing study of sex psychology was of great interest to Ives and put him in touch with many of the writers in this field such as Magnus Hirschfeld, Havelock Ellis, Professor Lombroso, and Edward Carpenter. The British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology was founded in 1914 by Carpenter, Hirschfeld, Ives, Laurence Housman, and others. Some of the topics addressed in lecture and publication form by the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology were: the promotion of the scientific study of sex and a more rational attitude towards sexual conduct; problems and questions connected with sexual psychology (from medical, juridical, and sociological aspects), birth control, abortion, sterilization, venereal diseases, and all aspects of prostitution. In 1931, it was resolved to change the name of the organization to the British Sexological Society.

For the BSS and other interested groups, Ives gave lectures and published books entitled *Graeco-Roman View of Youth* (1926), and *The Plight of the Adolescent*.

Ives was also noted for his scholarship of penal methods, having traveled around visiting prisons and studying the penal methods of various European countries, particularly England. He lectured to several groups about his findings and also published books on the topic. Among these were *Penal Methods in the Middle Ages* (1910), *A History of Penal Methods* (1914), *The Continued Extension of the Criminal Law* (1922). Other published works by Ives include *Book of Chains* (1897), though he claimed no authorship for the publication, and another book of verse entitled *Eros' Throne* (1900).

George Ives died June 4, 1950.

Scope and Contents

The George Ives papers range in date from 1874 to 1949 and are divided into four series: I. Correspondence, 1874-1936; II. Works, 1897-1937; III. Diaries, 1886-1949; and IV. Miscellaneous, 1888-1949.

The correspondence contains invitations to dinners, parties, and cricket matches, as well as letters regarding Ives' writings and lectures on prison reform, sodomy, the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology, and other topics. There are also several letters thanking Ives for gifts of books and various lectures given. Among his correspondents were Adolf Brand, Oscar Browning, Edward Carpenter, Havelock Ellis, Norman Gale, Augustus Hare, Ernest Jones, Cesare Lombrose, C. M. North, Reggie Turner, Edward Westermarck, and others.

There are several examples of Ives' published works, lectures, and notes, 1897-1926. Some of the topics represented are: prison reform, crime and punishment, historical views of sexuality, religion, and samples of his verse writing. Typescripts and holograph examples are both present in this series.

The bulk of the material consists of 122 volumes of diaries kept by Ives from the age of nineteen until about six months before his death at age eighty-two. Most of the diaries have daily entries for the period from December 20, 1886 to November 16, 1949. Ives often used the battle of Chaeronea when dating his diary entries, adding 338 years to the actual date. The view Ives provides in his diary of the life of an upper-middle class English homosexual from the end of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century is of particular interest for understanding the homosexual movement in England during this time. The content varies from descriptive impressions of social events, to detailed examinations of his friends and acquaintances, to analyses of the treatment of criminals and the workings of prisons. From volume thirteen on, Ives indexed his diaries and often used them when he was preparing for a lecture or other writings.

Miscellaneous materials include the rules and wax seal impressions for the Secret Society, along with a library catalog for the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology, and a scrapbook of reviews and loose clippings for three of Ives books, *Ero's Throne* (1900), *A History of Penal Methods* (1914), and *Obstacles to Human Progress* (1939). There is also a galley proof of G. B. Shaw's preface to *English Prisons* (1922), prior to alterations.

While Ives amassed 45 volumes of scrapbooks, 1892-1949, they do not form part of this collection. These scrapbooks consist of clippings on topics such as murders, punishments, freaks, theories of crime and punishment, transvestism, psychology of gender, homosexuality, cricket scores, and letters he wrote to newspapers. For extracts of these scrapbooks, which were edited by Paul Sieveking and published by Jay Landesman in 1981, see *Man Bites Man*.

The British Sexological Society Collection at the Ransom Center also contains a large amount of Ives material. He was involved from the onset of the British Sexological Society in several ways, one of which was preserving the papers and records for the organization. There are materials to and from him throughout the collection. A large portion of the Ives material is in the Miscellaneous series, including nine boxes of his notebooks, lectures, and works. A substantial number of letters to Ives from Lawrence Housman (1916-1948), correspondence from Ives' family members, and others, are also part of the Miscellaneous Series. See the manuscript card catalog for further information.

Series Descriptions

Series I. Correspondence, 1890-1936 (1.5 boxes)

Consists of letters and invitations to Ives from Edward Carpenter, Havelock and Edith Ellis, Augustus Hare, E. B. H. Lacon, W. D. Morrison, C. M. North, Edward Westermarck, W. H. Wilkins, and others. Several of the correspondents who wrote only one or two letters were primarily discussing arrangements for dinner or cricket games. There is one folder of unidentified letters, one folder consisting of invitations and envelopes, and one folder containing two letters to Ives' grandmother, Emma. One of these letters is from Susan Ann Talbot Ives (his aunt) and the other is from Anna Whiteside, which was removed from the family bible (cataloged in HRC book collection, BS 2085 1848 O94b IVS). This series is arranged alphabetically by author. There is an alphabetical index to the correspondents at the end of the inventory. For other correspondence to and from Ives, see the list of additional materials.

Series II. Works, 1897-1937 (2.5 boxes)

Holograph drafts of Ives' published works present in the collection are, *Continued Extension of Criminal Law* and *The Graeco-Roman View of Youth*. Also included are notes for several lectures that Ives gave: an address delivered to the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology (1915); Ashford lecture I, *Treatment of Crime* (1922); a League of Peace and Freedom address (1919); and a lecture before the Orthopsychic Society (1915). There are four versions of *The Missing Baronet*, including revisions, though they are not all complete. *The Missing Baronet* manuscripts are bound and housed as volumes 123-126. Other bound works are housed in folders. All works are arranged alphabetically by title.

Series III. Diaries 1886-1949 (122 volumes)

The 122 volumes of diaries were handwritten on a single side of a page, and occasionally Ives would add information at a later date on the verso in order to clarify a point or add other comments. Sometimes Ives wrote in several different codes so that an onlooker could not at a glance understand what he was writing about. The codes are decipherable, though some require more time than others. For further descriptions of the codes see "A Catalogue of the George Ives Collection," attached as an appendix to this inventory.

These diaries provide detailed descriptions of Ives' life and his impressions of persons around him such as Oscar Wilde, Lord Alfred Douglas, Magnus Hirschfeld, Edward Carpenter, and close intimate friends and acquaintances. Other topics such as penal methods, the homosexual "Cause," dressing in drag, detailed descriptions of social events and parties, current criminal cases, personal feelings, and many other subjects are recorded by Ives in his diaries.

The first sixty volumes were bound together in groups of five. Diary 35 was bound between 32 and 33, but all other volumes are in chronological order. There are two sets of page numbers, one in the

upper righthand corner that paginates each individual volume and one at the bottom of the page which is continuous from volume 1 through 122, ending with page number 19,973. Ives indexed each volume beginning with volume thirteen. The indexes refer to the page numbers for the individual volume found at the top of the page. The volume number designations were retained for this reason. The condition of the diaries is good, though volumes 1-60 are bound very tightly and require special care when opening.

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1888-1949 (.5 box)

Arranged alphabetically, the seven items in this series are: an address book, clippings, library catalog, scrapbook, Secret Society materials, G.B. Shaw's galley proof and letters concerning his preface to *English Prisons Today*, and miscellaneous documents. Ives' address book provides cross references to his diaries and traces the members of the Order of Chaeronea. Other Secret Society materials include the Service of Initiation, 1899; Order Rules, 1933; and wax impressions from signet rings of members of the Order.

The clippings include reviews of three of Ives' published works; *Eros' Throne* (1900) is located in a folder, while *A History of Penal Methods*, (1914) and *Obstacles to Human Progress*, (1939) are in a bound scrapbook, volume number 127.

The library catalog for the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology is organized alphabetically, first by title and then by author. The works represented in this catalog are in various languages and include topics such as homosexuality, flagellation, slavery, transvestism, prostitution, pornography, eunuchism, circumcision, and obscene literature.

A galley proof of G. B. Shaw's preface to *English Prisons Today* (1922, published by S & B Webb) is accompanied by some correspondence about the publication of the preface. The folder of miscellaneous items includes an army memorandum (1888), a bill of remittance from the *Morning Post* (1910), and information about the Sex Education Society lecture in 1948/49.

Related Material

Other Ives materials include books, scrapbooks (see *Man Bites Man*), the Vertical File, and materials in the British Sexological Society, Edward Carpenter, and Oscar Wilde manuscript collections.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Brand, Adolf, 1874-

Browning, Oscar, 1837-1923

Carpenter, Edward, 1844-1929

Cazalett, William Marshall, 1865-1932

Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939

Ives, George Cecil, 1867-1950

Evans, Caroline A.

Gale, Norman, 1862-1942

Hare, Augustus J. C. (Augustus John Cuthbert), 1834-1903

Jones, Ernest, 1879-1958

Lacon, Edmund Beecroft Francis Heathcote, Sir, 1878-1911

Lombroso, Cesare, 1835-1909

Morrison, William Douglas, 1853-1943

Moss, Samuel, 1858-1918

North, Charlotte Maria, Lady, 1831-1909

Prescott, E. Livingston

Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950

Turner, Reggie, 1869?-1938

Westermarck, Edward, 1862-1939

Subjects

British Sexological Society

British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology

Crime and Criminals--Great Britain

Douglas, Alfred Bruce, Lord, 1870-1945

Ellis, Havelock, 1859-1939

Gay Liberation Movement--Great Britain

Gay Liberation Movement--Great Britain--History

Homosexuality--Personal narratives

Homosexuals--Great Britain--Social Conditions

Order of Chaeronea

Prison Reform--Great Britain

Prisons--Great Britain

Secret Society of Homosexuals

Sex Crimes--Great Britain

Sex (psychology)

Wilde, Oscar, 1845-1900

Document Types

Diaries

Ives, George Cecil, 1867-1950

Galley proofs

Scrapbooks

Series I. Correspondence, 1890-1936 (1.5 boxes)

A-C, 1891-1933, nd	box 1 folder 1
D-E, 1893-1911, nd	folder 2
Ellis, Havelock, 1902-1936	folder 3
F-H, 1891-1920, nd	folder 4
Hare, Augustus J. C., 1898-1902	folder 5
I-O, 1894-1917, nd	folder 6
Morrison, W. D., 1896-1912	folder 7
North, C. M., 1892-1897	box 2 folder 1
P-Z, 1891-1918, nd	folder 2
Westermarck, Edward, 1902-1911	folder 3
Wilkins, W.H., 1892-1895	folder 4
Invitations, 1896-1909, nd	folder 5
Unidentified, 1890-1905, nd	folder 6
Letters to Emma Ives, nd	folder 7

Series II. Works, 1897-1937 (2.5 boxes)

Unidentified work, fragments, nd	box 2 folder 8
Address delivered for the British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology, 1915	folder 9
"Ages and the Universities," 1915?	folder 10
Ashford lecture, I, "Treatment of Crime," 1922	folder 11
<i>Book of Chains</i> , published 1897	folder 12
Chemistry, etc., notebook, Dec. 10, 1913	box 3 folder 1
Continued Extension of Criminal Law, nd	folder 2
Crimelessness: Index of some scrapbooks, Howard League lecture, 1911	folder 3
Criminology, nd	folder 4
Notes for lecture, 1911	folder 5
1912	folder 6
Empires, Old and New, 1920	folder 7
Extinct Animals, nd	folder 8
Graeco-Roman View of the Attractions of Youth,	folder 9
I, nd	
II, nd	box 3 folder 10
Lecture, nd	box 4 folder 1
Quotations, nd	folder 2
Human Mind in the Face of Natural Phenomena I & II, nd	folder 3

Index to references to crimelessness in news cuttings, nd	folder 4
League of Peace and Freedom address, 1919	folder 5
Lecture before the Orthopsychic Society, 1915	folder 6
<i>The Missing Baronet</i> , typescript	volume vol. 123
Holograph draft, nd	volume vol.124
Revision continued, 1914, holograph	volume vol.125
Chapter XXI continued, holograph, nd	volume vol.126
Opinions and Prejudices, 1937	box 4 folder 7-8
Plight of Adolescents (2), 1926	box 5 folder 1
(3), 1926	folder 2
Religion of Socialism, nd	folder 3
Relinquit, nd	folder 4
Treatment of Crime, 1912	folder 5
Notes, 1913	folder 6
Verse book, 1897-1898	folder 7

Series III. Diaries 1886-1949 (122 volumes)

1886 December 20- 1889 September 15	volume v.1-5
1889 September 19- 1891 May 21	volume v.6-10
1891 May 21- 1893 March 18	volume v.11-15
1893 March 19- 1894 July 14	volume v.16-20
1894 July 17- 1895 October 26	volume v.21-25
1895 October 26- 1897 April 19	volume v.26-30
1897 April 20- 1899 November 7	volume v.31-35
1899 November 9- 1902 January 27	volume v.36-40
1902 January 28- 1904 December 19	volume v.41-45
1904 December 20- 1907 November 6	volume v.46-50
1907 November 6- 1911 June 14	volume v.51-55
1911 June 15- 1914 July 9	volume v.56-60
1914 July 11- November 30	volume v.61
1914 December 5- 1915 May 7	volume v.62
1915 May 8- October 31	volume v.63
1915 October 31- 1916 March 25	volume v.64
1916 March 26- July 29	volume v.65
1916 July 20- November 20	volume v.66
1916 November 20- 1917 May 6	volume v.67
1917 May 6- September 26	volume v.68
1917 September 26- 1918 February 2	volume v.69
1918 February 2- June 3	volume v.70
1918 June 4- October 10	volume v.71

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1918 October 11- 1919 March 31	volume v.72
1919 April 1- September 27	volume v.73
1919 September 28- 1920 May 5	volume v.74
1920 May 5- September 1	volume v.75
1920 September 2- October 24	volume v.76
1920 October 24- 1921 January 3	volume v.77
1921 January 3- February 22	volume v.78
1921 February 22- March 27	volume v.79
1921 March 27- April 30	volume v.80
1921 April 30- October 26	volume v.81
1921 October 27- 1922 May 9	volume v.82
1922 May 10- December 20	volume v.83
1922 December 20- 1923 June 28	volume v.84
1923 June 28- December 9	volume v.85
1923, December 10- 1924, July 6	volume v.86
1924 July 7- 1925, February 21	volume v.87
1925 February 24- October 4	volume v.88
1925 October 4- 1926 May 14	volume v.89
1926 May 14- 1927 March 20	volume v.90
1927 March 20- 1928 January 24	volume v.91
1928 January 25- November 17	volume v.92
1928 November 17- 1929 November 6	volume v.93
1929 November 7- 1930 October 1	volume v.94
1930 October 2- 1931 August 21	volume v.95
1931 August 22- 1932 April 26	volume v.96

1932 April 27- 1933 March 3	volume v.97
1933 March 4- 1934 April 4	volume v.98
1934 April 5- 1935 March 7	volume v.99
1935 March 8- 1936 February 27	volume v.100
1936 February 28- 1937 February 28	volume v.101
1937 March 1- 1938 March 13	volume v.102
1938 March 14- 1939 March 26	volume v.103
1939 March 28- 1940 March 18	volume v.104
1940 March 19- 1941 February 20	volume v.105
1941 February 21- August 4	volume v.106
1941 August 5- 1942 March 11	volume v.107
1942 March 12- October 11	volume v.108
1942 October 12- 1943 April 13	volume v.109
1943 April 14- October 4	volume v.110
1943 October 5- 1944 February 27	volume v.111
1944 March 1- September 14	volume v.112
1944 September 14- 1945 May 20	volume v.113
1945 May 21- December 15	volume v.114
1945 December 16- 1946 May 30	volume v.115
1946 May 31- October 17	volume v.116
1946 October 18- 1947 February 27	volume v.117
1947 February 28- August 1	volume v.118
1947 August 3- 1948 January 11	volume v.119
1948 January 12- September 17	volume v.120

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1948 September 18- 1949 April 30

volume v.121

1949 April 31- November 16

volume v.122

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1888-1949 (.5 box)

Address book, nd	box 5 folder 8
Clippings, 1900	folder 9
Library Catalogue for British Society for the Study of Sex Psychology, nd	folder 10
Scrapbook, 1914 and 1939	volume v.127
Secret Society("The Order") rules, invitations, seals, 1899-1933	box 5 folder 11
Shaw, G. B., preface: <i>English Prisons Today</i> , 1922	folder 12
Miscellaneous documents, 1888-1949	folder 13

George Cecil Ives--Index of Correspondents

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- Bolton, Mary P., 1911--1.1
- Brand, Adolf, 1911--1.1
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- Calverley, J. Selwin, 1891--1.1
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- John & Edward Bumpus, Ltd., 1933--1.6
- Johnston, Lawson, 1901--1.6
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- Singh, Prince Frederick, 1904-1908--2.2
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