

## MS 39 McNeill Correspondence

### About the collection:

A collection of 163 letters written by Mary Alice McNeill (1897–1984) to her sister Margaret Fink (Peg/Peggy), who resided in various parts of Holland and Germany and was involved in relief work before relocating to England following the loss of her husband. In the series of letters, personal in nature, dating between 1938 to 1978, McNeill discusses a broad spectrum of topics, including politics, her research and beliefs, family matters, and her philanthropic and welfare activities.

Mary (Molly) Alice McNeill was born on August 21, 1897, in Belfast, and attended Richmond Lodge School before enrolling at St Hugh's College, Oxford, and later Alexandra College in Dublin.

When McNeill returned to Belfast in the mid-1920s, she helped to establish The Arellian Nursery (1928) for children from poor families through her work with the Arellian Association.

She served as Secretary for the Irish Christian Fellowship, which created the "Good Neighbors" syllabus for religious studies for teachers in Northern Irish schools in 1937. From 1938 to 1953, she served as Honorary Secretary of the Northern Committee of the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic, and Social Relations. During the Second World War, McNeill was given the opportunity by the Women's Voluntary Services to become District Organizer for the County Borough of Belfast in June 1941, eventually rising to Second Vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Branch. As Secretary to the Committee of the Nursery School Association of Ireland, McNeill was successfully nominated as a Children's Guardian in 1943, allowing her to attend the Juvenile Court and eventually became one of the first members of the Child Welfare Council.

She was on the Eastern Special Care Service's Board of Management and worked with the Ulster Folk Life Society's committee to establish an open-air folk museum in Belfast (now the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum).

From 1945 to 1964, McNeill served on the board of the Belfast Charitable Society. Working as an independent scholar, she published her first historical biography *The Life and Times of Mary Ann McCracken: A Belfast Panorama* in October 1960.

After declining an M.B.E. in 1953, McNeill accepted an Honorary M.A. (awarded in recognition of her research) from Queen's University Belfast in 1961.

McNeill resigned from the Board of the Belfast Charitable Society in October 1964. The minutes describe her resignation as "a real blow to the Society, in the work of which and its history, Ms McNeill had taken an intense interest".

In addition to her intellectual work, she published two further biographies, *Little Tom Drennan* (1962) and *Vere Foster* (1971).

## MS 39 Outline

**MS 39/1 Correspondence: 04/04/1938 – 15/01/1939 Letters**

**MS 39/2 Correspondence: 1941 Letters**

**MS 39/3 Correspondence: 1942 Letters**

**MS 39/4 Correspondence: 1945 Letters**

**MS 39/5 Correspondence: 1946 Letters**

**MS 39/6 Correspondence: 1947 - 1949 Letters**

**MS 39/7 Correspondence: 1950 - 1955 Letters**

**MS 39/8 Correspondence: 1956 - 1958 Letters**

**MS 39/9 Correspondence: 1960 - 1962 Letters**

**MS 39/10 Correspondence: 1964 - 1967 Letters**

**MS 39/11 Correspondence: 1968 - 1969 Letters**

**MS 39/12 Correspondence: 1970 Letters**

**MS 39/13 Correspondence: 1971 Letters**

**MS 39/14 Correspondence: 1973 - 1978 Letters**

**Timeline**



## MS 39/1 Correspondence: 1930-1939 Letters

MS 39/1/1 04/04/1938 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

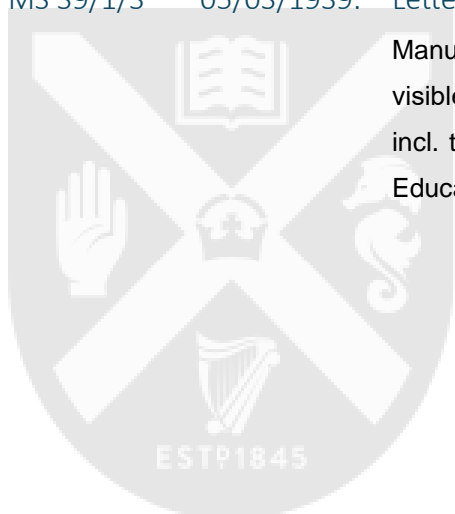
Manuscript, 6 pp., marking left hand corner from staple. Discusses teaching, unemployment in Belfast, and politics. Mentions International Historical Society and Northern Ireland's lack of representation. Mentions dilemma on Eden and Chamberlain and expresses fear for Austrian Jews. References Percy W. Bartlett of Fellowship of Reconciliation (Gen. Sec. 1938-1956), LNU (League of Nations Union), and Austrian Red Cross.

MS 39/1/2 15/01/1939. Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 6 pp., marking left hand corner from staple. Discusses family situation. Mentions meeting John J. Horgan, General Montgomery, and Donal O'Sullivan at the Hibernian Hotel re Irish Association. Considers starting an Irish Association journal with Horgan as editor, and opening branches in both Belfast and Dublin.

MS 39/1/3 05/03/1939. Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 5 pp., marking left hand corner from staple. Ink blots pp 2-3, wording still visible. Discusses Swiss films, men's unemployment club, and schooling practices, incl. the Board of Education, England. Mentions campaign against archaic Religious Education curriculum. Refers to IA meetings with Horgan and Montgomery.

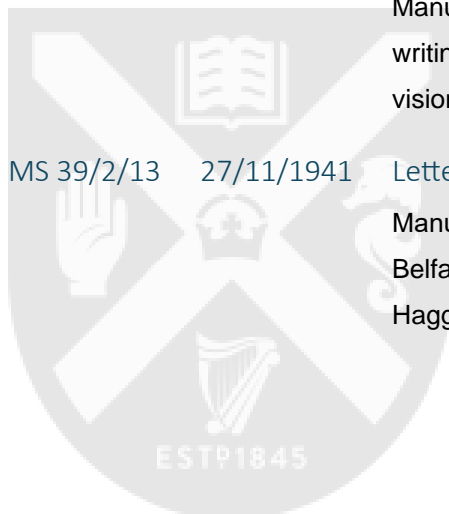


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## MS 39/2 Correspondence: 1941 Letters

- MS 39/2/1 15/02/1941. Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp, marking left hand corner from staple, torn right hand side, writing unaffected. Discusses father's working situation and attending a Film Society show. Refers to Women's Voluntary Services (W. V. S) and Air Raid Precautions (A. R. P.) and offers opinions on the war. Considers Charles Raven's *The Gospel and the Church*.
- MS 39/2/2 01/03/1941. Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp, marking left hand corner from staple. Discusses frustration with W.V.S. policies and organisation and considers Ireland's neutrality in the war. Mentions Marjorie Cunningham (warden of Trinity Hall 1908-1940) and the presentation of Cunningham's book collection to TCD with Yeats/Cuala Press donation. Speaks about meeting Colm Ó Lochlainn. Considers Protestants in Ireland.
- MS 39/2/3 28/03/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Marking and slight tear from staple on left-hand corner, writing unaffected. Discusses W.V.S and the thoughts on writers (cites Huxleys, Isherwood's) who escape to America.
- MS 39/2/4 08/04/1941 Letter, McNeill to Dr James Little (MP).  
Manuscript, 1 p., marking from paperclip, writing unaffected. Two newspaper clippings attached. Both relating to Little's actions in parliament. McNeill's letter evidence frustration at the articles attached.
- MS 39/2/5 04/04/1941- missing?
- MS 39/2/6 13/04/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp. Marking from staple left-hand corner, writing unaffected. Letter mentioning the Belfast air raids, evacuees, and raid on Kiel. Discusses children's evacuation and W.V.S, and work satisfaction. Remarks on a visit by Pamela Hinkson and Horgan, citing their feelings on Irish censorship. States intention to leave N. S.
- MS 39/2/7 24/04/1941 Postcard, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript. Discusses Belfast air raid (Belfast Blitz) and arrival of Dublin fire services.
- MS 39/2/8 27/04/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 9 pp. Marking from staple left-hand corner, writing unaffected. Discusses in detail the second air raid (Belfast Blitz) and the humanitarian aid of the W.V.S and Rest Centres. Details the destructive impact of the blitz on buildings and the subsequent homelessness that occurred as a result.

- MS 39/2/9 16/05/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, ?7 pp. Marking from staple left-hand corner, writing unaffected. Ink and pencil. Discusses lack of policies in Northern Ireland and the W.V.S.
- MS 39/2/10 01/06/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Marking from staple left-hand corner, and tear along top of p6, writing unaffected. Considers Orwell's *The Lion and the Unicorn* in tandem with England-Ireland relations. Accounts previous and current books she has been reading. Discusses event in Dublin with David Gray (American Minister) and issues with conscription in Ireland/Northern Ireland.
- MS 39/2/11 27/07/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp. Mentions W.V.S, and being nominated as a member of the Rural Development Board of NI.
- MS 39/2/12 N.D. Letter.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. First page missing, date unknown. Page edges frayed, slight tears, writing unaffected. Discusses Rest Centres, Civil Defence Service/Office, and lack of vision in NI government. Mentions Churchill, and the W.V.S.
- MS 39/2/13 27/11/1941 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Mentions "When We Build Again": Cadbury's housing reform and Belfast planning post-Blitz. Considers publishing I.A. pamphlet with O'Sullivan and Haggard on re-construction in Ireland. States a crisis in W.V.S.



## MS 39/3 Correspondence: 1942 Letters

- MS 39/3/1 12/01/1942. Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Mentions Reconstruction in Ireland, ICA conference in Trinity Hall Dublin, and Ireland's neutrality in WWII. Also considers political and economic problems in Ireland. Irish Association and WVS also discussed. Perceval-Maxwell, Lady Stronge, and Stormont politicians also mentioned.
- MS 39/3/2 08/03/1942 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Discusses her thoughts on the British Restaurants and central kitchens of WWII. Also mentions Chiang Kai Shek's visit to India, and the Fall of Hong Kong and Singapore. Hubert Bryson and 'Mr Adams' mentioned.
- MS 39/3/3 06/09/1942 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp. Mentions the Dieppe Raid, and notes crises in several departments of the W.V.S. Discusses "unsettled and unhappy" atmosphere in Belfast, citing the execution of Tom Williams, and the I.R.A.'s publication of a 'violent manifesto' as factors. Chronicles the beginning of the 'Northern Campaign'.
- MS 39/3/4 21/09/1942 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Offers thoughts on C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* (1942) and Aldous Huxley's *Grey Eminence* (1941). Also mentions the W.V.S, government feeding schemes, and attending firefighting practice at Training school (Antrim Road).
- MS 39/3/5 15/11/1942 Letter, Mount Charles, Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Offers thoughts on C. S. Lewis's *The Problem of Pain* (1940) and reflects on her work during the war with the W. V. S and Civil Defence. Considers the political and religious issues in Northern Ireland and notes an argument between Donal O'Sullivan and General Montgomery within the Irish Association. Notes on her stay with Louie Bennett, and thoughts on the North African Campaign of WWII. Also remarks on spending time with Katharine Johnston (née Coghill), who gave McNeill Edith Somerville's "latest production" *The Somerville Records* (a history of the Somerville family) to read. Mentions her invitation to the Mercier Society in Dublin, with Dean of Gloucester Dr Harold Costley-White as speaker.

## MS 39/4 Correspondence: 1945 Letters

- MS 39/4/1    21/01/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, slight tears on right-hand side of page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about her father and other family members. Mentions 'Help for Europe' appeal. Give thoughts on *Managerial Revolution* by J. Burnham. Mentions NI Labour Party, Elizabeth and John Boyle, Norman Proctor, Max Plowman (*Letters of Max Plowman*).
- MS 39/4/2    28/01/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp, slight discoloration on page 5, writing unaffected. Talks about father and managing family affairs. Shares her thoughts regarding *Managerial Revolution* (James Burnham) and *Samuel the Kingmaker* (Laurence Housman). Comments on cold snap in Britan and Europe. Mentions Children's Guardian and Quakers.
- MS 39/4/3    04/02/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Mentions Quakers, Louie Bennett, and Helen Chenevix. Talks about her father condition and chats about other relatives and acquaintances.
- MS 39/4/4    18/02/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, slight markings from discoloration on page 3, writing unaffected. Talks about her father condition, family affairs, finances and Rav. Gives thoughts on Quakers and Roman Catholics community and beliefs. Mentions Irish Christian Fellowship meeting, Amy Buller, and a need to develop Civic Society in Belfast.
- MS 39/4/5    25/02/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, slight discoloration on page 1 and 3, writing unaffected. Mentions Amy Buller, Quakers Relief, C. N. L. meeting, Queens University, and Children's Guardian work. Comments on *Going My Way* movie (1944). Debates taking on additional responsibilities from Civic Groups. Expresses her displeasure after listening to German News Edit from BBC radio.
- MS 39/4/6    02/03/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp, markings from discoloration through all pages, writing unaffected, smaller size of paper used. Talks about Rav, family and personal engagements. Mentions Ahoghill Young Farmers' Club and Max Plowman.
- MS 39/4/7    04/03/1945    Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., markings from discoloration on page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about her father's condition, family affairs, and Rav. Comments on *Letters of Max Plowman* and situation in Europe.

- MS 39/4/8 17/06/1945. Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, all three pages showing marks from discoloration, writing unaffected. Share her thoughts regarding Charles Williams *He come down from Heaven*. Discusses Rav, family goings-on, and her parents. Mentions N.I. Guardian and 'Children in cities'. Expresses her shocked after reading *A preliminary report in Belsen Camp* by Dr Collis.
- MS 39/4/9 ?? 1945 Letter, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 1 pp.
- MS 39/4/10 01/07/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Talks about politics and general elections; Unionists, Nationalists and NI Labour Party (NILP). Mentions Queens, her father's condition, and the situation at Rav. Reflects on Roman Catholic upbringing and beliefs. Talks about travel and residence permits for Irish people. Mentions the meeting of Children's Guardian for NI.
- MS 39/4/11 10/07/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., page 4 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Considers the effects of the war on Western Europe. Talks about her family and friends, her father's condition, and politics. Refers to working on a new legislation for guardians.
- MS 39/4/12 17/07/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 9 pp., markings from discoloration on top of all pages, writing unaffected, smaller size of paper used. Talks about personal affairs, Rav., election results and a visit to a juvenile court. Gives thoughts on the governmental situation in Europe.
- MS 39/4/13 24/07/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., slight discoloration on top and bottom of all pages, writing unaffected. Reflects over news from Germany. Mentions Irene Calvert, '*Industrial man*' by Peter Drucker, S. Sch. Soc., and Éamon de Valera (Irish – English relationships). Talks about personal affairs, review the results of election, end of the war, Rav. and her father condition.
- MS 39/4/14 05/08/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., slight discoloration on top of all pages and through page 3 and 4, writing unaffected, page 3 smaller size. Talks about Potsdam Conference and considers Poland's situation after war. Mentions Dr Ervald, Rav., *The Yogi and the Commissar* essay by Koestler, *The Drucker* books, and *The Bartered Bride* opera performance. Talks about family affairs and her father.
- MS 39/4/15 13/08/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., smaller format of paper, part of letter written at Glendalough Hotel, Co. Galway. Talks about German and Poland's situation at the end of the war. Mentions



Bernanos *A Diary of My Times* and *Light before dusk* by Hélène Iswolsky. Reflects on Catholicism. Speaks about recent holidays and her father's health. Mentions Japan and atomic bomb.

MS 39/4/16 02/09/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 7 pp., markings from discoloration on top of page 7, writing unaffected. Mentions 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of '45 Rising', N.S. (Nursery Schools) and Doris Grubb. Talks about Eastern Asia/Japan, Russia, Germany and discuss the Peace Settlement. Mentions Dr E. J. Dillon and his works for Peace Conference. Talks about holidays to Ireland, Duncan Grand and Henry Moore Exhibition in Dublin, laundress strike. Reflects on situation people in Ireland are facing after war. Talks about Rav. and personal/family affairs.

MS 39/4/17 16/09/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 3 pp., markings from discoloration on left top corner of page 1 to 2, two small holes from a pin on left top corner on page 1 and one small hole on page 2, writing unaffected. One newspaper clipping attached. Talks about situation at Rav., and personal/family affairs. Mentions garden party at Stormont for F.M. Montgomery and Children's Guardian.

MS 39/4/18 14/10/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 7 pp., slight markings from discoloration on page 5 to 7, writing unaffected. Mentions *Light before Dusk* by Hélène Iswolsky. Comperes RC (Roman Catholic) to Russian church, reflects on faith. Mentions atomic bomb and the damage it caused, William Temple. Talks about Ravernet (Rav.), family and her father condition.

MS 39/4/19 28/10/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 4 pp., markings from discoloration on last page, writing unaffected. Talks about Rav., family and her father condition. Mentions N.S. and N.S. Superintendent, major Nelson and Norman Brook, the campaign 'Save Europe Now', political and economic situation in Germany. Talks about new legislation for Criminal Justice Bill and attending meetings for Children's Guardian and Assistance Board. Becomes an Officer for Assistance Board of Northern Ireland.

MS 39/4/20 04/11/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 2 pp., one newspaper clipping attached. Mentions William Temple essays in light of Japanese situation. Comments on George MacLeod *We Shall Rebuild* and discusses Reinhold Niebuhr views. Talks about her father.

MS 39/4/21 18/11/1945 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 4 pp., slight tears on top of page 3, writing unaffected. Talks about family matters (arrival of her brother after the end of war in Eastern Asia) and her father's condition. Considers the challenges people in Eastern Europe are facing.

## MS 39/5 Correspondence: 1946 Letters

- MS 39/5/1    03/02/1946    Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp., slight tears on the edge of left-hand side and discoloration on the right side of page 1, tear in the middle of page 7, writing unaffected. Speaks about her late father, Rav. and family affairs. Debates the need for political changes in Ireland, N.I., and Labour Party (NILP). Mentions Irene Calvert and Council of Christian Reconciliation in Europe. Talks about attending Dr Ryan talk at Aquinas Hall re faith and humanity and Eleonor Rathbone re 'Save Europe Now' campaign.
- MS 39/5/2    17/02/1946    Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp, tears at the bottom edge on left hand side of page 1, right hand side of page 2 and in the middle and bottom of page 3, writing unaffected, page 6 smaller size of paper used. Considers the situation in Easter Europe re Russia. Talks about Ukrainian Camp (Displaced persons camps), a UNO (United Nations Organisation) meeting, Russian influence and family affairs. Mentions F.A.U., Board of Governors meetings, Peter Godfrey Faussett, and Polish children. Talks about *The Miind of the Maker* by Dorothy Sayers. Contemplate on Roman Catholics beliefs.
- MS 39/5/3    17/03/1946    Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., tears on the bottom edge of left-hand side on page 2, tear in the middle of right hand side on page 4, tear on top of page 5, writing unaffected, page 5 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about food shortages and great difficulties in Germany. Mentions Donal O'Sullivan. Reviewed *Merchant of Venice* staged in Dublin. Talks about personal affairs. Discusses and hopes for better change in N.I. politics.
- MS 39/5/4    01/04/1946    Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., slight tears on top of page 5, writing unaffected. Speaks highly of *The Mind after Matter* by Dorothy Sayers. Talks about Polish situation and lack of aid and support for the people. Mentions Elizabeth Fox Howard. Writes about personal affairs. Mentions Newman Society meeting and R.C. Church (as organisation). Talks about Children's Guardian role, Juvenile Court and Stormont. Gave her thoughts on German people and returning N.I. solders.
- MS 39/5/5    15/04/1946    Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight tears on the edge of left-hand side on page 2, writing unaffected, page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about personal matters and Rav. Mentions Fabian Society, Victory Day, Cardinal von Galen, and Zionist movement.

- MS 39/5/6 28/04/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., tears on the bottom of page 1, writing unaffected. Speaks about personal matters and Rav. Mentions Ernest Bevin and Anthony Eden, public meeting address by St. John Ervine on *Socialism and the Individual*. Talks about Unionists, British Government, Stormont, Basil Brooke, and Civil Aviation Conference. Mentions Olive Anderson re Nursing Homes and a difficult Juvenile Court case.
- MS 39/5/7 29/09/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., tears on the right hand side on all pages, writing unaffected. Talks about personal/family matters. Mentions Estyn Evans and Malone House.
- MS 39/5/8 23/10/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Talks about report on Atomic Power published by British Government, New Education Fellowship and Juvenile Court cases. Speaks about personal affairs, Rav. and recent trip to Dublin. Mentions in high regard *The Mind after Matter* by Dorothy Sayers.
- MS 39/5/9 07/11/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., slight tears on the edge of left-hand side on page 3 and 4, writing unaffected, page 5 smaller size (half of a page). Talks about family affairs. Comments on Rev., Henry Carter's talk at Ulster Hall regarding situation in Germany and Austria and a meeting at Queen's re The Church Report on the Atomic Bomb. Reflects on the meaning of God and religion.
- MS 39/5/10 24/11/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Talks about America, Russia and the situation in Germany. Speaks highly about Thomas Traherne. Discusses Children's Bill and work involved in it. Mentions Children's Guardian. Talks about food shortages in N. I. and the Charitable Annual Meeting.
- MS 39/5/11 08/12/1946 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., tear on the bottom of page 1 and right-hand side of page 3, writing unaffected, page 3 smaller size (half page). Speaks about preparations for Christmas and worries for German people's situation; questions decisions made by USA and British Government. Talks about personal affairs and family.
- MS 39/5/12 26/12/1946 Letter, Aberdeen, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 8 pp., tears on the bottom of page 1, writing slightly affected. Letter covers dates from 26<sup>th</sup> of December to 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1947. Talks about family and friends. Mentions Downie Campbell, 'Children in Cities' and children's law.

## MS 39/6 Correspondence: 1947- 1949 Letters

- MS 39/6/1     11/01/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., small size of paper used. Talks about *Nativity Play* article written by Peg.
- MS 39/6/2     26/01/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Speaks of personal and family affairs. Mentions Mrs Maxwell, R.L. and the play. Talks about Children's Guardian meeting, new Children's Bill and Irene Calvert. Mentions Brian Rankin and Rev. John Faris in connection with a meeting at Queen's University concerning Atomic Power. Remarks on Tom Harrison and his radio broadcast.
- MS 39/6/3     16/02/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight tear on right hand side of page 2, tear on the bottom of page 3, writing unaffected. One newspaper clipping attached to the bottom of last page. Talks about personal and family matters. Comments on an unemployment figure, D.P. (Displaced Persons) camps, R.L., food shortages and Government. Mentions committee for Vocational Training Scheme for N.I. Remarks on Ballet Tours and Sally Gilmour performance.
- MS 39/6/4     11/05/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., slight tears at the top of page 4, writing unaffected. Comments on D.P.'s, Quakers, and the circumstances German and Austrian people are in. Talks in high regard about an article relating to Orthodox Easter and makes comments on Protestant Church. Speaks about attending N.I. National Trust luncheon and meeting the British Charman and Dr Jones. Mentions difficult situation European children are facing and different ways to help them. Talks about Rav., personal affairs and family matters. Comments on *The Perennial Philosophy* by Aldous Huxley.
- MS 39/6/5     26/05/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp. Talks about family matters, Rav. and holiday plans. Mentions Eliz Marwell performance at R.L., Irene Calvert and D.P. School. Comments on Employment Exchange and Juvenile Exchange.
- MS 39/6/6     30/06/1947     Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 16 pp., slight tear in the middle of page 7 and 10, slight tears on top of page 16, writing unaffected. Comments on Polish people in England and possible ways to help them. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends and in detail, recent holidays to England.

- MS 39/6/7 07/07/1947 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp, tear on left hand side on both pages, writing unaffected. Talks about economic situation in Europe and Marshalls Plan. Mentions family affairs.
- MS 39/6/8 03/08/1947 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 11 pp., tear on top of page 11, writing unaffected. Talks in detail about an incident regarding staff at Rav/Ravernet. Mentions mutual friends.
- MS 39/6/9 18/08/1947 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., slight tear on the bottom of page 3 and bottom left-hand side of page 4, writing unaffected. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends and Rav. Remark on religion, Church and Europe. Mentions Louie Bennett and Helen Chenevix.
- MS 39/6/10 14/12/1947 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp, slight tear on top of page 2 and 4, writing unaffected. Comments on *Civilization, Science and Religion* by A. D. Ritchie. Give thoughts on religion and Church. Mentions *Nativity Play*, family affairs, mutual friends, prof. Llubera, and Eleanor Butler visit. Talks about Save the Children Found, Juvenal Employment Services and Nursery School.
- MS 39/6/11 01/02/1948 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Talks about D.P.'s, family affairs, mutual friends, and Rav. Mentions Francesa Wilson, giving a lecture at Queens regarding D.P.'s, *Thoughts on the Constitution* by L.S Amery, and Bureau of Criminal Affairs. Remarks on Irish politics.
- MS 39/6/12 06/09/1949 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, tear at the bottom of all pages and on left-hand the side of page 5, writing unaffected. Talks about family affairs, searching for the new house and mutual friends. Mentions *The Face and Mind of Ireland* by Arland Ussher.
- MS 39/6/13 17/10/1949 Letter, Cranston's Ivanhoe Hotel London, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., small sized paper used. Last part of the letter missing. Comments added on top of page 5. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends and Rav. Mentions centenary celebrations at Queen's University.

## MS 39/7 Correspondence: 1950- 1955 Letters

- MS 39/7/1 29/01/1950 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp., slight tears on the bottom left-hand corner of page 1, on page 5 writing slightly affected by water damage. One newspaper clipping attached. Speaks highly of Rudolf Steiner works and Tyrone Guthrie performance. Mentions contemplating writing a record of "the Charitable" 1774 onwards. Talks about family and ancestry on mother's side, mutual friends and Rav. Mentions a visit to Good Shepherd Convent, luncheon with Louie Bennett re Irish Association and another meeting re social services in N.I. Considers her own political views. Comments on house hunting.
- MS 39/7/2 30/04/1950 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp, tear at the top of page 2, writing unaffected. Talks about family history, mutual friends, house hunting and Rav. Discusses finances.
- MS 39/7/3 12/07/1950 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about family, mutual friends and Rav. Discusses her plans of moving to a new property. Mentions working on a project involving secondary schools. Comments on I.A., situation in Republic and Louie Bennett. Talks about her frustration with *Picture Post*.
- MS 39/7/4 07/08/1950 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., slight tear on top of both pages, writing unaffected. Discusses international affairs e.g. Germany, Korea. Mentions *Picture Post*, Grammer School controversy, Irish Association meeting and Hubert Butler. Talks about family, mutual friends, purchasing a house and Rav. Mentions Helen Chenevix.
- MS 39/7/5 27/08/1950 Letter, Mount Charles Belfast, McNeill to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. (note added). Comments on C.V. Wedgwood *William the Silent* and John Bunyan. Talks about family, mutual friends, house renovation and Rav.
- MS 39/7/6 24/01/1951. Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp., tear on the side of page 1, writing unaffected, page 7 smaller size (half of a page). Mentions Friends House, Iri Hoffmann, Prof Harries, S. S. Society. Comments on Barbra Wootton *Testament for Social Science*. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends, visit to Aberdeen and Rav. Remarks on Presbyterian Church in Scotland.
- MS 39/7/7 12/11/1951 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Tear at the bottom of page 3 and at the bottom of right corner of page 4, writing unaffected, page 4 smaller size used (2/3 of a page). Talks about meeting/conference of members of Juvenile Court from across N.I., Special Care Services and mentions Training Schools. Mentions her sister Peg/Margaret book *The*

*rivers of Babylon*. Gives high comments on Constance Spry *Come Into the Garden*, Cook and H. D. Lewis *Morals and the New Theology*. Discusses speech given by Dr Kathleen Lonsdale at Friends Meeting House re the situation in Europe after the war. Talks about family, mutual friends and Rav. Remarks on American involvement in Europe.

MS 39/7/8 06/01/1952. Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Ink slightly discoloured on page 2, dirt mark on top of the last page, writing unaffected. Talks about celebration at Ravernet. Comments on German people. Mentions family, mutual friends, Clifton House, Christmas festivities and a talk by Danis McCaughey. Reflects on Europe's standing.

MS 39/7/9 14/09/1952 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., part of page 2 written using pencil not an ink pen. Talks about taxes, family, Ravernet, and mutual friends. Mentions visit to Housing Trust homes, Clifton House, and a committee meeting to M.D. institution in Armagh.

MS 39/7/10 29/10/1952 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., end of the letter missing. Reflects on the way Presbyterian Church helps orphaned children. Talks about family, mutual friends and Rav. Mentions resigning from R.L. Board of Governors, Irish Association, Bill Strain, Mary Ann McCracken, and Clifton House. Gives high comments to Evelyn Waugh *Men at Arms* book.

MS 39/7/11 13/11/1955 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Talks about family affairs (Ravernet sale) and mutual friends. Mentions visit to Juvenile Court. Speak about doing research at Queen's Library re Mary Ann McCracken biography.



## MS 39/8 Correspondence: 1956- 1958 Letters

- MS 39/8/1    13/05/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Mentions John Hewitt and a conversation she had with him re aid (Africa) and religion. Reflects on Frank Duff religious beliefs. Talks about meeting Ian Fraser and Vice Chancellor to Commissioner of the Gold Coast and discussion they had. Speaks about mutual friends and family. Speaks of a trip to Edinburgh re McCracken research. Comments on a case at Juvenile Court, protection office and Old People Homes. Discusses the sale of property after mother's death.
- MS 39/8/2    17/06/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Discusses family affairs, mutual friends. Makes positive comment on *Quakers in Ireland*. Mentions Clifton House, useful changes to children's welfare services, Report on the Nest Record Scheme, Ruth Draper, and a talk she went to re South Africa. Talks about acquiring photographs of the McCracken miniatures. Reflects on Trevor Huddleston *Naught for Your Comfort*.
- MS 39/8/3    21/06/1956.    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis.  
Manuscript, 1 pp. Discusses completing research and going through many proceedings to have her book published.
- MS 39/8/4    01/10/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., tear on top of page 3, writing unaffected. Mentions family, holidays, and mutual friends. Comments on conference organized by Irish Assoc. Discusses research re Mary Ann McCracken. Talks about John Hewitt and Clifton House.
- MS 39/8/5    28/10/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight tear on the bottom of page 1, ink slightly smudged on the back of page 3, writing unaffected. Talks about family, mutual friends, trip to Dublin, research and work she is doing on upcoming book. Mentions *John Graham Convict 1824. An Historical Narrative* by Robert Gibbings. Discusses Hungarian Revolution.
- MS 39/8/6    02/12/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., slight tear on the side of page 3, writing unaffected. Talks about family, mutual friends, and Peg/Margaret's book *By the Rivers of Babylon*. Comments on Hungarian refugee children, commemoration service at Clifton House, and Rav. Mentions Louie Bennett's death. Discusses reviews of draft copy and the publication of her book.
- MS 39/8/7    30/12/1956    Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., small discoloration mark at the bottom of on page 4, writing unaffected. Comments on family members and mutual friends. Talks about Mary Ann McCracken and Mary Leadbeater. Discusses publication of her book. Mentions purchasing bequest and reading *The Leadbeater Papers* by Mary Leadbeater.



- MS 39/8/8 03/01/1957 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., small paper used. Quotes poem by Richard Shackleton. Talks about family.
- MS 39/8/9 20/01/1957 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., a few marks from discoloration on page 2, tear on the left-hand side of page 4 and 6 and right-hand side of page 5, writing unaffected, page 6 smaller size (half of a page). Talks about family affairs, mutual friends, Mary Ann McCracken, and her upcoming book. Comments on a housing problem in the UK. Mentions Quakers and Woodbrooke, her late father and Samuel Beckett *All That Fall*, one-act radio play.
- MS 39/8/10 02/02/1958 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., small discoloration mark on page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends, discusses reviews of draft copy and the publication of her book. Mentions J.C. Beckett's, paper on M.A. McCracken, Historical Society and Richard Baxter.
- MS 39/8/11 11/05/1958 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., tears on both sides of page 3, writing unaffected. Mentions family affairs, mutual friends, and I. Association. Comments on Henry Cooke (minister), Robert John Lynd (father of Robert Lynd). Talks about Queen Mother's visit to Northern Ireland and her impression after meeting her.
- MS 39/8/12 Hibernia, September 1958, Irish magazine.  
2 pp., tears at the bottom and right-hand side of both pages, two holes in the middle of page 1, writing slightly affected. Contains an article about Northern Ireland's political situation, mentions Mary A. McNeill, includes a photograph featuring her.

## MS 39/9 Correspondence: 1960- 1962 Letters

- MS 39/9/1      04/12/1960      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., bit of a water damage on page 1, writing slightly affected. Talks about family affairs and mentions attending a meeting regarding the proposal for the urgent need of housing for the elderly. Reflects on life. Comments on Allen Figgis grand party at Hibernian Hotel.
- MS 39/9/2      05/01/1961      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Talks about W. M. Cultural Meeting being cancelled and upcoming B. M. A. meeting in Belfast. Mentions family affairs and mutual friends. Talks about Mary Ann McCracken and reactions to her recently published book. Received a confirmation of M. A. nomination from Queen's University.
- MS 39/9/3      24/09/1961      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., tear at the top of page 2, writing unaffected. Comments on recent holidays. Mentions Rosses Williamson play *Theresa of Avila* and Percy French's play. Comments on Conor Cruise O'Brien, Hammarskjöld, and Khrushchev. Talks about family and mutual friends.
- MS 39/9/4      26/11/1961      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., one newspaper clipping attached, page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about family and mutual friends. Discusses Samaritans annual meeting and talks of great need of support for people with mental difficulties coming from all background (meaning religion). Briefly mentions the turbulent by-election at Queens, and B.C. Social Welfare. Talks about idea for a new book.
- MS 39/9/5      30/12/1961      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., red pen marks on page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about family and mutual friends. Mentions Conor Cruise O'Brien and Judith Listowel *The Modern Hostess*. Reflects on commitment and R.C. Discusses her plans to resign from her position at Juvenile Court.
- MS 39/9/6      13/02/1962      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., small tears on top of page 5, writing unaffected, smaller size of a paper used. Discussing plans for traveling to England and Ireland. Mentions family affairs and mutual friends. Talks about her plans re *Little Tom* and her success with *Mary Ann McCracken*.
- MS 39/9/7      22/05/1962      Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., page 3 and 4 smaller size of paper used. Talks about Vere Foster exhibition, traveling plans, family affairs and mutual friends. Comments on her last day in the Juvenile Court.

- MS 39/9/8 20/01/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., marking on top left-hand corner from staple on page 1 and 4. One long newspaper clipping attached. Reflects on life, age, and life experiences. Mentions Irish Association, Prof. Rev. John Ryan and a lecture he gives, paper clip attached relates to it. Comments on National Trust N.I plans re Downhill and The Causeway, and British Museum. Talks about *Little Tom Drennan* and her work towards *Vere Foster*. Discusses the preparations and events of the Irish Association public luncheon.
- MS 39/9/9 08/02/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., marking left hand corner from staple. One newspaper clipping attached, tear on right hand side of newspaper clip. Mentions Theo Moody and L.E.A. Talks about The Big Freeze, family affairs and mutual friends. Comments on political situation re UK trying to enter Common Market, de Gaulle and USA. Reviews article "The N.I. Problem".
- MS 39/9/10 03/03/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Talks about family and friends. Mentions Irish Association annual meeting at Enniskillen. Comments on *Letters from a Traveller* by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Talks about a fascinating discussion she had with Prof. Rav. J. Ryan.
- MS 39/9/11 07/07/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp. 2 newspaper clippings attached, both relating to Rev. Ian Paisley. Talks about family and mutual friends. Comments on Governmental reception in Dublin for President Kennedy's visit to Dublin and her impression of him. Mentions Sir Graham Larmour, Khrushchev, and *Vere Foster*.
- MS 39/9/12 14/07/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Talks about President Kennedy's visit, and its impact. Mentions BBC, Irish RC, Edith Somerville, Ernest Blyth, Harry Boland, and I.R.A. Comments on *Lord Byron's Wife*.
- MS 39/9/13 25/08/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Reflects on life and faith. Talks about family matters, mutual friends, and research towards her new book.
- MS 39/9/14 22/09/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., page 4 smaller size used (half of a page). Talks about family matters, mutual friends, visit to Chatsworth and her research. Mentions Cliffton House Committee.
- MS 39/9/15 01/12/1963 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., page 4 smaller size used (half of a page). Mentions Cliffton House, President Kennedy's death, Trinity's new Library, Liam Miller and Dolmen Press

(bankruptcy), and Helen Gardner. Talks about family, mutual friends Vere Foster, *Little Tom Drennen* and her research.

## MS 39/10 Correspondence: 1964- 1967 Letters

- MS 39/10/1 02/02/1964 Letter.  
Manuscript, 1 pp. small size of paper used. Talks about Vienna and Salzburg.
- MS 39/10/2 22/03/1964 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp. Making holidays plans. Talks about family matters. Mentions St. Patrick's Day, R.C. District Council of D'patrick, Ian Paisley, her impression of Bro. Stephen, I. Association meeting, and Trevor O'Neill.
- MS 39/10/3 18/10/1964 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight discoloration on page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about N.I. election, Davies Street Riots, and Rev. Ian Paisley. Mentions N.I. Association of Trinity Collage annual meeting (intense exchange of words between Chancellors of Dublin and Queen's Universities), Frederick Boland, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, Sir Frank Montgomery. Discusses the results of election.
- MS 39/10/4 24/01/1965 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Comments on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> meeting between heads of government of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Talks about taking part in (MK) UTV program *This Lady*. Mentions importance of correctly using television, Paddy Scott (producer), Ernest Strathdee, I.A. and R.C. bishops.
- MS 39/10/5 19/09/1965 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Talks about family affairs, recent holidays, and mutual friends. Reflects on the end of life.
- MS 39/10/6 08/01/1966 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp. Talks about art exhibition and Oisín Kelly's St Patrick's Breastplate she acquired (at present on display at Down County Museum). Comments on Claude Ciertos Teilhard de Chardin. Mentions Brother Stephen Kelly of St Patricks accepting OBE and his connection to the IRA.
- MS 39/10/7 20/01/1966 Letter, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 1 pp., small paper used. Mentions Irish Association meeting, John Horgan father and grandson.

- MS 39/10/8 16/04/1966 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about family affairs, holidays plans, performances in celebration of the Easter Rising, and Rev. Ian Paisley.
- MS 39/10/9 03/07/1966 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
*Manuscript, 3 pp. Speaks highly of James Lees-Milne's The Bachelor Duke: A Life of William Spencer Cavendish.* Comments on family affairs and makes plans for holidays. Remarks on the unrest and tension in Belfast. Mentions Irish Association Committee meeting, Queen Elizabeth visit to Northern Ireland, UVF, Special Power Act, Ian Paisley, IRA. Disapproves of the Unionist Party and its role in Northern Irish politics.
- MS 39/10/10 26/03/1967 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 7 pp. Comments on *Margery Fry* by Enid Huws Jones. Talks about family affairs and mutual friends. Remark on the Roman Catholic Church and lack of/unwillingness to change. Mentions Ian Paisley, Allen Figgis, *Vere Foster* she hopes to publish, Peter Rankin, research on Henry Bruen, and Irish Association.
- MS 39/10/11 07/05/1967 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., page 6, half a page. Talks about family matters and mutual friends. Mentions John Gray, Allen Figgins's mother, Dublin Intercontinental Hotel, Terence O'Neill. Discusses publication of *Vere Foster*. Talks about protests, newspaper cuttings relating to it missing.
- MS 39/10/12 26/11/1967 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp, page 4, half a page. Discusses problems with publication of *Vere Foster*. Mentions Prof. Beckett, Allen Figgins, and family affairs. Talks about Rosc'67 exhibition in Dublin and Queen's exhibition "Festival 67". Mentions Lady Henry Bruce granting access to papers on Bishop of Derry.

## MS 39/11 Correspondence: 1968- 1969 Letters

- MS 39/11/1 14/01/1968 Letter, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Mentions Peg's radio interview for a European broadcaster. Discussed family matters and mutual friends. Expresses frustration with issues related to the publication of *Vere Foster* and her surprise to receive a portrait of Lady Bess Foster.
- MS 39/11/2 24/03/1968 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends and holidays plans. Comments on a Budget at Trust, The Somerville and Ross exhibition of paintings and Sir Patrick Coghill speech. Mentions Prof. Beckett lecture re exhibition, auction of Somerville and Ross letters, and Aer Lingus tragic plane crash. Accepts a position of a trustee at Lyric Theatre.
- MS 39/11/3 24/06/1968 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., tear at the bottom on the right-hand side of page 4, ink smudged on the left-hand side and slight marking on page 4, writing unaffected. Talks about Sybil le Brocquy re Lyrick Theatre, family affairs, mutual friends. Discusses auction of Somerville and Ross letters and National Library of Ireland, Trinity, and Queen's Libraries actions regarding it.
- MS 39/11/4 11/10/1968 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp. Comments on family affairs. Talks about Ulster Architectural Heritage Committee's work in Derry, Civil Liberties march in Belfast and Derry, E. McAteer, and the political situation in Northern Ireland. Mentions Lyric Theatre Trustees meeting, O'Malley's, Gibraltar disturbances. Discusses research involved in Bishop of Derry (registration of the Archdiocese of Armagh).
- MS 39/11/5 10/11/1968 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., small ink smudge on left-hand side on page 1, smaller size of paper used for page 6, P.S. note added. Talks about the death of Sir Graham Larmour, Irish Association (misleading minutes), family affairs, Lyric Theatre meeting of trustees, Robert McNorth and Rev. The added note discusses the resolved situation at the Lyric Theatre and McNeill's frustration with the book release process.
- MS 39/11/6 08/12/1968 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., newspaper clipping attached talks about political and religious climate in Northern Ireland. Letter discusses incidents/events happening across Ulster. Mentions Terence O'Neill, Richard Hayward, Colin Middleton, and Ulster Painting '68' exhibition, Trinity College Library (new building), and her disappointment at seeing *A Man for All Seasons* film. Comment on Lyric trustees meeting.

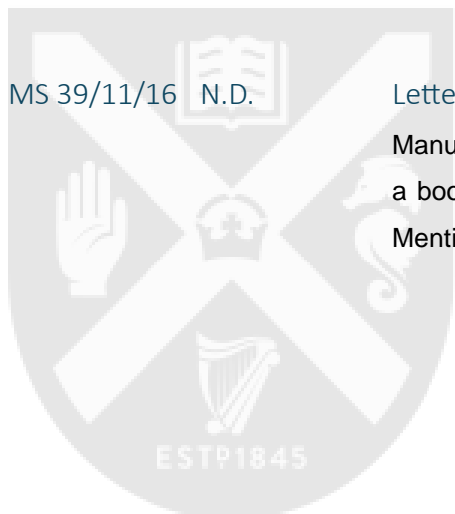
- MS 39/11/7 02/01/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp, ink smudged on page 1, marking left-hand corner from staple on page 1 and right-hand side on page 6, writing unaffected, smaller size of paper used for page 6 (half of a page). Talks about family affairs, mutual friends, publication of Vere Foster, and research on her Bishop project. Discusses Lyrics Trustees meeting regarding financial problems. Comments on events that happened at the beginning of January re PD (People's Democracy) march.
- MS 39/11/8 15/01/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., tear on top of both pages, markings and a few small holes from a pin on top of page 1, writing unaffected, newspaper clipping attached (Irish Times). Talks about rioting and civil unrest following the events of early January. Criticises BBC coverage of the Nigerian Civil War. Mentions Terence O'Neill, cabinet and setting up official inquiry into the disturbances in Derry and elsewhere. Briefly comments on *By The Rivers Of Babylon - A story of relief work among the displaced persons of Europe* written by her sister Margaret. Attached clipping condemns the actions of Primate (the head of Church of Ireland) re recent incidents.
- MS 39/11/9 13/02/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., tear on left-hand side on page 6, smaller size of paper used for page 6 (half of a page). Mentions resigning from The Special Care Services and being made Honorary Governor of the Service (Special Care Services). Discusses in-depth the challenging political environment and the impending elections in Northern Ireland.
- MS 39/11/10 02/04/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., discoloration in the middle of page 3, writing unaffected, smaller size of paper used for page 4 (half of a page). Talks about Christabel Bielenberg and her book. Mentions Christopher Sykes, Ulster American Heritage Society meeting, Trinity's new Library, and NI political situation (Unionist Party). Discusses family matters.
- MS 39/11/11 15/06/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp, small tear on right-hand side of page 1, writing unaffected. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends. Discusses holiday plans. Comments on NI and politics in the Republic of Ireland, mentions Bernadette Devlin, Bessie Braddock, Cecil King,
- MS 39/11/12 20/08/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., slight ink smudge on page 4, writing unaffected, smaller size of paper used for page 4 (half of a page). Reflects on the 1921 settlement. Discusses UK and Irish politics. Mentions James Chichester-Clark, Quintin Hogg, and Harold Wilson's decision to deploy troops to Northern Ireland. Covers personal matters and holiday plans.

MS 39/11/13 26/10/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Discusses with high regard Nesca Robb's *A History of Richmond Lodge School*. Comments on The Wiles Lectures at Queens and the discussion on the "the theory of Civilization. Mentions Prof J. H. Elliott and his talk; production of Jhon Osborn's *Luther* at the Lyric, and pianist Ivan Davis. Discusses Unionists, O'Neill, and how complicated the political climate in NI is.

MS 39/11/14 30/11/1969 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., on the back of page 2 parts of writing illegible. Comments on 'The Price of My Soul' by Bernadette Devlin. Mentions annual meeting at Clifton House. Talks about family affairs and the Vietnam War.

MS 39/11/15 N.D. (12/1968?). Letter, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Marking on the top right-hand corner from staple, slight ink smudge on page 2, writing unaffected. Talks about Terence 'O'Neill resignation and an election of a new Prime Minister.

MS 39/11/16 N.D. Letter, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 1 pp. Note added to the left-hand side in red ink. Copy of a few pages from a book relating to McNeill's research. Discusses her findings regarding The Bishop. Mentions James Malton's drawings.



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## MS 39/12 Correspondence: 1970 Letters

- MS 39/12/1 16/01/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp. Criticizes Christabel Bielenberg's decision to have her book adapted into a movie. Remark on Irish Church Act and Irish Government. Mentions Lady Henry Bruce asking to return the papers on the Bishop of Derry. Talks about family affairs, ongoing problems with the publication of *Vere*, and the political setup between England and Ireland. Considers an idea of setting up a Trust for donations to benefit the community. Mentions possible publication of *Vere* at the end of a letter.
- MS 39/12/2 16/02/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight ink smudge on bottom of page 3, writing unaffected. Comments on Roman Church and its unwillingness to change in light of an article she read. Talks about Violet Powell *The Irish Cousins: The Books and Background of Somerville and Ross* and Lord Longford's *Humility*. Mentions Vere and finishings edits before publication, Irish Association political standing, meeting with General Toler of The Coldstream Guards, and Lady Brookeborough. Discusses family matters.
- MS 39/12/3 06/05/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Note added on top of page 1. Talks about her book and the final stages before publication. Mentions Nursery School Mothers Club, Rev. Ian Paisley's church, David Corkery, N.U.M. meeting and discusses candidates for upcoming election.
- MS 39/12/4 07/05/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., smaller size of paper used. Expresses her irritation with a telephone call from Dr. Harley regarding copyrights and alterations to her book. Describes a conversation she had at a lunch gathering with one of the wives of the Stormont politicians about politics, social care, and the riots in Northern Ireland.
- MS 39/12/5 04/06/1970. Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., page 3 smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about personal affairs. Mentions receiving papers for publication and discusses recent correspondence relating to it. Expresses concern over troubles in the Shankill area and the government failure to find a solution. Recommends Andrew Boyd *Holy War in Belfast*.
- MS 39/12/6 15/06/1970 Letter, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., smaller size of paper used. Comments on a situation in South Antrim and the unrest in other parts of Northern Ireland. Discusses upcoming election and remark on parties involved. Mentions Labour, Unionist, Conservatives and Alliance party, Enoch Powell, Paisley, and Charles Haughey. Talks about personal matters.

- MS 39/12/7 03/07/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., ink smudged on page 1 and 2, writing unaffected. Talks about family. Discusses the serious situation on the Falls Road, at the shipyard, and in other areas. Mentions working on *The Bishop* and *Vere Foster* Index.
- MS 39/12/8 09/09/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., ink blot on top of page 1, writing unaffected. Discusses writers and poets she finds exceptional: Helen Waddell, Enid McLeod, Iris Butler (*The Rules of Three*), and one she finds disappointing, Elizabeth Longford. Talks about privet matters and makes plans for holidays.
- MS 39/12/9 27/09/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Talks about family affairs. Comments on Iris Butler, the troubles at Shankill Road and reflects on the similarities with events from history. Talks about Annual Meeting of the Irish Association, people she met and chatted with. Discusses personal affairs and recommends *Victorian People* by Asa Briggs.
- MS 39/12/10 24/10/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp., from page 4 ink colour change to black. Talks about Nesca Robb, her style, and her literary works. Discusses personal matters, including proofreading, publishing, and book promotion issues. Mentions Haughey trial, part of the Arms Crisis political scandal in the Republic of Ireland. Remark on discarded Donegall project and Preservation of Countryside project.
- MS 39/12/11 1/11/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., page 3, smaller size of paper used (half of a page). Talks about shared research on Augustus (Sir Augustus Foster) and mentions mutual friends. Debates Hemingway's religious views and the Roman Catholic Church.
- MS 39/12/12 08/11/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., notes added to pages 1 and 6, ink slightly smudged on page 6, writing unaffected. Talks about family affairs, mutual friends, Augustus, and Christmas arrangements. Discusses the Arms Crisis political scandal in the Republic of Ireland. Gives opinion on the N.I. political situation and possible solutions. Mentions Nesca Robb's new book and a paper on the Bishop, she is debating to present at a History Society gathering.
- MS 39/12/13 22/11/1970 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 5 pp, notes added to page 1 and 4. Irish Times newspaper clipping attached relating to talks about Republic of Ireland joining the E.E.C. (EU). Addresses personal and family-related issues. Mentions Historical Society meeting and a paper she was very impressed with, discussing the relationship between King John and the Irish barons, as well as the Normans in Ireland. Remark on John Piper monograph.

Comments on a paper on The Bishop, she is going to present to the Historical Society.  
Complains about the constant delays in publication.

## MS 39/13 Correspondence: 1971 Letters

MS 39/13/1 06/01/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 4 pp., notes added to pages 1 and 3. Complains about hearing loss. Talks about family, Christmas engagements (one of which was a visit to Robert McKinstry's house, Chrome Hall), mutual friends and research into Augustus grave (Sir Augustus Foster). Mentions John Hewitt (poet), John Montague (poet), and new edition of R. L. Stevenson's *Children's Garden of Verses*.

MS 39/13/2 27/03/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 2 pp., ink blot on top of page 1, writing slightly affected, marking top right-hand corner from staple on page 1, end of the letter missing. Comments on Unionist Parliamentary Party and NI Labour Party, as well as Terence O'Neill and James Chichester-Clark. Discusses Alliance Party Conference and cultural and political connection between Ulster, Ireland, and Great Britain.

MS 39/13/3 18/04/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 3 pp., slight ink discoloration on page 1. Two newspaper clippings attached (Irish Times dated 01.04.71 and 13.04.71). Both relating to political situation in Northern Ireland. Continues her conversation from the earlier telephone call with Peg. Mentions Woodbrooke (Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre). Talks about family related matters. Reflects on prolonging life and on death. Mentions Lilo (Lily) Stephens, how impressed she was with Tudor clothes exhibition, and a talk she gave at Friends of the Ulster Museum on the topic of Bishop of Derry.

MS 39/13/4 09/05/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.

Manuscript, 5 pp., markings on top right-hand corner from staple on page 5, comment added at the bottom of page 2. Talks about receiving a pre-published copy of *Vere Foster* and explains in detail the photographs that were selected. Gives a brief description of the Foster family. Complains on hearing loss and the challenges it presents. Remarks on the differences between Protestant versus Roman Catholic religions, mentions St. Paul's R.C. church in relation to the Troubles, comments on the disturbances happening across Belfast. Criticises the review of *Vere Foster* published in Irish Times. Mentions Ann Saddlemyer and the lecture she presented at Queen's.

MS 39/13/5 23/05/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 6 pp., markings top and bottom left-hand corner from staple on page 1 and top right-hand corner on page 5 and 6, writing unaffected, tear on right-hand side on page 5, slight discoloration in the middle at the back of page 5, writing affected. Talks about viewing Bruce Family collection of miniatures and silhouette, mention miniatures of the Bishop, his wife and Bess, as well collection nickname 'Derby' treasure. Comments on weekend trip to France (Bourges, Vézelay), and positive feedback after publishing Vere. Remarks on John Hewitt letter of criticism re her new publication. Mentions political situation in N.I.

MS 39/13/6 17/06/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., slight markings from staple on page 1. Two newspaper clippings attached (Irish Times dated 17 and 18.06.71). Both relating to what happened at Vere Foster primary school in Belfast. Talks about family affairs (debate on reasons not to attend the wedding of her nephew) and positive review of her book.

MS 39/13/7 29/06/1971 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp. Discusses potential property for Peg to purchase, debate on the wedding, mentions P.E.N Club meeting, situation in N.I. government, specifically regarding Faulkner and Peisley.

MS 39/13/8 N.D. Letter.  
Manuscript, 2 pp, two small holes from a pin on right top corner on page 2, writing unaffected. Notes added on page 1 relating to potential date (04/04/1971). First page of the letter missing. Mentions Marilyn Wallace and Terence de V. White. Breaks down in detail the state of politics in N. Ireland.

## MS 39/14 Correspondence: 1973- 1978 Letters

- MS 39/14/1 06/02/1973 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., marking on the bottom of page 1, writing unaffected. Contemplate on old age and additional challenges relating to it. Mentions Siobhan McKenna's *Juno and the Paycock*, working on a 'Bishop of Derry' book (receiving a map of Elise Tomas family tree). Mentions South Belfast elections. Remark on Austin Clarke critical review of the new edition of Somerville and Ross. Speaks highly of *Mount Musick* by Edith Somerville. Mentions appointment with Lord Belstead.
- MS 39/14/2 19/02/1973 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Comments on the Royal wedding (Princess Anne and Mark Phillip). Remarks on article in Irish Times by Maeve Binchy relating to it, calls it 'a bit too clever' and mentions the response it received. Discusses the future for Council of Ireland and talks about recent politics. Comments on the Brooks dinner party (Alec Cooke, Lord Belstead), *The Rape of Lucretia* opera by Benjamin Britten, a bomb explosion near the Opera House, Roisin McNearney, Richard Lewis (tenor), and William Whitelaw.
- MS 39/14/3 25/10/1973 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp., marking on the bottom of page 4, writing unaffected. Talks about incidents relating to the Troubles, S.C. Found annual meeting, mentions William van Straubenzee and how impressed she was with his talk re children, Ulster Unionist Commercial meeting, and Unionist stand in politics.
- MS 39/14/4 29/11/1973 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Discusses personal matters, incidents related to the Troubles, the political situation in Northern Ireland, Paisley, and the Council of Ireland. Comments on a play at the Arts Theatre and Culture Festival. Talks about her research into Augustus (Sir Augustus Foster) and mentions enjoying reading the diaries of Elizabeth Foster (Duchess of Devonshire and a mother of Augustus). Discusses the wedding of Princess Ann and royal family.
- MS 39/14/5 14/02/1977 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 2 pp., a pen mark on right-side of page 1, writing unaffected. Last part of the letter missing. Comments on a TV program about famous women e.g. Mrs Baker Eddy. Discusses family matters, bombing incidents, individual stories of people affected by it, and challenges related to Belfast's current situation.
- MS 39/14/6 25/07/1977 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., smaller size of paper used for page 3 (half of a page). Talks about mutual friends and acquaintances. Mentions the Royal Victoria Hospital and *Monteverdi Vespers for the Blessed Virgin* concert.

- MS 39/14/7 ?/02/1978 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., ink smudged on the back of page 3, writing slightly affected. Mentions talking to Maureen Boyd at the Ulster Architecture Heritage Society meeting. Comments on Charlie Brett (Sir Charles Brett) and Philip Bell new positions, Mary O'Hara and her performance (in detail), and Charles Brett (musician). Discusses mutual friend and family matters.
- MS 39/14/8 12/02/1978 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp., slight tears on top of page 3, writing unaffected. Talks about personal matters, family and mutual friends. Mentions National Health reform, freezing cold in Belfast and blizzards over in England, Ulster Museum new Lecture Hall/Theatre and a talk re Mary Delany (Granville).
- MS 39/14/9 25/06/1978 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 3 pp. Discusses family relating issues. Comments on a talk by C. C. O'Brian at Social Services Department Hall at Irish – English Association meeting and I. Tames report on it. Mentions Bishop script, Barry O'Neill, Irish Association, Dr Drennan, Lyrick Theatre, and Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Ulster Museum.
- MS 39/14/10 13/07/1978 Letter, Mount Pleasant Stranmillis, McNeil to 'Peg'.  
Manuscript, 4 pp. Give thoughts on John Peck and his book *Dublin from Downing Street*. Mentions the deaths of Constable Turbitt and John Boyle. Expresses strong views on the current situation in Northern Ireland. Remarks on typewriters and the references she is currently working on. Discusses her conversation with Jim Gracey from Backstaff Press regarding both her own and Brian Duffin's book. Further comments on her own work and that of Brian Duffin's.



## Timeline

1937	Secretary for Irish Christian Fellowship
1938 – 1953	Honorary Secretary for the Northern Committee of the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations
1939 – 1945	District Officer for County Borough of Belfast
1941	Advanced to Second Vice Chair of the Irish Association
1943	Secretary to the Committee for the Nursery School Association of Northern Ireland, nominated as Children's Guardian, became a member of the Board of Management of Eastern Special Care Services, member of the Committee of the Ulster Folk Life Society (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum)
1945	Appointed as an officer to the Assistance Board (National Assistance Board)
1945 – 1964	Board member of the Belfast Charitable Society, Committee for the Vocational Training Scheme for NI
1953	Declined MBE
1955	Resigned from the R. L. Board of Governors
1960	Published 'The Life and Times of Mary Ann McCracken'
1961	Accepted Honorary M. A. from Queen's University
1962	Published Little Tom Drennon
1962	Resigned from the Juvenile Court
1964	Resigned from the Board of the Charitable Society
1968	Became trustee for the Lyric Theatre
1969	Resigned from Special Care Services (Special Care Committee)
1969	Received the title of Honorary Governor of the Service (Special Care Services)
1971	Published Vere Foster