

**Beatrix Potter collection, 1884-2004 (bulk 1900-1943)**  
**FLP.RBD.POTTER**

**Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 18, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Free Library of Philadelphia: Rare Book Department  
Philadelphia, PA, 19103

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## Summary Information

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|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Free Library of Philadelphia: Rare Book Department   |
| <b>Creator</b>          | Free Library of Philadelphia.  |
| <b>Title</b>            | Beatrix Potter collection  |
| <b>Date [bulk]</b>      | Bulk, 1900-1943  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1884-2004  |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 40.64 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language</b>         | English  |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | This collection consists of material created by or about the children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter. It contains correspondence, original artwork, manuscripts, collectibles, research material, and ephemera collected by the Free Library of Philadelphia. |

### Preferred Citation note

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number OR call number], Beatrix Potter collection, 1884-2004, Free Library of Philadelphia, Rare Book Department.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Beatrix Potter was an English author and illustrator known for her children's books, most famously *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902). She was born on July 30, 1866 to a well-to-do family in London, but the family often spent summers at country estates in the highlands of Scotland and in the Lake District. It was during these vacations that she and her brother, Bertram, were able to explore and study nature. She was especially interested in fungi and her observations led her to develop a theory on the germination of fungal spores. Because she was an amateur (and a woman), her paper on the subject had to be presented to the Linnean Society in 1897 by George Masee. Potter was an avid lover of animals and would often draw the rabbits, mice, lizards, and dogs she had as pets. She kept journals and drawing notebooks, developing the artistic and writing styles later reflected in his children's books.

In the early 1890s she sold some illustrations for use in greeting cards, but her focus was still on natural history. She also wrote elaborate picture letters to children of friends and family. They were just a hobby until she decided to turn one of the letters into a children's book. After expanding on a story about a mischievous rabbit begun in a letter to Noel Moore, she approached six different publishers, all of whom rejected it. She then published her own edition. Although the publisher Frederick Warne was one of the publishers who had rejected the original manuscript, he reconsidered when he saw the privately printed edition, and agreed to publish it if Potter would redo the black and white illustrations in color. In 1902 *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was published by Warne to great success. This was followed by twenty-two more books in "The Tales" series. The first merchandising of the Peter Rabbit characters began when Potter came out with a Peter Rabbit doll in 1903.

In 1905 she bought Hill Top Farm near Sawrey. It became her sanctuary where she would go to paint, write, and run a farm. Then in 1909 she bought Castle Farm, the farm across from Hill Top, planning to preserve the Lake District from development. She was encouraged in these endeavors by William Heelis, a local solicitor, whom she married in 1913. She also purchased a sheep farm called Troutbeck Park in 1923, becoming an avid and successful breeder of Herdwick sheep.

In addition to her preservation work, she continued writing books into the 1930s. The final volume of the twenty-three Tales was *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, published in 1930. Her most autobiographical work, *The Fairy Caravan*, takes place in the Lake District and follows the adventures of a young guinea pig who runs away from home to join a travelling circus. It was published in 1929 in America but not made available in England until 1952. She illustrated all of her own books, with the exception of *Sister Anne* (1932), her retelling of the legend of Bluebeard.

Beatrix Potter died from pneumonia and heart disease on December 22, 1943, leaving almost all of her property and much of her art to the National Trust. The estate covered 4,000 acres and included cottages, herds of Herdwick sheep, and cattle spread across sixteen different farms. This donation was the largest gift to the National Trust at the time and allowed for the preservation of lands now in the Lake District National Park and the establishment of the Beatrix Potter Gallery in the Lake District.

## Bibliography

"About Beatrix Potter," *The Beatrix Potter Society*, accessed January 3, 2011, <http://www.beatrixpottersociety.org.uk/files/aboutbp.html>.

Taylor, Judy. *Beatrix Potter Artist, Storyteller and Countrywoman*. London: Penguin Group, 1986.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection contains artwork, collectibles, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, and reference materials by or relating to children's author and illustrator Beatrix Potter, dating from 1884-2004.

The majority of the correspondence is written by Beatrix Potter except for six letters written by members of her friends and family. Some of the correspondence concerns publishing matters relating to books Potter wrote, particularly those addressed to Alexander McKay. There are also many personal letters and greeting cards written to friends, with those to Marian Frazer Harris Perry of particular interest because they describe Potter's thoughts and experiences living in the English countryside during the early years of World War II. Marian Frazer Harris Perry was the widow of James DeWolf Perry, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. She was one of Beatrix Potter's American visitors who became a very good friend and frequent correspondent. The collection contains over 50 of her letters from Beatrix Potter, most given by Mrs. Perry's niece, Mrs. Richard Stevens.

The artwork consists of many pieces that were published in *The Tailor of Gloucester* and *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*. Her fascination with wild flora and fauna is represented by landscapes and studies of butterflies, cats, and other animals. Manuscripts include full drafts of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson* and *The Tailor of Gloucester*, as well as some items related to *The Tale of Pigling Bland* and *How to Lose Furry Friends*. Most of the collectibles consist of figurines, puzzles, and stationery. Reference materials include information from Potter exhibitions and clippings and periodicals about Beatrix Potter.

The hundreds of published volumes in the Beatrix Potter collection are not included in this finding aid, but are available through the Library's main catalog.

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## Arrangement note

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This collection is arranged into six series: I. Artwork; II. Correspondence; III. Manuscripts; IV. Photographs; V. Collectibles and ephemera; VI. Reference materials. Series I and Series IV are arranged chronologically, with undated materials placed at the end of the series. All other series are arranged alphabetically.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Free Library of Philadelphia: Rare Book Department

### Revision Description

Re-processed, excepting Artwork and Correspondence 5/2014

### Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

### Conditions Governing Use note

The right of access to material does not imply the right of publication. Permission for reprinting, reproduction, or extensive quotation from the rare books, manuscripts, prints, or drawings must be obtained through written application, stating the use to be made of the material. The reader bears the responsibility for any possible infringement of copyright laws in the publication of such material. A reproduction fee will be charged if the material is to be reproduced in a commercial publication.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The majority of this collection was purchased by the Free Library from dealers, with some materials given to the Free Library by donors. For more information on specific acquisitions, please contact the Rare Book Department.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Victoria and Albert Museum: The Beatrix Potter Collections.

The Morgan Library & Museum.

Princeton University Cotsen Childrens' Library: The Beatrix Potter Collection of Lloyd Cotsen.

Toronto Public Library: The Osborne Collection: Childrens' Literature up to 1910.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.
- Beswick (Firm).
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History.
- David McKay Company.
- Ford Motor Company.
- Frederick Warne (Firm).
- Hildesheimer and Faulkner.
- Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide.
- Milton Bradley Company.
- Saml. Gabriel Sons & Company.

### Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Drawings (visual works)
- Ephemera
- Figurines
- Greeting cards
- Illustrations
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Sketches
- Watercolors (paintings)

### Personal Name(s)

- Cady, Harrison, 1877-1970
- Collamore, Harry Bacon
- Heelis, Aday

- Heelis, Sylvie
- Keane, Bil, 1922-2011
- McKay, Alexander
- McKay, David
- McKay, Jean
- Moore, Winifrede
- Perry, Marian Frazer Harris
- Potter, Beatrix, 1866-1943
- Potter, Rupert, 1832-1914
- Potter, W. B. (Walter Bertram), 1872-1918
- Shaffer, Ellen, 1904-
- Stevens, Elizabeth H.
- Stevens, Richard K. (Richard Kingsbury), 1901-
- Warne, Amelia
- Warne, Minnie

### **Subject(s)**

- Children's authors--20th century
- Children's literature--20th century
- Illustrated children's books--20th century
- Illustration of books--20th century
- Women artists, English--20th century.
- Women authors--Great Britain
- World War, 1939-1945



## Artwork

## Collection Inventory

| Artwork  | Call-Number       |
|--|-------------------|
| Watercolor of lizard, 1 page 1885  | RBD BP<br>ART 27  |
| Pencil studies of a horse in harness, 2 pages 1886 January 28  | RBD BP<br>ART 17  |
| Pen and ink and pencil studies of horses and birds, 2 pages 1886 March   | RBD BP<br>ART 26  |
| "Jumping spider," watercolor 1886 May  | RBD BP<br>ART 106 |
| "Watercolors of newts, female and male," 2 items 1886 May  | RBD BP<br>ART 28  |
| "Electra pilosa, magnified," watercolor 1886 November 19   | RBD BP<br>ART 86  |
| Pen and ink and pencil studies of cows, 2 pages 1886 December  | RBD BP<br>ART 21  |
| <p><b>General note</b></p> <p>Recto of sheet has two studies of single cow and one study of group of four cows. Verso has one study of cow's head and one fragmentary pencil sketch.</p> |                   |

## Artwork

Pen and ink and watercolor studies of bats, 1 page 1887 April 7

RBD BP  
ART 99

Watercolor and pen and ink studies of a beetle, 1 page 1887 December

RBD BP  
ART 97

Pen and ink studies of cows and buttercups, 2 pages 1888 July 6

RBD BP  
ART 29

**General note**

Recto of sheet has two studies of cow's head and one cow reclining; verso has sketch of buttercups.

Pastel and pencil studies of a duck, 1 page 1889 February 11

RBD BP  
ART 20

"Fawe Park," sepia ink and watercolor, 1 page circa 1890

RBD BP  
ART 41

Pen and ink and pencil drawing of dog, with hills in the background, 1 page 1890 April

RBD BP  
ART 14

"Coniston Old Hall, Lancashire, from nature," chalk and pencil, 1 page 1890

RBD BP  
ART 90

Watercolor of a parrot, 1 page 1890

RBD BP  
ART 60

Sphinx ligustri, 1 lithograph circa 1890-1899

RBD BP  
ART 96

"Bedwell Lodge, Hertfordshire," pencil, 1 page with note 1891 October 4

RBD BP  
ART 47

## Artwork

Pencil drawing of fireplace, 1 page 1891 October RBD BP  
ART 30

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor drawing of a scene from "Little Red Riding Hood," 1 page 1894 August RBD BP  
ART 45

"Bunnies in the snow," watercolor, 2 pages 1894 RBD BP  
ART 10a

**General note**

Painting on recto depicts one bunny pulling the other in a sled; verso depicts sled overturned and bunnies in the snow. Used as a greeting card.

"The yellow dwarf," pencil and watercolor with note, 1 page 1895 January RBD BP  
ART 23

Lithograph of fungi, insects, and animals, 2 prints 1896 April RBD BP  
ART 81-82

Preliminary sketch for page 74 of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, pencil, 1 page 1897 May RBD BP  
ART 58

"Sleeping Beauty, the Prince coming into the courtyard of the Palace," watercolor, 1 page 1898 June RBD BP  
ART 93

Preliminary sketch for "The little dog in the acorn, from *The White Cat*," pen and ink and pencil, 1 page with note 1898 August RBD BP  
ART 25

"The little dog in the acorn, from *The White Cat*," pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor, 1 page 1898 August RBD BP  
ART 24

## Artwork

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| "Sleeping Beauty, the old woman with the spindle," pen and ink and watercolor, 1 page 1899 February  | RBD BP<br>ART 92 |
| <b>General note</b>  |                  |
| Smaller pen and ink drawing tipped on.   |                  |
| "Studies of a cock's head from nature," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1899 August  | RBD BP<br>ART 79 |
| Landscape with farm, etching, 1 page 1899  | RBD BP<br>ART 61 |
| "Winchelsea," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1900 January 25  | RBD BP<br>ART 88 |
| The China Shepherdess from <i>Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales</i> ," pen and ink with watercolor tipped in, 1 page 1900 April  | RBD BP<br>ART 80 |
| Pencil and watercolor studies of pigeons, 1 page 1900 May 6  | RBD BP<br>ART 68 |
| Pencil and watercolor studies of a fireplace, 1 page 1900 September 27   | RBD BP<br>ART 38 |
| Pen and ink and pencil sketches of cows and ducks, 2 pages 1901 April 5  | RBD BP<br>ART 62 |
| <b>General note</b>  |                  |
| Recto has pen and ink and pencil sketch of cows in a yard on top; studies of cow and cow's hind legs on bottom. Verso has pencil sketch of cow wading in water with ducks in the foreground. |                  |

## Artwork

Pen and ink drawing for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting slip of paper with pin through it, and text "no more twist!," 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG2

**General note**

Presentation letter accompanying manuscript dated Christmas 1901. *The Tailor of Gloucester* was originally printed privately by Beatrix Potter, December 1902. Published by Frederick Warne and Co., 1903. Image redrawn for Warne first edition as part of the illustration on page 81. Does not appear in privately printed edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting a lady mouse curtsying in front of a teacup, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG5

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 21 of privately printed edition and page 32 of Warne first edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting rats dancing, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG10

**General note**

Image redrawn for privately printed edition, page 51. Does not appear in Warne editions. Inscription in Beatrix Potter's hand, below corresponding illustration in library's copy 4 of privately printed edition: "not included in the later editions!!?"

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting Simpkin coming through doorway, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG7

## Artwork

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 32 of privately printed edition; appears on page 41 of Warne first edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting Simpkin listening at the trap-door of the Golden Candle, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG11

**General note**

This image did not appear in either edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting Simpkin looking in shop window at mice, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG13

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 75 of privately printed edition; appears on page 65 of Warne first edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting Simpkin walking in the snow, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG9

**General note**

Image redrawn in much different form for Warne first edition, page 53. Similar illustration does not appear in privately printed edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting Simpkin walking to the lighted window of the tailor's shop, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG12

## Artwork

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 64 of privately printed edition; appears on page 59 of Warne first edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting tailor in bed with Simpkin watching, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG8

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 38 of privately printed edition; appears on page 50 of Warne first edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting tailor sewing at a window, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG1

**General note**

Image redrawn for Warne edition; appears on page 8 of first edition. Does not appear in privately printed edition.

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting tailor sitting in front of a fireplace, 1 page circa 1901

RBD BP  
ART TG4

**General note**

Image redrawn for privately printed edition, page 15. Image redrawn in much different form for Warne first edition, page 26.

## Artwork

RBD BP  
ART TG3

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting the Mayor of Gloucester and his bride, 1 page circa 1901

**General note**

Image redrawn in same form for both editions: appears on page 9 of privately printed edition; appears as frontispiece of Warne first edition.

RBD BP  
ART TG6

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor for illustration accompanying the original manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, depicting the tailor at the dresser, 1 page circa 1901

**General note**

Image redrawn for privately printed edition, page 27. Image redrawn in much different form for Warne first edition, page 29.

RBD BP  
ART 59

Preliminary sketch for page 53 of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, pencil, 1 page circa 1902

RBD BP  
ART 84

"Sleeping Beauty, The Briar Rose," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1902 January

**General note**

Smaller watercolor tipped on.

**Box**                      **Folder**

4

1

Endpaper proof for *The Tailor of Gloucester*, 1 page 1903

**Call-Number**RBD BP  
ART 72

"Landscape of garden steps, with carnations," pen and ink and watercolor, 1 page 1903  
July 31



## Artwork

**General note**

This drawing appears as background for drawing on page 53 of the first edition of *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*.

"Weir surrounded by grass," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1904 June 26

RBD BP  
ART 76

"Portinscale Bridge," pencil and sepia ink, 1 page 1904 September 19

RBD BP  
ART 83

"Portinscale Bridge & Skiddaw," pencil and sepia ink, 1 page 1904 September 19

RBD BP  
ART 91

"Studies from a dead stoat," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1907 November

RBD BP  
ART 75

Pencil and watercolor studies of a dead stoat, 1 page 1907 November

RBD BP  
ART 74

Preliminary sketch for page 43 of *The Roly-poly Pudding*, pencil and sepia ink, 1 page with note circa 1908

RBD BP  
ART 9

Preliminary sketch for page 69 of *The Roly-poly Pudding*, pen and ink, 1 page circa 1908

RBD BP  
ART 7

"Dead guillemot," pencil and watercolor, 2 pages 1909 February

RBD BP  
ART 102

**General note**

Recto has one view of bird; verso has different view.

## Artwork

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| "Landscape of garden path," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1909 September 23                   | RBD BP<br>ART 37 |
| "Landscape with clearing in a wood," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1909 November 16           | RBD BP<br>ART 66 |
| "Landscape of a path through a wood," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1909 November 24          | RBD BP<br>ART 19 |
| "A hen house," watercolor, 1 page 1910 August   | RBD BP<br>ART 71 |
| Pencil and watercolor landscape and study, 2 pages 1911 January 23                            | RBD BP<br>ART 49 |
| <b>General note</b>   |                  |
| Recto is pencil and watercolor landscape; verso is pencil study of a dog.                     |                  |
| "Esthwaite Low grounds," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1911 February 4                        | RBD BP<br>ART 33 |
| "Landscape with hills in the distance," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1912 May 16             | RBD BP<br>ART 18 |
| "Gwaynynog, Denbighshire," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1912 May                             | RBD BP<br>ART 63 |
| Pencil and watercolor studies of a hen, 1 page 1912 December 12                               | RBD BP<br>ART 46 |
| Preliminary sketch for frontispiece of <i>The Tale of Mr. Tod</i> , pencil, 1 page circa 1912 | RBD BP<br>ART 22 |

## Artwork

|   |            |                    |
|---|------------|--------------------|
| Preliminary sketch for page 8 of <i>The Tale of Mr. Tod</i> , pencil and sepia ink, 1 page circa 1912   |            | RBD BP<br>ART 16   |
| Preliminary sketch for page 47 of <i>The Tale of Mr. Tod</i> , pencil and sepia ink, 1 page circa 1912  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 15   |
| Preliminary sketch for page 62 of <i>The Tale of Mr. Tod</i> , pencil, 1 page circa 1912  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 4    |
| Preliminary sketch for page 79 of <i>The Tale of Mr. Tod</i> , pencil, 1 page circa 1912  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 6    |
| "Denbigh Castle," pencil and watercolor, 1 page 1913 May  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 36   |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b>      |
| Illustration proof, "Peter Rabbit: he says the ocean waves are all right but when it comes to sound waves 'oh boy,'" 1 page 1922 June 18  | 3          | 2                  |
|   |            | <b>Call-Number</b> |
| Pencil and sepia ink caricature of Beatrix Potter and a pig, 1 page circa 1924  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 54   |
| Pencil studies and photographs used for <i>The Fairy Caravan</i> , 10 items circa 1928  |            | RBD BP<br>ART 108  |
| <b>General note</b>   |            |                    |
| Pencil studies of a dog believed to be Kiltie, owned by Margaret Hammond, Potter's neighbor in the Lake District. Kiltie was the model for "Sandy" in <i>The Fairy Caravan</i> . Accompanied by a signed postcard addressed to Miss Hammond, a greeting card with |            |                    |

## Artwork

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| a Potter illustration, and seven photographs used as models for drawings in <i>The Fairy Caravan</i> .                       |                        |
| Preliminary sketch for page 14 of <i>The Fairy Caravan</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1929                       | RBD BP<br>ART 31       |
| Preliminary illustration for endpapers of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930 | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR25 |
| Illustration for page 1 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930                | RBD BP<br>ART LPR1     |
| Illustration for page 4 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930                | RBD BP<br>ART LPR2     |
| Illustration for page 18 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930               | RBD BP<br>ART LPR3     |
| <b>General note</b>  |                        |
| Also appears on front paste-down of both the Warne first edition and the McKay American edition.                             |                        |
| Illustration for page 19 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930               | RBD BP<br>ART LPR4     |
| Illustration for page 27 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930               | RBD BP<br>ART LPR5     |

## Artwork

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Illustration for page 29 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD BP<br>ART LPR6     |
| Illustration for page 34 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD BP<br>ART LPR7     |
| Illustration for page 35 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930 16 cm. x 21 cm.   | RBD BP<br>ART LPR8     |
| <p><b>General note</b></p> <p>Pen and ink and pencil; unsigned and undated. Inscription in lower left: "Chapter III." Inscription in lower center: "This is drawn on a larger scale by mistake, Chapter III." Inscribed with printer's notations. <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> originally published in 1930 by David McKay Company, Philadelphia, and Frederick Warne &amp; Co., Ltd., London and New York. This illustration appears on page 35 of the McKay edition.</p> |                        |
| Illustration for page 47 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD BP<br>ART LPR9     |
| Illustration for page 51 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR10 |
| Illustration for page 54 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR11 |
| Illustration for page 55 of <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930   | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR12 |

## Artwork

Illustration for page 57 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR13

Illustration for page 72 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR14

Illustration for page 77 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR15

Illustration for page 83 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR16

Illustration for page 87 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR17

Illustration for page 89 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR18

Illustration for page 90 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR19

Illustration for page 99 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR20

## Artwork

Illustration for page 109 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR21

Illustration for page 135 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR24

Illustration for page 110 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR22

**General note**

Also appears on back free endpaper of both the Warne first edition and the McKay American edition.

Illustration for page 111 of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR23

**General note**

Also appears on front free endpaper of both the Warne first edition and the McKay American edition.

Unpublished illustration for *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR29

Unpublished illustration for *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930

RBD  
BP ART  
LPR26

## Artwork

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Unpublished illustration for <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930 | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR27 |
| Unpublished illustration for <i>The Tale of Little Pig Robinson</i> , pen and ink and pencil, 1 page circa 1930 | RBD<br>BP ART<br>LPR28 |
| "Bison," pencil study, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 3        |
| "Cabbage butterflies," pen and ink and watercolor studies, 1 page with note undated                             | RBD BP<br>ART 95       |
| "The Cobb, Lyme Regis," pencil and sepia ink, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 89       |
| Etching of a garden and house, possibly after Alfred Parsons, 1 page undated                                    | RBD BP<br>ART 5        |
| "A faithful friend," pencil, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 25a      |
| "Fleur-de-lis," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 94       |
| "Garden scene with geraniums," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 70       |
| "Head of a squirrel, dead specimen," ink wash and pencil, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 2        |



## Artwork

"Hen blackbird, drawn from nature," watercolor, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 35

"Jumping spider," watercolor, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 101

"The Lady Eliot," pencil, sepia ink, and watercolor, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 87

**General note**

Inscription below drawing: "From the drawing by Hans Holbein, Copy, Engraved by Bartolozzi."

"Landscape of garden," pencil, sepia ink, and watercolor, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 67

Pen and ink and pencil sketch of a cow, reclining, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 12

Pen and ink and pencil sketch of a cow, standing, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 11

Pen and ink, pencil, and watercolor drawing of a scene from "Little Red Riding Hood," 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 43

Pen and ink and watercolor studies of moths, 1 page undated RBD BP  
ART 100

Pencil drawing of rabbit asleep in a box, 1 page with note undated RBD BP  
ART 10

## Artwork

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Pencil and sepia ink drawing of a garden path, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 85 |
| Pencil sketch of the head of a sleeping rabbit, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 8  |
| Pencil studies of animals, 2 pages undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 65 |
| <b>General note</b>  |                  |
| Recto has sketches of dogs, foxes, a bison, and guinea pigs; verso has sketches of foxes and wild boar.                                  |                  |
| Pencil studies of cats, 2 pages undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 77 |
| <b>General note</b>  |                  |
| Recto and verso each have numerous sketches of cats.   |                  |
| Pencil studies of cats and a study of a landscape, 2 pages undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 64 |
| <b>General note</b>  |                  |
| Recto has studies of cats and cat heads; verso has pencil sketch of rural landscape at top and studies of ducks and cat heads on bottom. |                  |
| Pencil studies of a dog's head, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 34 |
| Pencil and wash landscape, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 32 |

## Artwork

Pencil and watercolor landscape studies, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 52

Pencil and watercolor landscape studies, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 53

Pencil and watercolor landscape studies, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ART 73

**General note**

Recto has watercolor of garden; verso has studies of flowers.

Pencil and watercolor studies of a bank vole and a landscape, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ART 78a

**General note**

Recto has three watercolor studies of a mouse or bank vole and three rougher pencil studies of a mouse; verso has watercolor landscape of a lake.

Pencil and watercolor studies of a blue tit, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 39

Pencil and watercolor studies of caterpillars and moths, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 103

Pencil and watercolor studies of caterpillars and moths, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 105

Pencil and watercolor studies of cats, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 44

Pencil and watercolor studies of cats, rabbits, and a mouse, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ART 42

## Artwork

**General note**

Recto has many sketches of cats and rabbits and one watercolor of rabbit. Verso has many sketches of cats, one sketch of a rabbit, and one sketch of a mouse.

Pencil and watercolor studies of crows, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 53a

Pencil and watercolor studies of horseshoes, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 98

Pencil and watercolor studies of a sheep dog and a pencil study of a bench end, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 56

Pencil and watercolor study of a tadpole, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 1

"Peter Rabbit--he had an old quilt made of scraps of flannel and blue cloth which he always lay on," lithograph, 1 page 1980

RBD BP  
ART 107

**General note**

Lithograph reproduction of a pencil sketch.

"A Scotch garden in June from nature," watercolor, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 57

"Silver urn, modern copy of old pattern," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 40

"Studies of a Teddy Bear," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART 69

## Correspondence

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| "Teignmouth," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 51          |
| "Teignmouth, S. Devon," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 48          |
| Watercolor of flowers with tipped-on text, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 78          |
| Watercolor of a parrot, 1 page undated   | RBD BP<br>ART 104         |
| "Watercolor of a trout," watercolor, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 13          |
| "Windermere," pencil and watercolor, 1 page undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 50          |
| "Young rabbit from life," and studies of reindeer, pencil and watercolor, 2 pages undated  | RBD BP<br>ART 55          |
| <b>General note</b>  |                           |
| Recto has several studies of rabbit; verso has two studies of reindeer head.   |                           |
| <b>Correspondence</b>  |                           |
|  | <b>Call-Number</b>        |
| Butler, Hubert D. Typewritten letter signed, to Beatrix Potter. Huyton Hill School, near Ambleside, Westmorland, 1 page 1943 June 11 | RBD BP<br>ALS/<br>C P851b |
| <b>General note</b>  |                           |

## Correspondence

Salutation: Dear Mrs. Heelis. A cover letter sent to explain a packet of thank-you letters and illustrations from local school boys, expressing gratitude for Miss Potter's books. Bottom of page unevenly torn, partially obliterating typed title of signatory: Headmaster.

Heelis, William. Autograph letter signed, to Mrs. James DeWolf Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 1 page with envelope 1944 April 3

RBD BP  
ALS/  
C P429

**General note**

Salutation: Dear Mrs. Perry. Signed: W. Heelis. Thanks her for her letter of condolence after Mrs. Heelis's death. "It is sad to think that her last few years were so interfered with by this awful 'war' but she was always cheerful and brave to the end."

Linder, Leslie. Typewritten letter signed, to Elizabeth H. Stevens. St. Just, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, 2 pages 1954 October 1

RBD BP  
ALS/  
C St47

**General note**

Salutation: Dear Mrs. Stevens. Signed: Leslie Linder. Thanks her for offer to send copies of Beatrix Potter's letters to her. Says he has spent much time at Hill Top going through manuscripts and papers. Informs her that he is working with Mr. Herring from Frederick Warne & Co. on a book of Potter's drawings *The Art of Beatrix Potter*, but asks her to keep this confidential. "I am hoping to prepare something for Beatrix Potter's centenary in July 1966 but so far nothing definite is planned." Is interested to learn that she has some *Tailor of Gloucester* originals. Tells her about Rosemary and Jean Duke, daughters of Stephanie Duke, who died earlier in 1954. "I am sending you three photographs of Beatrix Potter (copies from some we found at Hill Top), the one of her as a child was taken in August '75 - she was exactly 9 years old ... The other two were taken by an American gentleman about 1908 and you will see 'Kep' of Jemima Puddle-Duck in real life ..." Handwritten note on page 2 possibly by Mrs. Stevens, which seems to be notes for a reply to Linder's letter.

## Correspondence

Linder, Leslie. Typewritten letter signed, to Elizabeth H. Stevens. St. Just, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, 2 pages with envelope 1954 October 27

RBD BP  
ALS/  
C St47b

**General note**

Salutation: Dear Mrs. Stevens. Signed: Leslie Linder. Thanks her for sending the photostat copies of Beatrix Potter's letters. Says that one or two *Tailor of Gloucester* drawings will be included in his book *The Art of Beatrix Potter*. "Next Saturday my sister and I are going to have lunch with Miss Carr (the Lucy (sic) Carr of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle) ... It will be interesting to hear of her impressions of Miss Potter from the child's point of view."

Miller, Bertha E. Mahony. Typewritten letter, to Beatrix Potter (copy). 270 Boylston Street, Boston, 2 pages 1928 November 6

RBD BP  
ALS/  
C P851

**General note**

Typed copy of a letter which discusses terms for the publication of *The Fairy Caravan*. Salutation: Dear Mrs. Heelis. No signature. Author's name from letterhead and typist's initials. Miss Mahony apparently acted as agent (informally?) for the contractual agreement between Alexander McKay and Miss Potter relative to the publication of *The Fairy Caravan*. Most of this letter relates terms offered by Mr. McKay, and Miss Mahony's efforts to assure their fairness. Mr. McKay suggests Leslie Brooks as illustrator. The book size could be perhaps 8 1/2 x 6 1/2." Xarifa stories could be printed privately, as the stories will have an English copyright. "Is there any chance that you would be willing, after everything is settled up about the book, to let us print the first chapter in *The Horn Book*?" Four of the fifty signed drawings which Miss Potter sent to Miss Mahony's bookshop, to raise money for The National Trust purchases near Windermere, are left over. (cf. M. Lane. *The Tale of Beatrix Potter*, circa 1968, page 154.) "We ... would like to own them ... and a voucher will be sent in payment."

## Correspondence

Perry, Marian Frazer Harris. Autograph letter signed, to Beatrix Potter (draft). 165 Schoolhouse Lane, Germantown, Philadelphia, 3 pages 1928 February 23

RBD BP  
ALS/  
C P851c

**General note**

Salutation: My dear Mrs. Heelis. Signed: Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Thanks her for her letter of 10th February, and asks if she would be willing to paint some additional pictures for her, if more funds are needed for the Windermere fund. Asks for three specific scenes from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*: "The little picture of Peter running away on the outside of the book ... And the little rabbit on the title page ... and on page 96 'Flopsy Mopsy & Cottontail had bread etc.'" Asks that she send them to the Bookshop for Boys and Girls in Boston if she is able to. Additional pictures were never sent; cf. letter to Mrs. Perry of December 17, 1928.

Autograph letter signed, to Frank Allonby. Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1927 April 27

RBD BP  
ALS AL57

**General note**

Address from which the letter is written is embossed, not in autograph: Sawrey, Ambleside. Signed: H.B. Heelis. Offering a situation to Mr. Allonby and his wife as farm manager, "wife to do dairy," to replace John Mackereth and his wife at Hilltop. The Mackereths are retiring to a cottage near Maryport by Whitsuntide, "after 11 years faithful service." Explains terms, duties, acreage, animals, wages and benefits. Names various other farm workers for the Heelis lands.

Autograph letter signed, to William Bell, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ALS B413

**General note**

Must have been written during cold months: last sentence states: This snow is wearisome. Signed: H.B. Heelis. Letter begins: I have at last got a letter from the wages board about various matters. Lists stockmen's wages and deductions for sundry goods (house, potatoes, milk). Discussion of how Bell is to pay for coal. This letter was sent with a wage



## Correspondence

cheque, and is a written statement of how Mrs. Heelis and Mr. Bell will relate, financially, as employer and employee.

Autograph letter signed, to J. Spedding Byers, Sawrey, Ambleside, 3 pages with envelope 1920 November 17

RBD BP  
ALS By99

Autograph letter signed, to Harry Bacon Collamore. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages 1939 December 7

RBD BP  
ALS C683

### General note

Attribution of addressee's name as suggested by Clive E. Driver, director of the Rosenbach Foundation. Salutation: Dear Sir. Signed: "Beatrix Potter" and, to left: H.B. Heelis. Describes end papers of her books and their use in determining editions. Brightness of impression of plates is no guide here, as the copper blocks wear so badly that they have all had to be re-engraved. "I kept all originals for that purpose." Number of copies in first edition of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Some of her reactions to bindings of her books.

Autograph letter signed, to Harry Bacon Collamore. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1940 March 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
C683b

### General note

Attribution of addressee's name as suggested by Clive E. Driver, director of the Rosenbach Foundation. Salutation: Dear Sir. Signed: H.B. Heelis. Has not kept any of the "folding copies" of her books. "This minute study of first editions seems very silly when applied to recent picture books. It's a pity you have not some more useful pursuit or hobby to employ your time."

Autograph letter signed, to Curtis, Brown & Massie, 1 page 1910 June 30

RBD BP  
ALS C941

## Correspondence

**General note**

Salutation: Dear Sir. Signed: Beatrix Potter. As F. Warne & Co. has branch office in New York, she finds it "more convenient to do all business through them. I should not choose to employ another agent." On sheet of paper on other side of which is printed: With Messrs. Frederick Warne & Co.'s Compliments. Chandos House, Bedford Street, Strand, W. C.

Autograph document signed, to the David McKay Company, 1 page 1936 January 3

RBD BP  
ALS D28

**General note**

Postage stamp is attached to receipt, beneath the signature of Helen Beatrix Heelis. "Received from the David McKay Company in payment of Royalties to December 31. 1934 \$93.38."

Autograph letter signed, to Wilfred Evans, Esq., 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ALS Ev16

**General note**

Incomplete: last leaf of letter only. Addressee's name in Mrs. Heelis's autograph below her signature. Date in manuscript, not in Mrs. Heelis's autograph, given at top of the recto: May 5th 1917. Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I am wondering what the (conflicting) powers who govern us are really driving at." After reducing livestock at governmental request, "I was yesterday deprived finally of my ploughman by conscription into the armed services of World War I? on the ground that I have not enough head of cattle & sheep!" Mrs. Heelis can wait for things to work out slowly but she fears this slowness will be difficult for business people.

Autograph letter signed, to Mrs. M. C. Grimston. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1938 February 12

RBD BP  
ALS G884

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Comments on *The Fairy Caravan*, copy of which she has given recipient. "I used to tame house mice...But I never had a satisfactory 'wild' rabbit." Describes Mopsy, an unsatisfactory one. Describes also Bounce, "a very intelligent Belgian hare," from whom Peter Rabbit was drawn.

Autograph note signed, to Miss Margaret Hammond. Ashyburn, Ancrum, Roxburghshire Scotland, 1 postcard 1938 July 30

RBD BP  
ART 108  
Accompanying  
material

**General note**

Date from postmark. Signed: H.B.H. "Arrived from Hexham through wind and rain, perhaps we have brought it with us! but they have not had a fine summer here either; and there is no orchard fruit. Tell the little dogs--their brother Charles was so gracious! he jumped on my knee on arrival. I hope they are not fretting, I was quite sorry to leave them. The rivers are in flood, possibly it may be good fishing. We shall be coming home by Hawick & Carlisle on Tuesday I expect." Housed with folder including two leaves of sketches, seven photographs, and one greeting card. See Artwork series.

Autograph letter signed, to Master Tom Harding. Hill Top Farm, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1917 December 21

RBD BP  
ALS H219

**General note**

Signed: "Beatrix Potter" (Mrs. W. Heelis) A charming letter to a child, talking about the animals she kept at her farm, giving numbers of animals, names, and choice anecdotes. "I get so many letters from boys and girls all over the world--especially from Australia & N. Zealand--that I put them in a bundle to answer if I can... Have you seen my new little book *Appley Dapply*? I must send you a copy if you have not got it. The pictures were done a long time ago--I have little time for painting now, & I have to wear spectacles. With love & best wishes for Christmas from your affectionate friend." See artwork series for other items.

## Correspondence

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Sylvie Heelis. Sawrey, 4 pages 1922 July 22

RBD BP  
ALS H36

**General note**

Salutation: My dear Sylvie. Signed: Aunt Beatrix. Requests that Sylvie and Isabel tie up some books to be sent to Sawrey. Mention of Aunt Blanche and Aunt May. Much about Uncle Arthur and his reactions to a sale of his household goods. Also, Miss Potter's reactions to this sale & sales in general.

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Sylvie Heelis. Sawrey, 1 page 1922 July 29

RBD BP  
ALS H36b

**General note**

Salutation: My dear Sylvie. Signed: Aunt Beatrix. Thanks to "all of you" for trouble taken concerning furniture to be sent to Sawrey, and the books which just arrived. (cf. her letter to Sylvie Heelis of July 22, 1922.) Comments on Uncle Arthur's physical and mental condition. "I think he is better in this sense--he dwells less continually on the past and on the future. My philosophy is to make the best of the present. I doubt if he will ever be fit for work; the first step in any case is to get him well, and more normal."

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Sylvie Heelis, 3 pages with envelope 1934 July 16

RBD BP  
ALS H36c

**General note**

Date taken from postmarks on front of envelope. Salutation: Dear Sylvie. Signed: Aunt Beatrix. Asking Sylvie to pick up various furnishings from Mr. Lane at Brougham Hall. (Uncle Arthur's goods?) Uncle Arthur is ill, nurse will judge how seriously this morning. Trying weather for people subject to feel chills. List of goods on back of letter.

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Sylvie Heelis. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page with envelope 1937 March 28

RBD BP  
ALS H36d

## Correspondence

**General note**

Envelope, has original address (in London) lined through and a forwarding address (The Terrace, Appleby, Westmoreland) written in another hand. Salutation: My dear Sylvie. Signed: Aunt Beatrix. "No need for so much apology! Which is not needed by the poems, either,-they are better than I feared!" Still sore from an illness, so no "long cold drives to Appleby." Mr. Heelis helping Uncle George "on some business about selling a house...do they call it Flahnbridge?--"

Autograph letter signed, to Mrs. Hollins. 2 Bolton Gardens, 3 pages 1901 December 17

RBD BP  
1 [1901]

Accompanying  
material

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Letter tipped in copy of first privately published edition of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1901). Presents her this and another copy, with the comment that copies of the work had come to Beatrix Potter from the printer the previous night.

Autograph letter signed, to G. N. Hunter. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929 July 30

RBD BP  
ALS H917

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. "I am very well satisfied with the last seventeen blocks - so the plates for illustrations of *The Fairy Caravan* are now all in order." Comments on legends for these plates.

Typewritten letter (copy), to Alexander McKay. Cartle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 February 20

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192b

**General note**

Typewritten signature: H.B. Heelis. Letter begins: "I regret that I have been delayed by influenza--thought it would happen." The original was apparently sent with (?) the corrected manuscript of *The Fairy Caravan*. (cf. her letters to McKay of January 18, and

## Correspondence

February 21, 1929.) Explanations and critical judgements made regarding sentimentality and choice of story order. Mentions notes on back of opposite pages are intended as explanations for McKay's children, not for publication. "I am afraid I am longwinded about my sheep...I am conceited enough to say I am the only person who could have written about the sheep; because I know them and the fell like a shepherd; but the herdwick men are not articulate." Desires no payment for illustrations. "There is nothing in the book that anyone can take exception to." Several textual corrections suggested. "I don't want this stuff published in England, at all events not this year; I would really prefer to print it privately first--anyway I would like to see whether it looks silly in print--and no immediate intention of printing is a strong reason for not wishing to charge for illustrating." Suggests using a few of her old drawings and hiring a student to do "human (or fairy) figures." "Every anecdote is fact--except possibly: the fairies?--" Postscript shows pleasure about *The Horn Book* and requests "a few corrections in the early chapters" in McKay's new printing.

Typewritten letter (copy), to Alexander McKay. Cartle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929  
February 21

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192c

**General note**

Typewritten signature: H.B. Heelis. Letter begins: "Forgive me troubling you! Do you have dedications in children's books in the U.S.A.?" This letter is basically concerned with additions and changes in the manuscript of *The Fairy Caravan*. Dedication suggested: "To Henry P. Coolidge." Motto of the book suggested: "As I walk'd by myself, And talked to myself, Myself said unto me--" Several corrections and changes suggested. "You may think me fidgetty; but I believe that is why children learnt by heart the rabbit books; I took trouble with the words. I posted the mss. (!) yesterday in a linen envelope, registered letter post."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929  
February 28

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192d

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Mainly about illustrations for *The Fairy Caravan*. Sample drawings enclosed. "This colour drawing is smudgy--will it process? My eyes have lost the faculty of seeing clean colours." Complains of F. Warne & Co.'s positioning of black & white drawings in the text of *Patty Pan*. Thinks pen & inks look better top or bottom of the page. Intends to do "plenty" of pen & inks "and you can use what you select. They should be reduced a lot smaller." Encloses a stray page, 182 or 3, found after posting the manuscript. Typewritten copy laid in.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929  
March 28

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192e

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Deals with publication of *The Fairy Caravan* by an American publisher, David McKay Company. "F Warne & Co are very jealous of my passing over the NY branch." Explains her difficulties in getting the illustrations finished. Evident that English copyright must be secured by her. Indicates how she intends to do this. "I never really wanted to print *The Fairy Caravan* at all; but the money has been useful."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 June  
30

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192f

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. Has received dummy of *The Fairy Caravan*, and comments on illustrations and on the legends. She will write a foreword. But "if you are writing it - don't put in, please, anything of the nature of a puff or flourish - let the book stand on its own merits - it ain't so bad after all."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 July  
28

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192g

## Correspondence

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. Her disappointments with proofs of illustrations for *The Fairy Caravan*. Her thoughts on the book's dedication and preface; and her further plans for securing English copyright. "If the book makes a hit, I foresee that it will have to be reprinted in this country. But I don't want it at all; it is too personal."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929 July 30

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192h

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. "I am still puzzled about the foreword to *The Fairy Caravan*."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 August 23

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192i

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Gives names and addresses of those to whom copies of the autographed edition of *The Fairy Caravan* might be sent. She is still very anxious to secure English copyright for the book.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 September 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192j

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I am much interested to hear the book *The Fairy Caravan* is in the press. It would not be wise for me to sell the coloured drawings; in case an English edition were required at some future time...I am very glad to hear that the orders for the book have pleased you. We have taken a number of first prizes this summer with the sheep...I think we could have gone to the 'Royal.'" Asks that copy of autographed edition



## Correspondence

of *The Fairy Caravan* be sent to Mrs. James DeWolf Perry (i.e. Marian Frazer Harris Perry).

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929  
October 11

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192k

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. "The book parcels arrived this morning October 10th (sic)...I think it *The Fairy Caravan* is beautifully printed." Her comments on the illustrations. "I am taking copies to be bound - you will let me know when I may register? Her most exacting critics are her shepherds and the blacksmith --- "I do not care tuppence about anybody else's opinion." Points out three mistakes in the text.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1929  
October 20

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192L

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Sent off on October 16 the signed sheets of the autographed edition of *The Fairy Caravan*. "I would like one copy to keep...and I intend sending you one copy of the English binding...and perhaps it might be of interest to pencil the localities on the margins." Wishes to buy 12 copies of the regular American edition, rather than print more than 100 copies of her own limited edition (printed for purpose of English copyright), in order to give copies to "all the shepherds and coachmen," and still have some to hoard.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929  
October 31

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192m

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I am much gratified to hear that the book *The Fairy Caravan* is making such a good start, and what a charming review you have sent me!...I will send back one of your half-bound copies with some corrections, and some other outline designs. There are two I do not like...I have copyrighted the English edition...Miss Moore's approval will be a help...It has been received with acclamation by the men the shepherds, etc. - only they are all claiming bits, and disputing whose ! who."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929  
December 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192n

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Invited him to stay with her and her husband at Sawrey. "I am not a prolific scribbler. I wrote myself out on the rabbit series." Then outlines her plans for writing in the future.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1930  
February 24

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192o

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Concerning *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, to be published in America by McKay. " *Pig Robinson* is plainer than *The Fairy Caravan*; and provided I can do good illustrations it should be a presentable work." Thanks him for book of poetry by Joyce Kilmer. Hates modern novels: "I have gone back to Scott's novels with never failing pleasure." Glad that he came to call on her and her husband.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1930 June  
21

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192p

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Would like to be able to see American edition of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson* set up, because there may be more or less space than in English edition, to be published by Warne. Speaks of introducing Margery McKay's airedale, Gypsy, into the story; and asks that American edition be dedicated to McKay's children. Comments on illustrations for the book.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1930 July 8

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192q

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. Will have done many more illustrations for *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson* than Warne will use for English edition, but hopes McKay can include them in American edition.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1930 July 15

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192r

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Concerning illustrations that will not be used by Warne in the English edition. "I wonder how you make hay in hot weather in America!" Postscript: I am not very particular about illustrations coming exactly opposite words -- you may find them rather in bunches."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1930 September 9

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192s

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Refers to legends for illustrations of *The Tale of Little Pig Robinson*. Agrees with all his corrections in the book, "except possibly 'fatterer.'" Likes appearance of book extremely; it has much more character than English edition. Book "is

## Correspondence

much more concise and understandable for children than *The Fairy Caravan*." A new edition would be improved by a few more illustrations. "I think P. R. i.e. Pig Robinson looking into a shop window is the best black & white I ever did."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1930  
October 27

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192t

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis. Asking him to send her 12 copies of *The Fairy Caravan*. "I am looking forward to your edition of *Robinson*. The London edition is only moderately pleasing," but 2500 copies have been ordered before publication.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1930  
November 5

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192u

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I am delighted with your edition of *Robinson*." English edition "does not look as good money's worth...As regards another book I have let myself in for a troublesome business; a book about the Lake District." Describes this project in some detail, but hopes to be able to back out of it. Mentions ideas for a book she might be able to do for him.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1932 June  
3

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192v

**General note**

Posted June 4th. Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Concerns *Sister Anne*, to be published only in America, and by McKay. "I would only suggest this much mouse...--" Glad she is not doing the illustrations. Postscript tells a true dog story.

## Correspondence

Photostat of autograph note, to Alexander McKay, 1 page 1932 July 13 or 14

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192w

**General note**

Not signed, possibly a draft of a note or letter which may have accompanied the proofs of *Sister Anne*. Date at top of letter: July 14 (three and four written over each other) The year is inferred from Linder's quotation of a line in this note in reference to copyright in England for the book *Sister Anne*, which was published in 1932. cf. L. Linder.

*A History of the Writings of Beatrix Potter*. London, New York, circa 1971. page 326. Letter begins: I am returning the proof by same post received?. "There are very few errors." Suggestions made to make Cap 23 Chapter 6? as impressive as possible. "This chapter is worth taking pains with, as it is the crux of the story...Would you please put copyright of the author in this country? But how about the pictures? If you prefer I daresay I can copyright this type unbound without the pictures in it." She has no expectation of making much money on it but perhaps some kind of agreement is necessary.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 3 pages 1932 December 18

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192x

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Very pleased with *Sister Anne*, especially with Katharine Sturges's illustrations. Beatrix Potter not having a Merry Christmas - "my old mother is refusing to die," at 93 years old.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1936 February 5

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192y

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Thank you for the statement and remittance...I have not done any writing for a long time, I am alright but feeling old and lazy."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1938 July 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192z

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I am pleased to hear you have given leave for the transcription into Braille of *The Fairy Caravan*." Years ago her mother made copies of many books in Braille for a blind association in London. "I'm alright, but feeling old - my book days are done - I'm afraid Margery will look in vain for MSS. from me. But you are well off for excellent writers of children's books in U.S.A. What an amusing picture book that *Mulberry Street* by Dr Seuss - someone sent it to me at Christmas."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page with envelope 1940 June 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192aa

**General note**

Envelope has been reused from an earlier letter sent to Mrs. Heelis on April 24, 1940, to judge from multiple postmarks, stamps, and lined through original typed address. Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Authorizes future royalties to be paid to Mrs. Betty Stevens, with a sample of her signature pasted to top of letter. "She and her aunt Mrs. Perry of Germantown are old friends, and I have recommended to their notice some young relatives who may possibly go out--though at present the inclination is to sit tight! and keep smiling!"  
Typewritten copy laid in.

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1941 April 28

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192bb

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: H.B. Heelis. "I am obliged for the cheque...We are still undamaged." Describes bombing of farm house in which eleven were killed. "The men say they were bombed out of France - bombed out of Norway - now it is bombed out of Greece."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1942 July 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192cc

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking him for check in payment of royalties. Great difficulties about labor and printing in the book trade in England, but a large market to be supplied. "My evergreen 'works' were unobtainable at Christmas, I suppose the demand was largely due to scarcity of toys."

Autograph letter signed, to Alexander McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1943 June 10

RBD  
BP ALS  
M192dd

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking him for check in payment of royalties. Has so much to attend to in these times - so many forms to fill in for rationing, etc. "Now on top of our own farming there is semi-public work re agricultural communities. You would laugh to see ME in the chair at a meeting of old sheep farmers, discussing prices and subsidies with a young gentleman from the Board of Agriculture... The sales of the Peter Rabbit books have been hampered by short supply of paper. There has been a good demand, because there is a shortage of toys for presents to children."

Autograph letter signed, to David McKay. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1929 January 18

RBD BP  
ALS M192

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Helen Beatrix Heelis. "I herewith return the signed agreement," which presumably concerned publication by David McKay Company of *The Fairy Caravan*. "I will send the corrected mss. ! of the story as quickly as possible." Wonders about shape of colored illustrations.

Four miniature autograph letters signed, to Miss Marjorie Moller, 4 pages (1 page each) with envelope 1912 March 12

RBD BP  
ALS M736

**General note**

Date taken from postmarks on front and back of envelope. Front postmark from Earl's Court, S.W. i.e., the envelope was posted near Miss Potter's family home in London, Number Two, Bolton Gardens, Little letters written and signed as if by various of Miss Potter's animal characters, each shaped and folded to represent an envelope, with a tiny stamp drawn in red. Largest letter: 10 cm. Salutation: Dear Miss Marjorie. Signed: Squirrel Nutkin. "I hope you will like the next book, there will be lots of rabbits! but poor Mopsy's story is too melancholy to write, she was killed by a weasel, & buried in a little moss grave under the wall. But there are plenty of rabbits still. yrs aff." Second largest letter: 9 cm. Salutation: My dear Miss Moller. Signed: Flopsy Bunny. "I am pleased to hear that you like the F. Bunnies, because some people do think there has been too much bunnies, and there is going to be some more! My family will appear again in the next book; and Cottontail is put in because you asked after her. Which me & Cottontail thanks you for kind inquiries, & remain yrs respectful" Third largest letter: 9 cm. Salutation: Dear Madame. Signed: B. Bunny. "My wife Mrs Flopsy Bunny has replied to your inquiries, because Miss Potter will attend to nothing but hatching spring chickens; there is another hatch chipping this evening. And she is supposed to be doing a Book, about us and the Fox; but she does not get on; neither has she answered all her Xmas letters yet. Yrs" Smallest letter: 5 cm. Salutation: Dear Miss Marjorie. Signed: Hunca Munca. "I hope this finds you well. I do not like cats. Yrs. aff."

Autograph letter signed, to Freda Moore, 1 page 1901 December 25

RBD  
BP MSS  
97-528

**General note**



## Correspondence

Signed: H.B.P. Letter accompanies manuscript of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, described separately. "Because you are fond of fairy-tales and have been ill, I have made you a story all for yourself ... I heard it in Gloucestershire, and it is true ... There ought to be more pictures ... only Miss Potter was tired of it." Accompanying material

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Winifrede Moore. Laund House, Bolton Abbey, 4 pages 1902 July 6

RBD BP  
ALS M787

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. This is the letter addressed to My dear Freda, reprinted on page 114 of L. Linder's *A History of the Writings of Beatrix Potter*. London, New York, circa 1971. "I have kept your picture book i.e., the original manuscript copy of *The Tailor of Gloucester* a long time and I have not done with it yet; I had to copy out the pictures rather larger and it took me a long time--but you will get it back some day--I hope soon I shall have the new edition of the little rabbit book i.e., *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, in the first published edition by Warne with coloured pictures--I have had the pictures to look at and they were very pretty, but not made up into a proper book yet."

Autograph letter signed, to the Editor of the (London) *Observer*. Sawrey, 1 page 1930 January 27

RBD BP  
ALS Ob7

**General note**

Signed: H.B. Heelis (retraction letter); Beatrix Heelis (letter of explanation to the Editor) Two short letters are written on one sheet of stationary. The "daily press" reported that land owned by the Heelis's (Tarn Haws near Coniston) had been given to the National Trust. Mrs. Heelis explains that she could not afford to do so, but that there is a plan for the Trust to buy part of the Monk Coniston estate from the Heelis's, including Tarn Haws, when funds can be raised. All mention of the erroneous rumor is to be suppressed "unless the untrue statement has got so much hold as to require contradiction." In that eventuality,

## Correspondence

the *Observer* is requested to print a three sentence retraction statement, in the form of a letter to the Editor, which is included at the top of the sheet of stationary.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Westmorland postmark: Sawrey, Ambleside, 2 pages with envelope 1927 November 30

RBD  
BP ALS  
P42900

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Letter informs her that three drawings will be mailed separately to the Bookshop (presumably the Bookshop for Boys and Girls in Boston). "Tell it not to other people but I've taken special pains with yours because you wrote me such a nice letter!" The drawings are not the originals of Peter Rabbit; she keeps those for the engravers to borrow because the copper blanks wear out. "I cannot paint quite so delicately as I did twenty five years ago; but I can still draw." Explains that the money from sale of the drawings will be listed as from "friends from Boston," and that a gravel path is being made on the land purchased with these funds. Cf. Lane, M. *The Tale of Beatrix Potter* for reference to sale of these drawings.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1928 February 10

RBD BP  
ALS P429

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Sending a receipt slip from the treasurer of the Windermere fund. Mostly discusses philosophy of saving "our Lake country from being vulgarized." The glebeland estate is secured and will be open to the public next summer. "I too believe in the future...If I have done anything--even a little--to help small children on the road to enjoy and appreciate honest simple pleasures--of the sort that leads to becoming Boy Scouts and Girl Guides--I have done a bit of good."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1928 December 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429b

## Correspondence

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. "Great satisfaction to me to have been able to help the fund for the preservation of the Lake District through the kindness of my friends in America." Secluded parking space for cars and buses one of things provided by this fund. Buses have done much to spoil the Lake District, and many of their passengers are not appreciative visitors. Is sending her copy of *Peter Rabbit's Almanac for 1929*.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1929 February 17

RBD BP  
ALS P429c

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Making suggestions concerning Mrs. Perry's forthcoming visit to the Lake District. "I shall be delighted to see you and show you my drawings."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Sawrey, 2 pages 1929 April 25

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429d

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanks her for "charming little bunny you have sent me." It brings to mind Beatrix Potter's acquisition of Benjamin Bunny. "I enjoyed the afternoon too" - presumably their first meeting. Discusses sale of English antiques to Americans, including Romney portraits. Mentions antiques owned by herself. Touches upon origins of place names of the Lake District. Always enjoys meeting "carefully selected visitors" from America. Enjoyed Faith Gartney's *Girlhood*, a book sent her by an American friend.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 2 pages 1930 December 14

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429pp

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanks her for pretty bag sent from Florence, and reminisces about Mrs. Perry's visit to the Lake District earlier that year. Describes winter weather, her health, and a hunting trip her husband took with friends. Writes about *Little Pig Robinson*: "From what Mr. Mckay reports it has not taken so well as the *Caravan* in U.S.A. which rather pleases me in one respect--I like fairy tales, and so do American readers." Says she will send the American edition of *Little Pig Robinson* "as it is better got up." Reports that *Robinson* is selling well in England.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1931 December 15

RBD BP  
ALS P429e

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. A Christmas letter expressing warm friendship. Thanks sent to Mrs. Clark for a book, Willa Cather's *Shadows on the Rock*. "The atmosphere, and character drawing are perfect! ...Another fit of scribbling has taken possession of me and I am trying to make a framework to hold some more of the surplus stories that were left over from *The Fairy Caravan*." Sequel to *The Fairy Caravan* was never published. cf. Linder. *History of the Writings of Beatrix Potter*. London, New York, 1971. Page 309-321. Economic and social conditions in the Lake country during the Depression are discussed, as well as Christmas season activities.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages 1932 December 3

RBD BP  
ALS P429f

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Not one American friend has been here this summer. I suppose it is the result of bad times." Notes some results in England of the depression. "There should have been an absurd book - *Sister Anne* but I cannot hear anything of it, perhaps Messrs McKay have delayed publication till a better season."

## Correspondence

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1933 October 18

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429g

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanks for sending "a sweet book," Mary Johnston's (Miss Delicia Allen). "I wonder sometimes what is the secret of attraction? 'I' always seem to 'me' to be comparatively dull, with not much to say, and with only very occasional flashes of amusement. Anyway, it was a true pleasure to both of us i.e., her husband and her to meet again, and I wish we could have met oftener--I always have just too much to do, though it is mainly useful work that takes me into pleasant places." The rest of the letter consists of reminiscences, opinions, and general chat about this visit and the farms visited.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1933 November 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429h

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Amused to hear that the Sergeant has done it once too often! - provided you are not put to inconvenience in giving evidence against him, he deserves a number of convictions; and term following term, to keep him out of the path of enthusiastic American visitors who want to see the xxxxxx of xxxxxx review the troops, next season!" Recommends hot mustard for lumbago. Describes Miss Rebeccah Owen, a remarkable and eccentric old woman and an American, who has lived a long time near Hawkshead. Mrs. Perry may come across her in Rome.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 6 pages 1933 December 13

RBD BP  
ALS P429i

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Postscript signed: H. B. H. Has been laid up for six weeks with lumbago, and comments on books, presumably sent her by Mrs. Perry, that she has thus

## Correspondence

had time to read. Postscript begins: Since writing this 2 more books have come! How very acceptable. Beatrix Potter then comments on similarities of description between one of these books, with title *Otto*, and her own book *Sister Anne*, and on Katharine Sturges's illustrations for the latter.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 6 pages with envelope 1934 February 20

RBD BP  
ALS P429j

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Much about illness, her own and Mrs. Perry's. Mentions weather - not so severe as last winter, with its bad blizzard. Speaks of early spring flowers already in bloom. Mentions death of Albert, King of the Belgians -- "cannot understand this rock-climbing craze." Comments on Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Tory Lover*, read while she was ill.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1934 August 31

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429k

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. It was a "fine warm spring. We had good crops, lots of lambs, and now the agricultural shows are making us busy." She and her husband have just motored through Northumberland and southern Scotland, over a long weekend - "only time I have slept out of this house since 2 years...I have lent the *Tory Lover* by Sarah Orne Jewett to a friend...it grows upon second reading; surely the best test of a book."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1934 October 4

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429L

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Have just re-read *The Child in Old Chester*...and you gave it to me!" This book reminds her of her own childhood, about which she reminisces. "I have another American book that is a favourite; *Hitty* by Rachel Field." Very busy selling her sheep at sheep fairs -- "I have about 700 sheep to draft out of the flocks this season." Postscript begins: If you really want to send me one more book at parting -- please send another of Willa Cather's.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page with envelope 1934 October 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429m

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanks her for book by Willa Cather, *Come Again to England Another Year*.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages 1934 December 12

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429n

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Wishing her Happy Christmas. Heavy rainstorms and mild weather in England. Many of her cottage tenants have leaking roofs, and need repairs to windows. But "new roofs and windows never look the same...There is a big crop of holly berries, and trouble as usual because of this."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 4 pages 1935 February 4

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429qq

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Reports that it has been a mild winter. "How comical to think that I am responsible for providing little Timothy Mrs. Perry's niece's son with a nickname-- 'Timmy Tiptoes' is really rather pretty for a baby name." Thanks her for books sent,

## Correspondence

and says that all three describe the attributes of Roman Catholicism. Wonders if Mrs. Perry is Roman Catholic, then describes an Irish servant she had one winter. "Things that Kathleen did not eat when she fasted she stored in a hatbox under her bed. A ... fellow servant took me to see this cache ... 10 eggs, 1 2 lb. jam pot full of bacon drippings, nearly 1 lb. butter, and (I regret to say) 1 1/2 tinfoils of Mr. Heelis's cigarettes; all covered up with clothes! ... It is well to be able to see the funny side of things."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1935 May 31

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429o

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Hopes Mrs. Perry and her cousins had good seats at the Jubilee. "You Americans don't miss much." Describes local Jubilee celebrations. (It is Silver Jubilee of George V.) Serious drought in England. Thanks her for sending her more books. "Writers take more pains with juvenile literature in America."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 4 pages with envelope 1935 September 19

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429rr

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Describes the good weather in the summer and the "very wild and cold" recent weather. Says they were delighted to visit with Betty, Mrs. Perry's niece, and her husband. She and Mr. Heelis have been going to agricultural shows where "the sheep have taken many prizes, including a silver cup, won outright, (the 3d time) for champion Herdwick ewe." Thinks *The Rain on the Roof* by Cornelia Meigs was "a very pleasant story, beautifully written." Had offer from the editor of "The Farmer & Stockbreeder" to do a serial for a picture page, four drawings per week, but she declined. "I felt that the later books of the Peter Rabbit series were becoming less spontaneous--an effort. I wrote *The Fairy Caravan* and *Sister Anne* with pleasure to amuse myself; but they were different, and they had not the same appeal. Also *The Caravan* was too local for general consumption ..." Describes trial sheepdogs as opposed to the real working sheepdogs on



## Correspondence

the fells: "The trial dogs are models of obedience; but useless on the fells where much of the dog's work is done out of sight of the shepherd." Postscript: "The world seems to have gone mad. Have the nations already forgotten the last war?"

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1935 December 15

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429p

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Wonder if you have gone home? or whether you are in Italy." Hears conditions in Italy are not too comfortable. "What a mess it all is. Your country has shown better statesmanship than this...I have been lazy about any original work; this Peter is an old illustration used again presumably on a Christmas card, at least it was drawn a long time ago."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 6 pages with envelope 1936 March 1

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429q

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I never felt so cold as that week our dear King George V died." Much snow on uplands, which is very hard on sheep. "There is a lovely flock and story in the *Pointed Firs* by Sarah Orne Jewett...Her books grow upon me." Speaks of designing Christmas cards. Discusses scheme for filming Peter Rabbit. Illustrates with a sketch her comments on a Pekingese that she has. Speaks of Edward VIII's speech, and describes listening to his father's funeral.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1936 July 13

RBD BP  
ALS P429r

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Describes dismantling her parents' London house eight years ago. "A number of our newspapers and politicians are possessed with lunacy. How could we have fought Italy without sufficient ships or guns? Work is going forward feverishly now." Enjoying her two Pekingeses, even though she "always dispised ! foreign dogs."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages 1936 December 16

RBD BP  
ALS P429s

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Page and a half devoted to her opinion of Edward VIII, who "proved himself utterly unsuited to reign as a constitutional sovereign." Description of the wild winter weather. "I hope you will like this card presumably here enclosed, but no longer present, it's becoming difficult to invent yet another picture of Peter."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1937 July 6

RBD BP  
ALS P429t

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Will be such a pleasure to see you again...It does me good to see you and I have been feeling old!...I have opened the book...Why are American books so much fresher than ours?"

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1937 December 14

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429u

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Her opinion of the Japanese. "It is to be hoped that the United States will realize what sort of neighbours the Japanese are likely to become in the Pacific." Eighteen inches of snow at Sawrey - very hard on the sheep. Doings of a sanitary inspector under New Housing Act have caused alarm in her neighborhood - he

## Correspondence

would pull down half of Hawkshead. Her own low rooms and flagged kitchen floor are against the rules. "I begin to feel old and stiff." More about Miss Owen, the eccentric American with a house near Hawkshead. "I have not any rabbit card this year."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 3 pages with envelope 1938 October 4

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429v

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Anything -- 'nearly' anything -- may be better than war." Her reaction to Hitler and Chamberlain, and to events in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere. Summer has been wet and dismal. Price of sheep at sales is down. Book Mrs. Perry recently sent her reminded Beatrix Potter of her brother's serious illness from snake bite; just recently one of her Pekingeses had same experience. She herself is not at all well. In postscript, comments on relationship between shingles and chicken pox. More of her reaction to international situation. Rereading Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs*. "I shall never go over the sea; but I think I would like the New England states."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 1 page 1938 December 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429w

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Things are gloomy here; and full of foreboding." Enlarges on this by comments on Hitler's successes and Chamberlain's weakness. "I sometimes wonder if our immense defenceless towns would ever stand up to modern bombing." Postscript: My critical verdict on the Yearling (presumably Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's novel) - splendid, but too painful for satisfaction.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 3 pages 1939 March 7

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429x

## Correspondence

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "What a very charming book you have sent to me this time." (In pencil, not in autograph of Beatrix Potter: Eliz. Coatsworth, "Here I Stay.") This book leads her to comment on difficulty in England of feeding sheep in long spells of snow. Less anxiety now over international situation. Speaks of shelters and other safety measures in England. Wonders what course Hitler will now follow, and fears trouble from Japan. If Roosevelt "were steadier and more trusted at home - he would have still more weight in the world." Speaks of death of her eccentric American friend, Miss Owen, and wonders about her will.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Womens Hospital, Catharine Street, Liverpool, 2 pages with envelope 1939 April 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429y

**General note**

A forwarding address to Boston, written in someone else's handwriting on a blue label, is pasted over the original address. A postmark from Germantown Station, Philadelphia, on back of envelope, is dated April 21, 1939. Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Good appetite in hospital. Nervous about danger of being in Lancashire if war comes. "The Irish bombings are very silly, little damage, but troublesome to the police." The surgeon says she's cured, but "he told me last November that I was a particularly healthy old woman? Four times on the table in 5 months??...Any further relapse is unlikely, I was very sick & burst the stitches which delayed things a little."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 6 pages with envelope 1939 July 3

RBD BP  
ALS P429z

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. More of her comments on Hitler, Chamberlain, and increasing threat of war. "Have laid in a hoard of dog biscuits for our two little dogs," but they

## Correspondence

decidedly prefer meat. Mentions visit to sheep farm at Troutbeck; then describes her own cattle. Writes, at some length, about Elizabeth Coatsworth's *Here I Stay*.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1939 August 24

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429aa

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. England beginning to have black-outs. She dislikes Chamberlain more and more. One does not know whether to lay in stores or not. She has got in stores of sugar and dog biscuits. "I am feeling much stronger now, able to get about and get through some of the arrears of things that have not been attended to on the farms."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1939 November 26

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429bb

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "I have posted you the *Country Child*," to which work the remarks that follow presumably refer. Refers also to *Dew on the Grass*. Have just managed on their petrol ration so far. Petrol the only item thus far rationed. "The mines menace is disquieting."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1940 January 5

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429cc

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Comments again on Welsh background of book sent her by Mrs. Perry, to which Beatrix Potter referred in her letter to Mrs. Perry of November 26, 1939. Discusses food supplies in England, and rationing thereof. "War looks like taking

## Correspondence

a long time, it has spread so much." German air raids are not taken seriously. Appreciates American sympathy, and happy at prospect of American help.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1940 May 28

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429dd

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Concerned about royalties to be paid her on her books sold in America. If war continues and things grow worse in England, wants either Mrs. Perry or Mrs. Richard Stevens to receive and hold these royalties for her. "In the meantime spring is lovely," and she describes its beauty briefly.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1940 June 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429ee

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Concerning life and thought in England as the war progresses: bitter feeling towards America; problems with evacuation of children; the danger of "normal serenity." Looks back with disgust at Chamberlain and the 1938 crisis. "I am very crippled, on a stick...but I will hobble about till it is ended."

Telegram, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Hawkshead, 1 page 1940 June 26

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429ss

**General note**

Text of telegram reads: "Please cable Duke Hexham England undertaking maintain Jean Duke aged sixteen Robert Tweedie eleven David Tweedie four for duration of war required for passport." Sent by "Hellin" (sic). Presumably this refers to the possibility of sending Beatrix Potter's cousin's children to the United States for safety during World

## Correspondence

War II (they never left England). Cf. letters to Mrs. Perry for June 13, June 29, July 24, and August 14, 1940.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1940 June 29

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429ff

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Two small portions have been cut from letter, presumably by censor. Comments on various accounts of the bombings, on problems involved in sending children to America, and on probability of American entry into war. Has evacuees at Hill Top. Considering selling her mother's fine Brussels lace in America.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1940 July 24

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429gg

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking her presumably for her offer to help care for the children of Beatrix Potter's cousin who were to be evacuated to America, but who have been refused permission to go. English believe war will be long, but attitude now one of confidence. Speaks of Dunkirk and of English indifference to air raids.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1940 August 14

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429hh

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Again thanking her and Mrs. Richard Stevens for their willingness to help in connection with evacuation to America of the children of Beatrix Potter's cousin. (Evacuation never took place.) Writes at considerable length about life in wartime England: bombings, food shortages, effect of war on young girls, evacuation of children.

## Correspondence

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1940 December 24

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429ii

**General note**

Envelope postmarked 23 Dec 40. Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Renewal of air raids. Nobody in England doubts that the Allies will win the war - they've got to! U-boat sinkings are somewhat serious, since they threaten British food supply. Food-raising definitely encouraged. "I have marketed just over a thousand sheep in the twelve months...I have a very big stock of sheep & young cattle." Rereading some books, one or two having been sent by Anne Carroll Moore. Likes Cornelia Meigs very much.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 2 pages with envelope 1941 March 21

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429tt

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. All Christmas greetings from the U.S.A. have been belated, and some lost probably due to the sinking of ships on the Atlantic. The last bomb that she heard of fell into a receptacle for manure. "If it were not so painful to think & know of the suffering which is taking place--a distant raid is rather fine--droning of planes very high overhead, gunfire and shells like falling stars..." Says they have been much healthier than last winter. Postscript: "I don't know about courage--it seems to me the town populations have become like ants which continue to carry on even while a gardener puts his foot upon their activities. They don't know fear."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1941 April 14

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429jj

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Belgrade occupied - and can we save Greece? Surely Turkey will have to fight; but I suppose if she intervenes - the Japs will attack America, and



## Correspondence

Australia." Describes going through effects of her late eccentric American friend, Miss Owen. More about air raids, the damage they have done, and reactions of people to the raids. Tanks worse than bombing: "if German tanks got a hold in this island - God help us!"

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1941 November 11

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429kk

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Outlines progress of war, and gives her reactions. "There is no shortage of food. Sugar & fish and eggs are the scarce articles." Most evacuees have gone home. Thinks it unwise to have taken children back to towns. Comments on effect of war on morals of young, too high wages for factory workers, lax morals of those in some of the women's services, and wild behavior of small boys of her neighborhood.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages 1942 November 18

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429LL

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "There is plenty in the barns," but bad weather has made harvesting difficult. "I had more than 3 tons of wool to sell." Still nuisance air raids in south. Plenty to eat, but not too much meat. Hopes she won't have to give up the Pekingeses. Petrol strictly rationed; so gets around only to sales, such as sheep fairs, and to looking after her properties.

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 4 pages with envelope 1943 January 23

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429mm

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking her for Christmas parcel of food. "The war news is heartening. Except the indignation against U.S.A. which is possibly more serious than U.S.A. is aware of. Using tractor at Sawrey to make ploughing easier."

Autograph letter signed, to Marian Frazer Harris Perry. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1943 November 13

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429nn

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking her for Christmas remembrances, which included food. "I had a bad time with bronchitis in September." She died of bronchitis on December 22. A cloudy, wet summer, but able to get hay in on her farm. Eggs scarce; other foods now again available. Allowed to feed a small number of hens, and "a domestic pig." Thankful and hopeful, when she thinks what has happened in other countries. "No such thing as young servants - our elderly maid is faithful, but not strong."

Envelopes sent to Marian Frazer Harris Perry and Mr. Richard Kingsbury Stevens, 2 envelopes 1935, 1942

RBD  
BP ALS  
P429uu

**General note**

Envelope addressed to Mrs. Perry is postmarked 15 May 42, and mailed from Ambleside, Westmorland. Return address: H.B. Heelis, Sawrey, Ambleside, Westmorland. Envelope addressed to Mr. Stevens is postmarked 15 Nov 1935, and mailed from Paddington London W.2. Possibly from Mrs. Stevens, not Beatrix Potter. No return address. Stamp has been torn off.

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Sharpley. Burley, Lyme Regis, 4 pages 1904 April 18

RBD BP  
ALS Sh23

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth Harris (later Elizabeth H. Stevens). Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 4 pages with envelope 1930 September 4

RBD BP  
ALS St47

## Correspondence

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanks her for sending the snapshot of Mrs. Perry and herself (Beatrix Potter). "Your long-suffering aunty looks rather like an elderly sheep. But I am more like a good tempered witch than a cow." Rare Book Department has three copies of photograph classed with ephemera. Describes various agricultural shows in which her livestock have taken prizes. "The sheep have been very successful in the female classes; 16 first prizes, and several shows yet to come including Loweswater."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 4 pages 1933 December 14

RBD BP  
ALS St47b

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Says it has been a great pleasure to see her aunt again over the summer (Marian Frazer Harris Perry). Comments on photograph of Mrs. Stevens' daughter Nonya, apparently received recently. Sheep sales have gone well. "You ask after cross Mrs. P. Duck, she sat and she sat, & when I (at great peril) lifted her off her nest in the haybarn--she was sitting on nothing. There had been an egg; whether she had eaten it, or Samuel Whiskers--cannot say! But being emaciated by prolonged seclusion & bad temper--she proceeded to die. She was of great unknown age. The previous summer she hatched out one black chicken!! Now that is a story for Nonya when she can understand it--but she had better start on Peter Rabbit--yet another generation of Peter's friends."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 4 pages 1935 June 13

RBD BP  
ALS St47c

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Most of the letter deals with Mr. and Mrs. Stevens' upcoming visit in August, and which hotels would be best for their visit. Says that she and Mr. Heelis are taking a trip soon: "... neither of us have slept out of the house since last August; and

## Correspondence

it is no rest to me as I am a bad traveller by car and always relieved to get it over--I am beginning to feel very old."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 4 pages 1936 July 13

RBD BP  
ALS St47d

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Congratulates her on the upcoming birth of a sibling for Nonya, Mrs. Stevens' daughter. "Will Dick please send a line--if only one line-- Tell him I got out some little knitted shoes yesterday, made by my mother when 89, and thought--shall I send one for luck ..." Discusses preparation for possible war: "The work of ship building & guns is proceeding at a great pace now ... The German airship has been over this way ... I suppose it had a look at the shipyards at Barrow-in-Furness."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. and Richard Kingsbury Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, near Ambleside, 6 pages with envelope 1936 September 10

RBD BP  
ALS St47e

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Congratulates them on the birth of a new baby. Reports that it has been a very wet season and that much hay has been left in the fields. Has had many American visitors, including one named Ivy Steel and her daughter June. "It was the first time I had ever heard the native accent of Bronx. I am tempted to say I hope I may never hear that accent again." Describes other visitors from Boston, but regretted not seeing Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Stevens' aunt.

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. and Richard Kingsbury Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 2 pages 1938 December 11

RBD BP  
ALS St47f

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Most of the letter discusses impending war. "We were not in personal danger here amongst the misty hills and valleys, but the outlook is pretty bad for this country." Says that Mr. Heelis "gets wet and sneezes" and that she has had lumbago and sciatica. Talks about Dick's bout with shingles and says that Mr. Heelis still feels the effects of his case of shingles ten years ago. Mentions road improvements in the district. Postscript: "Why oh why such dislike of Roosevelt?! Not that I know or care! but I hope if he were beaten it would not mean that the States would be still more stand-offish? If we are doomed to be destroyed by the Fascists--your western cities will be in danger from Japan."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. and Richard Kingsbury Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 2 pages 1940 May 25

RBD BP  
ALS St47g

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Has received "your pleasant message" and a photograph of the Stevens' two children from 1938. Reminisces about Mrs. Stevens' visit to the Lake District several years before. Discusses war, and says that two daughters of a favorite cousin Stephanie Duke may be sent to Canada or the U.S.A. if conditions continue to worsen. "... any 'evacuating' would be done through consuls & officially--but if they ever have to go--I would give them the names of some of my good friends in the U.S.A. in case they require advice." Describes severe, snowy winter and says that she and Mr. Heelis have had the flu: "... I stopped in bed through the cold weather--of course getting up, but mostly like Mr. John Dormouse--'very snug.'" Had an operation and says she is "rather crippled, though still smiling and very busy."

Autograph letter signed, to Elizabeth H. and Richard Kingsbury Stevens. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, Westmorland, 2 pages with envelope 1940 September 19

RBD BP  
ALS St47h

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Discusses the bombing of cities in Britain, and some isolated bombs nearby: "There was however, another wandering 'visitor' last night, who unloaded

## Correspondence

15 bombs on wasteland, ten miles off--and I never woke up!" Talks about weather, and says she is going to dry some apple rings "in the American way." Says that "Wm's habit of snoring is very tiresome. I have put up with it for many years, but it drowns the noise of approaching planes!"

Autograph letter, to an unknown recipient. Castle Cottage, Sawrey, Ambleside, 1 page 1942 October 23

RBD BP  
ALS Z999

**General note**

Not signed. Letter of recommendation for William Bell, Beatrix Potter's horseman and general farm worker at Troutbeck Park sheep farm. He was in her service for 10 1/2 years, and wished to leave her service "for a change."

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Lingholme, Keswick, 4 pages 1906 August 27

RBD BP  
ALS W241

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Went across to Keswick in the boat, and on Friday went to Carlisle to do some shopping. "The harvest was being cut all along the railway, the barley looked so beautiful & golden ... I am intending to go to Sawrey on Thursday next for a week ... I had rather a row with a plumber--or perhaps I ought to say I lost my temper!--the men have been very good so far, if he won't take orders from a lady I may pack him off & get one from Kendal..." Says she will try to visit her in London in September: "... it would be a very long time if I didn't see you all until November." Discusses plans to spend a month at Sawrey, and intentions to visit an uncle in Wales.

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Gwynnynog, near Denbigh, N.W. printed, 4 pages 1906 September

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241b

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Talks of Millie's family, the weather, and her journey to her uncle's home in Wales, where she is writing from. "It is warmer here--what it will be like in the course of the evening I tremble to think, for there is an immense fire in the gameroom, which my uncle inhabits. It is a little panelled room very snug in winter; so I shall proceed to draw one of the guns after supper." Of her uncle Fred Burton?: "Considering he is over 80 & has been run over this summer I think he is as wonderful as your mother! He is very deaf." Mentions some bulbs she would like posted to Sawrey: "I shall like so much to have them, it is so nice to have plants from places one knows or with some association." Expects to leave Tuesday when her Uncle Fred returns to Manchester. Mourning stationery.

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Sawry, Amberslide, 4 pages 1906 October 17

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241j

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Hilton, Sidmouth, 4 pages with envelope 1908 April 24

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241c

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Most of the letter discusses the illness of Louisa Warne, Millie's mother. "I am dreadfully sorry to hear that your Mother's cold has turned into bronchitis, one cannot be much surprised in such shocking weather. Melting snow is worse than anything ... I should think she had had influenza too ... My father had it that way ... I shall be very glad to get home, my parents intend to stay till Thursday, hoping for some warmer days ... I wonder how my poor lambs are getting on, in the snow. The trees are a little greener since the rain yesterday, but everything is getting spoilt, the young fern leaves are quite blackened with the frost ..."

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Hilton, Sidmouth, 4 pages 1908 April 26

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241d

**General note**

## Correspondence

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Letter of condolence on hearing of the death of Millie's mother, Louisa Warne. "I don't feel as if I know how to write to you in your dreadful loss. I wish you had Norman Warne to help you ... You will all your life have the comfort of remembering you have been the most devoted good daughter ... But it is rather early to talk dry common-sense. Though I do not know how to say it I am sure you know how much I sympathize with you and Edith Millie's sister, and all of you."

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Hill Top Farm, Sawrey, Ambleside, 4 pages 1911 April 6

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241e

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Regrets that she was unable to visit before she went north. "How unlucky you have not let your house. I hear people say they are not letting well this season, in spite of the coronation ... I came through perfect blizzards yesterday, the snow did not lie however ... I am intending to stay over the weekend and then join my parents at the Windermere hotel, but I really don't think it will be fit for them to come if the weather does not change ... There are a good many polyanthuses but everything is pinched and shrivelled, except the violets which happen to be at the foot of a wall. There are quantities of lambs, extremely lively & pretty, and two calves have arrived since I came yesterday."

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Lindeth How, Windermere, 4 pages 1911 September 3

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241f

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Potter. Mostly talks of her stay in the Lake District. "It has been a lovely summer--it was rather warm in the cornfield; but except on two days there has always been a breeze and now it is quite sharp at nights ... I go over to Sawrey about 4 days a week ... We have not been reduced to potatoes here, but the grass is very short, and many neighbors have been carrying water--my two pump wells held out ... Chickens have done well. I got two young turkeys, but one of them died suddenly last week, I think it had got hurt by the horse, or cattle. The strike caused a good deal of inconvenience to visitors



## Correspondence

who were stranded in lodgings, and they all seemed to go away when they could, it looks rather deserted in Bowness."

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Hill Top Farm Sawrey, Ambleside, 1 page with newspaper clipping 1913 October 21

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241g

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Letter discusses her recent marriage to William Heelis, and she includes a newspaper clipping with the wedding announcement. "I am sending you belated cake, which I hadn't courage to do before! Thank you so very much for your kind letter ... I am very happy, & in every way very satisfied with Willie--It is best now not to look back. But I can assure you I shall always remain yrs very aff." Refers to her earlier engagement to Millie's brother Norman, who died before they could marry.

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. 2 Bolton Gardens, South Kensington, London S.W. embossed, 4 pages 1913 November 3

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241h

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Regrets being unable to meet Millie later that day, and says she will try to visit while she is in town. "My mother is just expecting a new parlourmaid and counts on my being at hand." Writes about a correspondent in New Zealand, with whom Fred (presumably Millie's nephew, Fred Warne) might want to meet while he is travelling. "I have often had a curiosity to know what she is like, & probably she returns the compliment." Talks of being separated from her husband: "I feel very dumpy without my husband, it was hard luck to have to leave, after only a fortnight; he is coming up for me on Saturday. Now if you want to get me a nice useful present that I shall always use & remember you by--get me Mrs. Beeton's cookery, please, & write my name in it!"

Autograph letter signed, to Millie Warne. Sawrey, Ambleside, 4 pages 1914 September 11

RBD  
BP ALS  
W241i

## Correspondence

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Written shortly after the outbreak of W.W.I. "I have wondered where you have been in these anxious times? perhaps with Edith (Millie's sister)--it cannot be very pleasant in London. My mother is not going back, she has taken a small unfurnished house in this village; and my old Aunt ... has taken the house next to it ... It is the best plan ... but it does keep me on the trot. I have had rather a hard summer, I feel very well but a bit thinner. The war is very horrid; the news is better now but it must entail awful slaughter ... William put down his name as a special constable ... There seems no place for 'volunteers,' it is enlistment or nothing ... I have felt too busy & occupied 'worried' crossed out with relations to write letters..."

Autograph letter signed, to Mary Wilkinson. Castle Cottage, Sawry, Ambleside, 1 page with envelope 1930 September 19

RBD BP  
ALS W654

**General note**

Signed Beatrix Heelis.

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Kate Wyatt. Sawrey, 4 pages 1920 November 15

RBD BP  
ALS W97

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. "Beatrix Potter." Second signature does not appear to be Beatrix Potter's autograph. Greatly appreciates help Miss Wyatt has given Ivy Hunt, an orphan whose mother Beatrix Potter knew. "I am sorry again I have no new little book: my eyes have failed very much; and somehow since the war I have never felt as if I could concentrated my attention on drawing, there is a great deal of work in the illustrations. It is much easier for me to attend to real live pigs & rabbits."

Autograph letter signed, to Miss Kate Wyatt. Sawrey, 2 pages with envelope 1920 November 27

RBD BP  
ALS W97b

## Manuscripts

**General note**

Signed: Beatrix Heelis. Thanking her for a print. Most of the letter concerns Beatrix Potter's adventures, in her youth, with taming mice. "White mice are too prolific; but 'Hunca Munca' firmly refused to have any family."

|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Greeting cards, 27 items circa 1925-1939 | 1          | 1-3           |

**Manuscripts****Call-Number**

*The Fairy Caravan*, corrected manuscript of preface, 2 pages circa 1929

RBD  
BP MSS  
94-869

*How to Lose Furry Friends* manuscript and note, 4 pages undated

RBD BP  
MSS 94-73

|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Journal segment in code, photostat and manuscript 1956 | 1          | 4             |

**Scope and Contents note**

Transcription by Potter collector and scholar Leslie Linder.

**Call-Number**

On Watercolor, 2 pages 1914 April

RBD  
BP MSS  
2007-13

**Scope and Contents note**

**Photographs**

Remarks by B. Potter, G. March and R. Mason, together with 2 original watercolors by Potter and 11 original illustrations.

*The Tale of Little Pig Robinson* manuscript, 54 leaves with note circa 1930

RBD  
BP MSS  
65-148

**Scope and Contents note**

Original manuscript includes twenty-nine pen and ink illustrations, with note (probably to Alexander McKay) at end of manuscript. Illustrations cataloged individually.

*The Tale of Pigling Bland*, corrected proof, 94 pages 1913

RBD  
BP MSS  
81-1075

*The Tailor of Gloucester* manuscript, 116 pages 1901 December 25

RBD  
BP MSS  
97-528

**Scope and Contents note**

Original manuscript and twelve watercolor illustrations, one pen and ink illustration, and one correction on separate scrap of paper. Illustrations and presentation letter are cataloged separately.

**Photographs**

|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Photographs of Beatrix Potter, her family, and John Bright, 3 photographs in bound volume circa 1870-1892 | 4          | 13            |
| Photographs of Beatrix Potter, Bertram Potter, Hill Top, etc., 6 items circa 1875-1902                    | 5          | 5             |

**Collectibles and ephemera**

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Photographs of Beatrix Potter in Sawrey, 4 items circa 1875-1915  | 5 | 6  |
| Photocopy of a photograph taken by Beatrix Potter, of T. R. Fildes and a cow, with photocopy of letter, 2 items circa 1910-1930 | 5 | 7  |
| Photograph of Beatrix Potter at Hill Top, 1 item circa 1913   | 5 | 8  |
| Photograph of Beatrix Potter and Marian Frazer Harris Perry, 3 copies 1930  | 5 | 9  |
| Photograph of Delmar Banner's portrait of Beatrix Potter, with note, 2 items 1958   | 1 | 5  |
| Photograph of Beatrix Potter with her pet rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, on leash, 1 item undated                                      | 5 | 10 |

**Collectibles and ephemera**

**General note**

For more details on any of the collectibles in our collection, please contact the Rare Book Department.

**Artwork related to Beatrix Potter**

**Call-Number**

"Anglo Saxon attitudes," pen and ink and pencil studies, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 9

**General note**

## Artwork related to Beatrix Potter

Pen and ink and pencil studies; unsigned and undated. Studies are done on letterhead, with "20, Kensington Palace Gardens, W." in red. Inscription on page 2: "Anglo Saxon attitudes."

Painting of Mrs. Tittlemouse, on wood, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 1

**General note**

Depicts Mrs. Tittlemouse entering doorway, holding a broom.

Pen and ink and pencil sketch of a boy asleep on a step with mice, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 2

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketch; unsigned and undated.

Pen and ink and pencil sketches of a man on horseback, people walking, and a young lady, 2 pages 1885 January 30

RBD BP  
ART/C 8

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketches; inscribed "WBP, Jan 30 85" on page 2. Sketches are done on folded letterhead, with "Gorse Hall, Staley Bridge" printed on page 1.

Pen and ink and pencil sketches of medieval scenes and landscapes, 2 pages undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 10

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketches; unsigned and undated. Studies are done on folded letterhead, with "20 Kensington Palace Gardens, W." printed in red. Studies of flowers are on page 2; all other sketches are on page 1.

Artwork related to Beatrix Potter

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Pen and ink and pencil sketches of people, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 5

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketches; unsigned and undated.

Pen and ink and pencil sketches of people in 18th-century dress, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 4

**General note**

Three pen and ink and pencil sketches; unsigned and undated. One sketch depicts a lady seated, one depicts a lady standing, and one depicts a seated couple.

Pen and ink and pencil sketch of a woman in 18th-century dress, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 6

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketch; unsigned and undated.

Pen and ink and pencil sketch of a woman and cloaked figure, 1 page undated

RBD BP  
ART/C 7

**General note**

Pen and ink and pencil sketch; signed "WBP;" undated.

Pen and ink sketches of people in 18th-century dress and two sketches of dogs, 1 page 1884 December

RBD BP  
ART/C 3

**General note**

## Artwork related to Beatrix Potter

Pen and ink sketches; inscribed "WBP, Decem 84." Paper embossed with a design of a black dragon.

Assorted realia, 20 items 1976-2002

|        | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b>    |
|--------|------------|------------------|
| Realia | 1          | 6                |
| Realia |            | <b>Box</b><br>6  |
| Realia |            | <b>Box</b><br>19 |

### Scope and Contents note

Includes apparel buttons, bronze figurine, candle holders, keychains, lunchbox, pencils, pins, postage stamps, tin basin, and window stickers.

**Box**

Calendars, 9 items 1974-2003

21

### Scope and Contents note

Includes appointment books and monthly calendars featuring Potter's characters, both unauthorized and unauthorized.

**Box**

**Folder**

Engagement diaries, 4 items 1991-2002

5

1-4

Games, 8 items 1913 and undated

**Box**



Artwork related to Beatrix Potter

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| Realia | 6          |
|        | <b>Box</b> |
| Realia | 15         |
|        | <b>Box</b> |
| Realia | 19         |

**Box**

20

Infant clothes and accessories, 6 items undated

Jigsaw puzzles, 19 puzzles undated

6-14

**Scope and Contents note**

Most of these puzzles produced based on Beatrix Potter's characters were officially licensed by Frederick Warne & Co, although some are unlicensed piracies.

Novelty books, 21 items 1916-2002

|      |            |
|------|------------|
|      | <b>Box</b> |
| Text | 6          |
|      | <b>Box</b> |
| Text | 16         |

**Scope and Contents note**

This file include coloring books, cut-outs and paper dolls, paint-by-numbers, and sticker books.

**Box**

Ornaments, 4 items 1987-1988

19

## Artwork related to Beatrix Potter

## Peter Rabbit 100th anniversary kit 1992

|      | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b>    |
|------|------------|------------------|
| Text | 4          | 2                |
| Text |            | <b>Box</b><br>23 |

**Scope and Contents note**

Frederick Warne & Co. sent this kit to bookstores to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. It includes mobiles, paper rabbit ears, balloons, flyers, bookmarks, streamers, and display stands, along with biographical information about Beatrix Potter, photographs, and a list of events scheduled to commemorate the anniversary.

**Box**

"Peter Rabbit and his friends" wallpaper, 11 sheets 1952

6

*Picture book parade: Filmstrips based on outstanding children's books.* Weston, Conn.: Weston Woods, 5 filmstrips with booklets circa 1970

17

Porcelain figurines, 152 items 1948-2002

**Scope and Contents note**

Beatrix Potter's characters are represented (often in several versions) in a large collection of porcelain figurines, primarily produced by Beswick and Royal Albert.

Postcards and stationery, 127 items 1929-2002

|      | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|------|------------|---------------|
| Text | 1          | 7-15          |

Reference materials

|      | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|------|------------|---------------|
| Text | 2          | 1-2           |

**Scope and Contents note**

The stationery includes greeting cards, note cards, and postcards primarily depicting characters from Beatrix Potter's books. One folder of postcards consists of those sent to the Rare Book Department and its librarians.

|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Posters, 18 items undated   |            | 21-22         |
| Shopping bag from B. Altman & Company 1972  | 4          | 3             |
| Sound books, 5 items circa 1945-2002  |            | 19            |
| Stuffed toys and dolls, 4 items undated   |            | 20            |
| Wedgwood china plates, 3 items 1985-2000  |            | 17            |
| World of Beatrix Potter: 18 Beatrix Potter milk & white chocolate miniature figures.<br>London: Kinnerton Confectionery, 1 box 1995 |            | 17            |

**Reference materials**

|                                | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Adaptations, 4 items 1967-1971 | 2          | 3             |

## Beatrix Potter Colloquium, Free Library of Philadelphia

| <b>Beatrix Potter Colloquium, Free Library of Philadelphia 16 October 1966</b>  |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Clippings   | 2          | 4             |
| <b>Scope and Contents note</b>  |            |               |
| Includes two articles: "How Peter Rabbit made Beatrix Potter famous and vice versa" and "Our library's love affair with artist-author." |            |               |
|   |            | <b>Box</b>    |
| Colloquium recordings, 7 cassette tapes   |            | 18            |
| <b>Scope and Contents note</b>  |            |               |
| Includes a presentation by children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.   |            |               |
|   |            | 18            |
| Colloquium recordings, 2 reel-to-reel tapes   |            | 18            |
| Colloquium recording, 1 CD-R  |            | 18            |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Invitations and keepsake, 4 items   | 2          | 5             |
| <b>Beatrix Potter exhibitions</b>   |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| "Beatrix Potter: Artist and Storyteller," The Pierpont Morgan Library 1988  | 2          | 6             |

## Beatrix Potter exhibitions

**Scope and Contents note**

These pamphlets, photographs, and press releases were produced by the Morgan Library for its exhibition, on view May 12 - August 21, 1988.

Beatrix Potter centenary exhibitions in Philadelphia 1992

2

7-9

**Scope and Contents note**

Exhibitions included: "The World of Peter Rabbit: the Art & Science of Beatrix Potter" at the Academy of Natural Sciences; "Peter Rabbit's Friends" and "Contemporary Peter Rabbit" at the Free Library of Philadelphia; and "Beatrix Potter: The Philadelphia Connection" by the Beatrix Potter Society. The exhibitions were informally known as "Peter Rabbit on the Parkway." Materials include bookmarks, buttons, clippings, flyers, invitations, postcards, and press releases.

*Cottontails and Corgis: The Children's Books of Beatrix Potter and Tasha Tudor*, exhibition checklist 2001-2002

2

10

**Scope and Contents note**

This printout reproduces the exhibition labels for The Morgan Library & Museum's Beatrix Potter and Tasha Tudor exhibition, which was on view October 11, 2001 through January 27, 2002.

Exhibition publicity 1966-2004

2

11-13

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes publicity and checklists from Beatrix Potter exhibitions throughout the United States.

Beatrix Potter exhibitions

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Peter Rabbit and Friends in the Garden, Longwood Gardens 1998  | 2          | 14            |
| "Through the Garden Gate: The World of Beatrix Potter," Cleveland Museum of Natural History, 16 items 1992 | 2          | 15            |
| The World of Beatrix Potter, Frederick Warne 1976  | 4          | 4             |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Beatrix Potter Society circa 1985-2002   | 3          | 1             |
| Catalogs 1968-2003   | 3          | 2-3           |
| Clippings and periodicals 1952-2004  |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Text   | 3          | 4-9           |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Text   | 4          | 5-6           |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Certificates of authenticity and donor notes, 12 items 1959-1966   | 4          | 7             |
| Correspondence related to the Free Library of Philadelphia's Potter collection, 7 pages 1955-1966          | 4          | 8             |
| "Index to the Second Edition of Beatrix Potter's Journal," compiled by Elaine R. Jacobsen, 31 pages 1999   | 4          | 9             |

**Beatrix Potter exhibitions**

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|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Lot of papers relating to the tenancy of "The Castle." Sawrey, Ambleside,<br>6 items, 2 photographs 1922-1957 | 4 | 10 |
|---|---|----|

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Obituaries for Beatrix Potter, 2 items 1944 January | 4 | 11 |
|---|---|----|

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| Records of auction sales, 1 volume circa 1921 | 4 | 12 |
|---|---|----|

**Scope and Contents note**

Handwritten ledger with lists of items sold at auction sales in the Lake District, including a 1921 entry for "Mrs. Heelis."