The W.R. Mitchell Archive Interim Catalogue

Archive Reference: GB 0532 MIT

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# Introduction

This archive covers the writing and contacts of Yorkshire Dales author and journalist Dr W.R. (Bill) Mitchell. It is an invaluable source of information on the culture, society, landscape, dialect and customs of the Dales.

You can find out more about Bill Mitchell’s Archive in no. 83 of the 100 Objects exhibition: *By Gum, Life were Sparse*. <http://100objectsbradford.wordpress.com>

The catalogue is taken from a collection description written for the Archives Hub and a list based on notes by Dr Mitchell. It is being made available online with minor edits as part of our Quick Wins programme, which will put much more information about our archives online quickly by digitising old lists. It is an “Interim” catalogue because there is much more scope for detailed listing of the contents of the archive in future.

If you’d like to use this archive, do get in touch: our contact details are on the front cover of this catalogue.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection description

## Reference code

GB 0532 MIT.

## Title

The W.R. Mitchell Archive.

## Dates

1938-ongoing.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

3.5 linear metres.

## Name of creator

William R. Mitchell, b. 1928, author and editor.

## Biographical history

W.R. (Bill) Mitchell has had a long career as journalist with and editor of the *Dalesman* magazine and *Cumbria* magazine. The *Dalesman*, first published from the Dales village of Clapham in 1939, is one of the country's most notable regional magazines, with a monthly circulation of more than 50,000. The magazine features Yorkshire life, past and present, portraying the country and its people in words, paintings, photographs and drawings. Dr Mitchell has also written many books, mostly about the North Country, and articles for other journals and local newspapers. In June 1996 Dr Mitchell was awarded the MBE, and in July 1996 the University of Bradford awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

## Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Dr. Mitchell in 1997 and subsequently.

## Scope and content

Correspondence concerning the Dalesman and books by Dr Mitchell. Articles and journalism. Scrapbooks, photograph albums, and audio-tapes of interviews with Yorkshire and Lakeland people.

## Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment. Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation. The scrapbooks and other correspondence in this Archive may contain sensitive personal data and sections are therefore restricted under the DPA until they have been catalogued in full.

## Copyright/conditions governing reproduction

Dr Mitchell has retained his copyright in relevant sections of this Archive. Other rights are held by various third parties. Copies may be supplied or produced at the discretion of Special Collections staff, subject to copyright law and the condition of the originals. Applications for permission to make published use of any material should be directed to the Special Collections Librarian in the first instance. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

## Language of material

English.

## Related archives

Dr Mitchell has deposited material with several organisations including Leeds University and the Museum of North Craven Life. The W.R. Mitchell Archive, led by Settle Stories, aims to create an online digital archive uniting this scattered material[[1]](#footnote-1).

## Archivist’s note

Original descriptions by John Brooker, revisions by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

## Date(s) of description

July 2001 (Collection description) and May 2004 (Handlist), with minor revisions in September 2013.

## Indexing

### Persons

Mitchell, William Reginald, 1928-

### Corporate bodies

Dalesman (Magazine)

Cumbria (Magazine)

Settle & Carlisle Railway

### Subjects

Yorkshire Dales (England)

Lake District (England)

Settle & Carlisle Railway

# Details of archive contents

Note: explanatory notes by Dr Mitchell are marked “WRM”.

## 1. Scrapbooks

The scrapbooks contain Dr. Mitchell’s business and personal correspondence, articles by Dr Mitchell for other journals, news cuttings, ephemera, and some of the smaller *Dalesman* publications.

Access: correspondence restricted under the DPA until catalogued in full.

1/1. 1956-1958

1/2. 1958-1959

1/3. 1959-1960

1/4. 1960-1961

1/5. 1961-1962

1/6. 1962

1/7. 1962-1963

1/8. 1963-1964

1/9. 1965

1/10. 1965-1966

1/11. 1967

1/12. 1968-1969

1/13. 1969-1970

1/14. 1971

1/15. 1972-1973

1/16. 1973-1974

1/17. 1975

1/18. 1976 Settle-Carlisle railway centenary (Volume 1)

1/19. 1976 Settle-Carlisle railway centenary (Volume 2)

1/20. 1976

1/21. 1977

1/22. 1978

1/23. 1978-1979

1/24. 1980

1/25. 1981

1/26. 1981-1982

1/27. 1982-1983

1/28. 1983

1/29. 1987-1988

## 2. Correspondence

### 2/1. Correspondence relating to the Dalesman Magazine

Letters from contributors and readers, dating from 1938 to 1999, with notes by Dr. Mitchell made in 1999.

Access: correspondence restricted under the DPA until catalogued in full.

### 2/2. Folders of letters to the Dalesman.

The bulk of the correspondence is 1939 to 1949, with a few letters up to 1968, and is mostly from contributors (both writers and artists). Correspondents include Kit Calvert, Nellie Kirkham, Phyllis Bentley, Marie Hartley, Joan Ingilby, Marmaduke Miller, Fred Lawson, J. Fairfax-Blakeborough.

Access: correspondence restricted under the DPA until catalogued in full.

### 2/3. Various correspondence,deposited 2001.

Access: correspondence restricted under the DPA until catalogued in full.

2/3/1. Two letters from Miss Jessica Lofthouse, former librarian and author.

2/3/2. Note from Alfred Wainwright written on the back of a greetings card featuring one of his pen drawings.

2/3/3. Letters to Harry Scott from artist Owen Bowen.

2/3/4. Postcard from the Hon. Anne Farrer, who was related to the Farrers of Clapham. [The meeting at Weathercote House took place. There was a sumptuous afternoon tea!” WRM]

2/3/5. Two letters from artist Paul Hogarth (born at Kendal).

2/3/6. Two postcards from Hunter Davies, writer, husband of Margaret Forster, novelist.

2/3/7. Letter from W. Harbutt Dawson, author of *History of Skipton*.

2/3/8. Letter from the Hon. Mrs Dawson (née Robinson), widow of Geoffrey Dawson, for many years Editor of The Times.

2/3/9. Letters from artist Delmar Banner, husband of sculptress Josefina de Vasconcellos.

2/3/10 .Letter from Eleanor Winthrop-Young, widow of Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, poet, writer, mountaineer. [“Eleanor was the youngest child of Cecil Slingsby, the mountaineer, who opened up Norway to visitors with a book in which he described that land as "a northern playground". She was brought up at the family home, Carleton, near Skipton.” WRM]

2/3/11.Letter from Rupert Hart-Davis, writer and publisher, relating to the draft of an article by WRM about Hugh Walpole, who created the Herries family in stories set in Lakeland. Hart-Davis was Walpole's executor.

2/3/12. Letter from Arthur Raistrick. [“This was the time when, as a pacifist not wanting to cause embarrassment, left his lecturing job at Newcastle and with his wife Elizabeth took up residence at Linton-in-Craven. He and Harry Scott occasionally met. Raistrick wrote many learned articles for The Dalesman.” WRM].

2/3/13.Letter from Reginald G. Brundrit, artist, who had a studio at Grassington.

2/3/14.Letter from Kit Calvert. [“The "compleat dalesman", and great character, who saved the Wensleydale cheese-making industry and was a great collector of Yorkshire books.” WRM].

2/3/15. Letter from Mr Clark. [“Part of a correspondence begun when I was researching islands. He was an author associated with books about Rathlin and sailing a yacht around the coastline of Ireland.” WRM].

2/3/16. Letters from author Miss Joan Ingilby.

### 2/4. Cover for How they lived in the Yorkshire Dales.

### 2/5. Various items related to Yorkshire and the Lake District.

Access: correspondence restricted under the DPA until catalogued in full.

2/5/1. Copy of *Cumbria* (April 2002) containing a feature by W.R. Mitchell on Lakeland poet Norman Nicholson. Also: detail of memorial window, biographical note and covering letter from Brenda Hale.

2/5/2. Copy of *The Yorkshireman*, 12 December 1885.

2/5/3. Letter from Mary Miller (17 July 1995) with letterhead designed by her late husband, Marmaduke Miller, Dales artist and "mine host" of The Falcon at Arncliffe.

2/5/4. Letter from Michael Dower, son of John Gordon Dower, "architect" of National Parks [“this material was used in a *Dalesman* article” WRM.]

2/5/5. Two letters from Bill Rollinson, Lake District historian.

2/5/6. Alan Bennett. Letter, postcard, autographs (one featuring a self-caricature).

2/5/7. Photocopy of feature by WRM for Yorkshire Journal relating to a forebear who knew the Brontë family.

2/5/8. Transcript of a tape-recording of conversation with Sam Dyson [“The most amusing interview I have experienced”. WRM].

2/5/9. Material relating to navvies and the building of the Settle-Carlisle railway.

2/5/10.Greetings card signed by Ionicus [“Jos Armitage, whose paintings graced the covers of Dalesman for 16 years and who was also a notable Punch artist” WRM.].

2/5/11.Letter from Miss Jane Bragg (reference to J.B. Priestley).

2/5/12. Brief letter from Melvyn Bragg concerning WRM’s *How they lived in the Lake District*.

### 2/6. Various correspondence, deposited 2002.

2/6/1. Yorkshire Ramblers dinner, 1996. List of past presidents. Club song.

2/6/2. Letter to WRM from Bill Foggitt [“character and weather forecaster extraordinary”. WRM.]

2/6/3. Letters from Betty Wainwright, widow of Alfred Wainwright.

2/6/4. Letter from Geoffrey Moorhouse, journalist and authority on India.

2/6/5. Letter from Christopher Hall, editor of *The Countryman*.

2/6/6. Letters and postcard from Romany Bain, daughter of Romany, broadcaster, writer, naturalist and Methodist minister, who spent some years in the West Riding.

2/6/7. Letters from A. J. Brown, Yorkshire writer, walker, author of *Striding through Yorkshire*.

2/6/8. Letter from Elizabeth about drawings done by John S. Atherton, Dales artist.

2/6/9. Letter from Judy Taylor, writer about Beatrix Potter.

2/6/10. Letter from Wilfred Ellis, formerly head printer at Dixon & Stell when they were producing *The Dalesman*.

2/6/11. Letter from Fred Lawson, Wensleydale artist [“a great character, who wrote monthly notes illustrated by drawings; he wrote as he spoke and this was the only feature in *The Dalesman* I did not sub” WRM.]

2/6/12.Letter from James R Gregson, West Riding dramatist and early broadcaster.

2/6/13. Letter from Ivor Brown, wartime editor of *The Observer*.

2/6/14.Letter from Howard Spring, novelist [“at one time a sub on *The Yorkshire Observer* at Bradford” WRM].

2/6/15.Letter and a synopsis from John Dower [“architect of National Parks, who spent some wartime years at Kirkby Lonsdale and wrote a series of prophetic articles for Dalesman about post-war reconstruction in the Yorkshire Dales” WRM.]

2/6/16. Letter from Alexander Keighley of Steeton Hall, a pioneer photographer. He refers to the Canal Moat at Skipton [“a moody, hazy picture of a canal barge passing under Mill Bridge on the Springs Canal” WRM.]

2/6/17. Correspondence and obituary relating to the death of Joan Ingilby.

2/6/18. Correspondence with James A. Wight, son of Alf Wight (James Herriot).

2/6/19. Correspondence with Peter Robinson relating to donation of photographic plates taken by Jonty Wilson, of Kirkby Lonsdale.

2/6/20.Postcard from Sonia Lawson, R.A., daughter of the late Fred Lawson.

2/6/21.Foreword by Ann Cryer, MP., to WRM’s book *One Hundred Tales of the Settle-Carlisle Railway*.

2/6/22. Letter from Freddie Trueman, OBE.

2/6/23.Christmas greetings card from artist Rowland Lindup featuring his *Dalesman* character Old Amos waving at a "steam special" crossing Ribblehead viaduct.

## 3. The Dalesman

*The Yorkshire Dalesman*, Vol. 1, no.1, April 1939. First issue and mock-up of first issue. *The Dalesman*, Vol. 1, nos.3 and 6; Vol. 4, nos. 11 and 12; Vol. 5 nos. 1-6 and 9. (1939-1943).

## 4. Journalism

Principally “Letters from the Dales”, a column for the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* by W.R. Mitchell.

4/1. “Letters from the Dales”, 26 March 1994 – 17 December 1994 (photocopies)

4/2. “Letters from the Dales”, 24 December 1994 – 7 October 1995 (photocopies)

4/3. “Letters from the Dales”, 14 October 1995 – 13 July 1996 (photocopies; from 3rd February 1996 originals and photocopies)

4/4. “Letters from the Dales”, 20 July 1996 – 19 April 1997 (originals and photocopies; some spare originals)

4/5. “Letters from the Dales”, 26 April 1997 – 24 January 1998 (originals and photocopies; some spare originals)

4/6. “Letters from the Dales”, 31st January 1998 - 24 October 1998 (originals and photocopies; some spare originals)

4/7. “Letters from the Dales”, 31 October 1998 – 24 July 1999 (originals and photocopies).

4/8. “Letters from the Dales”, 31 July 1999 – 29 May 2000 (originals and photocopies).

4/9. Dr. Mitchell’s newspaper features for the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* and the *Yorkshire Post*, May 2000 - April 2001.

4/10. Two typescript articles by W.R. Mitchell : “The Priestley Way in Wensleydale” (intended for the *Dalesman*) with three colour photographs of event, 1 black and white photograph of J.B. Priestley, 1 black and white photograph of Dick Chapman with a spearhead; “A sculptress at home” (on Josefina de Vasconcellos, article intended for *Cumbria*), with three colour photographs.

## 5. Photographs

5/1. “1979-1982 Life in the Northern Dales”. Album.

5/2. “Photography by W.R. Mitchell 1983-1986”. Album.

5/3. “Photography by W.R. Mitchell 1985/86-”. Album.

5/4. Packet of photographs : five reproductions of views around Bradford 1877 to 1904, David Hockney drawing J.B. Priestley in 1973, Howard Coster portrait of J.B. Priestley about 1930.

## 6. Audiocassettes

66 audiocassettes of interviews and 2 commercial tapes on dialect. In most cases the case has a note of the speaker, subject and year. This list is arranged alphabetically by speaker; tapes without a given speaker are arranged alphabetically by title.

6/1. Lieutenant-Commander Brian Ashmore: Maryport Roman fort. 1985.

6/2. Barker: threshing day at Warcop. 1983.

6/3. Thelma Barlow. 1986.

6/4. William Bennett: Yorkshire mill memories. 1978.

6/5. W. Bennett of Burnley: Pendle witches. 1979.

6/6. Chris Bonington: climber. 1981.

6/7. Doris Boocock: memories of Keighley mill life. 1996.

6/8. David Boulton: Dentdale. 1987.

6/9. Trevor Boer: bird artist. 1987.

6/10. George Bradbury: Saddleworth. 1990

6/11. Anthony Bradley: on farming. 1980.

6/12. Mr Anthony Bradley of Settle. 1980.

6/13. Sue Broom: shepherdess. Nov. 28, 1995.

6/14. John Bulman: upland management. 1986.

6/15. Peter Corkhill: about Colt Park Wood. 1996.

6/16. Sam Dyson: sheepdogs [second tape?]. Haworth 1993.

6/17. Hugh Falkus. 1984.

6/18. Dr. Farrer: talks about his family and Ingleborough. 1990.

6/19. John Finch: author. 1982.

6/20. Bill Foggitt of Thirsk. 1985.

6/21. Bill Foggitt. 1990.

6/22. Ric Free: Fountains Abbey. 1986.

6/23. John Geldard. 1988.

6/24. Bruce Hanson: Brentwood. 1987.

6/25. Laurence Harwood: National Trust.

6/26. Hannah Haukswell [Hannah Hauxwell]. 1980.

6/27. John Hillaby. 1982.

6/28. Sir Thomas Ingilby: Ripley. 1983.

6/29. Lady Inglewood. 1982.

6/30. Major Lacy: nature reserve at Robin Hood’s Bay. 1985.

6/31. Norman Little of Lazonby: auctioneer. 1986.

6/32. Jessica Lofthouse: author. 1981.

6/33. Percy Monkman, Mr. W. Bennett: old Bradford.

6/34. Geoffrey Moorhouse: writer. 1986.

6/35. Nicholls: colliery town life. 1984. Also Miss Brodie.

6/36. Nicholls: life with the miners. 1985.

6/37. Lord Peel: moorland reclamation in Swaledale. 1989.

6/38. Mike Perrins: sheepdogs. 1979.

6/39. Arthur Raistrick. 1983.

6/40. Cedric Robinson: sands guide of Morecambe Bay. 1981.

6/41. Sandys-Clarke: agent for Raby Estate, Teesdale. 1986.

6/42. John Sheard: agent of Bolton Estate. 1989.

6/43. Canon Slaughter: Bolton Abbey. Dr. Peter Hudson: on red grouse.

6/44. Geoffrey Smith: gardener. 1986.

6/45. Alan Wilkinson of Dewsbury. 1990.

6/46. Richard Wordsworth: at Grasmere. 1983.

6/47. Major Yorke: Pateley Show. 1995.

6/48. Bibby’s Buses.

6/49. Black Sail Hut, Side Wood, Ennerdale. 1991.

6/50. Brontë Parsonage. 1987.

6/51. Craven talking newspaper “Dalesman” articles. 1985.

6/52. Egton Bridge Gooseberry Fair. 1980.

6/53. Excavations at Seamer Carr (prehistoric man). 1985.

6/54. Flamborough (Emersons). 1990.

6/55. Life in Wensleydale, BBC broadcast. 1981.

6/56. Markenfield Hall and Studley Royal. 1990.

6/57. Mill life at Earby. 1991.

6/58. Mobile library at Goathland. 1986.

6/59. Nunnington Hall, near York. 1986.

6/60. Policeman in Swaledale. 1989.

6/61. Red grouse on Pennines. 1983.

6/62. Red grouse survey. 1980.

6/63. Ringing Canada Geese (Ripley). 1987.

6/64. Spurn Point, Blacktoft Sands. 1988.

6/65. Wheldrake Ings (Derwent). 1987.

6/66. Wheldrake Ings (Derwent Valley). 1987.

6/67. Harrison, S. (compiler). *Yorkshire farming memories: a collection of songs, recollections and poems*. (York: Castle Museum, 1981).

6/68. Houghton, Elsie. *The way we were: Yorkshire dialect humour*. (Leeds: Communicators Etc. Ltd, n.d.).

## 7. Richard and Cherry Kearton

Correspondence and biographical material concerning the Kearton brothers, naturalists and wildlife photographers, used by W.R. Mitchell in research for his book *Watch the birdie!*

### 7/1. Folder of documents used by W.R. Mitchell in research for *Watch the birdie!*

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell and Marguerite Bentham, grand-daughter of Richard Kearton, 2000-2001.

Letter from Cherry Kearton, son of Richard Kearton, 2001.

Two letters from Mrs. Jean Brown, 2001, with photocopy of part of Kearton family history and photocopy of Kearton family accounts with local store (1840-1853).

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell and Marie Hartley, 2001.

Letter from Marguerite Bentham, 2001, enclosing photocopies from Richard’s school-book.

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell and Mrs Primrose Razzell (née Kearton), 2001.

Photocopy of programme for *Tembi*, a film produced by Cherry Kearton.

Photocopies of illustrations for *Watch the birdie!*

Letter from Martin Withers of the Zoological Photographic Club, 2001.

Letters from A.R.L. Jones, 1993, enclosing stereoscopic photographs (7/2).

Modern photographic prints of Kearton photographic illustrations.

Promotional material for Richard Kearton’s books.

Five letters from Richard Kearton to Frank Lowe, 1924-1927.

### 7/2. Packet of 69 stereoscopic photographs

The Kearton stereoscopic nature studies, series 1-5, circa 1900.

### 7/3. Packet of letters from Richard Kearton to Frank Lowe of Bolton, 1923-1927

A few are photocopies, but most are originals, on promotional notepaper.

### 7/4. Second folder of documents used by W.R. Mitchell in research for *Watch the birdie!*

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell and Marguerite Bentham, grand-daughter of Richard Kearton, 1976-1978.

Photocopy of draft text for series of articles on the Keartons for the Dalesman.

Leaflets on tercentenary of Muker School, 1978, with reference to the Keartons, includes text of memorial tablets at the school.

Muker School, photocopy typescript of school history, written 1978. Author’s name not known.

Letter from Mrs. M. Wilshaw of Clapham, Richard Kearton’s niece, 1977.

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell and Cherry Kearton, Richard’s son, 1976.

Photocopies of promotional material for Richard Kearton’s books and lectures.

*Yorkshire Weekly Post* article by Cherry Kearton, 5 October 1935.

Newspaper report of Richard Kearton’s funeral at Caterham, photocopy.

Correspondence between W.R. Mitchell, the Rev. David Clarke and his brother T. Kearton Clarke, 1976.

Letter from Michael Kearton of Hull, 1979.

Letters received by W.R. Mitchell following the publication of *Dalesman* article “Letters written by Richard Kearton”, 1986, and of *Watch the birdie!* by Castleberg Books, 2001.

 Four photographs of the house where the Kearton brothers were born: Corner House, Keld, Swaledale.

### 7/5. Letters received by Dr. Mitchell upon the publication of *Watch the birdie!*

Letter to W.R. Mitchell from Basil Kearton of New Zealand, 2001. Reply from Cassell, publishers of many books by the Keartons, to W.R. Mitchell’s request for information on copyright, 2001.

### 7/6. Article concerning Richard Kearton and seagulls.

Photocopy of article. Wilson, David. “Seagulls, sausage meat and the underwater ship”. *Journal of Defence Studies*, Vol. 9, no. 1, 2004, pp. 21-29. Richard Kearton was involved during the First World War with experiments to use birds to locate submarines.

1. <http://www.wrmitchellarchive.org.uk/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)