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14/21/796

Gustavus Watts Cunningham.
Letters, 1911-1944.
Calendar

14/21/796

1) Cunningham, Gustavus Watts, 1881-
Letters, 1911-1930, 1944.
67 items.

NYCV90-A120

Professor of Philosophy, Middlebury College, 1908-1917, and the University of Texas, 1917-1927; chairman of the Sage School of Philosophy and Susan Linn Sage Professor of Philosophy at Cornell, 1927-1949. (Cornell University Ph.D. 1908)

Summary: Incoming correspondence from fellow philosophers, including forty-seven letters from Richard Burdon Viscount Haldane (1856-1928), in which he discusses the philosophical systems of Hegel and Kant, comments on Cunningham's studies of Hegel and Henri Bergson, and on the writings of Bergson, Bernard Bosanquet, Francis Herbert Bradley, John Dewey, Albert Einstein, Alfred North Whitehead, and others, and refers to World War I, in particular the condition of the French army, the situation in Russia in 1917, and the presence of American troops in Europe, to his wartime posts in the British government, and to his meetings (1919) with Woodrow Wilson; five letters from Herbert Wildon Carr, mainly concerning the views and writings of Hegel, Bergson, and Benedetto Croce; one or two letters each from Henry Rutgers Marshall, Stewart A. McDowell, Andrew Seth Prinsle-Pattison, and George H. Sabine; three letters from James E. Creighton, discussing the "absolute problem," Cunningham's critique of a recently published book by Bosanquet, presumably The Meeting of Extremes in Contemporary Philosophy, administrative matters at both Texas and Cornell, and the decline of the "solid studies that promote discipline of mind," the pitfalls of early specialization, and the "tremendous importance of setting a few general critical ideas into the heads of college graduates"; and single letters from William A. Hammond, John Laird, T.V. Smith, and Frank Thilly, on personal and professional matters.

Finding aids: Calendar available.

Cite as: Gustavus Watts Cunningham, Letters, #14\21\796. Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Library.

1. Haldane, R. B. Haldane (Richard Burdon Haldane), 1st Viscount, 1856-1928.
2. Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich, 1770-1831.
3. Kant, Immanuel, 1724-1804.
4. Bergson, Henri, 1859-1941.
5. Bosanquet, Bernard, 1848-1923.
6. Bradley, F. H. (Francis Herbert), 1846-1924.
7. Dewey, John, 1859-1952.
8. Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955.
9. Whitehead, Alfred North, 1861-1947.
10. Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.
11. Carr, Herbert Wildon, 1857-1931.
12. Croce, Benedetto, 1866-1952.
13. Marshall, Henry Rutgers, 1852-1927.
14. McDowell, Stewart A.
15. Seth Prinsle-Pattison, A. (Andrew), 1856-1931.
16. Sabine, George Holland, 1880-1961.
17. Creighton, James Edwin, 1861-1924.
18. Hammond, William A.
19. Laird, John, 1887-1946.
20. Smith, Thomas Vernor, 1890-1964.
21. Thilly, Frank, 1865-1934.
22. Cornell University, Dept. of Philosophy.
23. Cornell University--Faculty.
24. University of Texas, Dept. of Philosophy.
25. World War, 1914-1918.
26. Philosophy, Modern.
27. Philosophers.

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CC: 9554

DCF: a

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Gustavus Watts Cunningham, 1881-1968. ^{Letters} ~~Box~~, 1911-19~~68~~⁴⁴; 85 pcs. (6⁷ letters + misc.).

Calendar in chronological order:

Sabine, George H. (b.1880-d.1961)

Ithaca, N. Y., February 9, 1911. To Cunningham, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont. Suggests several persons for Cunningham to send his thesis to: Bosanquet, A. S. Pringle-Pattison, Henry Jones. Comments on pragmatism and its giving way to realism. TLS, 1 pc. & en.

Also 1944 letter.

Pringle-Pattison, Andrew Seth (b.1891-d.1919)

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 20, 1911. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses some of Hegel's concepts. Comments on Cunningham's book. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane, Richard Burdon (b.1856-d.1928)

28, Queen Annes Gate, London S. W., England, December 26, 1913. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses Cunningham's book Thought and Reality in ~~Hegel's~~ System. The relationship of reality to Hegel's phenomenology. ALS, 1 pc., 2 calling cards & en.

Windsor, Castle, London, England, January 25, 1914. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Thanks Cunningham for his letter. Mentions (Thomas Henry, b.1836-d.1882) Green's book Prolegomena to Ethics. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

28, Queen Annes Gate, London S. W., England, March 16, 1914. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Comments on Francis Herbert Bradley's book Essays on Truth and Reality. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Cloan, Auchterarder, Perthshire, Scotland, April 9, 1914. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Comments on Pringle-Pattison's reactions to Cunningham's book on Hegel. Mentions Bradley's Essays on Truth and Reality. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, May 21, 1914. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Hopes he has received a book he sent him and that Cunningham will come to England soon. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, October 2, 1914. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Comments on a paper he has just read by Bergson, based on a study of Kant, and on the war situation. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, January 20, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Thanks him for a paper on Bergson. Comments on Phaenomenologie. Discusses Cunningham's interpretations of Hegel. Encourages Cunningham to write a new book on philosophy. Comments on the war and his work in the Foreign Office. ALS, 2 pcs. & en.

Carr, Herbert Wildon (b.1857-d.1931)

10 More's Garden, Cheyne Walk, S. W., London, England. January 25, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses two papers of Cunningham's which he had received, dealing with "Duration and Finality" in regard to Bergson's works. Refers to Lucretius' idea that besides the atoms there must be the void. TLS, 2 pcs. & en.

London, February 15, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Is reading Cunningham's book on Hegel with much interest. TLS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, March 21, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Is opposed to revision of Cunningham's last book. Suggests rather a new book on nature of Reality, which would lead to "untrodden ground" and would involve interpreting Hegel "detachedly." Prophesies that the new American school will absorb the new Realists and Bergson alike. In regard to the war, he comments, that Germany must not be crushed, but must be "purified." ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, June 4, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Is glad to hear that Cunningham is seriously thinking about a new book. Explains why he is presently out of the government. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, August 9, 1915. To Cunningham, n.p. Comments on his presently held political views and past goals. Has just returned from France and discusses the army there. Says he is delving more deeply into realism. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, October 17, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Is writing an address for the Aristotelian Society on the new realism and objective realism. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Carr

London, November 6, 1915. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses the need of supplementary ideas to Bergson's doctrine of intuition. Mentions Benedetto Croce's works in this connection. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, November 24, 1915. To Cunningham, ^{n.p.} covering ~~xxx~~ note. ALS, 1 pc.

Perthshire, January 13, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Tells of a lecture he gave in Glasgow about New Realism and Bradley's doctrine of the finite center. Had visited with Pringle-Pattison. He is to return to London and politics shortly. The English are determined to win the war. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, May 7, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Glad to have book on Bergson. Has been thinking about the genesis of the New Realism. Reading has impressed him with fact that "the whole of modern philosophy exhibits a struggle for emancipation from the category of substance." Says Leibnitz did not succeed, but paved way for Kant. Enlarges upon the New Realism as a "final protest against the view of mind as substance." Discusses Hegel at length in this connection. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Carr

London, June 11, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Is happy that Cunningham has published The Philosophy of Bergson. He is studying Benedetto Croce's works, especially his ideas on intuition. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, June 16, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Had attended memorial service for Lord Kitchener. Comments of Cunningham's book on Bergson. Discusses creative finalism and the concept of the absolute. Quotes several German passages from Hegel's Phaenomenologie. ALS, 2 pcs.

Pringle-Pattison

Edinburgh, July 23, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Comments on Cunningham's work on Bergson. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, August 8, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Wildon Carr is to review Cunningham's book. He is working on educational problems and military matters for the government. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

McDowell, Stewart A.

5 Kingsgate Street, Winchester, England, August 20, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. He comments on Bergson's work and its incomplete and unfinished nature. Discusses the work in which he, himself, is involved. ALS, 2 pcs. & en.

Haldane

Perthshire, August 21, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses several points Cunningham made in his book about Bergson. Mentions Roy Sellar's book as being interesting. ALS, 2 pcs. & en.

Perthshire, September 18, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses the synthesis of reason. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

McDowell

Winchester, October 1, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Will write a criticism on Bradley as soon as he rereads the book. McDowell wrote two books: Evolution and the Need of Atonement and Evolution and Spiritual Life. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

Perthshire, October 15, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses Kant's ideas of truth. Is to confer with a commission on the Dardanelles operation. Mentions a book, The Vindication of Great Britain by Harold Segre(?). ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Carr

107 Church Street, Chelsea, London, S. W., November 6, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Notice of change of address. TLS, 1 pc.

Haldane

Perthshire, November 26, 1916. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses Segre's(?) book and "Subject-Object Relations." Refers to Erdmann's book Leib und Seele. ALS, 2 pcs. & en.

Marshall, Henry Rutgers

Century Club, 7 West 43rd Street, New York, New York, February 27, 1917. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Comments on Cunningham's book on Bergson. Refers to Bergson's book Freedom of the Will. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, March 16, 1917. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Mentions recent events in Russia. Discusses Pringle-Pattison's new book The Idea of God. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, May 27, 1917. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses the need for peace in the world. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, July 27, 1917. To Cunningham, Middlebury. Discusses the meaning of coherence and idealism. Mentions that he is on a secret committee that is concerned with establishing new governmental organizations. Mentions problems of Russia and Greece. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, September 19, 1917. To Cunningham, University of Texas, Austin, Texas. Comments on Cunningham's decision to go to Texas. Refers to a book entitled Organism and Environment. Mentions Pringle-Pattison's recent book. About the Russian situation and the condition of the French army. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, December 10, 1917. To Cunningham, n.p. Has just finished a study of Bradley and comments on it. Mentions the Russian collapse. ALS, 1 pc.

London, March 21, 1918. To Cunningham, Texas. Discusses the current state of affairs. Mentions Prince Lichnowsky as confirming earlier impressions he had of Russia. Was visited by Pringle-Pattison. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, July 3, 1918. To Cunningham, Texas. Describes the situation on the French front. Is sending him a copy of a philosophical paper he had written. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, September 16, 1918. To Cunningham, Texas. Comments on the activities of the American forces in Europe. Mentions that Lord Grey and the Archbishop of Canterbury had visited him. Discussion of "degrees of realities." ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, January 2, 1919. To Cunningham, Texas. Describes Woodrow Wilson's reception in England and his meeting the President. Discusses a book he is writing and a few problems he's having. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, October 9, 1919. To Cunningham, Texas. He's working on his book on degrees in knowledge and reality. Mentions recent railroad strike. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Cloan, Auchterarder, Perthshire, December 4, 1919 to Cunningham, University of Texas. Much more to be worked out on relation of knowledge to reality. Is pure old controversy between idealism and realism is about to be superseded. Is difficult to work on book because of pressure of political business. Has had to write a book on prewar diplomacy and military preparations; says the books of Admiral [von] Tirpitz and Bethmann-Hollweg have forced him to speak. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, April 8, 1920. To Cunningham, Texas. Feels teaching gives one time to write and study as well. He is quite busy with government work. Says that philosophy and physics are in a state of transition. Mentions Bosanquet's "Philosophical Theory of the State." ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, September 10, 1920. To Cunningham, Texas. Refers to Einstein and his theories. Hopes to finish book but still has to contend with public duties. Mentions Einstein's book on relativity and Whitehead's Concept of Nature. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, May 11, 1921. To Cunningham, Texas. Will send a copy of his book The Reign of Relativity. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Creighton, James Edwin (b.1861-d.1931)

Ithaca, N. Y., August 14, 1921. To Cunningham, Texas. Discusses the problems of the University of Texas is having with the state legislature in regard to appropriations for the University. Mentions that Livingstone Farrand is to be the new President of Cornell and discusses his background. Asks Cunningham to write a review of Haldane's book and recounts a meeting he had with him. A discussion of the nature of reason. TLS, 2 pcs. & en.

Haldane

Perthshire, August 29, 1921. To Cunningham, Texas. Is involved with the idea of mathematical physics and the new quantum theory. Is working on a portion of address he is to deliver at the University of Dublin which he plans to include in a volume entitled Philosophical Significance of Humanism. Lord Grey is visiting. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, February 22, 1922. To Cunningham, Texas. Has read Professor Dewey's book. His will be published soon. Discusses the fundamental character of knowledge. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Creighton

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, June 26, 1922. To Cunningham, Texas. Discusses Cunningham's ideas on a book for introductory philosophy. Emphasizes the importance of philosophical knowledge to a college graduate in avoiding the pitfalls that seem to accompany specialization. Comments on the critique Cunningham had written of an article by Bosanquet. TLS, 2 pcs. & en.

Haldane

London, July 12, 1922. To Cunningham, Texas. Refers to articles by an unknown philosopher and comments on certain problems posed therein. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, August 24, 1922. To Cunningham, Texas. Comments on Bosanquet's article in The Philosophical Review. He's been working on his book. Mentions Hegel's Encyclopedia Logic, also Goethe's Philosophic aur Seinen Werken by Max Herracker. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Creighton

Ithaca, New York, November 27, 1922. To Cunningham, Texas. A discussion of the "Absolute ~~problem~~." Hopes he will come back East for a visit. TLS, 2 pcs. & en. *question* *Further reference to Bosanquet.*

Haldane

Perthshire, September 26, 1923. To Cunningham, Texas. Glad to hear that Cunningham had been back to Ithaca for a while. Discusses Bosanquet's article. Mentions his interest in mathematical physics and a visit to Cambridge in that connection. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, March 2, 1924. To Cunningham, Texas. Enjoyed Cunningham's article in The Philosophical Review on Bosanquet and finds himself in agreement with his points. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Perthshire, January 8, 1925. To Cunningham, Texas. Has just read Cunningham's Problems of Philosophy. Discusses it and suggests firms in England that might publish it. Mentions that he led the opposition in the House of Lords. He also presides over the hearing of appeals for the different parts of the Empire to the Supreme Tribunal in London. Comments on his bachelorhood. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, February 25, 1925. To Cunningham, Texas. Has written the introduction for the English edition of Cunningham's book. Describes his general daily schedule in London. Comments on the difference between mathematics and philosophy. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, October 28, 1925. To Cunningham, Texas. Thanks him for a copy of his Lectures on the Problems of the Mind. Mentions a new book by John Dewey, Experience and Nature, and discusses some of the points he makes in it. Is having trouble with the writing of his own book. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Thilly, Frank (b.1865-d.1934)

9 East Avenue, Ithaca, New York. May 28, 1926. To Cunningham, Texas. Refers to a previous letter and understands Cunningham's position. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Laird, John (b.1887-d.1934)

Milestone House, Blackwater, Hampshire, England, August 31, 1926. To Cunningham, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Hopes he is enjoying the Congress of Philosophy at Harvard. Says his trip home was pleasant. Hampshire is a lovely area. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

Perthshire, September 20, 1926. To Cunningham, Texas. Comments on an article of Cunningham's on Bosanquet. Is sending him a copy of his book. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Laird

University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland, October 17, 1926. To Cunningham, Texas. Scotland is having lovely weather. He broke his toe. There is a coal shortage. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, December 3, 1926. To Cunningham, Texas. Would like him to send any reviews of his book that might be published in the U.S.A. Is quite busy. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

London, January 17, 1927. To Cunningham, Texas. He hopes Cunningham will accept the position at Cornell. His book, Pathway to Reality, has come out in a new volume. Discusses a series of lectures to be delivered at Oxford relating to metaphysics. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Hammond, William Alexander (b. ? -d.1938)

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, January 18, 1927. To Cunningham, Texas. Is glad to hear that Cunningham has accepted a position at Cornell. TLS, 1 pc. & en.

Haldane

London, April 11, 1927. To Cunningham, Texas. Is happy to hear that he is going to Cornell. Hopes he will continue to study and write. ALS, 1 pc. & en.

Smith, T. V. (b.1890-d.)

Syracuse, New York, July 17, 1927. To Cunningham, Texas. Had just visited Cornell and discourses on its beautiful scenery and the feeling of closeness he had to Cunningham there at his Alma Mater. TLS, 2 pcs. & en.

Miscellaneous

May, 1930-September, 1930. Receipts, vouchers, and tickets to the Seventh International Congress of Philosophy held in Oxford, England. 7 pcs. & en.