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Churchill-Reves Correspondence : Review of
*Winston Churchill and Emery Reves: Correspondence,
1937-1964*, ed. with an introduction and notes by
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Churchill-Reves Correspondence

ROGER ADELSON

Winston Churchill and Emery Reves: Correspondence, 1937–1964, ed. with an introduction and notes by Martin Gilbert. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. Pp. viii, 397, 8 b&w photos, 2 maps. \$39.95 (hardcover).

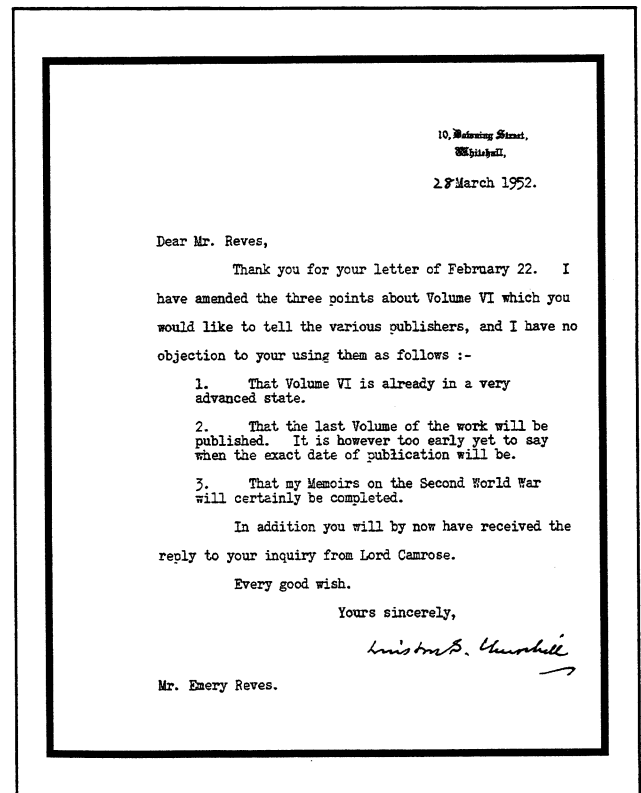
Martin Gilbert, the official biographer of Winston Churchill and editor of his papers since 1968, has added another volume to his extraordinary documentation of the British statesman's life and career. In the mid-1990s, this historian at Merton College, Oxford, was knighted for completing the official biography, which was started by Churchill's son in the early 1960s. When Randolph Churchill died, the holder of the copyright asked Gilbert, then one of Randolph's research assistants, to continue the official biography along the lines that had already been established by the family and the British and U.S. publishers. The first two volumes, *Youth, 1874–1900*, with its two companion volumes of supporting documents, as well as *Young Statesman, 1900–1914*, with three accompanying volumes, were published under Randolph's name (4,826 pp.). Gilbert wrote volume III, covering the years 1914–16, and edited and annotated its two companion volumes (2,673 pp.); volume IV, on 1917–22, with three accompanying volumes (3,132 pp.); volume V, on 1922–39, with three companion volumes (4,679 pp.); volume VI, on 1939–41 (1,308 pp.); volume VII, on 1941–45 (1,417 pp.); and volume VIII, on 1945–65 (1,438 pp.). Without adding the many volumes of Churchill's war papers and subsequent companion volumes that have continued to appear since 1993, Gilbert's work on Churchill already weighs about 75 pounds! Those who are interested in Gilbert's experiences as Churchill's official biographer and editor of his papers can gain many insights from reading his *In Search of Churchill: A Historian's Journey* (New York: Wiley, 1995).

In the late 1980s, Gilbert started editing the Churchill-

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Reves correspondence at the urging of Wendy Russell Reves. She had met Emery in New York City in 1945, lived with him as his companion from 1949, and married him in 1964. Widowed in 1981, Mrs. Reves would give their collection of paintings and *objets d'art* to the Dallas Museum of Art, where they stirred some controversy by having to be displayed so as to evoke the Reveses' villa in the south of France, La Pausa, where she and her husband often entertained Churchill during the late 1950s. As Gilbert explains in his acknowledgments for *Winston Churchill and Emery Reves*, Mrs. Reves's generosity not only made the completion of this volume "possible," but she has also provided "essential" support for Gilbert's preparation of the seven-volume set of Churchill's War Papers (vii).

The Churchill-Reves correspondence, from 1937 to



Letter from Winston Churchill to Emery Reves, on 10 Downing Street stationery. The black border was used following the death of George VI.

1963, consists of fewer than 130 letters and telegrams from Churchill to Reves, some 80 engagement cards of visits Reves paid to Churchill in England, over 200 letters and telegrams from Reves to Churchill, and some 60 other communications Reves's office sent to Churchill. The documentary record is detailed and clear for the years from 1937 to 1939, when Reves republished in and beyond Europe many of the articles that Churchill contracted to write for London newspapers. Their correspondence during these years composes over half the book. For the rest of the volume, there are very few documents for World War II, especially after Churchill became prime minister in 1940; there are more communications between the two men from 1945 to 1955, when Reves played a role in the negotiations and preparations for the publications and translations of Churchill's six-volume, Nobel prize-winning memoir, *The Second World War*, and his four-volume *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, with Reves offering constant encouragement and detailed advice as Churchill worked on his manuscripts; there are relatively few exchanges between the two men in the decade before Churchill died in 1965. To flesh out these later sections, Gilbert makes use of some previously unpublished materials, several published memoirs by people associated with Churchill, as well as interviews Randolph Churchill and Gilbert conducted with Reves.

Before considering the well-documented years from 1937 to 1939 and the less documented period after 1945, some information about Reves's life needs to be provided. Reves was born in 1904, the son of hard-working Jewish parents in Hungarian-speaking parts of the Habsburg Empire. Emery's father changed his name

from Rosenbaum to Revesz, the spelling of which Emery changed. His parents lost nearly everything in World War I, but still managed to educate their son, his father dying before and his mother dying in the Holocaust. Emery left home at the age of eighteen to study in Berlin and Paris, took his doctorate in economics in Zurich, and began his career in journalism there by interviewing European statesmen who participated in the League of Nations in Geneva. Observing how the internationalism of most statesmen was upstaged by nationalism after they returned home, Reves devised the idea of syndicating articles on world affairs by British statesmen in newspapers on the Continent, and the articles of various European

leaders in foreign countries. In Berlin in 1930, Reves launched Cooperation Press Service, his syndication company. The day before his office was ransacked by the Nazis in 1933, Reves escaped from Berlin to Paris where he set up his operation anew. The first statesman Reves had signed was Robert Cecil, the main British champion of the League of Nations, who agreed to have some of his articles written for London periodicals translated for republication in European newspapers. Cecil received a percentage of the fees European newspapers paid to Reves.

In the mid-1930s, when Churchill started producing his articles for British and U.S. periodicals that warned of the dangers of Nazi Germany, Reves tried to sign him for the Cooperation Press Service. It took Reves ten months

before Churchill agreed to have some of his articles for British and U.S. newspapers and magazines syndicated in European newspapers. Both Churchill and Reves loathed and feared Nazism, but their correspondence also reveals some of the financial, legal, political, and technological



Reves and Churchill at Le Bourget airport in Paris, 1938

obstacles that made it difficult for publishers to transcend the nationalist and fascist ideologies throughout Europe, as well as Nazi Germany. Among the cities where Reves had newspapers syndicating Churchill's fortnightly articles were Brussels, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo, Stockholm, Prague, Warsaw, Cracow, and Kaunas, as well as ten provincial newspapers in Holland. Most of the fascist-ruled states of southern and eastern Europe refused to publish Churchill's outspoken articles and discontinued the syndication. Beyond Europe, the cities on Reves's list included Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Accra, Perth, Sydney, Colombo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Nairobi, Cairo, and Jerusalem. On the eve of World War II, some thirty newspapers were reprinting Churchill's articles every two weeks, which, as Gilbert observes in his introduction, was "a formidable achievement by Reves, and a remarkable gain for Churchill" (11).

When Paris came under Nazi occupation, Reves had to leave everything when he escaped to London. There Reves became a naturalized British citizen, undertook some propaganda work briefly for the Ministry of Information, and survived a bomb dropped outside his flat in Berkeley Square before departing at the end of 1940. In New York City he set up an office in Rockefeller Plaza and published three books that exposed Hitler's empire and wrote some articles on the fallacy of national self-determination, as reiterated by Roosevelt and Churchill's Atlantic Charter. In arguing that national sovereignty must be subordinated to world government, Reves gained little public attention in the propaganda-driven years of the war. However, once the fighting stopped in Europe and the United States dropped atomic bombs on Japan, Reves's ideas began to be taken more seriously. Reves's book, *The Anatomy of Peace*, became a huge seller after Albert Einstein recommended it in a highly publicized postwar interview.

Reves was one of many publishers and publicists who wanted to be part of Churchill's war memoirs. The documentary record here is incomplete as the negotiations were too private and complicated to be encompassed by the correspondence between Churchill and Reves. What does emerge from Gilbert's volume is that Churchill saw Reves as a useful negotiator and Reves saw Churchill as a useful client. Gilbert could have given fuller treatment to this section, but it appears that Reves's profits paled in comparison with the huge profits made by Churchill, Henry Luce's empire, and Houghton-Mifflin. Still, Reves amassed a fortune large enough to buy, restore, and furnish a great villa in the south of France, where Churchill stayed as a house guest for long visits from 1956 to 1958.

Reves, with unique experience in publishing for an

international audience, wrote many excellent suggestions to make Churchill's *Second World War* more accessible to a wide readership and to insure that his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* appealed to foreigners. Some of Reves's editorial suggestions were obvious, such as avoiding extensive quotations from official papers and omitting abbreviations of wartime agencies. In Gilbert's volume, Reves exhibits greater sensitivity to other cultures and more awareness of the power of international communication than Churchill, whose memoirs and histories may now appear to be ethnocentrically rooted in England's past. Churchill reluctantly took some of Reves's editorial

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New Bibliography Editor Appointed

Kevin Hayes has resigned as bibliography editor of *Documentary Editing*, effective at the end of 1998. Present and former editors of the journal are extremely grateful to Professor Hayes for serving so ably and reliably in this demanding post.

The new bibliography editor will be Mark A. Mastromarino, assistant editor of *The Papers of George Washington*. In addition to his post at the Washington Papers, Mr. Mastromarino is coordinator of the Recent Articles List for the *Journal of the Early Republic* and a doctoral candidate at the College of William and Mary. He was an NHPRC fellow with *The Papers of Andrew Jackson* in 1991-92 and acting assistant editor at *The Papers of John Marshall* in 1989-90. Please notify your publishers that books for listing and review should now be sent to Mr. Mastromarino at *The Papers of George Washington*, Alderman Library, 504, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903-2498.

When Mr. Mastromarino begins his appointment, there will be a change in our policy about listing books. For a listing, publishers or authors need send only an announcement about the book's publication that includes complete bibliographical information (author, title, editor, place and date of publication, publisher, number of pages, ISBN, and price). Publishers who wish to have the listing include information about the content of the book or who hope for a full review should send the volume itself.

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advice, but he gladly accepted Reves's many gifts, including fine champagne. In November 1954, Reves despatched from Paris to 10 Downing Street eighty magnums of Churchill's "beloved golden liquid" as a present for Sir Winston's eightieth birthday (344).

Anyone interested in Churchill, World War II, the Holocaust, and the history of international publishing will find this volume, edited excellently once again by Gilbert, quite valuable.
