



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Langdon Mitchell letters to Dorothy Thomas**

1917-1935

MssCol 17780

## Summary

**Creator:** Mitchell, Langdon Elwyn, 1862-1935

**Title:** Langdon Mitchell letters to Dorothy Thomas

**Date:** 1917-1935

**Size:** .2 linear feet (1 box)

**Abstract:** Langdon Elwyn Mitchell (1862-1935), American poet and playwright, used the pseudonym John Philip Varley. His best-known plays were *Becky Sharp* (1899) and *The New York Idea* (1906). He taught playwriting at the University of Pennsylvania from 1928 to 1930. His father was S. Weir Mitchell, neurologist and author. Approximately forty letters, 1917-1935, from Langdon Mitchell to Dorothy Thomas, a daughter of a family friend who became his lover when he was 55 and she 22. Most of the collection consists of love letters expressing his longing and devotion. The letters also contain a few mentions of his writing, and his encouragement of her own literary efforts. The original letters are supplemented by typed transcripts made by Thomas. A transcript of a letter from Charles Hanson Towne to Mitchell with comments on Thomas' writing is also present.

**Preferred citation:** Langdon Mitchell letters to Dorothy Thomas, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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## Scope and Content Note

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Love-letters

### **Names**

Mitchell, Langdon Elwyn, 1862-1935

Thomas, Dorothy