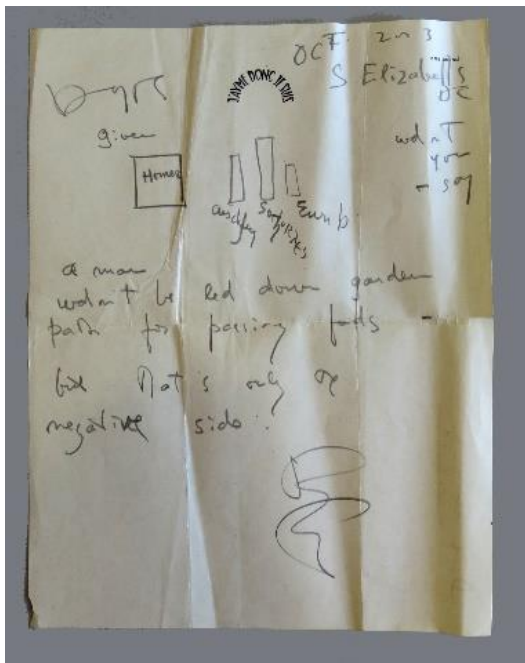


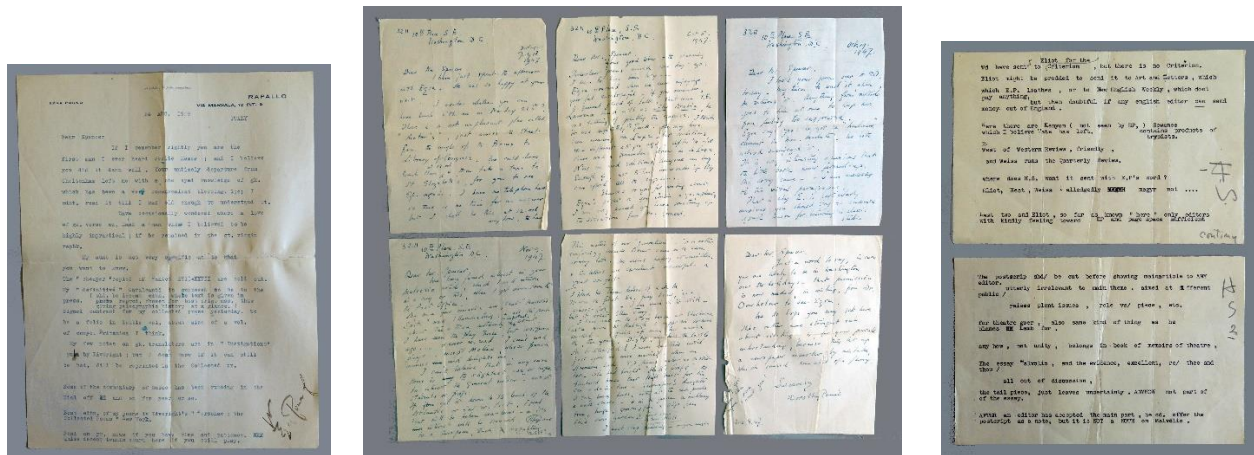
Pound, Ezra and Dorothy Pound. Archive of Letters and Ephemera Exchanged with Herman Spencer; Significant Association Collection. Rapallo, Italy and Washington D. C.: 1927 thru 1947.



An ephemeral archive of manuscript and typed letters from Pound to Herman Spencer, his middle school Classics professor. [A] One ANS, 6" x 8", on Pound's personal stationery with the header "J'AYME DONC JE Suis" (I love, therefore I am) dated Oct 2 or 3 [c.1947]. Pound includes an illustration comparing himself in a bar chart to Homer, Aeschylus, and Socrates. surprisingly he does not measure himself to the height of his Greek predecessors. [B] One TLS, 8.5" x 11", on Pound's personal stationery from his home in Rapallo, Italy, dated 24 August 1929. Pound is responding to a communication he received from Spencer through his aunt. Unsure of Spencer's specific request, Pound expounds on the nature and availability of his publication, including one which he had just contracted the previous day. [C] Two densely typed notes with Spencer's initials by Pound, 8.5" x 5.5", undated. Transmitted through a third party (Pound's aunt?), these items give critique and advice to Spencer on a poem he is

hoping to have published with Pound's assistance. [D] Five ALS from Dorothy Pound to Spencer, 8.5" x 11", July - Dec. 1947. While Pound was incarcerated at St. Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital in Washington D.C., Dorothy visited him almost daily, serving as a conduit and courier for Pound. During this period Spencer was visiting Pound at the hospital and Dorothy's letters were recording Pound's responses to his visit. Other subjects include: Reminiscences of T. E. Laurence and publishing Greek Classics; Arranging lunch and hospital visits; publication of "Malvolio Spits"; Reminiscences of the Pound's newlywed time in England; The origin of Italian words; Revised visitor regulations at the hospital; [E] John Rodker's Three Mountains Press, Paris, 1925, prepublication notice of Pound's Cantos xvii - xxvii. [F] One page, 36 line poem, typed by Spencer for which Pound provides his critique [E] Three mailing envelopes addressed in Pound's hand and one by Dorothy (stamps removed by an eager, well meaning grandson. [F] Five photocopy pages from publications relating the relationship between the two men.

All items in VG / Fine condition. Letters with usual mailing folds and occasional creases. Tear along mailing fold of TLS has been professionally reinforced on the verso. Pre-publication announcement has some age toning and couple of spots.

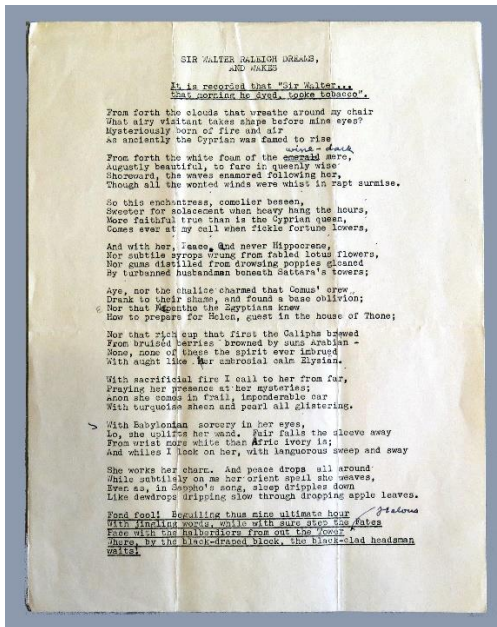


Herman Spencer (1872 - 1975) was a beloved professor of the Classics at a variety of schools including Cheltenham Military Academy during two of Pound's developmental years. He retired from Alma College in 1948 after 22 years of influencing minds and talents. Most of the communications between the two has been lost, with only these few remaining.

In Pound's "*Guide to Kulcher*" he wrote about Spencer and said that hearing the Greek poetry read aloud was worth more to him at the age of thirteen than grammar. He referred to it again in "*Canto 80*" in the Pisan Cantos. This would have been written while he was in custody of the U.S. Army in 1945:

*and it was old Spencer (,H) who first declaimed me
the Odyssey
with a head built like Bill Shepard's
on the quais of what Siraccusa?
or what tennis court
near white pine
(M. L. Rosenthal, The Cantos, 1963)*

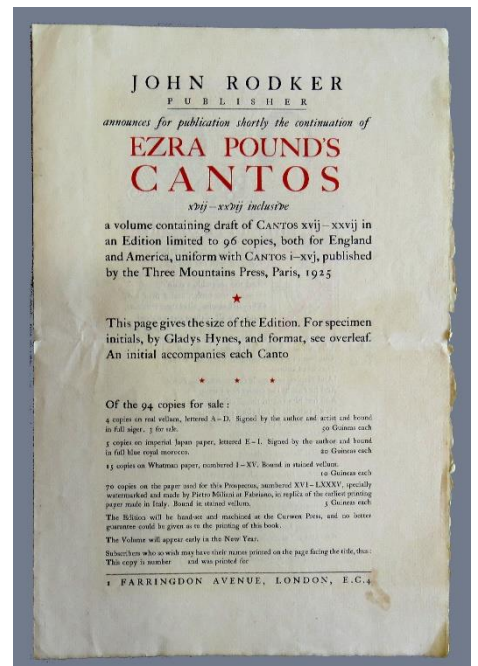
Ezra Pound (1885 - 1972) ushered in a new era of modernism in poetry. He was to the poetry movement what Picasso, Rodin, and Hemingway were to their media. Pound was a minimalist who eschewed the use of adjectives, yet still brought to brilliance his expression and literal achievement



This modest archive of material is an example of the Student teaching the Master. While Spencer was always modest about his intellectual imprint on Pound, undoubtedly this letter demonstrates Pound's acknowledgment of such. The Master has sent the Student his poem to be edited and hopefully published. Pound is not sparing in his critique, but commits himself to helping find it a published home. The scholarly core of this collection was written while Pound was in Rapallo when he conducted "EZUniversity". There Pound hosted the literary elite and was accustomed to giving advice and critique. The balance of material was written by Pound and his wife Dorothy while he was detained at the St. Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital.

Provenance: Material is from the estate of Robert Armstrong, who was Spencer's paternal grandson. Never before available to the public, this material adds to and validates the collective knowledge of Pound's early education and thought process in poetry, editing, and publication. Mr. Armstrong regrets removing the stamps from the envelopes when he was a youth. :)

"Dear Spencer, If I remember rightly you are the first man I ever heard recite Homer; and believe you did it damn well."



"E.is quite convinced that the decline of manhood in the U.S. coincides with the decline of Greek studies... i.e. the "Classic Education" \$9,500