

## Thomas More's Tower Works:

### Prison Letters

#### Manuscripts

B610. British Library MS Royal 17 D. XIV, folios 1–4, 376–454<sup>v</sup>. [*CW* 13: xx–xxii. Rogers 174, 195, 197–214, 216–218.]

B611. British Library MS Arundel 152. folios 294–299<sup>v</sup>, 300<sup>v</sup> [Renumbered folios 314–19 and 320 by British Library?] [See *CW* 6: 763 and n.2 and Rogers. A collection of materials for a Life of Bishop John Fisher. Rogers #192, 197, 212, 214.]

B612. Oxford, Bodleian Library MS 10827, now Ballard 72, folios 81–101<sup>v</sup>. [*CW* 8: 1420, n.4; Delcourt 1914: 371. Rogers #200–204, 206, 209–211. Apparently copied from 1557 edition.]

B613. Oxford Bodleian Library MS Bodleian 431, folios 148–49. [*CW* 13: xviii–xx, xxvii, xxxix; Delcourt 1914: 370–71. Facsimile of Folio 149 reproduced facing *CW* 13: xxvii. Letter or note to More's secretary, John Harris. Text printed for the first time in *SL* #48, pp.185–88 (Rogers 192\*). Delcourt 1914:370–71n1, and later Marc'hadour (*CW* 13: xxxix) both argued from this letter that the *Treatise on the Passion* was written partly before More's imprisonment. See also Sullivan 1960 in **Studies** below.]

B614. Vatican Library, MS Barbarinus Latinus 2567, folio 51–51<sup>v</sup>. [See *CW* 13: cxliv and Clarence Miller in **Tower Works: General Studies**. Contains More's Latin letter to Antonio Bonvisi (Rogers #217). Facsimile of folio 51 recto in **Miller 1970**: 42.]

B615. British Library, MS Cotton Cleopatra, E.vi. fol.144. [Rogers 199. For Rogers 198 see below.]

B616. British Library, Harleian 283, fol. 120<sup>v</sup>. [Rogers #199.]

For Rogers #198, see **Correspondence: Autograph Letters**.

#### Editions

*The Latin Letter to Bonvisi is reprinted in the 1563 Basle **Lucubrationes**, pp.330–31, and in the 1565/66 Louvain **Opera omnia**, \*A<sub>6</sub>–\*A<sub>6v</sub> (unnumbered).*

B617. More, Thomas. "The copy of the letter [to his Wife]" [1419] and "Here folow foure letters and other thinges, which sir Thomas More wrote after he had gyuen ouer the office of lord Chancellour of England and before he was imprisoned." [1422] and "Here folow certain letters and other thinges, which sir Thomas More wrote while he was prisoner in the towre of London." [1428] *The Workes of Sir Thomas More knyghte . . .* [Edited by William Rastell.] London: J.

Cawod, J. Waly, and R. Tottell, 1557. XX<sub>2</sub>, XX<sub>3v</sub>–ZZ<sub>5v</sub> [1419, 1422–58]. **Available online** at [http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Letter\\_wife.pdf](http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Letter_wife.pdf); [http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Foure\\_Letters.pdf](http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Foure_Letters.pdf); <http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Letters.pdf>; [http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Dialogue\\_on\\_Conscience.pdf](http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Dialogue_on_Conscience.pdf); and [http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Other\\_Prison\\_letters.pdf](http://www.thomasmorestudies.org/1557Workes/Other_Prison_letters.pdf); [See STC 18076; Gibson 73 + Smith 1981:35 + 1988:139; [1426] misnumbered 1427. Rogers #174, 194–195, 198–211, 213–14, 216–18.]

B618. Campbell, W. E., ed. *The Last Letters of Blessed Thomas More*. Intro. Cardinal Gasquet; Foreward C. Lattey London: Manresa Press; St. Louis: Herder, 1924. Rpt. Kessinger Publishing, 2007. [Wentworth 780; Sullivan 1:162–63, 2:21–22 and 211.]

B619. Rogers, Elizabeth Frances, ed. *The Correspondence of Sir Thomas More*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1947. Nos. 194–218. 466–565. [Cited as "Rogers.: The standard edition.]

B620. Rogers, Elizabeth Frances, ed. *St. Thomas More: Selected Letters*. Trans. M. Haworth, et al. Selected Works of St. Thomas More. New Haven: Yale UP, 1961, rev. 1967. Nos. 49–66. 189–258.

B621. Silva, Alvaro de., ed. *The Last Letters of Thomas More*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000. [Introductory Essay (1–25), modernized version of Rogers #194–218 (31–128), and extensive commentary (131–194).]

#### **Review(s):**

B621.1. Brian Coogan, *Renaissance Quarterly* 54 (2001): 980–82.

B621.2. Richard L. DeMolen, *Catholic Historical Review* 88 (2002): 773–75.

## **Translations**

B622. Leclercq, H., trans. "Le Martyre du Bienheureux Thomas More, à la Tour de Londres, le 6 juillet 1535." *Les Martyrs: Recueil de pièces authentiques sur les martyrs depuis les origines du christianisme jusqu'au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Vol. VII: La Réforme*. Traduites et publiées par H. Leclercq. 15 Vols. Paris: Oudin, 1907. 7:112–161. **Available online** at <http://www.abbaye-saint-benoit.ch/martyrs/martyrs0007.htm>. [Sullivan 2:216–217. Translations of Nine of More's Prison Letters, including Rogers #200, #205, #206, #201, #202, #203, #214, #216, and #218.]

B623. Schmidthüs, Karlheinz, trans. *Die Briefe de heiligen Thomas More au dem Gefängnisse*. Frieberg im Breisgau: Herder, 1938. [German translation of W.E. Campbell's edition.]

B624. Leyris, Pierre, trans. "Lettres." *Thomas More: Écrits de Prison. Précédés de la vie de Thomas More par William Roper*. Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1953, 1981. 81–148. [French translation of seventeen Prison Letters (Rogers 200–211, 213–214, 216–218).]

B625. Pieraccini, Maria Teresa Pintacuda, trans. *Tommaso Moro: Lettere dalla prigione*. [Letters from Prison] Torino: Bollati Boringhieri, 1959. [Italian translation.]

B626. Castelli, Alberto, trans. *Tommaso Moro: Lettere dal carcere*. [Letters from Prison] Intro. John Harriot S. J. Vatican: Poliglotta Vaticana s.l., 1971. [Italian translation.]

B627. Benešová, Marie and Alfons Bok, trans. *Tomáš Morus : dopisy z vězení*. [Letters from Prison] Olomouc: Matice cyrilometodějská, 2006. [Worldcat OCLC 85719014; Index Translationum. Czech translation from the German translation of Franz Sonntag, see **Correspondence: Other Translations.**]

B628. Silva, Álvaro de, trans. *Santo Tomás Moro: Un hombre sólo. Cartas desde la Torre (1534–1535)*. Madrid: Ediciones Rialp, 1988. [Spanish translation of More's prison letters and prayers.]

#### **Review(s):**

B628.1. Lewis J. Hutton, *Moreana* 27, no. 101/102 (May 1990): 194.

B629. Pepe V., Trans. *Tommaso Moro: Preghiere e lettere dalla Torre*. [Prayers and Letters from the Tower] Potenza: Osanna Venosa, 2000. [Italian translation.]

B630. Taillé, Michel, ed. "Lettres à Cromwell," "Lettre au roi," et "Lettres de Prison." *Thomas More: Histoire, Église et spiritualité. Textes et correspondance*. Paris: Bayard, 2005. 40–72. [French Translation of eight letters (Rogers 194, 197–200, 201, 210, 218).]

B631. Silva, Álvaro, trans. *Santo Tomás Moro: Últimas Cartas desde la cárcel*. Barcelona: El Acantilado, 2009. [Spanish translation.]

#### **Selections**

B632. "Letters of Sir Thomas More to and From Margaret More." *The Mirrour of Vertue in Worldly Greatness or the Life of Sir Thomas More Knight*. By William Roper. London: Alexander Moring (The De La More Press), 1903. 105–77. [Reprints nine of the Prison Letters, including Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington (Rogers 206).]

B633. Sampson, George, ed. "Letters written by Sir Thomas More to his Daughter Margaret Roper while he was a prisoner in the Tower; with Certain Other Letters." *The Utopia of Sir Thomas More. Ralph Robinson's translation, with Roper's life and some of his letters . . . to which is added the Latin text of Utopia, reprinted from the first edition*. Introduction and bibliography A. C. Guthkelch. Bohn's Popular Library. London: G. Bell and sons, 1910. 1914. 273–333. [Reprints thirteen prison letters including Rogers 206.]

B634. Campbell, Mildred, ed. "Letters of More and his Daughter Margaret." *The Utopia of Sir Thomas More*. Toronto and New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1947. 283–312. [Reprints seven of the "Prison Letters."]

B635. Greene, James J., and John P. Dolan, eds. "From *The English Letters*." *The Essential Thomas More*. New York: Mentor, 1967. 242–81. [Reprints Rogers 197–199, and eight of the "Prison Letters."]

B636. Slavin, Arthur, ed. "Sir Thomas More — Margaret Roper, June 5, 1535." *Humanism, Reform, and Reformation in England*. New York: Wiley, 1969. 188–91. [Sum. Geritz G077. Excerpts from Rogers #216.]

B637. Foord, Dame Bede, ed. *Conscience Decides: Letters and Prayers from Prison Written by Sir Thomas More*. Intro. Germain Marc'hadour. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1971. 21–96. [Geritz C001; Wentworth 781. Reprints nine of the Prison Letters.]

**Review(s):**

B637.1. Philip Caraman, *Moreana* 9, no. 35 (September 1972): 21–24.

B638. Gabrieli, Vittorio, ed. *Thomas More: Fancies Sports and Merry Tales*. Biblioteca Italiana di testi inglesi 22. Bari: Adriatica Editrice, 1974. 221–23, 225–236. [Substantial excerpts from Rogers 200, 205 and 206.]

B639. "A Dialogue of Conscience." *Saint Thomas More: The Four Last Things, The Supplication of Souls, A Dialogue of Conscience*. Rendered in Modern English by Mary Gottschalk. Intro. Gerard Wegemer. Princeton: Scepter Publishers, 2002. 195–218. [A modernized edition of the Letter to Alice Alington (Rogers 205 and 206).]

**Review(s):**

B639.1. Katherine Gardiner Rodgers, *Moreana* 41, no. 159 (September 2004): 79–82.

B640. Thornton, John F., and Susan B. Varenne, eds. "Last Letters." *Saint Thomas More: Selected Writings*. Intro. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. New York: Vintage Books, 2003. 129–178. [Reprints thirteen of the "Prison Letters."]

B641. Wegemer, Gerard B., and Stephen W. Smith, eds. *A Thomas More Source Book*. Washington, DC: Catholic U of America P, 2004. 182–85, 305–35, 343–51. [Rogers 191, 200, 205–206, 214, 216–217.]

## Studies

B642. Bruce, John. "Observations upon Certain Inaccuracies in the Published Letters of Sir Thomas More." *Archaeologia* 30 (1844): 149–59. **Available online** at <https://books.google.com/books?id=9D5GAQAIAAJ&pg=PA149>. [Sullivan 1:135. On the changes that Rastell made to the Prison Letters in the 1557 edition.]

B643. Sullivan, Frank. "Sir Thomas More." [1960] See **Treatise on the Passion**. [Rogers 192\*]

B644. Reynolds, E.E. "[Note on Rogers 200 and 201]." *Moreana* 1, no. 2 (February 1964): 78.

- B645. Derrett, J. Duncan M. "Two Dicta of More's and a Correction." *Moreana* 2, no. 8 (November 1965): 67–72. [On Rogers 200, 202, and 208.]
- B646. Meulon, Henri. "La docilité chez Thomas More." *Moreana* 3, no. 12 (November 1966): 11–28. [Geritz F200. On obedience in More's Prison Letters.]
- B647. Castelli, A. "I due '19 Maggio' o l'ultimo scherzo di T. Moro." *Moreana* 4, no. 15/16 (November 1967): 347–52. [Sum.: (Fr) G.M. p.352. On Rogers 199 and Ann Boleyn's death (19 May 1536). More was also canonized on 19 May 1935 (It.).]
- B648. Sargent, Daniel. "Singularity." *Moreana* 4, no. 15/16 (November 1967): 311–14. [On the "Pie-Powder Court" episode in the Letter to Alice Alington.]
- B649. Sullivan, Frank. "The Letter of the Law of a Christian Socrates." *Moreana* 4, no. 15/16 (November 1967): 304–10. [Geritz F319; Wentworth 70. Compares More's Prison Letters to Plato's *Phaedo* and *Apology*.]
- B650. Maguire, John. "William Roper's *Life of More*: The Working Methods of a Tudor Biographer." [1969] See **William Roper**.
- B651. Meulon, Henri. "La pensée du ciel chez Thomas More." *Moreana* 7, no. 27/28 (December 1970): 5–13. [Geritz F201. On Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington.]
- B652. Miller, Clarence H. "A Vatican Manuscript Containing Three Brief Works by St. Thomas More." [1970] See **Tower Works: General Studies**.
- B653. Marc'hadour, Germain, "Introduction." *Conscience Decides: Letters and Prayers from Prison Written by Sir Thomas More*. Ed. Dame Bede Foord. London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1971. 13–17. [Includes some interesting discussion of More's style. According to Marc'hadour the letters not only "approach to conversation, nearly all of them are actually a continuation of an oral dialogue" (13).]
- B654. Meulon, Henri. "Thomas More et la souffrance." [1973] See **A Dialogue of Comfort: Studies**.
- B655. Martz, Louis L. "The Art of Improvisation." *A Dialogue of Comfort*. Vol. 12 of *The Yale Edition of the Complete Works of St. Thomas More*. Ed. Louis L. Martz and Frank Manley. New Haven: Yale UP, 1976. lvii–lxv. Rev. vers. of lix–lxv in "Last Letters and *A Dialogue of Comfort*." *Thomas More: The Search for the Inner Man*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1990. 55–64, 107. [On the relationship between *A Dialogue of Comfort* and Margaret Roper's "Letter to Alice Alington."]
- B656. Gordon, Walter M. "Tragic Perspective in Thomas More's Dialogue with Margaret in the Tower." *Cithara* 17:2 (1978): 3–12. [Geritz T015; Wentworth 783. On Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington.]
- B657. Sylvester, Richard S. "Conscience and Consciousness: Thomas More." [1978] See **Conscience**.

B658. McCutcheon, Elizabeth. "'The Apple of my Eye': Thomas More to Antonio Bonvisi—A Reading and a Translation." *Moreana* 18, no. 71/72 (November 1981): 37–56. [Geritz U004; Wentworth 782. Translation and interpretation of Rogers 217. William Rastell first translated this Latin letter into English in *EW* 1557 pp.1456–57.]

B659. Rousseau, Marie-Claude. "Thomas More, énigme et paradoxe: *Non sum Oedipus, sed Morus*." *Le paradoxe au Temps de la Renaissance*. Ed. Marie-Thérèse Jones-Davies. Paris: Touzet, 1982. 87–103. Rev. vers. rpt. as "Non sum Oedipus, sed Morus." *Moreana* 23, no. 91/92 (December 1986): 173–87. [Geritz F276. Starting from the "Dialogue of Conscience," Rousseau considers the riddle and paradoxes of More's personality, especially during his imprisonment.]

B660. Kaufman, Peter Iver. "Absolute Margaret: Margaret More Roper and 'Well Learned' Men." *Sixteenth Century Journal* 20 (1989): 443–56. [Geritz F130; Wentworth 77. A feminist reading of Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington.]

B661. Wright, Nancy E. "The Name and the Signature of the Author of Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington." [1992] See **Margaret Roper**.

B662. Monti, James. "A More Intimate 'Dialogue of Comfort': More's Correspondence in the Tower." *The King's Good Servant But God's First: The Life and Writings of St. Thomas More*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1997. 405–433.

B663. Foley, Stephen Merriam. "Scenes of Speaking and Technologies of Writing in More's Tower Letters." *Moreana* 35, no. 135/36 (December 1998): 7–23. [Sum.: pp.7–8. Discusses More's Letters to Frith, Cromwell and Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington (Rogers 190, 197 and 206).]

B664. McCutcheon, Elizabeth. "The Prison Letters of More and Tyndale." *Word, Church, and State: Tyndale Quincentenary Essays*. Ed. John T. Day, Eric Lund, and Ann M. O'Donnell. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America P, c1998. 243–55. Rpt. *Moreana* 52, no. 201/202 (December 2015): 383–397. [Discusses Tyndale's two letters to Frith and his one prison letter in relation to More's Prison Letters (especially the letter to Bonvisi) and More's last letter to Erasmus (Rogers 191).]

#### **Review(s):**

B664.1. Germain Marc'hadour, *Moreana* 37, no. 142 (June 2000): 36–38.

B665. Wegemer, Gerard B. "Between Father and Daughter: A Memorable Conversation." *Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage*. Princeton: Scepter Publications, 1998. 171–181, 266–67.

B666. Silva, Alvaro de. "Introduction: Good Company." *The Last Letters of Thomas More*. Ed. Alvaro de Silva. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000. 1–25. [On the clarity of More's conscience, and on his readiness to die for the integrity of his religious faith.]

B667. Wynne-Davies, Marion. *Women Writers and Familial Discourse in the English Renaissance*. [2007] See **Margaret Roper**.

B668. House, Seymour Baker. "Endgame: The Genesis of More's *The Sadness of Christ*." [2008] See **De Tristitia: Studies**.

B669. McCarthy, Terence. "'No Leisure to Look to Worldly Courtesy': The Last Letter of Sir Thomas More, July 5th 1535." *Last Letters*. Ed. Sylvie Crinquand. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 2008. 100–110. [On the personal nature and plain style of More's last letter (Rogers 218).]

B670. Avery, Joshua. "'Irony and Charity Are Met Together': A Puzzle in Margaret Roper's Letter to Alice Alington." *Moreana* 46, no. 176 (June 2009): 65–75. [Sum.: <http://www.amici-thomae-mori.com/photos/SITE - 07 AVERY modifi%C3%A9 le 16 juin 65-76.pdf>.]

B671. Boyle, John F. Counsel, Comfort and Conscience in More's Letters to Fellow-Prisoner Wilson." *Moreana* 46, no. 176 (June 2009): 49–64. [Sum.: pp.49–50: <http://www.amici-thomae-mori.com/photos/SITE - 06 CJMX BOYLE More%27s letters to Wilson HB02 - 25 mai 49-64.pdf>.]

B672. Kearney, Dutton. "'Little in Common?': Law and Literature in Thomas More's *Dialogue on Conscience*." *Moreana* 46, no. 176 (June 2009): 133–142. [Sum.: pp.133–34.]

B673. Rodgers, Katherine G. "Thomas More as Witness in the Prison Letters." *Moreana* 46, no. 176 (June 2009): 31–47. [Sum.: pp.31–32: <http://www.amici-thomae-mori.com/photos/- SITE 05 RODGERS modifi%C3%A9 le 16 juin 31-48.pdf>.]

B674. Scott, Alison V. "More's Letters and 'the Comfort of the Truth.'" *A Companion to Thomas More*. Ed. A. D. Cousins, and Damian Grace. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2009. 53–76. [Sum.: pp.12–13. On the *Letter to Dorp*, *Letter to a Monk* and on the Prison Letters, especially the *Letter to Alice Alington*.]

B675. McCutcheon, Elizabeth. "Thomas More's Three Prison Letters Reporting on His Interrogations." *Thomas More's Trial by Jury: A Procedural and Legal Review with a Collection of Documents*. Edited by Henry Ansgar Kelly, Louis Karlin and Gerard Wegemer. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell P, 2011. 94–110.

B676. Wegemer, Gerard. "The 'secret of his heart': What Was Thomas More's?" *Moreana* 52, no. 199/200 (June 2015): 45–60. [Sum.: p.45: <http://www.amici-thomae-mori.com/photos/045-060 - RESUMES - 150413 Wegemer proofread OK.pdf>. Deals especially with Rogers #202, #206, #209 and #210.]

See also **Thomas More's Correspondence and Margaret Roper**.