

**LETTERS OF BRIAN FARRELL AND MARIE-THÉRÈSE
DILLON**

P358



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CONTEXT

Biographical history

Brian Farrell was born in Manchester on 9th January 1929 to Irish Parents, Francis and Teresa. He moved to Dublin in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War. He was educated at Coláiste Mhuire, University College Dublin (UCD) and Harvard University. Brian joined the administrative staff of UCD in 1955 and became director of extramural studies. In 1963 he was appointed as an assistant to the registrar. In addition to his work in UCD Brian worked in media, writing articles for the *Irish Press* and the *Irish Independent*. In 1962 he joined the newly established Radio Teilifis Éireann (RTÉ) and presented a number of political and current affairs programmes until his retirement in 2004.

Alongside his career in television Brian's career in UCD also flourished. He became a lecturer in 1966 in the department of Ethics and Politics progressing to senior lecturer in Politics. In 1985 he was appointed associate professor of government and political science. He retired from UCD in the mid-1990s. Brian predeceased his wife Marie-Thérèse Dillon on 10 November 2014.

Marie-Thérèse Dillon was born in Vienna in 1928. She was an only child of Dr TWT Dillon and Marie Berringer. Her uncle James Dillon was leader of the Fine Gael Party from 1959–65. Another uncle Myles Dillon was a Celtic Scholar and a senior professor in the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies from 1949–72. Her grandfather was John Dillon, the last leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party. He served as an MP for over 35 years. Marie-Thérèse was educated at the Sacred Heart School in Leeson street, she also attended the Domestic College in Edinburgh developing her interest and skill in dress design. She worked as a manager in Larhams clothing factory in Dun Laoghaire.

After her father died in 1946 Marie-Therese's mother suffered ill health. She died at the age of 57 in August 1955.

Brian and Marie-Therese married in Cambridge, Boston on Monday 11th April 1955. They returned to Ireland in June the same year and began their married life together. They had eight children, four daughters, one of whom died in infancy, and four sons.

Archival history

These papers were deposited by Miriam Farrell-Shtaierman in June 2022.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content

In July 1954 Brian Farrell travelled by air from Dublin to America. He had won a Fulbright Scholarship to Harvard University. He left behind his fiancée, Marie-Therese Dillon. Over the next eight months Brian and Marie-Thérèse exchanged almost daily letters, the letters contained in this collection, until her departure from Cobh on 15 March 1955. She arrived in New York on 22 March 1955. From there Brian and Marie-Therese set off for George Roach's house in Rhinebeck and then on to Harvard.

They married, in Cambridge, on Easter Monday 11th April 1955. After the wedding Brian and Marie-Therese moved into Brian's bedsit, 146 Upland Road, and Brian continued his studies. For their last month in America they returned to George's house in Rhinebeck. They arrived back to Cobh on 21st June 1955 and onwards to the Dillon House in Booterstown, Dublin.

Correspondence between Marie-Therese and Brian, July 1954–March 1955.

Letters from Brian and Marie-Thérèse to Mrs. Dillon, September 1954–June 1955.

Photographs, not dated; 1946; April 1955.

System of arrangement

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CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Access

Available by appointment to holders of a UCDA reader's ticket. Produced for consultation in original format.

Language

English.

Finding Aid

Descriptive catalogue.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note

This descriptive catalogue was prepared by Orna Somerville.

ALLIED MATERIAL

Papers of T.W.T Dillon UCDA P126

**1. Letters from Marie-Thérèse Dillon to Brian Farrell July
1954–March 1955**

P358/1 24 July 1954

2pp & envelope with writing

Concerning Brian's imminent departure for America. Begins 'I'm so excited as if I were going too—maybe in a way I am: everything you feel—I feel & know I'll see some of the wonderful things throu' your eyes.' Reminds him to take care of himself. The envelope has a list, in MT's handwriting, of the items Brian should pack

P358/2 Postmarked 28 July 1954

3pp

This letter is addressed to Brian c/o Dr Frauenfelder, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Refers to a letter she received in the morning's post about a family, Howe, in Boston that she will put Brian in touch with once he is settled. Remarks that the husband is a Harvard Law Professor, Mark deWolf Howe, and that the family live in Cambridge. Promises to post papers belonging to Brian which should arrive by mid-September. Refers to her ring, that it fits 'perfectly' and that she has locked it away until she arrives in America. Promises to write again tomorrow. In a postscript she remarks 'Look out for snakes!'

P358/3 Postmarked [29] July 1954

3pp

Addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder as above. Remarks that she has collected the bundle of papers. Jokes about 'dragging' the bundle up Henry Street. Refers to Myles (Dillon), her uncle, who visited her home. Remarks that her mother declared as Myles was leaving that she 'missed Brian Farrell very much...' Refers to Brian's two aunts, Agnes (who was also Brian's godmother) and Peg and the cold weather. Remarks that she is not showing her engagement ring to anyone except her mother who thinks it is '...very beautiful.' Concludes the letter by saying how much she is looking forward to hearing Brian's account of his trip.

P358/4 Postmarked 3 August 1954

6pp

Writing from Achill Head Hotel. Letter is addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder as above. Describes her journey to Achill and the hotel where she is staying. Refers to her mother at home in Dublin remarking that she was in 'great' form and Mrs Campbell is coming to stay with her. Tells Brian that she brought his earrings with her but feels they may be 'too smart'. Refers to the food in the hotel, the weather in Achill and her fellow guests. Later, she describes attending a dance. The letter continues on a second aerogramme. Remarks that she has posted a book to Brian and the three bundles of papers are ready to be posted to him. Concludes 'Darling, you'll be glad to hear I'm not down-hearted because I believe in us. I know you'll have as little time for women as I have for men—but we can still enjoy life & look forward, please God, to a wonderful reunion. I'm longing for your letters...hope the news I'll get will show you to be happy & well.'

P358/5 4 August 1954

3pp

Writing from Achill Head Hotel. The letter is addressed to 6 South Hoffman, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Expresses her delight at receiving Brian's letter remarking that she is '...delighted by the sound of it all.' Describes the hotel where she is staying and how full it is with some guests sleeping in the playroom. Refers to her holiday companions and the social life they are enjoying. Assures Brian that everyone knows about him and that she has refused to go drinking and dancing '...with nearly every man in the hotel...' Remarks that the weather is good and that she has spent time on the beach as well as helping to save the hay after being asked by some farmers to help with the work. Asks Brian if he has ever heard of a Frank Dwyer from Trinity. Describes him as pro Stalin and a 'most unpleasant type...' Concludes 'Your letters are wonderful & I "eat" them many times a day.'

P358/6 8 August 1954

6pp

Writing from Booterstown. Writes that she has returned to Dublin after a wonderful holiday in Achill. Tells Brian that his notes are on their way to Harvard and will take approximately six weeks to arrive. Describes the pleasure that Brian's letters bring her. Remarks 'I'm with you under those great leafy trees—in those nice people's homes, and on those hot evenings...' Recounts a story about Desmond Williams whose car ran out of petrol in Sandycove. He and his friend walked home to Glenageary. The next morning, they caught the train back to Sandycove 'Desmond limped up to the engine driver and asked him to wait a few minutes, as he had some business to transact.' Desmond and his companion went to the garage, attended to the car and returned to the station 15 minutes later. The train was still waiting for them and brought them into town 'No wonder he never bothers to get a car if he can use a train as a taxi!' Remarks that she also heard that Williams' trip to Germany related to papers belonging to the Americans that he hoped to have released to support his legal case. Williams was sued by Leopold H. Kearney, Irish Minister to Spain during the second world war. Williams accused Kearney of being a Nazi collaborator. Concludes by telling Brian that she would love if he could send her a copy of *Vogue* or *Reader's Digest*. In a postscript she mentions that Ray called in and stayed for tea but he '...shattered me by saying that he was to take me out on the 21st!' Remarks that she does not wish to celebrate her birthday with anyone other than Brian.

P358/7 Postmarked 10 August 1954

3pp

The letter is addressed to Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Resolves not to ask Brian any more questions in her letters as invariably the answer comes before her letter is received by Brian. Describes her day ahead. Refers to Ray (see P358/6) and remarks that she is feeling less worried about his foolishness but that she does not trust herself to speak to him if he rings. Tells Brian how much she misses him and how much her mother misses him too. Reminds Brian to look after himself. Asks Brian, if he is speaking to Mrs Frauenfelder, to mention her family's great friends in Switzerland, the Cardiz family in Lausanne. Remarks that the husband is a Doctor.

P358/8 Not dated [mid-August 1954]

4pp

Refers to Brian's letter from the Yale club received. Talks about what she is doing including meeting friends, Pat Glaser and Sheila Coakley, for coffee. Describes a new café in Ann's Street '...with a machine that produces 'fluffey (*sic*)-coffee (Italian style). Expresses her dismay about the photos taken during her holiday in Achill and how they did not come out well. Refers to Ray again and remarks that his behaviour could have 'caused us endless trouble'.

P358/9 Postmarked 13 August 1954

3pp

Addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Tells him what she has been doing, going to the cinema and visiting Aunt Agnes. Mentions Brian's mother and father and their return from their holiday, also Brian's younger sister and her 'young man'. Tells Brian how much she misses him but feels the time will pass quicker when she is back at work. Describes the weather in Ireland as cold and damp 'in my opinion winter is here.' In a postscript she remarks that Brian's letter has arrived and she is 'enjoying it all'.

P358/10 13 August 1954

3pp

Addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Tells Brian about meeting friends Sheila, Con and Pat Glaser for coffee. Reports happily that her mother Marie is feeling better. Refers to Brian's letter and his descriptions of people he has met. Remarks 'Of course I trust you & us—if I didn't life would be pretty meaningless—just a series of doubts, worries and fears—I'm trying to improve myself—because the Marie-Thérèse you know is still very selfish & much too hard—but without your company is very difficult not to be hard! Anyway you'll correct that for me—I know.' In a postscript she asks Brian to give Dr Frauenfelder her regards and that she looks forward to meeting the family if she can.

P358/11 15 August 1954

3pp

Addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Refers to a 'very pleasant "wind-fall"...' from British income tax which has enabled her to pay off all of her debts. Tells Brian about her visit to Maggy Doran. Explains that she is the sister of Mrs O'Reilly, housekeeper to her father's family, the Dillons. Remarks that Maggie Doran's daughter May has taken over executorship of the will. Describes in detail the settling of the estate including gifts received by Maggie Doran from James Dillon and a request from the Solicitors acting on behalf of the estate that the gifts should be returned. Refers to the girl, Betty, employed to look after her mother and that the arrangement is working well. Thanks Brian for his letter and tells him how happy they make her feel. Tells Brian that she is thinking of taking Rosalie, Con and Eva to the theatre to celebrate her birthday. Refers to a Thurber play in *The Gate*.

P358/12 16 August 1954

3pp

Addressed c/o Dr Frauenfelder, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Remarks that it is three weeks since Brian left but that his letters make '...all the difference.' Tells Brian that she would be very unhappy going out with anyone else. Describes what she has been doing visiting Killiney and playing cards with friends. Reminisces about an opera she and Brian attended in Manchester and that the same opera was on the radio during the card game 'I couldn't play the cards because I was perfectly happy, wrapped in a daydream of memories.'

P358/13 19 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Expresses her delight on coming home to find Brian's two letters and postcard. Remarks that she had been to see "The Heart of the Matter" with her friends Con and Sheila and their discussion afterwards at Con's where they talked about the difference between love and infatuation and when children should 'know' and how much they should 'know'. Observes that Brian is doing a lot of work on American Neutrality. Asks Brian

P358/13
contd.

is this in addition to his summer schoolwork or something he will use when he goes to Harvard. Asks Brian if he pursues this subject matter (an American one rather than an Irish one) will it affect his grant from UCD. Tells him that she loves to hear what he is thinking about his work as otherwise she will have a lot of catching up to do. Refers to several family friends and acquaintances. Remarks that she is very much looking forward to her birthday but that it won't be the same without Brian. Looks forward to the same time next year.

P358/14 21–22 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Expresses her delight at receiving the flowers Brian sent for her birthday and that she has filled every vase in the house with them. Remarks that she received a card from Brian's sister and his family but that the Dillons all forgot. Describes her day.

P358/15 [23] August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Refers to an interesting conversation she had with a sister of one of her colleagues and the boat crossing to America. Remarks that the one-way air fare is marginally more expensive than the boat once tipping is factored in. Suggests that they may be able to visit her cousin in Denver for their honeymoon, but it would depend on how free Brian would be. Remarks that she bumped into a mutual friend Ronan (Keane, later Chief Justice) who is studying for the Brooke scholarship.

P358/16 Postmarked 26 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Tells Brian about arriving back from an evening out to find her mother extremely unwell. Remarks that after the Doctor attended her, she had a good night and is showing an improvement. Wishes him a lovely holiday and looks forward to hearing about his accommodation in Harvard.

P358/17 Postmarked 27 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Refers to her mother's improving health. Tells Brian news of their friends. Remembers when her mother first fell ill and how comforting Brian's letter, written from London, was to her. Refers to Brian's three letters that arrived and his trip to Boston.

P358/18 Postmarked 30 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Remarks that she is longing to hear that Brian is back in Annandale safely. Refers to their friends Joan and Declan (Costello) and their new baby who was born prematurely. Refers to her mother describing her as very weak and that she has an injection every evening that gets her through the night. Asks Brian to address a letter to her mother which she will read afterwards. Tells Brian about what she has been doing. Refers to Brian's accommodation in Harvard remarking that his rent seems reasonable by American standards. Ask if it is male only accommodation or will they both be able to stay there when she joins him in Harvard the following Spring. Tells him that she has his jacket ready to send and implores him to look after himself. Concludes 'Everything is very dull here—which accounts for this terrible letter—I miss you very much & on these Sundays more than ever.'

P358/19 Postmarked 31 August 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Remarks how delighted she is about Brian's safe return to Bard. Tells Brian that both she and her mother are 'rattled' after her mother's recent health scare. Remarks that her mother apologised and offered to go into hospital for Christmas so that Marie Thérèse could join Brian before Christmas but that she had declined the offer 'I hadn't the heart (though it almost killed me) ...'

P358/20 [late August 1954]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian news about mutual friends. Remarks that she is back at work and very happy to be there. remarks that her mother is in great form. Concludes 'You are always with me & my love is always with you.'

P358/21 31 August 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, B.A., Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Tells Brian that her mother is feeling much better and she herself is feeling better too. Remarks that her mother seems to be happy about the plan for her to go to Drogheda in March of the following year allowing Marie-Therese to be with Brian in 'exactly 7 months!' Tells him that she is back at work full time. Asks Brian to tell her what clothes he is wearing and if he has put on weight and if he has acquired an American accent. Reminds him to get her a copy of the magazine *Vogue* 'I'd love it—that is if you don't consider it outrageously expensive.'

P358/22 3 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A. c/o Captain C.H.J. Keppler, 24 Quincy Street, Cambridge 38 Mass, USA. Tells Brian about the books she is reading and that she would love to read any good books that he could pass on to her. Refers to her mother's health as not being good for the past week. Remarks that she spoke with her uncle Myles (Dillon) on the phone who told her about a recording he had just completed for Radio Éireann on the topic of population. Refers to one of the people he interviewed as citing Bishop Con Lucey as a source of authority on the subject much to the consternation of the director of broadcasting. Refers to a holiday Brian took and remarks that she would love to meet all the people he has made friends with. Refers to the hurricane and asks if it affected the area where Brian is living and that it may be the reason for the delay in receiving his letters. Asks Brian if he would like to be put in touch with friends of Louis Bennett in Boston.

P358/23 6 September 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, c/o George W. Roach, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells Brian that Fr Matthew (Brian Dillon), headmaster of Glenstal school called in to see her. Tells him what she has been doing, seeing friends and going to a dance. Informs him that her mother is doing better but that she herself is exhausted and has not left her mother's side.

P358/24 Not dated

6pp

Letter (no envelope). Muses over the letters arriving 'sporadically' saying she received three letters from Brian in one day. Thanks him for the photo he enclosed in one of them. Tells Brian that her mother hasn't been well. Remarks that she has decided to postpone an outing to the theatre with Aunt Agnes remarking 'because I've not the heart to go out much these evenings ...' Tells him that the doctor said her mother's condition would not improve and that her 'attacks' would continue 'I think, I may be wrong, that she is worse the evenings I'm out.' Asks Brian to write a long letter to her mother and that she will see it afterwards. Remarks that she hasn't put money into the bank towards her fare.

P358/25 Not dated

3pp

Expresses her relief that Brian has received her letters sent c/o George Roach. Tells him that she and Aunt Agnes saw a 'superb' film 'Hobson's Choice'. Remarks that she too is very excited about Brian going to Harvard and will look forward to college news. Tells him that Aunt Agnes borrowed the photograph he sent and that he will have to send more.

P358/26 Postmarked 7 September 1954.

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, c/o George W. Roach, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells him of her delight at receiving his letter to her at work and arriving home to her equally delighted mother who had also received a letter 'the fact that none came for me, in the same post, added greatly to her pleasure—so I said nothing about mine!' Remarks that she finds it difficult to put her feelings on paper. Tells Brian about her evening with Aunt Agnes and how much she enjoys her company. Refers to his letter where he tells her he is leaving Bard and how she imagines he will miss the friends he has made there.

P358/27 Postmarked 8 September 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, c/o George W. Roach, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells Brian that her mother is doing better. Informs him that her cousin Roma Beauregard is coming home with her baby for four months and that she hopes Roma will be her maid of honour next Spring. Reminisces about times they spent together, the conferring dance, going to Manchester to meet Brian's family, and a day out in Powerscourt. Asks Brian if he needs her to send over any clothes, books or papers left in the flat and where she should send them. Encourages him to send his clothes to be cleaned and tells him of a service that will deliver his clothes to wherever he is located. Explains that it is a service particularly for students returning to college. Asks Brian did he hear of the terrible crash at Shannon airport that occurred immediately after take-off but that the airport was completely unaware of what happened until the alarm was raised by one of the flight crew who had crawled out of the mud flats of the river Shannon where the plane had come down.

P358/28 Postmarked 10 September 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, c/o 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Expresses her delight that Brian is with George (Roach) and that he will have a holiday before he starts his studies at Harvard. Describes what she has been doing, going to the

P358/28
contd.

cinema with Con and tells him that they are looking in to joining a society over the winter months. Remarks that her mother is feeling well now. Thanks Brian for advising her about the clothes she will need and urges him to have his clothes cleaned before he goes to Harvard. Later that evening she continues the letter by thanking Brian for sending a copy of "Vogue". Tells him how much she is looking forward to being reunited with Brian and the fun they will have planning their reunion after Christmas 'My constant prayer is that we'll both have a healthy winter...' Remarks that she will continue to send her letters to him at George's house until she hears further.

P358/29 [12 September 1954]

6pp

Letter (no envelope). Tells Brian the news about mutual friends and what she has been doing for her weekend. Expresses her delight over receiving her nylon stockings! Remarks that her mother is thinking about going in to hospital for Christmas 'we agree that Xmas at home could be ghastly for both of us & should she get very sick, over the festive season, we'd be badly stuck ...' Tells Brian that she is going to visit Aunt Agnes the next day and that she anticipates feeling sad. Recalls the last time she was there was shortly after Brian left '... everything was cold and empty about the place—I hated it!'

P358/30 Postmarked 14 September 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, B.A. c/o J. Kelly, Cismount, Virginia, USA. Expresses her hope that Brian is 'knee deep' in her letters and that they have been forwarded to him from the address she has sent them to '... a lot of post must be chasing you around North America.' Tells Brian about a trip to the Abbey to see a play with Aunt Agnes, Describes the acting as 'first class' but remarks 'I've decided that they have completely lost any sense of theatre or drama—I wonder why?' Remarks that her mother is not very well. Refers to the clothing factory where she works.

P358/31 Not dated

6pp

Letter (no envelope). Tells Brian she has spent a quiet day, empty, without him. It is Sunday evening and remarks that she is glad another week is gone as it brings her a week nearer to being with him. She doesn't mind the days getting shorter. Once the winter is over it means that she will see Brian in the Spring. Refers to letters she has sent to his old address and with his visit to Washington the letters she is sending now will need to be forwarded to him. Tells him about the girl that helps care for her mother. Remarks how much she enjoys Aunt Agnes's company and visits. Refers to mutual friends. Concludes '... what I'd love to do, now, more than anything else would be to climb into this envelope & be brought to your doorstep!'

P358/32 Postmarked 15 September 1954

3pp

Addresses B.B. Farrell, c/o J. Kelly Cismount, Virginia, USA. Wishes Brian a good holiday. Refers to the months that remain before she will see him and that she will organise her passport after Christmas. Remarks that there may be other documentation required for their marriage and asks Brian to make enquiries. Refers to local news, as reported in the Irish newspapers, and remarks how frightening she finds the foreign news. Asks Brian what the view is in America. Tells Brian how she wishes the next six months were over and they could be together but remarks 'Of course I'm terrified of the chance of there being another war—But that's all in God's hands.' Asks Brian how the women dress in America and wonders will her five dresses be enough.

P358/33 Postmarked 15 September 1954

3pp

Addresses B.B. Farrell, B.A., c/o J. Kelly, Cismount, Virginia, USA. Tells Brian how she has been spending her time with her friends. Remarks that her mother is not well and is a lot weaker. Refers to her letters and hopes that Brian has a 'stack' of post from her.

P358/34 Postmarked 17 September 1954

3pp

Addressed to B.B. Farrell, c/o J. Kelly, Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia, USA. Thanks Brian for the photograph and remarks that he has put on weight and it suits him. Asks him if he received all the bundles of notes she posted to him. Remarks that she has little news to tell him. Her mother is not well and having a 'hard time'. Tells him she is looking forward to him starting in Harvard and hearing the college news.

P358/35 Postmarked 22 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian how much she loved his letter and that as long as his letters keep coming telling her his news this will sustain her during the separation. Remarks '... funny, I'm not a bit scared of either of us "going off"—but of war—ill health—accident, quite terrify me at times—thank goodness its only things that are in God's hands I fear ...'

P358/36 Postmarked 23 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that she has very little news. Tells Brian that Aunt Agnes called out for a surprise visit bringing three nightdresses for her mother. Remarks that she is hoping to hear that Brian made it to Washington.

P358/37 Postmarked 24 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she has received four letters from him and that she has noticed that Boston post is quicker to arrive. Encourages Brian to write to Myles (Dillon). Remarks that she telephoned Professor Robert Dudley Edwards who advised her that Brian could submit his thesis anytime if he applies formally through the History Department for an extension. Tells Brian that she has arranged for her vaccination

P358/37
contd. next week 'Dr Roche comes to the house so regularly that it would be silly to get anyone else I feel.' Advises Brian to look after himself and eat well.

P358/38 Postmarked 25 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Refers to the Boston post as being very good and hopes it is the same for Brian. Remarks that Brian should have received items she posted. Tells him what she has been doing and reminds Brian about the grant of £100 available from UCD depending on the course Brian chooses 'I'd much rather we have it than UCD!'

P358/39 Saturday night [25 September 1954]

8pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about her day. Thanks him for sending her the *Vogue* magazines. Remarks that it was suggested to her that she may have a chance to bring a child to America and get there for free. Expresses her concern for Brian as he sounds tired in his letters. Urges him to write to her and tell her exactly how he is feeling.

P358/40 Sunday evening [26 September 1954]

2pp

Letter, no envelope. Reminds Brian that it is two months since he left Ireland. Tells him how happy she is to have the photographs he sent. Remarks that she will have some of them framed for her room.

P358/41 Postmarked 28 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Thanks Brian for sending her the Bridal magazines 'I'm devouring them ...' Tells him that her mother is not well and that she was up with her during the night. Refers to a bank draft and fears that it may have gone missing in the post.

P358/41 Expresses the hope that Brian is settling in better telling him
contd. that he sounded sad or tired in his last two letters.

P358/42 Postmarked 29 September 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Refers to a visit by Aunt Agnes who has taken a lot of the photographs Brian sent. Asks if he can replace some of the photographs. Tells Brian that she rang the bank about the missing draft and that they won't be out of pocket. Reminds him to contact John Kelleher in Harvard and that the connection is through Dan Binchy. Refers to Brian's feelings of loneliness and urges him to get involved with a drama or debating society to help the time to pass.

P358/43 2 [October 1954]

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells him how good he is to write to her daily '... it helps me face the day more cheerfully'. Refers to her mother's illness and a visit from the Doctor. The Doctor had insisted on examining Marie Thérèse and has prescribed her a 'nerve-tonic'. Asks if there would be room in for her in the flat Brian is sharing as it seems a shame to have to find a new one if it is only for a short time. Remarks that she is 'thrilled' about the Chamberlain idea (a possible subject for Brian's thesis) as it would mean extra funding for him. Tells Brian that she thinks she will only be able to save for her fare to America and nothing else and that she can't rely on an expected inheritance. Continues 'I had hoped to bring it up to £30 but '... fell for some pretty dress lengths ... and £10 went west!' Asks Brian if Alistair Cook writes for any American Papers and says she finds 'Letters from America' fascinating. Concludes 'As you see—darling—I've just no news—except that I miss you terribly—that I hate these weekends without you but every one does bring that wonderful one nearer which we'll spend together again.'

P358/44 [3 October 1954]

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Refers to the feast of the Little Flower, her father's (Theo Dillon) birthday and the memories of receiving a small gift from him as a child to mark the day. Tells Brian news about mutual friends. Remarks that Aunt Agnes is doing up the flat, but she is not sure if it is a surprise for Brian when he returns. Refers to her uncle Myles Dillon, who hopes to be elected President of Cork University. Tells Brian that she wrote a postcard to George thanking him for the photographs he sent. Congratulates Brian on getting to the Irish Embassy. Tells him that she gave Brian's name to a friend so that her brother can contact Brian when he arrives in Boston '... she was enquiring were there any more Irish students—I said I thought you alone represented Ireland in Harvard...'

P358/45 Postmarked 5 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Mass, USA. Remarks that she finds Monday 'bitter-sweet' days, the start of the working week, which is good but Monday was the day Brian left for America '...which is sometimes a little bitter.' Tells him how much Aunt Agnes' visits cheer her up. Tells Brian that she rang Miss (Louis) Bennett and gave Brian's address to her '... her niece's husband is one of the most important Law Prof. at Harvard and they are in a literary crowd—Miss B will send your address and I hope you'll hear from them soon.' Remarks that she thinks the Boston Irish '... sound a very trifling bunch!'

P358/46 Postmarked 6 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that Myles visited for lunch before he goes to Vienna for three months of teaching. Remarks that Myles advice to Brian is to start a PhD in Harvard that he could finish in Dublin '... he said you might look back at this as a year wasted.'

P358/47 Postmarked 7 October 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she is working 9–5 again in the factory and that it is 'very pleasant'. Refers to her mother's health as not very good but remarks that she is feeling much better.

P358/48 Postmarked 9 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Asks Brian if he is developing an American accent remarking that his letters are 'rather Americanised'. Asks Brian to buy her nylons for her Christmas present. Tells him that she has been vaccinated. Tells him 'I'm absolutely thrilled about all our money!' Concludes 'Now my man—watch that accent!—I'm not marrying a pseudo American so there—so please darling don't change.'

P358/49 Postmarked [11] October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian how she spent her weekend, meeting friends, going for coffee, walking the pier in Dun Laoghaire and going to the Ambassador cinema where she saw Danny Kaye's new film 'Knock on Wood'. Refers to accommodation for her and Brian when she comes to the USA leaving the final decision to Brian. Reminds him to contact a priest to find out what they need to do for their wedding.

P358/50 [11 October] 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to feeling tired as she was up during the night looking after her mother. Describes what she has been doing during her days off work, going to the cinema and doing some shopping. Remarks 'I'm beginning to think a little

P358/50
contd. amusement is as important as saving money—it makes rather strained conditions easier to bear—not that Mama’s cross—but she seems a lot sicker and as a result slower and needs more attention.’ Remarks that she has started to gather the documents they will need for their marriage and asks Brian if she can do the same for him.

P358/51 Postmarked 14 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to her baptism cert not being acceptable to the parish priest and that to get married in the USA she may have to be re-baptised. Marie-Thérèse was baptised in Vienna where her parents were living at the time of her birth. The parish priest objected to the certificate because her god parents were not present at the baptism. Remarks that she also called in to the British Embassy about her birth certificate. Remarks that her mother is much the same and describes her as being in ‘fairly good spirits.’

P358/52 Postmarked 15 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Describes how delighted she was to find Brian’s letters waiting for her when she came home ‘... you could never imagine the effect of your letters on my life at present—they colour my days... & nights—& their (sic) being such happy letters from Rhinebeck made them even better.’ Refers to the votes for Myles (Dillon) for the Presidency of University College Cork. Remarks that the general feeling is that he has a very good chance.

P358/53 Postmarked 16 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to receiving £50 from Mrs O’Reilly’s estate and her joy at being able to put it towards her fare to America. Remarks that she saw the doctor and that he is satisfied that her vaccination has been successful. Refers to hurricane Hazel which affected the eastern American seaboard and asks if

P358/53 Boston has been affected. Asks Brian what he would like for his
contd. Christmas present now that she can afford to buy presents.

P358/54 Postmarked 19 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she has stayed at home to rest, a result of the side effects of her vaccination and having to attend to her mother whom she describes as having 'rather a bad stroke'. Remarks that the doctor came and will come again tomorrow. Discusses Christmas and where Brian might spend Christmas.

P358/55 [20 October 1954]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that everyone is much better. Remarks 'Mama has survived this one quite well & is sleeping sweetly "in the arms of Morphia".' Tells him also that Aunt Agnes came to visit bringing 'great cheer' with her. Refers to a raid on a military barracks in the north of Ireland and recalls a similar raid where a van was found in Raheny with rounds of small ammunition.

P358/56 Not dated [21 October 1954]

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she rang Desmond (Williams, History Department UCD) and he has asked Brian to send him a letter formally applying to defer his thesis. Remarks that she has no news admitting that she goes to bed early most evenings 'when we go out together again & I start yawning at 10.30 don't be offended ...' Concludes '—almost three months since you left—& they have crawled—but 4½–5 before I see you again might go a little quicker.'

P358/57 Postmarked 22 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Thanks Brian for the stockings he sent to her. Refers to her mother's health and tells Brian that the doctor has prescribed oxygen for any further breathlessness and that she is taking morphine now every evening. Remarks that her mother loved Brian's letter and sends her love to him but is not writing letters herself anymore. Refers to her vaccination and that she is now feeling much better. Of work she writes that she is very lucky and that her bosses are 'terribly considerate about everything.'

P358/58 Postmarked 24 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to American politics and a gaffe by Charles Wilson, Defense Secretary. Remarks that Alistair Cook spent 15 minutes talking about it in his broadcast. Urges Brian to buy a suit but cautions him to make sure the material is of good quality.

P358/59 Postmarked 26 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian about a 'wonderful' night visiting Aunt Agnes in the flat. Refers to a great idea they both had for a birthday and Christmas present for Brian—a Harvard blazer. Refers to her mother and a visit by the doctor and how helpful Betty is in looking after her mother.

P358/60 Postmarked 27 October 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian what she has been doing including listening to the Al Reed show on the radio with her mother. Asks Brian if he has done anything about his letter of freedom in preparation for their wedding and if he has a copy of his

P358/60 baptismal certificate.
contd.

P358/61 Not dated

8pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about a water leak that happened during the night and disturbed her sleep. Agrees with Brian that they need to decide where to get married. Remarks that they don't want to take advantage of George's generosity. But acquiesces and says that if Rhinebeck is the location for the wedding, she will be very happy. Reminds Brian again to write to his parish priest about his letter of freedom and baptismal certificate. Suggests touring around on buses for their honeymoon.

P358/62 Postmarked 29 October 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Remarks that she would love to attend some lectures in Harvard if she had the chance. Encourages Brian to buy a blazer as a Christmas present from her. Tells Brian that her mother does not get out of bed anymore and eats very little.

P358/63 30–31 October 1954

7pp

Letter, no envelope. Talks to Brian about saving for her fare and getting her visa from the American embassy. Remarks that Pat McHugh had an idea that she may have her passage paid for if she accompanied a child to America. Refers to a pleasant evening with friends. Ask Brian not to make too many plans for next year. Remarks that her mother is not well and may not last long and if this is the case there would be nothing to tie them to Ireland. Asks Brian to send her a *Vogue* pattern so she can make a dress. Remarks that her mother is 'in quite cheerie (*sic*) humour' but that she doesn't go downstairs anymore. Concludes 'I'm in remarkably good form, thank God, but only because your letters keep me that way!'

P358/64 31 October 1954

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that Fr Donegan has been in touch about her papers and has asked where and when the wedding is to take place. Remarks that she has found a tailor for her coat for her visit to the embassy 'vanity was always my downfall!' Refers to the friends she has met and what she is doing '... you see I'm not wilting away but would be 100% happier if you were here too.'

P358/65 2 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Remarks 'Strange and wonderful how closely our minds work despite 3000mls—what would I ever do & what would happen to me should a lively American brunette draw you away from me!—& then you write reassuring me!... And I do trust you completely so am delighted that you go to all the parties & dances you can...' Tells him that none of the UCD people got the history studentship and that she saw the film 'The Bells of St Trinian's'.

P358/66 Postmarked 3 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Remarks that she is delighted to hear that Brian is going to Bard again. Refers to Brian's brother Pearse and that Aunt Agnes is upset about the news from Manchester and Pearse's hospitalisation. Informs him that his mother and father are well.

P358/67 Not dated

3pp

Letter, no envelope. Asks Brian about his Christmas present. Refers to her mother who appears to be feeling much better and was able to come downstairs. Tells Brian that she listened to Alistair Cook to hear about the election, but nothing was mentioned. Instead, he spoke about the Queen Mother's visit.

P358/67
contd. In a postscript she tells Brian that his brother Pearse is improving.

P358/68 Not dated

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to a delay in the post due to a strike by ground staff at Shannon airport.

P358/69 Not dated

4pp

Letter no envelope. Expresses her delight to hear that Brian stayed on longer at Bard and hopes he is safely back at Harvard. Remarks that she got her first 'snuffle' but is feeling better. Tells Brian that two of his friends Tommy (Owens) and Ronan (Keane) called and she was delighted to see them.

P358/70 Postmarked 8 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to Brian's brother Pearse who is recovering and encourages Brian to write to his family to cheer them up. Remarks that she enquired about sailings to America, the cost and availability but remarks that she will let Brian decide what to do 'It's all exciting & this booking ... brings March & April all the nearer.' Asks Brian will they be able to afford for her to live in America from March to mid-June? Urges Brian to plan a good Christmas and asks again what he would like for his present. Concludes 'dearest, look after yourself, warm gloves, scarves & jumpers if you get a cold go to bed ...'

P358/71 Postmarked 9 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Reassures Brian that his brother Pearse is improving. Refers to her mother as 'up and down, she's a bit "short" (of temper & breath) these last few days...' Concludes

P358/71 '—each days brings me nearer to where I belong—'
contd.

P358/72 Postmarked 10 November 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Expresses her delight at Brian's exam results and her hope that Brian will be able to go to Bard for Christmas. Remarks that she is speaking to a priest about her baptismal certificate and her letter of freedom. Asks Brian what type of American visa she should apply for.

P358/73 Postmarked 11 November 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Expresses her delight to hear that Brian is in Bard and wishes him a happy holiday. Tells Brian about meeting a friend, Sheila Creedon, and how she enjoyed her evening. Asks Brian if he needs any help with his papers for their forthcoming marriage.

P358/74 Postmarked 13 November 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she approves of his choice of a grey suit. Refers to Brian's brother Pearse whose health is improving.

P358/75 Postmarked 16 November 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian about her success in winning a large order for the clothing factory where she works and that there is

P358/75
contd. good news from Manchester about Brian's brother Pearse who is now able to get up for a short while every day. Refers to her mother as being in great form.

P358/76 Not dated

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that she would be delighted to receive stockings as a gift and asks if he can send her the Christmas *Vogue* 'it should be full of lovely things...' Asks him if he would like her to send a book. Remarks that she is not sending Christmas cards this year as it is very expensive but instead will send Christmas letters to family and close friends. Concludes '... I'm becoming more and more excited—only 16 more weekends & I'll be setting out to join you.'

P358/77 Postmarked 18 November 1954

2p

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Jokes that they would be able to tour America with people who have offered to put them up. Refers to Brian's trip to Bard and to hear that he enjoyed it. Remarks '... but I'm glad to see you're the same darling: missing trains etc ...'

P358/78 Postmarked 23 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Thanks Brian for the magazines he sent telling him that she is particularly enjoying the *Reader's Digest*. Describes gifts, a pair of boots or a bag, she would like to give Aunt Agnes as she has been so good to her and Brian.

P358/79 Postmarked 25 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Expresses her relief that Brian got back to Harvard safely. Refers to her mother's birthday and how they celebrated the occasion. Remarks that she would rather be married in

P358/79
contd. Boston. Discusses arrangements that could be made for their wedding and honeymoon afterwards. Asks Brian the dates of his Easter holidays so that they can plan the date of their wedding.

P358/80 Postmarked 26 November 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Commiserates with Brian over the news of his thesis but urges him not to worry and that he will have plenty of time back in Dublin to work on notes he has taken. Expresses her delight that Brian agrees to a Boston wedding. Discusses ideas for Christmas presents that Brian can give to his family.

P358/81 Saturday night. Not dated

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about a trip into town and who she met. Remarks that she called in to see the Reverend Mother in St. Vincent's [hospital/nursing home] who has agreed for her mother to stay for a week at Christmas but that she herself won't go very far '... due to Mama changing her mind about this before.' Tells Brian that she would like to go to his family in Manchester for Christmas but does not think it is feasible.

P358/82 Sunday 28th [November] 1954

8pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about a party she attended and the people she met there. Informs him about jobs he could apply for including the BBC. Remarks '... working in England there is always the 'Draft' to worry about. Having found you again it would kill me if you were taken away from me again.' Tells Brian that she has booked her passage for the 15th March. Reminds Brian to obtain his baptism certificate and his letters of freedom for their forthcoming marriage. Encourages him to apply for an extension to remain in America '... once married our lives are one & I'll be wherever is best for you.'

P358/83 Monday morning. Not dated

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about the disastrous dinner her mother attempted to cook and how upset her mother became. Briefly outlines other news and reminds Brian about an affidavit for a visa and obtaining his baptism certificate and his letters of freedom for the forthcoming marriage.

P358/84 Tuesday morning. Not dated.

5pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about her visit to the embassy to apply for her visa and that there should be no trouble in obtaining it. Explains to Brian what he needs to do about the visa from his end. Remarks that she received a letter from Edith but that the news about Brian's brother is not good and an x-ray has shown that there is no improvement. Refers to Brian's sister Ethnea and the good news that she is engaged to be married. Advises Brian on a gift he could buy for her. reminds him again about what he needs to do for her visa and getting his baptism certificate and letters of freedom for their marriage.

P358/85 Postmarked 1 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she rang Desmond (Williams) and that he is not upset about Brian changing his subject remarking that research students '... often have trouble finding their "subject"—if that's any consolation darling!' Refers to her visa and that she and her mother have discussed selling shares so that there won't be any money worries. Concludes 'Mama is making a huge gesture—she's writing to Uncle James!!! (Dillon, Minister for Agriculture 1954–56 and leader of Fine Gael 1959–65)—in her opinion why should he "get away" without giving us a wedding present—I tried to stop her—reminding her of my views on the man—but she's determined!'

P358/86 Postmarked 2 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Discusses the possibility of them staying on in America after they are married with Brian continuing his studies. Tells Brian that she is very happy to hear that Brian will spend Christmas with George Roach.

P358/87 Postmarked 3 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Talks about Brian's subject of Locke and Hooker (political theorists). Tells Brian that she has another appointment in the American embassy about her visa and that she needs Brian to send her a copy of his bank statement. Remarks that the only serious consideration about remaining in America is having enough money to live on.

P358/88 Postmarked 6 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Refers to Brian's sister, Ethnea's, engagement. Tells him what she has been doing and who she has been seeing. Says that she hopes to go the races on Boxing day with her friend Noeleen. Remarks that her mother is feeling well and is in good form. Describes her new hairstyle and according to the girls she looks like Audrey Hepburn.

P358/89 Postmarked 8 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian how much she misses him but that his letter helped her a lot. Remarks that fifteen weeks before they are together seems like a very long time. Asks him to let her know when he is going to George's house (for Christmas) so that she will know where to send her letters.

P358/90 Postmarked 9 December 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian about a very bad storm and the aftermath. Remarks that she called in to Greene's bookshop and that the owner, Mr Pembrey, was enquiring about Brian.

P358/91 Postmarked 10 December 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Expresses surprise to hear that Brian, following a medical checkup, is colour blind. Remarks that her mother is very well but is determined to go to stay in hospital over the Christmas period.

P358/92 Postmarked 15 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, B.A., 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass., USA. Tells Brian that she has heard back from Mary and Ed living in Denver who have said they will be delighted to attend their wedding.

P358/93 17 [December] 1954

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that she now regrets not sending even a small gift to him for Christmas. Remarks 'But if my hands are empty my heart is very full of all things for you—love, thoughts, wishes, hopes...'

P358/94 Saturday [18 December 1954]

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, c/o 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells Brian that she is having difficulty booking their return passage and asks him to investigate options on his end.

P358/95 Postmarked 21 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, c/o 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells Brian about the Christmas socializing she has been doing. Remarks that it is now twelve weeks to when she will sail to America. Refers to Bria's letters of freedom and tells him that Aunt Agnes will be able to get his certificate of baptism during her stay in Manchester over the Christmas period. Asks Brian to look for a suitable church where they can be married. Concludes 'Well darling I suppose by the time you get this letter you will have eaten your turkey and trimmings...I love you & always will—so have a happy holiday & look after yourself.'

P358/96 Postmarked 22 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell BA, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Thanks Brian for the '...wonderful heap of nylons...' that arrived. Remarks 'I got so excited that I've eaten a small bottle of milk of magnesia since!' Tells him about Aunt Agnes's visit and the gifts she brought as well as Brian's letter of freedom. Remarks that she has sold her old sewing machine to a girl that works in the factory. Expresses her joy at the news that Pearse, Brian's brother, is home for with the Farrell family in Manchester for Christmas.

P358/97 24 December 1954

8pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about the Christmas party organized by the girls in the factory. Remarks '...they planned their menu to the last "blob of cream" & when we all sat down they were almost too excited to eat—Betty (the best machinist) & Tommy (the messenger boy) sat at either side of me—he insisted on keeping his desert spoon in his dungaree-pocket for fear it would be "pinched" ... a party I hope I never forget, a good start to Christmas. Refers to her mother who is in St. Vincent's hospital, 'grumbling but obviously very comfortable...' Continues the letter on 27th December describing her Christmas as a 'very full & pleasant time'.

P358/98 Postmarked 29 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that much to her dismay the maid has delayed her return after Christmas and that she hopes her mother can stay in St. Vincent's hospital until the weekend. Remarks a machinist at work has offered to come in the evenings. Refers to 'an intriguing rumour' that Princess Margaret has expressed a wish to meet Fr Eugene Boylan following the publication of his book.

P358/99 Postmarked 30 December 1954

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that her mother is coming home from the hospital and that she has found someone to help until their maid Betty is able to return. Refers to the eleven weeks to go before they will see each other.

P358/100 31 December 1954

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that the house is back to normal because of the help she has for her mother. Remarks that she will put the announcement of their wedding into the papers around the middle of February.

P358/101 31 December 1954

3pp

Letter, no envelope. Wishes Brian a happy new year. Tells him that she bought champagne, foie gras and shrimp on her way home from work and she and some friends ate and drank for two hours. Tells him how she feels about the time they have been apart. Concludes 'Happy New Year darling, as happy as I can make it for you & much, much better than that!—success with the work—good health & if this letter is slightly vague it's 3 glasses of "the best" which stops me saying sensible things.'

P358/102 Sunday 2 [January 1955]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that she thinks she has found a priest who could marry them in America. Asks Brian to find a small church in Cambridge, Boston where they can be married so that she can write to the parish priest. Lists out the guests that will attend the wedding not including people Brian will invite. Asks Brian to make enquiries about where she can stay before they are married.

P358/103 Monday night [January 1955]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Apologises for not sending a birthday present to Brian. Remarks that she is keeping a close eye on her money. Informs Brian that it may not be necessary to sell her shares after all. Refers to the two years that they have been together as a couple and how successful their engagement has been 'We've always had a sympathetic reception in both our homes (thanks to your tact at all times ... we've always had money to amuse ourselves with—or a good fire to read a book by ...' Concludes 'So, my pet, roll on March and in the meantime have a good time January 9th—take someone out—someone nice & give them all a surprise—it's fatal to tell a man you trust him, I believe—but I'll chance it!—after all you have sworn you'll marry me so I'm feeling a little more confident!'

P358/104 Thursday morning [January 1955]

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian she is worried about him and hopes the postal system is to blame for the lack of letters from him. Refers to their maid Betty and her delayed return after Christmas. Refers to his brother Pearse who is improving. Remarks that she rang John O'Donoghue to enquire about the length of a thesis and that he will write to Brian.

P358/105 Postmarked 7 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian how much his two letters cheered her up and expects a better week next week when Betty returns, and she won't be under so much pressure. Remarks that her mother is wondering if she will remain in the house after her departure for America. Refers to her papers and visa and that the American embassy have informed her that they will be ready for her to travel in March. Tells Brian that she plans to travel directly to Boston when her boat docks in New York. Concludes 'The thought of only 10 weeks to go is very exciting!'

P358/106 Postmarked 11 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Refers to Brian's birthday. Tells him that Betty has returned and is very happy to stay in the house with her mother. Remarks that she is very pleased that she and Brian will be able to live in 146 Upland Road in Boston.

P358/107 Postmarked 12 January 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that her replacement will be starting soon and that she will be training her in. Refers to her dress making in preparation for her time in America. Remarks that she and a friend are going to see the film 'Rear Window'. Concludes 'Darling, I'm getting so excited now! I count the days: 69 'til we meet—& I'm deliriously happy at the thought!'

P358/108 Not dated, Friday morning [14 January 1955]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that she has asked Avril to be her Matron of Honour 'If she says yes it will make my day complete!' Asks Brian if he has decided to ask Avril's husband Billy to be his best man. Remarks that she has heard that her visa for America is being considered following Brian's guarantee

P358/108 of support. Refers to the date and time for the wedding
contd. reminding Brian about the details.

P358/109 Not dated, Thursday morning [January 1955]

5pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about a Dramsoc production she went to see and the people she met, many of whom were asking about Brian. Refers to the room that will be used as Brian's study when the couple arrive back from America and how she will decorate it. Remarks that she intends to visit Aunt Agnes and that she will have more news for Brian after that.

P358/110 Postmarked 17 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she has written to Fr Bernard O'Dea to ask him to marry them. Expresses her excitement as the time draws closer to when they will see each other. Refers to her mother who is not looking very well but who is in good form. Asks Brian does he know the name of the church where they will be married.

P358/111 Postmarked 18 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that April 11th, Easter Monday is the day she wishes to marry. Tells Brian that she paid a visit to Aunt Agnes. Remarks that she is very happy if Brian asks Bill to be his best man. Discusses who will 'give her away' at the wedding.

P358/112 Postmarked 20 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Refers to the film *Mr Hulot's Holiday* that they have both seen and enjoyed. Talks about the flat they will live in when she goes to America. Tells Brian that she received a

P358/112 dividend cheque that will pay for her luggage.
contd.

P358/113 Not dated, Sunday afternoon [23 January 1955]

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about her growing excitement as the days pass. Refers to a visit from her uncle James Dillon which she describes as very pleasant. Remarks that James told her that she should contact him if there is any difficulty about her American visa. Remarks that she has started to make her wedding dress and asks Brian to send her a copy of the fashion magazine *Harper's Bazaar* so that she can see what the Spring fashions are like in America. Tells Brian that as soon as he confirms the church she will send out invitations. Remarks that there are only 57 days left before they see each other. Tells him that she and Aunt Agnes would like to buy him his wedding suit for his birthday and Christmas present.

P358/114 Postmarked 25 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that there is still no news from the priest who is to marry them. Asks Brian to contact the parish priest of the church where they are to marry to get the ball rolling. Refers to a visit with Aunt Agnes describing her as cheerful and looking very well but that Brian's brother Pearse is not very well. Asks Brian if there is anything she can bring from Ireland for their flat.

P358/115 Not dated, Wednesday night [26 January 1955]

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Remarks that there are 55 days to go before they see each other. Refers to her mother as not feeling very well and needing a prescription from Dr Roche. Remarks that she will pay another visit to the American embassy about

P358/115 her visa which she hopes will be her last visit. Refers to letters
contd. received from Brian and confirms that she prefers to be married
in a church in Cambridge so she can visit it both before and
after the wedding.

P358/116 Postmarked 28 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she has her visa for America. Remarks that she still has not heard from the priest, Fr O'Dea who she wanted to marry them. Confirms that she wants to marry in a church in Cambridge.

P358/117 Postmarked 31 January 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, BA, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that her new luggage has arrived. Tells Brian that she has been thinking about their accommodation in Booterstown when they return from America and that she has ordered their bed.

P358/118 Not dated, Saturday night

7pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian that their bed for when they return from America will be delivered to the house the following week.

P358/119 Not dated, Saturday

6pp

Letter no envelope. Expresses her joy at the arrival of the bed and how well it has fitted into her bedroom with room for Brian's wardrobe. Tells Brian that her tickets are paid for and have arrived. Refers to her 'going away' outfit and that she has

P358/119 made a start on her wedding dress. Asks Brian to contact the
contd. McGarrys to ask Avril if she will be MT's bridesmaid. Remarks
that she does not expect a honeymoon.

P358/120 Postmarked 8 February 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she has almost finished making her wardrobe for Boston. Refers to the priest who has agreed to marry them but is away from his house and difficult to contact.

P358/121 Not dated, Thursday night [February 1955]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about the party arranged for her by her work colleagues and the gifts of money she received. Remarks 'Really they were so sweet that I had to think about you very hard not to regret leaving them!'

P358/122 Postmarked [] February 1955 (Tuesday morning)

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Remarks that she cannot finalise her papers until she knows the date and place of their marriage. Refers to their return voyage and that a booking is being held for them when they are sure of their plans. Expresses her sincere hope that Fr O'Dea will be able to marry them. Thanks Brian for the *Vogue* magazine and the *Reader's Digest*. Tells Brian that Aunt Agnes has no news of his brother Pearse in Manchester and that she feels this is 'good news'.

P358/123 Postmarked 11 February 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Answers Brian's question in his letter to her about staying on in America and if it would upset MT's mother. Remarks 'Yes I do think it would upset her hopelessly ... I now see Mama would have nothing to live for—I think she's just

P358/123 living for our return already'. Asks Brian if staying on in
contd. America would be advantageous to his career and suggests that
he discusses the subject with someone from the history faculty
in Cambridge. Tells Brian that Fr O'Dea has been in touch and
will be delighted to marry them. Expresses her joy at this news.

P358/124 15 February 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass,
USA. Tells Brian that she received a letter from Avril McGarry
who will not be able to travel to their wedding. Asks Brian if he
knows anyone who he could ask to be his groomsman and her
bridesmaid. Sympathises with Brian over the death of his uncle
and godfather. Refers to their wedding plans.

P358/125 [February] 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass,
USA. Describes her outing with the girls which started off not
going well but improved by going to the Pike Theatre on Herbert
Lane. Tells Brian that she is feeling 'deflated' after receiving an
income tax bill. Thanks Brian for his suggestion of Mary
Raleigh as her bridesmaid.

P358/126 Not dated (Friday night)

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass,
USA. Tells Brian that Aunt Agnes is looking very well and how
sorry she was to hear of the death of Brian's uncle. Refers to
their first 'big' wedding present from MT's uncle James (Dillon)
of £25. Remarks that she will write a thank you note to him.

P358/127 Postmarked 24 February 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Refers to her arrival date in America (March 22nd). Expresses her delight that she will be staying with the Cushmans as she feels it will give her the opportunity to observe American life and American cooking. Mentions that she will get her papers organized now that the date and venue of the wedding has been confirmed. Refers to her baptism certificate and asks Brian not to show it to too many people because of the personal details recorded. Refers to her mother's mood deteriorating as the date of her departure grows closer. Asks Brian to write letters to her mother while she is sailing to America '... she'd love some cheerful words from you ...'

P358/128 Postmarked 28 February 1955

3pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she will submit a short announcement about their wedding in the Irish Times. Expresses her delight that Jim Barry will be giving her away at the wedding.

P358/129 1 March 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that she has ordered the books he wanted. Describes gifts she has bought to bring with her to America. Refers to her marriage papers which will be sent to Boston via the Archbishop of Dublin's office. Tells Brian that she is writing to Mary (Raleigh) to ask her to be her bridesmaid. Refers to her friend Joan who hopes to start a business selling hand embroidered linen blouses and has asked MT to be part of the enterprise. Remarks 'I'm interested as I'll never be able to give up sewing ...'.

P358/130 Not dated, Tuesday night [March 1955]

6pp

Letter, no envelope. Tells Brian about the money gifts she has been receiving but remarks that she will need to spend it to purchase 'essentials'. Asks Brian to check the time and location of her ship's arrival in New York. Remarks 'I don't want to press them for information because at present a nice clerk is trying to wrangle me a 'first' class or 'cabin' class berth for my tourist class ticket—it sometimes happens due to over booking in Tourist class & I may yet be the lucky one.' Concludes in a postscript that her mother is remaining 'calm', 'brave' and 'sweet' about MT's imminent departure.

P358/131 Postmarked 4 March 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that on her way home from a cinema outing she had a strong memory of being with him one summer evening in 1954 before he left for America and wondering how she would endure the parting. Remarks '... suddenly the months had almost all passed & in 10 days time I'm sailing after you.'

P358/132 Not dated, Thursday night [3 March 1955]

Letter no envelope. Refers again to the possible delay in her marriage papers being received on time for their wedding. Remarks that they have two options open to them, '... postpone everything 'til they arrive or live in sin!' Tells Brian that she has collected the books he asked for and describes some more wedding presents received. Remarks that the girls from work came for dinner '... a deadly experience! But had to be done—they all arrived with silly & revolting presents one present is so peculiar that Mama & I have been arguing all day as to it's uses ...'. Asks him if it is possible to arrange an anniversary mass the Sunday after she arrives for her father Theo Dillon (RIP 27 March 1946).

P358/133 Postmarked 5 March 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Asks Brian to write letters to her mother while she is sailing to America. Remarks that they will give her great pleasure. Tells Brian that she has submitted their pre marriage notice to the Irish Times and that she will send him a cutting. Refers to the names of the people she has invited to their wedding.

P358/134 Postmarked 7 March 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Tells Brian that their marriage notice is in the paper and 'looks quite good'. Remarks that she does not mind where they go on their honeymoon, telling Brian that he is best placed to decide. Congratulates him on his speaking engagements.

P358/135 Postmarked 13 March 1955

2pp

Addressed B.B. Farrell, 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass, USA. Expresses her delight at hearing back from Mary Raleigh who has agreed to be her bridesmaid. Remarks that Naomi and Bill are driving her to Cobh, staying the night and seeing her off the following day. Concludes 'Mama's being really wonderful & this makes everything easier.'

2. Letters from Brian Farrell to Marie-Thérèse Dillon July 1954—March 1955

P358/136 25 July 1954

2pp (& envelope)

Written from 13 Little Mary Street, Dublin. Tells Marie-Thérèse (MT) how much he loves her and how good she has been for him. Refers to their separation, acknowledges that it will be difficult but that their love for each other, their memories of good times and their hopes for the future will carry them

P358/136 through.
contd.

P358/137 26 July 1954

2pp

Written from Shannon Airport. Remarks that the first leg of his journey is completed. Refers to their separation 'as a refined—but tough—Lough Derg.' Asks MT to pass on his thanks to her mother for her kindness and parting gift. Refers to Shannon Airport as a 'hive of activity'. Tells her that the men's room at the airport is equipped with razors, aftershave lotions and hair oils. Remarks that the shops and customs remain operational all through the night.

P358/138 Not dated [28 July 1954]

2pp

Written from Gander Airport. Describes the airport as 'very bleak'. Describes the plane journey to Gander as very comfortable. Tells MT who he met on the plane.

P358/139 Not dated [28 July 1954]

3pp

Written from William Sloane House, New York. Announces his arrival and explains that he missed the last train to Bard and is staying at the YMCA hostel. Describes his surroundings and his impression of New York. Tells MT that he will leave Grand Central Station the next day. Remarks 'After all my flying I'm really unable to digest all these new impressions.'

P358/140 Not dated [29 July 1954]

2pp

Written from 6 South Hoffman, Bard College, Annandale-on Hudson. Describes the location of Bard as a 'really delightful spot.' Tells MT about his fellow students, his accommodation and the facilities available to students on the Bard campus.

P358/141 30 July 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College. Describes an outdoor concert he attended ‘... it was magnificent to sit in the open with fireflies flitting all over.’ Remarks that his course work has started and that his day is full. Describes the members of staff as very pleasant, particularly the Frauenfelders. Tells MT that he hopes to go to a drive-in movie and pay a visit to the local town, Red Hook.

P358/142 31 July 1954 & 1 August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College. Tells MT about a trip to a drive-in movie with his fellow students. Remarks that there were three feature length films and they arrived back at 2.30am in the morning. Refers to an invitation to dine with the Asips (Bill Asip was the director of Physical Education at Bard). Refers to his work and the papers he is preparing.

P358/143 5 August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Refers to MT’s engagement ring. Tells her to keep it safe for both of us. Refers to the presence of the group “Americans for Democratic Action” on the Bard campus. Describes them as a ‘... sort of militant [progressive] and liberal group who might be described in one of [their] own catch phrases as being “beyond socialism” (whatever [that] means).’ Tells MT that he will deliver his first paper on the subject of American diplomacy. Promises to write more often.

P358/144 7 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that they have had their first meeting of students to form a union and that he was elected secretary. Remarks that there was a social event where he had the opportunity of meeting some of the faculty and local people and describes the

P358/144
contd. programme of events as part of their orientation. Describes the programme of seminars, discussions and study to her. Remarks that he and the other officers of their students' union met with Mr. Frauenfelder to discuss union matters. Continues to describe his day including the food served at different meals and the facilities for students to use on the campus.

P353/145 8 August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that his paper was well received. Remarks that he hopes to get to the Roosevelt Library so that he can do some research on American and Irish neutrality.

P358/146 Not dated. Sunday

2pp

Written on Yale Club headed notepaper. Describes his visit to the Yale Club in New York, a meal out in a Jewish restaurant and the people he met. Tells MT about two friends who live in an apartment with a balcony. Remarks 'These two young men do nothing except watch what's going on all around them through opera glasses. This is a favourite New York (perhaps even American) occupation though many people prefer to use telescopes!' Tells MT that the weather is very hot but that he is becoming acclimatised to the heat '... at least I'm not drinking the same fabulous quantities of pepsi & coca cola, milk shakes, sodas and iced water that I consumed on arrival and I do limit myself to one shower a day.'

P358/147 Not dated. Monday

3pp

Written from Bard College. Expresses his delight at arriving back to Bard to find letters from MT. Refers to the group "Americans for Democratic Action" and their presence on the Bard campus. Tells MT more about his stay in New York. Remarks that he attended mass in St Patricks '... a very impressive & almost Dublin like church ...' followed by lunch at the Plaza '... a rather old fashioned but very good hotel on Central Park.' Describes the Yale Club as '... rather old-fashioned but extremely comfortable & the service beyond

P358/147 reproach.’
contd.

P358/148 11 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Remarks that due to their excursion to Poughkeepsie and Westpoint in the coming days he had double the workload to get through.

P358/149 Not dated. Wednesday

5pp

Written from Bard College. Tells her about an English test he had to take. Encourages MT to go out and dance and enjoy herself if she feels like it ‘... don’t make rules—just wait & see how you feel & if you feel like going out some time do go ... I shall be waiting for you just the same.’ Describes a poetry reading he attended and quotes some lines from the poem. Remarks ‘Somehow, I seem to be so much more secure and content thinking of you that I just drowse off to sleep without any worry. You see my darling I know I can trust you & know too that we are strong enough to put up with this separation until we start to plan the most wonderful reunion ... I think of the many ways I am bound to you by your sweetness and beauty and love. So if in my letters I seem to take you for granted and only give you a sort of diary of events it simply means that when I’m holding your hand and telling you what I’ve been doing all day I don’t have to tell you that I love you for our hands clasped together tell us both that.’ Describes to MT a trip to Poughkeepsie where he visited a printing works where they print Disney’s Mickey Mouse stories and how exciting it was to see the artists and engravers working. Following that Brian describes a visit to IBM describing the company as a ‘... well-known American firm who make electronic brains (none there though), accounting machines & electronic typewriters.’ Remarks that they ate a picnic lunch on the grounds of IBM’s country club, a large area with many facilities for the IBM employees but says ‘Unfortunately IBM is one of these “Paternalistic” business places where the President calls people by their Christian names & gives them everything to make them contented and happy & leave them no soul of their own. The plant was very fine but dotted all over (even in the lavatories) with notices saying simply “Think”. As someone said

P358/149 it was all very 1984-ish & straight out of Huxley's "Brave New
contd. World".

P358/150 1[] August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that he is lonely for her and remarks that some of his classmates have wives and children that they miss. Describes his fellow students in some detail. Concludes 'And now at this late hour, my darling do think of me as a little misery who so often annoyed you so that missing me you don't miss much but please do keep on missing me just a little bit.'

P358/151 16 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Describes a concert he attended in Tanglewood and how much he enjoyed being there. Remarks '... I just stared up at an early star and thought of you. The moon came out full and round as we have so often seen it hanging over Dun Laoghaire as we have wandered home. All that was missing was you—with that wonderful little girl flow you have when you're really enjoying yourself.'

P358/152 Not dated. Sunday

4pp

Written from Bard College. Continues the description of the concert he attended in Tanglewood and how the evening ended. Remarks that George Roach invited him to a concert and they set off in a 1953 Cadillac to South Mountain in Massachusetts. On returning to Bard later that evening Brian describes a party where there was dancing, singing, bridge and chess. Tells MT that he will travel to Harvard to arrange his accommodation while he attends college there. Tells MT that he trusts her and that she shouldn't feel 'tied down'. Describes the things he has noticed that impressed him since his arrival in America. Praises the way that food is served and the use of paper cups, napkins and place mats but observes that it is costly. Refers to the standard of the roads and driving in general as very good and safe. Observes that there are a high number of immigrants but

P358/152
contd.

that there is great curiosity about Ireland. Describes the fashions as 'uninspiring' and mostly informal. Remarks that many women and girls wear jeans and shorts. Refers to the children as being 'very healthy looking'. Describes the buildings and the emphasis on fire safety as many of the structures are timber framed. Refers to commuters and how most workers around the Hudson area arrive to work in their cars whereas city workers take the subway because of parking and heavy traffic. Remarks 'Incidentally, in this locality (Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck) they have parking meters and you pay 10c to park for an hour & also rather strange (but again, I think, very sensible and practical) they have toll bridges on the big highways which run you straight into the heart of N.Y.' Concludes 'I do wish you were here but it's wonderful anyway to have you in my heart and in your letters ... till we are together again I send you all my love, my thoughts, my blessings.'

P358/153 1[] August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that he visited de Grés to see their war game 'It was quite fabulous: a huge table littered with miniature toy soldiers, tanks, airplanes & factories. The rules are quite involved and do resemble some aspects of warfare. Still even despite this, I feel grown men might derive greater satisfaction than playing toy soldiers. Of course de Gré is a sociologist.' Describes watching two friends play a game of Scrabble and explains to MT how the game is played.

P358/154 18 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT about arrangements made for him to go to Hyde Park to see the Roosevelt papers. Describes the library and the access arrangements with some of the more recent files incomplete as some of the papers are restricted. Remarks that he hopes to be able to make a return visit.

P358/155 Not Dated. Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

6pp

Written from Bard college. Describes spending some time with his friend George in Rhinebeck listening to records and using George's library. On his return to Bard, he describes a barbecue which was a great success despite the heavy rain.

P358/156 19 August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Wishes MT a happy birthday. Tells her how much he loves her and appreciates her. Concludes 'You are all that I might ever have dreamed of and please stay that way until you are once again with your own Brian.'

P358/157 23 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT about his discovery amongst the papers on Ireland in the Roosevelt papers he examined. There was a communication from MT's uncle Myles Dillon to David Gray (appointed Minister to Ireland in 1940) asking him how he could help the war effort. 'His request was apparently shuffled to and fro & so the memo came through F.D.R.'s office. Myles is described as a Prof ... and it is suggested that he work with the Dept. of Psychological warfare.'

P358/158 24 August 1954

1p

Written from Boston YMCA. Tells MT about his journey from Bard hitch-hiking to Boston and describes the people who picked him up. Remarks that nearly all of them claimed to have a connection to Ireland. Observes that Boston is much quieter than New York and, in some respects, quieter than Dublin. Tells her that there are local elections taking pace and everywhere there are posters for O'Connors, Foleys, Murphys.

P358/159 25 August 1954

1p

Written from Boston YMCA. Describes Cambridge and Harvard University to MT 'The buildings are all clustered around Harvard Square but as far as one can see the University owns the whole of Cambridge; down all sorts of side streets one finds research centres, administrative offices etc.' Remarks that his accommodation comprises a 'pleasant and quite large room' where he will stay during his time in Harvard. Refers again to the local election posters '... all these posters asking for votes on behalf of O'Donnells, O'Connors, Sheehys were slightly nauseating. I can well believe that Boston politics are really crooked.'

P358/160 26 August 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that he is going to Rhinebeck the next day to stay with George Roach, the Librarian at Hyde Park where he has been examining the Roosevelt Papers. Describes in a little more detail about the research on Irish neutrality he has been carrying out at Hyde Park. Remarks '... there is a glowing pen picture of Frank Aiken as one of the most intelligent members of the government.' In the second part of the letter, he announces that he has arrived in Rhinebeck and even though he was offered a lift he prefers to hitch-hike, if he has the time, as it is 'great fun'.

P358/161 28 August 1954

1p

Written from Rhinebeck. Tells MT how he has been spending his time, sunbathing and swimming, eating well and listening to records from George's extensive collection. Describes the village of Rhinebeck which dates to 1688 with the oldest hotel in America, the Beckman Arms dating to 1700. Tells her that George owns a nine-room house and he is very comfortable. Concludes 'I love you my darling and I need you, your trust, your faith in me and you yourself. So keep yourself well and safe for me darling until we meet again.'

P358/162 31 August 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Expresses his concern for MT's mother and hopes that she is improving. Acknowledges how stressful this is for MT. Confirms that his accommodation in Harvard is a shared space but that he will have his own room.

P358/163 No dated [1 September 1954]

5pp

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Tells MT that a planned trip to the Catskills had to be postponed due to wet weather. Remarks that he got his first 'American' job, babysitting for one of the lecturing staff. Refers to another trip to Hyde Park to do some work on the Hyde Papers. Muses about finding more references to MT's uncles. Reminds MT that after Friday he will be staying with George Roach in Rhinebeck before he goes to Virginia.

P358/164 3 September 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Expresses his concern for MT after receiving her letter. Acknowledges that MT has made 'big sacrifices' in their relationship. Tells her that he too is suffering because of their separation but reminds her that they have faced difficulties before. Encourages her to remember how strong their partnership is 'Happiness does not consist in gaiety or in always feeling happy but in the tranquility that comes from being secure in ourselves and so my dearest remember your own words to me—look after yourself but most important of all keep on loving me and praying for us.'

P358/165 4 September 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. Describes the final reception and awarding of degrees to the students on completion of their orientation programme.

P358/165
contd.

Remarks that once the ceremony was over the campus emptied very quickly. Tells her not to worry about him hitch-hiking. Describes the clothes he has been wearing and that he has been able to live within his budget at Bard but that this may change when he gets to Harvard. Tells her that he will find suitable accommodation for them when she arrives. Describes himself as keeping very well and healthy. Tells MT that he looks forward to her letters as they have so much of her in them. Assures her that he has not changed or developed 'even a trace' of an American accent.

P358/166 Postmarked 6 September 1954

2pp

Written from George Roach's house, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells MT that he has been having a very relaxed time in George's house in Rhinebeck. Reassures MT that hitch-hiking is not dangerous. Refers to his expenses as modest so far and that money is working out well for now. Refers to MT's mother and acknowledges MT's concern about leaving her

P358/167 7 September 1954

1p

Written from George Roach's house 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that he and George embarked on a project to build a path to the pond at George's house. Tells MT about the fireworks he saw across the river to mark Labour Day and the Spencer Tracy film he and George went to see. Concludes 'Time lies heavy here too but I think of you and look forward to the Spring and dream of the future and remember the past. And always send you all my love and prayers.'

P358/168 9 September 1954

1p

Written from George Roach's house 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells MT that he was awoken early by a 'tremendous' thunder and lightning storm. Informs her about hurricane 'Edna' making the headlines in the news. Remarks that hurricanes are named starting with the letter 'A' each year. Tells MT that he will travel to New York the next day and from

P358/168 there to Virginia.
contd.

P358/169 11 September 1954

1p

Written from New York. Remarks that he is staying at International House in New York and that it is worth the extra money to stay there rather than at the 'Y'. Describes how he has spent his day in New York.

P358/170 11 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT that he has arrived in Virginia, and that John Kelly collected him from the station. Describes the house where the Kellys live. Refers to the weather as being oppressively warm both in New York and on the train 'Of course here in Virginia it's normally warmer than in the North; notice I say "the North"—it's almost another country: these people still think in terms of "the war between the States", that's the American Civil War.'

P358/171 13 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Describes the village of Cismount to her. Observes that Virginia is experiencing a drought and that according to John it hasn't rained properly in two years. Remarks that he and John had lunch at the country club 'very fashionable, very country.' Tells MT that he is 'geared up' for Harvard and is reading a lot of American History to prepare himself.

P358/172 13 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT that John drove him to see the University of Virginia, built to the design of Thomas Jefferson 'It's all red brick with great white pillars & looks very attractive ...' Asks after MT's mother and

P358/172 acknowledges the strain MT is under. Tells MT that he heard
contd. from Stan, a fellow student from Bard, who has found an apartment in Harvard and that he will move in there.

P358/173 Not dated. Sunday [14 September 1954]

4pp

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Describes the 'social atmosphere' in Albemarle County where he is staying. Remarks that it is the third richest county in the country. Continues 'Wealth ... is the dominant note, but it is coupled with a set of social prejudices ... some about schools, birth, North or South.' Admits that he has difficulty understanding all of this as he comes from a completely different background. Remarks that the area is traditionally Republican, but that political discussion is difficult 'For there are Conservative Republicans, and many are not just anti-Ike, but anti all—what they term— left-wing Republicans. The term communist is synonymous with; "party member", "Marxist", "socialist", "liberal, radical and even British". On the really hot issue, they are strongly pro-McCarthy!' Remarks that he finds his hosts John and Betty Kelly as 'very kind' and 'thoughtful'. Tells MT that while he enjoys the 'high-living' he is experiencing he could not 'reconcile' himself to a '... permanent round of "brunch", social calls, and cocktails, dinner (always served on silver) by candlelight, with all the trimmings.'

P358/174 15 September 1954

2pp

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT how he spends his time in Virginia. Asks MT to send a recipe for potato cakes for Betty.

P358/175 [16] September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT that as the time to go to Harvard gets closer, he is getting 'increasingly excited'. Remarks that although he is enjoying the rest he does find it boring. Remarks that he has been reading a lot about American history and may concentrate on this when he gets to Harvard.

P358/176 18 September 1954

2pp

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT that he is keeping very well and thanks her for her concern for him. Remarks that he will know better what he needs to be sent to him when he gets to Harvard.

P358/177 19 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Tells MT how he has been spending his time. Refers to an interview with Mrs. Pearl Mesta on television and describes her as the original "hostess with the most-ess" and that she was renowned, as the US representative in Luxembourg, for throwing very lavish parties.

P358/178 21 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount, Virginia. Refers to the weather as being extremely hot. Remarks that he will be leaving Virginia the following day and will stay either in New York or Washington before he travels to Boston.

P358/179 21 September 1954

1p

Written from Washington. Tells MT about his journey from Charlottesville to Washington where he is staying before continuing his journey to Boston. Remarks that he is staying at the YMCA, and it is the best "Y" he has stayed in so far. Describes the location as being only minutes away from the White House '... it looked quite well in its lights ... & is well set off by the flanking Treasury & State Department buildings.' Tells MT that John and Betty have invited them to visit Cismount.

P358/180 22 September 1954

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts in the early hours of Wednesday 22nd September. Provides more detail about his brief time in Washington and how impressed he was by the White House describing it as 'beautifully proportioned'. Remarks that he also had time to walk past the Library of Congress and the 'very impressive' Supreme Court. Concludes 'From what I saw of it, I liked Washington. It was clean, dignified (in its buildings & wide roads) and had a settled, little-rushed air about it—despite the hundreds of taxi cabs. Also, I saw for the first time these big buildings which are used for car-parking.'

P358/181 22 September 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Continues his letter from the early hours of Wednesday 22nd September. Tells MT that he is still settling in to his new accommodation. Describes his day registering at the university and trying to choose what courses he will do. Tells MT about using the transport system in Boston including distances and fares.

P358/182 [23 September 1954]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from Cambridge. Tells MT that he hopes to concentrate on American history during his time at Harvard and that he will have an opportunity to speak to members of the faculty to seek their advice. Remarks that he was able to access the Widener Library describing it as 'very big and impressive' and that he hopes to be given access to the stacks rather than having to wait for books to be brought to him by the porters.

P358/183 [24 September 1954]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from Cambridge. Tells MT not to worry about him and that he is very careful when he is out and about. Expresses his view that another war is not imminent

P358/183
contd.

and that he does not think that America would want to enter into another conflict 'In Russia, they are probably worried about the comparative war potential of East & West. And moreover all 3 powers are worried about the use of atomic & fission bombs.' Remarks that he met with Professor Owen, Chairman of the History department and that he won't be taking a degree in Harvard. However, he is discussing research projects with other academics and he will take an elementary German class. Describes Harvard to MT concluding that the 'whole place is charming.' He hopes to be finished registering by Monday and to get down to his work. Talks about what the future holds for him when he returns to Dublin saying that a teaching job in England is the only realistic prospect, but things may change. Asks after MT's mother.

P358/184 25 September 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. tells MT how much he misses her 'I don't believe I shall ever become accustomed to your absence dear because you always carry my heart with you.' Describes his conversations with different members of the History Department remarking that it doesn't seem like he will be tied down to any specific courses. Remarks that he will need to decide on a topic for his thesis and that he is currently considering Anglo-American relations in the Roosevelt-Chamberlain era in terms of political theory taking Locke as a central figure.

P358/185 24 September 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT how he has spent his Sunday in Harvard including spending time in the graduate centre and the international student centre. Explains again about the system of registering for courses of study describing the system as 'quite elaborate'. Refers to the passing of time and when they will see each other again.

P358/186 27 September 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT about a visit he paid to John Kelleher, Professor of Irish Studies at Harvard. Remarks that he won't be taking one of his courses but that it won't affect the money he is getting from the college as he will still be doing some research on Irish history. Summarises the stories that have been making the news in America including the election campaigns.

P358/187 Postmarked 30 September 1954

6pp and 1 envelope

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Describes the Widener Library and how he hopes to make good use of the access arrangements to the stacks. Tells MT that his registration card has been completed. Explains to her about the Graduate Centre, where he will have his lunch. Remarks 'Incidentally I have noticed they often serve ice cream for dessert (you can take seconds, or thirds, of anything) & most people take two. I wondered how they could afford this in relation to dessert until somebody told me that there is an endowment fund—restricted to the purchase of ice-cream for the centre!'. Describes in some detail the apartment where he is living. Provides small diagrams of the apartment and the layout of his bedroom. Refers to his course of study explaining that if he took a degree, it would restrict the amount of time he could spend on his own research. Remarks that he would not be able to spend time with MT when she comes over and that the History Department in Harvard are happy to support him with the courses he has chosen. Concludes 'Time is moving along: soon we'll be in October & then on to Christmas & preparations for the really great adventure...'

P358/188 Postmarked 1 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Apologies for the frequency of his letters becoming less over time. Remarks that he is busy with his studies. Tells MT about

P358/188
contd.

his 'first introduction to Irish society in Boston ...' when he attended a farewell meeting for Lady Valerie Goulding organized by the Boston friends of the Dublin Remedial Clinic. Remarks that he met an elderly man called James Barry 'who seemed to know everyone there.' Refers to the people he was introduced to at the event and remarks 'Incidentally they are obviously well above the "lace-curtain Irish". Amongst others I met an insignificant & crumpled little man who is Secretary of the Commonwealth of Mass.' In a postscript Brian remembers to tell MT about a fashion show as part of the fundraising for the Dublin Remedial Clinic. Remarks 'Inevitably your Richard Alan women was showing stuff & Nellie Mulcahy. It got a great write up in the papers.'

P358/189 Postmarked 2 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Describes the type of clothes the college girls wear at Harvard. Refers to the weather as still being very warm. Remarks that he received an invitation to the History Graduates' picnic but that he has decided not to become involved in the Drama Society. Refers to his finances. Remarks that George has written again inviting them to stay with him next summer when Brian's classes at Harvard have finished.

P358/190 5 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Enquires about MT's wellbeing. Asks if he can send anything over to her or her mother. Refers to his attendance at an Eire Society meeting where he again met Jim Barry who introduced Brian to some of the attendees and showed him around Boston after the meeting concluded. Remarks that Jim Barry insisted on Brian staying with him as he was concerned about the late hour and Brian getting home. Tells MT that Jim Barry reminded him of his own father but remarks that he thinks MT may find him 'a little boring & possibly think he's inclined to boast ...' Continues '... but over here I've grown very tolerant ... of kind people & simple people. Also I've come to realise that using a European or Irish yardstick to measure Americans is a mistake.'

P358/191 Postmarked 6 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that he is glad to hear that the doctor is looking after MT. Urges her not to worry about her mother. Tells MT that he misses her and that even his work does not distract him. Refers to where they could live when MT joins him in America remarking that renting an apartment would not make financial sense if they were to stay with George for the month of May. Tells MT that he met one of the Harvard Dram Soc people and found out that Mrs Howe, a niece of Louie Bennett, is involved with drama and wonders if he should contact her.

P358/192 Postmarked 7 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to the big news story in American that Marilyn Monroe and Joe di Maggio are to divorce. Refers to news in a letter from MT about the Presidency of UCC. Remarks that the Widener Library have given him a desk in the stacks. Tells MT about the Supreme Court decision (Brown v. Board of education Topeka) abolishing segregation in schools. Refers to Westbrook Pegler, an American journalist and writer, and his criticism of the Roosevelts, Democrats, anti-McCarthyites and Labour Unions.

P358/193 Postmarked 8 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT what he has been doing and how his work is progressing. Remarks that he had dinner with Michael Flynn, the Vice-Consul and an Irish American called Joe Gannon in Boston. Describes the evening as very pleasant with good conversation 'Over here there is a general tendency to avoid "hurting" people by arguing or discussing touchy subjects which tends to stultify conversation. It is all part of a general movement towards conformity & is rather depressing.'

P358/194 Postmarked 11 October 1954

2pp

Written from George Roach's house in Rhinebeck. Explains to MT the difficulties in taking a degree at Harvard and the work that would be involved. Remarks that he hopes to do his MA when he returns to Dublin and that he feels certain he chose the right course of study for the time being.

P358/195 Not dated, Monday [11 October 1954]

3pp + envelope

Written from George Roach's house in Rhinebeck. Remarks that he attended a history class in Bard and met up with a number of students and staff whom he know during the previous summer in Bard.

P358/196 Postmarked 12 October 1954

2pp

Written from International House, New York. Tells MT that he hitch-hiked back into NY city and that he is waiting for Michael [Flynn]. Describes his flat mates to MT. Refers to Stan who is studying in the Graduate School of Education. Another flat mate Egbert from Holland Brian describes as a 'really young' 23-year-old and is studying in the Graduate School of Law.

P358/197 Postmarked 14 October 1954

2pp

Tells MT not to worry about him acquiring an American accent and that most people think he is British. Remarks that he is to meet Professor William Langer the following morning about his research.

P358/198 Postmarked 15 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Asks MT to contact Desmond Williams in the History Department in UCD to confirm his course of study after his

P358/198 meeting with Langer and to pass on the name of the Director of
contd. the FDR memorial Library (Dr Kahn). Remarks that he also
needs to know what steps he is to take to apply for an
extension for his MA.

P358/199 Postmarked 18 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that he has received two invitations to speak, one at a high school and the second to a group in Vermont. Tells MT that he spent the day (Saturday) working in the Widener Library and that he has been invited to breakfast by the Cushman's on Sunday morning. Concludes '... I'm as safe here in Harvard as at a monastery. The girls here are (a) few in numbers (b) seldom even pretty (c) scarcely articulate: in general, a dead loss. Yet when I see these couples walking arm-in-arm along Mass. Ave. I feel very empty without you ... so I come home here & write to you, so we get together again until it's time once more to kiss you good night & thank you for so many wonderful days.'

P358/200 Postmarked 19 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT about his injection scar which is healing well and that she should not worry about hers. Refers to his research describing it as 'coming along nicely'. Remarks that he has seen the film 'Rear Window' and recommends it to MT.

P358/201 Postmarked 20 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he met John Kelleher (Irish Studies, Harvard) and they had dinner together in the Faculty Club. Remarks that he has been invited to tea by Mrs Howe (niece of Louie Bennett

P358/201 and wife of law professor Mark DeWolf Howe).
contd.

P358/202 Postmarked 21 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT about his research in the Widener library. Remarks that he has postponed his visit to Mrs Howe as he will be travelling to Vermont to give a talk. Refers to a murder case grabbing the headlines in America and the jury selection. Remarks 'Candidly I feel that over here the jury system gives the guilty some hope but God help the innocent!'

P358/203 [22] October 1954

2pp

Written from Rutland, Vermont. Tells MT about a talk he has given to students at Beaver County High School concerning Ireland. Remarks that he has arrived in New Hampshire to give a similar talk to students at Rutland High School.

P358/204 Postmarked 25 October 1954

4pp + 1 envelope

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that his trip to Vermont was a success. Provides further details of his visit including attending his first American football game, Vermont University *v.* Warwick (a Military Academy). Describes the physical landscape of Vermont. Tells MT that he will probably spend Christmas in Rhinebeck. Wonders to MT what he will do next year. Admits that staying on in America is not viable as it would leave MT's mother too long on her own and he thinks they should return to Dublin in June. Remarks that he will look for a teaching job in England.

P358/205 Postmarked 26 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to Harry Atkins' appointment as President of University

P358/205 College Cork. Refers to his research in the Widener Library
contd. where he is focused on the British Civil service 'squabbles' of
the late 1930s.

P358/206 Postmarked 27 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to the American elections and the effort being made to get people out to vote but observes that there is 'tremendous apathy'. Remarks 'Even the argument that people should vote republican in order to help Ike's programme doesn't help very much since many Democrats are more pro-Ike (especially in foreign affairs & defense expenditure) than Republicans.' Refers to the price of food and groceries in America.

P358/207 Postmarked 28 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he attended two very good lectures. During one of the lectures the academic made critical remarks about McCarthy, where the audience 'hissed' and about President Nixon who he described as a "travelling salesman". Remarks 'So as you can see the academicians here aren't slow to unveil their political leanings.' Continues 'of course Harvard is in a very "liberal" tradition & strongly democratic ... & has in fact the reputation of being pink; the present President Pusey crossed swords with McCarthy in Wisconsin.' Remarks that he invited Michael Flynn (Irish Vice-Consul) to have dinner with him. Refers to an upcoming lecture by Toynbee (Arnold Joseph) that he hopes to attend.

P358/208 Postmarked 1 November 1954

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT about how he spent his Sunday. After mass he went to the Graduate Commons for breakfast and talked to some of the other students present. Remarks that he spent his afternoon reading.

P358/209 Postmarked 1 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT about the party he attended in Radcliffe (a women's college in Cambridge). Remarks that he does not wish to purchase a Harvard blazer and considers himself more of a UCD man than a Harvard man. Refers to Myles Dillon's unsuccessful run for the President of UCC. Wonders if it was a trial run and that Myles may go for President of UCD when Michale Tierney retires. Assures MT that he is not 'becoming American' continues 'I'm not. Farrell of the neutral voice, medium-long hair, tweed coat etc. remains firm as a beacon ...'

P358/210 Postmarked 3 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to the American mid-term elections and remarks that his work in the Widener Library was interrupted by loudspeakers urging people to vote.

P358/211 Postmarked 4 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Reports again on the mid-term elections telling MT that the last few Senate seats are being decided. Remarks that the Democrats have won the House and that it looks like the Senate will be half and half. He predicts a difficult time for Vice-President Nixon. Refers to his work on political theory. Remarks that he received a letter from Aunt Agnes with news that his brother Pearse is not well 'Really I feel spoiled and mean, he is so intelligent & yet never had the chances given to me; yet he kept going in the face of rotten luck while I've been so very fortunate.'

P358/212 Postmarked 5 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he went to Emerson to hear a talk by John

P358/212 O'Meara. Remarks that there was a very good turn out and that
contd. he walked back to O'Meara's house after the lecture and had a
long conversation with him including the lack of teaching jobs
in UCD. Remarks that he himself is not hopeful of getting a job
there in the future.

P358/213 Postmarked 7 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts.
Tells MT that he attended a party in the Howe's residence
(Mark de Wolfe Howe, member of the Law faculty of Harvard
and formerly secretary to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and
Mary Howe *nee* Manning, a playwright and niece of Louie
Bennett). Remarks that he received a letter from Desmond
Williams telling Brian that he received a mark 'slightly under' a
first-class honours.

P358/214 Postmarked 8 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts.
Tells MT that he has just returned from Boston where he
attended an Eire Society talk and a "Citizens for McCarthy"
rally. Remarks that there was a huge crowd in the venue and
many more outside 'Of course this meeting was for the faithful
and there was no attempt made to convince the other side, but
I was amazed at both the vague treatment of the subject
(everything & everyone involved was simplified) and the semi-
hysterical reaction of the audience.' Refers to James Francis
Curley who also spoke at the rally 'he was one of the old
democratic politicians of Mass.—an ex-governor & ex-mayor of
Boston; he is also an ex-jailbird—convicted for some sort of
racketeering.'

P358/215 Postmarked 9 November 1954

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts.
Tells MT that he has been busy looking up quotations for when
he travels to Bard and that he has very little news to tell her.

P358/216 Postmarked 11 November 1954

6pp + envelope

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that attended a lecture by Max Beloff about Russian/American relations. Tells MT that he will be travelling to Bard the following day to give a talk on Modern Irish history. Expresses his admiration for P.H. Pearse and his poetry and refers to the anti-clerical sentiment during this period in modern Irish history. On that he refers to people he has met in America who know Ireland and their wish for a 'substantial anti-clerical movement'. Refers to Michael Tierney and his desire to set up a separate University as a Catholic University. Remarks 'I hope that some sort of amalgamation with Trinity comes off instead but with a large Catholic University in Dublin the present clerical half-Nelson on education would become a real stranglehold'.

P358/217 Postmarked 16 November 1954

2pp

Written from Rhinebeck, New York. Tells MT that he is staying with George and has been to Hyde Park to do some work. Discusses the various possibilities regarding visas to extend their stay in America when MT arrives in March. Discusses also the venue of their wedding and how they might plan the event including taking a honeymoon.

P358/218 Postmarked 17 November 1954

2pp

Written from Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that he continued his research in Hyde Park but says that there may not be enough material for the topic he had in mind. Refers to another topic (Locke-Hooker) he can take up instead

P358/219 Postmarked 18 November 1954

2pp

Written from Bard College where he has decided to stay for a few days to make use of a book he has not been able to get in

P358/219
contd.

the Widener Library in Harvard. Remarks that he has been offered a lift back to Boston by one of the students who is attending the Yale *v* Harvard football game at the weekend. Likens the game to the Oxford/Cambridge boat race describing it as an 'institution rather than a match'.

P358/220 Postmarked 23 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Apologises to MT for forgetting her mother's birthday. Agrees with MT that a Boston wedding is preferable. Refers again to the lack of material for the topic he wished to study and he intends to write to Desmond Williams about the matter. Remarks that an anti-censure petition in support of Joe McCarthy was doing the rounds in Harvard and that another anti-Joe petition quickly started up in retaliation. Describes it as 'doing really brisk business'. Continues 'This censure motion may yet blow up into something really big—people are noting that the new pro-McCarthy campaign is headed by a group of retired army & navy people. It only needs MacArthur to put his foot in for the thing to take the form of a military-palace revolt.'

P358/221 Postmarked 24 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to some research he might undertake but remarks that he will wait until he hears from Desmond Williams. Thanks MT for sending him an article on the NUI and expresses the opinion that an amalgamation with Trinity makes most sense. Remarks '... but I believe Tierney is keen on creating a Catholic University. This would be a fatal mistake—especially for us in history—as the hierarchy would almost certainly interfere in appointments (& probably in the arrangement of courses). The same problem would also face Classics, English & Economics.' Wonders to MT if he should apply for another year in America and asks for her opinion.

P358/222 25 November 1954

2pp

Tells MT that he went to see the film 'Julius Caesar'. Remarks that it is a good film but that he found the acting 'uneven' and thought that John Gielgud was 'disappointing'. Tells MT that he and his flat mate, Egbert, went to the Cushman's for Thanksgiving dinner. Refers to his research and changing his topic back to Locke '... though it strikes me that perhaps Molyneaux & the American revolution might have possibilities.'

P358/223 Postmarked 27 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he paid a visit to the Poetry Room in the Lamont and listened to recordings of Wallace Stevens and Cecil Day Lewis reading their own poems. Recommends the experience to MT when she is in Harvard. Refers to two more recordings she should hear: Thomas Andrew Lehrer and Florence Foster Jenkins. Remarks 'Actually on LPs over here there are some really interesting things—but alas and alack the Juke Box is also here, and horrible!'

P358/224 Postmarked 28 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to his research on Locke and asks MT to contact Desmond Williams to ask if it is true that Peter Laslett has discovered new material about Locke. Refers to MT's possible arrival in America, earlier than originally planned.

P358/225 Not dated [29 November 1954]

2pp

Typed Letter on Harvard University headed notepaper. Refers to his research on Locke and Hooker and how the work is progressing. Remarks that after Christmas George wants to bring Brian to a meeting of the American Historical Association in New York to meet George's acquaintances from Columbia. Tells her that George is encouraging him with a view to an

P358/225 assistant teaching fellowship. Asks MT for her opinion and if
contd. she thinks it is feasible to leave her mother for a year.

P358/226 Postmarked 30 November 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he is busy with his research and is feeling positive about the work. Apologises that his letters will be 'very dull'.

P358/227 Postmarked [2 December] 1954

2pp

Part of this aerogram is missing. Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that it is 'Really cold'. Refers to his research work which is still going well. Refers to buying a suit but waiting until the January sales and asks MT if she will mind if he picks a grey suit.

P358/228 Postmarked 3 December 1954

2pp

Part of this aerogram is missing. Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Urges MT to see Taft as soon as possible so that her visa to enter America can be arranged. Agrees that a visitor's visa is most suited.

P358/229 Postmarked 6 December 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Remarks that he has very little news to tell her. Refers to his research and that following a letter from Desmond Williams his focus will be on American history. Refers to the two stories dominating the headlines in America—the Dr Sheppard murder trial and McCarthy's censure.

P358/230 Postmarked 10 December 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers to his sister Ethnea's engagement. Tells MT about his research.

P358/231 Postmarked 12 December 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Refers again to his research and an early morning visit to the Widener library. Tells MT that he stopped by the Poet's Theatre where a play by Denis Johnson on Dean Swift is to open soon. Remarks in a postscript that he will travel to Bard in the coming days and go to George's house from there.

P358/232 Postmarked 13 December 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has finished his paper on Locke and Hooker. Remarks that he hopes it will be suitable for publication. Refers to the Sam Shepherd murder case that is still making the headlines. Refers to the Hearst papers and that they have not backed McCarthy as much as was expected 'They are in fact kinder to Ike than they have ever been—possibly they fear McCarthy might draw the right-wing Republicans ... off to start a new third party.' Tells MT that he will be happy to start the new term and '... be finished with my last single Christmas ...'

P358/233 Not dated

6pp

Tells MT how beautiful Harvard is looking after a snowfall. Remarks that he will meet someone from the Institute of International Education the following day to discuss staying another year and how this will affect his visa. Tells MT that he would prefer a teaching post rather than Iveagh House (Department of Foreign Affairs). Remarks that he is keeping in close contact with Bard. Refers to the festive lights and decorations in Boston and how impressive they look.

P358/234 Postmarked 14 December 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has asked for the relevant paperwork for their upcoming marriage. Refers to his paper on Locke and Hooker and that he hopes to discuss it with Louis Hartz, (Assistant Professor in Government). Remarks that he attended a dinner in the Cushman's house and met Fritz Robinson a friend of MT's grandfather John Dillon (leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party). Concludes 'As for me, don't worry; all I want is to get done with Christmas, get back to work & look forward to Spring & you & a brilliant & stronger-than-ever "us".'

P358/235 Not dated [15 December 1954]

2pp

Letter on Harvard University headed paper. Describes a carol service he saw as he left the Widener library '... it was magnificent. On the steps of the church was a crowd of about two hundred ... They sang Christmas carols in wonderful harmony ... Really it was very lovely.'

P358/236 Not dated [17 December 1954]

2pp

Letter on Harvard University headed paper. Tells MT that he dined with the McNiffs (Philip McNiff, superintendent of the Widener library and subsequently librarian of Lamont) and that he has been offered work in the Widener next term cataloguing Irish books. Refers to his paper on Hooker and Locke and that he was very pleased with the feedback from Hartz.

P358/237 Not dated [Saturday 18 December 1954]

4pp

Tells MT about his long and tiring journey to Bard including an unexpected overnight in Danbury.

P358/238 Postmarked 20 December 1954

2pp

Written from 22 South Street Rhinebeck, New York. Urges MT to enjoy Christmas and not to feel too despondent about their separation. Reminds her of the good times. Concludes 'I love you with a love that no ocean, or distance can affect and so I want you to be happy; have a good Christmas ... and my traditional Christmas joke) when you go to the crib look at the ass and remember me.'

P358/239 [21] December 1954

1p

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells MT how he has been spending his time at Bard using the periodicals in the library and attending social occasions.

P358/240 Postmarked 23 December 1954

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Refers to his research and how he hopes to progress it. Remarks if they plan to settle in America, it would be essential for him to get a PhD started.

P358/241 24 December 1954

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Thanks MT for her Christmas wishes and tells her how he and George have been spending their time. Assures her that he will make enquiries about travel to/from America when he is back in New York. Refers to the possibility of staying in America for another year but this will depend on a position opening up for him and he is not hopeful this will happen.

P358/242 26 December 1954

1p

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Describes how he is spending his Christmas with George in Rhinebeck

P358/243 Postmarked 28 December 1954

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Refers to his paper on Locke which he is reworking and may use as his M.A. thesis topic.

P358/244 Postmarked 30 December 1954

2pp

Written from New York City. Remarks that he is staying with the Scholefield's. Tells MT that he finished the rewrite of his Locke paper and that he is 'reasonably satisfied' with it.

P358/245 31 December 1954

2pp

Written from New York City. Tells MT that he is hoping to arrange to stay on in New York for another few days. Describes the Rockefeller Centre as 'beautifully decorated'.

P358/246 Postmarked 4 January 1955

1p

Written from New York City. Tells MT that he is staying in an apartment on Park Avenue with some Bard people. Describes how he has been spending his time.

P358/247 Postmarked 7 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT about his journey back to Cambridge and the hunt for a new apartment. Remarks that he has decided that the accommodation upstairs at 146 Upland Street would be the most suitable. Tells her that he made enquiries about travelling back to Ireland while he was in New York.

P358/248 Postmarked 8 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT not to worry about the paperwork required for her visa and that he will attend to everything she has asked him to do.

P358/249 Postmarked 11 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has sent of the papers for her visa and that he has written to Taft. Tells MT how he celebrated his birthday with a few friends.

P358/250 Postmarked 13 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to their upcoming marriage and the arrangements.

P358/251 [15 January 1955]

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Describes the apartment where they will live after their marriage in more detail. Remarks that he is leading a 'very quiet life' and describes some of the films he has gone to see. Refers to Thomas Mann and his popularity in academic life 'Usually linked with Mann are Joyce and Kafka (or Proust). Still

P328/251 contd. I think the courses are much less stuffy and academic (though not necessarily better) than ours'. Refers to his brother Pearse and that he hopes to write a letter to him.

P358/252 Postmarked 19 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he is reworking his paper once again and hopes to send this draft to Desmond Williams when it is complete. Remarks that he is enjoying the task.

P358/253 Postmarked 21 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to his research. Remarks that he has been invited to speak to a Baptist Church social group.

P358/254 Postmarked 22 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to Fr O'Dea, the priest who MT wishes to marry them, and where his is located. Tells MT that he visited the church where they could be married but the priest needs to know where MT will stay before the wedding. Refers to the possibility of MT staying with the Cushman's. Or that she could stay with George. Expresses the opinion that Cambridge would be a better location for their wedding. Refers to Jim Barry who will give MT away at the wedding and assures her he would be very suitable for the job.

P358/255 Postmarked 25 January 1955

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he is posting his paper to Desmond Williams. Remarks that he will try to see Jim Barry about the wedding.

P358/256 Postmarked 25 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he received a letter from Taft about MT's visa and he is confident that everything will be arranged. Remarks that he went to the Brattle Theatre to see a French film called 'Carnival in Florence'.

P358/257 Postmarked 28 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he visited St Peter's Church, and discusses various arrangements regarding their wedding.

P358/258 Postmarked 29 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Advises MT to get her confirmation certificate so that all their paperwork for their marriage will be in order. Refers to the booking MT has made for her passage to America and back home to Ireland and advises her not to cancel the arrangements for their homeward journey. Confirms that their wedding will take place in a Cambridge church but he is not sure which one it will be.

P358/259 Postmarked 31 January 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT about the talk he gave at the Baptist church social group. Refers to the chaplain, an ex-navy chaplain, '... he comes originally from the most rabid part of the "bible-belt"—western Texas: he, however, rejects the background. But he would remember the covered wagons going out West when he was a boy.' Expresses his delight that MT's visa has been arranged. Refers to Americans and how MT get on with them

P358/259 when she arrives ‘... the most important factor to be considered
contd. ... is that they are DIFFERENT. Don’t judge them by your own standards don’t look for too much subtlety, nor mistake their very real generosity & hospitality for hypocrisy.’

P358/260 Postmarked 2 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to a heavy snowfall the previous night and how beautiful Harvard yard looked. Tells MT about what he has been working on. Refers to the start of the Spring Trimester in Harvard and that he hopes to attend some of the lectures. In particular, he wishes to hear Samuel Eliot Morrison lecture on the American Revolution as this is his last year of teaching. Concludes in a postscript ‘To give you an idea of library facilities here, on my desk I have 28 books out of the libraries—and another dozen or so are checked in my stall in Widener (i.e. reserved for my use). You see now dear why we were always complaining about the college library.’

P358/261 [4 February 1955]

2pp

Written from Cambridge. Refers again to how beautiful Harvard Yard looks after the snowfall. Tells MT about the lectures he has been attending, the topics and the lecturers ‘All-in-all ... I really have fallen for Harvard. All the time one picks up ideas ... which can throw a new light on old ideas about other aspects of history.’

P358/262 Postmarked 7 February 1955

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that the weather has turned to rain. Remarks that he is continuing to attend a variety of lectures. Remarks that he has been asked to speak at an event in Connecticut.

P358/263 [7 February 1955]

2pp

Letter, no envelope. Refers to the resignation of Mendès-France, President of the Council of Ministers in France. Remarks that another story making the headlines in America is the news that the Supreme Court has decided that Theatre and Boxing monopolies come under federal anti-trust laws. Refers to arrangements about their marriage and reservations for their return home. Remarks that his research has slowed down because of the lectures he has been attending but this may be helpful to him if he seeks a teaching job in Ireland or England. Tells MT that he has been doing some research on Irish neutrality and that he has been reading her uncle's (James Dillon, Fine Gael politician and leader of Fine Gael, 1959–65) speeches on the 1938 Anglo-Irish Trade Agreement. Adds in a postscript 'If in some way I get a chance to stay on for a year, tell me honestly would it be possible to take it without hopelessly upsetting your mother.'

P358/264 Postmarked 10 February 1955

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that the weather has improved and that he is continuing to attend lectures. Refers to the news of his godfather's death and worries how it will affect his father.

P358/265 Postmarked 14 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has heard from Fr O'Dea who will marry them and that he will make all the arrangements with the parish priest of the church where they will marry. Refers to a talk he gave in Quincy about the 'Vanishing Irish'.

P358/266 Postmarked 15 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that he is relieved that MT is not in favour of them

P358/266 staying in America for another year. Tells her that he continues
contd. to attend lectures and that he finds the lectures on political
theory more interesting than the history lectures.

P358/267 Postmarked 16 February 1955

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that he saw Friedrich (Professor of Government) about his paper on Locke and found him ‘... very pleasant—and like all the rest of the staff I’ve met here, quite ready to spend his time discussing one’s work.’

P358/268 Postmarked 18 February 1955

1p

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to MT’s choice of bridesmaid and suggests if Avril can’t do it, he could write to Mary Raleigh an acquaintance from Brian’s college days. Remarks that he is a little concerned about money and the expense of the wedding but admits that there is no point worrying about it.

P358/269 20 February 1955

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Refers to the Cushman’s and their invitation for MT to stay with them before the wedding. Remarks that he thinks MT would feel at home in their house. Confirms that they will marry in St. Peter’s Church in Cambridge. Asks MT to send her papers to him so that everything will be in order for their marriage.

P358/270 Postmarked 21 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has been invited to the Cushman’s for lunch and he expects them to confirm their invitation to MT to stay with them when she arrives in America. Remarks that George

P358/270 has also invited them to stay with him for a few days when MT
contd. arrives in March.

P358/271 [February] 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that he spoke at the International Student Centre the previous evening. Tells MT that he will bring his papers to the church where they will be married and hopes to meet the pastor. Asks MT to confirm her arrival date and time. Expresses the opinion that they should go to George's house in Rhinebeck when she arrives before travelling on to Boston. Remarks that he has confirmed with Jim Barry that he will give MT away at the wedding.

P358/272 Postmarked 26 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Sends Mary Raleigh's address to MT so that she can ask her to be her bridesmaid. Remarks that he got his paper back from Desmond Williams who has confirmed that, if extended, it would be suitable for a Mode II Masters (a minor thesis). Remarks that he would like to take his M.A. this year and perhaps start his Ph.D. '... but that depends on many things.'

P358/273 Postmarked 28 February 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that the Cushman's are delighted that MT will stay with them when she comes to America.

P358/274 4pp

Not dated

Letter, no envelope. Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Confirms again with MT that they can stay with George in Rhinebeck when she arrives and again in June before they travel back to Ireland. Advises MT on what clothes

P358/274
contd.

to bring. Expresses his delight at the opportunity they will both have, together, to experience living in a different country. Remarks that since living in America his opinions have altered, in particular his thoughts about Ireland, '... what we need ... is a New Deal: someone who will come along & try to face all our problems simultaneously instead of ... piecemeal "reforms" which achieve nothing.' Continues 'Ireland's real problem is our own apathy and frankly while I consider emigration ... something of an escapist nature, without some kind of stability of an economic nature it is difficult to see what else can be done. Perhaps after all we missed the boat by not returning Seán McBride at the head of a large party in the immediate post-war years.' Refers to their future together and what he will do for his profession. Remarks 'As you probably guessed, seeing the enormous national advances made in this country the thought of life in Ireland is a little forbidding yet basically my real objection is a long-standing grievance ... there is not equality of opportunity because there is no opportunity.' Tells MT that he can only have this debate with himself up to a point and thereafter needs her input. Remarks that it will be 'wonderful' to see her again and '... be treated to that most wonderful smile that simply mesmerizes.'

P358/275 2 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he will see Mary Raleigh and will ask her about being MT's bridesmaid. Discusses his research work. Remarks that as time has passed by, he is becoming more accustomed to the way of life in America. Expresses the hope that MT will enjoy the experience as much as he has. Remarks '... as I learn more of the historical development of this country, I understand more about certain present attitudes which at first hand I tended to condemn.'

P358/276 Not dated [3 March 1955]

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from Cambridge. Tells MT that he is trying to get as much work done as he can before her arrival. Remarks that George has suggested that they spend their honeymoon with him in Rhinebeck but that he won't decide until MT has arrived. Describes how he has been spending his days.

P358/277 5 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that the snow has returned to Cambridge. Advises MT to bring boots and a heavy coat with her. Talks about his research and the material he has been using.

P358/278 6 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that he met up with Mary Raleigh and they spent the day together. Tells MT that he did not broach the subject of asking Mary to be MT's bridesmaid as Mary may have to go to New York over Easter. Remarks 'however don't worry dear I'll get you a Catholic girl for the job.'

P358/279 7 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells MT that he has been to St. Peter's, the church where they will be married. Reminds MT to send her papers as soon as she can.

P358/280 8 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Wishes MT a good journey to America. Tells her how much he is looking forward to seeing her again. Remarks 'It has been a long, long time, my dear. And —as the newspapers say—"Now That It Can be Told". But I've missed you all the time. You have me so pampered that I really do need you to look after me. So pet have a good, restful time on board ship and be prepared when you land to take over the care of one B.B. Farrell who needs you to take care of him.'

**3. Letters from Brian Farrell to Mrs. Dillon September
1954—April 1955**

P358/281 September 1954

1p

Written from Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, Hudson, New York. Asks after Mrs. Dillon. Tells her how he has been spending his time at Bard. Refers to the early start to his days and that he is starting to get used to it. Refers to his diet and the food served at the college remarking that although there is a great variety to his diet, he prefers the more conservative diet back home.

P358/282 15 September 1954

1p

Written from Cross Meadows, Cismount Virginia. Describes the location as ‘... very pleasant and unspoiled with great rolling meadows and deep woods...’. Remarks that he visited Jefferson’s house which he designed himself and also installed ‘all sorts of gadgets which he had invented...’

P358/283 18 October 1954

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Describes the weather as being very pleasant and warm enough to sit outside. Remarks that he visited the Cushman’s and had dinner there with the family. On his return to Cambridge, he went to see a film ‘... I went to see James Stewart in “The Rear Window”—a very good technicolour thriller directed by Hitchcock...’

P358/284 [March 1955]

2pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from Cambridge. Refers to the snow that has fallen and that he finds the combination of the snow, blue sky and sunshine ‘very invigorating’. Tells Mrs Dillon that he is becoming a good cook. Refers to his work and that he hopes to attend a lot of lectures next term.

P358/285 Postmarked 12 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Acknowledges that Mrs. Dillon will miss MT while she is in America. Remarks ‘... but this can really be something of a restful calm before the general excitement of our return which won’t be very long now.’ Refers to his friend George Roach from Rhinebeck who is visiting Harvard and that they have spent some time touring the buildings in Harvard. Tells Mrs. Dillon that he saw the Harvard copy of the Guttenberg Bible for the first time describing it as ‘... an extremely handsome and fine piece of printing.’ Continues ‘It’s the most famous piece in the Harry Elkins Widener collections. The Widener books are kept in a special room in the Library ... and are insured for over one million pounds.’ Remarks that he and George attended a lecture on government security and loyalty regulations delivered by Roy Cohn, formerly an assistant to McCarthy. Tells Mrs. Dillon that MT will be staying with the Cushman’s when she arrives describing them as ‘... very pleasant, kindly people ...’.

P358/286 Postmarked 14 March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells Mrs. Dillon that the St Patrick’s Day celebrations have already started. Tells her about his and Jim Barry’s journey from South Station in Boston through Massachusetts and Connecticut to Putnam. They were met at the station by Mr. Waldron, a local politician and county prosecutor and soon to become county gaoler. After mass they were brought to an Irish American club where Brian gave the after-dinner speech. Remarks that it was an enjoyable day ‘The people were simple, kind and doing their best to be “Irish”. Actually, the town population ... is over 50% French-Canadian extraction but the mayor, judge, police, Sherriff, town-clerk and the rest all appear to be Irish.’

P358/287 Postmarked 2 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells Mrs. Dillon how much the weather has improved, and

P358/287
contd.

that MT is well and enjoying herself staying with the Cushman's. Remarks that they have both been busy with the arrangements for the wedding including buying his suit and shoes. Refers to MT and observes that she has settled in very well to the American way of life. Tells Mrs. Dillon that it is spring vacation time at Harvard and that the college is very empty, including the library where he is working describing it being like '... a Protestant church, there are so few people.' Remarks that he had his blood test '... a state requirement for all marriages ...'. The letter is continued by MT describing their shopping day in Boston as very tiring. Tells her mother that the Cushman's house is very conveniently located near the tram '... if I had to walk here I'd be so worn out the foot paths are just dirt-tracks here & so few people walk that one feels quite strange'. Refers to shopping for meals in America in supermarkets like those her mother saw in Bern '... you get a wire "pram" when you walk in the door & then fill it with everything you want (& lots of things you don't want too) & then stagger out!'

4. Letters from Marie-Thérèse Dillon to her Mother Mrs. Dillon, March—June 1955

P358/288 [14] March 1955

3pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from Cobh. Describes the journey from Dublin to Cobh as 'pleasant' and 'uneventful'. Remarks that they visited friends of the Kidneys (Naomi Kidney and her husband Bill drove MT to Cork).

P358/289 [March] 1955

4pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from George Roach's House, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells her mother that she has arrived and is 'very well' and 'very happy'. Describes her arrival in New York and George's house in Rhinebeck remarking that it is 'delightful'. At the end of the letter Brian writes 'The reactionary anti-American arrived safe & sound as you can see on the first day of spring—& brought rain & snow with her—but came, which is the important thing.'

P358/290 Postmarked 25 March 1955

2pp

Written from George Roach's House, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells her mother that she and Brian are having a very relaxed time, getting up late and breakfasting together, walking and listening to records. Remarks 'These few days in George's will make all the difference to me—as I'm getting used gradually to the idea of being in America.'

P358/291 Not dated (Sunday night)

5pp

Letter, no envelope. Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. tells her mother that she has arrived in the Cushman's house. Remarks that the journey from George's house took ten hours and four different buses. Tells her mother that the driver of one of the buses, after overhearing her and Brian's conversation about buying a hat, took the couple to a hat factory and contributed to the purchase a hat for Brian '... my first experience of how very kind Americans are to strangers.' Remarks that she paid a visit to the priest in whose parish she and Brian are to marry. Refers to Brian's American accent which she doesn't notice any more '... which means one of 2 things either: he's lost it talking to me or I've got one too so don't notice his!!'

P358/292 Postmarked [28] March 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Includes a sketch of Brian's flat. MT describes the flat as 'sweet'. Tells her mother that the Cushman's are looking after her very well and that she and Brian are invited to supper any evening. Remarks that they are looking for a venue for their wedding reception and that they expect to have twenty guests.

P358/293 Postmarked 4 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells her mother that she and Brian had another 'exhausting' day but that they have found a hotel for their reception. Remarks that they will have approximately twenty to twenty-five people at the reception including an extra guest, a Dr Maher, who has a student of her father's (Dr Theo Dillon) and who is the Medical Officer for the State of Massachusetts and for the three universities in Cambridge.

P358/294 Postmarked 6 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells her mother that she and Mrs. Cushman decided on the menu for the wedding reception and provides the details of the food and the type of wedding cake she will have. Remarks that she will meet Fr O'Dea who will marry them during the week.

P358/295 7 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. tells her mother how she and Brian have been tidying his flat and repairing anything that needs to be fixed. Describes the food they have eaten and meeting some of Brian's friends.

P358/296 Postmarked 13 April 1955

4pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lists the guests at their wedding reception with a short description of who they are. Describes her wedding day to her mother '... the best wedding I've ever been at!!' Tells her that Fr. O'Dea did an 'excellent' job and that they had nineteen guests at the reception. After the reception she and Brian travelled to Concord where they spent two days.

P358/297 Not dated, Friday morning

2pp

**see also
P358/320**

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Refers to the mouse problem in the flat and how they are hoping to tackle it. Refers to the photographs taken at the wedding listing out the people in each photograph.

P358/298 Not dated, Friday evening

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that she and Brian have finally settled in to Brian's flat at 146 Upland Road.

P358/299 Not dated, Tuesday evening

3pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Describes to her mother how she has been spending her time. Remarks that she and Brian are thinking of going to George's at the end of the month explaining that rent is very high.

P358/300 Postmarked 15 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Tells her mother how she and Brian are spending their time, the people they have met and the socializing they have been doing. Remarks that she is finding married life 'really wonderful' and that she and Brian are enjoying each other's company.

P358/301 Postmarked 22 April 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that Brian is back working on his research, and she has been spending time with the Cushman's 'sewing and pottering around'. Tells her mother what she has been cooking.

P358/301 Remarks that Dr Maher brought her and Brian to a restaurant
contd. called 'The Meadows', owned by Vaughan Monroe, 'a well-known band leader' and that Dr Maher has promised to organize work in medicine for any friends of Brian and MT.

P358/302 26 [April] 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks how pleased she was to receive her mother's letter. Tells her that they have been entertaining guests and describes the food she prepares. Remarks that she and Brian are planning to move to George's house in two weeks' time.

P358/303 Postmarked 3 May 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Describes George to her mother. Tells her that they will be moving to George's house the following weekend. Remarks that she spends most of her days at the Cushman's house.

P358/304 Postmarked 6 May 1955

2pp

Written from 146 Upland Road, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Remarks that Brian travelled into Boston to say goodbye to Jim Barry, the man who gave her away at the wedding. And they have invited friends to the flat to say goodbye. Describes how she has been spending her time.

P358/305 Not dated [May] 1955

4pp

Written from George's house, 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells her mother that they arrived safely in George's house and describes how they are spending their time.

P358/306 Postmarked 12 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that she and Brian are having a very relaxing time lying in the sun and 'eating 3 hearty meals a day ...'

P358/307 Postmarked [14] May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Sympathises with her mother over her recent illness and tells her how much she would love it if her mother could be with them to enjoy George's garden. Describes how they have been spending their time, relaxing in the garden and enjoying the good weather. Remarks that it is very easy to entertain guests for dinner in America because of the convenience food and the ready pack mixes.

P358/308 Postmarked 16 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that she has spent two very pleasant days in the garden and describes how she has spent her time. Tells her mother she is looking forward to hearing her news and receiving Mrs. Ward's letter.

P358/309 Postmarked 21 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that she received Mrs. Ward's letter describing these letters as the 'big event' of her week' and how grateful she is to Mrs. Ward. Tells her mother about a baby rabbit that the cat brought in and that they have decided to keep it and rear it. Remarks that they brought it to the cinema in the pocket of Brian's jacket. Tells her that they have received confirmation of a double cabin for the journey home '... thanks to Ray Moloney (the Chief Purser) to whom I was introduced by Dr O'Grady! Friends are great things!'

P358/310 Postmarked 24 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Refers to her mother's recent illness and wishes her well. Appeals to Mrs. Ward not to let her mother prepare for their homecoming '... otherwise she'll be over tired & we can't have long chats (the best fun of coming home!)' Asks her mother to send her a copy of the *Irish Times* once the results of the British elections have come out. Tells her that she and Brian are hoping to go to New York city

P358/311 Postmarked 27 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Includes a diagram of the layout of George's house. Remarks they are doing less gardening as the days grow hotter.

P358/312 Postmarked 31 May 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that the weather is cooler after a storm. Tells her mother that she and George have been sorting through rooms in the house and tidying up. Remarks that Brian is working hard at his research.

P358/313 Postmarked 1 June 1955

2pp

Written from Riverside Drive, New York. Describes the places they have visited in the city, the Municipal Art Gallery which MT describes as 'superb', Carnegie Hall, 5th Avenue, St. Patrick's church, the Rockefeller Centre, Times Square. Concludes 'New York is something! But not nearly so charming or comfortable as Rhinebeck ...'

P358/314 Postmarked 3 June 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Remarks that she and Brian returned by bus to Rhinebeck and were delighted to find Mrs. Ward's letter waiting for them and that her mother was able to write a few words. Describes her visit to New York city as a 'wonderful experience' but 'terribly tiring'.

P358/315 Postmarked 4 June 1955

1p

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Describes how she has been spending her days at George's house. Remarks that their two trunks arrived from Cambridge which they will easily fill with books and clothes they have bought in America.

P358/316 Postmarked 8 June 1955

2pp

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Tells her mother that their ship from America is due to arrive in Cobh on Tuesday 21st June but that she is not certain if they will be able to get a train back to Dublin that same day. Remarks that she will telephone from the hotel.

P358/317 Postmarked 14 June 1955

1p

Written from 22 South Street, Rhinebeck, New York. Describes their last few days as a 'terrible rush' packing their trunks and cases and trying to see everyone to say goodbye. Apologises for the brief letter and remarks '... but we will see you so soon & give you all the news.'

5. Photographs

P358/318 Not dated

1 item

Black and white photograph of four boys, [the Farrell boys]. Three of the boys are sitting on a motorbike and one is sitting in a child's car.

P358/319 1946

1 item

Black and white photograph of Marie-Thérèse Dillon with Myles Dillon (Professor in the School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies) on the left of the photograph and Theo Dillon, Marie-Thérèse's father on the right of the photograph.

P358/320 11 April 1955

1 item (13 individual photographs bound)

Bound black and white photographs of MT's and Brian's wedding day.

Includes:

- Black and white photograph of MT and her bridesmaid Mary Raleigh beside a car.
- Black and white photograph of MT's bridesmaid, Mary Raleigh.
- Black and white photograph of MT.
- Black and white photograph of the bridal party (l to r) Mary Raleigh, MT's bridesmaid, MT, Brian and Michael Flynn, Irish Vice Counsel, Brian's best man taken outside the church where they were married.
- Slightly blurred black and white photograph of (l to r) Brian, MT and Fr Bernard O'Dea, the priest who married them.
- Black and white photograph of Brian and MT and their wedding guests.
- Black and white photograph of MT and Jim Barry who gave MT away.
- Black and white photograph of the bridal party (l to r) Mary Raleigh, MT, Brian and Michael Flynn.
- Black and white photograph of Brian and MT.
- Black and white photograph of the bridal party and Fr

P358/320
contd.

- O'Dea (l to r) Mary Raleigh, Brian, MT, Fr O'Dea, Michael Flynn.
- Black and white photograph of MT and Brian and their wedding guests.
 - Black and white photograph of MT and Brian and their wedding guests.
 - Black and white photograph of MT and Brian and their wedding guests.

P358/321 Not dated

1 item

Colour photograph of Brian and his parents, Francis and Teresa Farrell.