

Nigel Morland Letters

The four letters in this collection were written by Nigel Morland to a Mr Jamieson between February and July 1957.

The letters were to thank Mr Jamieson for his help in providing details for Morland's forthcoming book "That nice Miss Smith" published in 1957, "a penetrating study of the 'respectable' Madeleine Smith, accused of murdering her lover, revealing previously unpublished facts about a sensational case."

Nigel Morland (1905-1986), born Carl Van Biene, was a prolific author with several pseudonyms and numerous series characters. Self-educated, he began as a crime reporter at the age of 15 and worked as a features editor, managing editor, and editor on a number of publications, including *News Review*, *Doctor*, *Edgar Wallace Mystery Magazine*, and *Shanghai Sports*; He was a wartime foreign correspondent and an adviser on crime and detection to various publications in England and the United States.

1. Nigel Morland letter 4th Feb 1957

The Mascot,
South Heath,
Great Missenden,
Bucks.

February 4, 1957.

Dear Mr Jamieson,

The return from Edinburgh was achieved in comfort last night, and I only regret that I had to leave.

I so greatly appreciated your kindness in lending me the notes, the juryman's letter, the cutting and the indictment of Madeleine Smith. I shall take the very greatest care of these and send them back safely to you in about a fortnight (if it is a little longer, the delay will be in trying to catch up with immense amount of material I have still to sort and collate).

It is difficult to say how greatly I appreciated the warmth of your family welcome and the most enjoyable discussion I had with your wife and daughter; please remember them to me, and mention my gratitude for their kindness and hospitality.

I do hope you are feeling better now, and that you will be able, once more, to enjoy the pleasures of your large and fascinating library : I envied you every volume in it.

My kindest wishes to you,

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Morland

2. Nigel Moreland letter April 8th, 1957

The Mascot,
South Heath,
Great Missenden,
Bucks.

April 8, 1957.

Dear Mr Jamieson,

Thank you for your letter; I had not forgotten your material, for which I am most grateful, and as I am just rounding off the book at last, the material will be on its way back to you in a few days or so now, just as soon as I have cross-checked it against the final manuscript.

I had been looking for a long time for the N.Y. reporter's item re Madeleine being served with the notice; could you possibly, if it is not too much trouble, permit me to have a copy of what it says? It will be of great value, though I have but a day or two in hand in which to make use of it.

Forgive in a hurried note. I shall be writing further, with more leisure, very shortly.

My warmest regards to yourself and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Morland

3. Nigel Moreland letter 23rd April 1957

South Heath,

April 23, 1957.

Dear Mr Jamieson,

Herewith the Madeleine Smith material, which was of great service to me. For your guidance, incidentally, the juror whose notes you lent me is one of the two dissenting jurors; I only found this out by chance.

The cutting from the New York paper I received, thank you, and have, indeed, reproduced it in my book as it stands; it is most interesting.

You have been very kind in permitting the long retention of the material, a retention because, in the actual writing, I was never entirely sure when it would come "in" the story, or be needed for reference. Now all is finished, I do feel indebted for your kindness. I will send you a copy of the book as soon as it is ready.

Do you, in your extensive collection, have anything on Adelaide Bartlett? This is my next undertaking. I have, of course, the Notable British Trials volume and all the usual published works, but hope you may have anything of even minor interest.

I am, incidentally, ill at ease for a title for this work. Would you, then, be so very kind as to “try” the sound of my projected title (on yourself and your family) as to how it strikes you: THE LADY AND THE MINISTER. It is not brilliant, but I can think of no other. It’s one virtue in my eyes in its consequence to the previous two volumes before it: THIS FRIENDLESS LADY (The Maybrick case, which appears next month), THAT NICE MISS SMITH, which is Madeleine.

Your courtesy in this would be vastly appreciated.

Again, my thanks, and my warmest regards to you all,

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Morland.

Att.

News cutting from The Scotsman 27th April 1957

Adelaide Bartlett case

The Mascot, South Heath, Great Missenden, Bucks., April 25,1957

Sir,- I am engaged in writing a definitive book on the Adelaide Bartlett case, and it occurs to me that among your readers may be some who possess documents, material, or relevant matter which will help me in the preparation of my manuscript.

If any such people care to write to me, I shall greatly value any help. ---

I am &c.

P. Hunnex.

4. Nigel Moreland letter 4th July 1957

South Heath,

Great Missenden,

Bucks.

4 July 1957

Dear Mr Jamieson,

Thank you indeed for the cutting, which I found most interesting. I did know about the exhibition, and have, in fact, contributed one or two minor items.

I am not entirely sure, from your letter, whether by any chance you see the Glasgow evening papers; if not I send for your interest a short “serial” I wrote for the CITIZEN last week. As I have no other copies, I shall appreciate the return of them, but there is no hurry at all.



The book is now in proof form and I presume the publisher will take some months to complete the job. At a guess, by no means a good one, I think the book might get out in early December.

I don't know if the hot weather has been affecting you; we find it rather trying.

My compliments to your family,

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Morland