

## Beatrix Potter Letters

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**Beatrix Potter Letters fonds.** – 1899 - 1943. – 0.25 m of textual records.

### **Biographical sketch:**

**Custodial history:** The correspondence with Ivy and June Steel were acquired by the Osborne Collection from Mrs. Ivy Steel in 1976.

**Scope and content:** The collection of 57 letters were, with two exceptions, written by Beatrix Potter to her friend Ivy (Hunt) Steel and her young daughter June. The daughter of a milliner, Ivy and her brother Jack delivered hats to London families, including the Potter's. Ivy's mother was friend to the lady's maid at a house around the corner from the Potter household, a house where young Beatrix was a frequent visitor. The friendship survived Ivy's move to Ontario where she spent the rest of her life, married, and became the mother of baby June. The correspondence beginning with the birth of June in 1924 has survived, and continued until June's marriage in 1943. At first the letters were to Ivy only, with drawings enclosed for the amusement of June, but by 1927 June received letters on her own, and they continued to receive letters alternately. The friendship was cemented by a trip to Hill Top Farm by mother and daughter when June was twelve, in 1936.

The letters have been published as *Dear Ivy, Dear June; letters from Beatrix Potter* by the Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections, Toronto Public Library in 1977. All but one of the letters is fully transcribed. A letter of May 7 1936, with financial arrangements for the trip to England, is placed in the appropriate chronological sequence but is not present in the book. The following list gives page references to this volume, where the letters are transcribed in full. In addition to the 55 letters written to Ivy and June, there is a New Year's greeting card to Paula Hutchinson (1937) and a letter written by Beatrix Potter to her father in 1899.

## Letters

Letter No.	Page No.	Recipient	Signed	Date
1	3	Dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Nov 18.24
2	5	My dear Ivy	“	Nov 27.24
3	8	My dear Ivy	“	Dec 11. 25
4	11	My dear Ivy	“	Feb 26.26
5	14	My dear Ivy	“	Nov 13.26
6	17	[description with pictures of Fly the sheep dog]		[Autumn 1926]
7	18	My dear Ivy	“	Aug 15.27
8	20	My dear June	‘Beatrix Potter’	Aug 15.27
9	23	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Oct 20.27
10	26	My dear Ivy	“	Dec 10.27
11	28	My dear June	Beatrix ‘Potter’	Sept 2.28
12	30	My dear Ivy	H.B. Heelis	Dec 13.28
13	31	My Dear June	Beatrix Potter	Dec 13.28
14	33	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Dec 17.28
15	34	My dear Ivy, includes a sheet of drawings	“	Aug 12.29
16	38	My dear Ivy	“	Dec 30.29
17	42	My dear Ivy	“	Oct 21.30
18	45	My dear June, with enclosed drawing	‘Beatrix Potter’	Oct 21.30
19	47	My dear June	“	June 2.31
20	50	My dear June	“	[Autumn 1931]
21	53	My dear June	“	Dec 30.31
22	55	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Apr 30.32
23	57	My dear June	‘Beatrix Potter’	Apr 30.32
24	59	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Nov 1.32

<b>Letter No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Date</b>
25	61	My dear Ivy	“	Dec 3.32
26	64	My dear June	Beatrix Potter	May 8.33
27	69	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Dec 14.33
28	71	Dear Ivy	“	Dec 12.34
29	72	My dear June	Beatrix Potter	Dec 12.34
30	75	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Aug 5.35
31	79	My dear Ivy	HB Heelis	[Autumn 1935]
32	80	My dear June	‘Beatrix Potter’	Dec 14.35
33	82	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Jan 20.36
34	84	My dear Ivy	“	Apr 14.36
35		My dear Ivy	“	May 7.36
36	87	My dear Ivy	“	July 1.36
37	88	My dear Ivy	HB Heelis	Aug 7.36
38	89	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Aug 27.36
39	90	My dear June	‘Beatrix Potter’	Sept 20.36
40	94	My dear June	‘Beatrix Potter’ Heelis	Dec 18.36
41	97	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	Jan 25.37
42	99	My dear June	Beatrix Potter Heelis	Aug 2.37
43	102	My dear June	Beatrix Potter	Dec 13.37
44	105	My dear June	Beatrix Heelis	Apr 14.38
45	108	My dear June	Beatrix ‘Potter’ Heelis	Nov 26.38
46	111	My dear June	HB Heelis	Oct 11.39
47	114	My dear Ivy	Beatrix Heelis	May 25.40
48	118	My dear Ivy	“	Nov 16.40
49	121	My dear Ivy	“	Mar 23.41

<b>Letter No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Signed</b>	<b>Date</b>
50	124	My dear Ivy	“	Nov 12.41
51	129	My dear Ivy	“	Jan 3.42
52	132	My dear Ivy	“	July 2.42
53	135	My dear Ivy	“	July 17.42
54	136	My dear Ivy	“	Nov 19.42
55	139	My dear Ivy	“	Sept 2.43
56		My dear Papa	HB Potter	Jan 9.99
57		[greeting card] to: Paula Hutchison	Beatrix Potter	1937