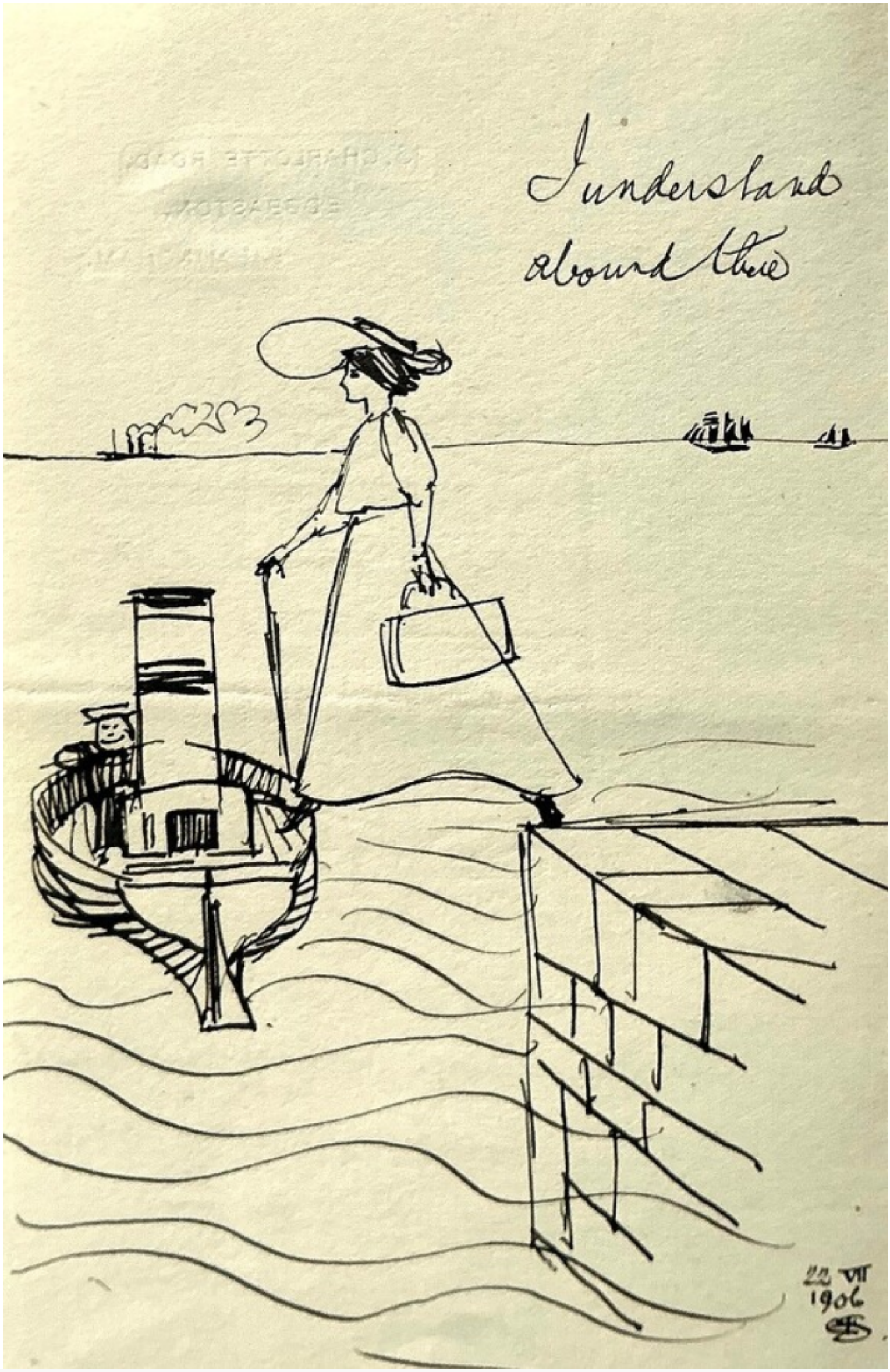
Joseph Southall - Collection of Letters

Joseph Edward Southall

Sold



REF: JS61

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Description

JOSEPH SOUTHALL, RWS, NEAC, RBSA(1861-1944)
A large and important collection of letters from Joseph Southall (and a few from his wife Elizabeth) to Southall's cousin Isabel Harlock
Dating from 1890s through to the later 1930s, written from the artist's home in Birmingham as well as from holidays in Southwold, Cromer and elsewhere. The majority illustrated with humorous drawings and sketches by Joseph SouthallJoseph Southall married his first cousin Anna Elizabeth "Bessie" Baker. Because of their close relationship they decided not to marry until later in life and not to have children. They therefore were drawn to the children of their near relations, being particularly close to the Harlock children of Banbury. John Harlock, a Quaker, had established a successful drapery business in Banbury's Market Place in the late 1840s. In 1851 he married Anne Baker, sister to Eliza Maria, Joseph's mother and therefore also sister to John Edward Baker, Bessie's father. The Harlocks had six children, the youngest being Ellen Isabel, born in 1876. Her mother sadly died the year after her birth and it was natural that Joseph and Bessie would be particularly sympathetic to the situation of their young motherless cousin. The Birmingham and Banbury branches of the family would often holiday together, Southwold being a particularly favoured destination. Their closeness to the young Ellen Isabel is illustrated in their charming and amusing exchange of letters, several of which are included in this catalogue (cat.no.xx). Banbury was in easy reach of Birmingham by train and Joseph made many visits to his Oxfordshire cousins. During these visits he made a number of watercolours and studies of his family and the busy market town that was their home. Two of the most notable watercolours of Banbury are: Harlock's Drapery Shop, Market Place, Banbury, 1905-6, present location unknown, The Green, Banbury, 1920, private collection (see cat.xx for a study for this work) and Autumn in Banbury, 1935, private collection (cat.no.xx) He also made a number of drawings and sketches of the town and portraits of his Harlock relations and their friends.

22 July 1898
13 Charlotte RoadEdgbastonBirmingham
My dear Bel I don't know whether in you voyage up the Rhine you may have met with any of the animals illustrated in the book which I send herewith as a token of my many-happy-returns-of-the-day good wishes to you, but if you did or even if not perhaps the said animals may interest you not only on their own merits but also on account of their being the originals from which came to idea of the wonderful animals that have recently appeared in Punch. I trust you are still enjoying that perfect salubriosity which nothing can better impart than a continental trip – provided always that one is reasonable and does not attempt too much. I expect you got some good ideas from the Kindergartens of the Father-land – shall I say the thank-thee-father-land – where those kinder gardens were originated if report be true. By the way "who was Isobel?" I seem to have heard the name somewhere. I fear we shall not have the pleasure of your c...