

Jan 14th 1891

Literary claim not sufficient.

M. Richardson

ROYAL LITERARY FUND. Register

①

Form of Application for an Author.

2357

Christian Name and Surname of the Applicant in words at length.	George Hatfield Dingley Gossip
Profession, University, or other Titles.	Author, journalist, translator of languages and foreign correspondent.
Age, Date, and Place of Birth.	Age 49. Born at New York, America on the 6 th of December in the year 1841
Present Residence.	20. Alfred. Place, Bedford Square London, W.C.
Whether Single or Married; and, if Married, or having been so, and having a Family, the Number, respective Ages, and Circumstances of the Children.	Widower. Three children. Eldest daughter, 19, son 17 (engaged in the lithography business); youngest daughter 13
If relieved before by the Royal Literary Fund; and if so, how often, and to what amount on each occasion?	Never before relieved by the Royal Literary Fund, this being my first & only application
Present Means and Sources of Income, whether from Salary, Annuity, Pension, or other kind of Provision.	Extremely precarious, derived from magazine writing, occasional, though very rare, newspaper articles & literary work. No salary, annuity or pension whatever.
The Amount of such Income yearly; and the actual Amount of Literary Earnings during the past year.	about £50 a year. Actual amount of Literary Earnings during the past year £64. 11. 6

TITLES OF PUBLISHED WORKS, in full. <i>To be continued, if necessary, on the 4th page.</i>	No. of Vols.	Size.	Place of Publication.	Date of Publication.
1. "The Chess Player's Manual" a complete guide to chess, containing the laws of the game, according to the Revised Code laid down by the British Chess Association in 1862; all the most modern discoveries in the openings, illustrated by numerous diagrams, and a collection of carefully selected illustrative games with analytical, critical and explanatory notes - also a selection of curious and difficult Problems (Routledge & Sons)	1	8° 800 pages	London & New York	1874
2. "Theory of the Chess openings" (A. W. Inman, New Wesley)	1	8° 2 1/2 pages	New Wesley (Leeds)	1874
3. The Chess Player's Tent Book (Triebner & Co)	1	8°	New York	1889

In the case of an Application Founded on CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE, the Schedule in the next page must be filled up.

Dated this 8th day of December 1890

(Signature of Applicant.) G. H. D. Gossip

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS.

NAME OF PERIODICAL.	TITLES OF ARTICLES.	PLACE AND DATE OF PUBLICATION.
The "Sydney Quarterly Magazine"	"Nooks & Corners of Old France" - A Ramble in Picardy in 1883. "Nooks & Corners of Old France" "Nooks & Corners of Old France"	Sydney, Australia March 1887 June 1887 September 1887
The Melbourne "Once a Month"	"Doings of Holy Russia" "Victor Hugo"	Melbourne (Australia) May 15, 1885 Aug ^t 15, 1885
The "Fortnightly Review"	"Protection v. Free-trade in Australia"	London June, 1890
The "United Service Magazine"	"Obstacles to Imperial Federation"	London May, 1890
"Outing"	"Cricket in Australia"	London and New York April 1889 and June 1889
"The Columbia Chess Chronicle"		
"The Columbia Chess Chronicle"	Many numbers	New York 1888 + 1889

20. Alfred Place
Bedford Square
W.C.
3rd Decr 1890

Sir/

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of form of application for assistance to the Royal Literary Fund.

I find that it cannot be presented, however, before next year, as it would be impossible for me to fulfil all the numerous formalities obtain the letters from two or more respectable persons authenticating the merits of my case etc in time for delivery this month. And as I was obliged to sell all the copies of my three works, I shall have considerable difficulty & experience some delay in obtaining the three copies, which I may possibly have to purchase at a cost of about £1 or upwards. The copies of my "Theory of the Chess Openings", in which the late Prince

Leopold took an interest, were all
rapidly sold & long since out of
print. Published at 6/6, one bookseller
advertised them at 15/ and £1 a copy,
& I had the utmost difficulty in
getting the loan of a copy for a short
time for the compilation of the second
Edition now in the press.

All my works, however, will be
found at the British Museum
& in the catalogue in the Reading
Room.

But there is one detail on
the form of application, which, I fear,
may prove an insuperable obstacle,
viz., Place of Birth. Before, therefore
filling up and returning you the
Form of Application, kindly let
me know whether or not I am
eligible for relief, as in the latter
case it would be useless for me
either to fill up the form or
trouble you further.

Article II. page 1, ^{also} says "that
no application shall be entertained

unless the same shall have been
sent in writing to the Secretary; nor
unless accompanied by letters from
two or more respectable persons
authenticating the merits of the case.

Does this mean that I
must enclose you said letters along
with my application; or must I
ask my friends to send them you
direct? Kindly let me know about this.

Although I am an Englishman
and a British subject, according to
International Law, having been brought
up since babyhood and educated in
England; and although my father's
name - that of an Englishman born
& bred - is to be found in Burke's
'Dictionary of the Landed Gentry'
under De Rodes of Barborough and
the Hatfield and Gossip families,
I was born in America; but on the
death of my mother, my father
brought me to England when only
three years old, and I was brought
up at the Barborough Hall of
Washington Irving, who was the

quest of my late Uncle & Aunt - Mrs
- Mrs Reaston Rodes. Barlbrough Hall is
mentioned at great length by Washington
Irving on p. 164 of his "Abbotsford & Newstead
Abbey", where he gives a long account of the
Christmas festivities, the waltzes & dances,
Dances, which I well remember. It is also
referred to by my late friend Miss Agnes
Strickland, in her "Lives of the Queens
of England", where she mentions the
portrait of Sir Francis Rodes. Built
in the reign of Queen Elizabeth,
who once slept there, it was also the
birthplace of Lady Strafford, and is
one of the grandest old Halls in
England or in Derbyshire.

I have been wonderfully unfortunate,
and am a confirmed fatalist! I am
quite convinced that the will of my Aunt
- Mrs Reaston Rodes, who idolised me,
was burnt by a cousin a few hours
after her death, and I was thus defrauded
of £10,000. But although my father & Uncle
Miss Strickland & many other persons of high
social position believed this, I was only a
child at the time & unable subsequently to
get legal proof, tho' the circumstantial
evidence was very strong. Then my Father, Uncle
and their three surviving sisters were ruined
utterly in a great lawsuit, just when I
could have have taken a scholarship of

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£60 a year at Oxford from St Mary's
College, Winchester, where I was
educated, so that I never had a penny
except what I could earn by my
own unaided exertions, and was
unable to go to Oxford.
I was subsequently defrauded
of a large sum of money by a
dishonest solicitor, in whom I
reposed implicit confidence, at a
time when I was too ill to attend
to my affairs. I merely name these
facts, as they may interest you in
my case. I wish also to add, and
to lay stress on this point, in
case my application be entertained
that owing to the partial failure
of my sight for the last 10 or 12
years, which renders it impossible
for me to do continuous or
arduous work by artificial light
(I can only bear lamplight)
I have been obliged to use many

good offers of employment at very
fair salaries. Neither myself nor my late
wife had any brothers or sisters; and
although my children will come
into a small property when of age
after the death of their grandmother
their education has been compulsorily
neglected and they are of course
quite insufficiently provided for.

Apologising for these necessarily
long explanations,

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently

J. H. D. Goslip

A. Newellyn Roberts Esq

H. With regard to the question of
nationality, several lawyers as well as
myself were puzzled whether I was an
Englishman or an American. But
I settled the point last year in
New York, where I found that
I could only obtain a passport
for Germany as an Englishman,
because my father was an
Englishman and was never
naturalized as an American.

He never returned to America,
I should not, however, be in
the least surprised to find
that the Royal Literary Fund
only entertains applications from
authors born on British soil.
And moreover this would be
in strict accordance with the
strange fatality that has pursued
me through life.

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20. Alfred Place
Bedford Square
W.C.

14 Dec. 90

Dear Sir/

I have got all the
Magazines containing ^{literary} my articles and
one of my chessbooks (I hope to get the
other two in time) & also a very
strong letter of recommendation from
J. G. Alger Esq for many years
Stenographer of the (London) Times
office in Paris. I have also
carefully filled up the form
you sent me.

I propose to call
on you, weather permitting,
tomorrow or next day to hand
you these Magazines, books &
documents, at 11. A. M.
The other letter of
recommendation I shall get

very shortly. The Manuscripts etc are
heavy & I must bring them in a
bag. I desire to hand you
them before I was - also to
direct your attention & that
of your Committee particularly
to my article "Doings of
Holy Russia" in the Australian
Magazine, ^{"once a month"} which is essentially
literary & historical and not
technical, like my chess books.
Yours truly
J. W. Gossip

S. Lavelly Roberts Esq
My chess books are not altogether
technical.

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Dec 14/70

Dear Sir,

I have known Mr. Gossif for some years. I have seen his books on Chess, as also articles bearing his signature in Australian & English magazines. He complained of his sight, when living in Paris, & told me of his consulting an oculist. I should be very glad if the Royal Literary Fund could give some temporary aid to a man of his abilities & respectability.

Yours obed.
J. G. Alger

L. Roberts Esq

⑤ "Game of Chess".

Knowing that Mr. Cassin has had a series of misfortunes, and am confident that an allowance from the Royal Literary Fund would be worthily bestowed on Mr. Cassin.

I have the honour to subscribe myself -

Your obedient servant
Wm. Ludlow Burnes

Adelphi Terrace
London
S. F.

Government Lodge

Carton Lane, 10th Dec. 1832

The Secretary of the
Royal Literary Fund

Dear Sir,

I beg to address these few lines to you on behalf of Mr. G. H. Cassin whom I have known for a considerable time, and believe to be quite respectable & well talented: - Some of his contributions to periodical literature are far above the average, and he is an able writer on, as well as practical opponent of, the intellectual

20. Alfred Place
Bedford Square
W.C.

9th Jan'y, 1841

To the Committee

of
The "Royal Literary Fund"
Gentlemen,

With regard to my
application, I beg to state that
I was obliged to publish privately,
through a Yorkshire printer, the
first Edition of my "Theory of
the Chess openings," because
no London publisher would
entertain it, notwithstanding the
fact that it was declared to be
the best work of its kind in
our language by the entire

British, American & Continental
Chess Press, and that I had had
Royal patronage, £60 worth of
subscriptions by signed orders for
copies, and that my previous
work - "The Chess Player's Manual,"
(published by Routledge five
years before in 1874, and most
favorably reviewed by all
impartial or competent critics)
had had a good sale and has
since had three Editions. I
was foolish enough to sell
outright to Messrs Routledge
the entire valuable copyright
of this book of over 800 pages
which occupied my time for
nearly two years for the
miserable sum of £70; and

although Routledge, has, I am
informed on good authority,
made thousands by my work,
he will not give me a penny,
and his shabby conduct towards
me has been publicly commented
on in America in the columns
of the "Boston Post."

I have rendered
great services to chess literature,
and the Studdersfield College
(now the British) Chess
Magazine, in reviewing my
"Chess Manual," said "that
a deep debt of gratitude
was due to Mr. Gossip for
this splendid addition to the
Library of the Chessplayer's"
(sic)

② With regard to the first Edition of my "Theory", I had a letter from Mr. Collins C.B. (which I can show you an exemplar) telling me that it was still in the library at Osborn and that late lamented Prince Leopold took great interest in it.

Such are the services I have rendered to Chess and Chess literature! Yet notwithstanding this and my high position in the Chess world as a player, (having played some of the most brilliant games on record) as well as a theorist, (for I have won many prizes in public Tournaments and matches, and have just won third prize in Divan Tourney.

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I can obtain no Chess Scholarship
and am literally left out in
the cold. The necessity of my
application is evidenced by the
fact that I am utterly without
resources, my sight is affected
and I suffer from hernia &
other ailments. For two days
this week I was absolutely
starving. I have no relations
living, to whom I could apply,
except distant ones whom I
cannot trace, although I have
children. This will doubtless
be sufficient, without my
worrying you with long

explanations & details of
my extraordinary misfortunes
and misery.

Remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. Hatfield D. Gossett

Gossip, George Hatfield Dingley. George Hatfield Dingley Gossip B 1841. n.d. MS Archives of the Royal Literary Fund: Archives of the Royal Literary Fund 2351. World Microfilms. Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 4 Aug. 2013.

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