

# ROYAL LITERARY FUND.

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Pm J

## Form of Application for an Author.

2848

Christian Name and Surname of the Applicant in words at length.	Philip Walsingham Sergeant
Profession, University, or other Titles.	Author B.A. of Oxford University (former Scholar of Trinity College, 1891-95)
Age, Date, and Place of Birth.	Age <u>39</u> . Born at <u>13 St. Mary's Road, Westbourne Park, London W.</u> on the <u>27th</u> of <u>January</u> in the year <u>1872</u>
Present Residence.	<u>87 Biddulph Mansions, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London, W.</u>
Whether Single or Married; and, if Married, or having been so, and having a Family, the Number, respective Ages, and Circumstances of the Children.	Married One child, a daughter of ten months of age
If a grant has been received before from the Royal Literary Fund; and if so, how often, and to what amount on each occasion?	No
Present Means and Sources of Income, whether from Salary, Annuity, Pension, or other kind of Provision.	Income derived from books (biographical), supplemented by £75 a year as a retaining fee from a literary agency as reader, and by small sums from occasional journalism.
The Amount of such Income yearly; and the actual Amount of Literary Earnings during the past year.	My income during the past <del>five</del> <sup>six</sup> years has averaged from £200 to £250 with the exception of 1909, when it was above the latter figure. In 1910 it dropped to about £175

TITLES OF PUBLISHED WORKS, <i>in full.</i> <i>To be continued, if necessary, on the 2nd page.</i>	No. of Vols.	Size.	Name of Publishers.	Date of Publication.
"The Great Empress Dowager of China"	1	Demy 8vo	Hutchinson & Co.	1910
"Cleopatra of Egypt: Antiquity's Queen of Romance"	1	"	"	1909
"The Empress Josephine: Napoleon's Enchantress"	2	"	"	1908
"The Last Empress of the French: Being the Life of the Empress Eugénie, Wife of Napoleon III"	1	"	Werner Laurie	1907
"The Burlesque Napoleon: Being the Story of the Life and the Kingship of Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, Youngest Brother of Napoleon the Great"	1	"	"	1906
"The Courtships of Catherine the Great"	1	"	"	1905
"The Real Francis Joseph" (Translation from the French)	1	"	Long	1909

Dated this 23rd day of May 1911

(Signature of Applicant.) Philip W. Sergeant

TO BE USED IF THE SCHEDULE ON THE FIRST PAGE BE INSUFFICIENT.

TITLES OF PUBLISHED WORKS, <i>in full.</i>	No. of Vols.	Size.	Name of Publishers.	Date of Publication.
<p>N. B. All the six original works mentioned above were also published in the United States, but I have no record of the American publishers' names, the English publishers having sold to them editors in sheets. But I believe that Lippincott took two out of the six.</p>				

To the Committee of the  
Royal Literary Fund

87 Biddulph Mansions,  
Elym Avenue,  
Maida Vale, W.

May 23rd, 1911.

Gentlemen,

I beg to make herewith an application to the Royal Literary Fund for a grant to relieve my present distress. I was on the point of selling my library (not one of great value, it is true, but one which it has taken me many years to collect) in order to meet my most pressing obligations, when a friend suggested that before taking that irremediable step I should apply to your Fund. As my <sup>position</sup> at the present moment is beyond my own power to put right, and I have a young wife, with one child already and another expected in August next, I am now doing so. Unhappily I have no relatives sufficiently well off to assist me. The causes of my distress are as follows:

1) At the beginning of this year a newspaper in Cairo, which owed me £30 for Indian correspondence, went into liquidation, and I learn that the prospects of there being anything in the £ are worse than remote. Further, another sum of £26 is owing to me by an author who, without informing me that he was an undischarged bankrupt, engaged me to do some work for him. He paid me £14 out of £40 which he promised me for the job, but his affairs

now seem in a desperate state, and I cannot count upon getting the remaining £20 this summer, if at all. It would, of course, be useless for me in the circumstances to take proceedings against him.

(2) During the past winter I have suffered much from illness, having had two attacks of influenza in December. My resulting weakness has very seriously interfered with my literary work, and thrown me entirely behind with a book for which I have a contract with Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. Until they receive notice they are unwilling to make me any further advance beyond what they paid me on signature of the agreement. Normally I can depend on making a little extra money by occasional journalism, but I cannot now give up time to this and also devote myself to making up arrears on this book, which I must attempt to get finished in order to meet present liabilities, including rent.

(2) I was during the latter half of last year engaged upon a book on the Foreign Relations of China; but the appearance of H. B. Morse's volume on that subject about the end of 1910 compelled to hang this up and (temporarily at least) sacrifice all the time I had given to it. It was in consequence of this that I undertook my present contract with Hutchinson's.

(3) I have since I returned from Hong Kong in 1904 (when I was editor of the local "Daily Press")

kept up an insurance policy with an annual premium of just over £50. When I insured myself so heavily I was in receipt of a good income, and the misfortunes of last year and this were of course, not anticipated. I have been able to borrow money from the insurance company against this policy, but I fear that I shall not be able to do so again this year: certainly not enough to cover the whole of this year's premium. The policy, I may mention, matures when I reach the age of 50.

(5) I was married in 1909, a year in which I made well above my average income in this country. My first child was born last year, when there was a big drop in that income. As I have said, my wife is expecting another child this August, so that I am in particular dread of straitened circumstances.

My earnings are now almost entirely dependent on my biographical works, of which I have published one a year since 1905. I have a retaining fee of thirty shillings a week to reading MSS. for a firm of literary agents; but I have no contract with them and cannot be certain, therefore, of the continuance of this small revenue. Unfortunately I was induced last year to become a adviser to another agency in return for 150 shares, but no cash. There is no likelihood of a dividend, and so I cannot give my time without a financial return I can see no

better course than to retire from this concern, which has proved a great disappointment to me and a handicap.

(2)

I fear that my age (as I am not yet 40) may be considered a reason against a grant. But my recent illness has for the time considerably impaired my strength. I feel sure, however, that if I can surmount my present difficulties, I shall be able to put all right again. I have always had good notices for my books, and ~~the publishers~~ Messrs. Hutchinson have arranged to take another from me in the Spring of 1912 on better terms than before. But I have to deliver the res. of the present work before I can begin on that, and therefore everything seems to depend upon tiding over the present crisis, which is what I can see no way of doing.

~~My I want to ask for a grant of £100?  
I am sure of having got it, but I am  
not sure of it. I have been told, I  
am not sure of it, but I am sure of it,  
I am not sure of it, but I am sure of it,  
I am not sure of it, but I am sure of it.~~

P.W.S.

I enclose letters attesting the merits of my case from G.H. Thring Esq., of the Authors' Society; Arthur Hughes Esq., barrister-at-law, of Horse Court, Temple; and Professor Ryo Duvils, for whom I once did, for very little pay, some Pali work which he was good enough to think worth not a little. He has known me for six years, the other two over sixteen.

I am, Gentlemen  
Yours faithfully  
M. L. B. Goreau



Empress Josephine".

If anything more is required, will you please  
let me know?

Yours faithfully

Philip T. Dorgant

The Secretary,  
Royal Literary Fund.

87 Biddulph Mansions,  
Elgin Avenue,  
Waida Vale, W.

May 23rd.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with my letter of  
yesterday's date, I now send an application  
filled in as required; a letter explaining  
the causes of my distress; and three supporting  
letters from

G. H. Thring Esq.,  
of the Authors' Society;

Arthur Hughes Esq.,  
1 Horse Court-Temple; and

Professor T. W. Rhys Davies, P. A. S., &c.

I am also sending today by carrier copies of  
three of my works, viz. "The Great Empress  
admirer of China", "Cleopatra", and "The

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS :  
AUTORIDAD LONDON.

TELEPHONE No. :  
374 VICTORIA.

39, OLD QUEEN STREET,  
STOREYS GATE,  
S.W.

May 17/11

Dear Sir

I understand that Mr. P. W. Segeant  
is applying for a grant from the Royal  
Literary Fund, I have known Mr. Segeant  
now for many years both as a hard  
working journalist and as an author  
of no mean repute. That he is unfortunately  
in need of a grant is in no way due to  
his own fault. His work is always  
good painstaking & sincere, and I  
cannot imagine a more worthy case  
for the Bounties of the Fund. If any  
further information is needed

I shall be delighted to support the application  
in any way you may desire

Yours very truly  
Robert Arnes

To  
The Secretary  
The Royal Victoria Fund



Station: Brooklands.  
Telegrams: Rhys Davids, Sale.

PALI TEXT SOCIETY,  
HARBORO' GRANGE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY,  
CHESHIRE.

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18 May 1911

Gentlemen,

Mr Philip W. Sergeant  
worked for this Society in 1905  
and 1906. The Society's work is  
the editing and translating of  
historical documents never  
edited or translated before.  
This is not remunerative. The  
Society has had a hard  
struggle to pay for the  
printing and binding of

The Council  
Royal Literary Fund

Station: Brooklands.  
Telegrams: Rhys Davids, Sale.

PALI TEXT SOCIETY,  
HARBORO' GRANGE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY,  
CHESHIRE.

The two volumes it issues yearly. Its payments to authors is either little, or nothing. Mr Sergeant was compelled, for financial reasons, to give up working for us: and we greatly regretted the loss of the help derived from his vast intelligence and sterling industry.

Mr Sergeant's case

Station: Brooklands.  
Telegrams: Rhys Davids, Sale

PALI TEXT SOCIETY,  
HARBORO' GRANGE,  
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY,  
CHESHIRE.

seems to me to be one  
most deserving of sympathy  
and I would to recom-  
mend it very strongly to  
the administrators of the  
Royal Literary Fund  
I am, Gentlemen,  
A very faithful servant  
T. W. Rhys Davids  
Managing Chairman of  
the Pali Text Society

TELEPHONE  
11499 CENTRAL.

1, HARE COURT,  
TEMPLE, E.C.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1911

To the Committee of the  
Royal Literary Fund.

Sir

I have known Dr Phillip  
W. Sergeant for many  
years. He has to my  
knowledge been a  
hard & conscientious  
worker in literature

His present unfortunate  
position is due to  
having done work for  
well-to-do persons  
& also to the fact that  
last year & this he  
has suffered from  
illness which prevented  
him from doing  
his work.

I am confident that  
his request for assistance  
is only made under  
the stress of a real  
need & of his  
anxiety for his wife  
& child.

In my opinion his  
difficulties are only  
temporary and I

⑤

Feel sure that a  
pencil from your  
hand would enable  
him to get over  
his difficulties. Necessarily

Believe me

Yours very faithfully

Arthur H. Hays

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TELE: WALTON ON THE HILL.  
STATION, TADWORTH, S.E.R.

1<sup>st</sup> June: 1911.

FRITH PARK,  
WALTON ON THE HILL,  
EPSOM.

Dear Mr. Roberts,

I have read Mr. Sargent's 'The  
Empress of China', and think it a solid  
and careful work. Everything of importance  
in a remarkable career is brought together  
in the volume, which is at once a biography,  
and a compendium, for half a critical  
survey, of Chinese history.

The subject is in many respects a delicate  
one; and the author treats it throughout  
with good taste and discretion.

I cannot say that he has the art  
of subtle character drawing, or descriptive  
picturesqueness. The narrative often is prolix,  
and there are many repetitions. But, on  
the whole, ~~and~~ the book seems to me  
fully to reach our standard of literary  
merit.

Yours truly,

W. Stebbing.



June 6 1911

Dear Mr Roberts

Mr. Sergeant is a man of courage who makes himself at home even when confronted by such varied phases of political biography as Cleopatra - Josephine Beauharnais - or the mysterious Empress of China!

Judging from Cleopatra Mr. Sergeant is quite entitled to appeal to the Fund - for if his books do not attain the dignity of works of permanent reference they are nevertheless pleasantly written and convey a good picture of their time to those readers who have not leisure to go to original sources.

Believe me, yrs very truly

Richard Bentley

7, Northwick Terrace, N.W.

8 June 1911.

Dear Mr Roberts, "The Imperial Dictionary"  
by Mr P. W. Sergeant is a piece of  
much compilation, carelessness, and  
general inaccuracy, done. It is well  
written, and has been used as a  
literary merit.

Yours very truly,  
W. Hooley.

I believe the two volumes,

A. H. Roberts Esq.  
Royal Library, 100  
40 Grosvenor House  
Langthall Bridge Road  
S.W.

# ROYAL LITERARY FUND,

40, DENISON HOUSE,

296, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.

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**Received** from the General Committee of the ROYAL

LITERARY FUND on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 1911

the Sum of One hundred & fifty pounds sterling.

Signature

Philip W. Joyce



£150-

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4999

P. W. Sergeant

£150

Recd, July 12, 1911.

P. M. S

Registrar.

✓

(=)

believe that I have the power now, with the aid of the sum which has been given to me, to reestablish my affairs upon a sound footing and to keep them there. I was for the first time in my life brought to despair of coping with the difficulties incidental to the attempt to live by the pen (and keep others on the proceeds); but your Committee has put new hopes into me.

My words, I know, are poor and inadequate. Believe me that this is so because of the reality of my gratitude to those who have done so much for me, and please ask them to credit me with thoughts that are better <sup>than</sup> the words I use. I hope it may be mine some day to do something in behalf of other authors, to help them as I have been helped. I know no other way in which to make a worthy return ~~to~~ for the kindness shown to me by the Committee of the Royal Literary Fund — and, may I add? the Secretary.

Yours thankfully  
Philip W. Sergeant

87 Biddulph Mansions,  
Regent Avenue,  
Marble Vale,  
London, W.

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1911

Dear Sir,

May I beg you to send us to convey to the Committee administering the Royal Literary Fund my respect and sincerest thanks for the more than generous way in which they have answered my application for a grant? I find it hard to say what I should like to prove my gratitude. Indeed, it would scarcely be possible for me to express how much my mind has been relieved today in consequence of this grant. A strain of many months has come to an end, and I

Walsingham, Philip. Philip Walsingham Sergeant 1872-1952. n.d. MS Archives of the Royal Literary Fund: Archives of the Royal Literary Fund 2848. World Microfilms. Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 5 Aug. 2013.

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