Morgan at Ham Spray*

RALPH PARTRIDGE

Morgan came for a weekend. I go on liking him but he is terribly difficult to get on with. His sense of humour is so insistent, and his inflection of voice so undeviating, that conversation never seems to improve or deteriorate with him. It is fixed from the start, and a conversation that has no possibility of doing anything venturesome has no attraction for me. But Morgan I like – his friendliness and his kindliness make it impossible to dislike him, and yet it isn't very thrilling ...

NOTE

Reginald Ralph Partridge (1894–1960) was, with his wife, the painter Dora Carrington, the third person in a triangular relationship with Lytton Strachey, sharing a home with him first at Tidmarsh and after 1924 at Ham Spray, Ham, Wiltshire. While not a member of Bloomsbury, Partridge, who worked for the Woolf's Hogarth Press, moved in its wider circle.

Morgan†

GERALD BRENNAN

Another member of Bloomsbury of whom I had seen a certain amount up to now was E. M. Forster or, as his friends called him, Morgan. He was a dry, friendly little man, rather ordinary and insignificant at first sight, with a spinsterish manner which came from his having been brought up at Weybridge by two maiden

* From *Best of Friends: The Brennan–Partridge Letters*, ed. Xan Fielding (London: Chatto & Windus, 1986) p. 68. Undated letter (c. 1925) from Ralph Partridge to Gerald Brennan.

† From *Personal Record: 1920–1972* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1974) p. 156.