

Derek Mahon Papers, 1985-1986

Boston College
John J. Burns Library
Archives and Manuscripts
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
617-552-4861
Fax: 617-552-2465
www.bc.edu/burns

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Mahon, Derek, 1941-
Title: Derek Mahon papers, 1985-1986
Call Number: MS 90-13
Extent: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)
Abstract: Correspondence and literary drafts produced by the Irish poet and author, Derek Mahon, covering approximately 1985-1986.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Source

Purchase, 1990.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Derek Mahon papers, Archives and Manuscripts, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Derek Mahon was born on November 23, 1941 in Belfast, to a protestant family, and raised in Glengormley, County Antrim. He attended the Royal Belfast Academical Institute, but after failing the eye-test for the Merchant Navy he went to study French at Trinity College, Dublin, where he received a B.A. in 1965. He published his first volume of poetry, "Twelve Poems" in that same year. Mahon was a member of the 1960's Northern Irish poets known as the "Northern Poets" or "Belfast Group, which included Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley. He taught in Belfast and Dublin before he moved to London to work as a freelance journalist

This finding aid is for research use only and may not be reproduced or distributed without consent.

and screenwriter. He also made adaptations to television and radio of Jennifer Johnston, John Montague, Elizabeth Bowen, and he completed translation versions of French and Greek classics. He was a regular reviewer for *The Irish Times*. He was for a time a writing fellow at both Trinity College, Dublin and New York University. He is also a member of the elite Irish artists association; Aosdana. Mahon's poetry is influenced by Auden and MacNeice; however, it is stricter in form and bleaker in content than either of their work. His poems are known for their unrelenting portrayal of Irish urban poverty.

Sources: "Derek Mahon," Princess Grace Irish Library (Monaco) : 2001, <http://www.pgileirdata.org/htm.../authors/m/Mahon,Dereck/life/htm>, October 15, 2001; "Derek Mahon," The Millenium Library, <http://www.anglia.co.uk/millib/reference/info/Derek+Mahon/2>, October 15, 2001; and "Mahon, Derek," *The Dictionary of Irish Literature* edited by Robert Hogan (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996) : p.814-815

Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into roughly two parts. The first box contains manuscript materials of various sorts (rough drafts, typescripts, xerox copies, etc.). The second box contains correspondence written to Derek Mahon between 1985 and 1986, as well as some printed material about Mahon and some photographs.

Container list

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	<i>High Time</i> . A comedy in 1 act by D. Mahon (based on Moliere's <i>The School for Husbands</i> . 46-p. xerox (and some typescript), heavily corrected by Mahon, with additions and deletions.
1	2	<i>First Love</i> . By Derek Mahon and Paul Joyce. Based on the story by Ivan Turgenev. 107-page xerox.
1	3	<i>The Railway Man</i> . Original 114-page working typescript, heavily corrected.
1	4	<i>The Railway Man</i> . 58-page xerox (incomplete), with corrections.
1	5	<i>The Death of the Heart</i> . By Elizabeth Bowen: Screenplay by Derek Mahon. 178-page xerox. Issued Wednesday, Feb 27, 1985
1	6	"Achill." 9 original drafts of the poem, 9 pgs. (2 p. of ross; 7 p. of typescript), all heavily corrected by Mahon.
1	7	I'Kinsale. "9 original drafts of the poem, 9-pg . typescript, heavily corrected by Mahon.
1	8	Derek Mahon -The Prudence Farmer Poetry Prize. "Original 5--page corrected typescript.
1	9	Original 5-pg computer-generated typescript of an article on French literature, with editor's corrections; plus cover letter from Vogue House asking Mahon to proof read the article.
1	10	Review of <i>Appolinaire: Selected Poems</i> . Anvil Press. Original 3-page corrected typescript.
1	11	"Rotting Hill Exhibition. A Bibliography." 3-pg xerox, with notations. "Ideas for an Exhibition on Wyndham Lewis, Ezra Pound and F.M. Ford in Kensington." by C.J. Fox. 2 pg xerox.
1	12	"Memorandum of Agreement" between Penguin Books and Mahon. 1-pg xerox, with ink notations.
1	13	Original 4-pg corrected typescript which begins, "The really hard thing to do right now was to tear his gaze away from the wide laceration of sky... II 9-pg. xerox of book text, in French: "Mes Nuits Sont Plus Belle que Vos Jours." With an original photograph of Raphaelle Billetdoux.
1	14	Christine Pagnouille's translations into French of Poems of Derek Mahon (in letter, Sept. 21, 1985
2	15	Letters to Derek Mahon from publishers and presses, 1985-1986
2	16	Letters to Derek Mahon, July 1984; June-Dec. 1985
2	17	Letters to Derek Mahon, Jan.-Apr. 1986
2	18	Letters to Derek Mahon undated, presume, 1985-1986
2	19	Cards (greeting/notes) to Derek Mahon, 1985-1986
2	20	Various Announcements and Invitations addressed to Derek Mahon, May 1985-Mar. 1986
2	21	Printed material by or about Derek Mahon, 1980, 1985, 1986

- 2 22 Varia: Xerox excerpts of Mary Kenny West's; "Abortion Book" with letter;
Anthony Rudolf's "Byron's Darkness" and "Boward Hopper;" and 6 black and
white photos of play "Summer Lightning," 1985