

BECKETT, SAMUEL, 1906-1989

Samuel Beckett collection, 1955-1996

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Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu



Collection Stored Off-Site

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Beckett, Samuel, 1906-1989
Title: Samuel Beckett collection, 1955-1996
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 902
Extent: .5 linear ft. (1 box) and 4 oversized papers (OP)
Abstract: Collection of handbills, playbills, and programs relating to Samuel Beckett productions in the United Kingdom.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Beckett collection](#), University of Reading, Reading, England; [Carlton Lake collection of Samuel Beckett papers](#) and [Samuel Beckett collection](#), Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin; and Samuel Beckett papers, Washington University Libraries, Department of Special Collections.

Source

Purchase, 2001.

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Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Samuel Beckett collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Teresa M. Burk, July 2003.

Collection Description**Biographical Note**

Samuel Beckett (1906-1989), Irish poet, novelist and playwright, was born in Foxrock, Ireland, a suburb of Dublin. He attended the Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, from 1919-1923, and in 1924 he enrolled at Trinity College in Dublin where he studied French and Italian. In 1927, Beckett moved to Paris and taught English at the École Normale Supérieure. While there, he met James Joyce and began to mingle in French literary circles. In 1930, he published his first poem, "Whoroscope," and returned to Trinity College to teach French.

In the 1930s, Beckett traveled around Europe and began publishing more of his work, including the essay *Proust* (1931); a volume of short stories entitled *More Pricks than Kicks* (1934); a volume of poetry entitled *Echo's Bones and Other Precipitates* (1935); and a novel, *Murphy* (1938). In 1937, he returned to Paris permanently and the following year began a relationship with Suzanne Déchevaux-Dumesnil (the couple married in 1961). Following the German invasion of France during World War II, Beckett joined the French Resistance. He worked as a courier and stored armaments in his backyard, acts for which he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Médaille de la Résistance.

Beckett continued to publish novels throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, including *Molloy* (1951), *Malone Dies* (1951), *The Unnamable* (1953), *Watt* (1955), *How It Is* (1961), and *Mercier and Camier* (1974). However, it is the plays he produced during this time for which he is perhaps best known. They include *Waiting for Godot* (1953), *Endgame* (1957), *Krapp's Last Tape* (1958) and *Happy Days* (1961). He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969, and continued to write and publish poems and short stories until his death in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

The Samuel Beckett collection contains handbills, playbills, programs, ticket stubs, articles and artwork spanning the years 1955-1996. Many of the items are from United Kingdom production's of Beckett's dramatic work.

Container list

Handbills, Playbills, Programs and Tickets

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	<i>The Beckett Plays</i> , Donmar Warehouse Theatre, August-September, 1984 (handbill and playbill)
1	2	<i>Beckett and Vondel</i> , Bloomsbury Theatre, June 29, 1988 (playbill and ticket)
1	3	<i>Endgame</i> , Reddaway Room/Fitzwilliam College, n.d. (ticket and program)
1	4	<i>Endgame</i> , Shaw Theatre, n.d. (handbill)
OP4	-	<i>Endgame</i> , Shaw Theatre, n.d. (poster)
1	5	<i>Endgame</i> and <i>The Investigator</i> , by Reuben Ship, Amateur Dramatic Club Theatre, n.d. (program)
1	6	<i>Endgame</i> and <i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> , Royal Court Theatre, October 28, 1958 (playbill)
1	7	<i>Endgame</i> and <i>Play and Other Plays</i> , Royal Court Theatre, [May 15, 1976] (playbill, 2 copies)
1	8	<i>First Love</i> , Theatre Dark, n.d. (handbill)
1	9	<i>Happy Days</i> , The Almeida Theatre, August 1996- April 1997 (season program, includes listing of other performances)
1	10	<i>Happy Days</i> , CSC Theatre, October-November 1990 (playbill)
1	11	<i>Happy Days</i> , Donmar Warehouse Theatre, December 3, 1984 (handbill, playbill, and ticket)
1	12	<i>Happy Days</i> , Gate Theatre, March 15, 1996, and Almeida Theatre, October 29, 1996 (playbill)
1	13	<i>Happy Days</i> , National Theatre at the Old Vic, November 26, 1974 (playbill)
1	14	<i>Happy Days</i> , Peacock Theatre, May 22, 1986 (playbill)
1	15	<i>Happy Days</i> , Royal Court Theatre, November 1, 1962 (playbill)
1	16	<i>Happy Days</i> , Royal Court Theatre, June 7, 1979 (playbill)
1	17	<i>I'll Go On</i> , Lincoln Center Theatre at the Mitzi E. Newhouse, June, 1988 (playbill)
1	18	<i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> , Royal Shakespeare Company/Richmond Theatre, n.d. (handbill)
1	19	<i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> and <i>Not I</i> , Royal Court Theatre, n.d. (handbill and playbill)
1	20	<i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> , <i>In Memory of Carmen Miranda</i> , by John Hale, <i>Beckett Evening</i> and <i>Camelot Pie</i> by Brian Wright, Greenwich Theatre, December 1975 (magazine program Cue)
1	21	<i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> and <i>Endgame</i> , Riverside Studios & Quadrant, June-July [1986] (playbill)
1	22	<i>The Novels and Plays of Samuel Beckett</i> , The Criterion Theatre, n.d. (program)
1	23	<i>Play</i> and <i>Philoctetes</i> , by Sophocles, The National Theatre, April 1964 (playbill, includes cast list)

- 1 24 *Samuel Beckett Festival*, The Repertory Theatre of Lincoln Center in the Forum, 1972-1973 (playbill, includes: *Krapp's Last Tape*, *Not I*, *Happy Days*, *Act Without Words I*)
- 1 25 *Samuel Beckett: Life & Times*, by Anthony Cronin, Almeida Theatre, n.d. (handbill, includes other listings for "Stagelit" events)
- 1 26 *Samuel Beckett Season*, Royal Court Theatre, n.d. (handbill, includes listings for: *Waiting for Godot*, *Endgame*, *Play* and other Plays)
- 1 27 *Texts*, Riverside Studios, June 17-28, 1981 (playbill)
- 1 28 *Waiting for Godot*, The Arts Theatre Club [London], n.d. (program)
- 1 29 *Waiting for Godot*, Cambridge Arts Theatre, May 28, 1956 (program)
- 1 30 *Waiting for Godot*, Criterion Theatre, September 12, 1955 (playbill, 3 copies)
- 1 31 *Waiting for Godot*, Envoy Productions and Theatre Royal Stratford, May 15, [1961] (playbill)
- 1 32 *Waiting for Godot*, Gate Theatre, February 7, 1992 (playbill)
- 1 33 *Waiting for Godot*, National Theatre, November 25, 1987 (playbill)
- 1 34 *Waiting for Godot*, Nottingham Playhouse, January 26, 1971 (playbill)
- 1 35 *Waiting for Godot*, The Old Vic, February 17, 1981 (playbill)
- 1 36 *Waiting for Godot*, Queen's Theatre, September 30, 1991 (playbill)
- 1 37 *Waiting for Godot*, The Royal Court Theatre, [December 1964] (playbill)
- 1 38 *Waiting for Godot*, The Royal Exchange Theatre Company, n.d. (handbill)

Miscellany

- OP1 Portrait of Samuel Beckett by Sorel Etrog, [1979]
- 1 39 *Samuel Beckett, An Exhibition*, University of Reading, May- December 1971 (exhibition brochure)
- 1 40 *Samuel Beckett: Livres d'artistes*, Centre International de Poésie Marseille, July 5- September 7, 2002 (exhibition brochure and postcard)
- 1 41 *Stirring Still*, *The Guardian*, March 3, 1989 (writing by Beckett, also includes review by Frank Kermode and article by John Calder)
- OP2 Poster, "Samuel Beckett's Ohio Impromptu," Ohio State University, May 9, 1981
- OP3 Poster, Samuel Beckett: Collected Poems in English and French, John Calder (Publishers) Ltd., London