

COFFEY, BRIAN, 1905- Brian Coffey collection, circa 1933-1976

Emory University
Robert W. Woodruff Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Coffey, Brian, 1905-
Title: Brian Coffey collection, circa 1933-1976
Call Number: Manuscript Collection 795
Extent: .75 linear feet (2 boxes)
Abstract: Collection of material relating to Irish poet Brian Coffey including two scrapbooks, manuscript drafts, and related artwork.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Purchase, 1996.

Citation

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

Collection Description

Biographical Note

The Irish poet Brian Coffey was born in Dublin in 1905. After secondary education at Clongowes Wood College and in France, he studied science at University College Dublin

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from 1924-1930. In 1930 Coffey published a collection of poems with the poet Denis Devlin followed by *Three Poems* in 1933. Throughout the decade he lived in Paris where he was associated with the Joyce circle. During this period he published his poetry in *Criterion* and *Ireland Today*. A third collection, *Third Person*, appeared in 1938. During the war years, Coffey taught school in London. He completed his own doctorate in 1947, and from 1947-1952 he held a teaching position in St. Louis, Missouri, which would later serve as the impetus for his *Missouri Sequence*. After Denis Devlin's death in 1959, Coffey served as literary executor to the estate and prepared a collected edition of Devlin's poems and the posthumous collection *The Heavenly Foreigner*. He also prepared a translation of Mallarmé's *Coup de dés* in 1965. The following year Coffey, in collaboration with John Parsons, published *Monster*. Coffey's *Selected Poems* appeared in 1971 followed by *Advent* (1975), *The Big Laugh* (1980), *The Death of Hektor* (1980), and *Chanterelles* (1985). Brian Coffey died in 1995.

Scope and Content Note

The Brian Coffey collection includes bound volumes, scrapbooks in which Coffey has tipped in manuscript drafts of many of his poems dating from circa 1933-1976, and manuscript drafts and related artwork. Among the published collections represented in the collection are: *Three Poems* (1933), *Missouri Sequence*, *Monster* (1966), *Selected Poems* (1971), *Advent* (1975), *The Big Laugh* (1980), and *The Death of Hektor* (1980). The largest part of the collection relates to the composition of *Monster* and the design of the published work.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Advent scrapbook, including numerous typed drafts of poems with holograph corrections and sketches.
1	2	<i>The Big Laugh</i> scrapbook including some manuscripts and related artwork
1	3	<i>The Big Laugh</i> , typescript
1	4	<i>The Big Laugh</i> , typescript
1	5	<i>Death of Hektor</i> , photocopied typescript with holograph corrections
1	6	<i>Death of Hektor</i> , typescript with holograph corrections
1	7	"Dear Earolas" [variant title for <i>Monster</i>], holograph manuscript
1	8	"Divers for Dinner" [variant title for <i>Monster</i>], holograph manuscript
1	9	<i>Monster</i> , artwork
1	10	<i>Monster</i> , artwork and design for Advent Books order form
1	11	<i>Monster</i> , artwork by John Parsons
1	12	<i>Monster</i> , artwork with ACS from Ralph to Brian Coffey, 21 September 1966
1	13	<i>Monster</i> , camera-ready "setting" copy
1	14	<i>Monster</i> , manuscript fragments including "Nothing," "Something," "A Thing," and "The Rocks"
1	15	<i>Monster</i> , holograph manuscripts
1	16	<i>Monster</i> , preliminary sketches for design of work
1	17	<i>Monster</i> , typescripts
1	18	Notebook containing manuscript fragments, sketches, and drawings
2	1	Notebook containing holograph and typescript poems dating from circa 1933-1976, including poems collected in Three Poems, Missouri Sequence, Selected Poems, and Advent.
2	2	Osyth Leeston to Brian Coffey, TLS, 3 August 1966, re rejection of <i>Monster</i> by Heath & Co.
2	3	"Phoenix Morning," holograph manuscript
2	4	"The Thing Below the Surface" [variant title for <i>Monster</i>], holograph manuscript
