

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

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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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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

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