

COVENT GARDEN PRESS.

Covent Garden Press collection, 1968-1977

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Covent Garden Press.
Title: Covent Garden Press collection, 1968-1977
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 993
Extent: 2.5 linear feet (5 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Small collection of materials from the Covent Garden Press (London) consisting mainly of typescripts of proofs of works published by the press and related correspondence.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Gift, 2004.

Custodial History

Originally received as part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library.

Citation

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

Processing

Processed by Dorothy Waugh, September 2013.

Collection Description

Historical Note

Dr. N. C. Nothmann, the owner of Covent Garden Bookshop, London, established a small press, Covent Garden Press, in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The press published fiction, poetry and essays, in addition to a catalogue describing the archives of William S. Burroughs. The press launched their Covent Garden Series in March 1972, which included one series of publications featuring short stories, a second featuring poetry, and a third featuring essays. Contributing authors included Kingsley Amis, Ronald Hayman, Susan Hill, Charles Tomlinson and John Wain. The press' first descriptive catalogue of its publications was printed in 1973 and lists works by William S. Burroughs, Bob Cobbing, Jean Cocteau, Hugh MacDiarmid, Harold Pinter, and Sacheverell Sitwell, in addition to those who wrote for the Covent Garden Series. In 1974, the bookshop and press went into liquidation and the appointed receiver instructed that all publishing be stopped immediately. Neither business has been in operation since.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the records of Covent Garden Press from 1968 to 1977, the bulk of which are documents related to works that the press either published or seriously considered for publication. These documents include typescripts, proofs, correspondence about the work and its publication, and notes detailing design and layout. Works include Kingsley Amis's *Dear Illusion*, William S. Burrough's *Port of Saints*, Susan Hill's *The Custodian*, Hugh MacDiarmid's *Song of the Seraphim*, and Harold Pinter's *Monologue*. A small amount of correspondence primarily documents the business conducted between the press and its authors, although some early letters focus on the bookselling business, rather than publishing, and some later letters comment on the bankruptcy. Also included in the collection are press clippings and reviews about books published by the press, copies of the press' catalogue, and a small number of financial records including receipts on advances paid to authors, calculations of royalties paid to authors, and invoices. Finally, a handful of notes and letters relate to the reception hosted by Covent Garden Press and Martini and Rossi to celebrate the launch of the Covent Garden Series.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Correspondence

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Undated, 1968-1977 |

Publications

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| 1 | 2 | Amis, Kingsley, <i>Dear illusion</i> |
| 1 | 3 | Appignanesi, Richard, <i>The street to Damascus</i> |
| 1 | 4 | Belsky, Franta and George Sorley Whittet, <i>Churchill in Fulton: The statue by Franta Belsky</i> |
| 1 | 5 | Bloomfield, Paul, <i>The common cause</i> |
| 1 | 6 | Burroughs, William S., <i>Port of saints</i> |
| 1 | 7 | Dearden, James S., <i>Ruskin and Coniston</i> |
| OP1 | 1 | Dearden, James S., <i>Ruskin and Coniston</i> , proofs |
| 2 | 1 | Elkin, Stanley, <i>The making of Ashenden</i> |
| OP1 | 2 | Elkin, Stanley, <i>The making of Ashenden</i> , proofs |
| 2 | 2 | Feinstein, Elaine, <i>Matters of change</i> |
| 2 | 3 | Finney, Brian H., " <i>since how it is</i> ": <i>A study of Samuel Beckett's later fiction</i> |
| 2 | 4 | Green, Roger Lancelyn, " <i>Holmes this is amazing</i> ": <i>Essays in unorthodox research</i> |
| OP1 | 3 | Green, Roger Lancelyn, " <i>Holmes this is amazing</i> ": <i>Essays in unorthodox research</i> , proofs |
| 2 | 5 | Hanley, James, <i>The darkness</i> |
| 2 | 6 | Harrison, Michael, <i>Theatrical Mr. Holmes</i> |
| 2 | 7 | Hayman, Ronald, <i>Arguing with Walt Whitman</i> |
| 2 | 8 | Hayman, Ronald, <i>Literature and living</i> |
| 2 | 9 | Hentschel, Cedric, <i>The pleasures of John Cowper Powys</i> |
| 2 | 10 | Hill, Susan, <i>The custodian</i> |
| 2 | 11 | Houédard, Dom Sylvester, <i>5 tripestacks</i> |
| 3 | 1 | Johnson, B. S., <i>Everyone knows somebody who's dead</i> |
| OP1 | 4 | Johnson, B. S., <i>Everyone knows somebody who's dead</i> , proofs |
| 3 | 2 | Joni#, Bettina, <i>Briefs</i> |
| 3 | 3 | Kaye, Michael, <i>Morals and commitment</i> |
| 3 | 4 | Kaye, Michael, <i>Morals and commitment</i> , corrected proofs |
| 3 | 5 | Kirkup, James, <i>Transmental vibrations</i> |
| 3 | 6 | MacDiarmid, Hugh, <i>Song of the seraphim</i> |
| 3 | 7 | MacSweeney, Barry, <i>Elegy for January</i> |
| 3 | 8 | Miles, Barry (editor), <i>A descriptive catalogue of the William S. Burroughs archive</i> , pp. 1-166 |

- 3 9 Miles, Barry (editor), *A descriptive catalogue of the William S. Burroughs archive*, pp. 167-329
- 3 10 Miles, Barry (editor), *A descriptive catalogue of the William S. Burroughs archive*, related correspondence
- 3 11 Mitchell, Julian, *Truth and fiction*
- 3 12 Nations, Opal L., *Stanley and the Tie-Tars*
- OP1 5 Nations, Opal L., *Stanley and the Tie-Tars*, proofs
- 3 13 Osbourne, Eric, "The first professional detective in English fiction", introduction to William Russell's *Recollections of a detective police-officer*
- 4 1 Patmore, Derek, *Homage to Marcel Proust*
- 4 2 Patten, Brian, *Manchild*
- 4 3 Pinter, Harold, *Monologue*
- 4 4 Powys, John Cowper and Llewelyn Powys, *Confessions of two brothers*
- 4 5 Powys, Llewelyn, *The Wordsworths in Dorset*
- 4 6 Ridler, William, *British modern press books*
- 4 7 Ross, Alan, *Tropical ice*
- 4 8 Ross, Maggie, *Totem*
- 4 9 Sitwell, Sacheverell, *To Henry Woodward*
- 4 10 Sprigge, Elizabeth, *Journal in quest of Gertrude Stein*
- 4 11 Tackmark, Mr., *T. F. Powys's unpublished novel The market bell*
- 5 1 Thurman, Judith, *Putting my coat on*
- OP1 6 Thurman, Judith, *Putting my coat on*, proofs
- 5 2 Sitwell, Sacheverell, *To Henry Woodward*
- 5 3 Trevor, William, *The last lunch of the season*
- 5 4 Vansittart, Peter, *Vladivostok*
- 5 5 Wain, John, *The shape of Feng*
- OP1 7 Wain, John, *The shape of Feng*, proofs
- 5 6 Wilson, Colin, *Tree by Tolkien*

Other materials

- 5 7 Catalogue, Covent Garden Press publications
- 5 8 "Collection ou no. 5", book announcement
- 5 9 Invoice, books from Paul Buck, undated
- 5 10 Press clippings
- 5 11 Catalogue, Covent Garden Press publications
- 5 12 Reception hosted by Covent Garden Press and Martini and Rossi celebrating book launch, March 29, 1972
- 5 13 Reviews
- 5 14 Royalties calculations
- 5 15 "Skullshapes", excerpt, unidentified author