

DEANE, SEAMUS, 1940- Seamus Deane papers 1960-2016

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Deane, Seamus, 1940-
Title: Seamus Deane papers 1960-2016
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1210
Extent: 9.75 linear feet (21 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of Irish poet and educator Seamus Deane, including writings, correspondence, journals and business records
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Purchase, 2011.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Seamus Deane papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Susan McDonald and Maggie Greaves, November 2013.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Seamus Deane (1940-), Irish poet and educator, was born in Derry, Northern Ireland. He attended Queen's University, Belfast and Cambridge University. He was a professor of English

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and American Literature at University College, Dublin and a professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He was also a founding director of the Field Day Theatre Company, along with David Hammond, Seamus Heaney, and Tom Paulin. Deane has published several works of poetry and non-fiction, as well as one novel. His collections of poetry include *Gradual Wars*, *Rumors and History Lessons*; his non-fiction includes *Heroic Styles: The Tradition of an Idea*, *Celtic Revivals: Essays in Modern Irish Literature*, *A Short History of Irish Literature*, *Strange Country*, and *French Revolution and Enlightenment in England, 1789-1832*. His novel, *Reading in the Dark*, was nominated for a Booker Prize in 1996.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Irish poet and educator Seamus Deane. It contains correspondence, writings by Deane and others, journals, printed material, and financial records. Writings by Deane include drafts of his novel *Reading in the Dark*; essays on Irish literature, politics, and history; short pieces on Irish and other writers; drafts of poems, many of which are unpublished or uncollected; and notebooks, which include reading notes and drafts of prose and poetry. Writings by others include works by Brian Friel, Colum McCann, and Thomas Kilroy. The collection also contains materials relating to Seamus Heaney's work, particularly a draft of his 1975 poetry collection *North*. Significant correspondents include Denis Donoghue, Seamus Heaney, Thomas Kinsella, Michael and Evelyn Longley, Medbh McGuckian, Derek Mahon, and Tom Paulin.

Arrangement Note

Organized into three series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Writings, and (3) Other papers.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Correspondence, 1964-2016](#)

[Series 2: Writings, 1970-2010](#)

[Series 3: Other papers, 1960-2013](#)

Series 1
Correspondence, 1964-2016
Boxes 1-4, 20-21

Scope and Content Note

The series consists of Seamus Deane's correspondence from 1964-2009. The correspondence is divided into alphabetical and chronological. Alphabetical correspondence includes correspondence between Deane and other prominent Irish writers and critics, while chronological correspondence consists of more commonplace correspondence with universities, publishers, agents, students, and others. Of particular interest is Deane's forty-year correspondence with Seamus Heaney. Deane also corresponded extensively with fellow Field Day directors Brian Friel and Tom Paulin regarding the operations of the Field Day Theatre Company. Other notable correspondents include poets Michael Longley, Derek Mahon, Medbh McGuckian, Paul Montague, and Paul Muldoon; authors John Banville and Colum McCann; and literary critics Terry Eagleton, Roy Foster, and Edna Longley. Drafts of poems included with letters to Deane have been left with the letters they pertain to.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in alphabetical and chronological order.

Alphabetical correspondence

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Banville, John, 1982-1996 |
| 1 | 2 | Carson, Ciaran, 1977 |
| 1 | 3 | Dawe, Gerald, 1974-1987 |
| 1 | 4 | Donoghue, Denis, 1966-2005 |
| 1 | 5 | Eagleton, Terry, 1986-1989 |
| 1 | 6 | Ellman, Richard, 1982-1983 |
| 1 | 7 | Fallon, Peter, 1976-2008 |
| 1 | 8 | Foster, Roy, 1991-2003 |
| 1 | 9 | Friel, Brian, undated |
| 1 | 10 | Friel, Brian, 1970s |
| 1 | 11 | Friel, Brian, 1980s |
| 1 | 12 | Friel, Brian, 1990s |
| 1 | 13 | Friel, Brian, 2000s [1] |
| 21 | 2 | Friel, Brian, 2000s [2] |
| 21 | 3 | Friel, Brian, 2000s [3] |
| 20 | 1 | Heaney, Seamus, Undated |
| 20 | 2 | Heaney, Seamus, 1964-1995 |
| 20 | 3 | Heaney, Seamus, 1996-2007 |
| 21 | 1 | Heaney, Seamus, 2010 |
| 1 | 14 | Jameson, F.R., 1993-2000 |

| | | |
|---|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 15 | Johnson, Jennifer, undated |
| 1 | 16 | Kearney, Richard, 1978-1994 |
| 1 | 17 | Kennelly, Brandon, 1978, 1990 |
| 1 | 18 | Kilroy, Thomas, undated |
| 1 | 19 | Kilroy, Thomas, 1972-2005 |
| 1 | 20 | Kinsella, Thomas, 1970-2001 |
| 2 | 1 | Longley, Edna, 1979-1997 |
| 2 | 2 | Longley, Michael, 1974-2003 |
| 2 | 3 | Mahon, Derek, 1976-1991 |
| 2 | 4 | McCann, Colum, 1999 |
| 2 | 5 | McGuckian, Medbh, 1995-2001 |
| 2 | 6 | Montague, John, 1966-1988 |
| 2 | 7 | Montieth, Charles, 1969-1981 |
| 2 | 8 | Muldoon, Paul, 1974-2003 |
| 2 | 9 | Ni Chuilleanain, Eilean, 1975 |
| 2 | 10 | O'Brien, Edna, undated |
| 2 | 11 | O'Driscoll, Denis, 1987, 2002 |
| 2 | 12 | O'Faolain, Nuala, 1977 |
| 2 | 13 | O'Grady, Desmond, 1988 |
| 2 | 14 | O' Searcaigh, Cathal, undated |
| 2 | 15 | Ormsby, Frank, 1974-1985 |
| 2 | 16 | Paulin, Tom, 1979-2009 |
| 2 | 17 | Said, Edward, 1988-1991 |
| 2 | 18 | Simmons, James, 1975-1983 |

Chronological correspondence

| | | |
|---|----|-----------|
| 2 | 19 | Undated |
| 2 | 20 | 1961-1969 |
| 2 | 21 | 1970-1972 |
| 3 | 1 | 1973-1975 |
| 3 | 2 | 1976-1977 |
| 3 | 3 | 1978-1979 |
| 3 | 4 | 1980-1982 |
| 3 | 5 | 1983-1985 |
| 3 | 6 | 1986-1987 |
| 3 | 7 | 1988-1989 |
| 4 | 1 | 1990-1995 |
| 4 | 2 | 1996 |
| 4 | 3 | 1997 |
| 4 | 4 | 1998-1999 |

| | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 4 | 5 | 2000-2008 |
| 21 | 4 | 2013-2016 |
| 4 | 6 | Greeting cards |

Series 2
Writings, 1970-2010
Boxes 5-13, 19, 21

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of writings by Seamus Deane and others from 1970-2010. Materials include drafts, proofs, notes, and a small amount of correspondence directly related to the writings.

Deane's writings consist of critical pieces, notebooks, novels, poetry, and translations, demonstrating Deane's range as both critic and creative writer. His critical essays and periodicals, the majority of which pertain to Irish literature, history, and politics, have been grouped chronologically. Many of these drafts are early versions of pieces that appeared in the *New Yorker* and the *Times Literary Supplement*, including his dialogue between W.B. Yeats and James Joyce written for the TLS in 1992. Deane's notebooks contain both critical notes and creative writing, including several drafts of poems. Of particular interest are multiple versions of his prize-winning novel *Reading in the Dark* (1996), a semi-autobiographical work set in the years leading up to the Northern Ireland Troubles. There are also multiple drafts of poems, approximately half of which are from Deane's three volumes of poetry: *Gradual Wars* (1972), *Rumours* (1977), and *History Lessons* (1983). The other drafts are of uncollected and unpublished work. Drafts of collected poems have been grouped by volume, with poems arranged in alphabetical order by title. Uncollected and unpublished works are grouped separately in alphabetical order by title or first line. The series also contains translation materials, including copies of source texts, drafts, and notes. The majority of the translations are by Deane, with the exception of the Italian translation of his poetry volume *Gradual Wars*.

Writings by others documents Deane's relationships with Irish, British, and American writers. There is a small amount of writing about Deane, including book reviews and a thesis. The majority of the material consists of essays, plays, poems, and short stories sent to Deane by various writers. Of particular note are drafts of poems by Seamus Heaney, including a complete typescript of *North* with Heaney's corrections. Other notable materials include typescripts of several of Brian Friel's plays for the Field Day Theatre Company, a typescript of Colum McCann's *Everything in This Country Must*, and plays and short prose by Thomas Kilroy and Hugh Maxton.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in alphabetical order by record type.

Writings by Deane

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--|
| 5 | 1 | Book reviews, circa 1973-1997 |
| 5 | 2 | Books of criticism, <i>Foreign Affections: Essays on Edmund Burke</i> , preface and introduction |
| 5 | 3 | Books of criticism, <i>An Introduction to Irish Literature</i> , proof |
| 5 | 4 | Edited collections, <i>Field Day Review 6</i> , circa 2010 |
| 5 | 5 | Essays and periodicals, 1975-2000 [1 of 2] |
| 5 | 6 | Essays and periodicals, 1975-2000 [2 of 2] |

- 5 7 Essays and periodicals, Deane/Heaney profile for the *New Yorker*, proofs, March 2000
- 5 8 Essays and Periodicals, "Politics and Literature" series for the *Irish Press*, 1970
- 5 9 Essays and periodicals, undated
- 6 1 Introduction, Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*, 1990
- 6 2 Notebooks [1 of 4]
- 6 3 Notebooks [2 of 4]
- 6 4 Notebooks [3 of 4]
- 21 5 Notebooks [4 of 4]
- 6 5 Notes
- 6 6 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, complete draft [1 of 2]
- 6 7 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, complete draft [2 of 2]
- 7 1 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, complete draft with corrections
- 7 2 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, draft, "Part One, Chapter Two"
- 7 3 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, draft, "Section One"
- 7 4 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, draft, "Stairs, February 1945" through "Katie's Story, August 1950"
- 7 5 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, draft, "Rats, September 1950" through "Sergeant Burke, October 1954"
- 7 6 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, draft fragments
- 7 7 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, "editing of sections"
- 7 8 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, proof, Alfred A. Knopf [1 of 2]
- 7 9 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, proof, Alfred A. Knopf [2 of 2]
- 8 1 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, proof, Jonathan Cape [1 of 2]
- 8 2 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, proof, Jonathan Cape [2 of 2]
- 19 8 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, proof with corrections, Jonathan Cape
- 8 3 Novels, *Reading in the Dark*, table of contents
- 8 4 Novels, *Wizard*, draft fragments and notes
- 8 5 Novels, unidentified work, draft
- 8 6 Poetry, *Gradual Wars*, drafts
- 8 7 Poetry, *History Lessons*, drafts
- 8 8 Poetry, *Rumours*, complete and variant typescripts
- 8 9 Poetry, *Rumours*, drafts
- 8 10 Poetry, *Rumours*, page proof with corrections, May 1977
- 8 11 Poetry, *Rumours*, page proof, circa May 1977
- 9 1 Poetry, uncollected poems [1 of 2]
- 9 2 Poetry, uncollected poems [2 of 2]
- 9 3 Poetry, uncollected sequence, "Late Afternoon Hotel"
- 9 4 Poetry, untitled poems and fragments
- 9 5 Radio programs, Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTE)

- 21 6 Report and notes on Edward Said, 1999
- 9 6 Translations by Deane, *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing Volume IV*, English translations from the Irish
- 9 7 Translations by Deane, *Gradual Wars* in French
- 9 8 Translations by Deane, *Gradual Wars* in German
- 9 9 Translations by Deane, Italian poetry (Zanzotto, Luzi, Ungaretti, Leopardi)
- 9 10 Translations by Deane, Mac Cumhaigh, Art, "The Chuchyard at Cregan"
- 9 11 Translations by Deane, *Turning Tides: Modern Dutch and Flemish Verse in English Versions by Irish poets*, circa 1994
- 9 12 Translations of Deane, *Gradual Wars* in Italian

Writings by others about Deane

- 10 1 Book reviews
- 10 2 Gori, Lucia, "Temi della poesia e della narrative di Seamus Deane da While Jews Rot," thesis, 1999
- 10 3 Heaney, Seamus with Brian Barfield, "January Review: The Arts in Ireland," BBC Radio Four Northern Ireland, circa 1972
- 10 4 *Reading in the Dark* essays and reviews

Writings by others

- 10 5 Bennett, Ronan, *Reading in the Dark: an adaptation of the novel by Seamus Deane*, play, 2000
- 10 6 Birch, Sister Michele, "And Again the Dance," poem
- 10 7 Brown, George MacKay, "The Fight at Greenay," short story
- 10 8 Cantwell, Kevin, *Border States*, poetry collection
- 10 9 Clay, Diskin, poems
- 10 10 Cobey, Patricia, "Jesus," short story
- 10 11 De Freyne, Leo, "Rendevous (A Romance)," experimental prose
- 10 12 DeLuna, D.N. and Glenn Burgess, *The Political Imagination in History: Essays concerning J.G.A. Pocock*, book description
- 10 13 di Camillo, Kevin Thomas Patrick, poems
- 10 14 Friel, Brian, *Aristocrats*, play
- 11 1 Friel, Brian, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, play
- 11 2 Friel, Brian, *Faith Healer*, play [variant title: Bannermen]
- 11 3 Griffin, Michael, *Thomas Dermody, Selected Writings*, Field Day Editions
- 11 4 Healy, Dermot, poems
- 11 5 Heaney, Seamus, Belfast Group Worksheet: "Icon", "Limbo", "Wedding Day", "The Last Mummer", "High Street, Belfast, 1786", "Tweed", "Dawn", "Bye-Child"
- [\[Resource available online\]](#)
- 11 6 Heaney, Seamus, *The Cure at Troy: A Version of Sophocles' Philoctetes*, play

- 11 7 Heaney, Seamus, *Electric Light*, "In Memory of Rory Kavanagh" and "The Gaeltacht," poems
- 11 8 Heaney, Seamus, *Field Work*, "Preludes in Glanmore," poems [collected as "Glanmore Sonnets"]
- 11 9 Heaney, Seamus, *Field Work*, poems
- 11 10 Heaney, Seamus, *North*, complete typescript with corrections [includes "Glanmore Sonnets"]
- 11 11 Heaney, Seamus, *North*, Hercules and Antaeus," "On an Ancient Site" [variant title "Belderg"], and "The Digging Skeleton," poems
- 11 12 Heaney, Seamus, "An Open Letter," typescripts
- 11 13 Heaney, Seamus, packet of poems [includes "A Villanelle for Marie," "A Toy for Catherine," "A Kite for Michael and Christopher," "A Peacock's Feather," "A Hank of Wool," "A Cart for Edward Gallagher," "A Deer in Glanmore," "Near Anahorish: A Visitation," "New Worlds," and "Late Offerings"]
- 11 14 Heaney, Seamus, *Seeing Things*, poems from Part I
- 11 15 Heaney, Seamus, *Seeing Things*, poems from "Squarings" sequence
- 11 16 Heaney, Seamus, *Station Island*, revisions, "Section XII" and "Chekhov on Sakhalin"
- 11 17 Heaney, Seamus, *Station Island*, Sweeney poems
- 11 18 Heaney, Seamus, *Sweeney Astray*, typescript
- 11 19 Heaney, Seamus, uncollected poems, "For a Young Father"
- 11 20 Heaney, Seamus with Seamus Deane, *Seamus Heaney: The Incertus Years*, pamphlet, 1989
- 11 21 Huxley, G.L., "Memories of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and Thoughts Concerning Bloody Sunday," essay, 2001
- 11 22 Keady, Martin, *Brigid McLoughlin*, screenplay based on *Reading in the Dark*, 1999
- 12 1 Kilfeather, Siobhán, untitled typescript on 18th-century Irish women writers, circa 2000
- 12 2 Kilroy, Jon, "The Early Riser (a poem for Rory)"
- 12 3 Kilroy, Thomas, *The Bracken Play*, play
- 12 4 Kilroy, Thomas, *Double Cross*, play
- 12 5 Kilroy, Thomas, short prose
- 12 6 Lerner, Laurence, poems
- 12 7 Mahon, Derek, "The Last Dane," poem
- 12 8 Mathews, Aidan C., *Exit: A Play in Five Scenes*, 1983
- 12 9 Mathews, Aidan C., poems
- 12 10 McCann, Colum, *Everything in This Country Must*, novella and two stories
- 13 1 McCormack, W.J. [Hugh Maxton], "Bomb Culture," poem
- 13 2 McCormack, W.J., *The Dog in Office: a responsible pantomime*, 1983

- 13 3 McCormack, W.J., *Erasmus Series*, "Introduction to The Plough and the Stars," essay
- 13 4 McCormack, W.J., "Swift Mail: Thirty Postcards to a Friend," cover page
- 13 5 McGahern, John, "May They All Climb Trees: Change in Our Time," essay, circa 1999 [published as "What Ever You Say, Say Nothing"]
- 13 6 Michaels, Leonard, "Murderers," short story
- 13 7 Muldoon, Paul, "Paul Muldoon Poetry Reading," transcription, Irish Seminar, Dublin, July 18, 2003
- 13 8 Muldoon, Paul, untitled play based on James Joyce's "The Dead"
- 13 9 Ó Cruaíoch, Gearóid, *Cultural Tradition*, essay collection
- 13 10 O'Grady, Desmond, "These Fields in Springtime," poem
- 13 11 O'Reilly, Sean, *Curfew and other stories*, short story collection
- 13 12 Pine, Richard, "Rough Edges: Commitment in Contemporary Irish drama," essay, 1989
- 13 13 Rosenberg, Carolyn, "Let Our Gaze Blaze," book chapter, 1979
- 13 14 Sheehan, Ronan, "Paradise," short story, circa 1991
- 13 15 Students' essays, University of Notre Dame
- 13 16 Tate, James, "The Crushing Rose," poem
- 13 17 Tate, James, short stories
- 13 18 Tessier, Thomas, poems
- 13 19 Unidentified author, untitled short story
- 13 20 Unidentified authors, poems

Series 3
Other papers, 1960-2013
Boxes 14-19, 21

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of financial records, printed material, research files, subject files, and photographs. Financial records include royalties and publishing contracts from 1994-2008, as well as bank statements and receipts of the Field Day Theatre Company. Printed material consists of clippings, programs, brochures, and book jackets. Much of this material documents Deane's public role as a cultural and literary critic. It consists primarily of reviews of Deane's work and critical works by Deane that appeared in venues such as the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Times*, and the *Irish Press*. There is also a substantial amount of printed material pertaining to the Field Day Theatre Company, including promotional material and theatre programs.

This series also contains Deane's research files, which consist of secondary sources and notes that Deane collected as he wrote his academic books and articles. Subject files include material related to the *Atlantis* magazine Deane founded with Derek Mahon and others, as well as public appearances and awards ceremonies. There is also a small collection of photographs, including several of Deane with Seamus Heaney.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Financial records

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|--|
| 14 | 1 | Bank statements and receipts, Field Day Theatre Company, 2003-2011 |
| 14 | 2 | Royalty statements and contracts, 1966-1996 |
| 14 | 3 | Royalty statements and contracts, 1997 |
| 14 | 4 | Royalty statements and contracts, 1998 |
| 14 | 5 | Royalty statements and contracts, 1999 |
| 14 | 6 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2000-2001 |
| 14 | 7 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2002 |
| 14 | 8 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2003 |
| 14 | 9 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2004 |
| 15 | 1 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2005 |
| 15 | 2 | Royalty statements and contracts, 2006-2008 |
| 15 | 3 | Royalty statements and contracts, Oxford University Press, 1997-2003 |
| 15 | 4 | Royalty statements and contracts, Penguin Books, 1994-2004 |

Printed material

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 15 | 5 | About Deane, 1972-1985 |
| 15 | 6 | About Deane, 1987-2005 |
| 15 | 7 | By Deane, essays and reviews, 1966-1981 |

- 15 8 By Deane, essays and reviews, 1982-2001
- 15 9 By Deane, poetry
- 15 10 By others, undated; 1977-2000
- 15 11 Bloomsday celebrations, 1999-2005
- 16 1 Field Day Theatre Company, 1987-2005
- 16 2 Field Day Theatre Company, programs [1 of 3]
- 16 3 Field Day Theatre Company, programs [2 of 3]
- 21 7 Field Day Theatre Company, programs [3 of 3]
- 16 4 General clippings and programs, 1960-2007
- 16 5 Irish theatre programs, 1966-1997
- 16 6 Nobel Prize programs and ticket, 1995
- 16 7 *Reading in the Dark*, 1996-1998 [1 of 3]
- 16 8 *Reading in the Dark*, 1996-1998 [2 of 3]
- 16 9 *Reading in the Dark*, 1996-1998 [3 of 3]
- 19 9 Reprints, 1980-2000

Research files

- 17 1 Acton, Lord (John Dalberg-Acton) [1 of 2]
- 17 2 Acton, Lord (John Dalberg-Acton) [2 of 2]
- 17 3 Acton, Lord and Edmund Burke
- 17 4 Burke, Edmund [1 of 2]
- 17 5 Burke, Edmund [2 of 2]
- 18 1 Conrad, Joseph
- 18 2 Eighteenth-century England and France [1 of 2]
- 18 3 Eighteenth-century England and France [2 of 2]
- 18 4 The Enlightenment
- 18 5 Irish Catholicism and the university
- 18 6 Irish history and literature
- 18 7 Irish literary tradition
- 18 8 Joyce, James
- 18 9 Literary criticism notes
- 18 10 Mackintosh, Sir James
- 18 11 de Maistre, Count Joseph
- 18 12 Swift, Jonathan essay materials
- 18 13 Swift, Pope, Johnson, and Addison

Subject files

- 19 1 *Atlantis*, teach-in and magazine, 1972
- 19 2 Awards shows, 1996-1997
- 19 3 Film option, *Reading in the Dark*, 1996-2002

19 4 Public appearances, 1981-2002

Photographs

19 5 Deane with Seamus Heaney, undated

19 6 Heaney, Seamus and James Tate, circa 1970s

19 7 Irish seminar participants, Notre Dame Centre, Dublin, Ireland, 2001
