

# FOSTER, R.F. (ROBERT FITZROY), 1949- R.F. Foster papers, 1966-2014

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu



## Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

---

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator:</b>	Foster, R.F. (Robert Fitzroy), 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	R.F. Foster papers, 1966-2014
<b>Call Number:</b>	Manuscript Collection No. 1434
<b>Extent:</b>	45.25 linear feet (46 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
<b>Abstract:</b>	Papers of Irish historian and biographer, Robert F. Foster, including correspondence, writings by Foster and others, and printed material
<b>Language:</b>	Materials entirely in English.

---

## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

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

Personal correspondence with Tom Paulin is restricted until October 16, 2032.

Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Source

Purchased from rare book dealer, R.A. Gekoski, 2017

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*

### **Custodial History**

The Rose Library purchased the material from rare book dealer, R.A. Gekoski, who acted as a broker for the creator of the material, R.F. Foster. R.A. Gekoski's team packed the materials and prepared them for shipment to the Rose Library.

### **Citation**

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

### **Appraisal Note**

Curator of Literary Collections, Rosemary Magee, acquired the collection as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Irish literature and poetry.

### **Processing**

Arranged and described at the box level by Leigh Schlecht, April 2018. Schlecht left materials in the original order and retained the titles provided by the creator.

---

## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

Robert Fitzroy Foster (1949-) is an Irish academic and historian. Born on January 16, 1949 in Waterford, Ireland, Foster is the son of two teachers, Betty and Ernest "Fef" Foster. Foster attended Newtown School in Waterford. He received a scholarship to study at St. Andrew's College (Dublin) for a year before reading history at Trinity College, Dublin, where he earned his master's of arts and doctorate of philosophy. He was elected a scholar in History and Political Science in 1969. Foster married novelist and critic, Aisling Foster, in 1972. They have two children.

Publishing under the name R. F. Foster, the author wrote biographies of Lord Randolph Churchill and Charles Stewart Parnell, several books of essays, the book, *Modern Ireland: 1600-1972* (1988), and edited *The Oxford History of Ireland* (1989). Foster is known for his award-winning two-part biography of William Butler Yeats, *The Apprentice Mage* and *The Arch-Poet*, which received the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Working with Fintan Cullen, Foster curated a National Portrait Gallery exhibition in London, "Conquering England: the Irish in Victorian London." In 2015, he earned the British Academy Medal for his book *Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland 1890-1923*.

Foster was a professor of Modern British History at Birkbeck, University of London (1974-1991), and was a visiting scholar at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University (New Jersey) from 1988-1989. Foster is currently the Carroll Professor of Irish History at Hertford College, Oxford (1991-).

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Irish scholar, Robert F. Foster, from 1966-2014, including correspondence, writings by both Foster and others, and printed material, including documents relating to the Irish Troubles. There is a significant amount of material relating to Foster's biography of William Butler Yeats, including correspondence with publishers and

annotated drafts of manuscripts, particularly *The Apprentice Mage* and *The Arch Poet*. Printed material includes newspaper, magazine clippings, and articles.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged first by Yeats writings and research material; Other writings; and Research materials and personal and professional papers then by titles provided by the creator.

---



---

## Container List

### Yeats writings and research material

Box	Folder	Content
17	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , material and correspondence, 1987-1995
7	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , file cards, undated
29	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , file cards, undated
23	-	<i>The Apprentice Magee</i> , drafts, undated
10	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , chapters and notes, undated
3	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , manuscript, chapters 1-12, undated
25	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , front matter through chapter 13, undated
20	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> and <i>The Arch Poet</i> , bound proofs 2002-2005
30	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> and <i>The Arch Poet</i> permissions, 1996-2003
2	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , addenda materials, 1996
28	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , typescript, 1997
4	-	<i>The Apprentice Mage</i> , notes and corrections, 1998
13	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , file card notes, undated
8	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , notes and writings, undated
17	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , notes, undated
36	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> draft with annotations, undated
40	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , chapter drafts, undated
10	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , chapters and notes, undated
5	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , chapter drafts with annotations, undated
2	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , front matter through chapter 9, 2002
18	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , manuscript, undated
37	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , typescript and related correspondence, 1998-2001
38	-	<i>The Arch Poet</i> , typescript from chapter 10 through back matter, 2000-2001
26	-	Yeats, addenda on paper and notecards, 1991-2001
44	-	Yeats addenda for chapters 5, 6, and 15, 1998-2002
11	-	Yeats, biography, corrections, 1993-2003
24	-	Yeats, first draft of biography, undated
4	-	Yeats, lectures given about, 1996-1999
34	-	Yeats, notes, circa 1989
40	-	Yeats, notes, 1995-2002
16	-	Yeats, notes and bibliography, undated

### Other writings

18	-	<i>Charles Stewart Parnell</i> , research material, circa 1966
19	-	<i>Charles Stewart Parnell</i> notes and other notes, circa 1966

- 11 - The Clark Lecture Series, undated
- 25 - *Conquering England*, draft, 2001-2004
- 1 - *Conquering England*, draft, 2004
- 16 - Drafts of other works, undated
- 6 - Essays, undated
- 43 - Essays and lectures, undated
- 32 - The Ford Lectures, University of Oxford, 2011-2012
- 31 - *The Irish Story*, typescripts, undated
- 14 - *The Irish Story*, reviews and reactions, 2001-2004
- 33 - *Lord Randolph Churchill*, correspondence and manuscript, 1981-1989
- 9 - *Lord Randolph Churchill*, typescript and notes, 1982-1996
- 1 - *Luck of the Irish*, file cards, undated
- 10 - *Luck of the Irish*, typescript, 2007
- 44 - *Modern Ireland*, planning file, 1989-1991
- 8 - *Modern Ireland*, typescript and notes, undated
- 35 - *Modern Ireland*, typescript through chapter 16, undated
- 36 - *Modern Ireland*, typescript, chapter 17 through back matter, undated
- 27 - *Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*, 1988-1989
- 39 - *Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*, notes and manuscript, 1989-1991
- 45 - *Paddy & Mr. Punch*, 1993
- 45 - Typescripts, 1989-1995
- 1 - *Vivid Faces*, draft, undated
- 6 - *Vivid Faces*, draft, 2013
- 23 - *Vivid Faces*, draft, 2013
- 35 - *Vivid Faces*, draft, 2013
- 32 - *Vivid Faces*, typescript, 2014
- 38 - *Vivid Faces*, revised proofs, 2014
- 11 - *Words Alone*, undated
- 45 - *Words Alone*, 2011
- 14 - *Words Alone*, drafts and final copy, undated
- 12 - Writings, circa 1994
- 17 - Writings, 1996-2008

### **Research materials and personal and professional papers**

- 26 - Appointment books, 1990-1994
- 11 - Barry, Sebastian, plays, 2004
- 15 - Bowen, Elizabeth notes, circa 2015
- 12 - Burial & Re-Burial, undated
- 17 - Butler, Hubert notes, 1990-1991
- 12 - Correspondence, 1992-1999

- 13 - Correspondence, 2001-2009
  - 7 - Curriculum vitae, 1997
  - 6 - Daily calendars, 1994-2015
  - 41 - Dissertation notes and lectures, undated
  - OP1 1 Foster, R.F., photographs, undated
  - 15 - Gowrie, Grey, poetry, 2010-2016
  - 5 - Moody, Theodore William and F. S. L. Lyons correspondence, 1974-1985
  - 28 - Notes, undated
  - 39 - Notes on Ireland, 1989-1990
  - 7 - Notes on manuscript collections, 1997-2001
  - 46 - Paulin, Tom, correspondence, circa 2015 [RESTRICTED]
  - 22 - Printed material, 1976-1995
  - 15 - Reviews, 1970
  - 43 - Reviews by Foster, 1970-1996
  - 35 - Reviews, 1972-1996
  - 34 - Reviews, 1992-2013
  - 21 - Reviews, 1997
  - 42 - Reviews and readings, 1997-2007
-