

# HEANEY, SEAMUS, 1939- Letters to David Hammond, 1968-2005

Emory University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Heaney, Seamus, 1939-  
**Title:** Letters to David Hammond, 1968-2005  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1019  
**Extent:** 1.75 linear ft. (4 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Letters from Irish poet Seamus Heaney to David and Eileen Hammond, as well as some photographs, printed material, and literary manuscripts.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Related Materials in This Repository

[Seamus Heaney collection](#) and [Seamus Heaney papers](#)

### Source

Purchase, 2006.

### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Seamus Heaney, Letters to David Hammond, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

### Processing

Processed by Kathy Shoemaker, June, 2007.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Seamus Heaney was born on April 13, 1939, the eldest child of nine born to a farming family in County Derry, Northern Ireland. He won a scholarship to St Columb's College, Derry, beginning

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an academic career that would lead, through Queen's University Belfast, where his first books of poems were written, to positions including Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard and the Oxford Professor of Poetry. Among his many awards are the Nobel Prize for Literature 1995 and the Whitbread prize in 1987, 1996 and 1999. He was made a Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1996.

David Hammond, folk singer, radio and film producer, was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1928. Beginning in the 1950s, Hammond worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation Northern Ireland (BBC NI) as both a broadcaster and a film-maker. Hammond, along with Seamus Heaney, Tom Paulin and Brian Friel, served as directors when the Field Day Theatre was established in 1980. In 1986, Hammond formed Flying Fox Films, an independent company based in Belfast, which is primarily concerned with the production of television documentaries about Irish history, literature and culture.

Hammond and Heaney collaborated on a number of film and radio projects for the BBC NI, including "Something to Write Home About," formerly "The Sluggan." Hammond directed "Something to Write Home About," a television documentary produced by Fox Films about Seamus Heaney which was aired by the BBC NI in 1998.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection primarily consists of letters from Seamus Heaney to David and Eileen Hammond from 1968-2005. There are approximately 50 letters and 250 postcards (a favorite form of correspondence for Heaney) from Heaney during his affiliations with the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard University, and while traveling in England and abroad. The collection also includes photographs, printed material, and literary manuscripts. The literary manuscripts include holograph drafts, corrected typescripts, and faxes or photocopies of early typescripts of published and unpublished poems, prose writings, and radio and film scripts. The draft scripts include "Something to Write Home About" and a subsequent draft text intended for publication.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Correspondence: Seamus Heaney to David and Eileen Hammond

| Box | Folder | Content   |
|-----|--------|-----------|
| 1   | 1      | 1968-1969 |
| 1   | 2      | 1970-1979 |
| 1   | 3      | 1980-1989 |
| 1   | 4      | 1990-1999 |
| 1   | 5      | 2000-2005 |
| 1   | 6      | undated   |

### Collected Poems: *Door into the Dark* (1969)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | "Victorian Guitar," holograph draft, [1967] |
|---|---|---|

### Collected Poems: *No Man's Land* [variant title: *Wintering Out* (1972)], carbon copy of early draft

|   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 2 | 2  | Title page and dedication, typescripts                              |
| 2 | 3  | "Anahorish" and "Broagh," original typescript with revision         |
| 2 | 4  | "Aubade," [variant title: "Summer Home"], typescript                |
| 2 | 5  | "Augury," typescript  |
| 2 | 6  | "Bathing," typescript [variant title: "Summer Home"]                |
| 2 | 7  | "Bye-Child," typescript   |
| 2 | 8  | "Community Relations," typescript [variant title: "The Other Side"] |
| 2 | 9  | "Dawn," typescript  |
| 2 | 10 | "Diptych: Offerings," typescript                                    |
| 2 | 11 | "Fireside," typescript  |
| 2 | 12 | "First Calf," typescript  |
| 2 | 13 | "Gifts of Rain," typescript   |
| 2 | 14 | "Good-night," typescript  |
| 2 | 15 | "Hawthorns," typescript   |
| 2 | 16 | "Home," typescript  |
| 2 | 17 | "Icon," typescript  |
| 2 | 18 | "The Last Mummer," typescript                                       |
| 2 | 19 | "Limbo," typescript   |
| 2 | 20 | "Linen Town," typescript  |
| 2 | 21 | "Maighdean Mara," typescript  |
| 2 | 22 | "May," typescript with revision                                     |
| 2 | 23 | "Midnight," typescript  |
| 2 | 24 | "Mother of the Groom," typescript                                   |

- 2 25 "A Northern Hoard," typescript includes "Roots," " *No Man's Land*," "Stump,"  
"No Sanctuary," and "Tinder"
- 2 26 "Serenades," typescript
- 2 27 "Servant Boy," typescript
- 2 28 "Shore Woman," typescript with revision
- 2 29 "The Smell," typescript
- 2 30 "The Snare," typescript
- 2 31 "Spile," typescript
- 2 32 "The Tollund Man," typescript
- 2 33 "Veteran's Dream," typescript
- 2 34 "Wedding Day," typescript
- 2 35 "Westering," typescripts
- 2 36 "A Winter's Tale," typescript
- 2 37 "The Wool Trade," typescript with revision

**Collected Poems: *North* (1975)**

- 2 38 "Exposure," typescript, signed by Seamus Heaney, December 18, 1973
- 2 39 "The Seed-Cutters," typescript with revision

**Collected Poems: *Field Work* (1979), photocopies and carbon copies of early drafts**

- 2 40 "An Afterwards," typescript
- 2 41 "The Badgers," typescripts
- 2 42 "Casualty," typescripts
- 2 43 "A Dream of Jealousy," typescript
- 2 44 "A Drink of Water," typescript
- 2 45 "Elegy," typescripts
- 2 46 "Field Work," typescripts (missing section III)
- 2 47 "Glanmore Sonnets," typescripts
- 2 48 "The Guttural Muse," typescript
- 2 49 "High Summer," typescript
- 2 50 "Homecomings," typescript
- 2 51 "In Memoriam Francis Ledwidge," typescript
- 2 52 "In Memoriam Sean O'Riada," typescript
- 2 53 "Leavings," typescript
- 2 54 "The Otter," typescript
- 2 55 "Oysters," typescript
- 2 56 "Polder," typescript
- 2 57 "A Postcard from North Antrim," typescripts
- 2 58 "September Song," typescript

- 2 59 "The Seals," [variant title: "The Singer's House"] original typescript with inscription to David and Eileen by Heaney, August 15, 1976; photocopied typescript of "The Singer's House"
- 2 60 "The Skunk," typescript
- 2 61 "Song," typescript
- 2 62 "The Strand at Lough Beg," typescript
- 2 63 "The Toome Road," typescript
- 2 64 "Triptych," includes "After a Killing," "Sibyl," "Song of Erne," [variant title: "At the Water's Edge"], typescripts
- 2 65 "Ugolino," typescripts
- 2 66 "The Wood Road," typescript

**Collected Poems: *An Open Letter* (1983)**

- 2 67 Four photocopied early typescript drafts with revisions

**Collected Poems: *Station Island* (1984)**

- 2 68 "The Loaning," typescript with inscription to David Hammond and signed by Seamus Heaney, January 3, 1981
- 2 69 "Sandstone," typescript, signed by Heaney, June 8, 1983, [variant title "Sandstone Keepsake"]
- 2 70 "An Ulster Twilight," typescript with note

**Collected Poems: *The Cure at Troy: a Version of Sophocles' Philoctetes* (1990)**

- 2 71 Early photocopied typescript draft with revisions

**Collected Poems: *Seeing Things* (1991), photocopies of early drafts**

- 2 72 "The Ash Plant," typescript with revisions
- 2 73 "Casting and Gathering," typescript draft with revisions
- 2 74 "Crossings," typescript with revisions [ *Squarings* (2003)]
- 2 75 "Glanmore Revisited," typescript
- 2 76 "The Journey Back," typescript
- 2 77 "Lightenings," typescript with revisions
- 2 78 "Man and Boy," typescripts
- 2 79 ["Offings," typescript; variant titles "Settings" and "Squarings"]
- 2 80 "A Pillowed Head," typescript with revisions
- 2 81 "The Pitchfork," typescript
- 2 82 "A Retrospect," typescript with revisions
- 2 83 "A Royal Prospect," typescript
- 2 84 "The Schoolbag," typescript
- 2 85 "Seeing Things," typescript (ie, Claritas...)
- 2 86 "The Settle Bed," typescript

- 2 87 "The Sounds of Rain," typescript  
 2 88 "Three Drawings" includes "The Point," "The Pulse," and "A Haul," photocopied typescripts  
 2 89 "Three Quatrains," includes "1939," "Pussy Willows," "The Rescue," photocopied typescripts  
 2 90 "Wheels within Wheels," typescript

**Collected Poems: *The Spirit Level* (1996), photocopies of original draft**

- 3 1 Title page, table of contents, and acknowledgements together with letter from Roxann Brown to David Hammond, 28 June 1995, typescripts  
 3 2 "An Architect," typescript  
 3 3 "A Brigid's Girdle," typescript  
 3 4 "At Banagher," typescript  
 3 5 "The Butter-Print," typescript  
 3 6 "A Call," typescript  
 3 7 "Clang and Contour," typescript  
 3 8 "The Clay Pipes," typescript  
 3 9 "Damson," typescript  
 3 10 "A Dog Was Crying To-Night in Wicklow Also," typescript  
 3 11 "To a Dutch Potter in Ireland," typescript  
 3 12 "The Errand," typescript  
 3 13 "The Flight Path," typescript  
 3 14 "Four Finger Exercise: The Thimble," typescript  
 3 15 "The Gravel Walks," typescript  
 3 16 "An Invocation," typescript  
 3 17 "Keeping Going," typescript  
 3 18 "Mint," typescript  
 3 19 "Mycenae Lookout," typescript  
 3 20 "The Poet's Chair," typescript  
 3 21 "Postscript," typescript  
 3 22 "The Rain Stick," typescript  
 3 23 "Remembered Columns," typescript  
 3 24 "Saint Kevin and the Blackbird," typescript  
 3 25 "The Sharping Stone," typescript  
 3 26 "A Sofa in the Forties," typescript  
 3 27 "Something Else," typescript  
 3 28 "The Swing," typescript  
 3 29 "Tollund," typescript  
 3 30 "A Transgression," typescript  
 3 31 "Two Lorries," typescript

- 3 32 "Two Stick Drawings," typescript  
 3 33 "The Walk," typescript  
 3 34 "Weighing In," typescript  
 3 35 "At the Wellhead," typescript  
 3 36 "Whitby-sur-Moyola," typescript

**Collected Poems: *The Door Stands Open: Czeslaw Milosz, 1911-2004 (2005)***

- 3 37 "What Passed at Colonus," with revision

**Uncollected Poems**

- 3 38 "In Bellaghy Graveyard," typescript, facsimile  
 3 39 "A Cart for Edward Gallagher," photocopy from unidentified published source  
 3 40 "From Chekov's Donegal Journal," carbon typescript with handwritten inscription to David Hammond and Eileen, July 1981  
 3 41 "Dialogues," carbon typescript with handwritten note by Seamus Heaney  
 3 42 "A Dream of Solstice," typescript facsimile, midwinter at Newgrange, 1999; [first published in *The Kenyon Review*, Winter 2001]  
 3 43 "Dream of the Trenches," with handwritten note by David Hammond, clipping from unidentified published source  
 3 44 "Frame of Mind," typescript  
 3 45 "Going Back," original typescript with note to David Hammond signed by Seamus Heaney, 26 July 1982  
 3 46 "The Lesson," photocopied typescript with handwritten inscription to David Hammond, 25 February 1998, two copies  
 3 47 "Postcards," handwritten on verso of calendar for month of December 1984  
 3 48 "The Professor of Poetry's After-Dinner Remarks Ventriloquized in the Style of Percy French's 'The Queen's After-Dinner Speech,'" typescript signed by Seamus Heaney, May 18, 1994  
 3 49 "A Shuttle for Big D., 5 October 1993," a birthday poem for David Hammond, holograph with inscription by Seamus Heaney  
 3 50 Un-titled poem with first line "There was a young man from Belfast," photocopied typescript, 2 copies

**Prose**

- 3 51 Address (includes poem) for launch of "Campaign for Queens", photocopied typescript, November 8, 2001; a campaign to provide funding for new capital, academic, and community initiatives at Queens University of Belfast  
 3 52 Biographical note for Seamus Heaney, photocopied typescript, [1984]  
 3 53 "Explorations," typescripts with Seamus Heaney's handwritten notes on broadcasts together with typing instructions from David Hammond to [Marie], 9 September 1973; a series of ten BBC radio broadcasts on literary themes with introductions by Heaney, 1973-1974

- 3 54 *The Government of the Tongue*, original draft, typescript introduction with note to David Hammond, October 1, 1987
- 3 55 *Lord of the Flies*, holograph teaching notes
- 3 56 "Mary Holland," typescript with revisions; Seamus Heaney's eulogy at Holland's funeral, June 7, 2004
- 3 57 Obituary for Stewart Parker by Seamus Heaney, typescript photocopy with revisions, November 2 1988
- 3 58 *The People of the Sea: Celtic Tales of the Seal Folk* by David Thomson (2001): Introduction by Seamus Heaney, facsimile typescript with revisions
- 3 59 Seamus Heaney's eulogy at the funeral of Paddy Falloon, June 2003, typescript
- 3 60 "The Singer's House," Seamus Heaney's review of record by David Hammond and Donal Lunny, typescript with revisions, May Day 1978
- 3 61 *A Way of Life like Any Other* by Darcy O'Brien (2001): Introduction by Seamus Heaney, facsimile typescript

### Scripts

- 3 62 Boyne Valley radio program, handwritten notes and typescript, undated
- 3 63 "I am of Irlande," original first draft, typed radio script with revisions, 1971
- 3 64 "Islandman," handwritten [radio script?] with typed insertions, undated
- 3 65 "Something to Write Home About," formerly "*The Sluggan*," television film script and proposal, drafts, notes, correspondence, 1996-2002
- 3 66 "Something to Write Home About," first and second drafts revised text prepared for publication by David Hammond, typescript, 1998
- 3 67 "Ulster in Focus: The Loughsiders," typed film script, 1972, narrated by Seamus Heaney and produced by David Hammond

### Photographs

- 4 1 Seamus Heaney, with others including children, Christmas, 1971, three color photographs
- 4 2 Seamus Heaney, with others, Christmas, 1972, two black and white photographs
- 4 3 Seamus Heaney visiting Hugh MacDiarmid and his wife Zelda with D.H. and Trevor Royle, [Southern Uplands] near [Galashiels], 1977, seven black and white photographs
- 4 4 Seamus Heaney after the release of the record *The Singer's House*, 1978, three black and white photographs
- 4 5 Seamus Heaney, and others filming in the Boyne Valley at Newgrange, autumn 1979, five color photographs
- 4 6 Seamus Heaney, after a reading in Syracuse, NY while staying with Dan Casey, 1979, five black and white photographs
- 4 7 Seamus Heaney, visiting farm with children, [1970s], five black and white photographs; photographer: Jim Bennett



- 4 8 Seamus Heaney and others at Derek Hill's Studio, McPheeter's Farm near [Garthas], Co. Donegal; Faber had commissioned Derek Hill to paint a portrait of Seamus for his 50th birthday, 1989, four color photographs
- 4 9 Seamus Heaney and David Hammond visiting Master McGrath monument near [Dungarran,] Co. Waterford, 1993, eight color photographs
- 4 10 Seamus Heaney's Nobel Prize homecoming celebration with family and friends, Roley's Bistro, Dublin, November, 1995, 26 color photographs
- 4 11 Mechanical harvesting of a peat bog, Ireland, undated, three black and white photographs; photographers: Rex Roberts Studios Ltd. and Deegan Photo Ltd., Dublin

**Printed material**

- 4 12 "In Their Element: a Programme of Poetry by Seamus Heaney & Derek Mahon," brochure for reading tour, [1977]
- 4 13 Published obituaries from various newspapers including one in Polish for the Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, August 2004
- 4 14 Cartoon from unknown published source with caption in [Hammond's] hand, undated
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