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

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Collection Stored Off-Site
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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.

Administrative Information

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

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.

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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 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.
Container List

Correspondence: Seamus Heaney to David and Eileen Hammond

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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

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| 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


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| 2  | 67 | Four photocopied early typescript drafts with revisions

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

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| 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


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

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| 2  | 73 | "Casting and Gathering," typescript draft with revisions
| 2  | 74 | "Crossings," typescript with revisions [ *Squarings* (2003)]
| 2  | 75 | "Glannmore 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
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"The Walk," typescript
"Weighing In," typescript
"At the Wellhead," typescript
"Whitby-sur-Moyola," typescript

"What Passed at Colonus," with revision

Uncollected Poems
"In Bellaghy Graveyard," typescript, facsimile
"A Cart for Edward Gallagher," photocopy from unidentified published source
"From Chekov's Donegal Journal," carbon typescript with handwritten inscription to David Hammond and Eileen, July 1981
"Dialogues," carbon typescript with handwritten note by Seamus Heaney
"Dream of the Trenches," with handwritten note by David Hammond, clipping from unidentified published source
"Frame of Mind," typescript
"Going Back," original typescript with note to David Hammond signed by Seamus Heaney, 26 July 1982
"The Lesson," photocopied typescript with handwritten inscription to David Hammond, 25 February 1998, two copies
"Postcards," handwritten typescript on verso of calendar for month of December 1984
"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
"A Shuttle for Big D., 5 October 1993," a birthday poem for David Hammond, holograph with inscription by Seamus Heaney
Un-titled poem with first line "There was a young man from Belfast," photocopied typescript, 2 copies

Prose
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
Biographical note for Seamus Heaney, photocopied typescript, 1984
"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 Fallow, 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 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
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

Seamus Heaney and David Hammond visiting Master McGrath monument near [Dungarran,] Co. Waterford, 1993, eight color photographs

Seamus Heaney's Nobel Prize homecoming celebration with family and friends, Roley's Bistro, Dublin, November, 1995, 26 color photographs

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

"In Their Element: a Programme of Poetry by Seamus Heaney & Derek Mahon," brochure for reading tour, [1977]

Published obituaries from various newspapers including one in Polish for the Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, August 2004

Cartoon from unknown published source with caption in [Hammond’s] hand, undated