

# HEANEY, SEAMUS, 1939- Seamus Heaney collection, 1972-2014

Emory University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Heaney, Seamus, 1939-  
**Title:** Seamus Heaney collection, 1972-2014  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No.653  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes), 2 oversized papers boxes and 1 oversized papers folder (OP), and AV Masters: .25 linear feet (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Collection of materials relating to Irish poet Seamus Heaney including correspondence, writings by Heaney, printed materials, and photographs.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on access

Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance for access to audiovisual materials in this collection.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Related Materials in This Repository

Ciaran Carson papers, Peter Fallon/The Gallery Press Collection, Seamus Heaney papers, Ted Hughes papers, Thomas Kinsella papers, Michael Longley papers, Derek Mahon papers, Medbh McGuckian papers, Charles Montieth papers, Paul Muldoon papers, Edna O'Brien papers, Desmond O'Grady papers, Frank Ormsby papers, Tom Paulin papers, and James Simmons papers

### Source

Collection assembled from various sources.

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**Citation**

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

**Processing**

Processed by Pat Clark, May 7, 2001.

Additions, Teresa Burk, May 30, 2003

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Seamus Heaney was born on April 13, 1939, the eldest of nine children, to Margaret and Patrick Heaney, at the family farm, Mossbawn, northwest of Belfast in County Derry. He attended the local school at Anahorish until 1957 when he enrolled at Queens College, Belfast, where he studied English. After graduation he taught English at St. Joseph's College in Belfast.

While at St. Joseph's he began to write, publishing work in university magazines under the pseudonym Incertus. During that time, he joined a poetry workshop organized by Philip Hobsbaum. In 1965, in connection with the Belfast Festival, he published *Eleven Poems*, and in August of that year he married Marie Devlin. The following year he became a lecturer in modern English literature at Queens College; his first son, Michael, was born; and Faber and Faber published *Death of a Naturalist*. This collection earned him the Eric Gregory Award, the Cholmondeley Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. Marie and Seamus Heaney's second son, Christopher, was born in 1968.

*Door Into the Dark*, published in 1969, was a Poetry Book Society Choice for the year. In 1970-1971, Heaney was guest lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley. He returned to Northern Ireland in 1971, and in 1972 he resigned his lectureship at Queens College, moved his family to Glanmore, in County Wicklow, and published *Wintering Out*. In 1973 his daughter Catherine Ann was born. During this year he also received the Denis Devlin Award and the Writer in Residence Award from the American Irish Foundation. In 1975 *North* was published, winning the E.M. Forster Award and the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize. During these years at Glanmore, Heaney also gave many readings in the United States and England and edited two poetry anthologies.

In 1975 Heaney began teaching at Carysfort College in Dublin, and in 1976 he and his family moved to Sandymount in the city. In 1979 Heaney published *Field Work* and in 1980 *Selected Poems* and *Preoccupations*. In 1981 he gave up his position at Carysfort to become visiting professor at Harvard. In 1982 he won the Bennett Award and Queens University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters. He co-founded Field Day company with the playwright Brian Friel and others in 1983. *Station Island*, his first collection in five years, was published in 1984. During that year he was elected Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard. That same year his mother died.

In 1988 Seamus Heaney visited Emory University where he inaugurated the Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature. These lectures were collected and published as *The Place of Writing* in 1989. In 1991 Heaney published a new collection *Seeing Things*, followed by the

*Redress of Poetry* in 1995. In the fall of that year, Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of materials relating to Seamus Heaney from 1972-2014 including, writings by Heaney, printed materials, photographs and correspondence. The manuscript writings in the collection include multiple drafts of "Fosterage," a two-page typescript on Michael McLaverty (published as an introduction to McLaverty's *Collected Stories* in 1978), a manuscript of a talk on Wordsworth's *Prelude* which Heaney wrote for Irish radio around 1974, and settings copies of the poems "Bog Queen," "Punishment," "The Grauballe Man," and "Kinship," with editor's markings and corrections in Heaney's hand. There is also a manuscript of a poem "For Daisy," written on the occasion of Daisy Garnett's christening. Heaney gave the keynote address during Emory University's 2003 commencement and a typescript draft with revisions in his hand is also included in this section.

The collection also includes printed promotional posters, programs, a small group of photographs, and a DVD of an interview with Heaney.

The restricted correspondence consists of letters from Seamus Heaney to Sebastian Barker from 1981-1991 and relate to proposed readings, an essay Heaney was writing on Patrick Kavanagh, and Barker's proposal that Heaney serve as President of the Poetry Society. Additional correspondence with Mrs. Parker (1976) and "Robert" (1978) relate to items found in the writing series of this collection and the J. Howard Woolmer correspondence relates to the publication of *Stern*, a poem in memory of Ted Hughes.

### **Arrangement Note**

Organized into five series: (1) Writings by Seamus Heaney, (2) Printed material and memorabilia, (3) Photographs, (4) Restricted correspondence, and (5) Audiovisual materials.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Writings by Seamus Heaney](#)

[Series 2: Printed material and memorabilia](#)

[Series 3: Photographs](#)

[Series 4: Correspondence](#)

[Series 5: Audiovisual material](#)

**Series 1**  
**Writings by Seamus Heaney**  
**Box 1**

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	"For Daisy Garnett," holograph manuscript, 2pp. Poem written for the christening of Polly Devlin's (Garnett) daughter Daisy Garnett. [See also Series 3, Photographs: "Polly Garnett and three children," and Series 4, Restricted correspondence: "Mrs. Parker"]
1	2	Four Poems: "Bog Queen," "Punishment," "The Grauballe Man," "Kinship," setting copy with editor's markings and corrections in Heaney's hand, 7 pp.
1	3	"Fosterage" [variant titles "Stylist," "To Michael McLaverty," and "Friendship's Garland"], multiple holograph and typescript drafts, 10 pp. [See also Series 4, Restricted correspondence: "Robert"]
1	31	"Glanmore Sonnets," hologram and multiple annotated typescripts
1	32	<i>Human Chain</i> , "Not the One Who Takes up his Bed and Walks," holograph and printed photocopy, "The Baler," printed photocopy.
1	4	"Introduction" [from Michael McLaverty's <i>Collected Stories</i> ], photocopied typescript, 2 pp.
1	5	<i>James Joyce Quarterly</i> , Spring 1974, corrected guest editor's galley proofs.
1	6	<i>James Joyce Quarterly</i> , Spring 1974, revised page proofs.
1	7	"Leavings," typescript with corrections in Heaney's hand
1	8	"The Placeless Heaven: Another Look at Kavanagh," 13 pp. photocopy typescript, Series 4, Restricted correspondence: Sebastian Barker, 26 March 1987]
1	33	"Poet to Blacksmith," annotated typescript
1	9	"The Prelude" [on William Wordsworth], holograph manuscript, 11 pp. with 8 pp. of typed quotations from "The Prelude"
1	34	"Sonnets from Hellas," multiple holograms
1	10	"Strange Fruit," multiple holograph and typescript drafts, 12 pp

**Speeches/Addresses**

1	11	Commencement Address, University of Pennsylvania, 30 May 2000, reprint in <i>University of Pennsylvania Almanac</i>
1	12	Commencement Keynote Address, Emory University, 12 May 2003, TS with corrections, 9pp. [also includes signed copy of Commencement program]

**Series 2**  
**Printed material and memorabilia**  
**Box 1; OP1-3 and 5-15**

**Art**

Box	Folder	Content
OP1	4	Wilson, Ross, "Study of Seamus Heaney, Harvard," Boston, 1994

**Book Covers**

1	13	<i>Keeping Going</i> , cover for collection of poems to be published in 1993
1	27	<i>Laments</i> by Jan Kochanowski and translated by Seamus Heaney and Stanisław Barańczak [also includes publisher information sheet], 1995

**Postcards**

1	14	Irish Nobel Prizewinners for Literature, Seamus Heaney featuring "The Railway Children"
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**Posters**

OP2	-	<i>Beowulf</i> , promotional poster for Faber and Faber
OP1	1	<i>The Cure at Troy</i> , promotional poster for the Abbey Theatre production
OP2	-	<i>Know the Sign of a Poet</i> , promotional poster for Faber and Faber poetry books, printed signatures of 34 poets, including Seamus Heaney
OP2	-	Seamus Heaney, Faber and Faber promotional poster for Heaney's Nobel Prize for literature 1995 and Whitbread Book of the Year for <i>The Spirit Level</i> [2 copies]
OP1	1	Seamus Heaney, Nobel Prize promotional poster, 1995
OP2	-	<i>Stations</i> , promotional poster for Ulster Youth Theatre performance at Saranmilis College based on <i>Station Island</i> by Seamus Heaney, 7-11 November [19??]
OP1	1	<i>The Spirit Level</i> , promotional poster for Faber and Faber edition
OP2	-	<i>Sweeney's Flight</i> , promotional poster for photographic exhibition, Rachel Giese, photographer with descriptive captions by Seamus Heaney, n.d.

**Programs**

1	15	<i>The Burial at Thebes</i> , program for Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company production, 2007
1	16	<i>The Cure at Troy</i> , program for Harvard Repertory Theatre production, n.d. Includes "Sweet Talk and Miracles: notes on <i>The Cure at Troy</i> ," by Heaney
1	17	"Love and War" reading to benefit the Arvon Foundation, program, 2 March 1997
1	18	"The Poet and the Piper," concert program for Belfast Waterfront Hall, 10 November 2001 [Seamus Heaney, Liam O'Flynn and the works of John B. Valley]

**Promotional**

2 22 *Artists/Heaney/Books: An Exhibition*,, catalog, 1997

**Prospectuses**

OP1 2 *Squarings*, prospectus, The Arion Press, 2003 [with envelope]

**Articles**

OP1 2 "Bags of Enlightenment," [Partners in Poetry: Heaney on Hughes], *The Guardian*, Review section, 25 October 2003

OP1 3 "Heaney Discusses Irish Literary Tradition," interview by Jack Stewart, *The Voice*, 15 February 1989

1 34 "Private memories, public traces: a tribute to Seamus Heaney" by Fintan O'Toole, *The Irish Times*, 8 March 2014

OP1 2 "Seamus Heaney toi Nobelin Eurooppaan," *Helsingin Sanomat*, Kulttuuri section, 6 October 1995

**Promotional material**

1 29 *Electric Light*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000

1 30 *The Spirit Level*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996

**Other printed material**

1 35 Appraisal of Richard Ellam library and archive, Bertram Rota Ltd. Booksellers, 8 April 1987

1 28 *District and Circle*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux letter to reviewers, 2006

OP1 3 "On the Gift of a Fountain Pen," The Beall Poetry Festival broadside, 4 March, 2013

2 23 Clippings about Heaney, 1995-2014

OP1 5 Clippings about Heaney, 2007

**Memorabilia**

OP3 1 Rucksack, no date

**Series 3**  
**Photographs**  
**Box 1; OP1**

**Heaney alone**

Box	Folder	Content
1	19	Seamus Heaney at Harvard, Fall 1983, 6 black and white photographs
1	20	Seamus Heaney at home of Ron Schuchard, 1988, 2 photographs
OP1	1	Seamus Heaney, large black and white photograph, n.d
1	37	Seamus Heaney, portraits by Norman McBeath, 1997 and 2001 [includes notes from the photographer]

**Heaney with others**

-	-	Seamus Heaney and Ted Walker, color photograph, 12 August 1972. Pasted on verso of half-title of <i>Death of a Naturalist</i> [PR6058.E2 D401 1969]
1	21	Richard Ellmann and Seamus Heaney at the Hill of Howth, [1982], 4 color photographs
1	22	Seamus Heaney with Marie Heaney in the background at the Poetry Library, London, 1990, 1 black and white photograph by John Minihan
1	23	Seamus Heaney with Bernard O'Donoghue outside Kenny's Bookshop, Galway, Ireland, 1998, 1 black and white photograph by John Minihan
1	24	Seamus Heaney and Joseph Brodsky, n.d., 1 color photograph by John Minihan
1	25	Seamus Heaney at dedication of Gerard Manley Hopkins memorial, three black and white photographs by Bill Storey, n.d.
1	36	Seamus Heaney with Marie Heaney, Emory President Bill Chace and family at Lullwater, no date

**Others**

1	26	Polly Devlin (Garnett) and her 3 children on the occasion of her daughter Daisy's christening, color photograph, n.d. [See also Series 4, Restricted Correspondence: "Mrs. Parker" and Series 1: Writings: "For Daisy Garnett"]
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**Series 4**  
**Correspondence**  
**Box 2**

**Sebastian Barker**

Box	Folder	Content
2	1	SH to Sebastian Barker, 19 February 1981, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
2	2	SH to Sebastian Barker, 19 July 1982, ALS, 1 p.
2	3	SH to Sebastian Barker, 24 February 1985, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
2	4	SH to Sebastian Barker, [25 January 1987], ACS
2	5	SH to Sebastian Barker, 26 March 1987, TLS, 1 p. [See also Series 1, Writings: "The Placeless Heaven: Another Look at Kavanagh"]
2	6	SH to Sebastian Barker, [16 April 1990], ACS
2	7	SH to Sebastian Barker, 6 December 1991, TLS, 1 p. with envelope

**Blackshaw, Basil, and Helen Falloon**

2	21	SH and MH to Basil Blackshaw and Helen Falloon, 2006-2015
2	20	Invitations to events honoring SH, 1995-2009

**Audrey C. Davies**

2	16	SH to Audrey C. Davies, 19 August 1993
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**Gabriel Fitzmaurice**

2	18	Correspondence between Fitzmaurice and Marie Heaney, circa 1988-2013 Includes draft of Fitzmaurice's contribution to <i>Sources: Letters From Irish People On Sustenance For The Soul</i> (1999).
2	19	Correspondence between Fitzmaurice and Seamus Heaney, circa 1984-2013 Includes drafts of Heaney's translations of "The Clay Pipes" (1992), "Lament" (1992), "Will Travel" (1992), "Exile's Return" (1992), "Silence" (1992) and "The Yellow Bittern" (1999).

**Nickie Hayden**

2	17	SH to Nickie Hayden, 23 January 2006 [See also Series 1, Writings: <i>Human Chain</i> , "Not the One Who Takes up his Bed and Walks," holograph and printed photocopy, "The Baler," printed photocopy]
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**Mrs. Parker**

2	8	SH to Mrs. Parker, 26 November 1976, ALS, 1 p. [See also Series 1, Writings: "For Daisy Garnett" and Series 3: Photographs: "Polly Devlin (Garnet)"]
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**Rolando Pieraccini**

2	9	SH to Rolando Pieraccini, 28 March 1989, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
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- 2 10 SH to Rolando Pieraccini, 20 June 1989, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
- 2 11 SH to Rolando Pieraccini, 16 January 1990, ALS, 1 p. with envelope
- 2 11 SH to Rolando Pieraccini, 20 January 1990, TLS, 1 p.
- 2 13 SH to Rolando Pieraccini, 27 February 1990, TLS, 1 p. with envelope

**"Robert"**

- 2 14 SH to "Robert", 30 May 1978, ALS, 1 p. [See also Series 3, Writings:  
"Fosterage"]

**J. Howard Woolmer [regarding publication of *Stern*, a poem in memory of Ted Hughes]**

- 2 15 20 October 2004-8 January 2005

**Series 5**  
**Audiovisual material**  
**Box 3**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
AV1	-	Heaney, Seamus, interviewed by Rosemary Magee, August 2008 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id f790v]
AV1	-	"Joyce, Yeats and Wilde: Seamus Heaney and Richard Ellmann in Conversation," Radio Telefis Eireann, [VHS] July 15, 1988 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pq0pw]
AV1	-	"Meditations in Time of Civil War," by W.B. Yeats, read by Richard Murphy with a discussion of the poem at Thoor Ballylee by Dr. Augustine Martin, [U- matic] December 8, 1985 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pq0s9]
AV1	-	"Quis Est Deus?: Bridges of the Spirit" [includes interview with Seamus Heaney], [DVD] January 2006 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pq0q1]

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