

# **KIELY, BENEDICT.**

## **Benedict Kiely collection, 1979-1991**

Emory University  
Robert W. Woodruff Library  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Kiely, Benedict.  
**Title:** Benedict Kiely collection, 1979-1991  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 725  
**Extent:** .5 linear ft. (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Collection of materials relating to Irish author Benedict Kiely including book plates, correspondence, notes, a photograph, and printed material.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Photocopying of all or parts of "A Former Cracker Set Loose Upon the Wilds of Ireland Or How I Finally Met Up With Ben Kiely" by Edwin C. Epps is restricted without written permission of the author.

#### **Related Materials in Other Repositories**

Benedict Kiely papers, National Library of Ireland

#### **Source**

Purchase, 1992 with subsequent additions.

#### **Citation**

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

#### **Processing**

Arranged and described at the folder level by Sarah Quigley, August 2016.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Benedict Kiely (1919-2007), Irish novelist and short story writer, was born on August 15, 1919 in Dromore, County Tyrone, Ireland. He attended Christian Brothers' schools in Omagh and graduated with honors from the University of Ireland, Dublin, in 1943. He was a journalist in Dublin from 1939-1964, including several years as literary editor of the Irish Press. Following his career as a journalist, Kiely taught at several American universities including Hollins College, Virginia (1964-1965); the University of Oregon, Eugene (1965-1966); Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia (1966-1968); the University at Buffalo, New York (1968); and the University of Delaware, Newark (1976).

Kiely published eleven novels including *Land Without Stars* (1946), *Proxopera* (1977), and *The Trout in the Turnhole* (1995), in addition to numerous short stories and works of nonfiction. Much of his work explores the effects of Irish history and traditions on individuals and families. Kiely won both the American-Irish Foundation award and the Irish Academy of Letters award in 1980, and in 1996 Aosdána elected him a Saoi in recognition of his significant literary achievements. He also served as a member of the Council and President of the Irish Academy of Letters, of which he became a member in 1970.

Kiely married Maureen O'Connell in 1944 and the couple had four children: Mary, Anne, John, and Emer. He married Frances Daly in the early 1960s. Kiely died in 2007.

### Scope and Content Note

The Benedict Kiely collection consists of book plates, correspondence, notes, a photograph, and printed material from 1961-1995. Correspondence primarily contains letters from Kiely to his wife, Frances Daly, while he was teaching at Hollins College, the University at Buffalo, and the University of Delaware. There are additional letters from various publishers to Kiely, and a small amount of correspondence between Kiely and Edwin C. Epps (a student of Kiely's at Emory University). One letter to Epps from Kiely includes an annotated typescript of Epps' article, "A Former Cracker Set Loose Upon the Wilds of Ireland Or How I Finally Met Up With Ben Kiely."

The collection also includes notes to Frances Daly from Kiely; these are short messages usually informing her that he was out running errands. The photograph is of Kiely and two veterans of World War I, and the printed material in the collection contains a program for The Manuscript Society's annual meeting in 1991, a 1979 interview with Kiely, and a news release and review for *Nothing Happens in Carmincross*.

### Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

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**Container list**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Book plates, inscribed "For Edwin Epps, Ben Kiley, July 1981"
1	2	Correspondence between Kiely and Edwin Epps, circa 1985-1987
1	3	Correspondence from Kiely to Frances Daly (Kiely), 1964
1	4	Correspondence from Kiely to Frances Daly (Kiely), 1968
1	5	Correspondence from Kiely to Frances Daly (Kiely), 1976
1	6	Correspondence from Kiely to Kevin Sullivan, circa 1961-1986
1	7	Correspondence from others to Edwin Epps (about Kiely), 1981-1989
1	8	Correspondence from others to Frances Daly (Kiely), 1994-1995
1	9	Correspondence from publishers to Kiely, circa 1984-1986
1	10	Notes given by Kiely to Frances Daly (Kiely), undated
1	11	Photograph of Kiely with Peter MacBride and Timothy Sugrue, undated
1	12	Printed material about Kiely, 1979-1991

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