

# MAHON, DEREK, 1941- Derek Mahon collection, 1985-1988, 1991, 2000

Emory University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Mahon, Derek, 1941-  
**Title:** Derek Mahon collection, 1985-1988, 1991, 2000  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1020  
**Extent:** .50 linear ft. (2 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Small collection of materials relating to Irish poet Derek Mahon which includes correspondence, literary manuscripts, and some printed material.  
**Language:** Materials primarily in English, with some materials in French and Italian.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Related Materials in This Repository

[Derek Mahon papers](#); [Derek Mahon, Letters to Louis Asekoff](#); [Michael Longley papers](#); [Peter Fallon/Gallery Press collection](#); and [Medbh McGuckian papers](#).

### Source

Gfit, 2004.

### Custodial History

Originally received as part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library.

### Citation

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

### Processing

Processed by Jennifer Brady, June 2006.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Derek Mahon was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on November 23, 1941. He was educated at the Belfast Royal Academical Institution and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he majored in French (1960-1965). In 1960 he began publishing poems in *Icarus*, a student literary magazine, and his first collection of poems, the chapbook *Twelve Poems*, was published five years later by Queens University. Oxford University Press published his first major collection, *Night Crossing*, in 1968. In addition to his role as poet, Mahon has worked as a free-lance journalist, served as drama critic for the *Listener* (1971-1972) and features editor for *Vogue* (1974-1975), contributed reviews to the *Observer*, the *Listener*, *New Statesman*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*, and written adaptations for television for the BBC.

### Scope and Content Note

The Derek Mahon collection documents Mahon's work from 1985-1988. The collection includes correspondence, literary manuscripts, and some printed material. Among his literary manuscripts are drafts of both published and unpublished poems, work on his volume of poems *Antarctica* (1985), scripts and screenplays, and journalistic writing. In addition, this collection documents Mahon's work translating the poems of Philippe Jaccottet, which were collected under the title *Selected Poems* and published in 1988. Also present in this collection is some correspondence with other literary figures, including Michael and Edna Longley and Medbh McGuckian. Additionally, the collection includes correspondence and printed material relating to Mahon's six-month appointment in 1986 as the first writer in residence at Trinity College, Dublin.

### Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Correspondence

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	1985-1988, 2000
1	2	Undated

### Printed Material about Derek Mahon

1	3	1985-1991
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### Writings by Derek Mahon - Poetry

1	4	"Achill," MS
1	5	"After Pasternak," TS
1	6	"After Rain," MS and TS
1	7	"Aisling," MS and TS [variant title: "All the Flowers of the Mountain"]
1	8	<i>Antarctica</i> , TS and proof
1	9	"A Blackbird," TS
1	10	"Dawn at St. Patrick's," MS and TS
1	11	"Day and Night," TS
1	12	"From <i>Gramsci's Ashes</i> ," MS and TS
1	13	"Looking for Radio 3," TS
1	14	"Lovers Wake to Differences," TS
1	15	"The Morning Star," MS and TS [variant title: "A Political Prisoner"]
1	16	"Night and Day," MS and TS
1	17	"Orpheus Ascending," TS
1	18	"Paranoia," TS
1	19	"Portovenere," TS
1	20	"The Race," TS
1	21	"A Silent House," MS and TS [variant title: "Rincurran Cottage"]
1	22	"Towards the Light," TS
1	23	"Western Spring," MS and TS
1	24	Unidentified, MS

### Writings by Derek Mahon - Prose

1	25	"A Chance for Restitution" [review of <i>The Elgin Marbles</i> , by Christopher Hitchens], TS
1	26	"Modernist Poets," TS
1	27	"New York Diary," TS
1	28	"Splendid Isolation," proof
1	29	"The Unselfish Giant" [review of <i>Oscar Wilde</i> , by Richard Ellmann], TS

- 1 30 "Word and Image" [review of *Portraits of Poets*, by Christopher and Sebastian Barker], TS
- 1 31 Untitled [review of *Across a Roaring Hill*, edited by Gerald Dawe and Edna Longley; *Celtic Revivals*, by Seamus Deane; *Lady Gregory*, by Mary Lou Kohlfeld], TS
- 1 32 Untitled [ *Vogue* piece on English poets], MS and TS
- 1 33 Untitled [ *Vogue* piece on French literary scene], MS and TS

### Writings by Derek Mahon - Scripts and Screenplays

- 1 34 *High Times*, proofs (2)
- 1 35 "The Marquise of O," MS and TS
- 1 36 *School for Wives*, TS
- 1 37 *School for Wives*, TS
- 1 38 *The Temptation of Eileen Hughes*, MS and TS
- 2 1 *The Temptation of Eileen Hughes*, TS and related material

### Writings by Derek Mahon - Translations

- 2 2 *Mirlitonades* by Samuel Beckett, MS and TS
- 2 3 *Selected Poems*, by Philippe Jaccottet, MS and TS
- 2 4 *Selected Poems*, by Philippe Jaccottet, TS
- 2 5 *Selected Poems*, by Philippe Jaccottet, TS
- 2 6 *Selected Poems*, by Philippe Jaccottet, TS
- 2 7 From *Songs from Below*, by Philippe Jaccottet, TS

### Writings by Derek Mahon - Translations of Derek Mahon's Writing

- 2 8 "Ragazze Sui Ponte" [Girls on the Bridge], "Achill," "Cortili du Delft" [Courtyards in Delft], "Un Capanno Abbandonato Nella Contea di Wexford" [A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford], translated by Giovanni Pillonca, TS
- 2 9 "Image Tirée de Beckett" [An Image from Beckett], "L'Invitation à la Neige" [The Snow Party], "Le Rameau d'Or" [Thammuz], "Le Dernier Roi du Feu" [The Last of the Fire Kings], translated by Denis Rigal, TS

### Writings by Others

- 2 10 Goodman, Paul, "The Lordly Hudson," MS
- 2 11 Kinsella, Thomas (trans.), *An Duanaire 1600-1900: Poems of the Dispossessed*, selected by Sean O'Tuama, MS and TS
- 2 12 Shakespeare, William, *The Winter's Tale*, MS
- 2 13 Unknown author, "In the dips of this mountain...," TS
- 2 14 Unknown author, "Knappogue Songs," TS
- 2 15 Unknown author, "Wild Mountain Thyme," MS