

# O'DRISCOLL, DENNIS.

## Dennis O'Driscoll, 1978-2012

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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### Collection Stored Off-Site

All or portions of this collection are housed off-site. Materials can still be requested but researchers should expect a delay of up to two business days for retrieval.

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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** O'Driscoll, Dennis.  
**Title:** Dennis O'Driscoll, 1978-2012  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1420  
**Extent:** 67.5 linear feet (68 boxes) and Born Digital (BD): 0.5 linear feet (1 box).  
**Abstract:** Papers of Irish poet, Dennis O'Driscoll, including correspondence, his writings, writings by others, printed material, and subject files from 1978-2012.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

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

Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.

Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance for access to unprocessed born digital materials in this collection. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to unprocessed born digital materials.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*

**Separated Material**

The Rose Library also holds books and periodicals formerly owned by Dennis O'Driscoll. These materials may be located in Emory University's online catalog by searching for: O'Driscoll, Dennis, former owner.

**Related Materials in This Repository**

Seamus Heaney papers, MSS 960

**Source**

Purchased from Julie O'Callaghan, 2017

**Custodial History**

The Rose Library purchased the material from Julie O'Callaghan, Dennis O'Driscoll's widow and literary executrix. The materials were packed at O'Callaghan's residence in Ireland by book dealer, Maggs Bros. Ltd., prior to being shipped to the Rose Library.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Dennis O'Driscoll papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Acquired by Rose Library Director Rosemary Magee in her capacity as Curator of Literary and Poetry Collections as part of the Rose Library's holdings in Irish literature and poetry. During accessioning in 2018, Rose Library staff removed and shredded name badges from conferences, an A-B USB cable, and a pen. Appraisal decisions were made by Accessioning and Collections Manager, Meaghan O'Riordan, in consultation with Rosemary Magee.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the box level by Meaghan O'Riordan, February 2018. O'Riordan created the container titles, except where noted in brackets in the container list, as well as retained the original folders, when present. O'Riordan left unfolded material in that state. O'Riordan also left most of the materials in the original order received, as prepared by Maggs Bros. Ltd., with minimal rearrangement.

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

Dennis O'Driscoll (1954-2012) was an Irish poet, essayist, critic, and editor. He was born on January 1, 1954, in Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland. He was the son of James O'Driscoll and Catherine Lahart and had five siblings. He was educated by the Congregation of Christian Brothers before studying law at the University College in Dublin from 1972-1975. University College awarded him an honorary doctorate in literature in 2009.

O'Driscoll worked for the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Ireland's internal revenue and customs service, for over thirty years, beginning his civil service at the age of 16. He wrote while retaining his position with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, regarding himself as a

civil servant first and a writer or a poet second. He also served on the council of the Irish United Nations Association from 1975-1980.

Before he began publishing his own poetry, O'Driscoll was widely known as an essayist and poetry reviewer for publications such as *Hibernia*, *The Crane Bag*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He wrote nine books of poetry, three chapbooks, and two collections of essays and reviews. His best-known poem is "Someone."

O'Driscoll also served as editor of *Poetry Ireland Review* and two textbook anthologies entitled *The Bloodaxe Book of Poetry* (2006) and *Quote Poet Unquote* (2008). He also published a collection of literary criticism entitled *Troubled Thoughts, Majestic Dreams*, published by Peter Fallon's Gallery Press in 2001. He is, perhaps, best known for his biography of Seamus Heaney, *Stepping Stones: Interviews with Seamus Heaney*, published in 2008, which is a collection of interviews meant to trace Heaney's life through conversation and elucidate the creative process.

O'Driscoll's awards included the Lannan Literary Award (1999), E.M. Forster Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and Argosy Irish Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. O'Driscoll also judged many major awards, including the Griffin Poetry Prizes, T.S. Eliot Prize, Cholmondeley Awards (Society of Authors), and Geoffrey Faber Award.

O'Driscoll married Julie O'Callaghan, a writer, in September 1985. He moved to Naas, County Kildare, in 1997 and lived there until his sudden death on December 24, 2012.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Irish poet, Dennis O'Driscoll, and contains correspondence, his writings, writings by others, printed material, and subject files from 1978-2012. Most of the correspondence is organized into folders and labeled with the name of the correspondent. His writings are organized into folders and labeled with the title of the work. There is a significant amount of material reflecting O'Driscoll's professional relationship with Seamus Heaney, including correspondence and annotated drafts of manuscripts, particularly those of O'Driscoll's biography of Heaney, *Stepping Stones*. Boxes identified as containing printed material generally contain loose printed material, including newspaper and magazine clippings and articles printed from the Internet that are not organized in a distinct way or by an obvious method. Most of the subject files also contain mainly printed material, but these are organized by people's names. Material in both subject files and printed material reflects O'Driscoll's work or documents the activities of O'Driscoll and writers in his circle.

### **Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	-	Correspondence, Les Murray, Wendy Cope, and Michael Hamburger, circa 1988-2004
2	-	Correspondence, Thomas Kinsella, R.S. Thomas, Charles Simic, David Sweetman, Peter Russell, Czeslaw Milosz, J.M. Coetzee, H.M. Enzensberger, and others, 1981-2010
3	-	Correspondence, 1978-1995
4	-	Correspondence, Seamus Heaney, 1987-2011 [1]
5	-	Correspondence, Seamus Heaney, 1987-2011 [2]
6	-	Annotated writings and correspondence between Seamus Heaney and Dennis O'Driscoll, 2003-2007 [1]
7	-	Annotated writings and correspondence between Seamus Heaney and Dennis O'Driscoll, 2003-2007 [2]
7	-	Annotated writings and correspondence between Dennis O'Driscoll and Richard Murphy, G.M. Brown, and Pat Scott, circa 1983-1991
8	-	Stepping Stones drafts annotated by Seamus Heaney, circa 2007
9	-	Stepping Stones drafts annotated by Seamus Heaney, circa 2004-2005
9	-	Seamus Heaney: A Life Reviewed, correspondence [title supplied by creator], circa 2004-2005
9	-	Questions drafted by Dennis O'Driscoll and sent for response to Seamus Heaney [title supplied by creator], circa 2004-2005
9	-	Seamus Heaney, interviews and profiles [title supplied by creator], circa 2004-2005
9	-	Seamus Heaney & Politics [title supplied by creator], circa 2004-2005
10	-	W.B. Yeats, including Seamus Heaney on W.B. Yeats [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Heaney Translation [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Seamus Heaney Interview [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Seamus Heaney Bibliography, Dialect Words Glossary [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Heaney Beowulf [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Stepping Stones Cuttings and Correspondence [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Seamus Heaney Direct & Circle [title supplied by creator], circa 2002-2009
10	-	Annotated writings and correspondence between Seamus Heaney and Dennis O'Driscoll, circa 2002-2009
11	-	Writings, circa 1997-2012
12	-	Writings by others, including Seamus Heaney, circa 1997-2011
13	-	Writings, circa 1990-2011

- 14 - Writings, circa 1992-2008
- 15 - Writings, circa 1987-1999
- 16 - Writings, circa 1995-2001
- 17 - Writings and correspondence, circa 2005
- 18 - Writings, circa 2004-2006 [1]
- 19 - Writings, circa 2004-2006 [2]
- 20 - Writings, undated
- 21 - Writings, circa 1999-2007
- 22 - Writings, circa 2002-2003
- 23 - Writings, undated
- 24 - Correspondence, circa 1987-2006
- 25 - Printed material and notes, circa 2006-2008
- 26 - Printed material, circa 1995-2011
- 27 - Printed material and Asodána materials, circa 1997-2006
- 28 - Printed material, circa 1997-2010
- 29 - Printed material, some filed by subject, and writings, circa 1990-2003
- 30 - Printed material filed by subject, circa 2001-2012
- 31 - Printed material filed by subject, circa 2002-2009
- 32 - Printed material filed by subject, circa 2001-2010
- 33 - Subject files, circa 2005-2009
- 34 - Subject files, circa 1978-2000
- 35 - Subject files and printed material, circa 1981-2002
- 36 - Subject files, circa 1999-2012
- 37 - Subject files, circa 2007-2012
- 38 - Subject files, circa 2001-2005
- 39 - Subject files, circa 1999-2000
- 40 - Subject files, circa 2002-2012
- 41 - Subject files, circa 1999-2011
- 42 - Subject files, circa 1994-2008
- 43 - Subject files, circa 1984-2009
- 44 - Subject files, circa 2003-2011
- 45 - Subject files, circa 1999-2012
- 46 - Subject files, circa 2001-2012
- 47 - Subject files, circa 2005-2012
- 48 - Subject files, circa 1984-2011
- 49 - Subject files, circa 1988-1995
- 50 - Subject files, circa 2002-2011
- 51 - Subject files and printed material, circa 2001-2011
- 52 - Subject files and printed material, circa 2003-2006

- 53 - Printed material, circa 1993-2008
  - 54 - Printed material, circa 1996-2011
  - 55 - Printed material, circa 1996-2009
  - 56 - Printed material, circa 1991-2012
  - 57 - Correspondence and printed material, including two carbon rolls of fax paper,  
circa 1998-2010
  - 58 - Correspondence and printed material, circa 1989-2011
  - 59 - Printed material, circa 1981-1997
  - 59 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 1997-2001
  - 60 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 1980-2009
  - 61 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 1989-2004
  - 62 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 2005-2009
  - 63 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 1980-2008
  - 64 - Correspondence sorted by person, circa 2000-2007
  - 64 - Printed material, circa 1998-2000
  - 65 - Printed material, circa 1975-2008
  - 65 - Subject files, circa 2001
  - 66 - Printed material, circa 1996-2010
  - 67 - Subject files, circa 1987-2004
  - 68 - Bound manuscripts reviewed by O'Driscoll, circa 1997-2010
  - BD1 - Unprocessed born digital, circa 2002-200
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