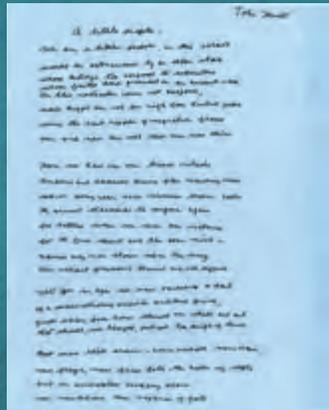
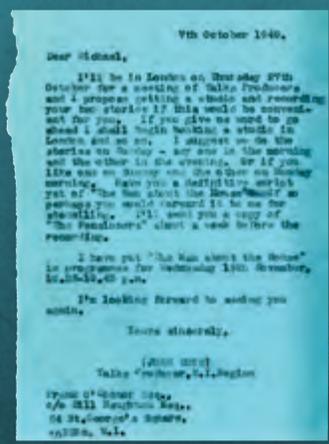


Alongside this the Archive features a short excerpt from 'Hopdance', an unpublished novel by Stewart Parker (1941 -1988). Here we see the talent behind 'Pentecost' and 'Northern Star' employ the lyrical language of those plays for a biographical account of his Belfast childhood.



The Archive also features two poems by John Hewitt (1907 -1987), 'A Little People' and 'A Mortal Place'. These poems were written a year before his death and, again, reflect on the violence besetting the country and the desperate search for some kind of way forward.



The letters of John Boyd (1919 -2013), working in his professional role as a BBC Producer, see him liaising with a host of writers including Michael McLaverty, Frank O'Connor, St. John Ervine and T.S. Moody.



## Northern Ireland Literary Archive

Together, the manuscripts form an important part of literature from Northern Ireland, and the Digital Archive will bring this work to an even wider audience.

[www.niliteraryarchive.com](http://www.niliteraryarchive.com)



**DfC**  
Department for Communities  
[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

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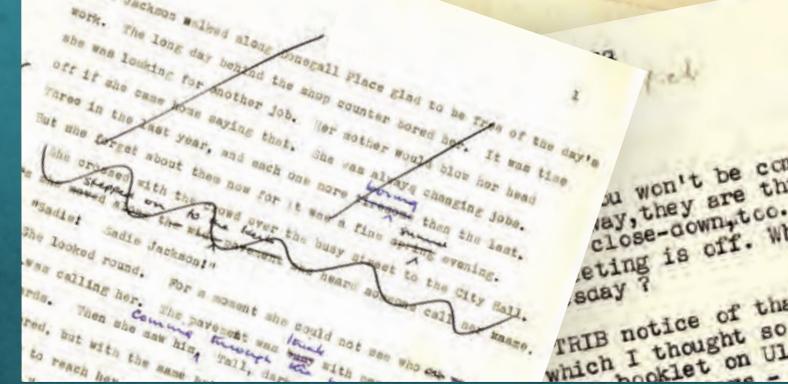
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## Northern Ireland Literary Archive



Manuscript of "Conary".  
(W. B. Yeats called this the greatest of Irish poems.)

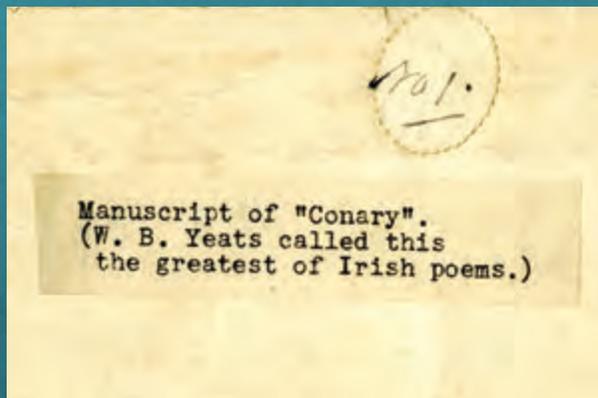


[www.niliteraryarchive.com](http://www.niliteraryarchive.com)



The Linen Hall Library has in its collections over a dozen archives belonging to writers who were born or grew up in Northern Ireland. Down through the years, several families and Estates have chosen the Library as the repository for these manuscripts and letters, knowing the Library will provide secure and respectful storage.

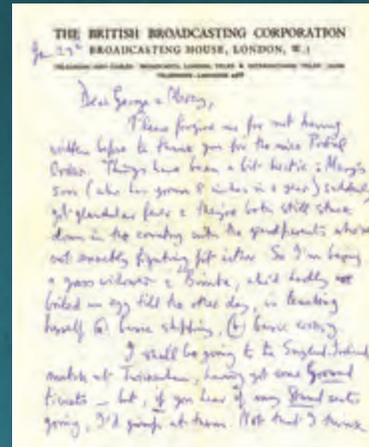
In 2016, funded by the Department for Communities, the Library was able to review the entire Collection and choose key parts to digitise and make available online.



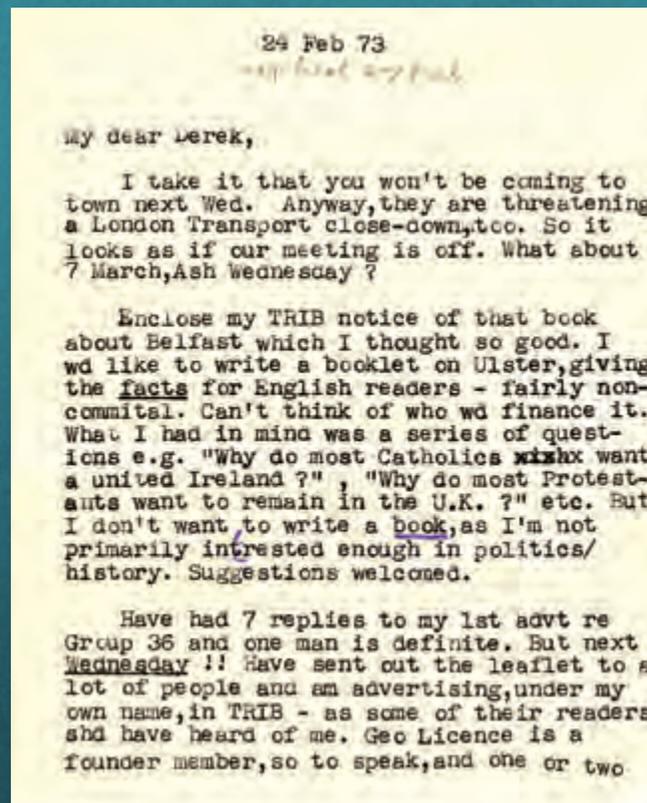
The Archive begins in the late 19th Century and the work of Samuel Ferguson (1842 – 1916). The two poems, 'Conary' and 'Deirdre', form an important part of his work, bringing to life Celtic myth and legend in a wonderfully dramatic and accessible language.

The work of Louis MacNeice (1907 – 1963) is renowned for its longing for a meaningful, substantive life separate from the restrictions of politics and religion.

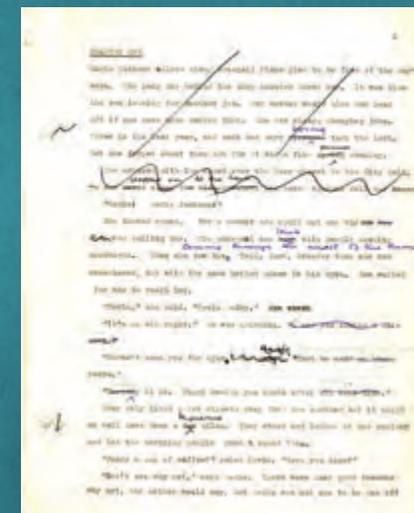
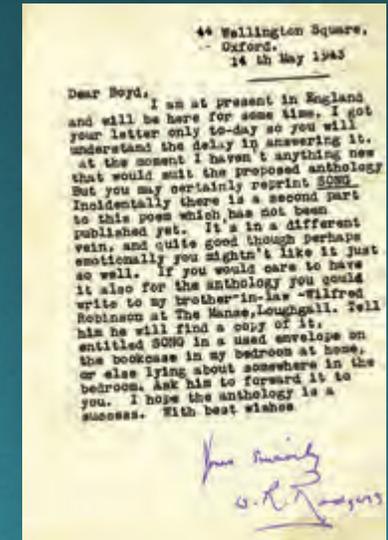
In the letters he sent to George and Mercy McCann, local benefactors and supporters of the Arts, we are given a glimpse of the writer's life away from the work itself.



The tough practicalities of being a writer is a theme that runs throughout the letters. The long conversations between Robert Greacen (1920 – 2008) and the poet Derek Stanford further depict the ongoing struggles.



W.R. Rodgers' (1909 – 1969) letters to, once again, George and Mercy McCann further examine the writing life, the search for space to create while balancing this with humdrum domestic issues.



Joan Lingard's (1932) 'Across the Barricades' is a book that remains important for all those who studied it at School and beyond.

The Archive also features the original manuscript of Sam Hanna Bell's (1909 – 1990) 'December Bride', a treasured part of Northern Irish Literature and a strong, clear-eyed novel about family life and tragedy.

