Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
National Library of Ireland

Collection List No. 162

Francis MacManus Papers

(MSS 48,196 – 48,226; MS L 272)

(Accession No. 7004)

Literary and personal papers of Francis MacManus including drafts, research notes, articles, reviews, press cuttings, diaries and correspondence, 1927 – 2009.

Compiled by Avice-Claire McGovern, July 2010
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Introduction

Biographical History

Francis MacManus was born Patrick Francis MacManus in Kilkenny on 8 November 1909 to Bernard MacManus and Julianne née Murphy, the eldest of 5 children. He had one sister, Mary, and three brothers, Matthew, Peter and Brian. His father was originally from near Stradone, County Cavan, and ran a commercial travelling business. He died in 1918, leaving his wife, who was from Bodal, Gowran, County Kilkenny, to take over and expand the business. Francis MacManus was first educated at St. John’s School, Kilkenny, then De La Salle Brothers’ School and finally the local Christian Brothers’ School. When he finished school, he won a science scholarship to University College Dublin, but deferred it in order to train as a teacher at St. Patrick’s College, Dublin, in 1927. When his mother’s health had started to deteriorate, he had decided to pursue a teaching career instead of availing of the scholarship so that he could provide for his younger siblings. In 1929 Francis MacManus joined the Christian Brothers’ School in Synge Street, Dublin, as a primary school teacher. His mother died in 1930.

From 1931 to 1947, while he was a teacher at Synge Street, he contributed many talks in Irish and English to Radio Éireann as well as book reviews, feature programmes and dramatised documentaries. He also acted as editor of a Catholic social weekly named Outlook, published by An R íoghacht, in 1931. He joined a Catholic Writers’ Guild in 1932, and in 1935 was offered the editorship of the Irish School Weekly which he turned down for fear of losing his job, a decision which he later regretted. In 1947 he joined Radio Éireann as General Features Officer.

In October 1939, Francis MacManus married Mary (May) Lalor, who worked in the Irish Sweepstakes Office as a secretary. Their son Michael was born in August 1940, followed by John in 1943 and Patrick in 1947. Michael was born with a congenital hole in the heart, a condition which was inoperable, and was home-schooled by his father who wrote and illustrated many school books for him. Following in his father’s footsteps, Michael later took up writing as a career, using the pen name Brian Ward, and had his first script produced on Radio Éireann in 1963. May died in September 1950 from cancer, and in June 1952 Francis married Joan MacCarthy, who worked in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, housed in the General Post Office below the Radio Éireann office. She gave up her job to raise Francis MacManus’ sons.

Francis MacManus wrote 15 books. These include Stand and Give Challenge (1934) which was the first part of a trilogy of novels about the Gaelic poet Donnacha Ruadh Mac Conmara, followed by Candle for the Proud (1936) and Men Withering (1939). Men Withering received the Harmsworth Award of the Irish Academy of Letters for the best Irish novel of the year (1939). Another trilogy explored the impact of history on ordinary Irish people and greed for land: This House was Mine (1937), Flow on, Lovely River (1941) and Watergate (1942). The Greatest of These (1943), about conflict in the Catholic Church, was so popular that it was reprinted four times within four years. Statue
for a Square (1945) was Francis MacManus’s first satirical novel. A later novel, The Fire in the Dust, was written in 1950 attacking Irish “so-called Jansenism”. His last novel, American Son, was written in 1959. He wrote biographies of Boccaccio (1947) and St. Columban (1963). He also produced a travelogue on his visit to American broadcasting stations in 1953 called Seal ag Ródalocht [On the Road for a Time]. He edited various books including After the Flight: Being Eyewitness Sketches from Irish History AD 1607 – 1916 (Dublin: Talbot 1935), Adventures of an Irish Bookman: A Selection from the Writings of M.J. MacManus (editor) (Dublin: Talbot 1952), The Yeats We Knew: Memoirs by Padraic Colum, Francis Stuart, Monk Gibbon, Earnan de Blagh, Austin Clarke (editor) (Cork: Mercier [1965]), and The Years of the Great Test 1926-39 (editor) (Cork: Mercier 1967). In addition to these book publications, he wrote many short stories, essays, radio lectures, plays (one of which, The Judgement of James O’Neill, was produced by the Abbey Theatre in 1956), and articles for newspapers and magazines including The Bell, The Irish Monthly, Irish Press, Sunday Press and Capuchin Annual. For a detailed list of his essays, verse, short stories and reviews published in magazines and periodicals, see MS 48,225 Professor Arthur H. Fedel Francis MacManus: the heritage of history. A biographical and critical study, pages 237 – 244 (Dublin: University College Dublin, 1977).

In 1953 Francis MacManus became Director of Features of Radio Éireann and inaugurated the ‘Thomas Davis Lecture’ series. He died on 27 November 1965 aged 56, and is buried in Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin. The Francis MacManus Short Story Prize was established in his memory by RTE Radio in 1985 and has attracted some 600 plus entries every year, of which 15 are broadcast every year, 2010 being its 25th anniversary http://www.rte.ie/radio1/francismacmanus/.

THE PAPERS
Archival history and immediate source of acquisition

The papers of Francis MacManus were donated to the National Library of Ireland by Patrick MacManus, son of Francis MacManus, in April 2010. The collection comprises mostly manuscripts and drafts of Francis MacManus’s novels, essays, short stories, articles, biographies and plays. It also includes diaries, notebooks and correspondence, especially letters from Sean O’Casey, with accompanying postmarked envelopes from Totnes Devon, written over the period 1942-1958, and letters from Sean O’Faolain and C.P. Snow; the papers also include drafts of an autobiography, short stories and articles written by his son Michael MacManus (Brian Ward). Contained in 9 boxes with the material in excellent condition, the collection covers the life and literary career of Francis MacManus from 1927 to 1980.

One item MS 48,217 /6 is not currently available for consultation (NFC 158). This is due for review in 2040.
ARRANGEMENT

The collection has been arranged into five sections: I. Fiction; II. Non-Fiction; III. Plays; IV. Other Works; V. Correspondence; VI. Diaries and VII. Miscellanea. In order to retain the original order of the contents of the files that came with the collection, some correspondence is listed in sections other than V. Correspondence. VII. Miscellanea contains Francis MacManus’s personal papers including his teaching qualifications, some photographs, press cuttings, and also other papers relating to his life and work in general, 1929 – 2009.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Professor Arthur H. Fedel ‘Francis MacManus: the heritage of history. A biographical and critical study’ (Dublin: University College Dublin, 1977)
Speech by Patrick MacManus at Francis MacManus’s 100th birthday seminar at Rothe House, 12 September 2009
Princess Grace Irish Library (Monaco):
http://www.pgil-eirdata.org/html/pgil_datasets/authors/Mac/MacManus,F/life.htm

RELATED MANUSCRIPTS

MS 29,297 Judgement on James O’Neill: a play in three acts by Peter King, [1956]
MS 29,345 Judgement on James O’Neill: by Francis MacManus, [1956]
MS 33,659 Letters from Frank O’Connor to Francis MacManus, 1951
MS 38,648 (1) Letters from Francis MacManus to Benedict Kiely
MS 37,849 /5 Sean O’Casey’s correspondence with Francis MacManus, 1958
MS 38,090 Correspondence from Francis MacManus with Sean O’Casey, November 1948
MS 38,092 Correspondence from James P. McGuinness, Director of Publications, Radio Éireann, with Sean O’Casey, about extract of Thomas Davis Lecture by Francis MacManus, with copy of reply, January 1963

OTHER SOURCES

RTE Archive broadcasts relating to Francis MacManus:
TXM 3/12/1965 Tribute to Francis MacManus (28 Nov. 1965)
Thomas Davis Lecture Series MacManus and Kilkenny’ by Sean J. White (9 Dec. 1990)
Thomas Davis Lecture Series ‘Novels of MacManus’ by Benedict Kiely (16 Dec. 1990)
## LIST OF FRANCIS MACMANUS’S WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stand and Give Challenge</td>
<td>Talbot Press (Dublin)</td>
<td>1934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stand and Give Challenge</td>
<td>Loring &amp; Mussey (New York)</td>
<td>1935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candle for the Proud</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>This House was Mine</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1937</td>
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<td>After the Flight</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>After the Flight</td>
<td>Educational Company of Ireland</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>Men Withering</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<td>The Wild Garden</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flow On, Lovely River</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1941</td>
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<td>Watergate</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1942</td>
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<td>The Greatest of These</td>
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<td>1943</td>
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<td>Pedlar’s Pack</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1944</td>
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<td>Statue for a Square</td>
<td>Talbot Press</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<td>Boccaccio</td>
<td>Sheed &amp; Ward (London)</td>
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<td>Sheed &amp; Ward (New York)</td>
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<td>Fire in the Dust</td>
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<td>Harcourt, Brace &amp; Co. (New York)</td>
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<td>Seal ag Ródaíocht</td>
<td>Sáirséal agus Dill (Dublin)</td>
<td>1955</td>
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<td>American Son</td>
<td>Jonathan Cape</td>
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<td>American Son</td>
<td>Knopf (New York)</td>
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<td>Saint Columban</td>
<td>Sheed &amp; Ward (New York)</td>
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<td>Saint Columban</td>
<td>Clonmore &amp; Reynolds (Dublin)</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<td>This House was Mine</td>
<td>Mercier Press (Cork)</td>
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<td>The Greatest of These</td>
<td>Mercier Press</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<td>Stand and Give Challenge</td>
<td>Mercier Press</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<td>Mercier Press</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mercier Press</td>
<td>1966</td>
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**Translated works:**

- Der Bischot Von Dunmore
  (The Greatest of These)
- Reis Zonder Einde
  (Stand and Give Challenge)
- Ein Sohn Aus Gutem House
  (American Son)
- Dies Haus War Mein
  (This House was Mine)
- Zieh Hin, Lieber Fluss

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Der Bischot Von Dunmore</td>
<td>Verlag der Arche (Zurich)</td>
<td>1955</td>
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<td>Reis Zonder Einde</td>
<td>De Toorts (Harlem)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Ein Sohn Aus Gutem House</td>
<td>Paul List Verlag (Munich)</td>
<td>1960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dies Haus War Mein</td>
<td>Rex-Verlag (Munich)</td>
<td>1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zieh Hin, Lieber Fluss</td>
<td>Rex-Verlag</td>
<td>1964</td>
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(Flow On, Lovely River)
Heimkehr Nach Watergate
(Watergate)
Augustin Stifftet Ein Denkmal
(Statue for a Square)

Editor:
Adventures of an Irish Bookman, a Selection from the Writings of M.J. MacManus
Talbot Press
1952
The Yeats We Knew: Memoirs by Padraic Colum, Francis Stuart, Monk Gibbon, Earnan de Blaghd, Austin Clarke
Mercier Press
1965
The Years of the Great Test 1926-39
Mercier Press
1967
I. Fiction

Includes drafts, manuscripts, notes and press cuttings of reviews. Correspondence relating to Francis MacManus’s novels is listed in Section V. In order to retain the original contents of the files in the collection, some correspondence is listed in this section. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

I.i. Stand and Deliver Challenge (1934), Candle for the Proud (1936), & This House was Mine (1937)

MS 48,196 /1 File containing press cuttings of reviews of *Stand and Give Challenge*, 13 Nov. 1934 & 30 Nov. 1935; 2 items in file

MS 48,196 /2 Draft of *Candle for the Proud*, handwritten and edited with corrections, undated [ca. 1936]; 273pp

MS 48,196 /3 Typescript of *This House was Mine*, Aug. 1936 – June 1937; 216 pp

MS 48,196 /4 Manuscript and notebook containing notes for ‘Donnach Ruadh’ including notes on 18th century Ireland, undated [ca. 1934 – 1937]; 2 items

MS 48,196 /5 File containing press cuttings of reviews of *This House was Mine* and *The Greatest of These* including typescript of review by Augustine Martin, 29 March – 16 May 1964; 6 items in file

I.ii. Men Withering (1939), The Wild Garden (1940), & Flow on, Lovely River (1941)

MS 48,197 /1 File titled *Men Withering* containing photocopies of articles concerning the novel and Francis MacManus along with photocopies of letters and other details confirming the acceptance of the novel for an award by the Irish Academy of Letters valued at fifty pounds, 3 Nov. 1939 – 15 Nov. 1940; 10 items in file

MS 48,197 /2 Draft of *The Wild Garden*, edited with corrections, undated [ca. 1940]; 134pp

MS 48,197 /3 Folder containing manuscript of *Flow on, Lovely River*, (151pp),
undated [ca. 1941]; film script of *Flow on, Lovely River*, a first treatment by World Wide Pictures Limited, with minor corrections, (75pp) 23 March 1945; 2 items

**MS 48,197 /4** File containing press cuttings of reviews of *Flow on, Lovely River*, 14 April 1967 – 16 March 1968; 6 items in file

**I.iii. Watergate (1942), The Greatest of These (1943), & Statue for a Square (1945)**

**MS 48,198** Typescript draft of *Watergate*, edited with corrections, undated [ca. 1941]; 198 pp

**MS 48,199 /1** Typescript draft of *The Greatest of These*, edited with corrections, undated, [ca. 1943]; 232 pp

**MS 48,199 /2** File containing typescript and press cuttings of reviews of *The Greatest of These*, including Aodh de Blacam’s and Brinsley MacNamara’s reviews, and also typescript letter from T.I. Mulcahy S.P., *Irish Monthly*, congratulating Francis MacManus on his book, 16 Nov. 1943 – 16 May 1964; 14 items in file

**MS 48,199 /3** Typescript draft of *Statue for a Square* with corrections, undated [ca. 1945]; 253 pp


**MS 48,200 /1** Manuscript of *Fire in the Dust*, undated [ca. 1950]; 251 pp


**MS 48,200 /3** Typescript of *Fire in the Dust*, edited with corrections, with also the changes in the novels’ titles as the project progressed from ‘The Goldens’ to ‘The Buried Stream’ to ‘Fire in the Dust’; 263 pp

File titled ‘Book reviews and an interview’ containing photocopies of book reviews of *Watergate, Man Next Door* and *American Son*, 11 Dec. 1942 – May 1959; 8 items in file

Typescript and manuscript drafts of *American Son* by Patrick Francis MacManus, with corrections, undated [ca. 1959]; 271pp

Typescript and manuscript drafts of *American Son*, edited possibly several times, with also rough handwritten, character and chapter outlines of the novel, undated [ca. 1959]; 328pp

File titled ‘American Son’ containing press cuttings of reviews of *American Son*, with also extract of review broadcast by Veronica McAdiet (4 May 1959), 28 March 1959 – Autumn 1960; 15 items in file

**II. Non-Fiction**

Includes notes, drafts, manuscripts and press reviews. Correspondence relating to Francis MacManus’s non fiction works is listed in Section V. In order to retain the original contents of the files in the collection, some correspondence is listed in this section. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

**II.i. Boccaccio (1947)**

Notebooks marked ‘Notes I’, ‘Notes II’, and ‘Notes III’ containing manuscript drafts for *Boccaccio*, including notes on Giovanni Boccaccio’s life and work, along with a provisional list of bibliographical sources, and a preliminary plan of the biography, undated [ca. 1942 – 1947]; 3 items

Envelope titled ‘Boccaccio Book List’ containing bibliography of texts used in the research for *Boccaccio*, undated [ca. 1942 –
Indices and typescript for *Boccaccio*, annotated with corrections, with also chapter outline and provisional index for the biography, undated [ca. 1942 – 1947]; 356 pp

Index cards containing research notes on Italian topics including Della Fiamelma and Canducci, undated [ca. 1942 – 1947]; 29pp

File titled ‘Boccaccio’ containing typescript copies of Liam O’ Briain and Shona Mitylene’s reviews of *Boccaccio*, and press cutting review of book in Sheed & Ward’s *Own Trumpet* by Thomas Caldecot Chubb; with also a letter from Helen Paris Swan informing Francis MacManus that she has reviewed *Boccaccio*, 15 July – Oct. 1947; 4 items in file

**II.2 Seal ag Ródaíocht (1955)**

Manuscript of *Seal ag Ródaíocht*, a series of travel articles, primarily written in Irish, undated [ca. 1955]; 149pp

File titled ‘Seal ag Ródaíocht’ containing typescript reviews and press cuttings of reviews of *Seal ag Ródaíocht*, 1955 – 1956; 13 items in file

**II.3 Saint Columban (1962)**

Research notes for *Saint Columban* taken from various texts including: *Irish Monasticism: Origins and Early Development* by John Ryan; *Notre-Dame of Paris* by Allan Temko; and *The Celtic Saints: Our Heritage*, by Daphne D. C. Pochin Mould, undated [ca. 1961]; 7 items


Note book for *Saint Columban* including handwritten drafts of
several chapters of the biography, with also a post card from John Ryan, congratulating Patrick Francis MacManus on the draft, 25 January 1960, mostly undated [ca. 1960 – 1962]; Ca. 350pp

MS 48,204 /4 File titled ‘Saint Columban’ containing press cuttings of reviews of *Saint Columban* with also correspondence from Sheed & Ward, New York, 11 Feb. 1962 – 21 April 1964; 37 items in file

III. Plays

Francis MacManus wrote several plays which are listed here. *Judgement on James O’Neill*, was produced by the Abbey Theatre at Queen’s Theatre, Dublin, on 20 February 1956. Includes manuscripts, programmes, flyer, reviews and some correspondence. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

MS 48,205 /1 Typescript with ms notes and corrections *Thunder over Limerick: A Play in Four Scenes* in notebook with inscription on cover ‘Synge St. School Play by Francis MacManus’, [ca. 1930’s]; 34 pp


MS 48,205 /3 Blue manila folder containing manuscript copies of *Judgment on James O’Neill* by Peter King aka Francis MacManus, produced by the Abbey Theatre in 1956, ca.1955 – 1956; 4 item

MS 48,205 /4 Abbey Theatre programmes of the production of *Judgment on James O’Neill* by Francis MacManus including flyer, script, correspondence and contract with Abbey Theatre, returns; with also file containing press cuttings of reviews of the play; and telegrams from Lennox Robinson, Dominick O’Riordan, Una Collins and Paddy Maguire, 1955 - 1959; 26 items
MS 48,205 /5  Hardback exercise book containing two typescript copies of untitled play about the Siege of Limerick (1690) by Francis MacManus, undated;
2 items

IV. Other works

Including articles, reviews, short stories, poetry, scripts for Radio Éireann, unpublished works, research notes and correspondence. With also a scrapbook containing reviews of Francis MacManus’s work. Correspondence relating to Francis MacManus’s other works is listed in Section V., but in order to retain the original contents of the files in this collection, some correspondence is listed in this section. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

MS 48,206 /1  Black binder containing draft typescript and manuscript documents of short stories, articles, radio programmes for Radio Éireann, and also press cuttings of short stories, reviews, and articles published in The Teacher’s Work, The Irish Monthly, RTV Holiday Guide, Irish Press, including typescript and manuscript copies of obituary for Eamon De Valera written by Francis MacManus for The Irish Press “morgue files” (De Valera survived MacManus by 10 years), [ca. 1930s – 1965];
38 items

MS 48,206 /2  Black binder containing draft typescript and manuscript documents of scripts including Protomartyr: Saint Stephen’s Day, Return to Maynooth, and poems such as ‘Ascent of the Reek’ and ‘Land Sequence’, [ca. 1930s – 1965];
59 items

MS 48,207 /1 – 2  Copies of Outlook edited by Francis MacManus, also containing articles by him, 19 Dec. 1931 – 23 April 1932;
17 copies in 2 folders

100pp

MS 48,209 /1  Blue folder titled ‘Prós’ containing research notes taken by Francis MacManus, including several dockets requesting manuscripts, journals and texts from the National Library of
Ireland relating to Jonathan Swift, Gaelic prose and Hugh O’Neill, Nov. 1937;
20 items in folder

**MS 48,209 /2**
Manuscripts of ‘Flight’ and ‘The Wagoner’ with notes on the history of Dublin, undated [ca. 1930s];
13 items

**MS 48,210 /1**
36 items

**MS 48,210 /2**
Article by Francis MacManus about M.J. MacManus; with also transcript of conversation between M.J. MacManus and David Sears (24 Sept. 1941), including preface and table of contents, 1941;
3 items

**MS 48,210 /3**
Folder titled ‘Various Essays and Lectures’ with typescript essays and poems by Francis MacManus including ‘A Study in BaubzmokÌ¿ertz’, ‘The Language We Unlearn’, and poems ‘The Man on the Land’ and ‘Land Sequences; with also copies of poems by Austin Clarke, Padraic Fallon, Robert Farren, Patrick Kavanagh, Donagh MacDonagh, Patrick MacDonagh, W.R. Rodgers, W.B. Yeats, 1944 – 1947;
19 items

**MS 48,210 /4**
‘Michael’’s Story of Ireland: The First Chapter: The First People Who Came to Ireland’; ‘The Coming of the Celts’; ‘Sailors, Saints and Scholars’; ‘The Story of Saint Patrick’; and ‘The Defeat of the Norsemen’ by Francis MacManus, a series of educational stories written for his son Michael undated [ca. 1940s – 1950s];
5 items

**MS 48,210 /5**
Article ‘The Pope and the People’ by Francis MacManus about the public perception of Pope Pius XII, *The Furrow,* [1955]; and typescript notes ‘The Unification of Italy’ by Francis MacManus [1959];
2 items

**MS 48,210 /6**
Manuscripts of *Bookpage* book reviews by Francis MacManus, including manuscript draft and typescript document of ‘Prós an
Phiarsaigh’, the last article in Irish written by MacManus before his death for *Inniu*, undated [ca. 1950 – 1965];
20 items (2 articles missing pages)

**MS 48,210 /7**
File titled ‘Meditation in the Sky’ containing typescript of unpublished work ‘Meditation in the Sky’, with letter to Francis MacManus from Father Henry O.F.M. Cap., editor of *The Capuchin Annual*, regarding the manuscript, (5 June 1959), undated [ca. 1959];
2 items in file

**MS 48,210 /8**
4 items

**MS 48,210 /9**
Typescript documents ‘The Strange Case of Stephen D.’ on Hugh Leonard’s play ‘The Folklore of Ireland, ‘The Irish and the Amateur Theatre’, by Francis MacManus, with the articles ‘Amateur-Theater in Irland’ in *Deutsche Zeitung*, 14 January 1963 and ‘Malerei (Art of painting) and Bildhauerei (sculpture) in Dublin’ in *Deutsche Zeitung*, 18/19 May 1963;
6 items

**MS 48,210 /10**
Typescript list of books for the Thomas Davis Lectures by Francis MacManus including letter from T.D. William to the contributors of ‘The Year of Great Transition’, 1 July 1963, and typescript document ‘No. 2 the Imaginative Literature’ by MacManus for Thomas Davis Lectures, July 1963;
3 items

**MS 48,210 /11**
Draft and article on James Clarence Mangan for the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, with also contract and other documents and envelopes, Oct. 1963;
12 items

**MS 48,210 /12**
File titled ‘The Years of the Great Test’ containing press cuttings of reviews of *The Years of the Great Test 1926 – 1939* with newsletter review, 20 Nov. 1965, 8 Dec. 1967 and Dec. 1967 (newsletter); with also draft of ‘The Literature of the Period’ by Francis MacManus for the Thomas Davis Lectures, which was printed in *The Years of the Great Test 1926 – 1939*, [ca. 1967];
5 items in folder

**MS 48,210 /13**

6 items

**MS 48,210 /14**

File titled ‘Poets in Sackcloth and Ashes’ containing article ‘Poets in Sackcloth and Ashes’ and poems in Irish, undated;
8 items in file

**MS 48,210 /15**

5 items

**MS 48,210 /16**

Typescript essay ‘Art’ in Latin, undated;
8pp

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**V. Correspondence**

**V.i. Francis MacManus Correspondence 1927 - 1966**

Letters to and from Francis MacManus, 1927 – 1966, about his work, literature, family, politics and religion. Includes letters from Aodh de Blácam, Benedict Kiely, Sean O’Casey, and Sean O’Faolain. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

**MS 48,211 /1 – 5**

Letters from Nicholas Brennan, St. Columban’s College, Dalgan Park, Galway, about family, religion, literature, education, G.K. Chesterton, and the Eucharistic Congress of 1932, with also articles/essays written by Nicholas Brennan, 10 Nov. 1927 – 25 March 1939;
77 items in 5 folders

**MS 48,212 /1**

Letters to Francis MacManus from W.G. Lyons, Talbot Press, about his manuscript of ‘Stand Up and Give [sic] Challenge’, (4 October 1933), and the interest of Loring & Mussey, New York, in publishing Stand and Give Challenge, (30 Jan. 1935);
2 items

**MS 48,212 /2**

Correspondence between Francis MacManus and Aodh de Blácam about Francis MacManus’s work, including letters from Aodh de Blácam to Peadar O’Curry containing criticism of The Greatest of These, 18 April 1934 –13 Nov.1943;
22 items

**MS 48,212 /3**  

**MS 48,212 /4**  
Letter from John Desmond Sheridan “Earl of Desmond” on Irish School Weekly headed paper congratulating MacManus on his book *Stand and Give Challenge*, (2 Nov. 1934); letters from Joseph O’Neill to MacManus about a review of O’Neill’s book *Day of Wrath*, and MacManus’s book *After the Flight*, (28 April 1936 & 19 Jan. 1939); with also letter from Niall Montgomery asking MacManus to autograph a copy of his novel *Wild Garden*, (17 Nov. 1940); 4 items

**MS 48,212 /5**  
Letters from P. Breathnach, Office of National Education, Dublin, informing MacManus that his book *After the Flight* is not suitable for use in national schools, (23 Dec. 1938); with letter of appeal from MacManus to Joseph O’Neill, Department of Education, (2 Jan. 1939); and reply from O’Neill informing him that the inspectors agree with Breathnach that the book is not suitable for use in national schools, (6 April 1939); 4 items

**MS 48,212 /6**  
Correspondence relating to Mellifont Classics including letters from Sean O’Faolain about *The Bell* and Francis MacManus’s work, 27 Sept. 1940 – March 1945; letter from O’Faolain thanking MacManus for his review of *Vive Moi*, (7 June 1965); with also letter from O’Faolain to Leon O’Broin about the Catholic Church, undated; 40 items

**MS 48,213 /1 – 3**  
Letters from Sean O’Casey to Francis MacManus about literature, O’Casey’s plays, MacManus’s books, politics, religion and Radio Éireann, 12 April 1942 – 7 March 1958; 24 items in 3 folders

**MS 48,214 / 1 – 3**  
Letters from Professor David Greene, about family, Irish literature and Francis MacManus’s work, 14 April 1943 – 25 Oct. 1965; 35 items in 3 folders
Letter from T.P. Mulcahy, *The Irish Monthly*, criticizing *The Greatest of These*, (16 Nov. 1943); letter from A.C. [Anthony Cronin?] stating that his review of MacManus’ novel *The Greatest of These* has been sent to the *Times Literary Supplement* and it was not positive in its appraisal, (5 Jan. 1944); letter from Edmund MacRay, Ara Coeli, Armagh, about references to the priesthood in MacManus’s writings, (12 July 1944); letter from Liam O’Briain relating to the life and work of Giovanni Boccaccio, (26 Feb. 1945); letter from Liam O’Briain about his review of *Boccaccio* and warning him about reviewers like Conor Cruise O’Brien and Tommy Woods, (7 Aug. 1947); 5 items

Letter from Francis MacManus to the editor of *America*, about the review of his book *Boccaccio*, 9 January 1948; letter from H.L. Doak, Talbot Press offering criticism and praise of his novel, 9 June 1948; 2 items

Letter from C.P. Snow congratulating MacManus on his novel *Fire in the Dust*, (24 April 1950); copy of letter from John Green, Bodley House Literary Agency, informing MacManus of a new magazine *Books and Authors* and that C.P. Snow is finalizing list of best books of the year, of which *Fire and Dust* is one, (15 Aug. 1950); with letter from Antonia White about *Fire in the Dust*, (14 May 1950); and letter from George W. Potter, Editorial Department of Sevellon Brown Publishing, congratulating Francis MacManus on *Fire in the Dust* and attaching reviews; 8 items

Letters from Albert Ely about Francis MacManus’s work, family, holidays, health, 14 May 1950 – 24 Aug. 1968; 4 items

Letters in English & French from Department of External Affairs asking for Francis MacManus to be assisted and protected during his stay in Rome, (4 Aug. 1950), with also list ‘Apparatus’ and note from Patrick F. MacManus about broadcast from the Vatican, (2 Sept. 1950); 3 items

Letter from Doran Hurley congratulating MacManus on *Fire in the Dust* and attaching press cuttings relating to MacManus’s work, (14 Feb. 1951); with letter from Mary Colum discussing the reception of his latest book in the USA and especially among
the Irish Diaspora, (6 May 1951); with also letter of thanks from John Masefield for the review MacManus wrote about his book, (26 May 1951); and letter from Clement R. Hoopes about his talk about the Marshall Plan in Ireland, (4 Dec. 1951);
10 items

**MS 48,215 /7**

Letter from John Brodrick thanking Francis MacManus for his review of his book in the *Irish Press* and asking for advice, (4 Dec. 1952 & 2 Feb. 1959); with letters from A.J. Lyons on ‘Convent of the Sacred Heart’ headed papers thanking MacManus for previous correspondences, (31 Dec. 1952 & 13 Oct. 1953); with also letters from Joe Gannon about *Boccaccio* and *Saint Columban*, (26 July 1953 – 2 July 1959);
8 items

**MS 48,215 /8**

Letters to Francis MacManus from his aunt Mary Ellen MacManus (his father’s sister) about politics, religion, literature, and Padraic Collum, 1 July 1953 – 11 Aug. 1959;
16 items

**MS 48,215 /9**

Letter from Gary MacEoin about book reviews and Catholic attitudes to MacManus’s work, (26 Oct. 1954); letter from Robert Pringle praising *Seal ag Ródaiocht*, (28 Aug. 1955); with also letter (and copy) from J.G. Simms congratulating MacManus on his article on George Talbot, (8 Nov. 1955); and letter from Padraic Colum about MacManus’s review of his book *Flying Man*, (26 Aug. 1957);
5 items

**MS 48,215 /10**

Letter from N. Barfield, Paramount Film Service Ltd, Dublin, about interviewing Charlton Heston and inviting Francis MacManus and his wife to see *The Ten Commandments*, (25 March 1958); letter from John O’Donoghue thanking MacManus for his review of his book *In a Strange Land* in the Irish Press, (28 Oct. 1958); letter from Larry Morrow about his wife Sheelagh and MacManus’s reply, (12 & 15 June 1959); and letter from Ronan Drury, review editor of *The Furrow*, attaching a communiqué from Jonathan Cape Ltd that the review list has been closed due to heavy demand, (25 June 1959); with also letter from Michael O’Neill, Maynooth Mission to China, congratulating MacManus on his article about St. Columban and Bobbio, (10 Dec. 1959);
6 items

**MS 48,215 /11**

Letters from Benedict Kieley about MacManus’ work, Irish literature, life in America, [ca. 1958], 25 Sept. 1964, and March
1965;
4 items

**MS 48,215 /12** Correspondence between Francis MacManus and Elizabeth Schnack, about his short story ‘Family Portrait’ which appeared in *Fahrmann*, (Dec. 1959, 16 & 19 Jan. 1960); letter from Edna O’Brien to Francis MacManus about life in England, her husband Ernest Gebler, and that her book *The Country Girls* will be made into a film, (11 Feb. 1960); letter from Leila McCutcheon, headmistress of the Royal Ballet School, about her decision to return to Tyrone to be with her father, (24 Feb. 1960);
3 items

3 items

**MS 48,215 /14** Typescript draft of letter to Administration Officer, Radio Éireann, applying for position of Controller of Television Programmes, (Sept. 1960); with also letters to John Irvine, (6 Sept. 1960), and Director General of Radio Éireann, (13 June 1961), applying for position of Programme Controller at Radio Éireann, with typescript document ‘Submissions from the General Features Officer concerning the collaboration of Radio and Television’, (22 Jan. 1960);
4 items

4 items

**MS 48,215 /16** Letter from Professor Vivian Mercier requesting permission to quote from ‘The Parliament of Clan Thomas’ published in *The Bell*, with reply from Francis MacManus, (24 & 29 Jan. 1962); postcard from J. Reilly congratulating MacManus on his work,
(11 May 1952); photocopy of letter from Catharine R. Hughes, Sheed & Ward Inc., (21 May 1962), attaching letter from Mary Vaughan congratulating him on *American Son*, (7 Oct. 1961); 5 items

**MS 48,215 /17**

Letters from Meryvn Wall, Arts Council, about the publication of short stories by Seumas O’Kelly, (5 & 29 Oct. 1962); and also letter from Alphonsus Sweeney, with reply from Francis MacManus, about permission to publish stories by Sweeney’s uncle Seumas O’Kelly, (15 & 26 Nov. 1962); with letter from Alphonsus Sweeney thanking him for his letter, (30 November 1962); letter from Mervyn Wall about book he is writing, (11 Sept. 1963); and letter from Alphonsus Sweeney wondering if the Arts Council had shelved the project of publishing his uncle’s poems, (26 June 1965); 7 items

**MS 48,215 /18**


**MS 48,216 /1**

Letter from D. Barry, Coiste Foilseachan Naisiunta (National Publications Committee), about the possibility of including a series of articles ‘The Seven Signatories’, by MacManus from the *Irish Press*, in a booklet on the Easter Rising, 1916, (10 July 1964), with reply by MacManus on verso stating he is the copyright owner and permission to publish is not granted, undated; with also letter to Francis MacManus from Piaras MacLochlainn, Hon. Secretary, Museum Committee, Kilmainham Jail Restoration Project, asking him about an article in the *Irish Press* in which he mentioned he knew the location of the original copy of the oration by Padraig Pearse, at the grave of O’Donovan Rossa, (13 Dec. 1964); with reply from Francis MacManus informing MacLochlainn that he does not recall such an article but has contacted the “keeper” of the original copy, who does not want his name revealed, (16 Dec. 1964); 4 items

**MS 48,216 /2**

Letter from Martin O’Coch[lain] answering a previously made query regarding Miriam Henderson, (1 April 1965), with photocopy; with letter from Gus Martin about MacManus’s work and honoured that he has been considered for the Thomas Davis Lecture, (12 May 1965); and letter from Eoin P. O’Caoimh about the Thomas Davis Lecture on Radio Éireann, with reply from MacManus which was never sent, (15 Oct. 1965); 5 items
MS 48,216 /3  Letter from Dublin Corporation for payment of rates, with certificate of payment, 22 Feb. & 14 July 1966; 2 items

MS 48,216 /4  Letter from Kevin Lonrgan thanking MacManus for the scripts forwarded to him and mentions an article in the Irish Times about MacManus, undated; postcard from Michael Flynn delighted that MacManus is in Rome, [ca. 1953?]; note from Lawrence O’Connell speaking highly of MacManus’s work, undated; note of congratulations from Una Agnew for an article MacManus wrote, undated; letter from Colleen about her talk about oil, undated; with letter from Jim [?] signed X about his new job in California working for the Call Bulletin, with reply from MacManus about television broadcasting in Ireland, [ca. 1960s]; 6 items

V.ii. Letters to Joan MacManus, 1965 - 1980


MS 48,217 /3  Letters to Joan MacManus and family from Mary McCarthy, New York, about death of Francis MacManus, 21 Dec. 1965 – 16 April 1966; 9 items

MS 48,217 /4  Letter from John O’Donovan, informing her of his broadcast yesterday which included references to the work of her husband (23 May 1967), with typescript of the broadcast (22 May 1967);
letter from Eamon Keane discussing the work and novels of Francis MacManus, (31 March 1968); with also letter from Leon O’Broin requesting permission to reproduce an essay by Francis MacManus, (20 Jan. 1969);
4 items

**MS 48,217 /5**
Letter from Richard Power in Irish informing Joan MacManus that there is a new review out of his book *The Hungry Grass* and offers consolation regarding her deceased husband Francis MacManus, (1 May 1970); with also letter from Adrian Kenny in Irish with references to family life and mutual friends, with newspaper clipping partially in Irish, 1 – 4 Aug. 1970;
4 items

**MS 48,217 /6**
Letter to Joan MacManus from J.F. Spillane, Mercier Press, Cork, about Francis MacManus’s books *Stand and Give Challenge, Candle for the Proud, Men Withering, This House was Mine, Flow on Lovely River* and *The Greatest of These*, (9 March 1979)
1 item

**MS 48,217 /7**
Correspondence and contract between Poolbeg Press and Joan MacManus for *Watergate*, 10 July 1979 – 31 March 1980;
7 items

**MS 48,217 /8**
4 items

**VI. Diaries**

Diaries belonging to Francis MacManus with one written by his wife Joan McCarthy covering their travels in Italy in 1950, 1959 and 1965. With also account book and diary of MacManus’s trip to the United States of America in 1953.

**MS 48,218 /1**
Hardback notebook ‘Diary: Dublin – Rome – Dublin 1950’ belonging to Francis MacManus about his trips to Italy in 1950 and 1957, including mass card written in French, menu for Prix Italia at the Hotel Excelsior, and a list of exchange rates published by Bank of Ireland, 30 Aug. – 6 Sept. 1950 & 22 Sept. – 8 Oct. 1957;
77pp
VII. Miscellanea

Francis MacManus’s personal papers including his teaching qualifications, photographs, and press cuttings; with also material relating to his life and work in general, 1929 - 2009. With also drafts of his son Michael MacManus (Brian Ward)’s autobiography and stories, 1966 – 1968. Arranged in chronological order where applicable.

**MS 48,219/1** Francis MacManus’s teaching papers including his qualifications, contracts with Synge Street Christian Brothers’ School, and also School Inspector reports, 1929 – 1945; 16 items

**MS 48,219 /2 – 4** Press cuttings about the life and death of Francis MacManus, including obituaries and also handwritten tribute from Paddy
O’Neill, RTÉ Radio, and typescript tribute in Irish from Micheál Ó Bolgúidhir, 2 December 1939 – 17 January 1976; Ca. 138 items in 3 folders

**MS 48,220 /1**
Envelope titled ‘Francis MacManus’ containing 2 photographs (1 showing F. J. MacManus and Austin Clarke, smoking pipes and the other showing M. J. MacManus and Brian O’ Nolan drinking alcohol), [ca.1942]; 3 items

**MS 48,220 /2**
Itinerary for Frank MacManus’s tour of the United States of America, 28 April – 23 July 1953; 6pp

**MS 48,221 / 1 & 2**
B&W photographs of Francis MacManus, 1953 & 1965; 3 items

**MS 48,222 /1**
Newspaper articles on 1916 from the Irish Press by Frank Gallagher, Eva Gore-Booth, Donagh MacDonagh and Desmond Ryan, 2 – 7 April 1956; 5 items

**MS 48,222 /2**
Copy of the Irish Times Centenary Supplement, 8 June 1959.

**MS 48,222 /3**
Typescript lists of books by Francis MacManus with manuscript notes, ca. 1966; with also invitation card from the Kilkenny Literary Society to an unveiling of a portrait of Francis MacManus by John Broderick in Rothe House, Kilkenny, 1 March 1969; with manuscript note with biographical information about Francis MacManus’s siblings, undated; with also photocopy of article ‘Francis MacManus’s Novels of Modern Ireland’ by Sean MacMahon, published in Eire-Ireland, 5, 1 (Spring 1970), pp. 116 – 30; 6 items

**MS 48,223**
scripts, drafts and articles by Brian Ward, undated, 1966 – 1968; 15 items

**MS 48,224**

Green file titled “Joan’s memories of “Frank””, containing a series of ephemera relating to the life of Francis MacManus collected by his wife Joan, accompanied by a typescript draft of a speech by Joan MacManus on her husband’s life and death, with also envelope containing clippings and reproductions of articles, one of which was written by F.X. Martin, with also letters of support from Tom Mullins who completed scholarly work on Francis MacManus’s life, (20 July 1975), and Ida G. Everson, (5 July 1966); 10 items

**MS 48,225**

Black binder containing typescript draft for PhD thesis *Francis MacManus: The Heritage of History* by Arthur H. Fedel, University College Dublin, about Francis MacManus’s family, life and work, including manuscript notes [1977]; Ca. 300pp

**MS 48,226 /1**

Copy of article ““In the Mind’s Eye” – Francis MacManus and Kilkenny” by William Nolan, in *Kilkenny: Studies in Honour of Margaret M. Phelan* (edited by John Kirwan: the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, 1997); with also typescript copy of speech given by Patrick MacManus at Rothe House, Kilkenny, to mark the Francis MacManus’s 100th birthday seminar, 12 September 2009; 2 items

**MS 48,226 /2**

Series of illustrations by Naomi Heather with several annotations discernable throughout the illustrations, undated; 12 items