

**Leabharlann Naisiúnta na hÉireann
National Library of Ireland**

Collection List No. 41

Eilís Dillon Literary Papers

(MSS 33,427-33,352)

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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of the literary papers of Eilís Dillon (1920-1995). It includes preparatory notes and drafts of her novels, short stories and plays, texts of various lectures along with reviews and miscellaneous newspaper cuttings.

The papers are organized in a manner, which reflects Ms. Dillon's own arrangement. In most cases, notes and drafts were clearly labelled and, in many instances, the date of completion of a particular text is given. In all such cases the original labelling is respected. However, archival grade containers have replaced folders and boxes used to store material.

Ms. Dillon's daughter and son, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin, who are her literary executors, presented the papers to the National Library of Ireland.

A copy of Ms. Dillon's contribution to the *Contemporary Authors Autobiographical Series* is included at MS 33,336.

I. NOVELS

- 33,247 *Death at Crane's Court*. (London : Faber, [1953]).
Draft. 1 folder.
- 33,248(1-2) *Sent to his Account*. (London : Faber, [1954]).
Draft and galley proofs. 2 folders.
- 33,249 *The Bitter Glass*. (London : Faber, [1958]).
Synopsis and "treatment" of novel. 1 folder.
- 33,250 *The Head of the Family*. (London : Faber, [1960]).
Draft; with notes re plot. 1 folder.
- 33,251(1-2) *Bold John Henebry*. (London : Faber, [1965]).
Drafts. 2 folders.
- 33,252 *Across the Bitter Sea*. (New York : Simon and Schuster, [1973]).
Drafts, proofs and notes. 2 boxes.
- 33,253 *Blood Relations*. (New York : Simon and Schuster, 1977).
Drafts and proofs. 3 boxes.
- 33,254 *Wild Geese*. (New York : Simon and Schuster, 1980).
Drafts, proofs and notes. 2 boxes.
- 33,255 *Citizen Burke*. (London : Hodder & Stoughton, 1984).
Drafts and proofs. 1 box.
- 33,256(1-2) *The Interloper*. (London : Hodder & Stoughton, 1987).
Drafts (with title Cast Out Remorse) and proofs. 2 boxes.
- 33,257 *Miler McGrath*.
Notes and drafts of various chapters. (Drafts in Irish). 1 folder.
- 33,258 *Bradley*. (c. 1954).
Draft. 1 folder.
- 33,259 *Roger*. (c. 1958).
Draft in 3 drafting books. 1 folder.
- 33,260(1-3) *The Viper*. (1967).
Original draft, typescript and notes. 3 folders.

- 33,261(1-3) | *Journey to no End*. (1986-1987).
Corrected typescript and synopsis. 3 folders.
- 33,262 | *Impossible Men*. (c. 1989).
Synopsis, drafts og initial chapters and notes. 1 folder.
- 33,263 | [Untitled final novel]. (1991-1992).
Typescript drafts. 1 folder.

II. SHORT STORIES

- 33,264 | **Butterflies**. (Published in *Boulevard* (New York) 1986).
Copies of final version. 1 folder.
- 33,265 | Early stories with author's note: "Very early efforts – why did I keep them?"
1 folder.
- 33,266 | (1): **Bad Blood**.
Draft (1958 July) and copy of published version.
(2): **Two Concerts**.
Draft and typescript (c. 1960).
(3): **Snobbery**.
Drafts (c. 1970).
(4): **The Letter**.
Drafts. (1991 Feb.).
1 folder.
- 33,267 | (1): **A Housekeeper**.
(2): **The Cure**.
(3): **The Turning**.
(4): Author's summary list of short stories.
Drafts + copy of published version of (1) in *Daily Telegraph Magazine* (1973 Oct. 5) + version of (2) for *Samaritans* (1992 Apr.). 1 folder.

III. PLAYS

- 33,268(1-2) | *Manna*. (Broadcast by Radio Éireann, 1962).
Drafts. 2 folders.

- 33,269(1-2) | *A Page of History*. (First produced at Abbey Theatre, Dublin, 1966).
Drafts. 2 folders.
- 33,270 | *The Cat's Opera*. (First produced at the Peacock Theatre, Dublin, 1982).
Drafts, scores, production notes and photographs. 1 box.
- 33,271 | *The Wives*.
Draft and typescript (1960-1962). 1 folder.
- 33,272 | *The Assassins*.
Drafts and notes (1965). 1 folder.
- 33,273(1-2) | *Blackberries*.
Drafts, including television version. 2 folders.
- 33,274 | *Butterflies*.
Typescript. (See short story of same name, MS 33,264). 1 folder.
- 33,275 | *Three*.
Typescripts, one with notes concerning a reading (Santa Barbara, 1982).
1 folder.
- 33,352 | *Presto*.
Drafts. 1 box.
- 33,276(1-2) | Contents of a folder marked plays: miscellaneous notes and drafts.
Includes early drafts of Dillon's translation of Ignazio Silone's play *As it was in the Beginning* (see MS 33,333).
2 folders.

IV. TRAVEL WRITING

- 33,277 | *Inside Ireland*. (London : Hodder & Stoughton, 1982).
Drafts, notes and galleys. 1 box.

V. BOOKS AND STORIES FOR CHILDREN

V.i. Books

- 33,278 *The Lost Island*. (London : Faber, 1952).
Draft (Chapter 4 to end). *1 folder*.
- 33,279 *The San Sebastian*. (London : Faber, 1953).
1 folder.
- 33,280 *The House on the Shore*. (London : Faber, 1955).
1 folder.
- 33,281 *Aunt Bedelia's Cats*. (London : H. Hamilton, 1957).
1 folder.
- 33,282 *The Island of Horses*. (London : Faber, 1956).
Draft and proofs. *1 folder*.
- 33,283 *The Singing Cave*. (London : Faber, 1959).
1 folder.
- 33,284 *The Fort of Gold*. (London : Faber, 1961).
1 folder.
- 33,285 *The Coriander*. (London : Faber, 1963).
1 folder.
- 33,286 *A Family of Foxes*. (London : Faber, 1963).
1 folder.
- 33,287 *The Sea Wall*. (London : Faber, 1965).
1 folder.
- 33,288 *The Lion Cub*. (London : H. Hamilton, 1966).
1 folder.
- 33,289 *The Key*. (London : Faber, 1967).
1 folder.
- 33,290 *The Cruise of the Santa Maria*. (New York : Funk & Wagnalls, [1967]).
1 folder.

- 33,291 *The Seals*. (London : Faber, 1968).
1 folder.
- 33,292(1-2) *A Herd of Deer*. (London : Faber, 1969).
Draft + corrected galley proofs. 2 folders.
- 33,293 *The Voyage of Mael Duin*. (London : Faber, 1969).
Draft, typescript, galleys + Dillon's critique of Patricia Aarkhus McDowell's version of the story. 1 folder.
- 33,294 *The King's Room*. (London : H. Hamilton, 1970).
Draft and galleys. 1 folder.
- 33,295 *The Five Hundred*. (London : H. Hamilton, 1972).
1 folder.
- 33,296 *Living in Imperial Rome*. (London : Faber, 1974).
Notes, draft and typescript. 1 folder.
- 33,297(1-2) *The Shadow of Vesuvius*. (London : Faber, 1978).
Draft and galleys. 2 folders.
- 33,298(1-3) *Down in the World*. (London : Hodder & Stoughton, 1983).
Drafts, plot summary. 3 folders.
- 33,299 *The Seekers*. (Basingstoke : Macmillan, 1986).
Drafts and galley proofs. 1 box.
- 33,300 *The Island of Ghosts*. (Basingstoke : Macmillan, 1989).
Drafts and galley proofs. 1 box.
- 33,301 *The Children of Bach*. (Basingstoke : Macmillan, 1992).
Drafts and proofs. 1 box.
- 33,302(1-3) *On the Trail of Grey Dan*.
Drafts and typescript. 3 folders.
- 33,303 *Secret Magic*.
Bound typescript. 1 folder.

V.ii. Short Stories and Stories for Younger Children

- 33,304 **Grandmother and the Wolf.**
1 folder.
- 33,305 **Oileán na gCat.****Error! Bookmark not defined.**
1 folder.
- 33,306 **How St. Patrick Banished the Snakes. (1959).**
1 folder.
- 33,307 **The Horse Fancier.**
1 folder.
- 33,308 **The Sycamore Tree.**
1 folder.
- 33,309 **The Good Angel.**
1 folder.
- 33,310 **Half of my Kingdom. (1960).**
1 folder.
- 33,311 **Under the Orange Grove. (1967).**
1 folder.
- 33,312 **The Midnight Folk. (1957).**
1 folder.
- 33,313 **Miscellaneous stories:-**
(1): **The Cat and Mouse.**
(2): **The Flying Fox.**
(3): **Bully.**
(4): **The Wise Man on the Mountain.**
(5): **The Cat Man.**
(6): **How the Kangaroo got her Pocket.**
1 folder.

VI. STORIES FOR CHILDREN IN COMPILATIONS

- 33,314 Material collected for *The Lucky Bag*. (1984).
1 folder.
- 33,315 Stories by various authors, collected for *Wise Animals*.
1 folder.
- 33,316 Miscellaneous items including copies of *Countdown* (an Australian primary school magazine), and a story submitted to Dillon by J. O'Carroll.
1 folder.

VII. POETRY

- 33,317 Various drafts and redrafts of poems, including translations of **The Lament for Art O'Leary** and of **Dónall Óg**.
1 folder.

VIII. ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND LECTURES

- 33,318 The Western Writers. (1983).
1 folder.
- 33,319 A Writer in Cork (For *Cork Anthology*).
1 folder.
- 33,320 Able and Willing.
1 folder.
- 33,321 Ballinalee – the Historical Novel with Special Reference to Ballinalee.
1 folder.
- 33,322 The Poetic Tradition in Ireland.
1 folder.
- 33,323 Poets of the Revolution.
1 folder.

- 33,324 | Landmarks in Ireland.
1 folder.
- 33,325 | Ancient Irish Myths.
1 folder.
- 33,326 | Beckett's Irishness.
1 folder.
- 33,327 | Folk Memory as History – the Irish Tradition.
1 folder.
- 33,328 | Coming Home to Dublin.
1 folder.
- 33,329 | Sean O Faolain and the Young Writer.
1 folder.
- 33,330 | The Novels of James Stephens.
1 folder.
- 33,331 | Co. Longford.
1 folder.
- 33,332 | [Material for the St. Audeon's Foundation].
1 folder.
- 33,333 | Papers relating to work on Dillon's translation of Ignazio Silone's play
As it was in the Beginning.
1 folder.
- 33,334 | Frederick Baron Corvo.
1 folder.
- 33,335 | The Innocent Muse – an Interview with Maria Jolas (*James Joyce Quarterly*, vol. 20, no. 1 (1982 Autumn)).
1 folder.
- 33,336 | [Contribution to *Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series*].
1 folder.

- 33,337** | Various lectures, including:-
 (1): Women Poets in Irish.
 (2): Women and the Historical Novel.
 (3): Irish Books for the Irish Library.
 Also 2 copies of Dillon’s “Reading for Children” booklist.
1 box.

IX. REVIEWS

- 33,338(1-3)** | Press cuttings. (1950-1990).
3 folders.
- 33,339(1-4)** | Reviews of Dillon’s works (1950s – 1960s).
4 folders.
- 33,340(1-2)** | Reviews of Dillon’s works (1960s – 1990s).
2 folders.
- 33,341** | Press cuttings (1969 – 1990s)
1 folder.
- 33,342** | Press cuttings (1991).
1 folder.
- 33,343(1-2)** | Miscellaneous press cuttings, including interviews.
2 folders.
- 33,344** | Publications reviewed by Dillon.
1 folder.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

- 33,345** | Various versions of Dillon’s curriculum vitae.
1 folder.
- 33,346(1-2)** | Correspondence, including invitations to various events.
2 folders.

- 33,347(1-3)** | Notes and drafts marked “Plots” of various works including:-
(1): *Death in the Quadrangle*.
(2): *A Page of History*.
(3): *The Island of Horses*.
(4): *The Fort of Gold*.
(5): *The Cat’s Opera*.
7 items in 3 folders.
- 33,348(1-2)** | Notes etc. filed with “Plot” notebooks.
2 folders.
- 33,349** | Contents of envelope marked “Various Notes”.
1 folder.
- 33,350** | Contents of folder marked “Notes for short stories, poems, articles, TV”.
1 folder.
- 33,351** | Sketches for illustrations in *Living in Imperial Rome*.

APPENDIX

Material transferred to Periodicals Section of National Library of Ireland:-

1. Poetry Broadsheet [no.] 1. Gorey : Funge Arts Centre, [197?].
2. [Poetry] Broadsheets [edited and produced by Hayden Murphy. Dublin, 1960s-1970s].
Nos. 3, 6, 11, 15, 18, 21.

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