Collection List No. 72

EAMON KELLY PAPERS

(MSS 36,940-37,040)

(Accession No. 5761)

Papers of the actor and storyteller, Eamon Kelly

Compiled by Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Assistant Keeper, 2003
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INTRODUCTION

Eamon Kelly (1914-2001)

Eamon Kelly was born in Rathmore, Killarney, Co Kerry, in 1914. His father was a country carpenter and he himself was apprenticed to that trade when he was fourteen. Soon after he had served his time he won a scholarship to the National College of Art in Dublin where he trained and qualified as a woodwork teacher. There one of his teachers, JJ O’Connor, was very interested in literature and drama, and introduced Eamon to the works of Shakespeare, encouraging him and his other students to perform plays in class.

In 1939 Kelly got his first teaching position as a peripatetic teacher of woodwork, travelling from school to school all over Kerry. A few years later he got a permanent position as a teacher at the Technical School in Listowel. In Listowel he soon became friendly with the writer Bryan MacMahon, who invited him to join the local drama group. Kelly became one of the group’s most active members, acting, directing, and performing many other tasks associated with the production of plays. While playing the part of the Christy Mahon in Synge’s Playboy of the Western World he fell in love with the actress who took the role of Pegeen Mike, Maura O’Sullivan, and they married, moving to Dublin in 1952 when, on foot of the great success of the Listowel Drama Group’s production of The Playboy, they were both invited to join the Radio Éireann Repertory Company.

Maura and Eamon Kelly worked as actors with the Company for several years and acted in many plays. In 1956 one of Radio Éireann’s directors, Mícheál Ó hAodha, heard Eamon tell a story as a party-piece at a friend’s house and was so impressed that he offered him a spot as a storyteller on a radio variety show, “Take the Floor”. Thus Kelly’s career as a storyteller began. A few years later, he was given his own show, “The Rambling House”. By the time Telefís Éireann was established in 1961, he was known as a storyteller and invited to do a ten-minute storytelling slot weekly as part of the children’s programme.

During the 1960s, restrictions on stage work for its actors by Radio Éireann were relaxed, since improved technology meant that plays could be pre-recorded rather than broadcast live (at times which usually clashed with those of theatre productions). Kelly began to perform in the theatre once again. One of his first major successes on the stage was playing S.B. O’Donnell in the first production of Brian Friel’s Philadelphia Here I Come at the Gate Theatre, directed by Hilton Edwards in 1964. The play was a hit and toured for almost two years in the United States and Britain. His success in Friel’s play led to a new job for Eamon, as an actor in the Abbey - at that time a permanent position. He joined the Abbey players in 1967 and remained with them until he retired in 1988.

In the 1970s, he began to compile one-man storytelling shows for the stage. The first of these was “In My Father’s Time”, directed by Michael Colgan. The shows were very successful, and Kelly’s reputation as a storyteller grew. He created and performed many more shows, and travelled widely in Ireland and abroad.

Some of his one-man compilation shows formed the basis of books which were published by Mercier Press. These include In My Father’s Time, The Rub of a Relic, and Bless me Father. In addition to these works Kelly also published two memoirs, The Apprentice (Dublin: Marino, 1995) and The Journeyman (Dublin: Marino, 1997).
The Eamon Kelly Papers

The Papers include scripts of his many stories, radio and television series, manuscripts of his books, correspondence, ephemera, newscuttings and photographs, as well as his published books and sound recordings.

The most interesting aspect of the collection is the large number of folktales it includes, stories which Kelly assembled from a variety of sources, literary and oral, and re-worked for his own performances. There are often several versions of each story, re-drafted many times. In the present list these have been classified, where possible, using the international folktale classification system from Aarne-Thompson’s *The Types of the Folktale*, which should facilitate folklore researchers in particular.

Of special interest are letters covering folktales and legends which were sent to Kelly by people who admired his radio programs. Not only do these letters with their enclosed tales indicate the popularity of Kelly’s radio programs and illustrate the high level of audience interaction with the media in Ireland, they also provide examples of stories with particular local provenance and provide insight into the state of oral narrative tradition in Ireland in the 1960s and later. An extract from a letter written by Pat Brosnan, of Scartaglen in Kerry, illustrates the inspiration which Eamon Kelly gave people through his radio programmes:

I take a great pleasure in making these stories it’s a wonderful past time. I was out in the haggard a few days ago and I was making up this one and talking out laughing. And I was really enjoying it, and from the kitchen window is a full view, so the Mrs was looking out and saw the carry on. She called me to the dinner but I did not hear her so she called again in the high DOH and brought me to earth at once. I went in as usual humming a tune and she was very lonesome looking inside she said what’s coming over you or you loo-sing your head you are talking out there with half an hour. I had my eye on you you should see a doctor or was it the fairies you were talking to, you have the heart turned on me I declare. So I answered quite cool I am glad you have your eye on me all the time it remind me of our young days when you would be throwing the glad eye across the dance floor at me, and I have my perfect senses all the time and your heart will be set right again when I tell you I was only making up a story for Kelly…

(Pat Brosnan, Scartaglen, 20/8/60)

Eamon Kelly was not a traditional storyteller in the sense that Seán Ó Conaill or Eamon a Búrc or Bab Feirtéar, or any of the innumerable storytellers whose tales were recorded by the Irish Folklore Commission and the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin, were or are. He was primarily an actor; his stories were carefully scripted and every phrase and nuance rehearsed in advance of the performance, rather than re-created on an extemporary basis in each telling as is more usual among traditional storytellers (although it is not an invariable rule). He learned stories from many sources, literary and oral, and occasionally seems to have made up stories himself, combining elements of traditional tales in a new arrangement. In general he told his stories on radio or television or on stage, to large audiences, rather than to friends and neighbours in traditional domestic settings. But his personal background was traditional. He had often heard folktales told in his youth; his appreciation of the traditional arts and
way of life was genuine and he was thoroughly familiar with them at first hand - his intense interest in and knowledge of folklife and customs is well illustrated in many of the scripts and writings in this Collection. Many of the natural gifts of the traditional storyteller were his: like the best traditional storyteller he possessed a quick sense of humour, exceptional articulacy, a sensitivity to language and a rich vocabulary and turn of phrase.

He was a unique artist who bridged the gap between the old forms of entertainment and the modern, successfully adapting a traditional art form and material to radio and then, more miraculously, to television, where he enjoyed great popularity during the 1960s and 1970s, as is well-documented in this Collection. His success in transferring the old culture to the new medium was due to his special personal talent, but undoubtedly also to the attraction of storytelling for Irish audiences. His popularity and the positive reception which his storytelling on radio and television enjoyed are interesting phenomena from the point of view of cultural and media history in this country. As one foreign writer, Erik Pierstorff, puts it, “his type is rare, at least outside Ireland”.

Custodial History and Access

The papers date from the 1940s to the 1990s, and are housed in 20 archival boxes. They were donated to the Library by Eoin Kelly, Eamon’s son, and Maura Kelly, his widow, in 2002. They are in good condition. The usual copyright restrictions apply to publication but there is no restriction on access to the papers for research purposes.
I STORIES AND SCRIPTS FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION

I.i Rambling House (Radio series, 1961)

MS 36,940

(1) “The Wig and the Wag”
R.H. No. 1, recorded 1st October 1961, First Story.
Woman with magic powers is robbed by her servant girl. Follows girl with help from animals. Transforms girl to a milestone on the road. Two copies. Typescript. Foolscap; one handwritten script.

(2) “A Story to Last For Ever”
R.H. No 1, recorded 21st October 1961, Second Story
Boy tells everlasting story, “one locust came and carried off a grain and then another locust came and carried off a grain.” Wins hand of princess.
(AT 2300. Endless Tales)²
Typescript and handwritten versions. Foolscap.

(3) “Mary O’Shea’s Story”
A woman puts a spell on her neighbour preventing her child from being born (using a cloak or garment). A Connaught woman deceives the witch into removing the spell by burning the cloak. Two typescripts and one handwritten copy.

(4) “A Plate of Tay”
R.H. No.2, Second Story.
First tea. A woman using tea for the first time serves a plate of boiled tealeaves to the Parish Priest.
(AT 1339C. Woman unacquainted with Tea)
One copy, handwritten. Foolscap.

(5) “Lord Charles and the Robber”
(AT 1525, The Master Thief)
One typescript, one handwritten copy.

(6) “Aristotle”

¹ R.H. = “Rambling House”
² A.T. This is the abbreviation used throughout the list for Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson, The Types of the Folktale. Helsinki 1928. Wherever possible the classification numbers from this index of international folktale types has been assigned to Eamon Kelly’s folktales.
Three things Aristotle did not understand: the coming and going of the tide, the working of the bees and the mind of a woman.

(7) “Coming Home from the Fair”  
R.H. No. 4, recorded 28th October 1961.  
Two poets buy two black cows at a fair and lose them in the dark. The following year they buy two white cows. It snows.  
One typescript, one handwritten copy.

(8) “The Challenge Hornpipe”  
R.H. No. 5, First Story.  
A fish vendor visits a fairy dance.  
One typescript.

(9) “The Two Comrades”  
R.H. No 5, Second Story  
Irishman emigrating to America wins race by dint of trickery and becomes Mayor of New York.  
One handwritten copy.

(10) “The Man from Tousist and the Foolish Woman”  
R.H/ No.6, First Story.  
(AT 1384. The husband seeks three Persons as Stupid as his Wife)  
One typescript.

(11) “The Echo”  
Boastful man brags that there is a cave on his land with an echo. Sends simple servant boy into cave to pretend to be the echo. Boy echoes three calls correctly when man shouts “Will you have a drink?” he replies “I will!”.
One handwritten copy. 3 pp.; one typescript, 2p.

(12) “Sheemusheen and the Highwayman”  
R.H. No.7.  
Faithful servant boy tricks highwayman and saves master’s money.  
One handwritten copy. 4 pp. One typescript. 3.pp. Typescript labelled RH No 8, 1st story.

(13) “The King’s Mother”  
R.H. No.7. Second Story.  
King swears he will behead the person who brings him news of his mother’s death. When she dies everyone is afraid to tell him. A reward is offered by king’s sisters to anyone who will tell the king the bad news. A lame traveller takes up the challenge and by making oblique hints succeeds in conveying the message without stating it.
One handwritten copy (3 p.) and one typescript (2 p.) Handwritten copy is marked No. 7, and typescript No. 8.

(14) “The Fairy Belt”
R.H. 8
A great goalkeeper is taken by the fairies to play hurling with them. He retains the fairy belt as a memento.
One handwritten copy. 4 p; one published version, 3 p.

(15) “The Gamekeeper’s Workman”
R.H. No. 9
A workman and his wife are snowed in to their cabin for days. They kill and eat their hens. Finally a hawk flies down the chimney with a grouse in his mouth and they eat that. The snow melts and the gamekeeper comes to the cabin straightaway. Seeing the grouse feathers he accuses the workman of poaching and doesn’t believe his story. But the workman has kept the hawk as proof.

(16) “Blind Man’s Buff”
R.H. No. 10
Blind man is robbed by neighbour. By a deception he successfully encourages he neighbour to restore the money.
Typescript. 2 p.

(17) “The Witch of the Apples”
Boys are transformed to dogs by wicked stepmother.

(18) “The Jeweller”
Jeweller’s “alarmers” (alarm clocks) are stolen from his shop window. He eavesdrops on confessions in order to find out who did it.
Handwritten. 3 p., typewritten script, 3 p.; carbon copy, 3 p.

(19) “Larry, Johnny and the Umbrella”
Priest closes umbrella to the great wonder of people who have never seen one before.
Handwritten. 4 p.

(20) “Paddy Doyle’s First Trip to Cork”
Paddy Doyle and a friend go to Cork. A landlady tries to cheat them into paying for a meal they didn’t order. Paddy is tried by the Mayor of Cork and found innocent.
Handwritten. 6 p.
(21) “Micí McHugh”
A discontented wife holds parties while her husband is at the fair. By hiding in a sack he discovers what is going on and puts a stop to it. Handwritten. 3 p.; typescript, 4p.
(AT 1419. The Returning Husband Hoodwinked.)

(22) “The Beggarmán’s Story”
Changeling legend.

(23) Scripts for introductory sequences to Rambling House programmes: 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.

I.ii Long Ago in Ireland (Television series)
MS 36,941

(1) “Mícheál Mac Tíre and the Banbh”
Transmission date 4th February 1963.
The well-known story of “The Three Little Pigs” to which is added the story of the wolf who is tricked into falling into a pot of boiling water.
(AT 124 Blowing the House In)
Studio typescript. 7 p.; handwritten script, 6p.

(2) “The Tailor and the Lion”
Transmission date 11th February 1963.
A tailor sails from Ireland to South America. He goes ashore on a whale’s back and is carried to a strange land. Meets and tricks an eagle, and then kills a lion by trickery.
(AT 1640, The Brave Tailor)
Studio typescript. 7p.

(3) “How the First Hare came to Ireland”
Transmission date 18th February.
Aetiological tale. Hare comes to Ireland, is frightened by a horse, leaves and returns. Decides to live in the mountains where people and dogs are rare.

(4) “The Smallest King in Creation”
Transmission date 25th February 1963.
How the wren became king of the birds.

In some instances, the series title “Long Ago in Ireland” is not indicated on stories included in this section. However, it is clear from other evidence, e.g. the dates of transmission, the format of the typescripts, the inclusion of the typescripts with material labeled “Long Ago in Ireland” in the original collection, that the stories in question formed part of this series. “Long Ago in Ireland” was broadcast on Telefís Éireann, for children.
**(AT 221, *Election of the Bird King*)**  
Studio typescript, 6 p. handwritten version, 5p.

(5) “Barefooted Gander”  
Transmission date 4\textsuperscript{th} March 1963.  
A man can’t dream. He is advised to sleep beside the fire. He has a vivid dream about going to America on a gander’s back.  
Studio typescript. 6p.

(6) “Jack and His Comrades”  
Transmission date: 11\textsuperscript{th} March 1963.  
Jack, a widow’s son, sets out to make his fortune. He helps a donkey, a dog, a cat etc. Finally he and six animal friends attack and defeat a band of robbers. Jack marries a princess.  
*(AT 513A Six Go through the Whole World)*  

(7) “Minding the House”  
Transmission date: 18\textsuperscript{th} March 1963. (Also broadcast on “Here and How”, 1970)  
Man complains about wife’s inept housework. They change places for a day. Man can’t cope. After a series of accidents he ends up with his head stuck in a pot.  
Studio typescript. 6p.

(8) “Jack and the King of Leinster”  
Transmission date: 26\textsuperscript{th} March 1963.  
Widow’s son performs impossible tasks due to his great physical prowess. Outwits evil king and wins double his weight in gold.  
Studio typescript. 7 p; handwritten script, 5p.

(9) “The Three Gifts”  
Transmission date: 19\textsuperscript{th} April 1963.  
Widow’s son, Jack, receives supernatural gifts: a magic tablecloth, bottle, and stick. Deceitful people steal the tablecloth and the bottle. Finally they are beaten by the magic stick and return the other magic items to Jack.  
Studio typescript. 7 p.

(10) “The King of the Lies”  
Transmission date: 12\textsuperscript{th} May 1962  
Storytelling competition: man who can force the king to say “That’s a lie” will win his daughter in marriage. Widow’s son succeeds.  
*(AT 1920 Contest in Lying)*  
Studio typescript. 6 p; handwritten script, 4p. See also Notebooks.
(11) “Bodach an Chóta Lachtna”
Transmission date: 11th June 1964.
Fenian story.
Studio typescript. 5p.

(12) “The Eagle with the Feathers of Gold”
Transmission date: June 1964.
King’s apples are stolen by a golden eagle. With the help of an old woman the king’s son traces the eagle to Spain. He releases the eagle from a magic spell and she is transformed to a beautiful girl, whom he marries.
(AT 550, The Bird, the Horse and the Princess)
Studio typescript. 6p.

(13) “The Bridge of Feathers”
Transmission date: 25th June 1964.
(AT 313, The Girl as Helper in the Hero’s Flight”)
Studio typescript. 6p.

(14) “A Bright May Morning”
(Legend: Old Woman as Hare)
Studio typescript. 5p.

(15) “Petie Flimin and the Whale”
Fantastic journeys of Petie Flimin: he travels to Australia, to London, ends up in a whale’s belly, is thrown into the sky and lands back in front of his own house.
(Legend: High Over to London”)
(Studio typescript, 7p.; handwritten script, 4p.

Two versions of same item. Selection of anecdotes about eagles.
Two studio typescripts. 6p.; handwritten script, 5p.

(17) “Donncha and his Three Servants”
Donncha wants to marry Maire Ní Rógáin, who will only marry a man who can race her to Cork and back in one day (and win). With the help of Cos Fé Chrios, Cluas le hÉisteacht and Súil le Féachaint, Donncha wins the race and gets married.
(AT 513, The Helpers)
Studio typescript, 4p.

(18) “The Miser’s Hoard”
Miser’s daughter marries a blacksmith, against her father’s wishes. He decides they’ll never inherit his gold. He secretes his sovereigns in a tree. He dies and is found to have left nothing. The
tree blows down in a storm. It floats along the river. The blacksmith uses the tree to make an anvil. Eventually he discovers the money, hidden in the wood of the anvil. So he and the miser’s daughter come into their inheritance after all.

Studio typescript. 4 p.

(19) “The Treasure at Limerick Bridge”
Man dreams of gold at Limerick Bridge. He meets a man who lives at the bridge, who tells him he has dreamt that gold is buried in a field near Kilmacthomas. This is the first man’s own field. He digs and finds a pot of gold.
Two studio typescripts. 8p., 8p.

(19 A) “London Bridge”
Version of “The Treasure at Limerick Bridge”, located in London.
Handwritten script, 3p.

(20) “Brother Cuddy”
How the arbutus tree came to Ireland. Linked to story of a monk who follows a birdsong and is away for a hundred years.
Studio typescript. 6p.

(21) “Hudden and Dudden and Daniel O’Leary”
Hudden and Dudden kills Daniel O’Leary’s bullock. He skins the bullock, brings the hide to market. He is befriended by a talking magpie which he sells for a pot of silver. He tells Hudden and Dudden the silver was the price of the hide. They kill their bullocks but cannot sell the hides. They try to push Daniel O’Leary into the lake. He escapes. He gets six cattle from a passing drover in exchange for his silver. Tells Hudden and Dudden he got the cattle in the land at the bottom of the lake. They jump in and drown.

(AT 1535 The Rich and the Poor Peasant)
Typescript. 5p.

(22) “Saint Molaing and the Gobán”
The Gobán Saor builds a church for St. Moling. In payment he requests the chapelful of grain. St. Moling says he will fill the chapel with grain if the Goban Saor turns it upside down. He does. He gets his grain. The chapel remained upside down.
Typescript. 2p.
I.iii Here and Now (RTE series, 1970)
MS 36,942

(1) “Patey Conchubhair Beag’s Wife”
Broadcast 22 December 1970.
Describes shawls worn by women in the past. Patey Conchubhar Beag’s wife receives a parcel of clothes from America. She dresses up in a hat and high heels etc, and leaves off her shawl. Patey Conchubhair doesn’t recognize her when she approaches him in the market place.
2 typescripts, heavily annotated. 4p.; handwritten script, 4p.

(2) “A Matter of Good Rearing”
Personal experience anecdote about cultural differences: American woman does not understand that when a boy refuses a bite to eat the first time he’s asked she should continue to press him until he accepts.
Handwritten script. 7p.

(3) “Nell Casey”
Broadcast 27th April 1971.
Humorous story about a man who marries a mute woman. He collapses during a party game and her power of speech is restored.
Handwritten script. 6 p.

(4) “The Gobán Saor”
Two stories about the Gobán Saor, one about the substitution of a boy for his daughter and his subsequent search for his daughter, and one about building a palace for the king of England.
Handwritten script. 7 p.

(5) “Humphry Carey”
Broadcast 1st March 1971.
Humphrey Carey cheats a farmer by selling the same cow twice. He is summoned. He hires Daniel O’Connell as a barrister. O’Connell advises him to play the fool, to answer all questions with “Have a bullseye!” The judge dismisses the case finding Carey unfit for trial. When Daniel O’Connell asks for his fee, Carey says “Have a bullseye!”
Handwritten script. 5p.
Second version, typescript, 6p.

(5A) Another version, entitled “Curney and the Nice Blue Cow”.
Handwritten script, 5p.

(5B) Another version, entitled “Humphrey Curnaín”
Handwritten script, 5p.
(6) “Phil Farrell’s Little Woman”
Broadcast 12th January 1971.
Thade Noin, a cattle drover, finds himself in a house where a woman is having an affair in her husband’s absence. Comic story.
(AT 1350, The Loving Wife)
Handwritten script, 5p; two typescripts, 6p.

(7) “Doctor Foncey”
Stupid boy becomes a doctor. “If you can’t do any good don’t do any harm either.” He cures his old teacher by making him laugh so much that he coughs up the fishbone that is choking him.
Two handwritten scripts (one fragmentary) 6p.; 2p.

(7A) Another version, entitled “Jack the”
Handwritten script, 8p.

(8) “Under the One Roof”
4th May 1971.
Descriptive piece, remembering the days when animals and people lived together under one roof.
Handwritten script, 6p.

(9) “O’Connell and the Tinsmiths”
13th April 1977.
Travellers (called Brien, from Castleisland) trick a Tory hotelier in London with the help of Daniel O’Connell.
Four versions, handwritten scripts, 11 p., 4p, 2p. 3p.

(10) “Dancing”
19th January 1971
Account of dancing.
Handwritten script, 6p.

(11) Untitled
Broadcast 2 February 1971.
Story about Tom and Bridgie. Tom has nightmares about a wild horse and disturbs Bridgie’s sleep. She has a gate built into the centre of their bed.
Handwritten, 5p.
I.iv  In My Father’s Time  (RTE television series, 1962-3)
MS 36,943

(1) “The Fairhaired Merchant”
Sailor is seduced by a woman who lives under the sea. He escapes and lives on land for many years. One day when he is playing football on the beach he runs into the water after the ball and is immediately snatched away, and never seen again.
Studio typescript. 7p.

(2) “The Crow of Achill and the Hag of Beara”
Clever crow is befriended by a blacksmith, who feeds and looks after him. Together they try to calculate the age of the Hag of Beara but fail.
Studio typescript. 7 p; two handwritten scripts 6p., 6p.

(3) “The Wolf and the White Kid”
Wolf tricks kid into letting him into the house. Kid is rescued by his mother.
(\textit{AT 123, The Wolf and the Kids})
Studio typescript, 7 p. Handwritten script, 6p.

(4) Green folder containing six stories for Programmes 1-6 of series


I.v  Monologues
MS 36,944

Twenty-two scripts on various topics, mainly dealing with traditional customs and folkways.

I.vi  Storytime (TV series)

(1) “The Tailor and the Lion”
A tailor goes to South America in his own boat. Lands on a whale’s back and is carried off by an eagle. Finally he kills a lion and is feted as a hero in a foreign land.
Handwritten script, 5p.

(2) “Minding the House”
Broadcast 18\textsuperscript{th} March 1963.
An excessively critical man changes roles with his wife for a day and discovers her true worth.
Handwritten script, 5p.

(3) “The Story”  
Paddy discovers an old woman who transforms herself to a hare. She  
kills his cow in revenge. He goes to Biddy Earley who advises him to  
bring the cow into the fairy lios where it is cured.  
Handwritten script, 2p.

I.vii Christmas scripts  
MS 36,945  
Stories broadcast at Christmas, various dates.

(1) “The Blacksmith O’Grady”  
Hags transformed to beautiful girls at forge.  
Handwritten script, 4 p.

(2) “Light”  
Broadcast RTE (television) 1981)  
Memories of candles and other lights at Christmas, as well as a story  
about problems when lights became compulsory on all vehicles.  
Typescript, 7 p.

(3) “Drink”  
Account of the Wren tradition on St. Stephen’s Day.  
Handwritten script, 9p.

(4) “Christmas Eve”  
Memories of Christmases past (not complete)  
Handwritten script, 3p.

(5) “Christmas in my Father’s Time”  
Memories of Christmas past, to which is added story of mute woman,  
Nell, whose power of speech is restored when her husband collapses  
during a party game at their wedding (See “Nell Casey” above)  
Typescript, 8p.

(6) “The Goose is Getting Fat”  
Memories of Christmas past, to which is added the story “The  
Barefooted Gander” (see above)  
Handwritten photocopy, 10p.

(7) “Christmas in Killarney”  
Memories, and a story, “Jack and the King of Leinster” (see above).
Appended to this is “Christmas in my Father’s Time”, radio 1981.

(8) “Christmas Box”
Broadcast 25 December 1983.
Memories of Christmas past, to which is added the story “Patey Conchubhair Beg’s wife” (see above).
Handwritten script, 18p.

(9) “Christmas 1986”
Memories of Christmas past, to which is added a story about a carpenter and a confession box.
Handwritten script, 8p; typewritten script, 9p.

Memories, and story about a man who misses confession on Christmas Eve.
Handwritten photocopy, 7p.

Memories.
Handwritten script, 4p.

(12) “Christmas”
Memories.
Handwritten script, 5p.

(13) “Christmas Eve”
Memories.
Handwritten script, 3p.

(14) Some unused material
Notebook including some notes on Christmas.

(15) “Audience Reaction”
Humorous article reporting an event which the author experienced at Christmas in Coolock. Attached is a note to Eoin, Eamon Kelly’s son.
Typescript, 1 p., plus note.

(16) “Clothing”
Fragment on clothing at New Year.
Handwritten, 1 p.

(17) “Mick the Fiddler Comes Home”
Photocopy of chapter from book, annotated “Keep for Christmas Story 1984”.

18
(18) Fragments on Christmas.
Handwritten, 3p.
II SCRIPTS AND STORIES FOR STAGE
PERFORMANCES AND ORAL RECORDINGS

II.i A Rogue of Low Degree
MS 36,946

File of stories entitled “A Rogue of Low Degree” Rough script.
Includes 45 pages of draft material apparently intended for publication
or long performance script. Also, fragmentary photocopy of same.
Also, several individual stories most of which occur in other series or
publications, as follows:
“The Jeweller”; “The Earl of Banemore”, “An Slua Aerach”, “Oisin in
Tir na nOg”, “The Fairy Belt”.

II.ii A Script for Derry
MS,36,947

Brown file entitled “Stories a script for Derry 13th Dec. 1970”
Includes several stories which also occur in other series and
publications, as follows:
“The Salmon of Knowledge”; “Deirdre and the Sons of Uisneach”;
“Fire in the Mountain”; “The Gobán Saor”; “Oisin in Tir na nOg”

Songs and Stories from an Irish Fireside: Eamon Kelly remembers an
American Wake”: script for tape publication (cf letter from Seán Ó
Súilleabháin, MS 36,997)

II.iii School Days
MS 36,948

(1) Yellow file containing handwritten script entitled “School Days”
and typescript entitled “Mangerton”. Autobiographical memoir
intended for program (note: “29/30 mins). Stapled to folder, c 25 pages,
mainly A4

(2) Copy of above, photocopy and some handwritten script,

(3) Letter from Mary O Doherty, Headford, Killarney, asking Éamon
Kelly to “speak into the enclosed tape on your school days in
Knockanes School” for her undergraduate project on the same school.

II.iv The Tailor and Ansty
MS 36,949

Original actor’s script.
Also: “Story Night”; “John the Man”; “American Wake”
Typescript, 47 p.

II.v  “English That for Me”
MS 36,950
Storytelling Evening. (Published as book by Mercier Press)
Typescript. 45p.

II.vi  “Scéal Scéalaí”
MS 36,951
“Má Tá Bréag ann”, le Eamon Kelly agus Tomás MacAnna

II.vii  “Your Humble Servant”
MS 36,952
Another Storytelling Evening written and devised by Eamon Kelly.
Mixture of handwritten and typed script. 82 p.
Some newscuttings reporting on launch of books, English That for me
and Your Humble Servant, May 1990.

II.viii  “According to Custom”
MS 36,953
Scripts for According to Custom, The Storyteller Again, The Story
Goes and The Seanchaí. Some incomplete.

II.ix  “Más Fíor Bréag”
MS 36,954
Uncorrected copy. Handwritten and typed. 29p.

II.x  Scripts in Irish
MS 36,955
“Dónal Ó Conaill I Londain”; “An Scáthán”; “An Scoláire Bocht agus
an Rógaire”; “An Slua Aerach”; “Gabha an tSuic”; “An Chlai Mhóir
Sgeachógach”; “An Sagart agus an Peacach”; “An Parasal”;
“D’imthigh seo agus Tháinig Siúd”; “Gadaí Mór Ghleana Fleisce agus
a Bhuachaill, Jack”; “An Fear Óg Glic”; “Éineas agus Aindí”.

And others
III INDIVIDUAL STORIES (not identified with particular programmes)

MS 36,956

1. “Con the Fifth”
Numbskull story. Con the Fifth, after a series of mishaps, puts cow on the roof to graze.
(AT 1210, The Cow is Put on the Roof to Graze)
Typescript, 3p, handwritten script, 3p.

2. “An American Pickpocket”
A master pickpocket marries a woman equally talented. They marry and have a baby. The newborn baby steals the nurse’s wedding-ring.
Typescript, 3p, handwritten script, 3p.

3. “The Beggarmán’s Story”
Changeling legend.
Two typescripts, 6p, 6p.

4. “John the Man”
Numbskull story: John the Man carries beer in his hat.
Handwritten script, 3p.

5. “Willyo and the Womaneen”
Errors of a housewife.
Handwritten script. Three pages.

6. “What Nell Connor’s Husband said to the Curate”
Comical story about a childbirth and a jennet.
Two typescripts, 4p, 4p.

7. “The Captain”
Man who thinks he’s a dog.
Typescript, 4p.

8. “Con the Mí-Ádh”
Numbskull story. “His whole life was a chapter of comical misfortunes”. Falls asleep in an open grave. When he wakes at dawn he thinks he is witnessing the Resurrection.
Typescript, 4 p.

Mean blacksmith loses trade. He likes to drink and gatecrashes wakes and weddings.
Typescript, 4p.; handwritten script, 4p.
Prophecy that son of the Gobán Saor will build wonderful buildings that will puzzle people as to their origins. He builds round towers.
Handwritten scripts, 3p.

11. “Jackie the Lantern”
Man who is not wanted in either Heaven or Hell.
Four versions.
(Will o’The Wisp legend)

12. “The King of Ireland’s Daughter”
King promises his dying wife that he will remarry only the woman whom her ring fits. This woman is his daughter. He threatens to marry her. She hides inside a golden horse which is given to the King of England’s son. She works as a servant in the royal household and eventually marries the prince.
(Possibly an amalgam of episodes from various wondertales)
Typescript, 5p; handwritten script, 4p., 3p.

13. “The Man from Yonkers”
Returned “Yank” tells tall tales.
Three typescripts, 3p., 3p., 3p.

14. “Pardon”
Man hears sermon “Anything you give to the Lord you’ll get it back on the double”. Gives cow to the landlord etc.
Typescript, 4p.

14A. “The Lord”
Another version.
Handwritten, 5p.
(AT 1735, “Who Gives his own Goods shall receive it back Tenfold”)

15. “Fire on the Mountain”
Why the frog has no tail. Story about animals stealing fire from witches.
Typescript, 3p.

16. “The Queens”
A boy steals a sack of potatoes from his father and gives them to his friend’s father to sell at the fair. Opposite also occurs.
Typescript, 4p.; handwritten script, 4p.
17. “Mick and Biddy”
“I want to phone a duck to Castleisland”. Mick and Biddy have difficulty understanding modern technology.
Handwritten scripts 11p, 9p.

18. “The Journeyman Mason”
Story about a journeyman mason who never pays landladies for his lodging.
Two typescripts, 4p., 4p.

19. “The Seal People”
A man visits the land of the seals under the sea.
Three versions. Handwritten scripts, 4p, 5p, 4p.

20. “The Three Champions”
Johnny kills a hundred with one blow.
(AT 1640 The Brave Tailor)
Handwritten script, 4p.

21. “Curaí Mac Dáire, the King of Kerry”
Cú Chulainn falls in love with Bláthnaid, princess of the Isle of Man, but is rejected by her father. Cú Chulainn is helped by Curaí Mac Dara to overcome her father and his men. But for his reward he takes Bláthnaid. Blathnaid refuses to marry him until he builds a palace. He does. She ties him to a pillar with his own hair, whereupon Cú Chulainn attacks, killing Cúraí. A battle between Cú Chulainn’s troops and the men of Kerry ensues. Bláthnaid asks C.C. to spare the life of Fergus, who knows where the gold is hidden. Fergus leads Bláthnaid and Cú Chulainn to the gold. But before they reach it he grabs Bláthnaid and plunges over a cliff edge with her, killing them both.
Handwritten script, 5p.

22. “Flathuil and the Fox”
Fox plays dead and escapes from farmer. Farmer, ironically named “Flaithuil”, offers a handyman a pound if he kills the fox. Sub-plot involving a game of cards with detailed description of card games. Handyman loses money at cards; on his way home he shoots the fox. “Flaithuil” says it’s the wrong fox and refuses to pay him.
Typescript, 4p; handwritten script, 4p.

23. “The Man from the Mountain”
A man’s children are starving. He pretends to be a messenger from heaven. Brings news of her dead son to a woman, telling her her son’s trousers are worn out. She gives him a bale of tweed. Tells widow her husband has a craving for butter and she gives him butter. Later, when
chased by a man, he eludes him and says a cloud in the sky is the messenger on his way back to heaven.  
Handwritten script, 4p.; typescript, 3p.

24. “Aodhgán Ó Rathaille and the Three Cattle Jobbers”  
Aodhgán Ó Rathaille tricks three cattle jobbers by pretending his hat can manufacture money and selling to them at a large price.  
Typescript, 4p, handwritten script, 4p.

25. “Heaven and the Half Set”  
Account of mission in a country parish. Afterwards villagers realise they have heard a lot about hell, but nothing about heaven. They discuss what heaven would be like: a place with a pub, a football pitch, a dance hall.  
Typescript, 4p; handwritten script, 4p.

26. “Halpin’s Ganger”  
Ganger hides stolen butter under his hat.  
Typescript, 4p, handwritten scripts 7p., 3p.

27. “The Broken Match”  
A matchmaking dinner is held, with a roast duck as the main course. The girl’s father turns off the lamp and asks everyone to embrace his one true love. The fiancé grabs the roast duck. When the dinner is over the girl’s father says the match is broken.  
For when you sat down to table  
To eat your bite and sup  
We thought you’d choose the lady  
But instead you choose the duck.  
Handwritten script, 3p; typescript 3p.

28. “John the Man and his brother, Dan”  
Adventures of brothers John and Dan in Cork.  
(possibly incomplete)  
Handwritten script, 2p.

29. “Limestone Carey”  
Description of an incompetent mason, “Limestone Carey”.  
Two handwritten scripts, 2p., 2p.

30. “Con Sweeney”  
A man’s wife dies and he remarries. His first wife appears to him and says she is not dead, but “carried” (by the fairies). She gives him instructions as to how to rescue her. He carries them out, she is revived, the second wife is sent to Dublin, America or a convent.  
Handwritten script, 4p.
How men of Connaught learned to play football.
Typescript, 4p.

(31A). Another version, entitled “The Athnablatha Kicker”
Handwritten script, 3p.

32. “Aristotle”
Three things that Aristotle did not understand.
Handwritten script, 3p.

33. “The Carman’s Mule”
A carman’s mule collapses, as a result of drinking alcohol. Carman believes him to be dead and skins him. Mule revives. Carman puts a coat on him and he lives for several years.
Typescript, 3p.

34. “The Three Tradesmen”
Three tradesmen drink everything they earn. They cheat a hotelier by trickery.
Typescript, 5p.

35. “King Puck”
Angry wife throws her husband out of house. He meets the king of the goats, who brings him home and breaks into the house. Everyone who touches the goat sticks to him, however, and eventually a long procession travels across the countryside, finishing in Killorglin at the fair. The king goat releases the spell and the people attached to him are free. The wife and man and reconciled and the goat is crowned king of the fair.
Typescript, 5p; handwritten script, 5p.; carbon copy, 5p.

36. “The Black Captain”
A witch doctor from Africa ends up in County Clare. He is able to perform tricks of illusion, but a jarvey who has a four-leaved shamrock is not deceived.
Handwritten script, 2p.

37. “The Miller and the Tramp”
Tramp teaches stingy miller a lesson.
Handwritten script, 4p.

38. “Mickleen Tom”
Mickleen Tom makes a canoe and makes his way to America. Story of his adventures.
Typescript, 3p.
Jack meets plays football with a team of dead souls. The team captain advises him to go to a certain house in Limerick. He does. The house is haunted. Jack waits up and meets more dead souls. One of them is the former owner of the house who died intestate and regrets the results. He shows Jack boxes containing gold and deeds, some for his son and one for Jack. Jack discharges his duty and goes home, rich.
Handwritten script, 4p.

40. “You’d ate a Bag of Salt before you’d get know a Kerryman”
Jack suffers from rheumatism. He goes to the seaside to bathe but is too modest to get into the water with onlookers around. Brings home three barrels of water and bathes in privacy. When he needs more seawater he returns to the beach with his barrel. The tide is out. “It must be in great demand” he says. “Tis nearly all gone.”
Handwritten script. 3p.

41. “The Engine Driver’s Cat”
Opens with account of first milk separators in Macroom area. Story of a clever cat who goes angling in a stream for fish.
Typescript, 4p.

42. “The Giant of Scotland”
Conán Mac Maol disguised as a baby in cradle frightens the giant of Scotland.
Typescript, 2p.

43. “Lazy Lar”
Lazy Lar is so lazy that he’d rather die than peel a potato.
Typescript, 2p.

44. “Who Killed the Man”
Misunderstandings because of a foreign language. Boys know only three phrases: “We Three”, “For the Want of Money” and “The sooner the better”. Using the phrases in the wrong context, they end up condemned to death for murder.
*AT 1697, “We Three; For Money”*
Typescript, 2p.

45. “The Butcher’s Bag”
Old man spends a day in school. When butcher who has lost his money asks him if he found it, he says he found some once on his way to school. Butcher says “That was so long ago it can’t have been mine.”
Typescript, 2p; handwritten script, 3p.
46. “Katy Kelliher”
Account of a wedding disrupted by violent straw-boys, and subsequent marriage disrupted by mother-in-law.
Handwritten script, 7p.

47. “First Potatoes cooked by Electricity”
Handwritten script, 4p.

48. “Smoke”
Mason constructs a smoky chimney to avenge himself on miserly clients.
Handwritten script, 2p.

49. “The Gobán Saor”
Two typescripts, one handwritten script.

50. “Frainkeen Fiosrach”
Account of tall tales told to satisfy inquisitive man’s thirst for “news”.
One typescript, 2p.

51. “The Earl of Banemore”
Irishman pretends to be the son of an earl in order to marry a wealthy girl.
Four handwritten scripts, two typescripts.

52. “The Seal Woman”
Man from Ballinaskelligs, called Shea, who married a mermaid.
“Man Who Married the Mermaid”
Typescript, 6p; handwritten version, 5p.

53. “My Dog Bun”
Anecdotes about clever dogs.
Typescript, 3p.

54. “An Corpán Bréige”
Man pretends to be dead in order to get money and food from neighbours who attend his wake.
Typescript, 4p.; handwritten script, 3p.

55. “The Wran”
The wren becomes involved in a legal dispute with a magpie. Wren’s attempt to foil the process server fails.
Handwritten script, 2p.

56. “The Midwife’s Reward”
Midwife to the Fairies
57. “Monkey’s Tail in Pint”
   Monkey puts his tail in a grumpy man’s pint.
   Handwritten script, 4p.

58. “Solas Gréine and the Honey-Fingers”
    Fairytale.
   AT 511. One-Eye, Two-Eyes, Three-Eyes.
   Typescript, 17p.
   (Signed by Seán Ó Súilleabháin).

59. “The Story of Ned Gilligan the Agent”
    Story about revenge on a merciless landlord’s agent.
    Typescript, 3p.

60. “The Grey Rock”
    A crow takes a mason’s waistcoat and money.
    Typescript, 3p.

61. “Above in the Parlour”
    A mother-in-law is put out of her bed in the parlour into the kitchen.
    She takes her son and his wife to court and becomes reinstated.
    Typescript, 4p.

    Apprenticeship of a robber.
    Typescript, 3p.

63. “Eoghan Rua and the Bishop of Cork”
    Bishop asks Eoghan Rua the name of the Blessed Virgin’s mother.
    Eoghan Rua counters by asking the name of his own mother.
    Handwritten script, 2p.

64. “Boarding Out”
    Mean employer starves worker.
    Handwritten script, 2p.

65. “The Journeyman Tailor”
    Tailor promises to kill a lion but does not.
    (good example of a non-story)
    Typescript, 2p.

    Changeling legend.
    Typescript, 3p.
67. “The Fiddler’s Watch”
A fiddler has a monkey who collects contributions when he fiddles.
Combined with story of watch in waistcoat; the waistcoat is stolen by a heron who wears it with the watchchain.
Handwritten script, 4p.

68. “Dan Eugene”
Story about a politician in an election.
Handwritten script, 2p.

69. “Mrs. Owen and her Daughter Noinie”
Story about marriage.
Handwritten script, 3p.

70. “Dereenawling”
A man pins a ram to the ground to stop him butting him. Tricks second man into holding the ram and escapes himself.
Two handwritten scripts, 3p, 3p.

71. “The Shopkeeper’s Son”
Clever cat helps young man to win princess.
Handwritten script, 4p.

72. “Coming home from Buttevant”
Man travelling late at night meets fairy horsemen.
Handwritten script, 3p; typescript 4p.

73. “Blind Man’s Buff”
Blind man’s pot of sovereigns is stolen by his neighbour. Using his wit he succeeds in retrieving it.
Handwritten script, 3p.

74. “Who Killed the Man?”
AT 1697 We Three for Money
Handwritten script, 4p.

75. “Frankeen”
Frankeen can’t resist disobeying an order not to touch an object left in his care.
Typescript, 4p.

76. “Jack the Pedlar”
Pedlar makes soup by enticing ingredients out of housewife.
Typescript, 7p.
77. “The Four Lads from Beara”
Recovery of girl who has been taken by the fairies.
Typescript, 4p.

78. “Small Jur”
Small Jur, who is fond of music and dancing, cheats two shoemakers into giving him a pair of shoes, one right and one left.
Typescript, 3p.

79. “The John Doe”
Son steals oats from his father to sell for pocket-money. Battle of wits ensues.
Handwritten script, 2p.

80. “John Michael O’Connor”
Handwritten script, 4p.

81. “Joanie”
Humorous story about an old woman who refuses to get out of bed when her room is being re-floored and re-roofed.
Handwritten script, 3p.

82. “The Long Night”
Bridegroom sleeps for two nights instead of one and misses his own wedding.
Handwritten script, 4p.

83. “Silky Dan”
Fragment of a story about an attractive man.
Handwritten typescript, 2p.

84. “The Scarcity”
Story about shortage of tobacco.
Handwritten script, 6p.

85. “Dan the Druid”
Dan is knowledgeable about folklore but reluctant to marry.
Handwritten script, 4p.

86. “Ulick Aneas and Andy”
Three new wives make fools of their husbands, Ulick, Aneas and Andy, in order to win a wager with their mother.
Handwritten script, 4p.; two typescripts, 5p., 5p.
87. “Wall Street Story”
Irish emigrant manages to pass reading examination on Ellis Island by trickery.
Reference also to a Pole whose name is spelt O’Konski by the immigration officer.
Handwritten script, 4p.

88. “The Spancel Story”
A couple elope. The girl’s father chases them. A pot of gold is left in his pathway, magically. He hides it under a tree, ties a spancel around the tree to identify it; when he returns with an ass and cart there is a spancel tied around every tree.
Handwritten script, 4p.

89. “The Gold of Damer”
A tailor makes a suit for the miser Damer; in lieu of a fee he asks if he can look at Damer’s gold. The request is granted. Why? Asks Damer. “That’s all you do,” says the tailor. Damer sees the wisdom of this comment and allows the tailor to take two handfuls of gold.
Handwritten script, 3p.

90. “The Fiddler’s Wife”
Fiddler’s wife insists there are two geese on the lake, although he sees only one. She dies arguing about this.
AT 1365, The Obstinate Wife
Handwritten script, 3p.

91. “Full Consent”
Story about a greenhorn in New York (incomplete).
Handwritten, 3p.

92. “The Black Rogue of Glenflesk”
Jurdy, the widow’s son, is a natural thief. Tricks his mother into apprenticing him to the Black Rogue of Glenflesk, a master robber.
Handwritten script, 3p.

93. “The Strong Man”
Typescript, 2p.

94. “Cat Breac, Broc, Donn”
A cat pretends to be a dog in order to deceive a mouse and catch him. “It’s always good to know a foreign language”.
Handwritten script, 3p.

95. “Small Jur”
Typewritten script, 3p.
96. “The Gobán Saor’s Box”
Gobán Saor makes a beautiful box and hides in it to discover people’s honest opinion of his work.
Handwritten script, 3p.

97. “Tobacco”
Account of tobacco shortage during World War One, and of pipe smoking.
Handwritten script, 3p.

98. “John the New Line”
John is taken down a mine; believes he is in Hell.
Handwritten script, 5p.

99. “Travelling Men”
Handwritten script, 2p.

100. “My Sister Moll”
Boy falls into belly of fish.
Handwritten script, 2p; typescript, 2p.

101. “The Man that Never Dreamt”
Man dreams that he travels to America on the back of a goose.
Typescript, 3p.

102. “Mikeleen and the Major”
Mikeleen, a greenhorn, goes to Cork and as a result of trickery is arrested and held for a month in jail. When he is released he has an adventure in a dairy, where he hides in a churn until a housewife begins to churn; then he is chased by dogs. Finally he is persuaded to descend into a grave where the mayor has been buried along with large sums of money “for the journey”. Mikeleen outwits his companions and returns home to his mother with the money.
Handwritten, 4p.

103. “Joan Bairead’s Story”
Woman transforms herself to hare by drinking magic potion. In this version, she is married and her husband transforms himself also in order to catch her out.
“The Old Woman as Hare”
Typescript, 4 p.

104. “Frainkeen”
Frainkeen complains constantly about the stupidity of Adam’s and Eve’s disobedience. His employer, Pete, puts Frainkeen’s obedience to
the test. He promises that Frainkeen will never have to work again if he
obeys his injunction not to turn over a “keel” (basket) to see what it is
hiding. Frainkeen finds it impossible to obey. He lifts the basket and
several mice run away. Pete discovers the disobedience and Frainkeen
has to work again.
Typescript, 4p; handwritten script, 4p.

105. “Mossey Malley”
Owing to an unfortunate chain of accidents Mossey is wrongly accused
of stealing a bucket.
Handwritten script, 7p.

106. “Yorkshires”
Anecdote about piglets.
Handwritten script, 2p.

107. “Jack the Mallet”
Jack has three wishes. By mistake he wishes that the devil would take
him. When the devil arrives to claim him, Jack makes use of his
remaining wishes to get rid of him.
*AT 330, The Smith Outwits the Devil.*
Handwritten script, 5p.

108. “I’ll be bidding farewell”
Piece about American wakes and emigrant’s account of going to
America.
Handwritten script, 5p.

109. “Micí McHugh”
Micí returns home early from the fair to find his wife holding a party in
his absence.
Typescript, 4p.

110. “Cousineen’s Car”
Milk is churned into butter in “Cousineen’s” car.
Typescript, 3p.

111. “The Clock”
Man footing turf takes his friend’s bundle containing an alarm clock
instead of his own lunch bundle.
Typescript, 2p.

112. “John the Mower”
A hired hand outwits a stingy housewife.
Handwritten script, 2p.
113. “Two sons from the Province of Connaught”
Two Irishmen recently arrived in London mistake a monkey for an Irish emigrant, changed by the experience of being in England.
Handwritten script, 4p.

Man who never dreams moves beds and dreams that a gander carries him over the ocean to America.
Handwritten script, 3p.

115. “The King of the Tradesmen”
St. Patrick forces publicans to give fair measures of beer.
Typescript 4p; handwritten script, 4p.

116. “Where are you going with that Quilt?”
Child persuades his parents to be kind to his grandfather by letting them know that he will emulate their behavior when he grows up.
Typescript 3p.

117. “Legal Aid”
In a legal dispute between angels and the devil the devil wins since the angels fail to find a lawyer in heaven.
Handwritten, 5p.

118. “Red Mick Describes New York”
Mick describes New York and environs with the aid of a map drawn in ashes. The cat jumps into the map and scatters it.
Handwritten, 3p.

119. “Máire Ní Rógnán”
Donncha Daoi, with the help of three clever companions, Cluas le hÉisteacht, Cos Fé Chrios and Súil le Fáchaint, wins the hand of Máire Ní Rógnán.
Typescript, 3p.

120. “The Seal People”

121. “We can’t all be Concubhairín Dubhs”
Version of “The Taming of the Shrew”, AT 901.
Handwritten, 5p.

122. “The Cat and the Splinter”
Version of “The Cat and the Candle”, AT 217
Typescript, 4p.
123. “Mary Anne”
Story about a woman who does not get on with her mother-in-law.
Handwritten script, 4p.

124. “Second Story”
Tale of man whose hump is taken away by the fairies. Probably intended as a story for a series.
Version of “Gifts of the Little People”, AT 503.
Handwritten script, 3p.
Typescript, 4p.
IV STORIES FROM VARIOUS INFORMANTS

IV.i Stories from Seán Ó Súilleabháin

MS 36,957


3. Here’s a Story for Ye…”: “The Truth of the Wan Story and The Sword of Light” by Seán Ó Súilleabháin.

4. “Here’s another Story for Ye…”: “The Queen of the Lonesome Island”

5. “Here’s a story for ye…” “The Woman that Went to Hell”. By Seán Ó Súilleabháin.


10. “Born Under a Star”

11. “Fionn in Search of His Youth”

12. “Fionn and the Fianna”.

13. “The King’s Daughter and the Bearded Horseman”

14. “The Captain that was Married to Poverty”

15. “Móirín”

16. “The Man that Knew No Fear”

17. “The Man that Struck his Father”

18. “The Apprentice Thief”

37
19. Fragments.

20. Letter from Seán Ó Súilleabháin to Eamon Kelly, enclosing two stories and saying that he has selected many more and will send them. 5 November 1961

21. “Tomás Ó Cathasaigh i measc na Sidhe”
   No informant or correspondent but story not in Eamon Kelly’s style.
   [Possibly a translation by Sean Ó Súilleabháin of an original in Irish Folklore Commission manuscript?]

22. “Sean Mac A’Madaidh and the Fairies”. No informant or correspondent named, but story is not in Eamon Kelly’s style.

**IV.ii Selection of stories about the Fianna**

**MS 36,958**

2. Photocopies of above stories

**IV.iii Stories from various informants**

**MS 36,959**

1. “Mary O’Shea’s story”: letter from Mary O’Shea to “Mara” (Maura Kelly?), undated, attaching 10 pages of verses in English and Irish “put together” by Roibeárd Harris.


4. Two letters including accounts and anecdotes about his youth from Pat Brosnan, Knockacorran, Scartaglen.

5. Story about period immediately following night of the Big Wind, sent by Mrs. O’Sullivan, 5 Patrick Street, Listowel.

6. “How a donkey restored friendship between neighbours who had not spoken for Years”. Sent by Pete Coghlen, Beaufort, Killarney.

8. “No Light”.


12. “The Bachelor Who Woke Up.” Informant not identified, but note on script informs “Sent in by a listener”.


14. Story about old age pensioner who dies on Thursday. News of death is kept secret by his family so they can collect his pension on Friday. Story enclosed in letter from a correspondent in Rathmore, Co. Kerry. Name not included. Undated.


16. Mary O’Shea, Valentia. Account of “How wool was manufactured”, and personal letter.


22. Letter from P.M. Brosnan, Knockacorrin, Scartaglen, describing how he makes up stories as he goes about his work on the farm, and his wife’s alarm when she hears him talking and laughing to himself. Attaches a story about a farmer who outwits a crafty jobber at a fair. (20/8/1960).


24. Letter from Tom Sheehan, Doneraile, Co. Cork, enclosing two humorous anecdotes.

25. Chain tale about flying cake (“I came from a woman, a man, from a griddle, from a pan, from a barn full of thrashers, and from you if I can”). Anonymous.

V  NOTEBOOKS

MS 36,960  
Copybook  
Includes:  
“Timmy and the Pookies”; “The Eagle with the Feathers of Gold”;
“Mathún Manntach agus an Sgathán”; “John the Man”.  
[red copybook, handwritten, 60 leaves]

MS 36,961  
Copybook  
Includes:  
“John’s Story”; “Notes for Stories”; “The Home Cured”.  
[beige “College Notebook”, spiral binding, 13 leaves]

MS 36,962  
Copybook  
Includes:  
Notes on “Tailor and Ansty”.  
[red “Exercise Book”, foolscap, 15p.]

MS 36,963  
Notebook  
Includes:  
“Cartoon Characters” (journal notes concerning New York and notes on aspects of life in the United States).  
[red “Academy Pad”, 80 leaves]

MS 36,964  
Copybook  
Includes:  
[Green spiral notebook, 28 leaves]

MS 36,965  
Copybook. Fleadh Cheoil 1965-66. (other notes on cover)  
Includes:  
“Doctor Jack”; “Aloysius”; And other notes.  
[red Educational Standard Exercise Book, 60 leaves]
MS 36,966
Notebook. Solo Material (pub material)
Includes:
“Tobacco” (notes); “The Crow”; “The Cock”; “Oíche Choille”;
“Keeping his Word”; “Foxy Dan”; “The Pledge”; “The Election”;
“O’Connell Hall Readings”; “The Three Tradesmen” (1969 version);
“After Hours”.
[spiral bound “College Notebook”, red cover]

MS 36,967
Notebook.
Includes:
“The Will”; “Ned Hanifin”; “Kicked the Teapot”; “The Tailor from Dingle”; “Phone a Duck”; “The Story about the Slippery Path”; “Mary O’Shea Said”; “The Man From Yonkers”; “Eamon Kelly”; “The Gobán’s Box”; “Reflections on a Recent Tragedy”.
[spiral bound “College Notebook”, green cover].

MS 36,968
Notebook. Cover inscription: Pub Raid: White Cat. Intro to two stories pub.)
Includes:
List of stories 1968-69
“Notes for Christmas Story”; “Donaleen Rae”; “Ned Connors”; “Account of the first Old Age Pensions”; other notes and stories.
[spiral bound “Silvine Students Note Book”, red cover].

MS 36,969
Notebook (c. 1957)
Includes:
“Brynie’s Dance” (verse); “Phrases in Irish and English”; List of stories (for broadcast or performance, 1956-7); List of names, including some associated with the Abbey Theatre and with Radio Éireann; “The Four Questions” (monologue by Eamon Kelly); “The Gobawn in England”; “The Gobawn Saor”; “The Time the Gobawn went to England”; “Shrovetide”; “Tig na Gann Choda”; “The King of Ireland’s Daughter”; “An t-Amadán ba Mhó.
[“Exercise Book”, soft red cover]
MS 36,970

Notebook. Inscription on cover “Largely the Clitteratí”.
Includes:
Rough notes for a speech, dated 9th December; Rough program for Boston College; List of names of mountains in Kerry; Notes and pieces entitled “The House”, “The Mountains”, “John B’s Pub”.
Autobiographical material, some roughly arranged for a television or film presentation.
[Eason “Refill Pad”, green and white cover, 200 leaves]

MS 36,971

Writing Pad
Includes:
Autobiographical writing.
[Basildon “Air Mail featherweight” writing pad. White cover]

MS 36,972

Notebook
Includes:
Notes on Strawboys and notes and diagrams choreographing a storytelling session.
[“Spicer's for Students refill pad”, blue cover].

MS 36,973

Jotter
Includes:
Story of the journeyman who cheats the landlady out of her rent, a piece entitled “Nights Out”, and some miscellaneous notes.
[“Universal Note Book for Shorthand Typists”. Soft beige cover.]

MS 36,974

Notebook
Includes:
“The Red Hot Iron Flail”.
[Educational Company “Exercise Book”, foolscap size, brick cover]
MS 36,975  
Notebook, c. 1959  
Includes several stories, neatly arranged and written, as follows:  
“Halpin’s Ganger”; “The Three Tradesmen”; “The King of the Lies”;  
“The Man from Yonkers”; “Where are you going with that Quilt?”;  
“Small Jur”.  
A list of dates and stories for Rambling House, 1958-59, is noted at the  
end of this notebook. Some of the stories included in the notebook are  
listed there.  
[“College Note Book”, soft blue cover, spiral binding]

MS 36,976  
Notebook  
Small memo book [“Memo Book”, soft red cover]

MS 36,977  
Notebook  
Small memo book including several stories, as follows:  
[“The King of Ireland’s Son”]; “The Golden Eagle”; “The Cat and the  
Spinster”; and others  
[“Memo Book”, soft red cover]

MS 36,978  
Notebook  
Small memo book including untitled story, a version of “The Boy Who  
Had Never Seen a Woman” (AT 1628). Also a few notes.  
[“Memo Book”, soft red cover]

MS 36,979  
Very small notebook including part of a play script (unidentified).  
[green cover]

MS 36,980  
Small notebook including text of one story, “Tóg Bog é” and a few  
notes.  
[cover fallen off]
VI MANUSCRIPTS OF PUBLISHED WORKS

MS 36,981

VI.i  The Apprentice
Dublin: Marino, 1995

1. "A spin of the wheel"
   Handwritten manuscript, including several chapters of The Apprentice.
   Super Economy Pad”, 200 leaves. Yellow cover.
   bound in loose-leaf blue folder, 170 p.
3. Manuscript notebook containing part of The Apprentice and part of The
   Journeyman. Includes Chapter 16-18 of The Apprentice and Chapter 1 of
   The Journeyman. Eason’s Refill Pad, A 4, lined, c. 80p.
5. Copy of (b)
   flyer from Marino Books concerning The Apprentice, newcutting of short
   article by Michael McDermott, “Acclaimed seancháí to tell his own story
   in new book”, The Kerryman, July 21 1995, and page including page
   numbers or chapter numbers and note “may omit”.

MS 36,982

VI.ii  English That For Me and Your Humble Servant
Cork: , Mercier, 1990

Two folders containing proof copies of the publication, including all
stories contained in the collection and the introductions by Erik
Pierstorff and Daithí Ó hÓgáin.
Loose typescript wrapped in beige folder, c. 200 pages, and bound red
plastic folder, 41 pages.

MS 36,983

VI.iii  The Rub Of A Relic
Dublin: Mercier, 1978

Notepad containing pasted down copies of typescripts of stories
interspersed with handwritten texts. Probably original manuscript
prepared by Kelly for publishers.
“Academy Pad”, soft mauve cover, 80 sheets.
MS 36,984

**VI.iv  Bless Me Father**
Dublin and Cork: Mercier, 1977

“Father Mac Gillacuddy”. Fragmentary, 5p.

MS 36,985

**VI.v Unpublished Work on Folklore**

Collection of articles on folklife topics, paginated and intended as basis for a publication. Topics covered include the following: marriage, food, the hereafter, tobacco, after hours, killing the pig.
Handwritten, c. 40p.

MS 36,986

**VI.vi Christmas in Ireland**
Cork: Mercier, 1989

Typescript, c. 80 p.

MS 36,987

**VI.vii The Journeyman**

1. Copy of published book
VII CORRESPONDENCE

VII.1 Correspondence with Publishers, Theatres and other Corporate Bodies

MS 36,988

VII.1.1 Abbey Theatre

MS 36,989

VII.1.2 Mercier Press
Ca. 50 letters and documents from Mercier Press. Includes contracts and royalty statements. Correspondents include Mary Feehan and Marion Murphy. Letters and royalty statements refer to Kelly’s books, *Bless Me Father*, *Christmas in Ireland*, *A Feast of Storytelling*, *According to Custom*, *Rub of a Relic; Two Nights’ Storytelling*, *In My Father’s Time*, and *The Apprentice*. 1970-1996.

MS 36,990

VII.1.3 Poolbeg Press
11 letters and royalty statements, mainly from Jo O’Donoghue, and concerning *The Bridge of Feathers* and *The Enchanted Cake*. 1988-1993.
MS 36,991

VII.i.4 Gandon House, Irish Records and Tapes Ltd.

MS 36,992

VII.i.5 Tony Awards Committee

VII.ii Letters from Individuals

MS 36,993

VII.ii.1 Fan letters
38 letters from various individuals expressing appreciation of Eamon Kelly’s performances, the majority referring to the RTE series “In My Father’s Time” (1977). Also two letters of complaint (about “nasty shady remarks”) referring to the same series. 1948-1990.

MS 36,994

VII.ii.2 Invitations, acknowledgements, soliciting letters
35 letters of invitation, 1948-63

50 letters inviting Eamon Kelly to perform for various small societies, schools etc, or thanking him for delivering such performances. Ca. 1941-79.

50 letters of invitation, mainly 1977-83

38 letters of invitation, mainly 1977-8.
VII.iii  Letters from playwrights, directors and actors

MS 36,995

VII.iii.1  Letters from Brian Friel

(a) concerning American tour of *Philadelphia Here I Come*”, comforting Kelly re his depression, homesickness and boredom with the tour. Mentions that he has just completed a play, “Lovers Keepers”. Also family gossip re his daughter Judy. 4 p., enveloped. Postmarked 1 March 1967.

(b) Undated letter addressed to Maura and Eamon, concerning family matters and tour plan for unnamed play (possibly *Philadelphia Here I Come*). Friel mentions that he has just prepared “Cass” for publication. Dated 10 November. Year not given but possibly 1966).

(c ) Undated letter congratulating Kelly on an award or honour, complaining about difficulty of acquiring funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland or of the Republic, and commenting on inadequacy of “Three Sisters” but congratulating Kelly on his performance in the play.

(d) Postcard congratulating Kelly-Eamon on being “garlanded again”. 1991.

(e) Undated letter complaining about American tour, commenting on visit to Nova Scotia, and making plans for future performances. Probably 1967.

MS 36,996

VII.iii.2  Letters from Bryan MacMahon  (c. 1940s)

(a) List of items of information relating to Kelly’s life in Listowel eg “Tech opens Sept 1st”.

(b) Postcard outlining travel arrangements for visit to Dublin.

(c ) Letter outlining travel arrangements for trip to Dublin (postmarked 1947).
VII.iii.3 Letters from others


2 letters from Seán Ó Súilleabháin, Irish Folklore Commission, referring to a blurb he has provided for a record, to Eamon Kelly’s American tour, and to the Irish censorship laws (“Lots of talk about the censorship laws, and so on. Some better administration of the Act may come as a result…”). 8 November, 15 December 1966.

Letter from Thaddeus O’Sullivan, film director, asking Kelly if he will consider taking the part of the priest in a film based on a story by Sean O’Faolain entitled “The Woman Who married Clark Gable”. Includes other correspondence.

VII.iv Other personal letters


VII.v Irish Repertory Theatre

Correspondence, newsclippings and ephemera relating to American tour with Irish Repertory Theatre, 1989.
MS 37,000

VII.vi  “In My Father’s Time”

File of correspondence, financial documents, and ephemera, relating to a trip to Canada and United States with “In My Father’s Time.” 1976.

MS 37,001

VII.vii  Letters from Eamon Kelly to various correspondents

MS 37,002

VII.viii Letters from various correspondents containing stories and information on folklore.
VIII FINANCE

MS 37,003

IX NEWSCUTTINGS AND EPHEMERA

MS 37,004
1. File of newscuttings relating to various productions, 1958-63

MS 37,005

MS 37,006
File of newscuttings relating to performances of *Philadelphia Here I Come*” in Ireland. 1967.

MS 37,007
File of newscuttings, ephemera and correspondence relating to *The Tailor and Ansty*. 1975.

MS 37,008
File of newscuttings and ephemera mainly relating to American tour of “The Best of Ireland” (Abbey) and “Bless me Father”. Also includes commemorative booklet, *The Abbey Theatre, 1966-1976*, and some ephemera relating to Kelly’s performances in Ireland. 1976.

MS 37,009
Newscutting and ephemera mainly relating to *The Rub of a Relic”. 1978.

MS 37,010
Newscutting, ephemera and correspondence, mainly relating to Hugh Leonard’s *Da*. Also includes reviews of John B Keane’s *Sharon’s Grave* and a one-man show by Kelly. 1979.

MS 37,011
Newcuttttings and ephemera, mainly relating to *A Rogue of Low Degree*. 1981.

MS 37,012
Newcuttings and ephemera, mainly relating to Seamus Murphy’s *Stone Mad* (Peacock 1982) and Kelly’s *Your Humble Servant*. 1982-3.

MS 37,013
Papers relating to nomination of Kelly as “Kerry Person of the Year”, 1984.
| MS 37,014 | Newscuttings, ephemera, mainly relating to Abbey’s Russian tour with J.B. Keane’s *The Field*. 1988. |
| MS 37,015 | Newcuttings and ephemera mainly relating to the publication of *The Journeyman* and including many tributes to Kelly on his 85th birthday. 1998. |
| MS 37,016 | Miscellaneous newscuttings, various dates, 1950-1996. |
| MS 37,017 | Miscellaneous newscuttings, various dates, 1960s. |
| MS 37,018 | Album including reviews of several shows and some photographs. |
| MS 37,019 | File of newscuttings, including interviews and reviews, 1985. |
| MS 37,020 | File of newscuttings, including reviews of Hugh Leonard’s *Da* and Kelly’s *In My Father’s Time*. 1977. |
| MS 37,021 | File of newscuttings, mainly reviews of *Philadelphia here I Come*. 1992. Also some correspondence relating to this production. |
| MS 37,022 | File of newscuttings mainly relating to John B Keane’s *Sive* and Tom Mac Intyre’s *Famine*. 1993. |
| MS 37,023 | File of miscellaneous newscuttings, including reviews of *Your Humble Servant*. 1960s. |
| MS 37,024 | Scrapbook of newscuttings relating to Eamon and Maura Kelly in Listowel in the 1950s. |
| MS 37,026 | File of newscuttings relating mainly to *The Well of the Saints* on tour in London. 1970 |
| MS 37,027 | Newscuttings, mainly relating to Synge’s *The Playboy of the Western World*, Frank O’Connor’s *The Saint and Mary Kate, The Tailor and Ansty*. 1968. |
| MS 37,028 | Newscuttings relating to Constantine Fitzgibbon’s *The Devil at Work*, Chekhov’s *The Proposal* in Irish translation (*Cúrsaí Chleamhnais*), George Fitzmaurice’s *The Dandy Dolls* and Synge’s *The Well of the Saints*. 1971. |
| MS 37,031 | Newscuttings mainly relating to *In My Father’s Time*. 1975, 1976. |
| MS 37,032 | Newscuttings relating to *English That for Me*, and *Your Humble Servant*. 1980. |
| MS 37,033 | Newscuttings relating to *The Tailor and Ansty*. 1986. |
X VIDEO AND SOUND RECORDINGS

MS 37,034 67 original unpublished recordings of Eamon Kelly performances, readings, radio and television programs, and interviews. Cassette tapes. 1960s-1990s. Includes: “In My Father’s Time”, “A Rogue of Low Degree”, “The Abbey in Russia”, “Stone Mad”, “The Story Goes”, “Rub of a Relic”, and many individual stories. Also interviews with BBC and RTE.

MS 37,035 8 published cassette tapes by Eamon Kelly or including Eamon Kelly as an actor or performer, including “Stories from Ireland”, “Live from Ireland”, “The Irish Storyteller” (all published by Lunar Records); “A Visit to the Rambling House” (Radio Kerry); Aisteorí na Mainstreach ag Léamh (Abbey); Paddy Noonan’s “Christmas time in Ireland” (Rego Irish Records and Tapes).

MS 37,036 12 video recordings of plays, performances and television programs including Eamon Kelly as a participant. Includes Tom Murphy, The Late Late Show Jimmy O’Dea Special; English That for Me; Stories from Ireland; The Man from the Mountain; Sunday Night at the Gaiety; and others.

XI MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

MS 37,037 Miscellaneous actors’ scripts.

MS 37,038 Miscellaneous ephemera,

MS 37,039 Photographs.

MS 37,040 Miscellaneous fragments. Includes poem by Eamon Kelly entitled “Notting Hill”; fragmentary stories and scripts.
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