Finding Aid for the George MacBeth Papers, 1950-1964

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Finding Aid for the George MacBeth Papers, 1950-1964

Collection number: 994

UCLA Library Special Collections
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Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information

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Descriptive Summary

Title: George MacBeth Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1950-1964
Collection number: 994
Creator: MacBeth, George
Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: George MacBeth (1932-1992) is regarded as having a powerful influence on British poetry. His radio programs featured new poets and he was praised for his ability to recognize poetic excellence. He also wrote novels and nearly twenty volumes of verse. The collection consists of typescript and holograph manuscripts of MacBeth's poetry.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.
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A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Library Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], George MacBeth Papers (Collection 994). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 2221095

Biography
MacBeth was born in Scotland on January 19, 1932; graduated with honors in Classical Greats, New College, Oxford, 1955; worked at British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), London, 1955-76; producer, BBC Overseas Talks Department, 1957-58 and producer, BBC Talks Department 1958-76; regarded as a powerful influence on British poetry, his radio programs featured new poets, winning praise for his ability to recognize poetic excellence; wrote novels and nearly twenty volumes of verse, including The Broken Places and A Form of Words; edited poetry collections, including The Penguin Book of Victorian Verse; received Sir Geoffrey Faber Award, 1964; died in Ireland on February 17, 1992.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of typescript and holograph manuscripts of MacBeth's poetry. Also includes related articles, broadcast scripts, and ephemera.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
MacBeth, George--Archives.
Radio producers and directors--Great Britain--Archival resources.
Poets, Scottish--20th century--Archival resources.

Box 1

1. Sheffield Anti-Communist League. 1950. George MacBeth was Chairman.
   Scope and Content Note
   A Newsletter-3pp. qto-typed; 5 foolscap duplicated Newsletters; and 2 publicity leaflets: (only surviving copies).

Box 1

2. Death of a Nation.
   Physical Description: 6pp. foolscap.
   Scope and Content Note
   A script for Radio, recorded for Youth Clubs and based on the fall of Czechoslovakia. This is the only surviving copy of the play, written by George MacBeth.

Box 1

   Scope and Content Note
   Contains Poem Choice and Thought, later revised as Thoughts on Choosing. Signed G.M. MacBeth.

Box 1

July 1950. Selections from narrative poem The Suburban Scene.
Box 1  
July 1951. Poem, The Terminus -- on Mother's death; also poem South Bank -- on Festival of Britain; photo (3 copies of School Magazine with early work).
Box 1  
4. A few newspaper cuttings and articles including a visit to U.S.A. in 1951.
Box 1  
5. Pre-publication copy of A Form of Words. Fantasy Press. 1954.
   Physical Description: Cloth folder with gilt titles/containing loose sheets of text.
Box 1  
6. Corrected typescripts and holograph working sheets for item 5.
   Physical Description: 39pp. quarto.
Box 1  
   Physical Description: 7pp. typescript-h holograph manuscript.
Box 1  
   Physical Description: 21pp. quarto.
Box 1  
   Physical Description: 12pp. drafts. Typescripts and holograph manuscripts.
Box 1  
   Physical Description: 20pp. quarto. Typescript and holograph manuscript with corrections.
Box 1  
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains a profile of George MacBeth with photo. Together with a copy of CherwellMay 12, 1953 that contains a further interview.
Box 1  
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains article A Stake in the Country by George MacBeth. Also article by Anthony Thwaite about the Oxford poets.
Box 1  
13. 5 issues of Trio, edited by George MacBeth: contains poem and reviews by/of George MacBeth.
   Physical Description: Copies.
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.
Box 1  
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.
Box 1  
15. Listen. vol.1 no.3. 1954. Contains poems by George MacBeth.
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.
Box 1  
16. Poems, prose, contributions to periodicals.
   Physical Description: Typescripts and holograph working notes. 101pp.
Box 1  
17. Thoughts on Time published in New Lines 2, a proof copy of which is also included.
   Physical Description: 39pp. typescripts, holograph manuscripts and working notes.
   Note
   Catalogued in Rare Books.
Box 1
18. *Folio*Spring 1956/.
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains the first and only appearance of two poems by George MacBeth.
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.

Box 1
   Scope and Content Note
   Philip Larkin, Donald Davie, Jonathan Price, and Anthony Thwaite. George MacBeth was a joint editor at that time.
   Note
   Catalogued in Rare Books.

Box 1
20. Working notes, poems and contributions to periodicals. 1954-1963/.
   Physical Description: 200pp. Collection typescripts, holograph manuscripts.

Box 1

Box 1
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.

Box 1
   Note
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.

Box 1
24. Copies of Magazines:
   Note
   (Catalogued in Collection 1000)

   Box 1
   Box 1
   Box 1
   Box 1
   *Paris Review*, no.29.
   Box 1
   *Transatlantic Review*, no.11.
   Box 1
   *The Review*, no.2.

Box 1
   Physical Description: 22pp. typescripts-holograph, working notes for poems.

Box 1
   Physical Description: 54pp. typescripts-holograph, working notes and poems.
   Note
   Catalogued in Rare Books.

Box 1
27. *The Broken Places*.
   Physical Description: 400pp. typescripts, holograph manuscripts and working notes
   Scope and Content Note
   In some cases there are 20 versions of the same poem, together with working notes for unpublished poems: (superb collection of manuscripts).

Box 2
28. First stage of the finished manuscript of *The Broken Places*.
   Physical Description: 56pp. typescripts, holograph.
| Box 2 | 30. A collection of galley proofs for poetry and prose.  
Physical Description: 12 items. |
| Box 2 | 31. Two Off-Prints, *Critical Quarterly*. 1962 no.4:  
*The Sick Rhetoric of War* prose.  
Lee-Hamilton and the Romantic Agony prose. |
Physical Description: 20pp., foolscap.  
Scope and Content Note  
Item no.31 was based on this script. |
| Box 2 | 33. Broadcast script. 1962. Interview with George MacBeth about his two poems *The Tin and Bedtime Story*.  
Physical Description: 8pp., foolscap. |
| Box 2 | 34. Broadcast script. 1961. Selection of poems by George MacBeth.  
Physical Description: 21pp., foolscap. |
Physical Description: A carbon corrected typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
The only surviving copy of *The Fragments of an Autobiography*. A collection of 28 poems, not published. |
| Box 2 | 36. Prose and prose drafts. Published and unpublished. Including articles on Hemingway-Sandburg-Jeffers.  
Physical Description: 125pp. Typescripts and holograph working notes. |
| Box 2 | 37. Material relating to *The Penguin Anthology of Sick Verse*.  
Scope and Content Note  
Introductory notes, letters, photostats and typescripts. Holograph manuscripts and working notes. Complete collection of all the material relating to this anthology: together with copy of the book and reviews.  
Note  
Catalogued in Rare Books. |
| Box 2 | 38. Complete galley proofs for item no.37.  
39. Original working sheets for *The Doomsday Show*.  
Physical Description: 42pp. Quarto-corrected typescript.  
Scope and Content Note  
This is the script and scenario for a cabaret show held at The Establishment. London. |
| Box 2 | 40. 2nd stage of the script (item no.39), a printed script with holograph corrections.  
Physical Description: 39pp. A bound copy. |
| Box 2 | 41. Final revised script of item no.39 and 40.  
Physical Description: 43pp. Bound copy. |
| Box 2 | 42. A copy of the original programme and proof-programme as well as newspaper reviews relevant to item no.39 and 41. |
| | Physical Description: 4pp. holograph notes.  
| | Scope and Content Note  
| | With typescript of the poem The Crucifix which was first published in this anthology/together with copy of the book.  
| | Note  
| | Catalogued in Rare Books. |
| Box 3 | 44. *A Doomsday Book*. Comparable to item no.27.  
| | Physical Description: 200pp. typescripts and holograph manuscripts with complete working notes. |
| Box 3 | 45. Copy of item no.44 with reviews-with galley proofs.  
| | Note  
| | Catalogued in Rare Books. |
| Box 3 | 46. *Missile Commander*.  
| | Physical Description: 29pp. typescripts and holographs.  
| | Scope and Content Note  
| | Together with copy of the booklet which was published in a limited edition of 150 copies only. |
| Box 3 | 47. *The Calf*.  
| | Physical Description: 5pp. typescript-holograph.  
| | Scope and Content Note  
| | Together with a copy of the booklet/which was published in a limited edition of 50 copies. |
| | Physical Description: 42pp. typescripts-holograph working notes. |
| Box 3 | 49. Workbook with the holograph manuscript and notes of *The Humming Birds*.  
| | Physical Description: Approximately 200pp. |
| Box 3 | 50. Typescript with holograph correction of item no.49 and copy of *Ark journal* containing the published work.  
| | Physical Description: 62pp. quar.  
| | Note  
| | Catalogued in Collection 1000. |
| | Note  
| | Catalogued in Rare Books. |
| Box 3 | 53. GROUP sheets: The reverse of one of the sheets has a holograph letter to Stephen Spender.  
| | Physical Description: 4 items. |
| Box 3 | 54. Poems read at the GROUP meetings.  
| | Physical Description: 71pp. typescripts-holograph manuscripts and working notes. |
Box 3  

55. All the poet's unpublished material written during the period 1957-1960.  
   Physical Description: 300pp. typescripts, holograph manuscripts and working notes.  
   Scope and Content Note  
   Contains at least 50 unpublished poems. In actual fact there are more than 300 pages of autograph material as the poet has used the reverse side, in many cases, of each sheet.  
   Again a superb collection.

Box 3  

56. Copies of magazines containing contributions by AMBIT: 3 issues and a copy of Modern Poetry in Translation. George MacBeth is one of the editors.  
   Note  
   Catalogued in Collection 1000.