Finding Aid for the Franklin D. Murphy Collection of Material about Sean O'Casey, 1900-1964

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Finding Aid for the Franklin D. Murphy Collection of Material about Sean O'Casey, 1900-1964

Collection number: 325

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Franklin D. Murphy Collection of Material about Sean O'Casey,
Date (inclusive): 1900-1964
Collection number: 325
Creator: Murphy, Franklin D., 1916-
Extent: 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Franklin David Murphy (1916-1994) was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He was the Chancellor at UCLA (1960-68). Murphy had collected books by Sean O'Casey, and began a correspondence with him in 1956. O'Casey (1880-1964) was a playwright. His plays include The Shadow of a Gunman, Juno and the Paycock, and The Plough and the Stars. O'Casey moved to England in 1926 and continued writing plays. The collection consists of 14 literary manuscripts by Sean O'Casey, 19 letters from O'Casey to Murphy, 34 carbon copies of letters from Murphy to O'Casey, 107 pieces of correspondence relating to the collection between Murphy and various persons, and pamphlets, pictures, and ephemera.

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

Language: English.

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Dr. Franklin D. Murphy, 1970.

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UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography
Franklin David Murphy was born on January 29, 1916 in Kansas City, Missouri; received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Dean of the School of Medicine (1948-51) and Chancellor (1951-60), University of Kansas; Chancellor, UCLA, 1960-68; became Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Times Mirror Company in 1968, becoming Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1981; served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as on the board of directors of several corporations; died on June 16, 1994 in Los Angeles; Murphy had collected books by Sean O'Casey, and began a correspondence with him in 1956; O'Casey was born on March 30, 1880 in Dublin, Ireland; served as secretary of the Irish Citizen Army, 1913-14; his plays include The Shadow of a Gunman, Juno and the Paycock, and The Plough and the Stars; after a Nationalist riot during a performance of the last-named play at Dublin's Abbey Theatre, O'Casey moved to England in 1926; continued writing plays, including The Silver Tassie, Purple Dust, and Cock-A-Doodle-Dandy; he died on September 18, 1964 in Torquay, Devon, England.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of 14 literary manuscripts by Sean O'Casey, 19 letters from O'Casey to Murphy, 34 carbon copies of letters from Murphy to O'Casey, 107 pieces of correspondence relating to the collection between Murphy and various persons, and pamphlets, pictures, and ephemera. Manuscripts include the original versions of the plays Nannie's Night Out, Kathleen Listens In, and The Bishop's Bonfire, and holograph manuscripts of early poems, including The Sweet Little Town of Kilwirra and The Soul of Man.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Correspondence
2. Printed Materials and Pictures by and relating to Sean O'casey

Indexing Terms
Murphy, Franklin D., 1916- .
O'Casey, Sean,--1880-1964.
College administrators--California--Los Angeles.
Book collectors--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Dramatists, Irish.
Manuscripts for publication.
Correspondence

Folders 1-2

**Correspondence between Sean O'Casey and Dr. Murphy. 1956-1964.**

- Physical Description: 53 items in all.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - There are 19 original holograph letters from O'Casey, and 34 carbon copies of Dr. Murphy's letters to O'Casey.
  - One of Dr. Murphy's carbon copies (September 22, 1964) is to Mrs. O'Casey.

Folder 3

**Correspondence and invoices between various booksellers and Dr. Murphy (1955-1961).**

- Physical Description: 81 items in all.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - re the acquisition of books by Sean O'Casey.
  - There are 50 letters and invoices from booksellers (most of these are from Bertram Rota, London) and 31 carbon copies of letters from Dr. Murphy.

Folder 4

**Correspondence between various persons and Dr. Murphy (1958-1965).**

- Physical Description: 30 items in all.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - re Sean O'Casey and the collection of books and manuscripts assembled by Dr. Murphy.
  - There are 12 original letters from various persons, including Leonard Lyons, Professor James H. Butler, Professor David Krause, and Shivann O'Casey (Sean O'Casey's daughter), and 16 carbon copies of Dr. Murphy's letters.

Folder 4

**Aha, St. Bernard Shaw [A Whisper About Bernard Shaw] n.p., ca. 1947.**

- Physical Description: 6 leaves Typescript with a few manuscript corrections in pencil.
- **Scope and Content Note**

Folder 5

**With this: 1. Letter. July 14, 1947.**

- **Scope and Content Note**
  - From Jones to Shaw enclosing the typescript of O'Casey's article, and asking for comment.
  - This essay was published in *The Green Crow*, London. 1957, in a different form.

Folder 5

**2. Dunsany, Lord. The Influence of Bernard Shaw. n.p., ca. 1947.**

- Physical Description: 2 leaves. Typescript.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - This manuscript was also sent to Shaw in order to get his comment.

Folder 5

**The Green Crow.**

1. **Flying Wasp. n.p. n.d.**

- Physical Description: 1 leaf. Holograph.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Draft for 'Contents' to *The Green Crow* appears at bottom of leaf in O'Casey's hand.

Folder 6

2. **The Green Crow. n.p. n.d.**

- Physical Description: 1 leaf. Typescript (carbon).
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Prefacing remarks to *The Green Crow* appears at the bottom of leaf in O'Casey's hand.
Folder 6

3. Foreword. n.p. n.d.
Physical Description: 6 leaves. Typescript (carbon). The last 2 leaves are extended by pasting additional sections together with holograph corrections in ink.
Scope and Content Note
Written for The Green Crow appears at top of leaf in O’Casey’s hand.

Folder 6

Physical Description: 1 p.l., 35 leaves. Typescript with some manuscript corrections in pencil. Also O’Casey’s corrections in ink on pp.22 and 30.

Folder 7

With this: 1 Letter laid in on the verso of the title page from O’Casey to Dear Gaby [Gabriel Fallon, London] August 26, 1929.
Physical Description: 1p. Holograph.

Folder 7

2. 2 alternative endings to the play.
Physical Description: Typescript. 30-33 leaves and 34-38 leaves.

Folder 7

3. Cue sheets for Oul Joe’s part.
Physical Description: Typescript.
Scope and Content Note
By Fallon when he was learning his lines.

Folder 7

4. Extra lines for Oul Joe. 2 leaves.
Physical Description: Typescript.
Scope and Content Note
By O’Casey probably given to Fallon when the play was in rehearsal. One leaf contains notations for music.

Folder 8

Irish Nannie Passes. n.p. n.d.
Physical Description: 1 p.l., 24 leaves. Typescript with copious holograph corrections and additions in ink. Also notes in another hand in pencil. Abbey Theater Copy.

Folder 9


Folder 10

Physical Description: 86 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections and additions. Burned at the edges.
Scope and Content Note
Revised version 3/3/25. This copy is a complete set of the parts rather than a prompt copy.
Folder 11  

**Physical Description:** 17 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections and additions.

**Scope and Content Note**
This manuscript has been written on the blank sides of various manuscripts and letters. Letters to O’Casey from various persons are on the verso of 6 leaves. pp.1-4 from Alterations in The Silver Tassie (typescript with holograph corrections and additions in ink) are on the verso of 4 leaves. pp.12 and 13 from Chalfont (typescript) are on the verso of 2 leaves. p.1 from Pull That Green Flag Down, Boy (typescript) is on the verso of 1 leaf. pp.3, 12 and 15 from Rebel Orwell (typescript) are on the verso of 3 leaves. p.17 from Cambridge (typescript with holograph corrections and additions) is on the verso of 1 leaf.

Folder 12  
**Minding Me Own Business. Totnes, Devon. n.d.**

**Physical Description:** 1 p.l., 23 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections. Original title on p.1, Ireland Boys Hurrah, is inked out.

Folder 13  
**Notice to quit. Dublin. March 21, 1921.**

**Physical Description:** 1 leaf. Printed document completed in ink.

**Scope and Content Note**
This legal document ordered John [English for Sean] O’Casey to vacate his room at 35 Mountjoy Square South, Dublin, by March 28th.

Folder 13  
**With this: The envelope in which the document was kept.**

**Scope and Content Note**
Bearing a note in O’Casey’s hand explaining the Notice to Quit and saying that Keegan [the landlord in the Notice] is the landlord in Shawdow of a Gunman.

Folder 14  
**The Okay and the One Who Wrote it. n.p. October 1963.**

**Physical Description:** 2 leaves. Typescript.

**Scope and Content Note**
On the second leaf is a letter, October 26, 1963, from O’Casey to Robert H. Hethmon, University of California, Department of Theater Arts, Los Angeles saying that along with this letter goes the explanatory epistle about the play Red Roses for me... Signed in ink with the holograph lines, P.S. Photo will follow by surface mail. With envelope.

Folder 15  
**The Ruined Rowan Tree. Totnes, Devon. n.d.**

**Physical Description:** 1 leaf. Typescript with holograph corrections and additions in ink.

**Scope and Content Note**
Song written for a Purple Dust production here that never came to London. It goes to the air of Carrigdhoun, a lovely old tune appears in O’Casey’s hand at the bottom of the page.

Folder 16  
**The Soul of Man. n.p. November 1905.**

**Physical Description:** 2 leaves. Holograph, signed.

**Scope and Content Note**
A poem of 6 stanzas, 6 lines each, written on lined legal-size paper. On the reverse are pasted some undated newspaper clippings. The date, November 1905 has been recently added in O’Casey’s hand near the title.
Folder 17  
Subjects to be written. n.p., ca. 1914.  
Physical Description: 14pp. Holograph.  
Scope and Content Note  
These 7 leaves are from a notebook; p.1 contains a list of songs, and the following pages contain verses intended for Christmas cards.

Folder 18  
The Sweet Little Town of Kilwirra. n.p. ca. 1900.  
Physical Description: 1 leaf. Holograph.  
Scope and Content Note  
A poem of 4 stanzas, 8 lines each, written on lined legal-size paper. On the reverse are pasted some newspaper clippings dated April 11, 1924.

Printed Materials and Pictures by and Relating to Sean O'Casey

Folder 19  
Physical Description: 5pp. Sheet music.

Folder 19  
O’Casey, Sean. Songs of the Wren... by Sean O’Cathasiagh [O’casey]... Dublin, Fergus O’Connor 1918(?).  
Physical Description: 8pp.  
Note  
Catalogued in Special Collections.

Folder 19  
Catalogued in Special Collections. O’Casey, Sean. Two letters by Sean O’Casey referring to the assassination of President Kennedy.  
Physical Description: 4pp.  
Scope and Content Note  
From the correspondence of Sean O’Casey and Franklin D. Murphy, 1963. [Colophon reads: Ten gift copies privately printed in 1966 for friends of Franklin and Judy Murphy]. These letters remain unpublished.  
Note  
Permission to reproduce or publish them must be obtained from the executor of Sean O’Casey’s literary estate.  
Catalogued in Special Collections.

Folder 19  
The Gael (vol.2 no.8). June 19, 1922.  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains: The Corncrake, by Sean O’Cathasaigh [O’Casey], pp.17, 21.

Folder 19  
Scope and Content Note  
Contains: The Day the Worker Blows the a Bugle, pp.9-12.

Folder 19  
A collection of theater programs, pictures, newspaper clippings, and ephemera, all relating to Sean O’Casey.  
Physical Description: Approximately 25 items.