

Sean O'Faolain Collection

Sean O'Faolain (1900-1991) was born John Whelan in Cork, Ireland, but changed his name to its Gaelic variant when he was seventeen. He attended the National University of Ireland and Harvard University; fought in the Irish Revolution from 1918-1921; and lectured at Harvard University, Boston College, and St. Mary's College between 1929 and 1933. He won the Femina Prize nomination for *Midsummer Night Madness and Other Stories* in 1932. His greatest acclaim was as a short story writer and his corpus includes more than a hundred stories. He also wrote biographies, travel books, essays, critical studies, and novels including *Bird Alone* (1936), *Come Back to Erin* (1940), and *And Again?* (1979). *Vive Moi! An Autobiography* was published in 1964. Many of his stories include accounts of the impact of political turmoil in Ireland.

The major portion of this collection consists of O'Faolain's correspondence with his publishers at Atlantic Monthly Press, Little, Brown, and Curtis Brown between 1955 and 1959. Seymour (Sam) Lawrence of Atlantic Monthly became a good friend as well as his literary advocate. Included are O'Faolain's letters and carbon copies of letters sent to him, internal memos at Little, Brown, Atlantic Monthly, and Curtis Brown, and readers' reports on O'Faolain's manuscripts. The collection was acquired from a dealer in 1988.

Sean O'Faolain visited Northwestern University as a lecturer in spring quarter of 1958. Later, he offered Felix Pollak, curator of Special Collections, "The Death of Stevey Long" written between 1930 and 1931. Northwestern University Library purchased the manuscript which is accompanied by a brief history of the text by O'Faolain himself and letters to Felix Pollak.

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Correspondence

- F. 1 1955 16pp. Re: Alien with a Passport; Come Back to Erin.
- F. 2 1956 153pp. Re: The Vanishing Hero; Lord and Master; The Judas Touch; Persecution Mania; The Lonely Woman; The Man Who Invented Sin; Discord; Teresa and Other Stories; The Ould Jug; Childybawn; Newman's Way.
- F. 3 1957 132pp. Re: The Vanishing Hero; Arms and the Woman; The Finest Stories of Sean O'Faolain.
- F. 4 1958 35pp. Re: Love's Young Dream; Finest Stories of Sean O'Faolain; The Vanishing Hero; A Touch of Autumn in the Air; No Country for Old Men.
- F. 5 1959 37pp. Re: A Touch of Autumn in the Air; No Country for Old Men; Yours Resignedly; "autobiographical proposal."
- F. 6 1958 2 ALS to Felix Pollak, August 3, 1958. 2pp.; October 31, 1958, 1p.
- F. 7 TN to Felix Pollak, n.d. Accompanied mss. "The Death of Stevey Long." TmsS, "The Death of Stevey Long," 1930 - 1931, 52pp. Accompanied by note

- on envelope describing the history of the manuscript.
- F. 6 Ephemera consisting of various newspaper clippings and other ephemera related to Sean O'Faolain.

Correspondents:

Atlantic Monthly - Seymour (Sam) Lawrence, Nancy Reynolds, Edward (Ted) Weeks

Curtis Brown - Alan C. Collins, Emilie Jacobson

Little, Brown - Cammann Newberry, N. Bradford, Mary Ingerson

Jonathan Cape - Jean Mossop

Others - P. Greenaugh, Edwin O'Connor, John Kelleher, Devin Adair, Rupert Hart-Davis