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Special Collections



Series XVI
5 boxes

Kate O'Brien Collection

This collection of manuscripts of Anglo-Irish author Kate O'Brien was essentially the extant corpus of her archive in 1970. The register is arranged chronologically and by types of material, i.e. novels; travel, literary and biographical books; short stories; unpublished material; and articles, lectures and radio talks. Included in the guide as well is a list of her books held by Special Collections; these are cataloged in the 20th Century English collection.

This collection was donated to Northwestern University Library by a Chicago bookseller.

A Guide to the
Books and
Collection of Manuscripts of
Novels, Plays, Short Stories, Articles, Talks, and Letters
of
Kate O'Brien
in
The Special Collections Department
Northwestern University Library
Evanston, Illinois

Compiled by Tina Howe

January, 1975

KATE O'BRIEN

MSS in Special Collections

A list of MSS arranged, chronologically where possible, by her novels and their related MSS, then by her travel, literary and biographical books, short stories, unpublished and unproduced work, and finally by her shorter works, such as articles, lectures, and radio talks.

The author's annotation of a MS has been noted, as has any special information on the MS. This latter information has been taken from the author's own list of 1970 accompanying the MSS, which is headed: "This is practically my entire collection of MSS, etc. The balance has been lost or destroyed."

KATE O'BRIEN

Books held in Special Collections, listed chronologically by publication dates:

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|--------------------|--|
| Eng/0136w | <u>Without My Cloak</u> * London: Heinemann, 1931. |
| Eng/0136a | <u>The Ante-Room</u> .* London: Heinemann, 1934. |
| Eng/0136m | <u>Mary Lavelle</u> .(*) London: Heinemann, 1936. |
| Eng/0136fa | <u>Farewell Spain</u> . New York: Doubleday, 1937. |
| Eng/0136pr | <u>Pray for the Wanderer</u> . New York: Doubleday, 1938. |
| Eng/0136la | <u>The Land of Spices</u> . London: Heinemann, 1941. |
| Eng/0136l | <u>The Last of Summer</u> *. London: Heinemann, 1943. |
| Eng/0136fo | <u>For One Sweet Grape</u> *. New York: Doubleday, 1946. (American edition of <u>That Lady</u>) (1st edition) |
| Eng/0136e | <u>English Diaries and Journals</u> *. London: Collins, 1947. |
| Eng/0136th | <u>That Lady</u> *. London: Heinemann, 1948. (1st. edition 1946) |
| Eng/0136th
1949 | <u>That Lady: a romantic drama</u> *. New York: Harper, 1949. |
| Eng/0136t | <u>Teresa of Avila</u> *. London: Parrish, 1951. |
| Eng/0136f | <u>The Flower of May</u> *. New York: Harper, 1953. (1st edition) |
| Eng/0136as | <u>As Music and Splendour</u> . (Proof copy, 1958*) London: Heinemann, 1958. |
| Eng/0136as
1958 | <u>As Music and Splendour</u> .(*) London: Heinemann, 1958. |
| Eng/0136my | <u>My Ireland</u> *. London: Batsford, 1962. |
| Eng/0136p | <u>Presentation Parlour</u> *. London: Heinemann, 1963. |
| Eng/0136wxc | <u>Béz Plastě</u> . (<u>Without My Cloak</u>)* Prague: Lidova Demokracie, 1967. |
| Eng/0136a
1969 | <u>The Ante-Room</u> *. Bath: Chivers, 1969. |

*have related MSS in Kate O'Brien files as well as author's notes on most title-pages.

(*)author's note on title-page only. No MSS.

MSS held in Special Collections

Box 1 Novels and Related MSS

Without My Cloak

- Folder 1a. "Without My Cloak." Play. Radio adaptation by author. Typescript. Episode 10 only, 26pp., signed by author.
- Folder 1b. "Without My Cloak." Play written and produced for radio broadcast on Saturday Night Theatre, 4/19/1969 by Guy Vaesen (from novel by Kate O'Brien). Stencil, 95pp.

The Ante-Room

- Folder 2a. "The Ante-Room!" Play in three acts by author, Geoffrey Gomer, and W.A. Carot. Holograph, 121pp., with corrected inserts in typescript. Author's note on 1970 MSS list: "Original manuscript... altho Geoffrey Gomer and W.A. Carot are mentioned as collaborators-they had very little to do with the writing of it. (they were technical advisers, etc.)"
- Folder 2b. "The Ante-Room!" Act II of the Playscript with the author's signature, note and corrections.

The Last of Summer

- Folder 3a. "The Last of Summer." Original MS with the author's signature and note. Holograph, 245pp. Author's note on 1970 MSS list: "The MS begins on p.103(102) and finishes on p.346, dated September 1, 1942."
- Folder 3b. "The Last of Summer--a Play in Three Acts." Original MS, signed by author. Holograph, 169pp. Dated 1944.

Box 2 Novels and Related MSS, con't.

That Lady

- Folder 1a. "That Lady - a Play in Four Acts." Holograph, with inserted typescript pages. 288pp., (lacks p.15). Also typescripts of characters and scenes. Dated, "Strand House, Limerick, October 1946." Author's note on first page.
- Folder 1b. "Esa Senora-a Play in Three Acts." Typescript, 57pp. Author's note "One version of That Lady (1949-50?)"

The Flower of May

- Folder 2a. "The Flower of May." Original MS. Holograph, 504pp., dated October 1952, Roundstone, Co. Galway. Author's note on first page on retitling.
- 2b. "The Flower of May." Play. Typescript, seven episodes, 133pp., n.d. Author's note on t.-p.

Box 3 Travel Book

My Ireland

- Folder 1a. "My Ireland." Holograph, 129pp. Author's note on p.1. Author's note on 1970 list of MSS, "A book of travel and reminiscences."
- Folder 1b. "Book on Ireland--for Tourists, etc." (My Ireland). Typescript, with author's corrections, 1960-1961, 233pp.

Box 3 Literary Essay

English Diaries and Journals.

- Folder 2. "English Diaries." Holograph, 72pp. Dated 23 February, 1943. Also the published book, English Diaries and Journals.

Box 3 Biographical Sketches

Presentation Parlour

- Folder 3. "My Aunts." (Presentation Parlour.) Holograph, 150pp., n.d. Author's note on retitling.

Teresa of Avila

- Folder 4a. Letters of author with accompanying note in MSS list of 1970, "a series of highly IMPORTANT LETTERS sent to her sister, May 1957, whilst writing the life of St. Teresa." 166pp. total.
- Folder 4b. "St. Teresa of Avila." Typescript, 7pp. (radio talk ?). Signed by author.

Box 3 Short Stories

- Folder 5a. "Dinner at Miss Upjohn's." Holograph, 5pp. Author's note, "Early story, 1921."
- b. "On Ballycotton Strand." Holograph, 6pp., dated 1945 on 1970 MSS list.
- c. "Aunt Johnny." Holograph, 8pp.
- d. "BONE FIDEY." Holograph, 8pp., dated 1956.
- e. "Old Balls MacSweeney." Holograph, 6pp.
- f. "Chrissi's First Confession." Corrected typescript, 10pp.
- g. "A Bus from Tivoli." Corrected typescript, 10pp.
- h. "Singapore has Fallen." Holograph, 9pp.
- i. "Sister Lucy's Remedy." (Evening Standard: Did it Happen series). Holograph, 8pp., and typescript, 9pp.
- j. "Manna." Typescript, 12pp. Author's note, "Copyright 1962."

Box 4 Unpublished Work

- Folder 1a. "Susannah and the Elders." Play. Typescript, 142pp., 1931. Accompanying note by the author, dated 17 March 1970.
- Folder 1b. "The Empress Eugenie." Biographical sketch. Holograph, 40pp. Author's note on MS and 1970 MSS list, "Commissioned by 'Women's Journal' -- rejected -- I THINK IT GOOD."

Box 4 Unproduced Work

- Folder 2a. "Mary Magdalen -- screen play." Typescript, 4 parts, 2 vols., 111pp. Author's note on 1970 MSS list states work done for, but unproduced by, Rank Films, Ltd. Author's note on t.-p., "Only copy known."
- Folder 2b. "A Broken Song." Film scenario. Typescript, 70pp. "Esa Senora." (See under "A Lost Lady.", Box 2, folder 1b.)

Box 4 Articles on Spain.

- Folder 3a. The Observer (syndication). n.d., c.1959.
1. "Castille at a Gallop." Holograph, 5pp. Also corrected typescripts, 3pp. and 5pp.
 2. "A Quick Look Around Madrid." Holograph, 7pp. Also corrected typescript, 5pp.
 3. "Spain." Holograph, and corrected typescript, each 3pp.
 4. "I-Spain." and "II-Writing in Spain." Corrected typescripts, 4pp. each.
 5. Untitled article on Spain. Holograph, 16pp.
- Folder 3b. The Guardian, n.d.
1. "Madrid." Holograph, 8pp.
- Contains: "Madrid," "Toledo," "Avila," and "Santiago"*

Box 4 Talks on Spain and Italy

- Folder 4a. Talk on Spain to Spanish-Anglican group. Holograph, 5pp.
- b. *"Friends, ladies, countrywomen..."*
"My Spain." Holograph, 2pp.
- c. Talk on Italian art and history to "Italian Society, Limerick, November 1955." Holograph, 5pp.

Box 4 Talks on Ireland

- Folder 5a. "Cork Tostal-Author's Exhibition." Holograph, 9pp. Dated May 23, 1951.
- b. "An Address on the Irish Theatre." Holograph, 13pp., n.d.

Box 4 Talks on Literary Subjects

- Folder 6a. "George Eliot - a Moralizing Fabulist." Holograph, 21pp. Author's note on 1970 list, "A talk given before the Royal Soceity of Literature--Kate O'Brien is of course a member of that Society." Dated, Dublin, October 28, 1951.
- Folder 6b. "Ivan Turgenev." Typescript, 20pp. Author's note on 1970 MSS list, "A lecture given to Ramsgate Art Society, November 14, 1967, and previously at the National University, Ireland, graduates, Dublin 1955."
- Folder 6c. "The Brontës and Haworth." Holograph, 5pp. Author's note "a talk given to Women Graduates of the University College, Dublin", dated February 23, 1958.
- Folder 6d. "James Joyce and Ulysses." Typescript, 21pp., marked, "Not yet printed." Given at Canterbury College of Art, October 1, 1969.

Box 4 Autobiographical Writing and/or Lectures

- Folder 7a. "Recollections of Childhood." Holograph, 9pp.
- Folder 7b. "As to University Life." Reprint from the Autumn 1955 number of University Review (U.C.D.). Signed copy.
- Folder 7c. "The Art of Writing." Holograph, 19pp. Author's note on 1970 MSS list, "Lecture given to N.W.I. graduates. Printed in University Review, Dublin." Dated May 2, 1963.

Box 5 Radio Talks (mostly identified as being for Radio Eirann, Between Ourselves series, n.d.)

- Folder 1. "First Talk-Poetry When I First Read It." and "Poetry in Adult Life." Holograph, in two parts. 13pp.
- Folder 2. Irish-Literary Subjects.
 - a. "Maria Edgeworth," Holograph and typescript, each 4pp.
 - b. "Speranza-Lady Wilde." Holograph, 4pp., and typescript, 3pp.
 - c. "Lady Gregory." Holograph, 4pp.
 - d. "Book review - a Tribute to Evie Hone and Maimie Jellett." Holograph, 4pp., and typescript, 3pp.
 - e. "Alice Milligan." Holograph, 4pp. and typescript, 3pp.
- Folder 3. Miscellaneous and/or Irish subjects.
 - a. "The Beautiful Gunnings." Holograph, 4pp., and typescript 4pp.
 - b. "A High-Brow Cat." Holograph, 4pp.
 - c. "The Irish in London." Holograph, 4pp.
 - d. "Motor Cars." Holograph, 4pp.
 - e. "The Leaning Tower." Holograph, 4pp., and typescript, 3pp.

- Box 5
- Folder 3. Miscellaneous and/or Irish subjects (con't)
- f. "Return to Boston." Holograph, 4pp.
 - g. "Miss Finucane." Holograph, 3pp., and typescript, 3pp.
 - h. "Autumn Term." Holograph, 3pp., and typescript, 3 pp.
 - i. "Snakes and Ladders." Holograph, 4pp., and typescript, 3pp.
 - j. "Village Life in London." Holograph, 4pp.
- Folder 4 Series Do You Remember?
- a. "The Autumn Term." Holograph, 4pp.
 - b. "The Nelson Classics." Holograph, 4pp.
 - c. "Musical Evenings." Holograph, 4pp.
 - d. "Christmas." Holograph, 4pp.
 - e. "Up Jenkins." Holograph, 3pp.
 - f. "The Bathing at Kilkie?" Holograph, 4pp.
- Folder 5 Later Series for Between Ourselves.
- a. "Holy Week and Easter When I was at School." Typescript, 4pp.
 - b. "Corpus Christi and the Children in Connemara." Typescript, 3pp., dated April 21, 1956.
 - c. "Fourteenth July in France." Typescript, 4pp.
 - d. "Clifden Pony Show." Typescript, 3pp.
 - e. "St. Michael's Day." Typescript, 3pp.
 - f. "St. Francis Xavier's Day." Typescript, 3pp.
- Folder 6 Later Work - Literary subjects.
- a. "Anglo-Irish Writing since 1945." 5pp., plus 1 unconnected page.
 - b. "Ireland and Avant-Gardisme." 8pp. Lecture given at U.C.D., Dublin.
- Folder 7. Later Work-Russian Impressions (following cultural mission).
- a. "Moscow Unforeseen." 4pp., plus 1 unconnected page. "Radio talk."
 - b. "Remembering Russia." 3pp., dated September 21, 1963.
- Folder 8. Later Work - Miscellaneous.
- a. "Travel by Train." 4pp. Published in the "Evening Press, Burgh Quay, Dublin. "Manna." (see under Short Stories, Box 3, Folder 7j.)

Box 5 Miscellaneous

- Folder 9. Commonplace bound volume marked "Kate O'Brien 1929." (Notes for novels, etc.)
- Folder 10. Correspondence with Denys Blakelock (7 letters, dtd. February 8, 1954-June 8, 1965. Plus: [2]pp. vignette entitled "Andantino", dtd. August. Rome.
- letter, "Monday" 33 Great James St. is probably C1930s*