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**Ó Broin (Pádraig) Papers (Byrne, J. Patrick, 1908-1967)
1939-1964**

Typed and printed copies of Ó Broin's poems, including proofs for his book of selected poems, *Than Any Star* (Toronto: Cló Chluain Tairbh, 1962). Typescripts compiled by Ó Broin, often including printed materials, of literary works by Gwendolyn MacEwen, George Miller, Donald G. French, Irving Layton, Diane Spiecker and John Maclean. Compilations of material on the Poetry Group, Toronto, 1940-[ca. 1952], and on the Contact Poetry Readings at the YM-YWHA building, 1960-1961.

Extent: 20 cm (2 boxes)

Acquired in March 1988 as a gift from the Regional Collection at the D.B. Weldon Library, University of Western Ontario. Appears to have been acquired by that Library in 1966, directly from Pádraig Ó Broin.

Location Note: Collection is located in 2B Annex.

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Ó BROIN (PÁDRAIG) PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

J. Patrick Byrne (later Pádraig Ó Broin) was born in 1908 in Ireland at Clontarf, near Dublin. His family emigrated to Canada when Patrick was five and settled in Toronto where his father, an architect in Ireland, was employed by the T. Eaton Company. Ó Broin has stated that he first became seriously interested in poetry after hearing a poem by W.B. Yeats read at a meeting of the Scottish Society in Toronto in 1932. He began to read Yeats and other poets and to immerse himself in Irish literature, writing poetry himself and studying Gaelic. In 1933 he attended a meeting of the Canadian Literature Club and met its founder, Donald Graham French (1873-1945), an editor at McClelland and Stewart. He began to help French publish a mimeographed little magazine entitled the Writer's Studio and soon was having his own poems published in its pages. From 1940 to 1952 or later Ó Broin was a member of a small "Poetry Group", founded by French, whom Ó Broin revered as his mentor.

By 1939 Ó Broin had set up his own press, the Clontarf Press, and through the early 1940's. issued broadsides and leaflets containing his poems. From 1952 to 1954 he edited and produced, with Iain MacKay, a Gaelic magazine entitled Irisleabhar Ceilteach. In 1955 he began publishing his own Gaelic literary magazine, Teangadoir. In 1957 he visited Ireland and legally changed his name from J. Patrick Byrne to the Celtic form, Pádraig Ó Broin.

Ó Broin became increasingly interested in Canadian poetry in the early 1960's. He was a staunch supporter of the Bohemian Embassy literary evenings which began in June 1960 and also of the Contact Poetry Readings established the same year at the YM-YWHA Building. In 1961 he began to publish Teangadoir entirely in English, editing it jointly with Helen Yake. He continued the magazine until 1963, featuring young Canadian poets like Gwendolyn MacEwen. In 1962 Ó Broin published a collection of his poems under the title Than any Star. In this year he also published at his Clontarf Press booklets of poems by George Miller (Ladders to High Places) and by Diane Spiecker (Contact: Poèmes).

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

From 1963 to 1965 Ó Broin served as editor of Canadian Poetry, published by the Canadian Authors Association. Throughout this period he worked on translating Gaelic poetry for a projected anthology of Gaelic lyric verse to be entitled Feargus rua Cencinit. This project remained uncompleted, however, at his death in 1967. Shortly before his death he was able to publish a second collection of his own poems, entitled No Casual Trespass.

An account of Ó Broin's life by Hazel Yake appeared in a commemorative issue of Poetry Toronto newsletter, 51 (March 1980).

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Box 1 A. Literary and other works by Ó Broin.

Folder 1 Artificer; verse for the voice (and some that
 isn't). 1961.
 295 p.

Bound volume comprises pasted up typescripts, some
 holograph drafts, printed broadsides, and copies
 of printed booklets by Ó Broin, bound up in one
 vol. to form a collected works. Much holograph
 annotation.

Printed booklets include: Hag Hate (Clontarf
 Press, 1940); Crann feasa (Baile Atha Cliath: Cló
 Chlvain Tairbh, 1943); Observer (Clontarf Press,
 n.d.); The green tree (Clontarf Press, 1940);
 Alien (Clontarf Press, 1941); Transmutation
 (Clontarf Press, 1940); Speech to the dock
 (Clontarf Press, 1942); Suibhne geilt (Baile Atha
 Cliath: Cló Chlvain Taribh, 1943); Secret
 (Clontarf Press, 1939); Metter of whey (Clontarf
 Press, 1940); [Gaelic] 1945. Also included:
 Teangadóir. Iml. III, uim. 12. 1957.

Folder 2 Than any star; selected poems. Mar. 1962.
 1 vol. unpagged.

First galley proofs.

Folder 3 Than any star. Toronto: Cló Chlvain Tairbh, 1962.
 143 p.

Bound page proofs with holograph annotations
 and corrections.
 Design for prelim. pages and errata sheet bound
 in.

Folder 4 An Domhan Ceilteach. No. 27.
 16 p. mimeograph.

Catalogue of Celtic books for sale issued by Ó
 Broin, Toronto.

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Box 2 B. Literary works by others, collected and compiled by
 Ó Broin

Folder 1 French, Donald Graham.
 Poetry in the making. Partly in collaboration
 with Pádraig Ó Broin. [n.d.]
 1 vol. unpagued.

 Chiefly typescript but includes portions of
 printed texts by Ó Broin.
 Volume assembled by Ó Broin post 1960.
 Unpublished.

Folder 2 Layton, Irving
 Jewish writers in Canadian literature; report
 of lecture by Irving Layton, Y.M. & W.H.A.
 Bldg., Toronto, 1961.
 14 p.

 Typed booklet containing a report written by
 Pádraig Ó Broin.
 Includes 2 p. of Ó Broin's comments on the talk
 and on Layton's poetry.

Folder 3 MacEwen, Gwendolyn
 [Compilation by Ó Broin of literary works by
 MacEwen] 1958-1964.
 1 vol. unpagued.

 Includes presentation copies of MacEwen's first
 two works, Selah (Aleph Press, 1961) and
 Drunken Clock (Aleph Press, 1961).
 Typed copies of poems headed: "A sheaf of
 exciting poems of Gwendolyn MacEwen, borrowed
 at the Poetry Workshop, Marta 7, 1961."
 Typed copies of poems, 1958-1961, sent by
 MacEwen for Ó Broin's literary magazine,
 Teangadóir.
 Copies of reviews of MacEwen's works.

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Box 2

- Folder 4 Maclean, John
 [Collection of notes on Celtic subjects. n.d.]
 1 folder.
- Holograph copies of "Corp-Creadha" (8 leaves.
 In Gaelic) and "An Taghairn" (7 leaves).
 Notes on articles on Celtic subjects (15
 leaves) written on pages from an 1897 Journal.
- Folder 5 Miller, George Charles
 Ladders to high places and other poems.
 1 vol. unpagged.
- Chiefly typescript with holograph annotations
 by Ó Broin.
 Additional manuscript and mimeograph material
 by Miller, including "Challenger, a grotesque
 verse play".
 Copy of booklet published by Ó Broin: Ladders
 to high places (Toronto: Cló Chlvain Tairbh,
 1962), bound in.
- Folder 6 Ó Broin, Pádraig
 [Compilation of materials on Donn Byrne, 1889-
 1928]
 1 folder.
- Includes newspaper clippings and typed notes by
 Ó Broin.
- Folder 7 Spiecker, Diana
 [Typescript of poems. ca.1961]
 5 leaves.
- With this is a copy of Spiecker's poems
 published by Ó Broin: Contact: Pòemes. Séance,
 Galerie Isaacs. Toronto: Cló Chlvain Tairbh
 [1962]

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Box 2 C. Compilations on literary organizations

Folder 8 O'Broin, Pádraig
Contact Poetry Readings. Toronto, 1960-1961.
1 vol. 21 leaves.

Contains printed program for 1960-1961;
photostat and typed copies of letters and other
material from R. Souster, Milton Acorn, Michèle
Lalonde, Jacques Godbout, and others; extracts
from introductions, and portions of an
application for a Canada Council grant.

Folder 9 Ó Broin, Pádraig
The Poetry Group. 1940-1952.
1 vol. unpagged.

Poetry Group was organized by Donald G. French
Jan. 1940.
Volume contains typescripts of poems by
members: Mary Woodworth Lorton (d.1899), Dallas
Banister, Reba Hudson (1892-1954), William
Pierce Whitney (1888-1955), Donald G. French
(1873-1945), and Pádraig Ó Broin. Much
holograph annotation.