Reference number: MS 229

Guide to the Papers of Vincent Buckley

Australian Defence Force Academy Library

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Summary

Creator: Buckley, Vincent, 1925-1988

Title: Papers of Vincent Buckley

Date range: 1937-1991

Reference number: MS 229

Extent: 1.3 m (10 boxes, 1 folio)

Repository: Australian Defence Force Academy Library

Abstract: The papers of Vincent Buckley include correspondence, manuscript and typescript drafts, together with several unpublished works.

Scope and Content

The papers of Vincent Buckley include correspondence, notebooks, manuscript and typescript drafts, variant versions, page proofs, book reviews, author's legal agreement, newspaper clippings and lecture notes.

The papers contain detailed documentation of Buckley's writings from 1937, including poetry, criticism, biography and essays, as well as several unpublished works. There are drafts for seven of Buckley's major works including *Arcady and other places*, *Late-winter child*, *The pattern*, *Selected poems*, *Cutting green hay*, *Last poems*, *The Faber book of modern Australian verse*.

Much of the correspondence is from notable Australian literary personalities, including Bruce Beaver, R.D. Fitzgerald, Helen Garner, Mary Gilmore, Gwen Harwood, Xavier Herbert, Jack Hibberd, A.D. Hope, Manfred Jurgensen, F.R. Leavis, David Malouf, David Martin, James McAuley, Rhyll McMaster, Dennis O'Driscoll, Bernard Smith, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Patrick White and Fay Zwicky. This correspondence reflects the intensity of thought, debate and the copious exchange of political attitudes, ideas and thoughts between leading intellectuals in Australia during the 1950s and 1960s. His letters with Irish correspondents, and details of his visits to Ireland and Irish universities show his ties between Australian and Irish culture and writing.
**Organization**
This collection has been rearranged into six artificial series to describe and preserve context and relationships.

**Biographical Note**
Vincent Buckley was born on 8 July 1925 in Romsey, Victoria. He was educated at St. Patrick's College (1938-1942) and the University of Melbourne, where he received a B.A. (1949) and M.A. (1953), prior to undertaking further study at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge University (1955-1957). He served in the Royal Australian Air Force during the Second World War. He worked as a public servant before joining the teaching staff at Melbourne University in 1951, where he became the inaugural Lockie Fellow in Australian Literature and Creative Writing (1958-1960), Senior Lecturer (1961-1963), Reader (1964-1967), held the Personal Chair in Poetry until his early retirement (1967-1987) and was a member of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Buckley was a poet, academic, editor and critic of Australian and Irish literature. In the 1950s and 1960s he had considerable intellectual and literary influence in Melbourne through his writing and teaching. He published eight volumes of poetry and several critical studies, and edited several anthologies of verse and the magazines *Prospect* (1958-1963) and the *Bulletin* (1961-1963). In 1969 he founded the Committee for Civil Rights in Ireland, and throughout his later life he visited and lived in Ireland.

Buckley was the recipient of several awards, including the Borestone Mountain Poetry Award (1951), Australian Literature Society Medal (1959), Australian Literature Society Gold Medal, 1962 (winner), Quadrant Prize (1962), Myer Award for Poetry (1967), Dublin Prize (1977), FAW Christopher Brennan Award (1982), Northern Territory Literary Award for Poetry (1984), inaugural Red Earth Prize for Poetry (1985) and the Adelaide Festival of Arts John Bray Award for Poetry (1991).

pattern (1979), Selected poems (1981), Cutting green hay: friendships, movements and cultural conflicts in Australia’s great decades (1983), Memory Ireland: insights into the contemporary Irish condition (1985), Last poems (edited, with a foreword by Penelope Buckley, 1991; published posthumously) and The Faber book of modern Australian verse (editor, 1991; published posthumously).

Buckley died in November 1988.

In 1993 the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize was instituted in memory of Buckley, and is awarded alternately to Australian and Irish poets.

Administrative Information

Access
This collection is available for research.

Restrictions on Use
No copying is permitted without the permission of the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation
[Manuscript Item], Papers of Vincent Buckley, Australian Defence Force Academy Library, MS 229, Series [Number], Folder [Number].

Provenance
The collection was acquired by the Library in several instalments from Penelope Buckley from 1991-1993.

Additional Information

Separated Material
Further papers of Vincent Buckley are held by the National Library, in the Vincent Buckley Papers, at MS 7289.
Series List and Descriptions

Series 1 Correspondence, 1951-1990

This series comprises two subseries of correspondence relating to Buckley’s personal, writing and professional life, spanning the years 1951-1988. There is correspondence from family, friends, students, literary associates, agents, publishers and admirers regarding Buckley’s university appointments and work, lectures and addresses, and various literary endeavours. There is also correspondence to and from Dr Penelope Buckley regarding publication of The Faber book of modern Australian verse (1991). Arrangement is alphabetical by name of correspondent or company, then chronological.

1.1 Personal correspondence, 1952-1988

Folders 1-4 comprises personal correspondence to and from Vincent Buckley, and spans the period from 1952-1988. Principal correspondents include Ron Ayling, Bruce Beaver, Gwen Harwood, Kevin Hart, Seamus Heaney, T.R. Henn, Jack Hibberd, A.D. Hope, Nigel Jackson, Evan Jones, Galway Kinnell, F.R. Leavis, David Malouf, David Martin, Carolyn Masel, A.A. Phillips, Bernard Smith, Peter Steele, Patrick White and Robert Wilson. Arrangement is alphabetical, then chronological with attributions by Buckley.

Folder 1

including Ron Ayling, Bruce Beaver (3), Kevin Hart (3 notes), Seamus Heaney, T.R. Henn (1), Jack Hibberd (1) and A.D. Hope, together with his poetry

Folder 2
Gwen Harwood, together with her manuscript and typescript poetry, 1960s-1988

Folder 3
Personal correspondence J-L, 1953-1987

Including Nigel Jackson (1 from, 1 to), Evan Jones, together with his poetry, Galway Kinnell and F.R. Leavis (3)

Folder 4
Personal correspondence M-W, 1961-1988
Including David Malouf (1), David Martin (1), together with his poetry; Carolyn Masel, A.A. Phillips (1), Peter Porter (1), Bernard Smith, Peter Steele, Patrick White (1), Robert Wilson and miscellaneous cards

1.2 Professional correspondence, 1951-1990

Folders 1-13 comprises professional correspondence to and from Vincent Buckley with newspaper editors, literary associates, colleagues and students concerning Buckley's university appointments, work and university affairs, lectures and addresses and various literary endeavours. This material spans the period from 1951-1990.


Folder 1

Including letters to the *Age*, letters from Angus & Robertson, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Bob Brissenden and David Brooks of the Australian National University, and *The Australian*

Folder 2

Including the British Broadcasting Corporation, correspondence to Manning Clark (1), Danny Cusack (2), Deakin University, John Dormer (1), Robert D. Fitzgerald (1) and Mary Gilmore (1)

Folder 3
- Business correspondence relating to the release of the Hungarian writers and intellectuals still in prison appeal, 1959-1961
Including letters, lists and signatures of Australian writers and intellectuals and letters from H.R. Krygier of the Australian Association for Cultural Freedom, J.F. Cairns, Louise de Villefosse of the Comité Tibor Déry, K.D. Gott, Tibor Meray and Elizabeth Young

Folder 4

Including Les Harrop, Xavier Herbert (contains Herbert's profound thanks for Buckley's review in *Meanjin*, vol.29 no.1, 1960, p.13-30 of his publication entitled *Capricornia*) (1), Grahame Johnston, Paul Kane, Thomas Kinsella and Peter Kuch

Folder 5

Including Brian Matthews (1), James McAuley, Thomas McCarthy (3) and *Meanjin*

Folder 6

Including Mark O'Connor (1), Dennis O'Driscoll, Vincent O'Sullivan, *Outrider* and Oxford University Press

Folder 7
Business correspondence P-T, 1959-1987

Including Barbara Giles of P.E.N. (2), Barry Pittard (1), Ravan Press (1), royalty payment details, Peter Cravan of *Scipsi*, Robert Harris of Seahore Publications (1), John Sendy (1), Paul Simpson (3), Les Murray of South Head Press (1), Richard Tipping (1), together with his poetry, Dimitris Tsaloumas (2), together with his poetry and Ian Turner (1)

Folder 8

Including Jonathan White of the University of Essex (2), Irish universities including Tom Dunne of University College, Cork (1), Seán Lucy of University College, Cork (2), Leland [Lyons?] of the University of Dublin (1), Robert Welch of the University of Ulster at Coleraine(1), Tadhg Foley (2) and Patrick F. Sheeran (1) of University College, Galway, Christopher Pollnitz (5) and Paul Kavanagh (1) of The University of Newscastle, Lynn Hard (2), Harry Heseltine and Trish Middleton of the University College, UNSW, Manfred Jurgensen of the University of Queensland (5), John
Winter of The University of Tasmania (1), Dennis Haskell of the University of Western Australia (2), copies of letters concerning the Vietnam conflict, Gerard Windsor (2) and Fay Zwicky (1)

Folder 9
Business correspondence, University of Melbourne, 1960s-1988
Illustrates academic life within the University. Correspondents include Marion Campbell, Anne Coulthurst, Neil Courtney, Tim Kelly, Dinny O'Hearn, Kevin Presa, K.K. Ruthven, A.L. Turner, Chris Wallace-Crabbe; letters concerning Buckley's retirement, letter from Buckley to the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Lockie Fellowship, letters to and from Buckley regarding the Farrago controversy, 1967

and Max Charlesworth

Folder 10
Business correspondence, University of Melbourne, 1983-1988
Including references, examiner's reports and correspondence with students

Folder 11
Business correspondence concerning Buckley's application for the Archbishop Mannix Travelling Scholarship for 1954, 1951-1957
Including photocopies donated to the Library by Anthony Strazzera of Buckley's letter to Dear Fr. Rector [Murphy], references from A.D. Hope, Ian Maxwell, Clem Christesen and Father Golden, copies of letters to Father Gleason during his Cambridge period (6) and Buckley's handwritten curriculum vitae

Folder 12
Business correspondence relating to five of Buckley's publications from friends and admirers of Poetry and morality (1), Arcady and other places (1), Golden builders (1), Cutting green hay (27) and Memory Ireland (5), 1959-1988

Folder 13
Business correspondence relating to the publication of The Faber book of modern Australian verse, 1983-1990
Including copies of letters from Vincent and Penelope Buckley and letters from Craig Raine, Mary Hill and Christopher Reid of Faber and Faber, together with a contract, 13/2/1984

Folder 14
Business correspondence relating to the publication of *The Faber book of modern Australian verse*, 1989-1990

Including copyright permission to reprint letters from Australian authors and publishers

**Series 2 Poetry, 1947-1988**

This series comprises notebooks, multiple versions of manuscript and typescript drafts of both published and unpublished poetry by Buckley including poems from *Arcady and other places* and *Last poems*.

This material is arranged chronologically and correspondence regarding the development, editing and publication of the poetry is included in **Series 1**.

2.1 Miscellaneous poetry, 1947-1981


Folder 1
Manuscripts, typescripts, carbons, photocopies and fragments of unfinished and finished poems, 1947-1970s

Folder 2
Manuscripts, typescripts, photocopies and fragments of unfinished and finished poems, 1950s-1970s

Folder 3
Manuscripts, typescripts, photocopies and fragments of unfinished and finished poems, 1960s-1981
Folder 4
Manuscripts, typescripts, photocopies and fragments of unfinished and finished poems, 1960s-1981

2.2 Arcady and other places (1966)

This subseries comprises manuscript drafts of *Arcady and other places*, published by Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic., 1966 and miscellaneous poetry drafts.

Folder 1
Manuscript drafts and one folio notebook, 1960-1966

2.3 Golden builders and other poems (1976) and Late-winter child (1979)

This subseries comprises a contract for *Golden builders and other poems*, published by Angus & Robertson, London, 1976, and a notebook containing drafts of *Late-winter child*, published by Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1979, and miscellaneous poetry drafts.

Folder 1
Contractual Agreement; one notebook containing miscellaneous poetry and drafts of poems used for *Late-winter child* and manuscript and typescript drafts, 1972-1979

2.4 Last poems (1991)

This subseries, folders 1-6 comprises notebooks, manuscript, typescript, word-processed and photocopy drafts of poems from *Last poems*, by Vincent Buckley; edited and with a foreword by Penelope Buckley, published posthumously by McPhee Gribble, Ringwood, Vic., 1991. Some of these poems have been published in magazines and in earlier published volumes in the same or earlier versions. There are finished poems and some in draft.

*Last poems* consists of two sections. The first section entitled “A poetry without attitudes” contains all the poems left on the word-processor in the Melbourne University English Department by Vincent Buckley, together with a few selected by Penelope Buckley as they thematically belonged. The second section entitled “The watch's wheel - pieces and songs”, is something of a workshop collection consisting of pieces, poems and songs originally selected for inclusion in the book by Vincent Buckley and updated by Penelope Buckley and Chris Wallace-Crabbe.
The arrangement of about half the poems in “A poetry without attitudes” was according to a list of contents left in manuscript by Vincent Buckley; the rest were arranged by Penelope Buckley. The arrangement of “The watch's wheel - pieces and songs” was made by Penelope Buckley in consultation with Chris Wallace-Crabbe, who also reduced the projected size to half.

Folder 1
Annotated manuscripts, typescripts, photocopies and word-processed drafts for “A poetry without attitudes”

Folder 2
Annotated manuscripts, typescripts, photocopies and word-processed drafts for “A poetry without attitudes”

Folder 3
Three notebooks containing manuscript drafts, chiefly “The watch's wheel - pieces and songs”

Folder 4
Proof corrections and changes; preliminary pages; correspondence and proof changes for the second edition, 1991-1992

Folder 5
Poems not available for Last poems as they came to light after the book's content had been decided and production started

Folder 6
Poems available, but not used; book plans (4) and Buckley's biographical details

**Series 3 Prose, 1937-1980s**

This series comprises manuscript and typescript drafts of various prose works written by Buckley, including short stories, an autobiography, articles, criticisms, reviews and lectures. Correspondence regarding the development, editing and publication of this material is included in Series 1.

Series 3.1 Short stories, 1937 or 1938

This small subseries comprises one folder containing an exercise book with two manuscript juvenile short stories.
Folder 1
One exercise book containing two handwritten short stories and pencil drawings of heads, [1937-1938]

Including one short story entitled “The legion of the lost” written by Buckley in [1937-1938?] and an untitled short story about the 1938 VFL grand final.

Series 3.2 Autobiographical, 1976-1983


Folder 1
Includes a manuscript draft fragment (11 p.); photocopy of the book outline for the publisher (3 p.); editor's note and travel itinerary, 1976-1983

3.3 Articles and reviews, 1960-1988

This small subseries comprises one judges’ report, articles, criticisms and book reviews written by Buckley for Australian and overseas literary journals and newspapers.

Folder 1
Copies of journals, manuscript, typescript and carbon drafts of published criticisms and articles, 1960-1988

Including “Blake's originality”, “Colderidge: vision and actuality”, untitled article on Denis Donoghue and “Passion and control in Wuthering heights”

Folder 2

3.4 Lectures, 1960-1980s

This subseries folders 1-5 comprises course notes, teaching notes and manuscript drafts of university lectures. This material is arranged alphabetically by lecture title.

Folder 1
‘A’, course and teaching notes, manuscript drafts and photocopies, [1970s-1980s]
Folder 2
'B', course and teaching notes and manuscript and carbon drafts, [1960s-1980s]

Folder 3
'C' and 'E', course and teaching notes and manuscript drafts, [1970s-1980s]

Folder 4
'L-M', 'P', course and teaching notes and manuscript drafts, [1970s-1980s]

Folder 5
'R-S', course and teaching notes and manuscript drafts, [1970s-1980s]

3.5 *The Faber book of modern Australian verse*, 1983-1990

This subseries, folders 1-10 comprises lists, acknowledgements list, notes, notebook, manuscript, typescript and photocopy drafts of Buckley's introduction for *The Faber book of modern Australian verse*, edited by Vincent Buckley and published posthumously by Faber and Faber, London, 1991. Correspondence regarding the development, editing and publication of the this material is included in Series 1, folders 13 and 14.

Folder 1
Introduction - manuscript notes and photocopies, [1980s]

Folder 2
Introduction - annotated typescript and photocopy draft fragments, [1980s]

Folder 3
Introduction - foolscap notebook with annotated typescript insertions; typescript fragments with Buckley's emendations only, sent to Craig Raine of Faber and Faber, 17/4/89

Folder 4
Introduction - annotated superseded typescript draft fragments

Folder 5
Introduction - annotated typescript and photocopy draft fragments

Folder 6
Introduction - annotated typescript and photocopy draft fragment; annotated typescript and photocopy drafts of Penelope Buckley's 1st re-write, her short c.v. relating to the project and Acknowledgements corrections together with a covering letter to Ms Hill, Desk Editor of Faber and Faber, 18/9/90
Folder 7
Introduction - annotated typescript and photocopy drafts of Penelope Buckley's re-write

Folder 8
Introduction - amended typescript sent to Craig Raine of Faber and Faber, together with a letter from him on suggested changes, 20 June 1989

Folder 9
Introduction - annotated galley proofs

Folder 10
Manuscript, typescript and photocopies of Author and poetry lists, photocopies of poetry lists, poets works and poetry anthology rates

**Series 4 Miscellaneous, 1950-1988**

This series, folders 1-11 comprises a scrapbook, copies of published works and photocopies of reviews, articles and criticisms concerning Buckley’s work as an intellectual, academic and writer, published in literary journals, newspapers and university magazines.

Folder 1
Scrapbook of reviews about Buckley's published works; articles by Buckley; criticisms about Buckley's works and a letter from A.A. Phillips dated 21/9/1957,18/12/1954 to 1958

Folder 2
Reviews of *The world's flesh*, *Essays in poetry, mainly Australian* and *Australian poetry 1958*, 1954-1959

Folder 3
Reviews and criticisms of *Poetry and morality: studies on the criticism of Matthew Arnold, T. S. Eliot and F.R. Leavis*, 1959

Folder 4
Reviews and criticisms of *Poetry and morality: studies on the criticism of Matthew Arnold, T. S. Eliot and F.R. Leavis* and *Masters in Israel*, together with a carbon copy of a letter from Wilbur Sanders, 1959-1961

Folder 5
Reviews of *Arcady and other places: poems*, 1966-1967
Folder 6
Reviews of *Poetry and the sacred*, 1968-1969

Folder 7
Reviews of *Golden builders and other poems, Late-winter child, The pattern* and *Memory Ireland*, 1976-1986

Folder 8
Reviews of *Cutting green hay: friendships, movements and cultural conflicts in Australia’s great decades*, together with a copy of a letter from Buckley to Dr Walter of Griffith University, concerning Dr Edward Duyker’s review, 1983-1984

Folder 9
Articles concerning Buckley published in various journals and newspapers and a typescript poem entitled “Conversation with Vincent Buckley” by Peter ?, 1960-1988

Folder 10
Articles collected by Buckley from magazines and newspapers, 1950-1988

Folder 11
Photocopies of Commonwealth Literary Fund information and the 1959 ANZ Peace Congress minutes, articles and newspaper clippings 1957 and 1959

**Series 5 Audio Visual, 1992**

This small series comprises one audio cassette produced for ABC Radio National’s Encounter program on Vincent Buckley and donated to the Library by Graham Rowlands.

Folder 1
Participants of the program include Graham Rowlands, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Fay Zwicky and Penelope Buckley, together with a photocopy of a letter sent to Lyn Hard from Graham Rowlands, 28/6/1992

**Series 6 Folio, 1992**

This small series comprises one poster advertising a fund raiser for the Support Rights in Ireland organisation.
Folder 1
“A night of folksinging and poetry” (Support Rights in Ireland) with singers - Declan Affley, David Brannigan, John Fitzgerald, Danny Spooner, Glen Tomasetti and readers - Vincent Buckley, Alan Cole, John O’Brien and D.J. O’Hearn

**Box List**

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