Reference number: MS 311

Guide to the Papers of Gwen Harwood

Australian Defence Force Academy Library

Canberra 2000

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Summary

Creator: Harwood, Gwen, 1920-1995
Title: Papers of Gwen Harwood
Date range: 1960-1992
Reference number: MS 311
Extent: 5 cm (3 folders)
Repository: Australian Defence Force Academy Library
Canberra ACT 2600
Abstract: The bulk of this collection comprises letters written by Gwen Harwood to her friend Ann Jennings.

Scope and Content

The bulk of this collection comprises letters written by Gwen Harwood to her friend Ann Jennings, covering the period 1960-1992. The letters include references to such literary figures as Vincent Buckley, James McAuley, Hal Porter and Vivian Smith. Among the papers is a small selection of manuscript and typescript poems by Harwood, together with an annotated photocopy of a vocal score from “Dracula” by composer David Stanhope (1987). There are also postcards to Harwood from Manning Clark, Graeme Hetherington, Frank Kellaway, Judith Rodriguez, Thomas Shapcott and others (1984-1991), and a letter from artist Edwin Tanner (1967).

Organization
The Library has largely retained the original order of the collection as received from Ann Jennings.

Biographical Note

Gwen Harwood was born in Taringa, Brisbane on 8 June 1920. She was educated at Brisbane Girls Grammar before studying piano and composition in Brisbane. In 1945 she married linguist William Harwood and moved to Tasmania, where she taught music and worked as a medical secretary.

and reviews to various journals, and wrote libretti for composers Ian Cugley, Don Kay, James Penberthy and Larry Sitsky. A number of her poems were published under the pseudonyms of Francis Geyer, T.F. Kline, Walter Lehmann and Miriam Stone.

Harwood was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Tasmania in 1988 and made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to literature in 1989. She also won the Patrick White Literary Award 1978, the Robert Frost Award 1977, Victorian Premier's Award 1989 and the Age Book of the Year Award 1990.

Harwood died in December 1995 in Hobart, aged 75 years. The Gwen Harwood Memorial Poetry Prize was established in 1996.

Administrative Information

Access
This collection is closed.

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Preferred Citation
[Manuscript Item], Papers of Gwen Harwood, Australian Defence Force Academy Library, MS 311, Series [Number], Folder [Number].

Provenance
The collection was acquired from Ann Jennings in 1992.

Additional Information

Related Material
Further papers relating to Gwen Harwood are held by the National Library, at MS 3198 and MS 3667, and the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, at UQFL 45.
Series List and Descriptions

Series 1 Correspondence, 1960-1992

Folder 1
Letters to Ann Jennings 1960-1972, together with manuscript and typescript poems including “The old philosophy”, “Schrodinger's cat preaches to the mice”, “Picture a Brisbane afternoon” and “The sun descending”

Folder 2
Letters to Ann Jennings, 1973-1989

Folder 3

Box List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Folder/Piece</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Main</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>