Ruth Lane Poole collection

National Gallery of Ireland: Yeats Archive

IE/NGI/Y17
1. Identity statement area

Reference Code: IE/NGI/Y17

Title: Ruth Lane Poole collection

Dates of Creation: 1820-1973

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 9 embroideries & 72 volumes

2. Context area

Name of creators: Ruth Lane Poole, 1886-1974.

Biographical note:
Ruth Lane Poole (1886-1974), daughter of Henrietta and Frederick Pollexfen became a ward of her cousin Lily Mary Yeats (1866-1948) in 1900 following the separation of her parents. When the Yeats sisters moved from London to Dublin to co-found the Dun Emer industries with Evelyn Gleeon, Ruth became an apprentice with Lily Yeats, preparing decorative embroidery designs first at Dun Emer and later at Cuala. Ruth met Charles Lane Poole in Dublin, in 1910 Charles proposed by letter from the Transvaal in southern Africa and Ruth accepted. William Butler Yeats gave Ruth away when she and Charles were married in Dublin in July 1911. After their wedding Ruth stayed in Ireland while Charles worked in Sierra Leone for five years. In 1913 their first daughter, Charlotte, was born in England.

The Lane Poole’s first family home was in Western Australia, where they lived in the Perth suburb of Cottesloe from 1916 until 1922, while Charles was the state’s Conservator of Forests. Their second daughter, Mary, was born there in 1918. When Charles resigned the Western Australia post in 1922, Ruth returned to Ireland with Charlotte and Mary. A third daughter, Phyllis, was born there in 1923. Ruth and the girls lived in Ireland for the next three years while Charles worked first in Papua and then in New Guinea. Ruth brought their three daughters back to Australia in 1925, when Charles was appointed Commonwealth Forestry Adviser.

In September 1925, Ruth Lane Poole designed a room featuring craftwork in Australian timber and wool in Melbourne Town Hall and began contributing articles on interior decoration to the Australian Home Builder. In the following years she wrote regularly on interior design for magazines and newspapers. In 1926 Ruth was commissioned to design and furnish the interiors of the residences of the Prime Minister and Governor General in Canberra.
In her 17 years in Canberra Ruth Lane Poole was prominent in developing the social and cultural life of the new national capital. The Lane Pooles were keen bushwalkers and pioneers of Canberra’s skiing, and Charles Lane Poole was the founding president of the Alpine Club. Ruth organised tennis parties and balls for the students at the Australian Forestry School, creating celebrated decorative schemes for the annual balls. After her daughter Mary went to England in the late 1930s, she ran Mary’s flower shop in Manuka until 1943. Ruth left Westridge House when Charles retired in 1945 and the couple moved to the Sydney suburb of Manly. In 1974 Ruth Lane Poole died aged 89, four years after the death of her husband.

Archival history
From the estate of Ruth Lane Poole, by descent to her daughter Charlotte Burston.

Immediate source of acquisition
Donated by Charlotte Burston, 1999.

3. Content and structure area

Scope and content: This collection comprises of two series of material: 1. Embroiderries: includes five works by Lily Yeats and four by Ruth Lane Poole. 2. Library of Ruth Lane Poole: includes 72 volumes and other publications featuring titles by Dun Emer and Cuala press in addition to first additions by William Butler Yeats, a bible signed by William Butler Yeats, works by authors associated the Irish literary revival, a copy of Brush work (1896) by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, early and late editions of A broadside, and other publications. These series have been further sub-divided into sub-series.

Appraisal, destruction, and scheduling information
All records have been retained.

Accruals
None expected.

System of arrangement: The fonds has been arranged in two series according to type of material for ease of access and use. These series have been further sub-divided into sub-series as necessary.

4. Conditions of access and use

Conditions governing access
Access by appointment and in accordance with NGI Library and Archive access policy.

Conditions governing reproduction
Material may only be reproduced, in accordance with NGI Library and Archives access policy, with permission of the archivist, and in accordance with relevant copyright legislation.

**Language/scripts of material**
English, some Irish.

**Physical characteristics and technical requirements**
No special requirements.

**Finding aids:** Y17 descriptive list.

### 5. Allied materials area

**Allied materials area**
Further collections held within the Yeats Archive at NGI, National Archives Australia, Cuala archive at Trinity College Dublin.

**Publication note:**
The following publications were used in the compilation of this finding aid:


### 6. Description control area

**Archivists Note:**

**Conventions:**
1. Embroideries
Series
[c.1902-?1935]
9 items
This series is divided into two sub-series.
1.1 Embroideries by Ruth Lane Poole.
2.2 Embroideries by Lily Yeats.

1.1 Embroideries by Ruth Lane Poole
Sub-series
[c.1903-?1911]
4 items
Includes four pieces and includes designs by Mary Cottenham Yeats and Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Y17/1/1/1  [c.1903]
1 embroidery

Blackbirds and peony cushion cover by Ruth Lane Poole.
Silk and wool thread on blue poplin, 59 x 59 cm.
Dun Emer. Designed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Associated codes: NGI 12251; Prior archive code Y21-1

Y17/1/1/2  [c.1903]
1 embroidery

Tulips cushion cover by Ruth Lane Poole.
Silk thread on blue poplin, 53 x 67 cm.
Dun Emer. Designed by Mary Cottenham Yeats.

Associated codes: NGI 12252; Prior archive code Y21-2

Y17/1/1/3  [c.1903]
1 embroidery

Apple and grapes design by Ruth Lane Poole.
Silk thread on cream poplin, 127 x 156cm.
Dun Emer. Designed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Associated codes: NGI 12254; Prior archive code Y21-4
Y17/1/1/4  [c.1911]  
1 embroidery  

Cummerbund by Ruth Lane Poole.  
Silk thread on silk, lined with muslin, 104 x 18 cm.  
[? Cuala].  

Associated codes: NGI 12253; Prior archive code Y21-3

1.2 Embroideries by Lily Yeats  
Sub-series  
[c.1902-?1935]  
5 items  
Includes five pieces and features designs by William Morris, Mary Cottenham Yeats, and Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Y17/1/2/1  [c.1902]  
1 embroidery  

Rose and olive cushion cover by Lily Yeats.  
Silk thread on blue poplin, 55 x 55 cm.  
Designed by William Morris.  

Associated codes: NGI 12246; Prior archive code Y20-1

Y17/1/2/2  [c.1903]  
1 embroidery  

Seagull portiere by Lily Yeats.  
Wool and silk thread on blue poplin. 252 x 125 cm.  
Dun Emer. Designed by Mary Cottenham Yeats.  

Associated codes: NGI 12247; Prior archive code Y20-2

Y17/1/2/3  [c.1903]  
1 embroidery  

Grape and bird portiere by Lily Yeats.  
Wool on furnishing cotton, 207 x 159 cm.  
Dun Emer.  

7
Associated codes: NGI 12248; Prior archive code Y20-3

Y17/1/2/4  [c.1927]
1 embroidery

The herbaceous border, firescreen design, by Lily Yeats.
Silk thread on blue poplin, 49 x 92 cm. Framed 74 x 99 cm.

Associated codes: NGI 12249; Prior archive code Y20-4

Y17/1/2/5  [c.1930-?1939]
1 embroidery

The Abbey theatre by Lily Yeats.
Cotton thread on blue poplin, 25 x 19 cm.
Designed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats. Framed.

Associated codes: NGI 12250; Prior archive code Y20-5

2. Library of Ruth Lane Poole.

Series
72 volumes
1820-1973

This series is further subdivided into seven sub-series:
2.1 Dun Emer and Cuala press publications.
2.2 Published works by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.
2.3 Published works by Jack Butler Yeats.
2.4 Published works by William Butler Yeats.
2.5 Published works by John Butler Yeats.
2.6 Published works by various Irish authors.
2.7 Miscellaneous publications.

* These items are also listed on Portico: the NGI online library system.

2.1 Dun Emer and Cuala press publications

Sub-series
16 volumes & 13 items
1904-1938
Includes hand printed books on handmade paper, by predominantly Irish authors, published and printed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats at the Dun Emer press and latterly the Cuala press. Includes works by William Butler Yeats, Douglas Hyde, Lionel Pigott Johnson, Rabindranath Tagore, William Allingham, Lady Isabella Augusta Gregory. From the library of Ruth Lane Poole.

Y17/2/1/1  1904  1 volume

Physical description: 128 p. ; 22 cm.

Y17/2/1/2  1904  1 volume

Physical description: 31 p. ; 22 cm. Pages uncut.

Y17/2/1/3  1904  1 volume


Y17/2/1/4  1905  1 volume


Y17/2/1/5  1908  1 volume

Physical description: 54 p. ; 22 cm. Pages uncut.
Physical description: 33 p. : 22 cm. Pages uncut. Includes an error slip at page 1. Includes an invitation: 'Mrs W. B. Yeats and Miss Elizabeth Corbet Yeats invite you to an exhibition and sale of the work of the Cuala industries at 133 lower Baggot street on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov 23 and 24, 11:30 to 6:30'. 'Four hundred copies of this book have been printed'. 'Printed and published by Elizabeth Crbet Yeats at the Cuala press...'


Physical description: 38 p. ; 22 cm. '400 copies of this book have been printed, this is number 100'. Translated by Devabrata Mukerjea. Pages uncut.

Physical description: 74, [8] p.; 22 cm. Unbound proof copy. Inscribed 'Ruth Lane Poole, May 1919, proof'.
Physical description: 128 p.; 22 cm. Pages untrimmed. 'Four hundred and twenty five copies of this book have been printed. This copy is no. 103', 'Printed upon paper made in Ireland, and published by Elizabeth C. Yeats, at the Cuala Press'.

Physical description: 2v: ill.; 22 cm. 'Printed upon paper made in Ireland, and published by Elizabeth C. Yeats, at the Cuala Press'. 'Four hundred and twenty five copies have been printed. This copy is no. 407'. Vol 2. : Plates: portraits by John Butler Yeats of himself and Mrs Yeats, engraved by Emery Walker; 'Memory Harbour' by Jack B. Yeats with a description by W.B. Yeats. Also includes a prospectus of Cuala press books.

Physical description: 48 p.; 22 cm. 'Four hundred copies of this book have printed and published by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats on paper made in Ireland, at the Cuala Press'. Pages untrimmed.

Physical description: 51 p.; 21 cm. Pages untrimmed. 'Four hundred copies of this book have been printed and published by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats on paper made in Ireland, at the Cuala press, Churchtown, Dundrum, in the county of Dublin, Ireland'.
Y17/2/1/14 1919
1 volume

Physical description: 38 p.; 22 cm. 'Four hundred copies of this book have been printed and published by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats on paper made in Ireland, at the Cuala Press.'

Y17/2/1/15 1935
13 items

Includes 12 issues and an original blue slipcase. Inscribed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats to the family of Ruth Lane Poole, 6 Dec 1937. Songs by W. B. Yeats [et al.] ; illustrations by Jack B. Yeats [et al.].

Y17/2/1/16 1938
1 volume

William Butler Yeats, On the boiler, Dublin, Cuala Press, [1938].

2.2 Published works by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats
Sub-series
1896
1 volume

Y17/2/2/1 1896
1 volume

Physical description: 1 v. (unpaged): ill. ; 21 x 25 cm. Watercolour painting manual for children. Includes 24 plates of flowers, leaves, plants. From the library of Ruth Lane Poole.
2.3 Published works by Jack Butler Yeats

Sub-series
1910
3 volumes
Includes miniature theatre plays and the novel *Sligo* by Jack Butler Yeats, from the library of Ruth Lane Poole.

**Y17/2/3/1** 1910
1 volume

Jack Butler Yeats, *The scourge of the gulph; The bosun and the bob tailed comet; A little fleet*, London: Elkin Mathews, [c.1910].
Physical description: 3 v. : ill. ; 18 cm. Box set of three volumes.

**Y17/2/3/2** 1910
1 volume

Jack Butler Yeats, *[Miniature theatre plays]: The bosun and the bob tailed comet; James Flaunty or the terror of the western seas*, London: Elkin Mathews, [c.1910].
Physical description: 3 v. : ill. ; 20 cm. Two copies of 'James Flaunty...' and one copy of 'The bosun...' in linen cover. Inscribed on one copy of 'James Flaunty...': 'To [John Butler Yeats] from his son [Jack Butler Yeats], 31 May 1902'.

**Y17/2/3/3** 1908-1913
69 items

Physical description: 69 items: ill; 29 cm. Incomplete set of a Broadside including each edition for June 1908-August 1913 in an original blue slipcase. Includes five alternate versions of 1st leaf and one edition including only 1st leaf. Inscribed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats to Ruth Pollexfen, Christmas 1909. A broadside was published monthly from June 1908-May 1915. 300 copies of each edition, at an annual subscription of 12 shillings. Number 1, first year, for June 1908 published by Dun Emer Press, all subsequent issues by Cuala Press. Hand printed folio format with three illustrations, one on each page, two of which were handcoloured by staff at Cuala Press. Each issue features two ballads/poems by predominantly Irish and English authors. Contributors include John Masefield, James Stephens, Padraic Colum, Seumas O'Sullivan, Douglas Hyde, and Ernest Rhys.

Y17/2/3/4 1930
1 volume


2.4 Published works by William Butler Yeats

Sub-series
11 volumes
1911-
Includes plays, poetry, letters, and stories by William Butler Yeats. From the library of Ruth Lane Poole. Also includes a bound volume of *Broadsides: a collection of new Irish and English songs* edited by Yeats and Dorothy Wellesley.

Y17/2/4/1 1893
1 volume

Physical description: xii, 212 p., ill.; 17 cm. Frontispiece by John Butler Yeats.

Y17/2/4/2 1902
1 volume


Y17/2/4/3 1903
1 volume

Physical description: x, 130 p.; 20 cm.
Y17/2/4/4  1904
1 volume

Physical description: 117 p.; 20 cm. Some pages uncut.

Y17/2/4/5  1907
1 volume

Physical description: 16 p.; 19 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats.

Y17/2/4/6  1907
1 volume

Physical description: 28 p.; 18 cm. Inscribed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats with details of first performance at the Abbey theatre, 8 December 1906. Also signed by Lily Yeats.

Y17/2/4/7  1909
1 volume

Physical description: 14 p.; 19 cm.
Y17/2/4/8  1911
1 volume


Y17/2/4/9  1928
1 volume

Physical description: 104 p.; 20 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats to Ruth Lane Poole, April 1928.

Y17/2/4/10  1934
1 volume

Physical description: xiii, 222 p. : frontis. : ill. ; 20 cm. Inscribed to Ruth Lane Poole from Lily Yeats, Christmas 1934.

Y17/2/4/11  1937
1 volume

Physical description: 54 p.; ill. ; 30 cm. Songs by W. B. Yeats ... [et al.] ; illustrations by Jack B. Yeats ... [et al.] ; music by W. J. Turner ... [et al.]. Bound set set of 12 monthly issues for 1937. Each edition includes two hand coloured illustrations with ballads and musical score. Each edition includes two poems; one by a modern Irish poet and one by a modern English poet; and two hand coloured illustrations by an Irish artist. Poets include Hilaire Belloc, Edith Sitwell, W. J. Turner, W. B. Yeats, Padraic Colum, F. R. Higgins, Oliver Gogarty, James Stephens and W. B. Yeats. Artists include Victor Brown, Harry Kernoff, Maurice McGonigal, and Jack B. Yeats. Inscribed by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats to Ruth and Charles Lane Poole,
December 1938.

Y17/2/4/12 1929
1 volume

Physical description: 156 p.; 18 cm. Inscribed from Lily Yeats to Charles Lane Poole, May 1934.

Y17/2/4/13 1908
8 volumes

Physical description: 8v, frontis. : ill. ; 24 cm. Volume 1 includes a typescript letter from William Butler Yeats, 17 July 1911, to Lily Yeats indicating that he will arrive in Dublin for the wedding of Ruth Pollexfen and Charles Lane Poole and that he has asked the publisher to send Ruth this set of Yeats's collected works as a wedding present. The volume includes an inscription by William Butler Yeats to Ruth and Charles Lane Poole.

Y17/2/4/14 1908
1 volume


2.5 Published works by John Butler Yeats

Sub-series
1 volume
1944
Physical description: 296 p.: ill. ; 23 cm.

### 2.6 Published works by various Irish authors

**Sub-series**

**27 volumes**

**1884-1973**

Includes works by a number of authors associated with the Celtic revival including John Millington Synge, Sean O’Casey, James Stephens, William Boyle and others. Also includes a bible formerly owned by William Butler Yeats and an account of the Easter rising in Ireland, published in 1916.

#### Y17/2/6/1
**1905**

1 volume

Physical description: 49 p.; 20 cm. Signed by Ruth Lane Poole on front cover.

#### Y17/2/6/2
**1907**

1 volume

Physical description: 86 p.; 19 cm.

#### Y17/2/6/3
**1910**

4 volumes

Physical description: 4v. : ill. ; 22 cm. v. I Plays -- v. II Plays, poems and translations -- v. III The Aran islands -- v. IV In Wicklow, West Kerry, in the congested districts and under ether. Contents: v. I includes an inscription in Irish -- v. II includes a newspaper clipping of 'The play that caused a riot' by Joe McColum -- v. III includes an envelope.
Y17/2/6/4  1911
1 volume


Y17/2/6/5  1907
1 volume


Y17/2/6/6  1907
1 volume


Y17/2/6/7  1916
1 volume


19
Y17/2/6/8  1917
1 volume

Oliver St. John Gogarty and Joseph O’Connor [Alpha and Omega],
_Blight: the tragedy of Dublin; an exposition in three acts_, Dublin:
Talbot press, 1917.
Physical description: 74 p.; 18 cm. Published anonymously. Inscribed
'Oliver Gogarty & --- O'Connor' on cover by [Lily Yeats].

Y17/2/6/9  1935
1 volume

Francis Hackett et al, _William Butler Yeats: aetat. 70_, [Dublin: Irish
Times], 1935.
Physical description: 16 p.: ill. ; 25 cm. Reprinted from the Irish Times
of 13 June 1935. With contributions from Francis Hackett, F. R.
Higgins, Sean O Faolain, Denis Johnston, Aodh De Blacam, Andrew E.
Malone.

Y17/2/6/10  1909
1 volume

Physical description: 55 p.; 17 cm. Inscribed: 'R. Lane Poole'.

Y17/2/6/11  1915
1 volume

Physical description: 106 p.; 20 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats to Ruth
Lane Poole, Easter 1915.

Y17/2/6/12  1916
1 volume

Physical description: 111, 16 p.; 19 cm. Inscribed: 'Ruth Lane Poole
from W.F.B., 12 Oct 1916'.
Y17/2/6/13  1917
1 volume

Physical description: 16 p; 19cm. Inscribed to Ruth Pollexfen from
Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, Christmas 1917.

Y17/2/6/14  1924
1 volume

Physical description: 304 p.; 19 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats to Charles
Lane Poole and Ruth Lane Poole, Christmas, 1924.

Y17/2/6/15  1926
1 volume

Physical description: 137 p. : ill. ; 19 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats for
Ruth and Charles Lane Poole, 1926.

Y17/2/6/16  1926
1 volume

Seán O'Casey, *Two plays: Juno and the paycock; The shadow of a
Physical description: viii, 199 p.; 20 cm. Inscribed to Ruth Lane Poole
from Lily Yeats, 1927. Includes a clipping of a letter to the editor of
the 'Irish statesman' by Sean O'Casey in which he replies to
published criticism of his play 'The silver tassie'.

Y17/2/6/17  1928
1 volume

Physical description: 140 p. : ill. ; 19 cm. Inscribed by Lily Yeats to
Ruth Lane Poole, 1918.
Y17/2/6/18 1909
1 volume

Physical description: 59 p.; 20 cm. Inscribed by [Lily Yeats], 1911.

Y17/2/6/19 1928
1 volume

Physical description: viii, 455 p.; 20 cm. From the library of Ruth Lane Poole (née Pollexfen). Inscribed to Ruth Lane Poole from Lily Yeats, September 1928. The round table; Crabbed youth and age; Portrait; The

Y17/2/6/20 1951
1 volume

Lennox Robinson, *Ireland's Abbey theatre; a history*, London: Sidgwick and Jackson, [1951].
Physical description: 224 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. 'C. R. Burston' inscribed on fly leaf. Includes reproductions of portraits of a number of Abbey theatre figures by John B. Yeats.

Y17/2/6/21 1938
1 volume

Physical description: 261 p.: ill. ; 22 cm. Given by Lennox Robinson to Lily Yeats in October 1938 and then given by Lily Yeats to Ruth Pollexfen at Christmas 1939. Inscribed by Robinson and Yeats. Includes a Lily Yeats bookplate at front and a postcard of Sorrento cottage, Dalkey (Robinson's home) at back.

Y17/2/6/22 1884
1 volume

Physical description: 284 p.; 20 cm.
Y17/2/6/23 1885
1 volume

Physical description: 275 P.; 20 cm.

Y17/2/6/24 1965
1 volume

Physical description: 31 p. : ill. ; 22 cm. From a paper given by Mary Hanley to the Kiltartan Society in 1961.

Y17/2/6/25 1973
1 volume

Physical description: 131 p. : ill ; 25 cm. Includes a list of books and Broadside printed by the Dun Emer press, later the Cuala press, with a listing of other pieces printed at the press.

2.7 Miscellaneous publications from the library of Ruth Lane Poole

Sub-series
1820-1870
2 volumes

Y17/2/7/1 1820
1 volume

James Macpherson translated by Thomas Travers Burke, *Dar-thula: a*
Physical description: lxxxvi, 76 p. ; 23 cm.

Y17/2/7/2 1870
1 volume

The holy bible: containing the old and new testaments, translated out of the original tongues, and with the former translations diligently compared and revised by His Majesty's special command, appointed to be read in churches, Cambridge: Cambridge University press, [c.1870]
Physical description: 816 p. ; 16 cm. Formerly the bible of William Butler Yeats. Inscribed: 'W. B. Yeats, Feb 1877'. Includes manuscript notations in both a child's and an adult's hand on rear fly leaf.

Y17/2/7/3 1917
1 volume

Holbrook Jackson (ed.), To-day, London: [s.l.], 1917.
Physical description: xxx : ill. ; 19 cm. Includes the full text of 'At the hawks well' by W. B. Yeats, essays on Ralph Hodgson and John Masefield, and poems by John Freeman and J. C. Squire.