



Eleanor de Bretteville Reid collection, [c.1910]-1994.

National Gallery of Ireland: Yeats Archive

IE/NGI/Y2

1. Identity statement	3
2. Context	3
3. Content and structure	3
4. Conditions of access and use	4
5. Allied materials	4
6. Description control	4

1. Letters received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid and Frederick W. Reid from Jack Butler Yeats	4
2. Letters relating to Jack Butler Yeats received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid	8
3. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid scrapbooks.....	10
4. Material relating to acquisition of rare books and other material	10
5. Miscellaneous material from Reid collection.....	11
6. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid's collection of <i>A broadside</i>	14

1. Identity statement

Reference Code: IE/NGI/Y2

Title: Eleanor de Bretteville Reid collection

Dates of Creation: [c.1910]-1994

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 3 boxes & 24 outsize items, paper textual documents predominant.

2. Context

Name of creators:

Reid, Eleanor de Bretteville, 1909-1993.

Biographical note

Doctor Eleanor de Bretteville Reid (1909-1993), San Francisco, California, psychologist and accomplished pianist, wife of Frederick W. Reid, purchased her first Jack Butler Yeats painting, *Lafitte the pirate* (1905), at a San Francisco antique store in 1949. This purchase encouraged her to start a correspondence with Jack Butler Yeats and to acquire further works and Yeatsiana including original drawings, books illustrated by Jack Butler Yeats, books and Broad­sides printed by the Cuala and Dun Emer press, books by William Butler Yeats, and many other items.

Archival history

From Reid's private collection (many further items were not acquired by NGI).

Immediate source of acquisition

Purchased, Pacific Book Auction Galleries, San Francisco, 1994.

3. Content and structure

Scope and content:

This collection includes six series of material:

1. Letters received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid and Frederick W. Reid from Jack Butler Yeats: Yeats discusses his life and his art in fourteen letters from 1954-1956.
2. Letters relating to Jack Butler Yeats received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid: includes letters from Yeats researchers, Norah Niland at the Sligo county library and museum, Victor Waddington, and others.
3. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid scrapbooks: includes a scrapbook relating to the Celtic revival and one relating to Jack B. Yeats.
4. Material relating to acquisition of Yeats books and other material: predominantly booksellers letters and catalogues.
5. Miscellaneous material from Reid collection: includes Yeats memorabilia along with lists of works by Irish artists including the Yeatses, and the 1994 catalogue of sale of the de Bretteville Reid collection.

6. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid's collection of A broadside, 1902-1903: twenty three of the total twenty four issues edited and illustrated by Jack Butler Yeats and Pamela Colman Smith, published by Elkin Mathews, London.

Appraisal, destruction, and scheduling information

All records have been retained.

Accruals

None expected.

System of arrangement:

This fonds has been further subdivided into 6 series, by theme/type of material, for ease of access and use.

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.

Physical characteristics and technical requirements

No special requirements.

Finding aids

NGI/Y2 - full descriptive list.

5. Allied materials

Allied material

Other collections within the Yeats Archive at NGI. Significant Yeats family collections are also held by the National Library of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, and several other repositories internationally. University of Delaware library hold a collection of letters from the Reid collection relating to Jack Butler Yeats: MSS 310.

6. Description control

Archivists Note:

This catalogue was compiled by Pauline Swords, January 2011.

Conventions:

ISAD(G): General International Standard Archival Description. 2nd ed. Ottawa: International Council on Archives, 2000.

1. Letters received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid and Frederick W. Reid from Jack Butler Yeats

Series

1954-1956

22 items

Includes fourteen letters, eight with envelopes, in which Yeats discusses his health, his art, the weather, and the purchase of a painting by the Reids. Includes reflection on a variety of matters including the Irish theatre and the talent of Mary Cottenham Yeats.

Y2/1/1 12 April 1954
1 item, 2pp

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.

Yeats thanks Reid for gifts sent to him and for a ship sent to his nurse's son which has not arrived yet. He is glad she liked *The bosun and the bob tailed comet* but never understood how children 'faced to them'. Explains that the metal man on Lily Yeats's bookplate is a navigation guide in the mouth of the Sligo river. Asks that Frederick W. Reid send him a copy of [his poem] 'Stardreams and pigments' for a friend.

Y2/1/2 3 May 1954
1 item, 2pp

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.

Yeats regrets that there was no Elizabeth Corbet Yeats bookplate in her copy of *And to you also*; he will try to find a book with one in it to send to Reid. Writes of Mary Cottenham Yeats beautiful drawings and flair for design which is manifested in Lily Yeats's embroideries.

Y2/1/3 [30] May 1954
1 item, 1p

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Frederick W. Reid.

Yeats thanks Reid for sending a copy of his poem and relates an unnamed friend's admiration of it.

Y2/1/4 21 May 1954
1 item, 2pp

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.

Writes at length about the delight ensuing from the arrival of the pirate

ship sent by Reid for Yeats's nurse's children, [? nurse McDonald]. Yeats expects to return home soon. Relates that the painting *Entertainment in a marshy woodland* has been bought by the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris.

Y2/1/5

17 June 1954
1 item, 2pp

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.
Yeats relates that he is back in his studio, painting. Discusses Eric Severeid's comments on the time taken by man and horse to reach perfection. Informs Reid that he does not have any manuscripts except plays, which are unsuitable for Reid to print on her hand press; he does not intend to write anything more. Discusses the Dublin celebration of Bloom's day for James Joyce.

Y2/1/6

8 July 1954
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 308 [North] Sycamore, apartment 504, Los Angeles, California.
Discusses Eric Severeid's comments on the time taken by man and horse to reach perfection and discusses the source of a horse's beauty to man. Gives prices of his paintings; he is happy the Reid's are to buy one; he looks forward to seeing Frederick W. Reid in November.

Y2/1/7

28 August 1954
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 535 Geary street, San Francisco.
Thanks Reid for a clipping and a drawing by her husband. Discusses the trials and tribulations of painting.

Y2/1/8

22 September 1954
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 535 Geary street, San Francisco.
Discusses the New Orleans tomb of Lafitte, the pirate. Explains his perception of beauty, affection, truth and their relationship to painting.

Y2/1/9

21 October 1954
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 535 Geary street, California.
Yeats looks forward to meeting Frederick W. Reid. Discusses the handing over of an unnamed painting to the city of Sligo and his experiences of the Buffalo Bill, wild west show.

Y2/1/10

26 July [1955]
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 1310 Jones street, San Francisco.
Includes a sketch of a 'twisted west of Ireland thorn tree in some old castle field and far from the sea'. Relates that he is not sure which 'Donkey races' John Quinn had but he will try to find out.
Also refers to 'The little waves of Breffni' and Edward Gordon Craig.

Y2/1/11

5 March 1956
File, 2 items, 2pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Thanks Reid for a Mexican donkey advertisement and discusses donkeys generally.

Y2/1/12

30 April 1956
File, 2 items, 3pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Frederick W. Reid and Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Yeats thanks the Reids for sending a book on American horses and relates his delight when he first saw mustangs in the Buffalo Bill show [in London]. He is glad that the Reids will have his painting *The brown eyed men* (1951).

Y2/1/13

15 June 1956
File, 3 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Refers to a letter received from an unnamed cousin featuring

remembrance of John Butler Yeats. Discusses his health and Dublin's absorption of congresses.

Y2/1/14 30 August 1956
1 item, 2pp

Letter with envelope from Jack Butler Yeats, Portobello house, Portobello bridge, Dublin, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.
Discusses the metal man at Rosses point, county Sligo, at length. Discusses the print reproduction of a John B. Yeats portrait of him in the 'Bulletin of the department of foreign affairs'. Discusses *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett and Irish theatre generally.

2. Letters relating to Jack Butler Yeats received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid

Series
1953-1974

4 files & 2 items

Includes letters from Norah Niland and Victor Waddington. Letters stem from the Reids position as collectors of Yeatsiana though Reid and Waddington evidently developed a friendship as a result of this. Some letters relate to acquisition of material and research. Some items closed under Data Protection act 1988.

Y2/2/1 3 June 1967
File, 2 items, 3pp

Letter with envelope from X to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
X seeks information regarding Reid's Yeats collection for a doctoral dissertation.

File closed, Data Protection act 1988.

Y2/2/2 1 December 1962
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter from Norah Niland, librarian and curator, Sligo county library and museum, Stephen street, Sligo to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Thanks Reid for donating a copy of *The fancy*, illustrated by Jack B. Yeats, to the library and museum and for her offer to donate further copies of *A broadsheet*. Discusses an exhibition of Yeats's early works at the Dawson gallery, and her own campaign to raise money to purchase Yeats paintings for the county collection. File also includes Niland's name and address on Shelbourne hotel, Dublin notepaper.

Y2/2/3

6 March 1969
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letter with envelope from X to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Letter of reply in response to Reid's enquiry regarding the possibility of purchasing a Yeats sketchbook.

File closed, Data Protection act 1988.

Y2/2/4

July-December 1974
File, 2 items, 4pp

Letters from X to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.
Letter of reply to Reid's enquiry regarding how to source a Jack Butler Yeats sketchbook. Discusses difficulty in securing a new publisher.

File closed, Data Protection act 1988.

Y2/2/5

4 September 1970
File, 4 items, 6pp

Letter from Benjamin L. Reid, Department of English, Mount Holyoke college, Massachusetts.
Discusses the viability of writing a book on the Yeats family, and refers to Yeats's 'buccaneer guardian' [drawing] for John Quinn. Includes 2 envelopes and a scrap torn from another letter.

Y2/2/6

23 December 1953-17 August 1959
File, 11 items, c.20pp

Letters from Victor Waddington and Mabel Waddington, 8 South Anne street, Dublin and latterly 6 Strathearn place, London, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid and Frederick W. Reid.
Victor Waddington relates news of Jack Butler Yeats's health, work, exhibitions, and death. Letters also relate to the Reid's purchase of Yeats's painting *Steep way to the town*. Also discusses the move to and opening of the Waddington gallery in London in 1957-1958. Includes mention of the transfer of *Helen* to Tel Aviv, the possible purchase of a Yeats painting in 1958, and a valuation for the six Yeats oil paintings and two watercolours owned by the Reids.

3. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid scrapbooks

Series

[c.1949-1980]

2 volumes

Includes two scrapbooks compiled by Reid, one pertaining generally to the Celtic revival period and her collection of material relating to this period, the second relating to Jack Butler Yeats.

Y2/3/1

1948-[?1957]

1 volume

Eleanor de Bretteville Reid Celtic revival scrapbook.

Includes Eleanor and Frederick Reid bookplate, designed by Jack B. Yeats, featuring a couple leaning from a window, waving at a winged horse; two Brian O'Higgins Celtic style greeting cards; two Cluna studio Celtic style greeting cards; a typescript history of Cuala press; letters from booksellers; and manuscript and typescript lists of books and other items sought by Reid for her collection of Celtic revival books. Also includes newspaper and magazine clippings including 'The magic of lady Gregory' by Anne Freemantle, from Vogue magazine, and 'The burial of the poet Yeats' from Life magazine.

Y2/3/2

[1956-1962]

1 volume

Eleanor de Bretteville Reid's Yeats scrapbook.

Includes Eleanor and Frederick Reid bookplate, designed by Jack Butler Yeats, featuring a couple leaning from a window, waving at a winged horse; newspaper and magazine clippings of articles and obituary relating to Jack Butler Yeats, including an article inscribed by Thomas McGreevy; and a catalogue of a 1955 Jack Butler Yeats exhibition at Waddington galleries inscribed to the Reids by the artist.

4. Material relating to acquisition of rare books and other material

Series

[c.1950-1970]

2 files & 2 items

Includes catalogues of booksellers and letters from a number of Irish, English, and American booksellers relating to the acquisition of Yeatsiana, and sketches of works by Jack Butler Yeats.

- Y2/4/1** [c.1950-?1960]
File, 6 items
- Manuscript notations by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid regarding letters and works by Jack Butler Yeats and the Cuala and Dun Emer presses
- Y2/4/2** 1953
1 item
- Copy of the 'Colby library quarterly', August 1953.
Includes an article '50 years of the Cuala press' by Ernest C. Marriner.
- Y2/4/3** [1953-1970]
File, 26 items
- Letters from Irish and English booksellers to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid. Relate to purchase and potential purchase of Yeatsiana.
- Y2/4/4** 1954
1 item
- Copy of 'The clique: the antiquarian booksellers medium', 6 February 1954.
- Y2/4/5** [?1954]
1 item, 22pp
- Sketches of Jack B. Yeats paintings.
Possibly executed by Frederick W. Reid or Niall Montgomery when Reid travelled to Dublin in November 1954. Includes titles, dimensions, colour notations, general notations, and sketches for thirty eight paintings. Also includes Niall Montgomery notepaper with 'Larry Bigelow' inscribed.

5. Miscellaneous material from Reid collection

Series

[c.1910-1971]

3 files & 7 items

Includes a book given to Jack B. Yeats by Elkin Mathews; a copy of reverend Thomas Arnold Harvey's article; 'Sketches from the letters of Jack B. Yeats' for the Irish Times; Bulletins of the Department of foreign affairs, Ireland which relate to Yeats; a manuscript list of paintings and drawings by John Butler Yeats, George Russell, Sarah Purser, and William Butler Yeats; the 1994 catalogue of sale of the de Bretteville Reid collection; and other material.

- Y2/5/1** [c.1910]
1 volume, 65pp
- Taylor, John, *An armado or nauye, of 103 ships and other vessels who have the art to sayle by land as well as by sea*, London, [n.d.].
Reprint from the 1627 version. No cover, [removed from larger volume].
Inscribed and signed to Jack Butler Yeats by Elkin Mathews, dated 12 July 1911.
- Y2/5/2** [c.1950]
File, 4 items
- Poem entitled 'Sligo' by Frederick W. Reid.
Four copies, privately printed by Reid.
- Y2/5/3** [c.1950-?1960]
1 item, 3pp
- Manuscript list of paintings and drawings by John Butler Yeats, George Russell, Sarah Purser, and William Butler Yeats.
Includes a large number of John Butler Yeats works and [*Head of a boy*] by William Butler Yeats.
- Y2/5/4** [c.1950-?1960]
1 item, 1p
- Manuscript list of names of persons to whom [Eleanor de Bretteville Reid had sent Frederick W. Reid's poem 'Sligo'.
Includes Serge Philipson and [Constantine P. Curran].
- Y2/5/5** [c.1950-?1960]
1 black and white photograph
- Photograph of the painting *My beautiful, my beautiful* by Jack Butler Yeats.
- Y2/5/6** [c.1950-?1960]
1 item.
- Envelope bearing address of Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, an Irish post office box for the College of saint Thomas, Minnesota.
Also features a note regarding Jack Butler Yeats's Portobello nursing home.

- Y2/5/7** 2 May 1963
1 item
- Letter from the National Gallery of Art, Washington, to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Had accompanied a copy of the Thomas Jefferson Bicentennial 1743-1943 exhibition.
- Y2/5/8** 12 March 1965
1 item, 2pp
- Letter from Jean L. Bullitt, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts avenue to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, 630 Mason street, San Francisco.
Includes a list of addresses requested by Reid, including that of Cormac O'Malley.
- Y2/5/9** [c.1970]
File, 3 items
- Photostat copies of two articles, 'Sketches from letters of Jack Butler Yeats', by reverend Thomas Arnold Harvey, *Irish Times*, August 1960. Received by Eleanor de Bretteville Reid from the Irish Times. Includes envelope.
- Y2/5/10** April-October 1971
File, 3 items
- Bulletins of the Department of foreign affairs, Ireland.
Number 836, 15 April 1971, John Millington Synge; number 841, 14 October 1971, Doctor Patrick J. Hillery; number 842, 29 October 1971, Jack Butler Yeats.
- Y2/5/11** October 1971
File, 3 items
- Zerox copies of articles and comment relating to the Jack Butler Yeats centenary exhibition, National Gallery of Ireland, 1971.
Sent by the Irish Times newspaper to Eleanor de Bretteville Reid.
Includes accompanying letter and envelope.

Y2/5/12 1994
1 item

Catalogue of sale, Jack B. Yeats: the collection of Eleanor de Bretteville Reid, Pacific book auction galleries, 9 June 1994.

6. Eleanor de Bretteville Reid's collection of *A broadside*

Series
1902-1903
File, 24 items

Y2/6/1 1902-1903
File, 24 items

A broadsheet: edited and illustrated by Jack B. Yeats and Pamela Colman Smith, published by Elkin Mathews, London.
Published monthly from January 1902-December 1903, with each issue including 2-4 hand coloured woodblock prints, accompanied by poems/ballads by various authors. Pamela Colman Smith worked with Jack B. Yeats during 1902, but disassociated herself from the project from January 1903. Includes twenty three of the total twenty four issues: lacks February 1903 and includes 2 copies of July 1903.

Outsize items.