



Graham collection (1915-2001)

National Gallery of Ireland: Yeats Archive

IE/NGI/Y26

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1. Identity statement area

Reference code: IE/NGI/Y26.

Title: Graham collection (1915-2001).

Dates of Creation: [c.1915]-2001.

Level of Description: Fonds.

Extent and Medium: 2 folders, paper textual and photographic material. 2 outsize items.

2. Context area

Name of creators: Hilda Graham (1894-1983); Patrick Graham.

Biographical history: Hilda Graham (1894-1983), daughter of Henrietta Johnstone and Frederick Pollexfen (brother of Susan Yeats), spent much of her childhood with the Yeats sisters Lily Yeats and Elizabeth Corbet Yeats at Gurteen Dhas, Dundrum. Hilda, like her sister Ruth had become a ward of court in 1899, following the divorce of her parents. Hilda Pollexfen became a teacher and married Charles Lloyd Graham, a Trinity College Dublin graduate and Church of England minister, in 1923. The Grahams settled in the United Kingdom and had two sons; Patrick Graham and Anthony Graham. Hilda Graham was given away by Jack Butler Yeats on her wedding day and Yeats was godfather to her son Patrick Graham.

Immediate source of acquisition: Donated by Patrick Graham 1999-2001.

3. Content and structure area

Scope and content: The fonds includes: 1. Letters received by Patrick Graham from Jack Butler Yeats: four letters and three seasonal greeting cards with original illustrations. 2. Letters received by Hilda Graham: includes one letter from Jack Butler Yeats, Lily Yeats, May Courtney, and a file relating to Hilda Graham's share in Frederick H. Pollexfen's trust; the Johnstone fund. Also includes a photograph of Frederick Henry Pollexfen. 3. Police certificate of identity for Hilda Pollexfen, 1918. 4. Photographs of Hilda Graham and relatives: includes Robert Pollexfen; Jack Butler Yeats with Hilda on her wedding day; Elizabeth Corbet Yeats. 5. Cuala press materials including prints and issues of *A broadside*. 6. Pollexfen family tree. 7. Letters relating to deposit of material with Yeats archive.

Appraisal, destruction, and scheduling information

All records have been retained.

Accruals

None expected.

System of arrangement: Arranged in seven chronological series, according to type or creator of material.

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: English.

Physical characteristics and technical requirements: No special requirements.

Finding aids: Y26 descriptive list.

5. Allied materials area

Allied material area: Other collections within the Yeats archive at NGI, significant collections relating to Jack Butler Yeats, William Butler Yeats, Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, and Lily Yeats, the Dun Emer and Cuala industries, are also held by the National Library of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, and several repositories internationally.

Publication note:

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

Joan Hardwicke, *The Yeats sisters*, Pandora, London, 1996.

6. Description control area

Archivists Note: Catalogue compiled by Pauline Swords, April 2012.

Conventions:

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

1. Letters from Jack Butler Yeats to Patrick Graham Series

1947-1954

4 items & 1 file

Includes letters and Jack B. Yeats greeting cards featuring illustrations by Yeats.

Y26/1/1 14 June 1947
1 item, 1p

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to Patrick Graham.

Yeats thanks Graham for his letter of sympathy on the death of Mary Cottenham Yeats. He speaks of his sorrow and adds 'we were like two odd children who came to a party and stayed on after the others had gone'.

Associated code: Y23.8-1

Y26/1/2 4 May 1948
1 item, 2pp

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to Patrick Graham.

Refers to Graham's return home and his continuation of his work. Discusses the work of William Makepeace Thackeray: 'his pictorial sense must have been very odd – because he wanted to be an illustrator...those awful crude caricatures which he drew of the characters'.

Associated code: Y23.8-2

Y26/1/3 1 January 1949
1 item, 1p

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to Patrick Graham.

New year's greetings and comment on the difficulties faced by Graham in taking up learning again after his break from it.

Associated code: Y23.8-3

- Y26/1/4** 26 August 1954
1 item, 1p
- Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to Patrick Graham.
Yeats invites Graham to visit the following week.
- Associated code: Y23.8-4
- Y26/1/5** [1945-1957]
File, 3 items
- Jack Butler Yeats Christmas and new year cards received by Patrick Graham and Hilda Graham.
Includes two versions of Yeats's Pegasus new year card, and one featuring a windswept tramp in a desolate landscape.
- Associated code: Y23.10-1,2,3

2. Letters received by Hilda Graham

Series

1915-1968

5 files & 1 item

Includes letters from Lily Yeats, Jack Butler Yeats, and May Courtney. Lily Yeats's letter also includes a photograph of Frederick Henry Pollexfen.

- Y26/2/1** 29 September 1915-10 December 1935
File, 2 items, 6pp
- Letters and a statement relating to Hilda Graham's share in Frederick H. Pollexfen's trust; the Johnstone fund.
Includes letters from the Commercial Union Assurance company and a copy letter from Milward, Jones, Mayne, and Sharpe solicitors relating to payment of interest and the settlement of charges on the Johnstone estate.
- Y26/2/2** [c.1924]
File, 4 items
- Letter and photograph of Frederick Henry Pollexfen (1852-1929) in jockey's racing silks sent by Lily Yeats to Hilda Graham.
Yeats discusses Pollexfen's racing colours and efforts to find a birth

year for Hilda's father William Pollexfen. Full length, mounted, studio photograph. Photographer unknown. Inscribed on reverse of photograph are details of Graham's lineage. File includes two photographic reproductions.

Associated code: Y23.12-1.

Y26/2/3

26 September 1938

File, 2 items, 5pp

Letter from Lily Yeats, Dundrum to Hilda Graham.

Yeats writes with news of the death of 'aunt Jenny' who was born in 1846 and goes on to relate information on various Yeats ancestors.

Discusses Anthony [Graham] and Michael [Yeats].

Y26/2/4

7 May 1947

1 item, 1p

Letter from Jack Butler Yeats, 18 Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to Hilda Pollexfen.

Yeats thanks Hilda for her letter of sympathy on the death of Mary Cottenham Yeats.

Associated code: Y23.7

Y26/2/5

3 June 1968

File, 2 items, 6pp

Letter with envelope from May Courtney, Charleville lodge, 103 lower Churchtown road, Dublin to Hilda Graham, Cuala, Copse close, Otterbourne, Winchester, England.

Courtney discusses family, mutual acquaintances from Churchtown and Dundrum, and replies to a query by Graham about the poor availability of Cuala prints. She writes of working in the embroidery department at Cuala and her on Lily Yeats and Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Associated code: Y23.9-3.

3. Police certificate of identity for Hilda Pollexfen.

Series

August 1918

1 item

Y26/3/1

August 1918

1 item

Police certificate of identity for Hilda Pollexfen, Gurteen Dhas, Dundrum.

Includes a black and white, head and shoulders, studio photograph. Profession: Teacher.

Associated code: Y23.11

4. Photographs of Hilda Graham and relatives.

Series

[c.1915-1926]

4 items

Includes photographs of Robert Pollexfen, Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, Hilda Pollexfen and Jack Butler Yeats.

Y26/4/1

[c.1915]

1 sepia photograph

Robert Pollexfen (b.1891) in naval uniform.

Head and shoulders studio portrait. Mounted. Inscribed: 'your affectionate brother Bob'. Photographer: [? Guesswell].

Associated code: Y23.12-2

Y26/4/2

1923

1 sepia photograph

Hilda Pollexfen with Jack Butler Yeats in the doorway of Gurteen Dhas, Dundrum on the day of Hilda's marriage to Charles Graham. Mounted full length portrait. Pollexfen, wearing a bridal dress and veil, was given away by Jack Butler Yeats. Photographer unknown.

Associated code: Y23.12-3

Y26/4/3

1926

1 sepia photograph

Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.

Half length, semi profile, mounted, studio portrait. Yeats, standing,

wears a winter coat with fur collar. Inscribed: 'with love from Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, May 1926'. Photographer: Chancellor, Dublin.

Associated code: Y23.12-4

Y26/4/4 [c.1925]
1 sepia photograph

Elizabeth Corbet Yeats.
Half length, mounted, studio portrait. Yeats, standing, wears a dark cloak and pearl earrings. Inscribed: 'with love from Elizabeth Corbet Yeats'. Photographer: J. Ross, Grafton street, Dublin.

Associated code: Y23.12-5

5. Cuala press print items.

Series

[c.1920-1945]

1 item

Includes woodblock cards, prints, and issues of *A broadside*.

Y26/5/1 [c.1920-1945]
1 item

Cuala press print: *A Cradle song*.
Illustration by Beatrice Glenlavy. Handcoloured. Poem by Padraic Colum.

Outsize items RR.

Y26/5/2 [c.1920-1945]
1 item

Cuala press print: *St Brendan the navigator*.
Illustration by Anne Price. Handcoloured.

Y26/5/3 [c.1920-1945]
1 item

Cuala press print: *The fiddler*.
Illustration by Jack Butler Yeats. Uncoloured.

Y26/5/4 [c.1920-1945]
1 item

Cuala press print: *Saint Columba*.
Illustration by Anne Price. Handcoloured. Includes a prayer by Saint Columba.

Outsize item RR

Y26/5/5 1908-1911
File, 5 items

Five issues of A broadside, edited and illustrated by Jack Butler Yeats, printed by the Cuala press.
Includes July 1908, August 1908 (one leaf), June 1909 (one leaf), December 1909, and December 1911.

5.1 Note from Elizabeth Corbet Yeats to Anthony Graham and Patrick Graham

Series
[c.1930-1940]
1 item

Y26/5/1/1 [c.1930-1940]
Series, 1 item

Manuscript note from Elizabeth Corbet Yeats, to accompany Christmas gift of Cuala print items, for Anthony Graham and Patrick Graham.

6. Pollexfen family tree

Series
[c.1995]
1 item

Y26/6/1 [c.1995]
Series, 1 item

Pollexfen family tree.

Photocopy of a manuscript family tree, compiled by Patrick Graham, and documenting several Pollexfen generations in the 19th and 20th century.

7. Letters relating to Yeats archive deposit

Series

2001

2 items

Y26/7/1 23 October – 18 November 2001
Series, 2 items, 2pp

Letters from Patrick Graham to Hilary Pyle relating to deposit with the Yeats Archive.

Letter includes some biographical information relating to the Graham family.

* File closed, Data Protection act 1988.