

Leslie Daiken:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Daiken, Leslie, 1912-1964
Title:	Leslie Daiken Papers
Dates:	1935-1963
Extent:	4 boxes, 8 galley folders, 1 oversize folder (1.75 linear feet)
Abstract:	The collection documents the author's early career as a poet and his later career as an authority on children's customs, toys, games, and nursery rhymes.
Identification	TXRC94-A17
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchases, 1960, 1963 (R1637)
Processed by	Robert Kendrick, 1994
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Leslie Daiken, author and educator, was born in Dublin in 1912. He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, and lived thereafter in London. Daiken's early poetry and short fiction appeared in periodicals and anthologies such as *Choice*, *The Dublin Magazine*, *The New English Weekly*, *Goodbye, Twilight*, and *New Irish Poetry*. In 1944 Daiken compiled *They Go, the Irish*, an anthology in which contributors attempted to evoke the spirit of the Irish war effort. Daiken published a monograph of his own verse, *Signatures of All Things*, the following year.

After these literary endeavors, Daiken turned to the study of children's customs, games, nursery rhymes and toys. His post-graduate thesis was titled "A Comparative Study of Nursery Literature" (1943). Daiken also wrote *Children's Games Throughout the Year* (1949), *Children's Toys Throughout the Ages* (1953), *Let Us Play in Israel* (1950), *Teaching Through Play* (1954), *The Lullaby Book* (1959), *Out Goes She!* (1963), and *World of Toys* (1963). In "Boys and Girls Come Out to Play," "Sticks and Stones," "The English Nursery Rhyme," "The Feast of St. Stephen" and "Tinsel, Holly and Tinklebell," Daiken explored the same subjects for radio and television. "Three Outcasts," a radio play, dramatizes the stereotypes found in children's rhyme; another radio play, "The Circular Road," explores a child's bereavement in the Jewish-Irish community. *London Pleasures for Young People* was written as a children's guidebook. His film, *One Potato, Two Potato*, which documents contemporary children's street rhyme, won an award at the 1958 Festival mondial du film in Brussels. Inspired by his interest in the history of toys, Daiken also founded the Toy Museum of Britain.

Leslie Daiken died in 1964.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Leslie Daiken, 1935-1963, document his early career as a poet and his later career as an authority on children's customs, toys, games, and nursery rhymes. The collection has been arranged into two series, Correspondence, 1936-1963 (0.5 boxes) and Works, 1935-1963 (3.5 boxes). The Correspondence series reflects Daiken's and his circle's literary and political concerns as well as the character of his friendships. The Works series consists of Daiken's manuscripts for his early book of verse and his later books, articles, radio and television productions, and documentary film.

Series Descriptions

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1963 (0.5 boxes)

The Correspondence series includes primarily incoming correspondence arranged alphabetically by correspondent. One folder of material from correspondents represented by only one letter is also arranged alphabetically at the end of the series. Among the significant correspondents are Samuel

Daiken, Leslie, 1912-1964

Beckett, Austin Clarke, Cyril Cusack, J.F.A. Heath-Stubbs, Wyn Henderson, Alun Lewis, Hugh MacDiarmid, Ewart Milne, Sean O'Casey, Seumas O'Sullivan, Thomas B. Rudmose-Brown, Blanaid Salkeld, Roy Saunders, Caitlin Thomas, Arland Ussher, and William Carlos Williams. While the correspondence touches on Daiken's early editorial endeavors, the Irish political situation, the formation of modern Israel, and the various concerns of the writer, the bulk is of a more personal nature. Some of Caitlin Thomas's correspondence is in Italian; also among her correspondence are two holograph poems by her husband, Dylan Thomas.

Series II. Works, 1935-1963 (3.5 boxes, 8 galley folders, 1 oversize folder)

Manuscripts of Leslie Daiken's work cover his entire career from the early poems of *Signatures of All Things* to his final published work, *World of Toys*. The bulk of the papers, however, consists of his work on children's customs, games, toys, and nursery rhymes. There are prospectuses, holograph and typed notes, typed drafts, production scripts, shooting scripts, and galleys and page proofs, some corrected by Daiken himself. Most of Daiken's published and unpublished work is represented here in some form. Among his published works represented in the collection are *Children's Games Throughout the Year*, *Children's Toys Throughout the Ages*, *London Pleasures for Young People*, *The Lullaby Book*, *One Potato, Two Potato*, *Out Goes She!*, *Signatures of All Things*, *Teaching Through Play*, *They Go*, *The Irish*, *World of Toys*, and various articles on dolls. His unpublished work represented here includes "The Circular Road," "The English Nursery Rhyme," "The Feast of St. Stephen," "For the Children," "Sticks and Stones," "Three Outcasts," and "Tinsel, Holly and Tinklebell." The manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by title. Correspondence related to individual works are filed at the end of each work's folders, as Daiken kept it. The genre and the date of publication or production have been supplied in square brackets in the folder list. Additional Daiken material may be found in the collections of Terence Ian Fytton Armstrong, Constantine Fitzgibbon, John Lehmann, and Sean O'Casey.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Beckett, Samuel
Clarke, Austin
Cusack, Cyril
Heath-Stubbs, John Francis Alexander
Henderson, Wyn
Lewis, Alun
MacDiarmid, Hugh
Milne, Ewart
O'Casey, Sean
O'Sullivan, Seumas
Rudmose-Brown, Thomas B.
Salkeld, Blanaid

Daiken, Leslie, 1912-1964

Saunders, Roy

Thomas, Caitlin

Thomas, Dylan

Ussher, Arland

Williams, William Carlos

Subjects

Authors, Irish

Toys, History

Games, History

Play

Nursery rhymes

Document Types

First drafts

Galley proofs

Photographs

Postcards

Scripts

Series I. Correspondence, 1936-1963 (0.5 boxes)

Beckett, Samuel, 1957-59	box 1 folder 1
Clarke, Austin, 1938-57, nd	folder 2
Cusack, Cyril, 1943-59, nd	folder 3
Milne, Ewart, 1946-59, nd	folder 4
O'Casey, Sean, 1943-45	folder 5
O'Sullivan, Seumas, 1943-58, nd	folder 6
Rudmose-Brown, Thomas B., 1939-41, nd	folder 7
Salkeld, Blanaid, 1952-58	folder 8
Saunders, Roy, 1953-54, nd	folder 9
Thomas, Caitlin, 1954-57, nd	folder 10
Ussher, Arland, 1958-59	folder 11
Miscellaneous, 1936-59	folder 12

Series II. Works, 1935-1963 (3.5 boxes, 8 galley folders, 1 oversize folder)

<i>Boys and Girls Come Out to Play</i> [radio program, nd], typescript, nd	box 1 folder 13
<i>Children's Games Throughout the Year</i> [book, 1949]	
Holograph working notes, nd	box 1 folder 14
Correspondence, 1947-49, prospectus, and invitation to book "christening"	folder 15
<i>Children's Toys Throughout the Ages</i> [book, 1953]	
Prospectus, and corrected typescript, nd	box 1 folder 16
Final corrected typescript, nd, and correspondence, 1953	folder 17-19
Page proofs, nd	folder 20
<i>The Circular Road</i> [radio program, 1959]	
Typescripts titled <i>The Green Atonement</i> and <i>All Our Yesterdays</i> , nd; notes; typescript titled <i>The Circular Road</i> , nd; and production script signed by the author and cast, [1959]	box 2 folder 1
"Doll" [article for <i>Collier's Encyclopedia</i> , 1959], typescript, nd, and correspondence, 1958-59	folder 2
"Dolls and Dolls' Houses" [article for <i>Companion to the Connoisseur Concise Encyclopaedia of Antiques</i> , 1954]	folder 3
Correspondence, 1954, and "Notes for authors," nd	
Galley files--removed to Galley files	
"Dolls and Dolls' Houses" [article for the <i>Oxford Junior Encyclopedia</i> , 1955], correspondence, 1953-54	box 2 folder 4

“Dolls Past and Present” [segment for television program, <i>Family Affairs</i> , 1956], notes and corrected typescript, nd; and correspondence, 1956	folder 5
<i>The English Nursery Rhyme</i> [radio program, nd], typescript, nd	folder 6
<i>The Feast of St. Stephen</i> [radio program, 1958], notes and typescript, nd; final corrected typescript, [1958]; and correspondence, 1947-59	folder 7
<i>For the Children</i> [TV program, nd], corrected shooting script, nd	folder 8
<i>London Pleasures for Young People</i> [book, 1957]	
Typescript, nd	box 2 folder 9
Corrected typescript, nd	folder 10-11
Corrected typescript, nd	box 3 folder 1-2
Correspondence, 1951-56	folder 3
Galleys--removed to Galley files	
<i>The Lullaby Book</i> [book, 1959]	
First and second corrected typescripts, nd	box 3 folder 4
Holograph music and music page proofs, nd	folder 5
Galleys--removed to Galley files	
“Mr. Borscht of Bansha” [short story, 1945], correspondence, 1945	box 3 folder 6
<i>One Potato, Two Potato</i> [film script, 1957], shooting script, production notes, and printed advertisement, nd; correspondence, 1956-58, nd; descriptions of films in competition at the 1958 Festival mondial du film in Brussels, 1958	folder 7
<i>Out Goes She!</i> [book, 1963]	
Prospectus, typescript, page proofs, and final page proofs, nd; correspondence, 1957-63	box 3 folder 8

Galleys--removed to Galley files

Signatures of All Things [book of poems, 1945], poems, 1935-44, nd; typed review quotations, printed advertisement, nd; and correspondence, 1943-46 **box 3
folder 9**

Sticks and Stones [radio program, 1956], typescript, nd **folder 10**

Teaching Through Play [book, 1954] **folder 11**

Correspondence, 1946-54; page proofs, notes, publisher's presentation copy notice, and holograph poem and prose piece by Christine Lee with colored crayon illustrations, nd

Galleys--removed to Galley files

They Go, The Irish [anthology, 1944], correspondence, 1943-45, nd **box 4
folder 1**

Three Outcasts [radio play, 1962]

Bookseller's description, and notes, nd **box 4 folder 2**

First draft, nd **folder 3**

Second draft, photograph of Little Flower Shrine of the Carmelite Church in Dublin, postcard, and clipping, nd **folder 4**

Typescript with holograph corrections, nd **folder 5**

Production script, signed by the author and the cast, nd **folder 6**

"Tinsel, Holly and Tinklebell" [segment for *Focus* (TV program), 1958?], notes, typescripts, and production script, nd; correspondence, 1955-58 **folder 7**

World of Toys [book, 1963]

Prospectus, [1963?]; and typescript, 1963 **box 4 folder 8-10**

Final format proofs, incomplete, 1963 **folder 11**

Daiken, Leslie, 1912-1964

Correspondence, 1962-63

folder 12

Page proofs--removed to Galley files

Galleys--removed to Galley files

Leslie Daiken Papers--Index of Correspondents

- Abarnabel, Bernard--4.1
- Ahern, Timothy--2.7
- Armstrong, Edward Allworthy--2.7
- Aylmer, Ursula A. (Oxford University Press)--2.4
- Barker, S.--1.15
- Batsford, Brian (B.T. Batsford Ltd.)--1.15
- Batson, Eric J. (Bernard Shaw Society)--1.3
- Beachcroft, Thomas Owen, 1902- --1.5
- Beary, John--1.3
- Beckett, Samuel, 1906- --1.1
- Berlyn, O. J.--3.11
- Blunden, Edmund, 1896-1974 (Times Literary Supplement)--1.5
- Bobsz, T. M.--1.15
- Brady, George M.--4.1
- Brooks, J. G.--1.15
- Campbell, Flann, 1919- --4.1
- Clarke, Austin, 1896-1974--1.2
- Clarke, Mary--1.15
- Clarke, Nora--1.2
- Clear, Richard (*Development, Agriculture and Industry*)--1.5
- Couch, William T. (P. F. Collier & Son)--2.2
- Craker, Trevor (Thames and Hudson)--3.3
- Curtis-Brown, Spencer (Curtis Brown Ltd.)--3.11
- Cusack, Cyril, 1910- --1.3
- Cusack, Maureen--1.3
- Daiken, Lilyan--1.15, 4.1
- Davin, W. K., Mrs (Oxford University Press)--2.4
- Delcorde, Jacques (Festival mondial du film et des beaux-arts)--3.7
- Devas, Nicolette--1.11
- Dowling, M. (Irish Literary Society)--1.15
- Down, Prudence (B. T. Batsford Ltd.)--1.15
- Eaton, Faith--4.12
- Elton, Arthur--3.7
- Erwood, P. M. Elliston (The Lambarde Press)--4.12
- Fery, E.--1.15
- Garrett, Stephen (Toy Museum of Britain)--2.4
- Gibson, Strickland, 1877-1958--1.15
- Green, Michael (British Film Institute)--3.7
- Harris, Katharine M. (Committee on Ulster Folklife and Traditions)--2.7
- Heath-Stubbs, John Francis Alexander, 1918- --1.5
- Hecht, David (P. F. Collier & Son Corporation)--2.2
- Henderson, Wyn--1.11
- Hill, David (*Esquire*)--4.7
- Holland, R. H. Code (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons Limited)--3.11
- Huntley, John (British Film Institute)--3.7
- Jaques, Faith--3.11
- John, S. T. H. (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons Limited)--3.11
- Johnston, Denis, 1901- --4.1
- Kavanagh, Patrick, 1904- 1967--1.5

- Keates, John S. (Penguin (Firm))--1.3
- Killingback, H. W. (Thames and Hudson)--3.3
- Le Cras, T. (Thomas)--3.11
- Lewis, Alun, 1915-1944--1.5
- Louyet, P. (Festival mondial du film et des beaux-arts)--3.7
- Lucarelli, Francis (B. T. Batsford Ltd.)--1.15
- MacCarthy, Desmond, 1877-1952--3.9
- McCrae, H. M. (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons Limited)--3.11
- MacDiarmid, Hugh, 1892- --1.5
- MacDonagh, Donagh, 1912-1968--1.3
- Maguinness, Stuart--1.15
- McGuire, Violet--4.1
- McHale, R. S.--1.19
- MacMahon, Bryan, 1909- --1.5
- Michaux, Georges (Festival mondial du film et des beaux-arts)--3.7
- Miller, A. E.--1.15
- Miller, Liam (Dolmen Press)--3.8
- Miller, M. (L. Rees & Co. Ltd.)--2.5
- Milne, Ewart, 1903- --1.4, 4.1
- Milne, Thelma--1.4
- Montgomery, B. L.--4.1
- Nixon, Ursula A. (Oxford University Press)--2.4
- O'Brien, William (Irish Transport & General Workers' Union)--1.5
- O'Casey, Sean, 1880-1964--1.6, 3.9, 4.1
- O'Hegarty, P. S. (Patrick Sarsfield), 1879-1955--1.5
- Orient Line--1.11
- O'Sullivan, Seumas, 1879-1958--1.7, 1.15
- Panting, Anthony--2.4
- Petter, Helen Mary (Oxford University Press)--2.4
- Phelan, Jim, 1895-1966--4.1
- Pocock, A. T. G. (Oxford University Press)--2.4
- Poke, Greville (*Everybody's*)--2.7
- Pollinger, Laurence (Pearn, Pollinger & Higham, Ltd.)--4.1
- Quinn, Owen--1.5
- Rainbird, G. M. (Rainbird, McLean Ltd.)--2.3
- Ramsey, L. G. G. (*The Connoisseur*)--2.3
- Reed, Stanley (British Film Institute)--3.7
- Rees, Frank L. (L. Rees & Co. Ltd.)--2.5
- Reeves, James--1.5
- Rodgers, W. R. (William Robert), 1909-1969--1.5
- Rowley, Alec, 1892-1958--1.15
- Rudmose-Brown, Thomas B.--1.8
- Salkeld, Blanaid--1.9, 1.15
- Salkeld, Cecil Ffrench--1.9
- Salkeld, Irma--1.9
- Sansom, William, 1912- --3.6
- Saunders, Roy--1.10
- Schatzky, K. T.--1.15
- Scott, Eileen F.--2.7
- Shore, Donald (B. T. Batsford Ltd.)--1.15
- Simmons, H. Richard (*Games & Toys*)--4.12

- Spira, Joy (Rainbird, McLean Ltd.)--2.3
- Stanford, William Bedell--1.7, 1.15
- Staples, A. V. (British Broadcasting Corporation)--2.7
- Starkey, Estella F.--1.7
- Symons, Joanne (British Broadcasting Corporation)--4.7
- Thirifays, A. (Festival mondial du film et des beaux-arts)--3.7
- Thomas, Aeronwy--1.11
- Thomas, Caitlin--1.11
- Thomas, Dylan, 1914-1953--1.11
- Thomas, Llewelyn--1.11
- Thomson, David (British Broadcasting Corporation)--2.7, 4.1
- Ussher, Arland--1.12
- Wakeham, Elsie (British Broadcasting Corporation)--2.7
- Walsh, Maurice, 1879-1964--1.5
- Watson, Ron (Dolmen Press)--3.8
- Watts, G. Goddard--3.3
- Whysall, W. W. (Jarrold & Sons Ltd.)--1.15
- Williams, William Carlos, 1883-1963--1.5, 3.9
- Willoughby, Rosamond--1.3