



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

The Michael Curtin Papers

P19

**University of Limerick
Library and Information Services**

University of Limerick Special Collections

The Michael Curtin Papers

Reference Code: IE 2135 P19
Title: The Michael Curtin Papers
Dates of Creation: 1979-1993
Level of Description: Fonds
Extent and Medium: 5 boxes (75 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator: Curtin, Michael (1942-)

Biographical History: Michael Curtin was born in Limerick in 1942 and is best known for his darkly comic novels depicting life and the many characters in Limerick city. In addition to his novels, Curtin has published a number of short stories, most notably in the New Irish Writing page of the *Irish Press*.

Archival History: Unknown.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Purchased by the University of Limerick from Kenny's Bookshop, Galway, on 19 August 2005.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: Manuscripts and correspondence relating to Michael Curtin's career as a writer.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The documents are divided thematically into three series. Series A comprises correspondence mainly with publishers, literary agents, film and TV producers, and artists' associations, and provides an interesting insight into the process of book publishing, and the acquisition of foreign language rights and film rights. The difficulties experienced even by established authors to get their work into print is illustrated by the 11 rejection letters from publishing companies for Curtin's fourth novel, *The Plastic Tomato Cutter* (see **P19/8**).

Series B contains manuscripts of five of Curtin's novels, many with copy editor's alterations. Series C is dedicated to Suzanne Gibson and her unpublished children's book, *American Bennett's Alphabet Soup*, presumably sent to Curtin for his comments.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to most items. A small number of documents contain personal information and are closed for a period of 30 years. These items have been identified in the descriptive catalogue.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Michael Curtin and Suzanne Gibson retain all proprietary rights and copyright in their published and unpublished writings. Those materials may not be duplicated or reproduced without written permission from the authors. Please contact the staff at Special Collections for contact details. Reproduction of any items dated after 1979 containing personal information is also prohibited. For photocopying other material, please consult with the staff at Special Collections.

Language/ Scripts of Material: English.

Physical characteristics: Paper documents in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the University of Limerick Special Collections.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related Units of Description: Published works by Michael Curtin are available in the Special Collections and the Main Library at the University of Limerick. Please consult the library catalogue at <http://193.1.100.111/TalisPrism/>.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000.

Date of Description: February 2010.

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The Michael Curtin Papers

A. CORRESPONDENCE

I From Publishers

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------|
| 1 | 30 October 1991 | From Mary Loring, Editorial Director, Abacus, 165 Great Dover Street, London SE1 EYA, to Michael Curtin, Lyndon, South Circular Road, Limerick, expressing delight at having acquired [paperback rights in] <i>The Plastic Tomato Cutter</i> for Abacus. | 1 p |
| 2 | 1979-1983:1987-1988:1990-1991:1993:undated | From Andre Deutsch Ltd., 105-106 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LJ, to Michael Curtin at various addresses but mainly at 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick. The letters deal with the preparation for publication of <i>The Replay</i> and <i>The League Against Christmas</i> ; the Spanish language rights for <i>The Self-Made Men</i> and general financial matters. Correspondents include editor Esther Whitby, rights managers Anne-Louise Fisher, Hilary Delamere and Caroline Knox, contracts manager Marie Malone, managing director T. G. Rosenthal, director Laura Morris, Michèle Young and Shirley Purkiss. In three folders. <i>Two items closed. Review in 2038.</i> | 34 items |
| 3 | 1989:1991 | From Sheila Murphy, Aurum Press, 10 Museum Street, London WC1A 1JS, and from 3 St Andrews Square, Lancaster Road, London W11 1RH, to Michael Curtin, 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, relating to Curtin's attempts to get an agent, and to the purchase of Aurum Press by former Andre Deutsch employees. | 2 items |
| 4 | 1991 | From Fourth Estate Ltd., 289 Westbourne Grove, London W11 2QA, to Michael Curtin, Lyndon, South Circular Road, Limerick, relating to the preparation for publication of <i>The Plastic Tomato Cutter</i> . Correspondents include editorial director Giles O'Bryen and managing editor Debbie Licorish. | 3 items |

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- 5 1981-1982 From managing editor Keith Goldsmith, George Braziller, Inc., One Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, USA, to Michael Curtin, 13 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Limerick, relating to the American rights in *The Replay* and the novel's first and favourable review in the *New Yorker Magazine*.
2 items
- 6 1992-1993 From editorial director Richard Beswick, Little Brown, 165 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YA, to Michael Curtin, Lyndon, South Circular Road, Limerick, relating to the publication of the paperback edition of *The Plastic Tomato Cutter*.
2 items
- 7 1980 From Tim Binding, Penguin Books Ltd., 536 King's Road, London SW10 0UH, to Michael Curtin, Mount Pleasant Avenue, Limerick, relating to the paperback rights in *The Self-Made Men*.
2 items
- 8 1990-1991 Rejection letters from various publishers in relation to *The Plastic Tomato Cutter*.
11 items

II From Literary Agents

- 9 1979-1980:1989 From Michael Shaw, Curtis Brown Limited, 1 Crave Hill, London W2 3EP, to Michael Curtin, 17 Mount Pleasant Road, Limerick, and 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, offering his firm's services as literary agents, with generic references to *The Self-Made Men*, *The League Against Christmas* and *The Reply*.
5 items
- 10 1983 From Stephen Durbridge, Harvey Unna & Stephen Durbridge Ltd., 24 Pottery Lane, Holland Park, London W11 4LZ, to Michael Curtin, 13 Mount Pleasant Avenue, and a copy letter to Donald Hyams, Magic Lantern Productions S.A., 8 Place Grenus, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland, relating to the film and television rights in *The Self-Made Men*.
3 items

- 11** 1980:1989 From Caradoc King, A. P. Watt Ltd., 26/28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4 HL, and 20 John Street, London WC1N 2DR to Michael Curtin, c/o Andre Deutsch Limited, 105 Great Russell Street, London WC1, and 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, offering his firm's services as literary agents and refusing to take on the unsold rights in *The League Against Christmas*.
- 2 items

III From Film and TV Production Companies

- 12** 1989-1990 From producer Marie Therese Duggan, Cathal Black Film & Video Productions, 'St Nessans', Sandyford Village, Sandyford, county Dublin, to Michael Curtin, 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, relating to the prospect of adapting *The League Against Christmas* for film and the subsequent abandonment of the plan.
- 3 items
- 13** 1983 From Donald Hyams, Magic Lantern Productions SA, 8 Place Grenus, 1201 Geneva Switzerland, to Michael Curtin, O'Connell Street, Limerick, relating to film rights in *The Self-Made Men*. Also see **10**.
- 2 items

IV From Artists' Associations

- 14** 1988:1991 From secretary Fiona M. Clark, The Royal Literary Fund, 144 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0DT, to Michael Curtin, 93 O'Connell Street, Limerick, and Lyndon, South Circular Road, Limerick, relating to grant assistance from the Fund. *Closed. Review in 2038*.
- 2 items
- 15** 1992 From Aosdána, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, to Michael Curtin, Lyndon, South Circular Road, Limerick, relating to Curtin's nomination for membership. Correspondents include registrar Adrian Munnely and his assistant Bernadette O'Leary. Also see **16, 17**.
- 2 items

V From Authors

- 16 1990-1991 From John B. Keane, 37 William Street, Listowel, relating to Curtin's nomination for membership for Aosdána, and to Keane's refusal to launch Curtin's book owing to the recent death of his two brothers. 3 items
- 17 [1989-1990] From Ben[edict] Kiely, 119 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, mainly relating to Curtin's nomination for membership for Aosdána. 4 items

VI From Other Correspondents

- 18 1982 From James J. Curtin, 235 Herman Cir. S/W, Port Charlotte, Fla, 33952, USA, to Michael Curtin, Limerick, discussing the merits of *The Replay* and *The Self-Made Men*. 2 items
- 19 1985:1992-1993 From Charles Frewin, 8 Stoneways Close, Leagrave, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 9EG, and The Lodge, Down Park, Turner's Hill Road, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4HQ, to Michael Curtin, Tir-Owen, Ennis Road, Limerick, expressing his enthusiasm for *The Self-Made Men*, *The Replay*, and *The League Against Christmas*. Later letters relate to Frewin's subsequent bookselling career in Australia and his release of a paperback version of *The League Against Christmas* under Two Heads Publishing. 5 items
- 20 1980-1983:1989:
[c. 1991] From Kieran [Simpson], 25 A Claxton Boulevard, Toronto, Canada M6C 1L7; 121 Mackay Avenue, Toronto, Canada M6H 2N8, and 625 Cosborn Avenue, Toronto, Canada M4C 2V1, discussing Curtin's novels, exchanging childhood reminiscences and conveying domestic and professional news. 14 items
- 21 1981:1988:1992:
undated Assorted letters from friends and acquaintances, including Danny Blanchflower, Hubert Butler, Dick Amaral and 'Una [?]', Jessica and Michael'. 4 items

- 22 1990:1993 From Ted McCarthy, Solicitor, Damian Woods, Solicitor, and Irish Nationwide Building Society, relating to Curtin's financial difficulties. *Closed.*
Review in 2038.
5 items

B. LITERARY MATERIAL

I The Replay

- 23 Undated Typescript draft of *The Replay* with copy editor's handwritten alterations. Chapter headings on separate handwritten sheets. Pagination on typed sheets. Lacking pages 213-215. In three folders.
321 pp

II The League Against Christmas

- 24 Undated Typescript draft of *The League Against Christmas* with copy editor's handwritten alterations. Some of the pages are photocopies. Pagination. In three folders.
337 pp
- 25 22 March 1995 Letter from managing director Marie Therese Duggan, Camera Pen Ltd., 10 River Lane, Shangannagh, Shankill, county Dublin, to Conor Kenny, Kenny's Bookshop, Quay Street, Galway, enclosing **26**.
1 p
- 26 Undated Photocopy of a typescript screen adaptation of *The League Against Christmas*. Paginated. Pages 32-34 and 36-44 have been replaced by photocopied extracts from the original novel.
48 pp

III The Plastic Tomato Cutter

- 27 Undated Typescript draft of *The Plastic Tomato Cutter*, with some handwritten alterations. Paginated. Text complete but pagination skips p. 194. In three folders. 254 pp

IV The Cove Shivering Club

- 28 Undated Typescript draft of chapters 9-22 of *The Cove Shivering Club*, with some handwritten alterations. Paginated. 179 pp

V Sing!

- 29 Undated Typescript draft of *Sing!*, with some handwritten alterations. Paginated. Text complete but pagination skips pages 101 and 212. In three folders. 249 pp

C. MATERIAL RELATING TO SUZANNE GIBSON

- 30 3 February 1993 Letter from Suzanne Gibson, 11231-A Peartree Way, Columbia, Maryland 21044, USA, to Thomas Kenny[, Kenny's Bookshop, Quay Street, Galway], enclosing a copy draft of *American Bennett's Alphabet Soup*, for which see 31. 2 items
- 31 Undated Typescript draft by Suzanne Gibson of an unpublished children's book, entitled *American Bennett's Alphabet Soup*. Paginated. 32 pp