

Acc.11615
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Inventory

Acc.11615

John McGrath

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Correspondence, production files and other papers of John McGrath (1935-2002), television writer, playwright, director and film-maker. The bulk of the material dates from ca.1979-1990, though there are some earlier and later items. Much of it concerns McGrath's work outside 7:84, the theatre company which he and others established in 1971.

The arrangement of the collection maintains, as far as possible, the order in which the material was received. John McGrath is referred to as JMcG in the inventory.

See also Acc.10893, 7:84 (Scotland) Theatre Company.

Bought, 1998

The arrangement is as follows:

1-11	Correspondence and related material
12-31	Files relating to individual productions
32-79	Screenplays and playscripts
80-85	Material relating to 7:84
86	Papers and articles
87-89	Miscellaneous
90-110	Printed material and press-cuttings

1-11 Correspondence

1. 'Political – Scotland': correspondence concerning political organisations and related theatre productions, 1979-82.
2. Printed items and correspondence, 1980-1, relating to Scottish theatres.
3. 'Personal – Theatre': correspondence concerning theatre, 1980-5.
4. 'Personal - TV': Correspondence concerning various television productions and plays, 1980-5; rehearsal script of 'My Sister's Eighteenth', 1981.
5. 'Dissertations etc about 7:84/John': correspondence, mostly with students and researchers, 1980-6.
6. Correspondence concerning lectures at Simon Fraser University, 1981; printed material relating to 7th Annual International Film Festival, Toronto, 1982.
7. Correspondence, 1981-5, mostly with students and researchers; also some relating to proposed talks and articles by JMcG.
8. Papers relating to the Socialist Society, and correspondence relating to various arts and political organisations and appeals, c.1983.
9. 'Personal: Refs': Reports and references, 1983-5.
10. 'Personal': correspondence, 1984-6.

11. 'Personal - talks etc.': correspondence, 1984-6. Includes some MS notes for talks, n.d.
- 12-31 Production files**
12. ***Blood Red Roses*** by John McGrath (television version), [1980].
Synopsis, correspondence, press, titles, unit lists.
13. ***Women in Power*** by John McGrath, c.1983.
Sound script, interleaved with music.
14. ***On the Pig's Back*** by John McGrath and David MacLennan [1983].
Script (first draft), correspondence 1983-4, contracts, budgets, schedules, publicity, NALGO material.
- 15-20. ***There is a Happy Land*** by John McGrath, [from research by Ray Burnett], 1986.
- 15-19. Research material, mainly relating to Scottish and Gaelic songs, music and bands. Originally in four ring binders, with some loose sheets.
 15. Songs (unlabelled binder).
 16. 'Bands, songs, soloists'.
 17. 'Happy Land programme 2'
 18. 'Happy Land Programme 5 work'.
 19. Other research material.
20. Correspondence, 1985-9.
- 21-28 ***Border Warfare*** by John McGrath, 1988-89.
21. Manuscript/typescript.
22. Prompt copy of script, n.d., with staging notes and cast list.
23. Production notes, some correspondence, minutes of production meetings and other material, 1988-9.
24. Costumes packs.
25. Programme; press cuttings, February 1989, mostly relating to Margaret Thatcher rejecting the possibility of any move towards Scottish Home Rule.
- 26-28. Television script, 1989. First draft.
 26. Episode 1.
 27. Episode 2.
 28. Episode 3.

29-31. ***John Brown's Body*** by John McGrath [?1990].

29. Script, 'prompt copy'.

30. Script, 'SM [?Stage manager's] prompt copy'.

31. Shooting script, with MS notes and shooting schedule.

32-79 Scripts and screenplays

32-37 John McGrath

38-79 Other writers

32-37 John McGrath

32. 'Mairi Mhor' by JMcG and Simon Mackenzie, [ca.1987]. Screenplay, third draft.

33. 'Nightclass', n.d. Photocopy TS, incomplete.

34. 'Peace', n.d. Fourth draft.

35. 'The Rat-Trap', n.d. Photocopy MS and TS.

36. 'Rejoice!', [ca.1982]. Corrected TS.

37. 'They've Got Out', n.d. Photocopy TS.

38-79 Other writers (arranged alphabetically by title).

38. *Crossroads of Courage* [verses] by F.H. Trott. Photocopy of published original, Glasgow, [1945].

39. 'The Cutting of Marchan Wood' by Richard M Hughes, n.d. TS.

40. 'The Devil in the Kitchen' by James Barke, n.d. Photocopy TS.

41. 'The Festival of Fools 1967' by Ewan MacColl. Bound photocopy TS.

42-46. 'Gold in his Boots' by George Munro (first performed in 1947, revived by 7:84 Scotland in 1982).

42. Photocopy of [?original 1947] TS.

43. Photocopy of Act III (?original TS) with MS amendments [by JMcG].

44. Top copy TS [?of JMcG's amended version].

45. Photocopy TS with further MS amendments [by JMcG].

46. Photocopy TS with MS amendments [in another hand].

47-48. 'The Gorbals Story' by Robert McLeish (first performed in 1946, revived by 7:84 Scotland in 1987).

47. Photocopy of [?original 1946] TS, with photocopies of reviews, 1946-8, n.d.

48. Photocopy TS, edited and introduced by Linda Mackenney, n.d.
49. 'Gregarach' by James Barke [ca.1926]. Photocopy TS.
50. 'Hell and High Water' by William Allen, n.d. Photocopy TS.
51. 'Her Name was Barbara Allen' by James Barke, n.d. Photocopy. [Play first performed, Glasgow Unity, 1946.]
- 52-53. 'High Places' by Ena Lamont Stewart, ca.1987.
 52. Bound photocopy TS.
 53. Photocopy TS with a few MS notes.
- 54-57. 'In Time of Strife' by Joe Corrie (originally performed ca.1930, revived by 7:84 Scotland in 1982).
 54. Bound photocopy of [?original] TS.
 55. Top copy of 'new' TS.
 56. Bound photocopy of 'new' TS with proof-reader's [?]McG] annotations.
 57. Bound photocopy of [?final] draft TS.
58. 'The Incredible Brechin Beetle Bug' by Matt McGinn, 1986-7, with some photocopies of reviews of the 7:84 Scotland production.
- 59-60. 'The Lambs of God' by Benedick Scott, n.d.
 59. Photocopy of [?original] TS (foolscap).
 60. Photocopy of TS (A4).
61. 'Maggie's Man' by Colin Mortimer, [?1983]. Photocopy of typescript.
62. *Major Operation* by James Barke, n.d. Photocopy of Act One, Scene Four, [?Glasgow : William MacLellan, 1943].
- 63-65. 'Men Should Weep' by Ena Lamont Stewart (originally performed ca.1935, revived by 7:84 Scotland in 1982).
 63. Top copy TS.
 64. Top copy TS with proof-reader's annotations.
 65. Paste-ups for publication.
66. *Seeterday Nicht Symphonie* by John Kincaid, n.d. Photocopy of published original, (Glasgow, n.d.).
67. *The Shawlie* by Robins Millar. Photocopy of published original, [?London & Glasgow, 1924.].
- 68-69. *Six Men of Dorset* by Harry Brooks and Miles Malleson.

68. Photocopy of published original, [?London, 1937].
 69. Typescript. JMcG's 1984 adaptation of the 1934 original.
 70. ['Starched Aprons' by Ena Lamont Stewart, n.d.] Photocopy TS, fragments, some MS notes.
 71. 'The Summer Visitor' by James Barke, n.d. Photocopy of typescript.
 72. 'Sunday Best' by Charles Wood, 1991. (A screenplay). TS, third draft.
 73. 'Towards Evening' by Ena Lamont Stewart, n.d. TS, 2 slightly variant copies.
 - 74-76. 'UAB – Scotland' by Harry Trott, 1982.
 74. Bound photocopy of typescript 'with cuts and edits, 20.3.82', with [?JMcG's] MS amendments
 75. Photocopy of typescript 'with cuts and edits, 20.3.82', with [?JMcG's] MS notes [?re. staging].
 76. Bound photocopy of typescript 'with cuts and edits, 20.3.82', with MS notes [in another hand].
 77. 'Walkies Time' by Ena Lamont Stewart, n.d. Photocopy TS.
 78. 'Wee MacGregor' by J.J. Bell, n.d.
 79. 'When the Boys Come Home' by James Barke, n.d. Photocopy TS.
 - 80-85 Material relating to 7:84**
 80. Research material, 1940-80, (?gathered by Linda MacKenney whilst researching for 7:84 (Scotland)'s 'Clydebuilt' season). Includes published items, photocopies of posters, scripts, reviews and articles relating to Scottish theatre (mainly Glasgow Unity Theatre).
 81. 7:84 England material, 1973-88, n.d. Includes minutes, correspondence, publicity, also a large section of an unidentified play.
 82. Copies of letters, 1984, n.d., written in support of 7:84 England's protest against the cutting of their Arts Council subsidy.
 83. Reviews and programmes, 1985-7, relating to various 7:84 Scotland and England productions on stage and screen. Report, 1984, relating to the 7:84 Scotland archive; 7:84 Scotland draft 3 year plan, 1990-93.
 84. Photographs. Includes some snapshots of JMcG in Egypt, 1984, and some of 7:84 (Scotland) [?performing at the Rote Lieder festival in Germany, 1987].
 85. 'EX-S: 7:84'
- Transcripts of interviews, n.d., from a television programme on 7:84.

86. Papers and articles

86. 'The theory and practice of political theatre' [c.1979]. Photocopy of an article by JMcG from *Theatre Quarterly*.
'Non-naturalism', a copy of a paper, 1977, presented by Dennis Potter at the Edinburgh Television Festival 1977, with some other items relating to the Festival.
School dissertation, 1983, on 7:84 by Jennifer Smody, with covering letter.
'Towards a theory of Women's theatre', author unknown, n.d.

87-89 Miscellaneous

87. 'The unfileable file'. Miscellaneous material, 1984, n.d., includes some correspondence, MS notes, telephone messages, but mostly information leaflets and circular letters from theatre companies, publishers, causes and other organisations.
88. Copy letters, press cuttings, printed items, ca.1962-75, relating to the Isles of Scilly, particularly to Duchy of Cornwall tenantry issues. These were evidently sent to JMcG after the writer of many of the documents, Mrs A T Thomas, had seen *The Cheviot ...*, and identified with many of the matters raised in respect of the feudal system in the Highlands.
89. Miscellaneous. Includes a 'doodle' by Neil Kinnock, 2 childhood paintings by JMcG's son, Danny.

90-110 Printed material and press cuttings

90. Programmes and brochures, 1981-92, n.d., relating to theatre, television and film companies.
91. Programmes, 1986-7, relating to various theatre and film festivals.
92. Published items:
Uncle John from Yorkshire by Harry Tandi, n.d.
The Alunite: magazine of the Alun Grammar School, Mold, Autumn term, 1958.
The glory of the garden ... (Arts Council of Great Britain), [1985].
Rundown: a highland musical (North Alive Theatre), n.d.
Creativity and collaboration in television programmes (Huw Wheldon), BBC, 1974.
Broadcasting. Cmnd.7294, 1978.
Scottish Arts Council report 1977.
Scottish Arts Council report 1978.
Peace magazine, April/May 1987.
93. Press-cuttings, 1964-65, relating to *Diary of a young man*. (A six part series for the BBC.)
94. Press-cuttings, 1970-71.
95. Press-cuttings, 1972-74.

96. Press-cuttings, 1975-76.
97. Press-cuttings, 1977.
98. Press-cuttings, 1978.
99. Press-cuttings, 1979-80.
100. Press-cuttings, 1981.
101. Press-cuttings, 1982.
102. Press-cuttings, 1983.
103. Press-cuttings, 1984.
104. Press-cuttings, 1985.
105. Press-cuttings, 1986.
106. Press-cuttings, 1987.
107. Press-cuttings, 1988.
108. Press-cuttings, 1993.
109. Press-cuttings, 1997.
110. Press-cuttings, n.d.