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Inventory

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W.S. Graham

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Papers, c 1937-1981 of W.S. Graham originally from the collection of Alan Clodd, including notebooks, manuscripts and typescripts of poetry and letters.

Graham, (William) Sydney (1918–1986)

W.S. Graham was born in Greenock, Scotland, in 1918. After leaving Greenock High School at fourteen, he completed an apprenticeship in engineering. In 1938–9 he attended Newbattle Abbey Adult Education Residential College, near Edinburgh, where he studied literature and philosophy. David Archer of the Parton Press provided him with practical support and in 1942 published *Cage without Grievance*. Although *The Seven Journeys* was his first completed collection of poems it was not published until 1944. In 1947 he won an Atlantic Award for Literature and he taught at New York University from 1947–8. Graham's principal publisher, beginning with *The White Threshold* (1949), was Faber and Faber. He worked for periods as a copywriter, fisherman, and auxiliary coastguard while at Gurnard's Head, but he concentrated himself almost exclusively on his poetry. He is said to have been an impressive reader of his own work, in public appearances he made in Britain and abroad. *The Nightfishing* was published in 1955, and *Malcolm Mooney's Land* (1970) and *Implements in their Places* (1977) were both Poetry Book Society choices. In 1954 he married Agnes ('Nessie') Kilpatrick and from 1967 they lived at 4 Mountview Cottages, Madron in Cornwall. The title of Graham's collection *2ND Poems* (1945) is a coded dedication 'To Nessie Dunsmuir'. Over the years Graham received small grants from the Arts Council, and a civil list pension of £500 per year was granted him in 1974. After a long illness with cancer, Graham died at Madron on 9 January 1986.

Bought, 2005

1-8	Manuscripts and Typescripts
9-11	Correspondence
12-14	Memorabilia and Ephemera

1-8 Manuscripts and Typescripts

- 1 Manuscript book of poems. Dark green leather; lettered on spine M.S.S. Some typescript pasted in, some with clippings of poems from periodicals pasted over. With a few drawings. Draft letter in pencil signed Vivienne (Koch) on last two pages. [And I Would Be a Soldier with a Gun] appeared in *New Collected Poems* (2004).
1937-1942.
- 2 Book of typescript poems in loose leaf grey folder; headed 'Poems Nov 1940'. Possibly intended for submission to a publisher. Apparently unpublished for the most part; 'To ND' appears in *New Collected Poems* (2004), 'The Narrator' in *Seven Journeys*, and 'Fourth Sonnet' in *Poetry (London)*, 7, October/November 1942.
1938-1942.
- 3 Manuscript and typescript poems and criticism by W.S. Graham. With annotations, corrections, and drawings by the author. Includes poems

inscribed to Frank Baker, George Barker, and Vivienne Koch. With a list of unpublished poems.
1949-1958 and undated.

- 4 Blue quarto notebook headed 'W.S. Graham 27th Sept 50', mostly drafts for 'Seven Letters' from *The Nightfishing*. With loose leaf pages headed 'Words for Music'.
1950.
- 5 Visitor's book of the Latin Press (Guido Morris). With signature of Graham and Nessie Dunsmuir and holograph poem of 12 stanzas, 'Porth Guido'.
1954.
- 6 Tall blue address book containing signature of Ruthven Todd inside front cover, manuscript poems of W.S. Graham and a cutting of 'Over Sir John's Hill' by Dylan Thomas. 'The Dark Intention' appears in *New Statesman and Nation*, 1228, September 1954, and *Uncollected Poems* (1990). Includes ink drawing.
1954.
- 7 Two Xeroxed booklets of typescript poems by W.S. Graham possibly given out during readings at Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1957. Entitled 'The Text of Seven Poems'. Cover reproduced from the author's holograph. Includes another copy dated 15th December 1957 with the cover inscribed in Graham's hand to Guido Morris.
1957.
- 8 Transcripts by Malcolm Mackintosh of two 'collections', 'Clodd' and 'Queries'. The first is typeset from W.S. Graham's green notebook 1937-1942. The 'Queries' set may be Alan Clodd's, un-sourced, or undated. Accompanied by Mackintosh's covering letter to Clodd concerning the transcripts and Faber's proposed *New Collected Poems* (2004).
Undated [c. 2001].

9-11 Correspondence

- 9 Letters to friends and acquaintances concerning W.S. Graham's work, poetry-related issues and personal matters. Includes 'Zany Letter' in specially made slip-case, a large format letter to an unidentified recipient, dated 4th November 1954, decorated with drawings and coloured ink.
1951-1958 and undated.
- 10 Correspondence between Clodd and others discussing W.S. Graham's work, papers, and the organisation of an exhibition in commemoration of the poet. Includes typescript inventory of books, manuscripts and letters.
1955-2002 and undated.
- 11 Correspondence concerning the possible publication of W.S. Graham's work, the sale of manuscripts to Alan Clodd, and his participation in the Cambridge Poetry Festival 1981.

1958-1981 and undated.

12-14 Memorabilia and Ephemera

- 12 Face drawings.
Undated [c. 1940s-1960s].
9 items.
- 13 Reviews of Graham's *The Nightfishing* published in several magazines including *The Listener*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *New Statesman* [and *Nation*], and *The Observer*. Press cuttings of poems published in *Botteghe Oscure*, *New Statesman* and *Encounter*, Poetry Book Society bulletin for *Implements in Their Places*, and 'A Poet's Interview with Himself', *Observer Magazine*, 19.11.78.
1954-1978.
- 14 Promotional posters for a reading the poet gave at Pentameters, Hampstead, 15.12.80. Includes copies of the Poetry Society's programme for the W.S. Graham commemorative reading four months after his death.
1980-1986.