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Inventory

Acc.12600

Iain Crichton Smith

National Library of Scotland
Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW

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Papers, 1962-2000, of and relating to Iain Crichton Smith (1928-1998), poet and writer in Gaelic and English.

Iain Crichton Smith was born in Glasgow, but his parents were both from the Isle of Lewis and the family moved back there in 1930. Crichton Smith was educated at the Nicholson Institute (Stornoway) and the University of Aberdeen. He was a teacher by profession and taught at schools in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Oban until he retired in 1977 to pursue his writing career. Prolific, both in his native Gaelic and in English, he favoured exploring themes of island culture and religion. Though first and foremost a poet, he also produced novels, short stories, plays and criticism. Sadly for posterity, he did not keep many of his manuscripts; what is here probably amounts to the major archive of Iain Crichton Smith.

Bought, 2006

1-2	Literary manuscripts and papers
3-8	Radio and play scripts
9-36	Correspondence
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1-2 Literary manuscripts and papers

- 1 Manuscripts and typescripts of (?unpublished) poems, and a manuscript notebook containing poems, a short untitled play and a biography of Sorley Maclean.
- 2 Prose, articles and other material. Includes 'The Future of Gaelic Literature' by Iain Crichton Smith as published in the *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness*, 1962; typescript of a Murdo story (?Murdo and Death); typescript of essay, 'Towards the Human'; transcript of 'Conversation with Iain Crichton Smith at the Poet's home in Oban on 14th March 1981'; photocopies and notes relating to the life and work of Sorley Maclean; miscellaneous notes and pieces (including an essay comparing Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* with Hogg's *Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, possibly not written by Iain Crichton Smith, but with his ms amendments and corrections).

3-8 Radio and play scripts

- 3 Radio scripts, 1971-1976
'Autumn poems'. Broadcast on Radio 4, 15 May 1971 (photocopied typescript)
'The Exiles'. Recorded 19 June 1975 (photocopied typescript – final page(s) missing)
'Two Scottish Poets of This Century', 2: Iain Crichton Smith. Broadcast on Radio Scotland, 1 July 1975 (photocopied typescript - final page(s) missing)

- 'By the Sea'. Broadcast on Radio Scotland, 30 March 1976 (photocopied typescript)
 'Poetry Now, a selection of recent work by Douglas Dunn, Alastair Fowler, W S Graham, Claire Pace, John Purser and Iain Crichton Smith'. Broadcast on Radio 3, 24 October 1976 (photocopied typescript).
- 4 Radio scripts, 1977-1979
 'I'll Be Loving You'. Broadcast on Radio Scotland and Radio 4, 12 June and 27 September 1977 (photocopied typescript)
 'In the Person Of ...' 2: The General. Recorded, 2 October 1978 (photocopied typescript)
 'In the Person Of ...' 5: The Schoolteacher. Recorded, 4 October 1978 (photocopied typescript)
 'Goodman and Death Mahoney'. Recorded, 1 May 1979 (photocopied typescript).
- 5 Radio scripts, 1984
 'The Exiles'. Broadcast on Radio 3, 2 August 1984 (photocopied typescript)
 'The Exiles'. Broadcast on Radio 3, 2 August 1984 (photocopied typescript – second copy with some MS amendments by Iain Crichton Smith)
 'The Smile'. Recorded, 3-4 December 1984 (photocopied typescript)
- 6 Radio scripts, 1985-1992
 'The Visitor'. Broadcast on Radio Scotland, 29 November 1985 (photocopied typescript)
 'Mr Trill'. Recorded, 4 February 1988 (photocopied typescript)
 'The Visitor'. Recorded, 23 February 1988 (photocopied typescript)
 'Murdo in the Library'. Recorded, 18 May 1992 (photocopied typescript)
 'Murdo's Application for a Bursary'. Recorded, 18 May 1992 (photocopied typescript)
 'Murdo Leaves the Bank'. Recorded, 18 May 1992 (photocopied typescript)
 'Murdo and Burns'. Recorded, 18 May 1992 (photocopied typescript)
 'Murdo and the Mod'. Recorded, 18 May 1992 (photocopied typescript)
- 7 Undated play scripts
 'The Wedding Party', freely adapted by Iain Crichton Smith from 'The Respectable Wedding' by Bertolt Brecht. Performed at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, ?1988. 2 copies, one with Iain Crichton Smith's ms amendments, and photocopied programmes notes and biographies.
 'Columcille', for Stray Theatre Company, ?1997 production. With Iain Crichton Smith's ms amendments.

- 8 Mull Little Theatre
Scripts of short plays, some written under the Scottish Arts Council's 'Playwrights Commissioning Scheme', for Marianne and Barrie Hesketh of Mull Little Theatre, with related correspondence, 1977-1996 and undated, between Iain Crichton Smith, the Heskeths, and SAC and others. Playscripts include:
- The Christmas Card. Typescript.
 - In the Chinese Restaurant. Typescript.
 - Retiral. Typescript.
 - The Rock. Typescript.
 - A Kind of Play. 2 typescripts, one with ms amendments.
 - Tell My Cause Aright. Typescript.
 - Robinson Crusoe. Typescript.
 - Waiting for the Train. Typescript.
 - Trust. Typescript.
 - In the Station Buffet. Typescript.
 - In the Room. Typescript.
 - The Open University. Typescript.
 - Playing Chess. Typescript.
 - The Interview. Typescript.
 - The Visit. Typescript.
 - I Told Them Heracleitus. Typescript.
 - The Event. Typescript.
 - Two By the Sea. Typescript.
- [4 untitled plays, typescript and carbon, one of which is a prompt copy]

9-36 Correspondence

The letters are largely from publishers, literary magazines, newspapers, broadcasters, educational institutions, cultural organizations, research students and fans. The files include other material, such as invitations to exhibition openings, graduations and literary events, papers relating to the teaching of literature in schools, and ephemera.

- 9 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1972-1978. Includes part of a letter, ?1972, from Christopher Grieve (Hugh MacDiarmid) in which he discusses his own poetry and a letter, 1977, of Sorley MacLean, in support of a proposed publication of translations of Gaelic poems into English by Iain Crichton Smith.
- 10 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1979.
- 11 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1980
- 12 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1981.
- 13 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1982.
- 14 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1983.

- 15 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1984.
- 16 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1985.
- 17 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1986.
- 18 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1987.
- 19 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1988.
- 20 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1989.
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- 22 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1991.
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- 24 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1993.
- 25 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1994.
- 26 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1995.
- 27 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1996.
- 28 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1997.
- 29 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, 1998.
- 30 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, undated (i).
- 31 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, undated (ii).
- 32 Letters to Iain Crichton Smith, undated (iii).
- 33 Letters, 1979-1999, from the BBC; with a few letters from Scottish Television (1984), Radio Clyde (1987), Grampian Television (1988) and Channel 4 (undated).
- 34 Letters, 1992-2000 and undated, to Donalda Crichton Smith, with reviews, press-cuttings and papers relating to various literary and commemorative events.
- 35 Letters, 1998, to Donalda Crichton Smith on the death of her husband (i).
- 36 Letters, 1998, to Donalda Crichton Smith on the death of her husband (ii).

37 Diaries

- 37 Appointment diaries. A few membership cards (libraries, Poetry Society, are loosely inserted).

1985

1986

1998

38-46 Miscellaneous

- 38 Contracts, copyright agreements, remittance advice notes and other legal/financial papers, 1975-1995, from the BBC; with one remittance advice note from Scottish Television (1988).
- 39 Publishers' agreements, contracts, royalties and Public Lending Rights statements, 1976-2000.
- 40 Spiral bound notebook, mainly blank, but with some notes in Iain Crichton Smith's hand.
- 41 Photocopies of criticism, essays and other papers on the work of Iain Crichton Smith.
- 42 Texts, 1976-1989, relating to broadcasts featuring the work of Iain Crichton Smith.
- 43 Papers, 1977-1987 and undated, relating to Iain Crichton Smith's writing and the teaching of literature in schools. A draft of a poem, 'Easdale', is written on the verso of 'Notes to Editors' of the Ward Lock Educational Library.
- 44 Poems, undated, by other writers, probably sent by the poets to Iain Crichton Smith. Photocopies of lists and texts of poems for 'A Poet's Journey', possibly for an audio recording or radio broadcast.
- 45 Miscellaneous papers, 1980-1993 and undated. Includes papers relating to the SAC, PEN, National Theatre for Scotland Campaign, genealogies of a branch of the Campbell family, material relating to proposals for publications on Sorley MacLean and Hugh MacDiarmid. Awards certificates, 1969, 1988; 2 press cuttings (1997, undated); photocopy of Iain Crichton Smith's CV, with bibliography; photocopy of a caricature of Iain Crichton Smith (1993); photocopies of musical settings of two poems.
- 46 Iain Crichton Smith's Army Reservist's change of address card, and his passport, 1985-1995.

47-63 Press cuttings

These include poems and short stories published in magazines and newspapers, reviews of Iain Crichton Smith's work, reviews by Iain Crichton Smith and other articles and items concerning Iain Crichton Smith.

- 47 Press cuttings, 1968-1978.
- 48 Press cuttings, 1979-1984.
- 49 Press cuttings, 1985.
- 50 Press cuttings, 1986.
- 51 Press cuttings, 1987.
- 52 Press cuttings, 1988.
- 53 Press cuttings, 1989.
- 54 Press cuttings, 1990.
- 55 Press cuttings, 1991.
- 56 Press cuttings, 1992.
- 57 Press cuttings, 1993.
- 58 Press cuttings, 1994.
- 59 Press cuttings, 1995.
- 60 Press cuttings, 1996-1997.
- 61 Press cuttings, 1998 (mainly obituaries).
- 62 Press cuttings, 1999-2000.
- 63 Press cuttings, undated.

64 Printed material

- 64 Printed material.
The more substantial items include:
The Nicolson Institute Annual 1946
Poésie Vivante, no.22
Poetry and Audience, vol.23 (1977)
Seven poets (Glasgow: Third Eye Centre, 1981). Artists' proof copy signed by Jessie Ann Matthew (photographer), Alexander Moffat (painter) and the poets Edwin Morgan, Sorley MacLean, Norman MacCaig, Iain Crichton Smith

and George Mackay Brown. Prints of some of the paintings and a related press-cutting are loosely inserted.

Iona Nunnery: wild beauty and remembered piety Iona Cathedral Trust
Oar Nine Orkney Arts Society, June 1996

The Inward Eye: a poetry anthology edited by Frank Ormsby. Sligo: Half Moon Press, 1986.

Centenary Review and Gathering Programme The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, 1987

The Young Writer, no.1 (June 1992), includes an interview with Iain Crichton Smith

Do Ghaidheail nah Alban, 1989 and undated

Poems for Donald by Iain Crichton Smith (Belfast: Ulsterman, 1974)

65 Printed ephemera

- 65 Ephemera, 1977-1999 and undated. Posters, programmes, flyers, press releases and other items relating mainly to arts events, many of which involved Iain Crichton Smith and his work. Similar material is distributed throughout the correspondence files.