

PENNSSTATE



Guide to the Alan Brownjohn Papers, 1952-1998

Accession number: 1997-0034R
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The Pennsylvania State University
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Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Brownjohn, Alan

Title: Alan Brownjohn Papers, 1952-1998

Accession number: 1997-0034R

Provenance: Gift of John Robert Kaiser.

Extent: 7 cubic feet

Repository: Pennsylvania State University, University Libraries, Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Access

Unrestricted access.

Preferred Citation

Alan Brownjohn Papers, 1952-1998, Accession 1997-0034R, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Special Collections Library, University Libraries, Pennsylvania State University.

Arrangement

The finding aid is organized intellectually into eight series: conference papers, correspondence, novels, photographs, poems (collected, edited and miscellaneous), publicity, radioscripts, and translations.

Correspondence is arranged by date while the rest of the series are organized alphabetically, by work.

Biographical Note

Alan Brownjohn, of London, England, is a novelist, critic, poet, translator and editor. He was born in 1931 in the Catford area of South East London, an area known at that time for its non-conformist and socialist political views.

Alan Brownjohn graduated from Merton College with a B.A. in 1953 and received a M.A. from the school in 1961. He started his career as a writer in 1954, with the publication of his first poetry pamphlet, *Travellers Alone*, and served as a reviewer for *The Truth* and co-editor of *Departure*. In 1961, his first collection of poems, *The Railings* was published to critical acclaim. *The Times Literary Supplement* called his poem, "William Empson at Aldermaston," one of the best protest poems written during the cold war.

To help support himself during the beginning of his writing career, Alan Brownjohn worked as a tutor and a full-time teacher at Beckenham and Penge Boys Grammar Schools. He later became a lecturer in 17th-century poetry at the Battersea College of Education.

Brownjohn's Catford upbringing always influenced his life and work. This was evident in his first novel, *To Clear the River* (1964), about a love affair in the setting of CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). During that year, he also ran (unsuccessfully) as a Labour candidate for the House of Commons.

By 1978 Alan Brownjohn had retired from teaching to become a full-time writer. Along with his wife, Sandy, he wrote a series of teaching anthologies, *Meet and Write*, and co-translated several plays from German: Peter Handke's *Quodlibet*, Gerhard Rühm's *Ophelia and the Words*, and Goethe's *Torquato Tasso*. The translation of *Torquato Tasso* was later broadcast by the BBC .

Alan Brownjohn has long been active in the poetic circles of England. He has a lengthy association with the Poetry Society, having served as chairman and editor of *Verse-Speaking Anthology*. Brownjohn also has been a reviewer for the *Times Literary Supplement* and a poetry critic for the *New Statesman*.

Alan Brownjohn has written under the pseudonyms John Berrington and John Barrington. He enjoys sharing his work with others by giving poetry readings throughout London.

Scope and Content

This collection, although not comprehensive, contains the professional and personal papers of Alan Brownjohn. The professional papers include the drafts and final copies for six novels, thirteen poems, and two plays, most notably *The Long Shadows*, *Meet and Write*, and *Torquato Tasso*. The collection also contains many miscellaneous manuscripts and radioscripts, including the interviews and and radioscript for *Something To Be Said*.

The personal papers include correspondence with John Kaiser; professional photographs of the author and a business card; and newspaper clippings, posters, programs, and flyers advertising or reviewing Brownjohn's readings and work.

Related Material

The Manor House Library in England also has a collection of Alan Brownjohn papers.

Index Terms

These materials are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Pennsylvania State University. Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

Personal Names

Brownjohn, Alan, 1931- -- Archives

Topical Subjects

Authors, English--Correspondence

Authors, English--Manuscripts

Poets, English--Manuscripts

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence

Manuscripts for publication

Poems

Radio scripts

Translations

Container List

Conference Papers Series

Conference Papers, 1997
Box 2
Folder 13
The Long Shadows: A Fictional Larkin in Romania

Correspondence Series

Correspondence, 1983-1998.
Box 1
Folder 1
Correspondence of Alan Brownjohn and John Kaiser, 1984-1998
Box 1
Folder 2
Letter from Alan Brownjohn to Bernard Stone, 1985
Box 4
Folder 11
The Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry, 1989-1991
Box 4
Folders 13-20
Meet and Write, 1983-1987
Box 6
Folder 18
Poetry Now, 1987
Box 6
Folder 30
Something to Be Said, 1986

Novels Series

Novels, 1968-1995
Box 1
Folder 3-6
The Fire Door, undated
Box 1
Folder 7-17
The Hiccup, 1990-1993
Box 2
Folder 1-9
The Hiccup, 1990-1994
Box 2
Folder 10-12
The Long Shadows, 199?
Box 2
Folder 14-15
Umbre Lungi, 1995
Box 3
Folder 1-7
The Way You Tell Them, 1983-1990
Box 3

Folder 8-9
You Can Go Round Me, 1968

Photographs Series

Photographs, undated.
Box 3
Folder 10
Alan Brownjohn photographs, undated

Poems Series

Poems, 1952-1997.
Box 3
Folder 14
Because of the War, 1967
Box 3
Folder 15-16
Brownjohn's Beasts, 1969-1970
Box 3
Folder 11-12
Collected Poems, 1952-1983
Box 3
Folder 13
Collected Poems, 1952-1988
Box 4
Folder 12
The Companion to Twentieth Century Poetry, 1989-1991
Box 5
Folders 6-23
Drafts of miscellaneous poems, 1968-1997
Box 3
Folder 17-19
In The Cruel Arcade, 1989-1994
Box 3
Folder 20
The Lion's Mouths, 1966
Box 4
Folders 21-23
Meet and Write I, 1985
Box 4
Folders 24-25
Meet and Write II, 1986-1987
Box 5
Folder 1
Meet and Write III, undated
Box 5
Folder 5
New Poems 1970: A P.E.N. Anthology of Contemporary Poetry, 1970

Box 3
Folder 21-23
A Night In The Gazebo, 1980, undated
Box 3
Folder 24-29
The Observation Car, 1987-1990
Box 3
Folder 30-32
Sandgrains On A Tray, 1968, undated
Box 4
Folders 1-6
A Song of Good Life, 1975
Box 4
Folders 8-10
The Warrior's Career, 1972

Publicity Series

Publicity, 1960-1997.
Object 1
Bronze Bust of Alan Brownjohn, undated
Box 5
Folder 4
Bookjacket: *Meet and Write*, undated
Box 6
Folder 1
Business card, undated
Box 7
Object 2
Contemporary British Poetry [broadside], 1988
Box 6
Folder 2
Flyers of poetry readings sponsored by *Ambit*, undated
Box 6
Folders 3-9
Flyers, programs and press cuttings, 1960-1997, undated
Box 6
Folder 10
The Poetry Society Newsletter, 1983-1985
Box 2
Folder 16
Newspaper clippings, announcements and programs, 1997

Radio Scripts Series

Radio scripts, 1959-1987.
Box 6
Folder 11
"Books, Plays and Poems: Contemporary Poets," 1983

Box 6
Folder 12
"Books, Plays and Poems: Changing Back," 1980
Box 6
Folder 43
"Books, Plays, and Poems: Viewpoint," 1981
Box 6
Folder 15
"The Living Poet," 1985
Box 5
Folders 2-3
Meet and Write, undated
Box 6
Folder 16
"Names," 1971
Box 6
Folder 17
"Poems About Names," 1972
Box 6
Folders 13-14, 19-28, 40
"Poetry Now," 1979-1987
Box 6
Folder 29
"Poetry Please," 1984
Box 6
Folders 31-39
"Something To Be Said," 1986, undated
Box 4
Folder 7
A Song of Good Life, 1975
Box 6
Folder 41
"Time for Verse," 1980
Box 6
Folder 42
Unbroadcast radioscript poems, 1959-1960
Box 6
Folder 44
"Working with Words 4," 1973

Translations Series

Translations, 1977-1985.
Box 6
Folders 45-50
Pierre Corneille's *Horace*, undated
Box 6
Folders 51-53
Torquato Tasso, 1977-1979

Box 7
Folders 1-11
Torquato Tasso, 1977-1985, undated