

## Leslie Daiken Collection

### MS 5647

This collection contains the notebooks of Leslie Daiken and Samuel Beckett's letters to members of the Daiken family. The 13 notebooks were filled by Leslie Daiken during the 1930s, predominantly lecture notes made whilst he was an undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin. Beckett was one of his lecturers in French literature, and Daiken's notes from Beckett's lectures are in notebook MS 5647/1/5. The second box contains correspondence (letters and cards) from Beckett to members of the Daiken family: first to Leslie Daiken and his wife Lilyan Daiken (née Adams), and later to their daughter Melanie Daiken. The collection includes annotated transcriptions of every letter, in a separate file.

The Collection covers the year's 1929-1983.

The physical extent of the collection is 2 boxes.

- MS 5647/1** Notebooks  
1929-c.1940  
This series comprises 13 notebooks filled by Leslie Daiken during the 1930s. The notes are predominantly lecture notes made whilst Daiken was an undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin, where he began a BA in Modern Literatures and Languages in 1930. The notes are on a diverse range of subjects, from geometry to politics. Samuel Beckett was one of his lecturers in French literature, and Daiken's notes from Beckett's lectures are in notebook MS 5647/1/5. Many of the notebooks contains loose insertions, which include excerpts from printed texts, further handwritten notes, and Trinity College examination papers. The notebooks also contain some of Daiken's own poetry, his notes on political topics made later in the 1930s after he had moved to London, and miscellaneous doodles.  
13 notebooks, roughly A5 in size, filled with handwritten notes. 9 of the notebooks are the same format: grey hard covers, with Trinity College Dublin insignia printed on front cover. Most notebook have some loose insertions, approx. 110 in total. Condition generally good -- notebooks 8 and 10 in fragile condition with pages coming away from spine.
- 1 box
- MS 5647/1/1** Burgundy 'MSS' Notebook, notes on Renaissance English Literature  
1929-1931

Contains notes on English literature from the Renaissance period, numerous pages dated 1930. Topics include: Edmund Spenser's poem 'Prothalamion'; John Milton, notes made from 'Golden Treasury: Book II'; Francis Bacon; Shakespeare; Philip Sidney. One page annotated 'Dr. Trench', the name of one of Daiken's lecturers.

A poem by Daiken that opens 'This is the place of awe, where "no bird sings".'

Occasional doodles of men's heads, perhaps Daiken's lecturers.

1 notebook and 1 loose insertion

**MS 5647/1/2** Grey Trinity College Dublin Notebook, notes on Maths and Geometry; research into 19th-century Young Ireland figures. c.1930-c.1931

Most of the notebook is taken up with notes on maths and geometry, with many detailed geometric drawing exercises. These are interrupted by research notes made on nineteenth-century figures connected to the Young Ireland movement. Biographical notes are made on John Blake Dillon, Patrick J. Smyth, and John Mitchel. Passages are copied out from Mitchel's 'Apology for the British Government in Ireland' (first published 1860) and his 'Jail Diary' (first published 1854)

There are 6 loose insertions: 5 Trinity College exam papers, dated 'Trinity Term, 1931', examining Chemistry, Mathematic, and Experimental Physics; a page of autograph notes on typography with examples of printed type glued on the reverse of the page.

There are six pieces of paper glued onto notebook pages: four maths exam papers (dated 1918 - 1926), and two autograph geometry exercises which fold out.

1 notebook and 6 loose insertions

**MS 5647/1/3** Green notebook, notes on literature; 7 of Daiken's own poems. 1930-1931

Contains extended notes on Chaucer and Middle English, including language notes; lecture notes dated Trinity Term 1931, taken from lectures by Dr Trench.

Exam paper on English literature glued in.

Lecture notes on Leconte de Lisle, lecturer M. Pelorson, dated '4/2/31'.

Notes on Spanish literature of 16th to 17th centuries, including the picaresque novella Lazarillo de Tormes and the writers Luis de Góngora and Lope de Vega.

Lecture notes on 'La Chanson de Roland', lecturer Professor Rudmose-Brown; 6-page handwritten English translation from the poem.

Notebook also contains 7 of Daiken's own poems: entitled 'Hyacinth smells', 'May Lane' (dated 1931), 'Monday night 1.A.M.', 'Impressions', 'Snowwhite and Rosered', and two untitled.

List of 'Books To Read This Term' inside back cover. These include: James Joyce, Pomes Penyeach (1927); Thomas McGreevy, T. S. Eliot (1931); Samuel Beckett, Proust (1930); Margaret Anderson, My 30 Years' War (1930); Spengler, The Decline of the West (Eng. trans, 1926)

Loose insertions:

20 annotated Trinity College Dublin exam papers in a range of subjects across humanities and mathematics, with the lecturer setting the exam named on each paper. Dated between 1930 – 1931, internal evidence suggests Daiken sat these exams. Approx. 13 further loose insertions. In addition to notes on topics listed above, these include notes on 'The Literary origins of the Ballade', Chivalry and the Renaissance, and a page torn out from examination answer booklet with Daiken's notes on it.

1 notebook and approx. 33 loose insertions

**MS 5647/1/4** Grey Trinity College Dublin notebook, 'Notes on Physics and Chemistry'  
1931  
Contains notes on Organic Chemistry with diagrams.  
Handwritten lists of exam questions, copied by hand from past papers dated 1926 – 1930, with lecturers' names noted.  
Printed page of 'Syllabus of Course of Experimental Physics' glued in.

1 notebook and 2 loose insertions

**MS 5647/1/5** Grey Trinity College Dublin Notebook, notes on French and English Literature.  
c.1930-1933  
Inside the front cover are approx. 11 loose insertions. These include a Trinity College French exam paper (dated Michaelmas Term, 1931) and 3 chapters from a book entitled Byron the Man by Robert Lowe Bellamy (1924). The other loose insertions are handwritten notes on English and French literature, consistent with the other subject matter in the notebook. These include notes on John Ford and Elizabethan Drama, P. B. Shelley and English Romanticism. One page of notes is entitled 'Sam

Beckett 17th Century', following Daiken's common notebook practice of writing the lecturer's name at the head of the page. There are also notes on Corneille's tragedy *Nicomède*, comparisons between Corneille and Racine, and the 'Epoque Classique / 1659 – 1687'; these topics are consistent with the curriculum we know Beckett to have taught.

The notebook proper opens with 11 pages of notes on Corneille and Racine, which are almost certainly from Beckett's lectures. This handwriting is consistent with the notes on French literature in the loose insertions: text in black pen with underlining in red pen. (The red pen is distinct from the red crayon underlining that occurs in this and other notebooks, and which appears to have been done later than the initial note-taking, perhaps when Daiken was revising for exams.)

Following this section there are notes on Racine taken from lectures given by A. J. Leventhal, Morisset, and Rudmose-Brown.

Notes on Molière, Marivaux, 'The Classic Theatre / 1630-1660', and trends of religiosity and Free Thought in French writing. The lecture notes on Molière's play *Tartuffe* are dated March 1933. Notes on Renaissance English literature, including Milton, Shakespeare, and Marlowe.

Notes on Romantic English literature, including Wordsworth, Byron, P. B. Shelley, Gray, Cowper, and Keats.

3 doodles in the notebook: 2 heads, from the context these appear to be Beckett and Leventhal; a flag with hammer and sickle.

Further loose insertions: 10 pages of notes which continue topics in the notebook.

1 notebook and approx. 21 loose insertions

- MS 5647/1/6** Grey Trinity College Dublin notebook, notes on political theory and history.  
c.1932-c.1933  
Notes on modern political theory and political history of the 18th to 20th centuries, including notes on the justification for military conflict and the background and consequences of the First World War.  
List of essay questions dated 1931 – 1932, possibly transcribed from past exam papers.

1 notebook

**MS 5647/1/7** Grey Trinity College Dublin Notebook: 'Literature - 1933'.  
1933  
Written on front cover across four lines: 'Literature. 1933 / A.  
Troubadours Provençal / B. Twentieth Cent. French Authors  
/ C. Aristotelian Aesthetics'.

Notebook opens with notes on Provençal poetry (the Alba form, Pierre Vidal, Guillem Figiera), followed by notes on Tennyson and Molière.

Notes on three precursors to Symbolism: Jules Laforgue, Comte de Lautréamont (Idisore Ducasse), and Tristan Corbière. Reference made to their twentieth-century reception and legacy, mentioning writers including Philippe Soupault, Samuel Beckett, and T. S. Eliot.

Further extended notes on French literature, topics include: Paul Valéry, 'Les Fantaisistes', Symbolism, Arthur Rimbaud, Paul Verlaine, Dadaism, and Frankish history of 5th to 7th centuries AD.

Extended notes on Aristotle's Poetics and later interpretations of his aesthetic principles.

Short essay on the topic 'Poetry is a product of reality', notes on 'Romanticism & Classicism in Elizabethan Literature', page of dialogue on ethics.

Two-page untitled poem by Daiken that opens 'If I would dare release my mind'.

Handwritten list of exam questions on Browning and Shakespeare.

Note made of grades attained in French (lecturers: Professor Rudmose-Brown and Sir Robert Tate) and English (lecturers: Dr Trench and Rudmose-Brown).

26 loose insertions of varying sizes: in addition to topics already mentioned, these include lists of books and writers, a typescript essay by Maurice Carpenter, notes on Elizabethan literature, a printed advertisement for 'An Elizabethan Journal' and another for an 8-volume edition of Steele and Addison's Spectator, and four pages of handwritten notes on 'L'exotique in the Novel'.

1 notebook and 26 loose insertions

**MS 5647/1/8** Black and red notebook, French translation work.  
c.1930-c.1934  
Notebook opens with brief list of major dates in French Revolution.

Extended lists of French vocab and phrases, that have clearly been made whilst reading specific French texts, including a list made from Le Grand Meaulnes (1913) by Alain-Fournier.

French composition and translation exercises in poetry and prose.

Drafts of two untitled poems in English, opening lines: 'a butterfly in the air'; 'what can the cage of swollen care do'.

Approx. 7 loose insertions including 3 printed Trinity College Dublin exam papers in French Composition, dated 1928-1930, set by Professor Rudmose-Brown.

1 notebook and approx. 7 loose insertions

**MS 5647/1/9** Grey Trinity College Dublin Notebook entitled 'Sweet's Anglo-Saxon Reader.'  
c.1930-c.1934

Contains notes on Old English language and literature: vocab, declensions, conjugations; translation work, vocab lists for specific Old English poems, and list of MS sources. It also contains historical notes on Anglo-Saxon history, such as family trees for Scandinavian Royal families, sketched maps, and a list of important events in the 8th and 9th centuries AD. The handwritten title suggests that at least some of these notes are taken from Henry Sweet, Sweet's Anglo-Saxon Reader in Prose and Verse (first edition published 1876).

The notebook contains some of Daiken's creative writing, undated. There is a 2-page draft of a poem about a street brawl between school-age boys in Dublin, in which a gang of Irish-Jewish students from the Hebrew School fight a rival gang of non-Jewish youths. There are 5 further pages of creative writing, which intermix prose, dialogue, and verse. Subjects include a drive round Dublin in a horse-drawn gig, a group of boys chatting in a square, and men writing Republican slogans on neighbourhood walls.

1 notebook

**MS 5647/1/10** Grey Trinity College Dublin notebook, notes on aesthetics.  
c.1930-c.1934

Notes in the notebook roughly correspond to the handwritten contents list on the first page:

'(1) History of Aesthetic / (2) A specific theory of Aesthetic / (3) A study of one of the Fine Arts / (1) Bosanquet History of Aesthetic chaps 1-4: 8, 10 and 12 / (2) Bergson: Laughter: Eng. translation / (3) Painters and Painting Sir Frederick Wedmore / Ruskin / Pater / Clive Bell.'

Additional notes include a list of German writers, and a one-page reflective prose piece that opens 'Now in the quiet of my lonely room'.

List of linguistic variants on the name 'Yodaiken' inside back cover.

1 notebook and 9 pages that have come loose

**MS**  
**5647/1/11**

Black and red notebook, Gaelic poetry.  
c.1930-c.1940  
Notes on Gaelic poetry and versification.  
Numerous poems copied out in English and Gaelic.  
Gaelic language work, including an exercise on pronunciation and extended grammar notes.

1 notebook

**MS**  
**5647/1/12**

Grey Trinity College Dublin notebook, French language work and travel writing.  
c.1934 onwards  
Notebook opens with notes on Kant and The Critique of Pure Reason, some of which are in French.  
French language work: vocab lists, phrases, verb conjugations, lists of sentences copied from a language tuition book.  
Drafted letter of application for assistance with a planned 'tour of France by means of inland waterways.'  
Translation of Somerset Maugham text into French.  
Extended travel writing piece set in Paris, written in English, with other notes interspersed.  
Draft of untitled screenplay written in red pen.  
Poem entitled 'Virgin Youth'.

The lack of lecture notes, exam scripts, or other evidence of structured undergraduate study, suggests that these notes might have been written either during university holidays or in the years following Daiken's B.A.

1 notebook

**MS**  
**5647/1/13**

Grey Trinity College Dublin Notebook, notes on political theory from Ancient Greece to the twentieth century.  
c.1933 - c.1940  
Opens with notes on Greek political theory, undated.  
Further notes include: a list of books on Irish folk music, including Colm Ó Lochlainn's Irish Steet Ballads (1939); notes on Christopher Caudwell's Illusion and Reality (Marxist critique of poetry, first published 1937); page of doodles including the crucifixion; notes on political theory, theology, and philosophy from Roman justice to the twentieth century; notes on 'didactic poetry'; reading list of Soviet literature, dated 1933.

1 loose insertion: handwritten note addressed to 'C[omra]de Chairman' for an announcement, advertising a new issue of 'Our Time' on behalf of the 'London Street Sales Squadron'. This note is likely to have been made during a political meeting; Daiken was a committed member of various left-wing groups, ranging from the Dublin University Socialist Society during his undergraduate days to the London branch of the Republican Congress (an organisation of Irish republicans and socialists) in the second half of the 1930s.

Second loose insertion contains notes on Heraclitus and a draft essay 'Does Art need T.B.'.

The dates of some publications mentioned show that Daiken was continuing to write in this notebook until the end of the 1930s and possibly into the 1940s.

1 notebook and 2 loose insertions

## **MS 5647/2**

Correspondence  
1959-1983

This series constitutes correspondence (letters and cards) from Samuel Beckett to members of the Daiken family. The material can be divided roughly in half: the first 26 items are predominantly addressed to Leslie Daiken, Beckett's friend from Dublin and former student, and date from 19 November 1959 to 18 September 1963. 5 letters are addressed jointly to Leslie and his wife Lilyan (née Adams), and 2 are addressed solely to Lilyan, the final one expressing condolences following Leslie's sudden death in 1964. The second half of the correspondence comprises letters to Melanie Daiken, daughter of Leslie and Lilyan, who became friends with Beckett after moving to Paris to study music. These letters run from 3 June 1966 to 6 January 1983. One letter is addressed jointly to Melanie and Lilyan Daiken. There is one draft letter by Melanie Daiken to Beckett (MS 5647/2/36), written on the back of an envelope.

The collection includes annotated transcriptions of every letter, printed in a separate file.

This collection represents the majority of extant correspondence from Beckett to Leslie Daiken. There are 3 further letters in the Leslie Daiken Collection, National Library of Ireland (NLI MS 33,489), and some letters in the Leslie Daiken Papers, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas (TXRC94-A17).

Autograph letters and cards, generally on letter paper or cream card. One picture postcard. Items generally in good condition, with the exception of MS 5647/2/9, which is on fragile paper,



with a tear repaired with tape. A few letters to Leslie Daiken have been lightly annotated by him.

1 folder

**MS 5647/2/1** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 19 November 1959  
19 November 1959, postmarked 20 November  
Beckett, thanks Daiken for copy of Lullaby Book.  
Reading Ellmann's biography of James Joyce.  
Discusses Daiken's work with BBC Third Programme.

2 items

**MS 5647/2/2** Envelope and card from Beckett to Leslie and Lilyan Daiken, dated Paris, 3 January 1960  
3 January 1960, postmarked 4 January  
Beckett sends New year's greetings.

2 items

**MS 5647/2/3** Letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 7 June 1960  
7 June 1960  
Beckett sends commiserations for Daiken's ill-health and offer of financial assistance.

1 item

**MS 5647/2/4** Handwritten envelope sent by Beckett, postmarked 8 July 1960 - no contents  
Postmarked 8 July 1960

1 item

**MS 5647/2/5** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 30 September 1960  
30 September 1960  
Beckett responds to news of Daiken's improved health.  
Acknowledges newspaper clipping from The Times about The Circular Road and encourages Daiken to do more work for BBC Third Programme.  
Informs Daiken of forthcoming work in French.  
Mentions A. J. (Con) Leventhal, Herbert (H.O.) White, Alan Simpson and Aidan Higgins.  
Tells Daiken of forthcoming house move and notes lack of regret at leaving Rue de Favorites apartment.  
Hopes Leslie and Lilyan Daiken will come to Paris and offers financial assistance.

Expresses disappointment with Cyril Cusack's Krapp at the  
Théâtre des Nations.

2 items

- MS 5647/2/6** Envelope and card from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 21  
November 1960  
21 November 1960, postmarked 22 November  
Beckett mentions that he is unable to find requested copy of  
Temps Modernes.  
Gives new address at 38 Boulevard Saint-Jacques.  
Reports writing play in English.  
Looks forward to the Daikens' trip to Paris.

2 items

- MS 5647/2/7** Envelope and card from Beckett to Leslie and Lilyan Daiken,  
dated Paris, 21 December 1960  
21 December 1960  
Beckett sends thanks for presents.  
Greetings for Christmas and New Year.

2 items

- MS 5647/2/8** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 26  
March 1961  
26 March 1961, postmarked 27 March  
Beckett sends commiserations for Lilyan Daiken's ill-health.  
They are welcome in Paris whenever.  
Discusses Aidan Higgins' new book Felo de Se.  
Glad to hear that Daiken is adapting The Circular Road.  
Thanks Daiken for copy of Lady Chatterley's Lover.

2 items

- MS 5647/2/9** Letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 27 April 1961  
27 April 1961  
Beckett praises the poem Daiken sent.  
Encourages Daiken to show The Circular Road to John Calder.  
Arranging financial assistance for the Daikens' trip to Paris in  
May, hopes they will see Godot revival at the Odéon.  
Mentions Con Leventhal, Richard Ellmann and John Beckett.  
Fragile paper, tear repaired with tape.

1 item

- MS  
5647/2/10** Envelope and card from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 2 May 1961  
2 May 1961  
Beckett discusses the final arrangements for Daikens' trip to Paris.  
  
2 items
- MS  
5647/2/11** Envelope and card from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 10 May 1961  
10 May 1961  
Beckett requests a bottle of Power whiskey.  
  
2 items
- MS  
5647/2/12** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Leslie and Lilyan Daiken, dated Paris, 27 May 1961  
27 May 1961, postmarked 28 May  
Beckett thanks Daiken for magazine and book (titles illegible).  
Beckett enjoyed their visit and he is now struggling to finish play.  
  
2 items
- MS  
5647/2/13** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Lilyan Daiken, dated Paris, 31 May 1961  
31 May 1961  
Beckett enjoyed their visit.  
Encourages Lilyan to play the piano.  
Hopes to see a film of Yod's the following week.  
  
2 items
- MS  
5647/2/14** Envelope and card from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 5 June 1961  
5 June 1961, postmarked 6 June  
Beckett sends thanks for cricket catalogue and book.  
Expects to see Yod's film that week.  
  
2 items
- MS  
5647/2/15** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 2 July 1961  
2 July 1961  
Beckett thanks them for evening at their house in London.  
  
2 items

**MS**  
**5647/2/16** Envelope and card from Beckett to Leslie and Lilyan Daiken,  
dated Ussy, 13 January 1962  
13 January 1962, postmarked 15 January  
Beckett sends Best wishes for new year.  
Sorry to hear of Leslie Daiken's ill-health.  
Reports on a successful visit from Con Leventhal.  
Envisages seeing them in August when in London for rehearsals  
of Happy Days.

2 items

**MS**  
**5647/2/17** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 15 April  
1962  
15 April 1962, postmarked 16 April  
Beckett mentions Con Leventhal and Barbara Bray.  
Happy Days rescheduled for October.  
Claims ignorance of Ulysses film (rights eventually secured by  
Joseph Strick, whose film came out in 1967).  
Saw Brendan Smith and other Irish at gathering in Paris.  
Glad to hear that The Circular Road broadcast by RTÉ and  
might be a sequel.  
Increased police presence in Paris.

2 items

**MS**  
**5647/2/18** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 28 May  
1962  
28 May 1962  
Beckett sends Thanks for book and suggests date for meeting in  
June.

2 items

**MS**  
**5647/2/19** Letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 30 June 1962  
30 June 1962  
Beckett is pleased to hear of Daiken's new job.  
The Reaveys in Paris and George Reavey will give a lecture on  
Maxim Gorki in Oxford.  
Mentions Barbara Bray and BBC.

1 item

**MS**  
**5647/2/20** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Ussy, 2  
August 1962  
2 August 1962, postmarked 3 August  
Beckett discusses sending some form of assistance in haste.

2 items

- MS  
5647/2/21** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 26 August 1962  
26 August 1962  
Beckett mentions that he has returned from mountains.  
Thanks for cutting about Pike Theatre production of Krapp.
- 2 items
- MS  
5647/2/22** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated 23 September 1962  
23 September 1962, postmarked 24 September  
Beckett mentions that rehearsals of Happy Days postponed to 8 October and first performance to 1 November.  
Brenda Bruce will play Winnie.  
Apologies for missing Lilyan when she was in Paris.
- 2 items
- MS  
5647/2/23** Envelope and card from Beckett to Leslie and Lilyan Daiken, dated Paris, 2 January 1963  
2 January 1963  
Beckett sends New years' greetings.  
Report of time spent with Con Leventhal in Paris.
- 2 items
- MS  
5647/2/24** Letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 18 July 1963  
18 July 1963  
Beckett thanks Daiken for inscribed photo.  
Just back from Austria.  
Interested in Daiken's Ghanaian job.  
Con Leventhal planning to move to Paris.  
Congratulations to Melanie Daiken.  
Mentions Edward Beckett, John Beckett, Aidan Higgins, Bettina Calder (née Jonic).
- 1 items
- MS  
5647/2/25** Envelope and letter from Beckett to Daiken, dated Paris, 18 September 1963  
18 September 1963, postmarked 19 September  
Beckett sends news of John and Vera Beckett (née Slocombe) and their travel plans.  
Con Leventhal has arrived in Paris.  
Pleased with progress of rehearsals.  
Best wishes for Daiken's move to Ghana.
- 2 items

- MS  
5647/2/26** Letter from Beckett to Lilyan Daiken, dated Ussy, 22 August 1964  
22 August 1964  
Beckett writes that he was shocked to have received news of Leslie Daiken's death from Con Leventhal.  
Condolences to Lilyan and two daughters, Melanie and Elinor, and offer of help.
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/27** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 3 June 1966  
3 June 1966  
Beckett congratulates Melanie Daiken on her scholarship.  
Happy to meet her when she arrives in Paris.  
Will enquire with German friends about French translation of Jean Paul's Flegeljahre (1804-1805).
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/28** Letter from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, from Paris, no date  
c. September and October 1966  
Possibly dated to 5th June 1966 (information from the Letters of Samuel Beckett Project, Emory University)
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/29** Letter from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 31 October 1966  
31 October 1966  
Beckett writes that he has been away in Greece and apologises for absence when Melanie Daiken needed him.  
Arrangements to speak on phone.
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/30** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Ussy, 19 November 1966  
19 November 1966  
Beckett sends thanks for draft libretto of Melanie Daiken's chamber opera Eusebius, will write to her about it the following week.  
Has been translating, glad Melanie enjoyed their evening.
- 1 item

**MS  
5647/2/31** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 28 November 1966  
28 November 1966  
Beckett sends thanks for invitation to concert but is unlikely to be in Paris.  
Has read draft libretto, greatly interested and wants to talk about it in person.

1 item

**MS  
5647/2/32** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 18 March 1967  
18 March 1967  
Beckett writes that he has fallen and broken ribs.  
Will arrange to meet once recovered.  
Offers money.

1 item

**MS  
5647/2/33** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Ussy, 20 April 1967  
20 April 1967  
Beckett writes that he won't be able to make concert, apologises.  
Looks forward to meeting when next in Paris.

1 item

**MS  
5647/2/34** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 29 November 1967  
29 November 1967  
Cheque enclosed.  
Arrangements to speak on phone.

1 item

**MS  
5647/2/35** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 6 December 1967  
6 December 1967, postmarked 7 December  
Beckett writes that he is sorry to hear of Melanie Daiken's illness, will have to meet when she returns from England.  
On the back of this envelope and card is a draft letter from Melanie Daiken to Beckett and a possible shopping list.

2 items

- MS  
5647/2/36** Drafted letter from Melanie Daiken to Beckett  
c.7 December 1967  
Written on back of Beckett's envelope (MS 5647/2/35)  
Melanie writes a report of illness.  
Description of fellow musicians practising and feeling she should  
be too.  
Written on back of Beckett's envelope (MS 5647/2/35)
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/37** Shopping list written by Melanie Daiken  
c. December 1967  
Written on back of Beckett's card (MS 5647/2/35)  
Brief list of shopping to do with 'Jack Ritter Robeletti'.  
Items might be a performance costume.  
Written on back of Beckett's card (MS 5647/2/35)
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/38** Card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 25 January  
1968  
25 January 1968  
Beckett sends Thanks for cheque.  
Hopes to meet in Paris in February.
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/39** Picture postcard from Porto Santo, sent by Beckett to Melanie  
Daiken, dated, 9 January 1969  
9 January 1969, postmarked 10 January  
Monochrome photograph of Porto Santo and coastline,  
photographed from vantage point on nearby hill. 'Foto-  
Perestrellos'  
Beckett sends thanks for card and best wishes for new year.  
Monochrome photograph postcard
- 1 item
- MS  
5647/2/40** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Ussy,  
22 April 1969  
22 April 1969  
Beckett sends Thanks for Haydn Variations (F minor Variations  
for piano).  
Hopes Melanie Daiken is feeling better.
- 2 items



**MS  
5647/2/41** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Tunisia, 6 November 1969  
6 November 1969, postmarked 7 November  
Beckett reports having had a great time playing Haydn Variations.  
Looks forward to hearing Melanie Daiken's 'settings from E.B.' (This might refer to Echo's Bones and Other Precipitates (1935). Melanie Daiken composed a piece structured around these poems with the ironic title Gems of Erin, dated 1975).

2 items

**MS  
5647/2/42** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 28 November 1970  
28 November 1970  
Beckett reports on recovery from eye operation.  
Looking forward to seeing her in March/April.

2 items

**MS  
5647/2/43** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 24 August 1973  
24 August 1973  
Beckett sends thanks for 'Impromptu' piano piece.  
Glad to have seen her looking so well.

2 items

**MS  
5647/2/44** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie and Lilyan Daiken, dated Paris, 28 December 1975  
28 December 1975, postmarked 29 December  
Beckett sends fond wishes to Melanie and Lilyan Daiken for new year.

2 items

**MS  
5647/2/45** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated Paris, 12 July 1982  
12 July 1982  
Beckett writes the he is unsure of his whereabouts when Melanie Daiken will be in Paris, will let her know.

2 items

**MS  
5647/2/46** Envelope and card from Beckett to Melanie Daiken, dated 6 January 1983  
6 January 1983  
Card has printed letterhead 'SAMUEL BECKETT'

Beckett sends Best wishes for new year.  
Card has printed letterhead 'SAMUEL BECKETT'

2 items