

# Sean O'Casey papers

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Finding aid written in English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## University Archives and Special Collections

Pollak Library South  
800 N. State College Blvd.  
Fullerton, , CA 92831-3599

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<http://www.library.fullerton.edu/services/special-collections.php>

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## Summary Information

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**Repository:** University Archives and Special Collections

**Creator:** O'Casey, Sean, 1880-1964

**Title:** Sean O'Casey papers (Collection)

**Identifier:** SC-2019-04

**Date:** 1956-08 - 1963-11

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Physical Description:** Good.

**Container Information:** Document box 1 (Text)

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## Scope and Contents

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Twenty-six letters from Sean O'Casey to Georgie Cooper.

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## Immediate Source of Acquisition

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A gift of the patrons of the library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Sean O'Casey was born John Casey on March 31, 1880, the youngest of a large family living in a Dublin slum. He suffered all his life from painful, ulcerated eyeballs and could not read or write until he was 13, having been forced to begin lessons by an interested Irish clergyman.

Not until O'Casey had experienced life as a political rebel, poet, laborer, and fighter for Irish independence did he finally discover his true profession as a playwright. His first three attempts at drama were rejected by the Abbey Theatre, but his fourth, *The Shadow of a Gunman* (1923), was an immediate success. His later plays, *Cathleen Listens In* (1923) and the tragicomic masterpiece *Juno and the Paycock* (1924), saved the Abbey from near bankruptcy and placed it on a secure financial footing.

His juxtaposition of various techniques and genres in one play—farce, realistic comedy, satire, melodrama, expressionism, tragedy—was aimed at breaking down the forms and conventions of dramatic realism.

Source: Sean O'Casey." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed., vol. 11, Gale, 2004, pp. 459-460. Gale Virtual Reference Library. Accessed 12 Mar. 2019.

# Administrative Information

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## Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Correspondence.
  - Dramatists, Irish -- 20th century -- Correspondence
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## Collection Inventory

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Correspondence, 1956-08 - 1963-11

Document box 1; Folder 1 (Text)

### General

Twenty-six letters from Sean O'Casey to Georgie Cooper donated by the recipient in February 1966.

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Related information, 1961 - 1984

Document box 1; Folder 2 (Text)

### General

Correspondence regarding the collection, including a letter from Dr. David Krause, the editor of the "O'Casey Letters".