

Acc.12737  
Revised June 2015



## **Inventory**

**Acc.12737**

**Ian Abbot Papers**

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GB 0233 Acc. 12737  
Ian Abbot (Poet and Writer) Papers  
1968-2002

Fonds

3 boxes, 1 folder of photographs, 1 folder of drawings (27 folders)

Abbot, Ian (1947-1989)

Ian Abbot was born in Perth in 1947. He attended Perth Academy and studied Medicine at Edinburgh University and Psychology at Stirling University, although he never finished either degree. His attempt to set up a silversmith business and to write poetry at the same time failed. In the early 1970s he moved to the Highlands and started writing poetry and prose full-time. He earned a living by taking on general and seasonal agricultural work. His work was published in several literary journals and magazines both in Scotland and abroad, particularly *Kayac* (USA), *Rubicon* (Canada), *Cencrastus*, *Lines Review*, *Chapman* and *Short Stories Magazine*. In 1988 *Chapman* published his first and only book of poems *Avoiding the Gods*. During his life he was awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Royal Lyceum Theatre Club Poetry Competition for '*Ariel*' in 1982 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the Scottish Association for the Speaking of Verse Diamond Jubilee Poetry Competition for '*Scott's First Voyage*' in 1985. He also toured the north of Scotland with the Scottish Poetry Library in 1986 and received a bursary from the Scottish Arts Council in 1987. Ian Abbot died in a car accident in October 1989 near his home in Whitebridge.

Ian Abbot's papers were presented by his widow to the National Library of Scotland on 21 February 2007. The collection arrived as a mixture of files and papers without any particular order. They have been arranged into the following series:

<b>1-13</b>	<b>Manuscripts and Typescripts</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Reviews</b>
<b>15-19</b>	<b>Business Correspondence</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Personal Correspondence</b>
<b>21-27</b>	<b>Memorabilia and Ephemera</b>

The materials within each series have been described at folder level and have been arranged chronologically. Some weeding of duplicates and old copying pads was required, as they did not present any research or evidential value. The photographs and the drawings have been stored on acid-free folders.

The fonds consists of manuscripts and typescripts with annotations and corrections, reviews of Abbot's work, business and personal correspondence as well as ephemera and memorabilia, including some photographs and drawings. The materials provide a good insight into Abbot's poetry as well as his progression as a writer. The majority of the business correspondence shows his contacts with publishing houses, funding organisations as well as his active participation in literary events and the creation of the Scottish Poetry Library. The personal correspondence consists mainly of letters from friends and acquaintances discussing his work.

English

An inventory is available for this collection.

No accruals are expected.

Some poems have been published in several Scottish and international literary journals and also in a book *Avoiding the Gods*, Perth, Chapman, 1988.

Description and inventory prepared by Dr Maria Castrillo in February 2007  
Fonds and series descriptions based on *ISAD(G)*.

### **1-13 Manuscripts and Typescripts**

- 1 Issue of American literary magazine *Kayac*, containing Ian Abbot's first published poem. Some pages are missing.  
  
1968.  
  
68 ff.
- 2 Manuscript and typescript poems by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections by the author.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
129 ff.
- 3 Poems by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Includes list of poems and typescript poems submitted to Chapman publishers.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
33 ff.
- 4 Manuscript and typescript writings by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Includes several lists of poems accompanied by letters for submission to potential publishers. It also contains some fragments of prose writing and one untitled short story.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
54 ff.
- 5 Manuscript and typescript writings by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Contains poems and fragments of short stories.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
16 ff.

- 6 Manuscript and typescript writings by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Includes *Two Tales from the Lion: Prologue and a Brief History of MacSherry*. It also contains fragments of other stories and poems by other authors including Dylan Thomas and Graham Rennie.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
43 ff.
- 7 Notebook containing prose writings and fragments of poems by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Includes some drawings in the last page.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
30 ff.
- 8 Typescript poems by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Some poems are inside in a folder advertising holidays in Greece.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
8 ff.
- 9 Typescript poems and prose writings by Ian Abbot. With annotations and corrections. Contains an overview of his work by Colin Nicholson, professor at Edinburgh University. Also typescript copy of his only published anthology of poems *Avoiding the Gods*.  
  
Also typescript short stories, including *The Knife*, *A Fine Thing*, *Prime Mates*, *The Doctor*, *Conquistador* and other untitled writings.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
183 ff.
- 10 Typescript poems by Ian Abbot. Contains list of poems showing place of publication, mainly *Chapman* and *Lines Review*.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
87 ff.
- 11 Manuscript and typescript writings by Ian Abbot. Includes fragments of poems and short stories with annotations, corrections.  
  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
  
21 ff.

- 12 Typescript poems by Ian Abbot with annotations and corrections.  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
24 ff.
- 13 Typescript and manuscript short stories by Ian Abbot with annotations and corrections.  
n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].  
180 ff.

#### **14 Reviews**

- 14 Reviews of Ian Abbot's *Avoiding the Gods* published in several literary magazines including 'Chapman Literary Magazine', 'Scottish Literary Journal Supplement', 'Tuesday Review', 'Scottish Poetry Library Association', 'Radical Scotland' and 'Skoob'.  
1988-1990.  
16 ff.

#### **15-19 Business Correspondence**

- 15 Correspondence concerning contacts with literary magazines and various publishing houses discussing possible publication of his work and participation in poetry readings. Also, correspondence with various funding organisations including the Scottish Arts Council. Also application forms for bursaries, entries to poetry competitions and notification of prizes awarded to Ian Abbot during his life. Also, contract with Chapman Publishers for the publication of his first book *Avoiding the Gods*. Also, letter from the National Library of Scotland addressed to his widow concerning the possible deposit of Abbot's papers in the Library.  
1979-1991 [Some correspondence is undated].  
116 ff.
- 16 Correspondence with various Scottish poets concerning the submission of poems for the compilation of the School of Poets' calendar 1985. Includes copy of the calendar with poems by John Morrison, Jenny Robertson, Tessa Ransford, Paul Gillson, John Bate, Sally Evans, Jane Morris, Richard Matthewman and Ann Gwilt.  
1984-1985.  
34 ff.

- 17 Correspondence relating to reviews of *Avoiding the Gods*, award of a £3,000 bursary by the Scottish Arts Council to Ian Abbot, and participation in poetry readings and television broadcasts.

1987-1990 [some correspondence is undated].

18 ff.

- 18 Correspondence concerning the organisation of events to celebrate Ian Abbot's life and his contribution to Scottish poetry several years after his death. Includes poems by Ian Abbot, some photographs and two poems written in his memory by Alexander Hutchison.

1993-2002.

42 ff., black & white prints, black & white negatives.

- 19 Invoices and miscellaneous financial papers concerning payment of fees to Ian Abbot for his participation in television broadcasts, poetry workshops and readings.

1989-1990.

8 ff.

## **20 Personal Correspondence**

- 20 Letters from friends and acquaintances concerning Ian Abbot's work, poetry-related issues and personal matters. Includes condolence letters addressed to his widow after his premature death, list of flowers sent to his funeral and letter of condolence from the Scottish Arts Council.

1970-1991.

23 ff.

## **21-27 Memorabilia and Ephemera**

- 21 Biographical notes and obituaries of Ian Abbot.

n.d. [c. 1989].

5 ff.

- 22 Manuscript academic essays written by Ian Abbot as an undergraduate student. Both essays are marked and one contains the tutor's comments. Also includes test profile.
- n.d. [c. 1980s].
- 19 ff.
- 23 Miscellaneous papers including cookery recipe, manuscript and typescript notes relating to farming jobs performed by Ian Abbot. Also *Abbot Silver* headed paper.
- n.d. [c. 1960s-1980s].
- 6 ff.
- 24 Miscellaneous papers including bookmarks, book catalogues, Scottish Poetry Library brochures, poetry readings programmes, subscription forms to several literary magazines.
- n.d. [c. 1970s-1980s].
- 32 ff.
- 25 Miscellaneous papers including brochures, Scottish Writers' directory, notebook containing poems by Whatas Tate, list of Scottish literary magazines, list of Rabindranath Tagore's poems and newscuttings.
- n.d. [c. 1970s-1980s].
- 18 items.
- 26 Drawings.
- n.d. [c. 1970s-1980s].
- 30 items.
- 27 Photographs showing Ian Abbot. Contains black & white prints.
- n.d. [c. 1980s].
- 21 items.