



**UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK**

**OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH**

**The Kate O'Brien Papers**

**P12**

**Special Collections  
Library & Information Services**

## Content and Structure

Introduction	i
Family Tree	vi

### *The Papers of Kate O'Brien*

#### A. Kate O'Brien: Personal Life

<b>I. Birth and Marriage (1918-1981)</b>	<b>1</b>
a. <u>Birth certificates</u> (1918-1981)	1
b. <u>Marriage certificates</u> (1937-1981)	1
<b>II. Family and Friends (1926-1974)</b>	<b>1</b>
a. <u>Mortuary Cards</u> (1926-1972)	1
b. <u>Correspondence</u> (1938-1973)	2
(i) Anna Wickham (1938)	2
(ii) Elizabeth and Austin Hall (1939-1973)	2
(iii) Enid Starkie (1942)	3
(iv) Mary O'Neill [1949-1974]	3
(v) José M. De Areilza (1952-1960)	3
(vi) O'Brien's sisters (1961)	4
(vii) Frieda Lurie (1963-1964)	4
(viii) Other Friends and admirers [1948-1974]	5

<b>III.</b>	<b>Appointments and Travel Commitments (1949-1973)</b>	<b>6</b>
	a. <u>Passports</u> (1949-1970)	6
	b. <u>Diaries</u> (1961-1973)	6
	c. <u>Address book</u> (1968)	10
	d. <u>Blank postcards</u> (n.d.)	10
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>10</b>
	a. <u>Property</u> [1960-1964]	10
	b. <u>Financial matters</u> (1961-1974)	12
<b>B.</b>	<b>Kate O'Brien: Literary Life</b>	
<b>I.</b>	<b>Literary Material (1937-1984)</b>	<b>14</b>
	a. <u>Travelogues</u> (1962-1984)	14
	(i) The Banner County Clare	14
	(ii) Farewell Spain	14
	b. <u>Articles</u> (1938-1972)	14
	(i) 'Long Distance' series in Irish Times [1962-1972]	14
	(ii) Other articles in Irish Times [1972]	21
	(iii) 'Did it Happen' series in Evening Standard (1957)	22
	(iv) 'Creation' series (1957-1960s)	22
	(v) Other articles [1938-1969]	23

c.	<u>Essays and short stories</u> (1942-1967)	24
	(i) 'Singapore has Fallen	24
	(ii) On Ballycottin Strand	25
	(iii) Old Balls MacSweeney	25
	(iv) Boney Fidey	25
	(v) Manna	25
	(vi) Three Russian Houses	26
	(vii) Half-forgotten	26
	(viii) Untitled essays	26
d.	<u>Lectures</u> [1949-1972]	27
e.	<u>Biographies</u> (1951)	29
	(i) Teresa of Avila (first published 1951)	29
	(ii) Presentation Parlour (published 1963)	29
f.	<u>Novels</u> (1963-1984)	30
	(i) Constancy (incomplete and unpublished)	30
	(ii) Without My Cloak (published 1931)	31
g.	<u>Poetry</u> (1964)	31
h.	<u>Radio</u> [1964-1973]	32
	(i) 'Between Ourselves' series on Radio Éireann (1964)	32
	(ii) Radio adaptation of 'Pray for the Wanderer' [1973]	32
i.	<u>Film</u>	33
	(i) 'A Broken Song'	33

j.	<u>Research notes</u> [1946-1970s]	33
k.	<u>Other Material</u> [1957-1967]	34
<b>II.</b>	<b>Literary Agents and Publishers (1942-1975)</b>	<b>35</b>
a.	<u>Contracts</u> (1942-1974)	35
b.	<u>Financial material and correspondence</u> (1943-1975)	38
	(i) Financial material (1943-1975)	38
	(ii) Fernando Calleja (1943)	39
	(iii) Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited (1943)	39
	(iv) David Higham Associates Limited (1961-1974)	40
	(v) Irish University Press (1972)	40
<b>III.</b>	<b>Broadcasting Bodies (1944-1974)</b>	<b>41</b>
a.	<u>British Broadcasting Corporation</u> (1944-1973)	41
b.	<u>Radio Éireann</u> (1961)	41
c.	<u>Radio Telefís Éireann</u> (1971-1974)	42
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Literary Organisations (1960-1968)</b>	<b>43</b>
a.	<u>Irish P.E.N., Belfast Centre</u> (1960)	43
b.	<u>International P.E.N., English Centre</u> (1961-1964)	43
c.	<u>Comunità Europea degli Scrittori</u> (1962-1968)	43
d.	<u>Royal Literary Fund</u> (1970-1974)	44
e.	<u>Other bodies</u> (1960-1974)	44

<b>V.</b>	<b>Educational Projects (1963-1973)</b>	<b>45</b>
	a. <u>Catholic Youth Encyclopaedia</u> (1963)	45
	b. <u>University of Valladolid, Madrid</u> (1971)	45
	c. <u>Educational Development Centre</u> (1972)	45
	d. <u>McGill University, Montreal</u> (1972-1973)	45
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Civil List Pension (1967-1973)</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Kate O'Brien: Media Coverage</b>	
<b>I.</b>	<b>Reviews and articles (1926-1985)</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Scrapbook of press-cuttings (1927-1934)</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Other Articles and Printed Poetry [1953-1974]</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Coverage of O'Brien's Death (1974)</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Kate O'Brien: Publications and Other Printed Material</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>E.</b>	<b>Kate O'Brien: Photographic Material</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>Family and Friends [1890s-1960s]</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Portraits of Kate O'Brien [1919-1950s]</b>	<b>65</b>
	a. <u>Studio Portraits</u> [1919-1950s]	65
	b. <u>Painted Portraits</u> [1936-1950s]	68
	c. <u>Other Portraits</u> [1950s-1960s]	68

<b>III.</b>	<b>Home and Away [1932-1973]</b>	<b>69</b>
a.	<u>O'Brien abroad</u> [1932-1960s]	69
b.	<u>Roundstone, county Galway</u> [1950s]	72
c.	<u>Boughton, Kent</u> [1973]	72
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Other images [1950-1965]</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Enclosures (1959-1972)</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>F.</b>	<b>Kate O'Brien: End of an Era</b>	
<b>I.</b>	<b>Sickness and Death (1974)</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Administration of the Estate (1961-1975)</b>	<b>76</b>
a.	<u>Last Will and Testament</u> (1961-1974)	76
b.	<u>Property in Boughton, Kent</u> (1974)	77
c.	<u>Anthony Newell, Solicitor</u> (1975)	77
<b>III.</b>	<b>Mary O'Neill and her Literary Dealings (1974-1987)</b>	<b>78</b>
a.	<u>David Higham Associates Limited</u> (1974-1975)	78
b.	<u>Lorna Reynolds</u> (1981-1987)	78
c.	<u>Dictionary of National Biography, 1971-1980</u> (1981)	79
d.	<u>Other Matters</u> (1977-1981)	80

## Introduction

Austin Hall, the godson of Kate O'Brien and nephew of O'Brien's long-term friend Mary O'Neill deposited the papers in the University of Limerick Library in 2002.

A pioneer in Irish fiction, Kate O'Brien was born in Limerick on 3 December 1897 to horse-dealer Thomas O'Brien and his wife, Catherine Thornhill O'Brien. One of ten children, O'Brien had three older sisters, Mary, Clare and Nance (or Anne), and six brothers, John (or Jack), Thomas, Eric, Michael, Michael Alphonsus and Gerard William. Tragedy struck the young family in 1903 when Catherine O'Brien, died of cancer. Kate O'Brien was just over five years of age at this time and was to become the youngest boarder at Laurel Hill, a French convent school in Limerick. O'Brien's father passed away in 1916, and in that same year Kate received a county council scholarship to read French and English in University College Dublin.

Kate O'Brien graduated from University College Dublin with a B.A. degree in 1919, moving to England where she worked as a free-lance journalist for *The Sphere*, followed by a position in the foreign language department of *The Manchester Guardian Weekly*. In 1921, O'Brien moved to London, and taught at St. Mary's Convent in Hampstead for approximately six months before travelling to the United States as a companion to her sister Nance and her husband Stephen O'Mara. O'Brien returned from the States in 1922 but this did not mark the end of her travels, moving to Spain that same year to work as a governess in Bilbao. O'Brien taught the children of the Areilza family over a ten-month period, forming a deep attachment to Spain that was to remain with her for the rest of her days. Returning to London in 1923, she married a young Dutchman, Gustaff Renier. However, this union was only to last eleven months before the couple separated.

Spanning nearly fifty years, Kate O'Brien's literary career commenced in 1926 with the play 'Distinguished Villa'. O'Brien's first work was the result of a bet with a friend that she could write a play within a number of weeks. It was performed at the Aldwych Theatre in London on 2 May 1926 and was met with wide acclaim. Several other plays followed in 1927, including 'The Silver Roan', 'The Bridge' and 'Set in Platinum'. It was her first novel, 'Without My Cloak' (published in 1931), however, that established O'Brien as a significant Irish writer. A chronicle of the Considine family, this work was awarded the Hawthornden Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. In 1934, O'Brien produced her second novel, 'The Ante-Room'. This was followed two years later by its unsuccessful adaptation for the stage in London's Queen Theatre, and in addition, the first of two works to be banned by the Censorship of Publications Board in Ireland, a novel entitled 'Mary Lavelle'. Also addressing the subject of Spain is the highly personal travelogue 'Farewell Spain' published in 1937, largely in response to the events surrounding the Spanish Civil War. This work was subsequently banned in Franco's Spain and the author was forbidden access to the country until 1957 with the intervention of the Irish Ambassador to Spain. O'Brien's play 'The Schoolroom Window' was performed that same year at the Manuscript Theatre Club in London.

## P12/

In 1938, O'Brien's fourth novel, 'Pray for the Wanderer' was published, and followed two years later by 'The Land of Spices', her second work to be banned in Ireland. O'Brien spent the early years of the Second World War in Oxford and London, working for the British Ministry of Information. The writer moved to Devon in 1942 boarding in the house of novelist, E.M. Delafield, and over the next year published 'The Last of Summer', which was performed as a play at the Phoenix Theatre in London and the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin between 1944 and 1945. The publication 'English Diaries and Journals' was produced in 1943. O'Brien's seventh novel, 'That Lady', was published in 1946. A great success, this work was published in North America as 'For One Sweet Grape'. The novel was adapted for the stage in November 1949, directed by Guthrie McClintic and starring Katherine Cornell as Ana de Mendoza. The play opened in the Martin Beck Theatre on Broadway, and in 1955, the novel was made into a motion picture.

Kate O'Brien returned to live in Ireland in 1950, buying a handsome property in Roundstone, county Galway. O'Brien continued to be productive in her new surroundings publishing her biographical work 'Teresa of Avila' in 1951, followed by her eighth novel, 'The Flower of May' in 1953. The writer travelled to Rome in Italy in the early months of 1954 in preparation for what was to become her ninth and final published novel, 'As Music and Splendour'. A decade after her move to Roundstone, O'Brien returned to England, settling in Boughton, Kent. Whilst the 1960s did not yield any further fictional work, O'Brien produced another travelogue entitled 'My Ireland' in 1962. A collection of reminiscences of her early family life entitled 'Presentation Parlour', followed in 1963. In addition, the writer produced articles for different publications including her 'Long Distance' series in The Irish Times. O'Brien was involved with numerous literary organisations during her lifetime including P.E.N. and the Comunità Europea degli Scrittori (where she represented Ireland). Kate O'Brien died in Kent on 13 August 1974, aged 76, leaving behind a body of unfinished work including her memoirs and what would have been her tenth novel, 'Constancy'.

Divided into six main sections, the collection has been arranged thematically and addresses O'Brien's personal life, literary life, media coverage, printed material, photographic material and death. The documents have been arranged chronologically within each section. Section A provides the researcher with a rare glimpse into O'Brien's personal life with official documentation including her birth and marriage certificates and passports. However, this part of the collection also contains more personal items such as correspondence with family, friends and admirers, diaries recording appointments and other news, and material relating to her financial affairs. O'Brien's long-term relationship with artist Mary O'Neill is reflected in a number of cards and postcards exchanged between the two women from the late 1940s until the year of O'Brien's death. Letters from José M. De Areilza, one of O'Brien's former students in Bilbao suggest how living and working in Spain influenced the writer. De Areilza states the following in a letter dated 26 May 1952, '...this year I went to London for a short trip...and found at last the famous "Mary Lavelle" which I was looking for since years ago. You can imagine with what a tremendous anxiety I went through that pages and the vivid scenes of life in "Casa-Pilar" at Cabantes, Altono. The book is really fascinating. And for me it was still more, because a whole world

## P12/

which slept in my memories, for years, woke up and dreamt again as in the golden times of adolescence. Thank you, Miss Kitty, for bringing to life that dear shadows of my youth!' (P12/8).

O'Brien's diaries, dating from the early 1960s and covering just over a decade, record the writer's daily activities, appointments, travel plans, financial dealings and occasionally more personal information such as the state of her health or mood. Section A also focuses on O'Brien's financial affairs. Amongst other documents, a letter to the Collector of Taxes in London dated 5 June 1963 reveals O'Brien's on-going struggle to control her finances, '...I am not resident in the British Isles. It is my intention to live there, but since I sold my house in Ireland three and a half years ago I have been in very bad circumstances; have been living as the guest of friends and relatives in Ireland or in Spain, am unable to pay rent anywhere, and earn only pittance...I cannot afford to rent even a bed-sitting room' (P12/55).

The most substantial component of the collection is Section B which addresses O'Brien's literary life, covering her literary work and dealings with literary agents, publishers, and literary organisations. It also includes correspondence regarding the Civil List Pension and O'Brien's involvement with educational projects such as the Catholic Youth Encyclopaedia, Irish Week in the University of Valladolid in Madrid, Spain, and the Canadian Association for Irish Studies in McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Of particular interest, however, is O'Brien's literary work, which is mostly in draft format and often contains handwritten amendments. This body of material consists of travelogues, articles, essays and short stories, lectures, biographies, novels, and material for radio and film. Essays and short stories in draft format include 'Singapore has fallen' (1942), 'On Ballycottin Strand' (1945), 'Old Balls MacSweeney' (1956), 'Boney Fidey' (1956) and 'Manna' (1962). Also of interest are mostly typescript drafts of articles produced by O'Brien from her home in Kent as part of the 'Long Distance' series for the Irish Times, addressing a variety of issues from Northern Ireland to Charles de Gaulle. This part of the collection also includes drafts of lectures for different audiences including the *Europea degli Scrittori*, Sir William Gibb School for Girls in Faversham, Canterbury College of Art, and Association of Professional and Business Women.

Two drafts of 'Presentation Parlour', the author's reminiscences of her aunts, are contained in the collection. One of these documents reveals a selection of possible titles for the final publication including 'Presentation Parlour', 'Five Aunts' or 'My Aunts' (P12/170). One of the most interesting components of this section, however, is the body of material relating to O'Brien's last novel, 'Constancy', which remained incomplete at the time of her death. The collection holds both handwritten and typescript drafts of book one and two of the novel, each containing their own amendments. O'Brien's interest in poetry is also reflected in two handwritten drafts of a poem about Haverstock Hill executed by the author in 1964. The second section also includes O'Brien's dealings with her literary agents and publishers and includes contracts with publishers outlining conditions relating to copyright, royalties, publishing rights and payments, as well as financial material and correspondence. The author's involvement with broadcasting bodies such as British Broadcasting Corporation (B.B.C.), Radio Éireann and Radio Telefís Éireann (R.T.E.) is also

## **P12/**

represented in this section. A letter from Guy Vaesen from the Script Unit of the B.B.C. dated 12 October 1973 refers to the script for 'Pray for the Wanderer', stating 'It has not been the easiest novel in the world to dramatise and this final version is the fourth' (P12/217).

Section C focuses on media coverage of Kate O'Brien in Irish and British newspapers, magazines and periodicals. This section contains reviews and articles relating to the author's work dating from the 1920s to the middle of the 1980's, a scrapbook of press-cuttings from 1927 to 1934, and a number of articles on other subjects including the death of actress Katherine Cornell, the Burren in county Clare and politician Cecelia Lynch. In addition, the third section contains press-cuttings relating to the death of O'Brien in 1974 in the Irish and British Press. Section D addresses publications and other printed matter contained in the collection and includes publications by Kathleen Cunningham, copies of two of O'Brien's novels, 'Without My Cloak' (which contains the signature of Mary O'Neill's sister, Elizabeth Hall), and 'Mary Lavelle', a programme for a bullfight at Plaza de Toros de Madrid, and for the play 'That Lady' performed at Dipson's Erlanger Theatre in October 1949. In addition, is an essay by O'Brien entitled 'As to University Life' which includes a handwritten note on the cover of the volume which reads 'This may amuse you, pet - frightful misprints and all! It is causing uproar in the Governing Body of U.C.D. - which was my hope & purpose in writing it' (P12/259).

The photographic component of the collection is contained in Section E and provides a valuable record of O'Brien's family life growing up in county Limerick, school days in Laurel Hill Convent, graduation from University College Dublin, close relationship with her sister Nance, travels to Spain and other locations, brief marriage to Gustaff Renier, literary commitments, life at The Fort in Roundstone, county Galway, move to Kent, England, and passion for cats. Some of the more memorable images in the collection include a black and white photograph of O'Brien's mother Catherine as a beautiful young woman prior to her premature death from cancer (P12/273), two black and white images of schoolgirls from Laurel Hill Convent, some of the studio portraits of O'Brien (P12/390-411), and an image of O'Brien's husband, Gustaff Renier (P12/306).

Section F of the collection addresses the sickness and subsequent death of Kate O'Brien in August 1974, and includes documentation from Canterbury Hospital relating to her personal possessions, copies of her death certificate, and correspondence between family and friends. The administration of the writer's estate is also addressed and significant documents include O'Brien's last will and testament and a codicil of will. O'Brien's will appoints Mary O'Neill as Literary Executrix and the final part of this section focuses on her dealings in this capacity.

## **P12/**

The majority of documents held in the collection are available for public access with the exception of four items (P12/34, P12/35, P12/479 and P12/480), which have been closed for set periods because of information that may be considered sensitive by other parties. The collection is a fascinating record of the life and career of writer Kate O'Brien, providing not only a cross-section of her literary output, but also an insight into the private world of one of Limerick's most prolific daughters. This body of material is an extremely valuable source for researchers in Ireland and abroad.

Further material relating to O'Brien is contained in a collection in the Northwestern University Library's Special Collections Department, donated by a Chicago bookseller in 1970. This includes both manuscripts and published material, consisting of novels, plays, short stories, articles, talks and letters.

Róisín Berry

## **Bibliography**

Dalsimer, A.M., 'Kate O'Brien, A Critical Study'. Dublin, 1990.

Hogan, R., 'Dictionary of Irish Literature'. London, 1996.

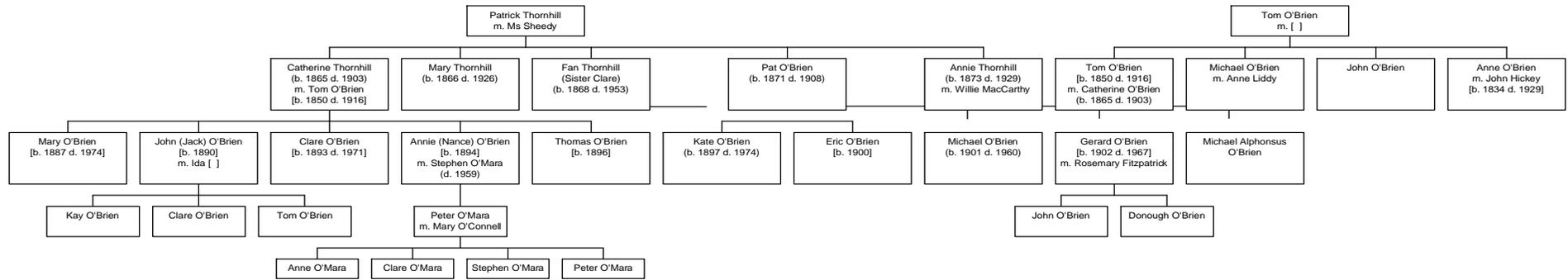
Liddy, J. (ed.) & Jordan, J. (guest ed.), 'The Stony Thursday Book', no. 7

Logan, J. (ed.), 'With Warmest Love, Lectures for Kate O'Brien 1984-1993'. Limerick 1994

O'Toole, M., 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Lady', *UCD Connections*, no. 1, Spring/Summer, 1997, pp. 43-45.

Reynolds, L., 'Kate O'Brien, A Literary Portrait'. New Jersey 1987.

# O'Brien Family Tree



**A. Kate O'Brien: Personal Life**

**I. Birth and Marriage (1918-1981)**

a. Birth certificates (1918-1981)

1. 3 December 1918 -22 July 1981      Four copies of birth certificate of Kathleen Louie Mary O'Brien, daughter of horse-dealer, Tom O'Brien, and Catherine O'Brien (nee Thornhill), born on 3 December at Boru House, Mulgrave Street, Limerick. (Outsized).

4 items

b. Marriage certificates (1937-1981)

2. 23 March 1937 – 5 June 1981      Three copies of marriage certificate of Kathleen Louie O'Brien, aged 25 years, of 36 Belsize Avenue, spinster and journalist, and daughter of Thomas O'Brien (deceased), horse dealer, and her husband, Gustaff Johannes Petrus Renier, aged 30 years, of Beulah Hall, Atkins Road, Clapham, bachelor and journalist, and son of Petrus Paulus Renier, pilot master, on 17 May 1923, from General Register Office, Somerset House, London. (Outsized).

3 items

**II. Family and Friends (1926-1974)**

a. Mortuary cards (1926-1972)

3. 8 November 1926  
- 6 August 1972  
(date of death)      Mortuary cards of family members and friends consisting of a photograph of the deceased, date of death and a prayer.  
  
Includes O'Brien's aunts, Clare Thornhill and Margaret Mary Thornhill of Presentation Convent Limerick, and Annie McCarthy of Walker's Hill, Fermoy, county Cork. In addition, O'Brien's brothers, Michael and Gerry, and sister, Clare O'Brien. Also includes O'Brien's brother-in law, Stephen O'Mara, and friend, Father Vincent Philips of The Abbey, Galway City.

16 items

b. Correspondence (1938-1973)

(i) Anna Wickham (1938)

4. 23 May 1938-21 June 1938 Mostly letters from Wickham, Parliament Hill, Hamstead, London, to O'Brien, at 33 Great James Street, Bloomsbury, Hampstead, and Crown Inn, Groombridge, Kent, concerning her own literary work, and includes handwritten poetry with the following titles, 'Curve on the Category', (23 May 1938), 'Lusus Naturac', (27 May 1938), 'Fairy Wife', (1 June 1938), 'Solution in Sensation', (6 June 1938), 'The Brothers', and 'Inquest' (21 June 1938). Also includes letter from Wickham about a dose of pneumonia stating 'I feel very bitter & my soul in the corner like a sick bat because you are in the country with a routine of breakfast – fresh air & friendly conversation with a pneumonia case who was only on the danger list for 2 day: I am a pneumonia case for a fortnight & no one supplies me with any routine whatsoever – but my life is one anguish of effort after another' (17 June 1938).

16 items

(ii) Elizabeth and Austin Hall (1939-1973)

5. 6 October 1939 –  
7 December 1973 Mainly letters from O'Brien, End Farm, North Leigh, Witney, Oxon, 10 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2, The Fort, Roundstone, Galway, Hotel Jardin, Avila, Spain, and Strand House, Limerick, to the Hall family at Illington Hall, Thetford, Norfolk, 34 Twisden Road, London, University College Hospital and Gowe[r] Street, London, referring to Christmas gifts, Austin's education at Oxford, property, and health matters. Includes a letter from End Farm in Oxon, noting, 'This place is lonely, simple and pleasant. I am about 35 minutes from Oxford on an infrequent bus. It is lovely country, and the old house I am in is shabby and warm and very easy on the eye. My landlady is an angel about fires, and rough comfort generally, but she thinks hot water and washing are mainly nonsense' (28 December 1939). In addition, a letter from Strand House thanking Elizabeth (Betty) for a received gift, stating the following: "Uninspired" you say. For Heaven's sake anything but, a most, most welcome. Thank you very, very much. A great deal of whiskey could be got for such a present – but it won't be here, when in my sister's house life is rather teetotal. Good for me, for a change, I'm sure' (7 December 1973). In addition, includes letters and postcards to Betty from a number of sources including a postcard from Mary O'Neill addressed to Summerhill, Leiston, Suffolk, from Roundstone, county Galway noting, 'I am having an absolutely marvellous time here but it is too cold to draw or paint outdoors...Kate has two cats – a black & a little female tabby which growls when it plays' (11 December 1950).

25 items

P12/

(iii) Enid Starkie (1942)

6. 13 August 1942 Handwritten document by writer, Enid Starkie, 41 Saint Giles, Oxford, England, relating to her affairs after her death, noting that the bank guarantee and all O'Brien's I.O.U.'s to Starkie be sent to O'Brien carer of the National Bank Limited in Whitehall, London, stating 'I desire also that the sum of the guarantee to the bank be paid to the manager of The National Bank Ltd....on behalf of Miss O'Brien. This is in addition to any other provisions I may have made in my will.'

1p.

(iv) Mary O'Neill [1949 – 1974]

7. 12 August 1949 - 11 April 1974 Mostly postcards between O'Brien and O'Neill, from locations including Paris, Madrid, Belgium, London, Kent, Limerick and Kilkee, referring to purchase of art supplies, marking examination papers, domestic chores, Spanish theatre, accommodation and weather in Spain, and work with Radio Éireann. Includes a postcard from O'Neill in Paris addressed to the Hotel Bellerive in Zurich, stating 'I have bought 2 sketch books up at the Luxembourg gdns...Also a nice piece of Indian red chalk. They actually sell it by the piece – they wouldn't in England' (19 August 1949). Also gives an account of a burglary in her flat, in a postcard from London addressed to O'Brien in New Strand House, Limerick, noting 'My flat was burgled on Tuesday when I was out giving a class...The record player, sewing machine, mother's clock, the nice navy blue holdall – masses of records + 3 cameras are all gone. Added to everything else they took my sheepskin lined gloves' (28 January 1960). Includes also a postcard from O'Brien referring to a trip to the theatre in Madrid, stating 'Did I tell you I saw Esperando a Godot in the theatre last week? Very interesting & lively. But kept rather monotonous in [farcical] mood' (21 May 1967). Also contains a postcard to O'Neill in London from O'Brien and the two cats, Clover and Kelly, with birthday wishes (14 August 1973).

40 items

(v) José M. De Areilza (1952 – 1960)

8. 26 May 1952 Letter from José M. De Areilza, Castellana, 39, Madrid, former pupil of O'Brien's during her time in Spain, to 'Miss Kitty' at Strand House, Limerick, regarding her work, noting ... 'this year I went to London for a short trip...and found at last the famous "Mary Lavelle" which I was looking for since years ago. You can imagine with what a tremendous anxiety I went through that pages and the vivid scenes of life in "Casa-Pilar" at Cabantes, Altono. The book is really fascinating. And for me it was still more, because a whole world which slept in my memories, for years, woke up and dreamt again as in the golden times of adolescence. Thank you,

**P12/**

Miss Kitty, for bringing to life that dear shadows of my youth!’ Also includes information on his life to date stating ‘I finished my studies...Then went into politics and got mixed in the tremendous civil war. I was condemned to death by the Reds and saved life by miracle’. In addition, gives an account of becoming Mayor of Bilbao, Under-secretary of industry and Ambassador in Buenos Aires, and family life.

2 items

9. 13 May 1960 Letter from José M. De Areilza, Ambassador of Spain, Washington D.C., to O’Brien, Strand House, county Limerick, regarding the English language and contacting the Head of Cultural Relations Office in Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Notes ‘I am now in my sixth year as Ambassador in Washington and I have become quite familiar not only with the English language, but with the American as well, which is a different lingo altogether. In my frequent speeches around the country when I am congratulated on my good accent I always mention you as the person who not only taught me the language but also the good taste in choosing my favourite authors in your excellent literature.’ Also states the following about his home country, ‘I would love to see you again if you go to old Spain where, as you know, everyone is warmly received always, those who visit us and write about us, even if the author’s viewpoints are somewhat critical’.

1p.

10. 8 June 1961 Letter from José M. De Areilza, Ambassador of Spain in Paris, to O’Brien, Brussels, referring to enclosure of information for her story.

1p.

(vi) O’Brien’s sisters (1961)

11. 31 May 1961 – 8 June 1961 Mostly postcards from two of O’Brien’s sisters, Clare and May, including postcards from Clare in Le Howald, Belgium, and Kussnacht and Lucerne, Switzerland, noting the sights and accommodation. Also contains postcard from May in Killaloe, county Clare, noting that her sister, Nance, and the ‘Corbally folk’ are looking well (8 June 1961), and card from O’Brien to her sister Anne, discussing the novel, Doctor Zhivago.

5 items

(vii) Frieda Lurie (1963 – 1964)

12. 10 September 1963 Letter from Lurie, Moscow, to O’Brien thanking her for her letters and books, and referring to a trip to Russia by John Steinback noting ‘About those who remember you, and who are your

**P12/**

friends...Sergei Zalygin, Helen Romanova, Ann Elistratova, Rita Rait and others were delighted to know that you are well...John Steinbeck is coming to our country in a few days...Most likely I shall be touring the country with him...' In addition, Lurie transcribes a letter to O'Brien from writer, Sergei Zalygin, which refers to his work, stating 'Right now I am going through a difficult period: I am beginning a new novel, one of the most complex in my experience'.

- 6pp.
13. 15 February 1964 Letter from Lurie, Moscow, to O'Brien referring to O'Brien's article on her trip to Russia, her health and her friends in Russia, stating 'Today I received the magazine with your article about your trip to our country. I was deeply touched by the warm words you said about "your interpreter". Thank you ever so much. As for your impressions of Moscow I am afraid they don't coincide with mine. To one who is born and brought up in this city everything is so dear and so much part of yourself that, perhaps, one can't be objective but the fact remains – to me the Red Square and St. Basil's are beautiful. May be it is so because our history, traditions and lives are so closely tied-up with it.'
- 2pp.
14. May 1964 Postcard from Lurie, Moscow, to O'Brien regarding her planned trip to Russia and and books from Sergei Zalygin.
- 1 item
15. [1960s] Card from Lurie wishing O'Brien seasonal greetings.
- 1 item

(viii) Other Friends and admirers [1948-1974]

16. 25 December 1948-  
[4 June 1974] Mainly letters and postcards to O'Brien from friends and admirers from Ireland, England, Poland, Russia, Spain, Canada and the United States, including literary friends, Brendan and Beatrice Behan, Wille and Nora Moloney and Antonio White. Also contains material from Rupert Hart-Davis, Pat Speakman of Montreal, Canada, Irma Hitschfield, Joseph O'Donnell of Limerick, Eleanor Kapp, Katherine Cornell, and Paul Potts of London. Includes Christmas cards from novelist, Antonio White (1967), Willie and Nora Moloney (1967) and actress Catherine Cornell or 'Kit'. In addition, a postcard from Beatrice and Brendan Behan from New York addressed to O'Brien carer of Salkeld, 43 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin, and signed by Brendan 'Love to Kate, Father Fox' (9 May 1963). Also contains a postcard addressed to 177 The Street, Boughton, Kent, from 'Bimbo' [Eleanor Kapp, actress] and Margaret in Siena, Italy, with brief account of their travel plans, and a letter from Sandra L. Velvick, 35 Fawe Park Road, Putney, S.W. 15, London, addressed to O'Brien in Kent, describing herself as 'your fan!' and

P12/

accompanied by a musical composition inspired by novel, "As Music and Splendour" (9 November 1967).

c.48 items

### III. Appointments and Travel Commitments (1949-1973)

#### a. Passports (1949 – 1970)

Three Irish passports issued to O'Brien, each is signed and contains a passport number, photograph, and personal details including name, profession, place and date of birth, domicile, height, colour of eyes, colour of hair, face and special peculiarities. Also include dates of expiry and renewal, and visa stamps from various locations including Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada, America and Russia.

- |     |                  |        |
|-----|------------------|--------|
| 17. | 23 February 1949 | 1 item |
| 18. | 5 November 1959  | 1 item |
| 19. | 11 May 1970      | 1 item |

#### b. Diaries (1961-1973)

- |     |                                      |  |         |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|---------|
| 20. | 1 January 1961 –<br>30 December 1961 | Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, weather, travel arrangements, health matters, correspondence received and other events of the day. Notes the following on Friday 31 March, 'Clare's birthday. Took her to dine at "Bella Napoli"', her move to the Minerva club on Tuesday 18 April, and her response to Maeve McGarry's death stating on Monday 15 May, 'Read of M. McGarry's death in Irish Times. Greatly distressed.' In relation to 'My Aunts' she notes on Wednesday 6 September, 'Settled with David. To accept Dwyer's mean offer on "My Aunts"'. Also records her travels in Spain. Volume is indexed by month and contains notes at the rear. Also includes the following enclosures, a 2-pias Spanish stamp, and a newspaper clipping from a Spanish paper advertising Hotel Suizo. Volume includes O'Brien's personal details at the front. | 3 items |
| 21. | 1 January 1964 –<br>30 December 1964 | Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, weather, financial matters, lectures, health matters, work on the house, her cats and meetings of the International Congress of Comunità Europea degli Scrittori. Regarding accommodation, O'Brien notes on Monday 10 February, 'To Boughton Street to see cottage – <u>very</u> pleased with it', receiving keys from a Miss Miles on Friday 15 May. Records her luck with the horses on Tuesday 19 May and day out with her sisters, 'Lunch with May &  |         |

**P12/**

Clare. Brought May to tea at Lady Thompson's' on Sunday 28 June. Notes on Thursday 26 November, 'Evening – very good party at Princess Romanov's, near [Faversham]. Marvellous. Very old house.' Volume includes personal details at front and notes at the rear.

1 item

22. 4 January 1965 –  
29 December 1965

Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles and lectures, weather, domestic matters and financial matters and trip to Rome and Paris. Notes the following on Friday 8 January, 'Lecture on "Spain" at R.D.S. 3 p.m. Large crowd – very dull affair, and on Sunday 10 January records an evening in the home of Beatrice and Brendan Behan, 'Supper at Béatrice's – saw Blánaid Behan (aged 14 months).' Also notes visit to Roundstone, county Galway, on Monday 25 January, 'To Galway & Roundstone. Staying Miss McGlynn's – to see Mrs Connolly'. After a brief illness, O'Brien records of Kelly her cat, '8 am Kelly sails in, in superb form & very hungry!! Naughty little cat. Enchanted to see her. So is Clover', on Sunday 15 August. On Saturday 27 November notes 'Very bad news, (a) from Toronto [View], (b) from Texas. Greatly depressed - & most acutely embarrassed! Don't know what to do. Talk with W. Moloney. Also with Mary', and the following day states 'After long bad night of thought, decided to write to Nance. Have done so'. Quiet sad day.' Volume includes notes at the rear.

1 item

23. 1 January 1966–  
5 January 1967

Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, weather, travel arrangements, lectures and articles, health matters, correspondence and domestic matters. Notes the following regarding her health on Wednesday 5 January, 'Not feeling well – heart is troublesome', and this is followed on Monday 17 January by a cold spell, noting 'Freeze. Housebound. No water. Very cold'. On Sunday 21 August notes, 'Started unpacking books in shed!! Fearful work.' Volume includes O'Brien's personal details and in addition, notes at the front and rear.

1 item

24. 4 January 1967 –  
26 December 1967

Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, weather, travel arrangements, domestic matters, dealings with the bank, health matters, and work with Radio Éireann and Irish Times. Includes following entry on Thursday 16 February, 'National Library. Lunch with Mary. Fairly mild weather. Unicorn Maeve Binchy & P.P. Maguire – 7.30'. On Friday 31 March notes her first payment from the Civil List and the following day more good news, 'Received letter & Maintenance Grant cheque from Arts Council. Greatly astounded & pleased.' Also notes travels to Vigo, Santiago and Madrid in Spain, stating on Friday 5 May, 'Explored Vigo through succession of rainstorms. Uninteresting town. Got soaked through twice', and notes on the following day, 'Railway journey to Santiago. 2 ½ hours. Absolutely lovely....did a lot of exploring. Remember the town well'. The

**P12/**

weather continues to be bad during her visit to Madrid. On Saturday 20 May O'Brien records her impressions of a bullfight, '6 0'C. Corrida. Very high seat – too high, but good view. Wonderful faenas. El Viti (Santiago Martin) superb with both bulls...Sanchez Bejarano (alternativa) very good with 2 difficult bulls...' Also notes problems with the bank, stating on Friday 26 May, 'No news from Bank...Very anxious indeed. Down to 12/6''. Called on Mr. Oliver. He was very kind – took a cheque for £10 & gave me 1600 odd pesetas.' Volume includes some of O'Brien's personal details and also contains notes at the rear and an enclosed appointment card for the dentist.

1 item

25. 7 February 1968 –  
9 September 1968
- Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles and lectures, health matters, and trip to Rome. Includes notes at rear of volume.

1 item

26. 24 January 1968 –  
17 December 1968
- Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles and lectures, weather, travel, arrangements, domestic matters, ill health and trip to Rome. Notes on 21 March, 'Went to Chilvers 2.30pm. Fainted on their doorstep 10.30pm. Doctor etc.' Also notes visit from her sisters, May and Clare, stating on Tuesday 2 April, 'May & Clare left for London. Felt very sad & flat after their departure.' Notes on Wednesday 5 June 'Shocking news of Senator Robert Kennedy'. Also makes reference to holidays in Galway, Offaly and Limerick in entry dated 13 July, which she actually notes as being an inaccurate date, 'Picnic to the Shannon Weir at Meelick. Lovely, lazy hours by the water. On to Birr for shopping – called on Fanning's. Goodbye to Eyrecourt.'

1 item

27. 12 February 1969 –  
17 December 1969
- Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, lectures and articles, weather, travel arrangements, health matters, Radio Éireann, and trip to counties Galway and Clare. Notes the following on Saturday 19 April, 'Listened to "Without My Cloak" on Radio 4, B.B.C. Very good'. Includes notes and names and addresses at rear of volume.

1 item

28. 7 August 1969 –  
26 October 1969
- Volume with entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles and lectures, wedding in, Glasgow, other travel arrangements and health matters. Notes on Monday 8 September,

**P12/**

- 'Mary & Kitou back to London – 2 O'C. train. House very lonely.' Includes notes at rear of volume.  
1 item
29. 11 February 1969 –  
31 December 1969  
Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements. Includes reference to Radio Éireann recordings at 2.30 on Tuesday 25 February.  
1 item
30. 1 January 1970 –  
16 September 1970  
Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles, weather, health matters, finances and trip to France. Notes the following on Saturday 2 May, 'Saw film "Women In Love" in Canterbury. Well acted. Disliked it very much'. Describes an interesting visitor, noting 'Dr. J. Schwartz arrived 4pm – to examine my manuscripts etc. – for purchase. Very nice man, very intelligent. And we did very good business', and notes the following day, 'Dr. J. Schwartz...he left with large cartons at 12.30pm'. Of a visit to Paris, notes on Sunday 31 May, 'Sung mass in Notre Dame, 11a.m. Afterwards explored all round cathedral – drank aperitifs...Lunched well in Rue Petit Pont. Walked in Luxembourg. Rested – wrote postcards, visited Louvre Gallery: Palais Royal, Café du Louvre etc.' Volume includes personal details at front and other notes at rear of volume.  
1 item
31. 20 January 1971 –  
21 December 1971  
Two volumes with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, lectures, health matters and travel arrangements First volume refers to opening of Valladolid week in Spain on Monday 29 November with lecture on Thursday 2 December. Includes notes at rear and an enclosure of a newspaper cutting. Second volume contains one entry dated 23 February regarding a social engagement.  
2 items
32. January 1972-  
12 July 1972  
Volume with small number of entries, referring to articles, appointments and social engagements, conversion to gas, travel arrangements and health matters. Notes the following on 6 January, 'My Spanish article in Irish Times. Annoyingly cut'.  
1 item
33. 15 January 1973 –  
26 March 1973  
Volume with daily entries recording appointments and social engagements, articles, and trip to Montreal, Canada.

**P12/**

Notes on 19 January, 'Part of "Without My Cloak" on Radio Éireann. (Repeat)'. Includes notes at rear of volume and an enclosed newspaper clipping with handwritten notes.

2 items

c. Address book [1968]

34. [1968] Volume with names, addresses and telephone numbers of family, friends, acquaintances and other contacts. Volume is indexed alphabetically by surname, and contains a number of enclosures. CLOSED UNTIL 2018.

1 item

35. n.d. Mostly notes on scraps of paper containing names, addresses and telephone numbers of friends and other contacts at home and abroad, including Creation Property & Printing Limited, the International Copyright Bureau Limited, journalists from the Kent Messenger, Michael and Mollie Hardwick, Oksana Kuugeusky of Writers Union, Moscow, and Guy and Sylvia Chilver, Kent. In addition, a serviette with details of Valladolid University in Spain. Also includes invitations, letters, a telephone message in connection with the visit to Valladolid University, Spain, and a bill from Hotel Suecia, Madrid, Spain. CLOSED UNTIL 2018.

34 items

d. Blank postcards (n.d.)

36. n.d. Collection of mostly blank postcards with reproductions of art works, depicting religious scenes, portraits, and landscapes, and also images of locations in Ireland, France, Spain, Italy and Russia. Includes portrait of O'Brien as a young girl, images of the Madonna and Child, an image of Santa Teresa De Jesus, reproductions of works by Velasquez and Goya, the Casa de los Deanes at Avila, and views of Rome, Assisi and Santiago. In addition, contains images of locations in Ireland such counties Galway, Clare and Offaly, and of Boughton, Kent. Also includes a 1916 Commemoration Souvenir postcard with an image of the first Dáil.

c.89 items

**IV. Other Business [1960-1974]**

a. Property [1960-1964]

37. 9 March [1960] Letter from P.A. Self, Suffolk Cottage Preservation, The Butterfly, Great Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk, to

**P12/**

O'Brien at Minerva Club, 28 A Brunswick Square, W.C. 1, noting particulars of a number of cottages in the area although stating 'I think these cottages will be too far from London for you...'

1p.

38. 9 February 1961 Letter from [Friede] Harris, 3634 Upton Street NW, Washington DC, United States of America, to O'Brien, The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, with address amended to read 24A Steele's Road, London, NW 3, enquiring about the rental of The Fort.

2 items

39. 4 March 1963 Letter from P.J. Shevlin, Road Freight Supervisor, Córas Iompair Éireann, Road Freight Section, Transport House, Dublin 1, Removal and Storage Service, to O'Brien, 13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, regarding an inventory of her goods in storage. Also attached is the warehouse contract noting the package and removal of household furniture and effects amounting to half a vanload from a private residence in Galway to storage in Dublin, with an estimated warehousing charge of £1 per month and 5 shillings per £100 value per annum extra for fire insurance.

2 items

40. 19 March 1963 Letter from P.J. Shevlin, Road Freight Supervisor, Córas Iompair Éireann, Road Freight Section, Transport House, Dublin 1, Removal and Storage Service, to O'Brien, 13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, with invoice for outstanding sum of £42 and half a shilling and two copies of inventory of 'Miss Kate O'Brien's effects in store' attached, the latter of which includes furniture, record cases, books, pictures, rugs and other material.

4pp.

Two letters written by Blacket Gill & Small, Solicitors, 9 Staple Inn, Holborn, London, W.C. 1, to Burrows & Company, Solicitor, 39/41 Bank street, Ashford, Kent, regarding the purchase of the Boughton property noting an offer by their client, O'Brien, for £1100, subject to Burrows & Company being able to arrange a mortgage of £900 and a satisfactory report from Rentokil.

41. 6 March 1964 2 pp.

42. 31 March 1964 2 pp.

Eight letters from Blacket Gill & Small, Solicitors, 9 Staple Inn, Holborn, London, W.C. 1, to O'Brien, 39 Steele's Road, London, N.W.3, regarding the purchase of the Boughton property noting the need to find a mortgage, inspecting the roof, report by Rentokil, exchange of contracts, the deposit, death of Mrs. Miles (property owner), fire insurance, and title deeds.

**P12/**

43. 19 March 1964 2 items
44. 16 April 1964 1p.  
Includes the following 'We are sorry to say that...Mrs. Miles died early today. We have, of course, exchanged Contracts so this will not affect your purchase of the cottage...Tassell & Son feel sure that the Executrices will be agreeable to your moving in on the 15<sup>th</sup> May...'
45. 23 April 1964 1p.
46. 30 April 1964 1p.
47. 5 May 1964 1p.
48. 25 May 1964 1p.
49. 9 July 1964 1p.
50. 9 July 1964 2 items

b. Financial matters (1961-1974)

51. 5 April 1961 Receipt from Ace Typewriting Bureau, 4a Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. 1, addressed to O'Brien, for typing manuscripts containing approximately 37,000 words. 1p.
52. 9 May 1961 Letter from Arthur Cox, solicitor, 58 Upper Mount Street (and 42/43 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin), to O'Brien, carer of The Manager, National Bank, 15, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1. Refers to Electricity Supply Board account whereby charges of £16.17.9 remain unpaid. 2 items
53. May 1961 Account statement from M.K. Kendall (Travel) Limited, Travel Agents, 15 Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4, in the name of O'Brien carer of The Sunday Telegraph, Fleet Street, E.C. 4, noting overdue sum of £42.10.7. 2 items
54. 2 June 1961 Letter from Terence de Vere White, Mc Cann, White & Fitzgerald, Solicitors, 72 St. Stephen's Green, South, Dublin, to O'Brien, Minerva Club, 28a Brunswick Square, London W.C.1, regarding her financial affairs, 'It was awfully good of you to send me your cheque so promptly.

**P12/**

I was miserable about it because I might have anticipated and provided for it. The Bank let us deduct the scale fee of the sale and that fully discharges all your liabilities. Anything done in the past was done for love. I hear very good reports about you from various friends and am hoping that with this burden off your shoulders you will have one of your great successes’.

1 item

55. 5 June 1963 Photocopy of a letter from O’Brien, 8 Mespil Flats, Sussex Road, Dublin, to The Collector of Taxes, London 46 Collection, 120 Finchley Road, London N.W.3, regarding income tax for tax year 1962 to 1963, noting ‘...as I have written to your colleagues repeatedly, I am not resident in the British Isles. It is my intention to live there, but since I sold my house in Ireland three and a half years ago I have been in very bad circumstances; have been living as the guest of friends and relatives in Ireland or in Spain, am unable to pay rent anywhere, and earn only pittance. Until my circumstances improve I am unable to take up residence in England, as I cannot afford to rent even a bed-sitting room. I use the address, 24a Steele’s Road N.W.3 – which is the flat of a friend- for correspondence...As soon as I am able to take up residence in or near London I shall naturally make income tax returns like everyone else.’
- 1p.
56. [January 1968] Bank account statement for O’Brien from The National Bank Limited, 15 Whitehall, London, S.W.1, recording date, particulars, debit, credit and balance from 3 January to 29 December 1967.
- 6pp.
57. 30 January 1968 National Bank Limited cheque from Whitehall Branch, London, made out to Millar’s Connemara Tweeds Limited for sum of £22-1-0, signed by O’Brien.
- 1 item
58. 6 March 1974 Summons from Petty Sessional Division of Faversham, Kent, addressed to O’Brien at 177 The Street, Boughton, Kent, regarding complaint from Rating Authority for Rural District of Swale in connection with outstanding payment of £13.42, plus £1.10 in costs amounting to £14.52, and with instruction to appear on Wednesday 20 March 1974 before the Magistrates’ Court sitting at the Guildhall, Faversham. Letter is annotated in O’Brien’s handwriting noting the following, ‘9 March, ’74. Dear Sirs, Sorry about this, but I have been ill, and away from home for a long Time. I enclose my cheque for £14.52. Kate O’Brien’. Attached to the letter is a receipt for £14.52 dated 11 March 1974.
- 2 items

**P12/**

59. 3 June 19[] Account statement from S.H. Webb,  
Commission Agent, 104a King Henry's  
Road, Hampstead, N.W.3, with date,  
amount invested, name of horse, amount won and lost.  
1 item

## **B. Kate O'Brien: Literary Life**

### **I. Literary Material (1937-1984)**

#### a. Travelogues (1962-1984)

##### (i) The Banner County Clare

60. Published 1962 Typescript draft of chapter two from  
publication 'My Ireland' which begins  
'In a long recent drive over part of County  
Clare I found myself wondering about Palestine...' Paginated.  
22pp.

##### (ii) Farewell Spain

61. 1984  
(date of O'Neill's introduction) Handwritten draft of introduction to  
O'Brien's travelogue by Mary O'Neill, 24A  
Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3  
4RE, published by Virago Press Limited in 1985, which begins: 'When in 1922  
Kate O'Brien, aged twenty four, travelled to BILBAO in the northern province  
of VIZCAYA in Spain...' Paginated and contains amendments. (Outsized)  
1 item

#### b. Articles (1938-1972)

##### (i) 'Long Distance' series in Irish Times [1962-1972]

62. [1962]  
(date of submission) Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'Since I came to live in Kent – nearly three  
years ago now – new acquaintances  
sometimes ask me...' Some pagination and amendments in ink.  
4pp.
63. [October 1965] Typescript draft of article for Irish Times  
which begins: 'I have just returned from  
golden October days in Rome where –

**P12/**

- whether or not they know or like the idea – I have been representing Irish men and women of letters...’ Contains handwritten amendments with some words crossed out. Paginated.  
5pp.
64. 8 May 1967 Printed newspaper article entitled ‘Exile and detachment in Kentish pastures’, which begins: ‘SINCE I CAME to live in Kent – nearly three years ago – new acquaintances sometimes ask me...’  
1p.
65. 3 July 1967 Printed newspaper article entitled ‘Strawberries and Plums in Abundance – But Gentle Grouching Goes On’, which begins: ‘IT IS always interesting to return home after travel...’ (Oversized).  
1p.
66. 7 August 1967 Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘It had always seemed to me that noise is much noisier in fine weather than in bad’. Paginated and contains amendments in ink.  
4pp.
67. 4 September 1967 Printed newspaper article which begins: ‘OUT OF THE CLIMAX of the last Bank Holiday of the year we look towards autumn now...’  
1p.
68. [October 1968] Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘This is a bad, boring time. Everywhere you look, all round the world, long and short distance...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
69. [February 1969] Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘February at last, thank God. I hear people cursing February...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
70. 21 April 1969 Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘A week or so ago, accompanied by a friend more high-spirited than I now am...’ Paginated and contains amendments in ink.  
4pp.
71. 5 May 1969 Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘As I write it is very late on May Eve...’ Paginated.  
4pp.

**P12/**

72. 19 May 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'From long or short distance most of the  
world is still looking towards Ireland...'  
Paginated.  
4pp.
73. 1 June 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'Those of us who are fanatical lovers of  
South Connemara...' Paginated.  
4pp.
74. 16 June 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'When all you good citizens of Ireland are  
reading your IRISH TIMES on Monday  
morning...' Paginated.  
4pp.
75. 7 July 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'June went out surprisingly in flames, rose-  
smothered; and July, even more  
garlanded....' Paginated.  
3pp.
76. 21 July 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'With the sun fighting hard and  
marvellously for our attention, not to say,  
our gratitude'. Paginated.  
4pp.
77. 4 August 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'Lately, in spite of the many lures,  
disturbances and bad and good news from  
pleasures and palaces all round...' Paginated.  
4pp.
78. 18 August 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'Glasgow's on my mind. I have just come  
back from a few days there'. Paginated.  
4pp.
79. 1 September 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'One's thoughts are nowadays very much  
on Northern Ireland...' Paginated.  
4pp.
80. 14 September 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
'The Peace Line across Belfast is a  
troubling idea...' Paginated.  
4pp.

**P12/**

81. 6 October 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I have been thinking just no[w], as I collect my impressions for discourse with you...'  
Paginated and incomplete.  
3pp.
82. 15 December 1969  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Last night I had a happy experience.'  
Paginated and [incomplete]. Contains pencil markings and also a note by Mary O'Neill on reverse of page three which reads 'I first travelled to Spain with Kate O'Brien in 1935. From Aruna & Santiago de Compostela we made our way through Castile to Segovia, Salamanca, Avila & Toledo.'  
3pp.
83. 5 January 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'So, im miserable weather, we slough off the old year...'  
Paginated.  
4pp.
84. 19 January 1970  
(see P12/85)  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'We are all, everywhere, overclouded now by Nigeria, by dead Biafra.'  
Paginated.  
4pp.
85. 20 January 1970  
(see P12/84)  
Printed newspaper article entitled 'HUMAN DISASTER', which begins: 'WE ARE ALL, everywhere, overclouded now by Nigeria, by dead Biafra.'  
(Outsized).  
1p.
86. 2 February 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Candlemas Day. The Purification of Our Lady. And then, grafted on to all that – rather oddly? – Saint Bridget.'  
Paginated.  
4pp.
87. 16 February 1970  
(see P12/88)  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Snowed in. Blown in. A wet and glacial wind is blowing wet snow non-stop...'  
Paginated.  
4pp.
88. 17 February 1970  
(see P12/87)  
Printed newspaper article which begins: 'SNOWED IN. Blown in. A wet and glacial wind is blowing wet snow non-stop...'  
(Outsized).  
1p.

**P12/**

89. 16 March 1970  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I am wondering these days what Swift would have to say about Pollution'.  
4pp.
90. 13 April 1970  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'In a drearnighted April I have just come back from registering my Council vote.'  
3pp.
91. 27 April 1970  
Dublin...'  
Paginated and amended in ink.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Some nights ago I was listening to Professor Stanford of Trinity College,  
4pp.
92. 2 March 1970  
March is in control.'  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'The days stretch in light, and the daffodils are showing their nervous awareness that  
4pp.
93. 11 May 1970  
(see P12/94)  
to turn up...'  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Into our sad, increasingly distressful world summer has at least had the decency  
4pp.
94. 12 May 1970  
(see P12/93)  
to turn up...'  
(Outsized).  
Printed newspaper article which begins: 'INTO OUR SAD, increasingly distressful world summer has at least had the decency  
1p.
95. 25 May 1970  
impending General Election...'  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'It is surprising how surprised people one meets round here seem to be about our  
4pp.
96. 27 July 1970  
Paginated.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'This morning I had a letter from a friend who has just returned from Ireland'.  
4pp.

**P12/**

97. 6 September 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I happen just now to be at not such a long distance as usual from Ireland as I generally am... Paginated.  
4pp.
98. 19 October 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'That extraordinary Bank Strike of yours seems still in curious strength?' Paginated.  
4pp.
99. 2 November 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I have been interested, and reassured, lately... ' Paginated.  
4pp.
100. 12 November 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I listened this morning, with most of the world, I suppose, to the Requiem Mass sung for Charles de Gaulle...' Paginated.  
4pp.
101. 15 December 1970  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'I am typing by candlelight – and my goodness, what bad light that is!' Paginated.  
4pp.
102. [1970]  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Being ill is not a condition with which I am familiar...' Paginated.  
4pp.
103. 3 May 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'We got over the Census last weekend. Nothing simpler.' Paginated.  
4pp.
104. 17 May 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'The weather here has transformed itself marvellously in the last few days...' Paginated.  
4pp.
105. [June] 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins: 'The other day someone in the village showed me – trailing his coat, of course – headline....' Paginated.  
4pp.

**P12/**

106. [July] 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘Two things are of burning interest to  
everyone over here now – (a) our holidays  
and (b) the Common Market...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
107. August 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘A  
gentle reader of this column of mine has  
reproached me, in a very kind letter...’  
Paginated.  
4pp.
108. September 1971  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘In terms of time I am not a very long  
distance from Ireland...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
109. January 1972  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘When you, my long-lost long distancers –  
or should I say, if any of you read me  
during next week...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
110. January 1972  
Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘It  
was sad to open The TIMES the other  
morning and read an Obituary of Padraig  
Colum.’ Paginated.  
4pp.
111. July []  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘July is heavy upon us now – less wet than  
poor old June...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
112. n.d.  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘Suddenly as I write we have entered Lent.’  
Paginated.  
4pp.
113. n.d.  
Typescript draft of article which begins: ‘A  
weekend ago I was in bed with some  
uncertified form of ‘Flu...’ Paginated.  
4pp.
114. n.d.  
Typescript draft of article which begins:  
‘From a world tormented by immeasurable  
troubles...’ Paginated.  
4pp.

**P12/**

115. n.d. Typescript draft of article which begins: 'It is always interesting to return home after travel...' Paginated. 4pp.
116. n.d. Typescript draft of article which begins: 'Easter, at last; and even a few daffodils. Has ever a feast seemed so slack about turning up?' Paginated. 4pp.
117. n.d. Typescript draft of article which begins: 'The long silence faded off some days ago. I mean the Postal Strike.' Some pagination and handwritten from pages two to seven. 7pp.
118. n.d. Typescript draft of article which begins: 'There sounds like a wild buzz on all the lines...' Paginated. 5pp.
119. n.d. Typescript draft of article which is missing the first page. The first paragraph of page two begins: 'I hope to be over there in some early day of September. This time I am going to sail into Cork on the Inisfallon'. Paginated. 3pp.
120. n.d. Typescript draft of page seven of an article, the rest of which is missing. Begins: 'student trouble made it necessary to shut the universities before the end of term.' Paginated and incomplete. 1p.

(ii) Other articles in Irish Times [1972]

121. [1972] Typescript draft of article entitled 'TUSSY', which reviews publication 'ELEANOR MARX. Volume I – Family Life, 1855-1883', by Yvonne Kapp. The article begins: 'I wish I knew by which end to bring on all I want to say about this distinguished and engrossing book.' Paginated and page four is missing. 5pp.

**P12/**

122. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled 'Luba Laftanikoff', which begins: 'I have just heard that Luba Laftanikoff died on the first day of this month.' Unpaginated. 2pp.
- (iii) 'Did it Happen' series in Evening Standard (1957)
123. 8 July 1957 Typescript draft of article entitled 'Sister Lucy's Remedy' which begins: 'What I am about to tell you took place at home, in my father's house....' Paginated. 10pp.
- (iv) 'Creation' series (1957-1960s)
124. December 1957 Printed article entitled 'A Window for Christmas' which begins: 'IN winter, in the early mornings and when the night was bending down...' Paginated. 1p.
125. [November 1967] Typescript draft of article entitled 'RELIGION – THEN AND NOW' which begins: 'All the religions of which we have any records at all have been of great social importance...' Paginated. 10pp.  
(see P12/126)
126. November 1967 Printed article entitled 'RELIGION – THEN AND NOW' which begins: 'All the religions of which we have any record at all have been of great social importance...' Paginated. 2pp.  
(see P12/125)
127. January 1968 Typescript draft of article entitled 'The Grand Canal', which begins: 'Someone was saying to me the other day that she doesn't at all mind all this building high for domestic architecture...' Entitled, dated and paginated in ink. 9pp.
128. [1960s] Typescript draft of article entitled 'HOW ABOUT THIS DIVORCE REFORM?' which begins: 'The British House of Lords

**P12/**

- has been struggling in lively fashion these last weeks with the Commons' new Divorce Reform Bill.' Paginated. 9pp.
129. [1960s] Typescript draft of article entitled 'DE GAULLE', which begins 'I have never seen General De Gaulle, nor have I ever heard his voice save on discs or tapes.' Paginated. 9pp.
130. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled 'WHENAS IN SILKS', and which begins: 'By beginning to quote Herrick at you about his Julia, I may be leading possible feminine readers to expect some flattering and seductive chatter...' Paginated. 6pp.
131. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled 'SQUARE ROOTS' which begins: 'I am being forced in these times to accept the probability that all my roots were square.' Paginated. 10pp.
132. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled 'WOMEN – SO FAR?' which begins: 'It is awful how journalists fall back again and again for copy to the tired word "women" '. Paginated. 10pp.
133. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled 'BELLS AND DECIBELS', which begins: 'When we were kids long ago at home our sister May used to play her violin in an amateur string orchestra...' 10pp.

(v) Other articles (1938-1969)

134. 1 February 1938 Photocopy of printed newspaper article entitled 'WHY THE RAGE FOR French Films?' for 'The Star, which begins: 'ANYONE wanting to go to a movie in London at present will be hard put to it to avoid going to a French movie.' (Oversized) 1p.
135. [1963] Typescript draft of article containing one handwritten page entitled "Now – Moscow-!" which begins: 'We were given

**P12/**

- our choice about going from Leningrad to Moscow by plane or train...’ Contains handwritten amendments with some lines crossed out. Paginated. 8pp.
136. [1963] Typescript draft of article on trip to Russia which begins: ‘I had a trip to Russia lately. I represent Ireland on the Council of the European Community of Writers...’ Contains handwritten amendments with some lines crossed out. 5pp.
137. [October 1969] Typescript draft of article for R.T.E. Guide, entitled ‘Miceal MacLiammoir’, which begins: ‘Miceal MacLiammor is going to be seventy year old within the next few days.’ Paginated. 4pp.
138. [1960s] Typescript draft of article entitled ‘SPAIN’ for Hibernia, which begins: ‘For years it has been unnecessary to suggest to holiday-makers that they visit Spain.’ Paginated and contains amendments in ink. 4pp.
139. [1960s] Typescript draft of paper for G. Almansi, editor of Twentieth Century Studies, Elliot College, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, which begins: ‘The problem in say these last two decades of how in fact to treat sexual events troubles me no more than it has always troubled the novelist...’ Paginated and includes address at 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent. 2pp.
140. n.d. Typescript draft of article entitled ‘IRELAND 8. (For John K. Clear Esq., 6 Waterloo Road, Dublin 4. Clare, Limerick) Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary –’. Begins: ‘Newcomers to Ireland, after various divagations, may seek our south-western country.’ Paginated. 6pp.

c. Essays and short stories (1942-1967)

(i) Singapore has Fallen

141. 27 February 1942 Printed article in The Spectator entitled ‘SINGAPORE HAS FALLEN’, which begins: ‘THE clock chimed four, and an elderly gentleman entered the lounge.’ Paginated. 1p.

**P12/**

(ii) On Ballycottin Strand

142. 15 September 1945 Typescript draft of short story entitled 'ON BALLYCOTTIN STRAND', which begins: '“Ah, sure there it is, the bloody auld siren.” He stumbled up the garden.' Paginated and dated. 6pp.

(iii) Old Balls MacSweeney

143. 10 April 1956 Typescript draft of essay entitled 'OLD BALLS MacSWEENEY', which begins: 'We lived on the skirt of Limerick City, in a fine and large brick house.' Paginated and records address at The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway. 3pp.

(iv) Boney Fidey

144. 25 April 1956 Typescript draft of essay entitled 'BONEY FIDEY', which begins 'When we were small, my brothers and I, they used to hire a person to Look after us during the holidays.' Paginated and dated, with address at The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway. 5pp.

(v) Manna

145. 1962  
(date of copyright) Typescript draft of short story entitled 'MANNA', which begins 'When the cousins played about the streets they had plenty of room.' Paginated and contains amendments in ink and stamp of David Higham Associates Limited, 76 Dean Street, Soho, London, W.1. 9pp.
146. 1962 Typescript draft of short story entitled 'MANNA', which begins 'When the cousins played about the streets they had plenty of room.' Paginated. 11pp.

P12/

(vi) Three Russian Houses

147. [1963] Typescript draft of article entitled “Three Russian Houses”, which begins: ‘New Moscow, Soviet Moscow, of which the old Kremlin so vigorously partakes...’ Contains handwritten amendments with some lines crossed out, and stamp which reads ‘DAVID HIGHAM ASSOCIATES LTD. 76, DEAN STREET, SOHO, LONDON, W.1’. Paginated. Page seven is missing

6pp.

148. 31 January 1967  
(date of letter) Letter from Hilton Ambler, of David Higham Associates Limited, Author’s Agents, 76 Dean Street, Soho, London, W. C.1, to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, enclosing typescript of draft of essay which begins: ‘New Moscow, Soviet Moscow, of which the old Kremlin so vigorously partakes...’, and is paginated and contains amendments in ink.

2 items

(vii) Half-forgotten

149. n.d. Handwritten draft of essay in notebook and prologue begins: ‘I do not remember that short period of my life in which I could not read...’ Contains amendments in pencil and ink, and handwritten heading on cover reads ‘MANUSCRIPT HALF-FORGOTTEN BY KATE O’BRIEN. In addition, is a sticker with address of Mary O’Neill at 24A Steele’s Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE. Paginated.

26pp.

(viii) Untitled essays

150. n.d. Handwritten draft of essay in notebook which begins: ‘I do not remember the Time when I could not read.’ Contains amendments and handwritten heading on cover reads ‘Kate O’Brien (13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin) Radio Éireann – April 1959. (Ask Dan the exact meaning of the word Pentecost – K. Also – the gifts & the prints – 7 & 12).’ Unpaginated.

8pp.

**P12/**

151. n.d. Typescript draft of essay, which begins: ‘ “Do ye see that big fellah scratchin’ himself above in the corner?” said one Dublin lady to another...’ Paginated. 4pp.

d. Lectures [1949-1972]

152. [1949] Handwritten draft of lecture entitled ‘Burial of a Poet’, which begins with quote from William Butler Yeats: ‘Much did I rage when young, Being by the world oppressed’. Some pagination.
153. August 1963 Handwritten draft of lecture given in Leningrad, which begins: ‘I shall be brief. The novelist’s responsibility is immense – since his intention is to be read – by millions!’ 4pp.
154. [1964] Handwritten draft of lecture for Comunità Europea degli Scrittori on back of agenda for the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of council director, which begins ‘Hélas, pour des raisons compliqués la delegation Irlandaise...’ 3pp.
155. 12 November 1965 Typescript draft of lecture with some handwritten notes for the Sir William Gibb School for Girls in Faversham, Kent, which begins: ‘I believe I’m to talk to you about my work. Well – as I’ve been working, earning my living, all my adult life...’ Unpaginated. 5pp.
156. 26 May 1966 Handwritten draft of lecture with some typescript inserts, entitled ‘Ireland & Avantgardisme’ which begins: ‘Etc. etc. I am honoured & glad to be here, & to know that your Association saw fit to invite me....’ Paginated and contains some amendments in ink. 33pp.
157. [May 1966] Typescript draft of lecture entitled ‘Ireland and Avant-Gardisme’ which begins: ‘Etc. etc. It’s a great honour to be here – not only to be talking to all you great people, but to find myself a part of a series...’ Paginated. 12pp.
158. 14 November 1967 Typescript draft of lecture for Ramsgate Arts Society entitled ‘IVAN

**P12/**

- TURGENEV' which begins: 'The subject of this talk tonight, Ivan Turgenev, was one of the greatest of all novelists...'  
5pp.
159. 15 February 1968 Typescript draft of lecture entitled 'JAMES JOYCE: THE SPOILT PRIEST' which begins: 'In 1933, when he was only eight years from his death, and deep lost in the flowing and overwhelming inspiration of Finnegans Wake...' Paginated and contains amendments in ink.  
15pp.
160. 15 February 1968 Typescript draft of lecture with some handwritten pages, entitled 'JAMES JOYCE: THE SPOILT PRIEST' and begins: 'In 1933, when he was only eight years from his death, and deep lost in the flowing and overwhelming inspiration of Finnegans Wake...' Paginated and contains amendments in ink.  
21pp.
161. 31 May 1968 Handwritten draft of lecture in French on headed paper of Comunità Europea degli Scrittori which begins: 'M. le President, MM. les Vice-Présidents, chers collègues – Il n'est jamais facile de parler avec précision à la fois...'  
4pp.
162. 8 May 1969 Typescript draft of lecture entitled 'Young Wives' given in [Faversham, Kent] which begins: 'Thank you for asking me to talk to you.' Paginated.  
13pp.
163. 1 October 1969 Typescript draft of lecture for Canterbury College of Art entitled 'James Joyce and ULYSSES', which begins: 'You are all young, and long before any of you now there in front of me were born James Joyce was asleep in his grave...' Paginated with amendments in ink.  
21pp.
164. 2 December 1971  
(see P12/165) Photocopy of typescript of lecture in English for University of Valladolid, Spain, entitled 'THE WRITING OF IMAGINATIVE PROSE IN IRELAND SINCE 1800' and which begins: 'Ladies and Gentlemen, (There will be here an eloquent passage in Spanish. so as correctly to salute whatever prelates and professors, etc., may be my hosts and introducers.' Paginated with amendments in ink  
20pp.

**P12/**

165. [December 1971]  
(see P12/164) Typescript draft of lecture in Spanish for University of Valladolid, Spain, entitled 'LA PROSA IMAGINATIVA O FICCIONAL EN IRLANDA A PARTIR DE 1800' which begins: 'Señoras y caballeros, Me siento sumamente honrada por la invitación de dirigirme a ustedes esta noche...' Paginated with amendments in ink. 29pp.
166. 10 March 1972 Typescript draft of lecture for Association of Professional and Business Women, Canterbury, which begins: 'Ladies, I have thought that you might like to hear some talk of Spain.' Paginated with ink amendments. 7pp.
167. n.d. Typescript draft of lecture for the Visual Arts Society, University College, Galway entitled 'Some memories of Student Life Long Ago', which begins: 'It is very good of you to want me to talk to you this evening...' Paginated. 11pp.
168. n.d. Loose sheets from handwritten draft of lecture which begins: 'The problem in say these last two decades of how in fiction to treat sexual events troubles me no more than it has always troubled the novelist.' Unpaginated. 2pp.

e. Biographies (1951)

- (i) Teresa of Avila (first published 1951)
169. [1967] Galley (early proof of printed text) of biography. Introduction begins: 'Let no reader suppose that in the few pages here set before him he will find either the life or, miraculously trapped, the spirit of Teresa of Avila.' Paginated with some pages missing. (Oversized). 1 item
- (ii) Presentation Parlour (published 1963)
170. [1963 - 22 April 1982] Letter to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, from Ania Corless, assistant to Bruce Hunter of

**P12/**

David Higham Associates Limited, Author's Agent, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London W1R 4HA enclosing typescript draft of biographical sketch entitled 'PRESENTATION PARLOUR or FIVE AUNTS or MY AUNTS by Kate O'Brien', and the introduction begins: 'I had five aunts. So had my brothers and sisters, the same five in name and place'. Paginated and contains stamp of David Higham Associates Ltd, 76 Dean Street, Soho, London W.1 on cover page, and note in pencil which reads, 'Return to Mary O'Neill'.

162pp.

171. [1963] Typescript draft of novel, entitled 'MY AUNTS', and the introduction begins: 'I had five aunts. So had my brothers and sisters, the same five in name and place'. Paginated and contains number of amendments in ink and pencil. In addition, a cardboard folder with note in ink which reads 'TOPCOPY', and O'Brien's address in Dublin at 87 Mespil Flats, Sussex Road.

2 items

f. Novels (1963-1984)

(i) Constancy (incomplete and unpublished)

172. [1970s] Handwritten draft of novel in folder including prologue and chapters one, two and three of book one, and prologue begins: 'Catherine laid the five written postcards on the seat beside her.' Contains amendments and pagination. Handwritten heading on cover reads 'MANUSCRIPT. CONSTANCY A NOVEL BY KATE O'BRIEN. PROLOGUE. BOOK ONE CHAPTERS I, II & III', and contains sticker with address of Mary O'Neill at 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE.

84pp.

173. [1970s] Typescript draft of novel in folder including prologue and chapters one, two and three of book one, and prologue begins: 'Catherine laid the five written postcards on the seat beside her'. Handwritten heading on cover reads 'CONSTANCY A NOVEL BY KATE O'BRIEN. BOOK ONE CHAPTERS I, II & III & PROLOGUE', and contains sticker with address of Mary O'Neill at 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE. Paginated and contains amendments in ink.

60pp.

174. [1970s] Typescript draft of novel in folder including prologue and chapters one, two and three of book one, and prologue begins: 'Catherine laid the five written postcards on the seat beside her'. Contains amendments in ink and handwritten heading on cover which reads 'CONSTANCY A NOVEL BY KATE O'BRIEN. BOOK ONE CHAPTERS I,

**P12/**

II & III & PROLOGUE', In addition, there is a sticker with address of Mary O'Neill at 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE. Paginated and contains amendments in ink and pencil.

62pp.

175. [1970s] Typescript draft of novel including prologue and chapters one, two and three of book one, and prologue begins: 'Catherine laid the five written postcards on the seat beside her'. Paginated and contains amendments in ink.

47pp.

176. [1970s] Handwritten draft of novel in two notebooks including chapters one, two and three of book two. The first chapter of book two begins: ' "I'm sorry...This'll have to do. I'll bring you back something..." ' Contains amendments in ink and handwritten heading on cover of first volume reads 'Book 2'. One sheet of the first notebook is loose and the back cover is missing. The cover of the second volume states the following: 'MANUSCRIPT CONSTANCY A NOVEL BY KATE O'BRIEN. BOOK TWO CHAPTERS I, II & III'. In addition, is a sticker with address of Mary O'Neill at 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE. Unpaginated.

2 items

(ii) Without My Cloak (published 1931)

177. 1984  
(date of Hogan's introduction) Photocopy of typescript draft of introduction to O'Brien's novel by Desmond Hogan, which begins: 'It has always seemed to me that there are two languages in Irish literature...' Paginated.

17pp.

g. Poetry (1964)

178. 28 April 1964  
(see P12/179) Handwritten draft of poem which begins: 'Lovely are the seats on Haverstock Hill.'
179. [28 April 1964]  
(see P12/178) Handwritten draft of poem which begins: 'Lovely they are, the seats on Haverstock Hill.'

1p.

1p.

h. Radio [1964-1973]

(i) 'Between Ourselves' series on Radio Éireann (1964)

180. 13 June 1964  
(date of recording in B.B.C.) Typescript draft of script entitled 'Out Of Store', which begins: 'When your earthly goods have been in store for ages and at last they arrive, in a sunburst...' Paginated with amendments in ink. 2pp.
181. 13 June 1964  
(date of recording in B.B.C.) Typescript draft of script entitled 'Living With Cats Again', which begins: 'About five weeks ago I sold myself back into slavery.' Paginated with amendments in ink. 2pp.
182. 13 June 1964  
(date of recording in B.B.C.) Typescript draft of script entitled 'Christmas and Happy New Year', which begins 'Well, here we are once again, plunged in those last festive and exhausting days of the exhausted old year.' Paginated with amendments in ink. 2pp.
183. 13 June 1964  
(date of recording in B.B.C.) Typescript draft of script entitled 'Moving Back Into Village Life', which begins: 'love has been a mover all my life. Not exactly by choice...' Paginated with amendments in ink. 2pp.

(ii) Radio adaptation of 'Pray for the Wanderer' [1973]

184. [July 1973] Typescript draft of script for 'The Monday Play, adapted and produced by Guy Vaesen, including information regarding the studio, rehearsal, recording, transmission, editing and cast. Begins: '(A TOWN IN THE WEST OF IRELAND IS THE SETTING FOR THIS ROMANCE OF THE NINETEENTHIRTIES)'. Paginated. 55pp.

i. Film

## 3 'A Broken Song'

185. n.d. Typescript draft of script for sound-film scenario with information regarding cast, and begins: 'SCENES: 1. A beer-garden in Munich on a summer evening.' Title page contains sticker which reads 'Mary Henderson FROM ELIZABETH MARBURY INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS' AGENT 234 WEST 44<sup>TH</sup> STREET NEW YORK ROOM 702'. The script is contained in folder which has the following title: 'A BROKEN SONG SOUND-FILM SCENARIO by KATE O'BRIEN 37 Gordon Sq. LONDON W.C.1'. Paginated.
- 62pp.

j. Research notes [1946-1970s]

186. [1946] Notebook containing handwritten research notes for novel, 'That Lady', including references and related notes, details regarding O'Brien's financial account with her sister Nance, the structure of book three of 'The Land of Spices', and of part three of 'That Lady', and draft of an [introduction] to 'That Lady'. In addition, further references to sources and financial calculations are contained at the back of the book. Unpaginated.
- 1 item
187. [1962] Notebook containing handwritten research notes for travelogue 'My Ireland' including chapter structure and related notes, and financial calculations. Notebook begins with incomplete draft of structure: 'Foreword. 1. Hesitations. 2. Holy Places.' The following is recorded about the Burren in county Clare, '...alkaline limestone. Carboniferous, ledged, shelved – in plateau formation. Small flowers...Shelter in crevices.' Unpaginated.
- 1 item
188. [1970s] Notebook containing handwritten essay on the art of writing which begins: 'The art of writing – the art – is that which stands a long way back from the idea of writing.' In addition, includes handwritten research notes for unpublished novel, 'Constancy', including chapter structure and character sketches. Unpaginated.
- 1 item
189. n.d. Notebook containing handwritten research notes including references to sources and notes on canals in southern Ireland and The Limerick Navigation. Also includes appointments and shopping list. Unpaginated. One page is loose.
- 1 item

**P12/**

190. n.d. Notebook containing handwritten travel details. Unpaginated. 1 item
191. n.d. Notebook containing a number of handwritten addresses in Ireland and England with dates. Unpaginated. 1 item
192. n.d. Notebook containing list of references from 'Spectator' dating from 1937 to 1946 1937. Two of pages are loose and includes enclosure of page of handwritten dialogue in pencil which begins: ' "Happy, we all say." "Is there any hope for him?" ' 2 items
193. [30 November 1857-11 May 1960] File containing mostly letters in English, French and Italian relating to family of William Monsell, Baron of Emly, including a letter from Monsell's father-in-law, the Comte de Martigny [30 November 1857], and a letter from Monsell to his wife Berthe (28 June 1880) to be opened on his death. Also includes information from the 'Handbook of the Court, Peerage, and House of Commons' on Monsell. In addition, a cover note to O'Brien from [her friend, Mary Hanley] referring to the enclosure of some letters, noting 'I found the famous letter carefully put away in my "Emly" letter wallet. Also one written by Berthe's father...' (11 May 1960). The document contains the family crest of the Monsell (Monesale) family of Tervoe on the reverse. 10 items

k. Other Material [1957-1967]

194. 27 September 1957 – [January 1967] Mainly membership cards for various organisations including the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Irish Club in London, Pike Theatre Club, Holborn Public Libraries, Hampstead Public Libraries, Comunitá Europea degli Scrittori, Irish Federation of University Women and Irish PEN (Dublin Centre). In addition, includes letter from Radmore, curator of Cowper and Newton Museum, Gilpin House, Olney, Buckinghamshire, to O'Brien at Minerva Club, 28A Brunswick Square, London, WC. 1, referring to the position of curator with museum, and loose sheets of paper recording train times, quotations from various sources, telephone numbers, and references to publications. Also includes a handwritten poem in Irish entitled 'Maidin I mbéara', and a handwritten lecture by Willie J. Moloney for the Classical Association Conference in Reading on 6 April 1967. 22 items

## II. Literary Agents and Publishers (1942-1975)

### a. Contracts (1942-1974)

195. 7 May 1942 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Ann Watkins, Incorporated, 77 Park Avenue, New York City, New York (author), and Doubleday, Doran & Company Incorporated (publishers), regarding the publishing rights of 'The Summer's Flower' and 'A Spanish Novel', noting conditions relating to copyright, royalties, publishing rights, and advancing the author \$1250 on 'The Summer's Flower', payable in six equal monthly instalments on receipt of signed contract, and the sum of \$1250 on publication date of 'A Spanish Novel' or two-thirds of the amount earned on 'The Summer's Flower' by publication date of 'A Spanish Novel' or whichever sum is greater. Includes some passages crossed out in ink.  
4pp.
196. 16 November 1942 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien (author), and [M. Turner], general editor of the series 'Britain in Pictures', Rocks Farm, Withyham, Sussex, for the author to undertake a contribution of approximately 14,000 words in length on the subject of English diaries and journals to be included in the series, with a payment of £50 to the author for world rights, to be paid within 14 days of date of publication. Signed by Turner.  
2pp.
197. 15 April 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Messieurs William Heinemann Limited, 99 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1 (publishers), regarding the next three novels to be produced by the author, referring to publishing rights and copyright.  
3pp.
198. 14 May 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien, carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and United Authors Limited, 1, Craven house, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (publishers), granting the licence to translate and publish 'The Last of Summer', in volume form in French, noting conditions regarding royalties, payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes that a royalty of 5% of the published price of all copies sold and a sum of £75 payable on signature of the agreement by both parties, in advance for royalties and percentages. Amended in ink.  
2 pp.

**P12/**

199. 14 May 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien, carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and United Authors Limited, 1, Craven house, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (publishers), granting the licence to translate and publish 'The Last of Summer', in volume form in German, noting conditions regarding royalties, payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes that a royalty of 5% of the published price of all copies sold and a sum of £100 payable on signature of the agreement by both parties, in advance for royalties and percentages. Amended in ink. 2 pp.
200. 6 July 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Mr. Saturnino Calleja, Madrid, Spain (publishers), granting publishers licence to translate and publish 'Without My Cloak' in volume form in Spanish, subject to conditions regarding translation of work, publishing rights and royalties. Also gives the publisher the first option to publish the author's next two full length works, and to publish all of her earlier works as yet unpublished in the Spanish language. Notes payment of £75 as to one-half upon signature of agreement and the other half to be paid upon publication of work or within twelve months of agreement, whichever date is earlier, for an edition of five thousand copies, and a sum of £20 payable upon printing each subsequent edition of one thousand copies. 2pp.
201. 13 August 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and A. B. Ljus Forlag, Stockholm, Sweden (publishers), granting publishers licence to translate and publish 'The Last of Summer' in volume form in Swedish, subject to conditions regarding royalties and payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes payment of royalty of 7.5 % of the published price of all copies sold up to three thousand, and of 10% of the published price of all copies sold beyond three thousand, and a sum of £40 payable on signature of agreement, in advance of royalties and percentages. 2pp.
202. 17 September 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Mr. Saturnino Calleja, Madrid, Spain (publishers), granting publishers licence to translate and publish 'The Anteroom' in volume form in Spanish, subject to conditions regarding

**P12/**

royalties and payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes payment of £75 as to one-half upon signature of agreement and the other half to be paid upon publication of work or within twelve months of agreement, whichever date is earlier, for an edition of five thousand copies, and a sum of £20 payable upon printing each subsequent edition of one thousand copies.

2pp.

203. 17 September 1943 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Mr. Saturnino Calleja, Madrid, Spain (publishers), granting publishers licence to translate and publish 'The Last of Summer' in volume form in Spanish, subject to conditions regarding royalties and payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes payment of £75 as to one-half upon signature of agreement and the other half to be paid upon publication of work or within twelve months of agreement, whichever date is earlier, for an edition of five thousand copies, and a sum of £20 payable upon printing each subsequent edition of one thousand copies.

2pp.

204. 15 June 1944 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited, 39/40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Messieurs Hallwag Verlag of Berne, Switzerland (publishers), granting publishers licence to translate and publish 'Mary Lavelle' and 'The Land of Spices' in volume form in German, subject to conditions regarding royalties and payment of monies, translation of work and publishing rights. Notes royalty of 7.5% of the published price of all copies sold up to three thousand, and 10% of the published price of all copies sold beyond three thousand, sum of £50 payable on each of works upon signature of the agreement in advance of royalties and percentages.

2pp.

205. 2 July 1964 – 22 July 1964 Letter from David [Higham], Managing Director of David Higham & Associates Limited, Authors' Agents, 76, Dean Street, Soho, London W.1 to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent (22 October 1964) referring to her new house and the enclosed signed memorandum of agreement (2 October 1964), between O'Brien carer of David Higham & Associates, Ltd, Grantor, and Penguin Books Limited, publishers, granting publishers exclusive right and licence to produce and publish 'That Lady', subject to conditions regarding copyright, royalties and payment of monies, and publishing rights. Notes royalty of 7.5% on all copies sold calculated on the United Kingdom published price, and after three years from date of first publication, the Grantor shall be paid 10% of the net amount received except copies sold at cost price or less no royalty shall be payable. A sum of £100 will be payable on signature of the agreement and the second half to be paid on first publication of said book.

2 items

**P12/**

206. 20 October 1965 Signed memorandum of agreement between O'Brien carer of David Higham, Associates Limited, 39-49 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.2 (author), and Messieurs William Heinemann Limited, 15-16 Queen Street, Mayfair, London, W.1 (publishers), relating to an untitled autobiography, noting conditions relating to copyright, extent of the publication, royalties, Book Society, sub-licences, and payment of monies. States that the author shall deliver a work of about sixty thousand words no later than 31 December 1965, with royalties of 15% on all copies sold to seven thousand five hundred, 17.5% on all copies sold thereafter, with provisions for copies sold overseas or in Great Britain for purposes of export and for cheaper editions. Also states that a sum of £350, of which £100 was already paid to author, is payable on delivery of complete typescript of work for publication. Includes amendments in ink and some lines crossed out.

4pp.

207. 5 April 1974 – 10 April 1974 Letter from Elizabeth Bird, David Higham & Associates Limited, Authors' Agents, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London W1R 4HA, to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, dated 10 October, stating 'I'm so glad you're pleased Chivers want to do a Large Print edition of WITHOUT MY CLOAK', and enclosing the memorandum of agreement dated 5 October, between Cedric Chivers Limited, Portway, Bath, Somerset, and David Higham & Associates Limited, granting to publishers an exclusive licence to publish an edition of 'Without My Cloak' in hard cover volume form for persons with impaired vision printed in large type not less than 15 point for a period of three years from date of agreement, on behalf of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association in the English language throughout the world. Notes conditions relating to royalties, copyright and publishing rights. Royalty of 10% of published price on all copies of the licensed edition sold, wherever sold, with certain provisions. Also grants sum of £50 upon signature of agreement by both parties being in advance and on account of all royalties and percentages.

2 items

b. Financial material and correspondence (1943-1975)

(i) Financial material (1943-1975)

208. 3 February 1943 - 24 January 1975 Mainly receipts including one from Samuel French Limited, Publishers, for copy of 'The Distinguished Villa' and postage, sent to Vivian H.S. Mercier, a royalty invoice from Cedric Chivers Limited, Publishers, Booksellers, Bookbinders, Portway, Bath, BA1 3NF, addressed to David Higham Associates Limited, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden

P12/

Square, London, W1R 4HA, listing titles, number of copies sold, price, total sale and royalties, and a receipt from the Irish Times Limited addressed to O'Brien, The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, for sum of £21 for review. In addition, includes cheque for £20 from E.A. Hopkinson.

4 items

(ii) Fernando Calleja (1943)

209. 7 July 1943 Letter from Calleja, Ediciones 'La Nave', Madrid, to O'Brien, having secured the Spanish world rights for three novels, 'Without My Cloak', 'The Ante-room', and 'The Last of Summer', and expressing interest in other works. Requests a number of items for publicity including a photograph of O'Brien, relevant press cuttings, and a short letter about her work. Notes 'I was enormously struck by "Without My Cloak". I liked your lovely novel so much that I was loth to entrust its translation to anybody for fear they might not give enough attention to its many beauties, and although very short of time, I decided in consequence to translate it myself. I daresay better translators could be found but I am positive that nobody could give to the translation as much loving care. This is one of the most pleasant jobs that have come my way for a good many years.'

2pp.

(iii) Pearn, Pollinger & Higham Limited (1943)

Two letters from Y. Muller, secretary to Mr. Laurence Pollinger, of Pearn, Pollinger & Higham, Literary, Film and Dramatic Agents, of 39-40 Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C. 2, to O'Brien, carer of Miss E. M. Deladield, Croyle, Cullompton, Devon, referring to Spanish translation rights of 'The Last of Summer' and 'The Anteroom' and an enquiry from Alfred Scherz of Switzerland for copies of O'Brien's novels free for translation into Italian.

210. 28 July 1943 1p.

Includes comment 'Messrs. Saturnino Calleja offers for the Spanish translation rights of THE LAST OF SUMMER and THE ANTEROOM the same terms as for WITHOUT MY CLOAK, namely: A sum of £75 payable as to half upon signature of the agreement by both parties, and half on publication for an edition of 5,000 copies and a sum of £20 payable upon printing of each subsequent edition of 1,000 copies'.

211. 30 July 1943 1p.

**P12/**

(iii) David Higham Associates Limited (1961-1974)

212. 7 June 1961 Letter to O'Brien, 24a Steele 's Road, London, N.W. 3 from [David Higham], Authors' Agents, 76, Dean Street, Soho, London, W.1, with extract from letter from Dwyer[r] regarding a debt of £114, which states 'I do want to help in any way I can but there seems very little security. The present position is that she owes us £114. There is always a trickle of royalty to be set against her debt, but it is difficult to know when we could expect a new book from her.'
- 2 items
213. 19 March 1974 Letter to O'Brien, 117, The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from A.J. Crouch, Secretary of David Higham Associates Limited, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London, W1R 4HA, referring to enclosure of a cheque amounting to £108.67 received from British Broadcasting Corporation in payment for broadcast of 'That Lady' in 'Woman's Hour'.
- 2 items

(v) Irish University Press (1972)

214. 13 April 1972 - 18 April 1972 Letter to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Gerard O'Flaherty, Irish University Press, 81 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, referring to enclosed letter from Bruce Hunter, director of David Higham Associates Limited, which notes that 'The Land of Spices' is not available for Irish University Press to include in their paperback series.
- 2 items
215. [June 1972] Compliment slip from Gerard O'Flaherty of Irish University Press, 81 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, to O'Brien enclosing letter from Bruce Hunter, director of David Higham Associates Limited, to Gerard Flaherty, which refers to paperback rights and royalties, noting that there may be 'special circumstances' in the case of Irish University Press.
- 2 items

### III. Broadcasting bodies (1944-1974)

#### a. British Broadcasting Corporation (1944-1973)

216. 14 June 1944 Letter to O'Brien, carer of Messieurs A.D. Peters, 10 Buckingham Street, London, W.C. 2, from Programme Contracts Department, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London, W.1, referring to recording of a talk in English and French entitled 'Ireland' for French and Belgian Section of London Transcription Service, with date of recording on Saturday 10 October 1944 at Bedford College, and a fee of 10 guineas to cover script and recording. 1p.
217. 12 July 1973 Letter to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Guy Vaesen, Script Unit, Drama, Radio, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London, W1A 1AA, referring to the script of 'Pray for the Wanderer' stating the following, 'It has not been the easiest novel in the world to dramatise and this final version is the fourth. I do hope you will approve of what I have done...At least I feel confident that the cast will meet with your pleasure'. 1p.
218. 19 December 1973 Letter to John Rush of David Higham & Associates Limited, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, W1R 4HA, from Alannah Hensler, Copyright Department, British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, London, W1A 1AA, noting that 'Woman's Hour' hoped to broadcast O'Brien's book, 'That Lady' in fourteen episodes from 11 to 28 October. 1p.

#### b. Radio Éireann (1961)

Three letters from Hilton Edward, Head of Drama, October Television in Radio Éireann, 34-37 Clarendon Street, Dublin 2, to O'Brien, requesting material suitable for television plays or for the talks department, and her services as 'Permanent Reader' for October Television, the establishment of a panel of freelance readers and organising a lunch appointment.

219. 2 June 1961 2 items  
Includes 'There is another function that might interest you but I think you would really hate it...I am setting up some Permanent readers who would have the tedious job of reading all material and would be

**P12/**

situated in an office here. This, I think, would drive you mad and would be a waste of your creative ability’.

220. 15 June 1961 1p.

221. 21 June 1961 2pp.

c. Radio Telefís Éireann (1971-1974)

222. 7 October 1971 Letter to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Sean Walsh, Radio Telefís Éireann, Henry Street, Dublin 1, offering a broadcasting engagement on a programme entitled ‘My Kind of Poetry’ to be recorded on 7 October 1971, in studio at number 5 Henry Street, with fee amounting to £30. Refers to timekeeping, rules and regulations, copyright information, and liability of Radio Telefís Éireann.

2pp.

223. 13 December 1973 Letter to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Patrick [ ], Radio Telefís Éireann, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, asking if she believes £100 plus half this amount for the repeat an acceptable fee for a production of Guy Vaesen’s adaptation of ‘Pray for The Wanderer’. In addition, enquires about possibility of a 25-minute script about Teresa of Avila for the Treasure House series.

2 items

224. 26 April 1974 Letter to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Tom McGurk, Radio Telefís Éireann, Henry Street, Dublin 1, requesting that she be a guest on the third series of ‘One Man’s/Woman’s Ireland’, involving a 30 to 40 minute pre-recorded interview to be recorded on Sunday nights in May, noting a fee of 20 guineas.

1p.

225. [March 1974] Letter to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Sean Walsh, Drama and Variety, Radio Telefís Éireann, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, regarding participation in the programme, ‘Personal Choice’, commencing on 7 October. Includes notes in ink recording names and contact details of two individuals.

3pp.

226. 29 October 1974 Letter to O’Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Sean Walsh, Drama and Variety, Radio Telefís Éireann, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, making arrangements for the recording of programme for series ‘Personal Choice’ in the new Radio Centre in Donnybrook, stating ‘I understand that you are rather unwell at present and certainly I wouldn’t

P12/

want to annoy you with petty details, so let's just say we'll record you when you are feeling better'.

2 items

#### IV. Literary Organisations (1960-1968)

##### a. Irish P.E.N., Belfast Centre (1960)

227. 9 November 1960 Letter to O'Brien from Stanley Foster, Honorary Secretary of Irish P.E.N., Belfast Centre, 14 Ashley Gardens, Belfast 15, with invitation to annual dinner to be held on Saturday 18 October. Note in ink stating 'Accepted 18.2.61'.

1p.

##### b. International P.E.N., English Centre (1961-1964)

Two letters to O'Brien from David Carver, General Secretary of International P.E.N., Glebe House, 62 to 63 Glebe Place, Chelsea, London, S.W.3, noting her election as president of Irish P.E.N., status in relation to Executive Council of Comunità Europea degli Scrittori, and an invitation to a dinner discussion at the Cock Tavern in October 1964 entitled 'The Changing Novel'.

228. 15 March 1961 2 items
229. 8 October 1964 2 items

##### c. Comunità Europea degli Scrittori (1962 – 1968)

230. [November] 1962 – 31 May 1968 Mainly correspondence in English, French, Italian, and Russian, relating to business of the council, including details regarding meetings of the council director, notes, interpreter charges, discussion topics such as the role of the writer in Europe, payment of annual contribution, list of delegates and newly elected presidency and council. Includes letter in French to O'Brien in Dublin from the secretary of Comunità Europea degli Scrittori, Clelia Guala, noting the following about her handwriting, 'Giancarlo Vigorelli m'a prié de taper à la machine le texte de votre intervention, dont je vous remets ci-joint la photocopie. Malheureusement après la première page j'ai dû m'arrêter car je n'arrivai pas à comprendre votre écriture' (3 September 1963). In addition, a letter from O'Brien, 13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, to Clelia Guala stating 'I have not been able to deliver those to lectures about our COMES doings, because I have been awaiting data from you, and did not dare report the Leningrad dialogue from memory: I have written some light articles, of cheerful but vague propaganda – not worth sending on to you. I am sending you an entirely irrelevant piece, about Moscow, which is in the current New Statesman – but only just to amuse you. It has nothing to do with COMES' (7 January 1964).

**P12/**

Also contains list of delegates attending assembly in Rome in October 1965, noting the following for Ireland, Patrick Kavanagh, Eileen MacCarvill, Kate O'Brien, Robert O'Driscoll, Desmond O'Grady and Lorna Reynolds, and list of newly elected presidency and council of organisation in October 1965, with O'Brien representing Ireland.

21 items

(iv) Royal Literary Fund (1970-1974)

231. 26 November 1970  
– 1 January 1974

File containing letters to O'Brien, 177  
Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent,  
regarding eligibility for a pension under

the Royal Literary Fund. Includes letter from Victor Bonham-Carter, Secretary of Royal Literary Fund, 11, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C. 4, which announces 'I am glad to be able to inform you that at its Meeting today my Committee decided to award you a pension of £400 a year for five years' (13 January 1971). One letter is torn in to pieces and remains in its envelope (26 November 1970).

4 items

(v) Other bodies (1956-1974)

232. 1 June 1960 – 27 June 1974

Mainly letters to O'Brien from range of  
bodies including The Alpha Club, Belfast,  
Artists and Writers' Cookbook, Los

Los Angeles, Cività Delle Macchine, Rome, Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Salvat Editores, S.A., Barcelona, La Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid, Society of Authors, London, Edwards – Mac Liammóir, Dublin Gate Theatre Productions Limited and Irish Academy of Letters. Includes letter from Dorothy Evans, Honorary Secretary of The Alpha Club, 14 Donegal Square West, Belfast, to O'Brien, Strand House, Limerick, with details on talk to be delivered by O'Brien, stating 'You ask what type of audience. The majority are married women with varied interests and some quite intellectual, very rarely any men' (1 June 1960). Also includes letter to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from Dalmiro de la Válgoma Díaz-Valera, La Real Academia de la Historia, León 21, Madrid 14, Spain, noting a forthcoming publication based on opinions of foreigners about Santiago de Compostela, and requesting permission to include a number of passages from 'Farewell Spain', and also to reproduce Mary O'Neill's drawing of the Hospital de Santiago (9 December 1970). Also contains letter from Micheál Mac Liammóir, director of Edwards – Mac Liammóir, Dublin Gate Theatre Productions Limited, 4 Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2, referring to his own health '...I am always thinking of you. Even when weighed down by the most depressing bug ever known to man or woman since Pandora opened that box – a sorting of creeping compromise between a plain foul cold in the head and what I strongly suspect of being leprosy' (22 December 1973).

16 items

P12/

**V. Educational Projects (1963-1973)**

a. Catholic Youth Encyclopaedia (1963)

Two letters from Gary Mac Eoin, Senior Staff Editor of Catholic Youth Encyclopaedia, 487 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York, to O'Brien, The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, requesting a summary of the life and spirit of Saint Teresa of Avila in a thousand words that would be suitable for young people aged between 12 and 18 years, outlining requirements, payment, and lecturing opportunities.

233. 25 January 1963 2 items

234. 27 February 1963 2pp.

b. University of Valladolid, Madrid (1971)

235. 12 August 1971 Letter from Paul [P. Hempsey], Secretary of Cultural Relations Committee of Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin 2, to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, in connection with Irish week in University of Valladolid, Madrid, in October or November 1971. 1p.

c. Educational Development Centre (1972)

236. 18 December 1972 Letter from Sharon Mallar, Administrative Assistant, Exploring Human Nature Project, Educational Development Centre, 15 Mifflin Place, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to O'Brien, carer of David Higham Associates, 76 Dean Street, London, W 1, requesting permission to reproduce image from 'My Ireland'. 3pp.

d. McGill University, Montreal (1972-1973)

Eight letters from Joseph Ronsley, Chairman of McGill University, Department of English, McGill University, P.O. Box 6070, Montreal, Canada, to O'Brien, carer of Lorna Reynolds, Parke Cottage, Eyre Court, Galway, and also at 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, referring to Canadian Association for Irish Studies seminar, and details about lecture and travel arrangements.

237. 16 May 1972-  
23 May 1972 3 items

Includes enclosed letter from Lorna Reynolds, Parke Cottage, Eyrecourt, Galway.

**P12/**

238. 21 June 1972 1p.
239. 7 September 1972 1p.
240. 15 November 1972 1p.
241. 11 January 1973 1p.
242. 24 January 1973 1p.
243. 19 February 1973 1p.
244. 2 April 1973 2 items
245. March 1973 Colour poster for sixth annual conference of Canadian Association for Irish Studies, McGill University, listing a number of participants including O'Brien. (Outsized). 1p.
246. [December 1972] Letter from Professor Norman H. MacKenzie, Buswell's Hotel, Dublin, Canadian Association for Irish Studies, to O'Brien, regarding the title of her lecture. 1p.

**VI. Civil List Pension (1967-1973)**

247. 1 March 1967 – 9 November 1973 Letters from Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Whitehall, London, to O'Brien, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, regarding eligibility for the Civil List Pension, noting status as a British subject, financial position, supplementary Civil List Pensions, income tax position, and review of list. Includes letter from John Hewitt, stating 'I am desired by the Prime Minister to inform you that, on his recommendation, The Queen has been pleased to award you a Civil List Pension of £250, in recognition of your services to literature' (1 March 1967). 11 items

## C. Kate O'Brien: Media Coverage

### I. Reviews and articles (1926-1985)

248. 21 July 1926 -  
16 March 1984
- File containing mainly press-cuttings with articles on work of O'Brien in The Irish Press, Yorkshire Post, Sunday Independent Magazine, Irish Times, Irish Press, Irish Illustrated and Ham and High, and in addition, series of images of O'Brien. Includes photocopy of article by Tamsin Hargreaves dated 1983 entitled 'KATE O'BRIEN' which contains handwritten amendments. (Some documents are oversized).
- 21 items
249. [1936] – 13 September 1985
- File containing press-cuttings with reviews of a number of works by O'Brien including 'Mary Lavelle', 'The Ante-Room', 'That Lady', 'Presentation Parlour', 'Farewell Spain', and 'My Ireland' in Time and Tide, Sunday Independent, Daily Telegraph, Guardian, Birmingham Post, The Times, Sunday Times, Irish Times, Catholic Herald, Sphere, Evening Standard, Yorkshire Post, Evening Times, The Listener, Irish Press, Irish Independent, Books and Bookmen, Books of the Month, Punch, Cork Examiner, New Statesman, The Tablet, Glasgow Herald, Tatler, Lady, Country Life, Month, Hibernia, Spectator, and The Tribune. Includes some photocopies. (Some documents are oversized).
- 44 items

### II. Scrapbook of Press-cuttings (1927-1934)

250. 1 June 1927 -  
December 1934
- Contains press-cuttings of mainly reviews of O'Brien's work including novels 'Without My Cloak' and 'The Ante-Room' and play 'The Bridge'. Also contains article by O'Brien in The Daily Mirror entitled 'HAVE MUSIC-HALLS BEEN 'KILLED'?' (7 July 1928), and a number of articles on winning the Hawthornden Prize. In addition, articles by other writers such as 'The Settee' by Mary Rynne (13 October 1928) and reviews of works by other authors such as 'Beside the Sea' edited by Yvonne Cloud (1 August 1934). Paginated and most articles are dated.
- 42pp.

### III. Other Articles and Printed Poetry [1953-1974]

251. 14 August 1953 – [1974] File containing press-cuttings with articles on various subjects [some of which were collected by O'Brien, in The Spectator, Irish Times, Observer, Tempo, Irish Press, New York Times, and The Times, addressing holiday destinations, pensions, death of actress Katherine Cornell, work of writer Mary Vaughan, historian Prof. F.S.L. Lyons, the Burren in county Clare, and politician, Cecelia Lynch. Also includes photograph of Drama Critics Circle, a series of three articles by John A. Jackson entitled 'THE IRISH IMMIGRANT IN ENGLAND', a poem by Philip Larkin entitled 'Home is so sad', a signed poem by John Hewitt and work by Hilaire Belloc, Denis Devlin and Mary Oliver. (Some documents are outsized).
- 21 items

### IV. Coverage of O'Brien's Death (1974)

252. 14 August 1974 – 16 August 1974 File containing press-cuttings with articles on death of O'Brien in The Evening Press, Daily Telegraph, Irish Times, Faversham Times, Kentish Gazette and Faversham News. (Some documents are outsized).
- 15 items

### D. Kate O'Brien: Publications and Other Printed Material

253. 1930-1965 Two publications by Kathleen Cunningham, the first entitled 'SCHILLER UND DIE FRANZOSISCHE KLASSIK', published in 1930 (Kurt Schroeder/Verlag/Bonn) and the second consisting of an essay entitled 'PAUL ERNST'S THEORY OF THE NOVELLE'. The two volumes are enclosed with a number of documents relating to Cunningham including a brief biography, references from individuals including P. Mansell Jones of University College of North Wales, Professor of French and Romance Philology, Mary M. Macken of University College Dublin, Acting Professor of German, and Oskar Walzel of University of Bonn, late Professor of German Language and Literature, lists of publications and reviews of work including a lecture given by Cunningham in a newspaper article entitled 'REINHARDT'S IDEAS OF STAGE REFORM. German Lecture in Newcastle', which begins 'Herr Max Reinhardt's ideas and ideals of stage reform formed the subject of an illustrated lecture given in German...'
- 9 items

**P12/**

254. [October 1949] Program for play 'That Lady' produced by The Playgoer Magazine entitled 'Katharine Cornell PRESENTS That Lady A NEW PLAY BY KATE O'BRIEN', performed at Dipson's Erlanger Theatre between 18 and 22 October 1949. Contains handwritten note by O'Brien on cover which reads 'Don't let all the tripe in the red book frighten you, or any of the photographs. The production really will look lovely – however the play goes. The sets are very good. And we are always [improving] Kit's clothes. By New York we'll have her looking lovely.'
- 1 item
255. 1949 Publication by O'Brien entitled 'Without My Cloak' with subheading 'In this chronicle of the family founded by John Considine, masterful, self-made Irishman, are brilliantly revealed the ambitions and passions which governed this turbulent breed. This book was awarded the Hawthornden Prize in 1932'. First published in 1931 and then in 1949 by Penguin Books. Contains signature of Elizabeth Hall on first page.
- 1 item
256. 1951 Publication by O'Brien entitled 'Mary Lavelle'. First published in 1936 and then published by Penguin Books in 1951.
- 1 item
257. Summer 1957 Publication entitled 'Threshold', volume one, number two, which includes short story by O'Brien entitled 'A BUS FROM TIVOLI' which begins: 'IN the hot weather Marian liked to take, at random, one or other of the many buses that left the Piazza Termini...'
- 1 item
258. [October 1958] Program for play entitled 'The Hostage' by Brendan Behan, presented by Theatre Workshop at Theatre Royal, Angel Lane, Stratford, England.
- 1 item
259. [1950s] Publication entitled 'AS TO UNIVERSITY LIFE', by O'Brien, originally dated 21 June 1955 and printed in Autumn issue of University Review and then reprinted. Contains handwritten note by O'Brien on cover which reads 'This may amuse you, pet – frightful misprints and all! It is causing uproar in the Governing Body of U.C.D. – which was my hope & purpose in writing it. God bless you – Love from K.'
- 1 item

**P12/**

260. [1950s] Publication entitled 'The Tomb of Michael Collins', by Denis Devlin, reprinted from October issue of 'The Sewanee Review', 1956. Contains handwritten note on inside of cover which states 'to Kate O'Brien with best regards from Denis Devlin Rome, December 1956.'
- 1 item
261. Autumn 1964 Publication entitled 'P.E.N. NEWS', with subheading 'the bulletin of the ENGLISH CENTRE of INTERNATIONAL P.E.N.', number 202, produced at Glebe House, Glebe Place, London, S.W. 3. Contains note on cover in pencil which reads 'No apparent ref. to Kate'.
- 1 item
262. [May 1967] Program for bullfight at Plaza de Toros de Madrid from 13 to 28 May with marks in ink.
- 1 item
263. [1967] Flyer for play by Samuel Beckett 'Esperando A Godot', ('Waiting for Godot') performed in the Teatro Beatriz Nacional de Cámara y Ensayo in Spain.
- 1 item
264. [1960s] Publication entitled 'University Review', volume three, number four, which includes a paper by O'Brien entitled 'THE ART OF WRITING', which begins: 'In one of his early books, "The Sense of Beauty", George Santayana says this...' and is based on lecture originally delivered to the Graduates' Association on 2 May 1963.
- 1 item
265. 7 June 1970 Parish newsletter entitled 'SAINT GERMAIN DES PRÉS'.
- 1 item
266. [1970] Booklet entitled 'ENID MARY STARKIE 1897-1970', by Sir Maurice Bowra, which contains address given in the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, at the Memorial Service for Starkie on 28 May 1970. Includes handwritten note on cover which states 'Send this on to May – who might then return it to me?'
- 1 item

**P12/**

267. 1972 Booklet entitled 'POST OFFICE  
SUBSCRIBER TRUNK DIALLING  
Dialling Instructions and Call Charges  
...BOUGHTON', which contains handwritten names and phone-numbers on  
cover. 1 item
268. 15 May 1973 Letter from James Laver, Flat 4, 10 The  
Glebe, Blackheath, S.E. 3, to O'Brien  
referring to enclosure of a copy of his  
booklet of poetry entitled 'A Chaplet of Verses for Veronica', privately printed in  
1972. 2 items
269. [1981] Publication entitled 'The Stony Thursday  
Book', issue number seven, which  
contains a series of articles on the work of  
O'Brien, edited by John Liddy and Guest Editor, John Jordan. Some lines are  
marked and highlighted and correspond with handwritten notes in ink by Mary  
O'Neill on the back cover. 1 item
270. 19 March 1984 Sample of design for dust-jacket of novel  
(date of publication) 'Mary Lavelle', part of Virago Modern  
Classics Series. 1 item
271. [February 1991] Poster for The Kate O'Brien Weekend,  
entitled 'The writer and a sense of place'  
at Limerick City Gallery of Art, Pery  
Square, Limerick, from 22 to 24 February 1991. (Outsized). 1 item
272. n.d. Exhibition catalogue entitled '15  
exposición de primavera al aire libre' at  
Plaza de las Cortes between 14 and 28  
May. Some images are marked in ink. 1 item

## E. Kate O'Brien: Photographic Material

### I. Family and Friends [1890s-1960s]

273. [1890s] Black and white three-quarter length studio portrait of Catherine O'Brien in black with her left arm leaning on the back of a carved wooden chair as she looks away from the camera. 13.5 x 8.5cm
274. [1900] Black and white positive image on copper plate consisting of group portrait with Catherine O'Brien and her six children dressed in their finery. 10.5 x 7.8cm
275. 1902 Black and white studio portrait of Catherine O'Brien seated with two of her children, Kate and her brother, Michael. O'Brien stands on a chair beside her mother, and Michael sits on his mother's lap. A note written on the back in ink by O'Brien reads 'Mother, Michael & K.O.B. 1902.' Image is cropped. 7cm x 5cm
276. [1904] Black and white photograph of [Clare, Jack, May and Tom O'Brien standing at the end of a flight of stairs at [Boru House, county Limerick]. 14cm x 10cm
277. 1906 Black and white photograph of some of the O'Brien children playing on the beach at Kilkee, county Clare, with note on the back by Kate O'Brien which reads 'Kilkee 1906. Michael, Gerry, K. & Eric. (Brownie photo – May got a prize of 5/- for it.)' 5.8 x 8.5cm
278. [1907] Black and white group photograph of [O'Brien's class at Laurel Hill Convent, Limerick] seated at their desks. 6.6 x 9cm
279. [1907] (see P12/458 for letter) Black and white group photograph of [O'Brien and other school-girls from Laurel Hill Convent, county Limerick] and is enclosed with letter to O'Brien's sister Nance from school-friend, Mollie. 7.3 x 9.9cm

**P12/**

280. [1907] Black and white photograph of O'Brien holding a puppy with [her brother Thomas in Kilkee, county Clare.] Note on back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B with puppy' and another by O'Brien which states '£7 £1 in French Aug 12<sup>th</sup>'.  
6.5 x 8.5cm
281. [1911] Black and white photograph of O'Brien sitting on a bench with her hair in two plaits, and a large tree in the background.  
9 x 7.3cm
282. [1915] Black and white photograph of O'Brien with her hair tied back wearing a blouse and skirt and smiling at the camera. Image is cropped.  
8.1 x 3.4cm
283. [1916] Black and white photograph of O'Brien wearing black and in a seated position with her left arm outstretched on a striped seat behind her.  
6.2 x 8.9cm
284. [1916] Black and white photograph of O'Brien, her two sisters, [Clare and Nance, and her brother Michael] on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick. O'Brien is holding a walking stick and is seated beside Nance. One of a series of three similar images.  
7.2 x 8.7cm
285. [1916] Black and white photograph of [Michael, Nance, Clare and Kate O'Brien on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick, with Clare seated and Kate is holding a walking stick. One of a series of three similar images.  
10.8 x 8.2cm
286. [1916] Black and white photograph of [Clare, Nance, Kate and Michael O'Brien arranged on the steps of a statue of Christ on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick]. One of a series of three similar images.  
10.2 x 7.4cm
287. [1917] Black and white photograph of Mary Rynne, and Kate and Nance O'Brien sitting on garden chairs with their tennis rackets on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick. One of three similar images.  
5.5 x 11.3cm

**P12/**

288. [1917] Black and white photograph of Mary Rynne, and Kate and Nance O'Brien standing on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick, with their tennis rackets. One of three similar images.  
6.4 x 8cm
289. Same as P12/288
290. 1919 Black and white studio group portrait of O'Brien and her B.A. class in University College Dublin on their conferral.  
14 x 19.2cm
291. [1900s] Black and white photograph of trees [on grounds of Strand House, Limerick].  
6 x 8.3cm
292. Same as P12/291
293. [1920s] Black and white photograph of [O'Brien walking in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick].  
8.9 x 6.3cm
294. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and [her sister May] seated in the garden drinking tea with a white dog beside them.  
6.3 x 8.8cm
295. Same as P12/294
296. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien's flat at 33 Great James street, W.C., London, with view of bookshelves. Contains note on back by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K.O'B's flat at 33 Great James St WC'.  
3.7 x 4.5cm
297. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien's flat at 33 Great James street, W.C., London, with view of fireplace. Contains note on back by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K.O'B's flat at 33 Great James St Bloomsbury WC'.  
4.7 x 4cm

**P12/**

298. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in her flat at 66 Great Ormond street, London, seated on the arm of a chair with a newspaper on her lap and framed pictures in the background. One of two similar images, and image is cropped.  
8.4 x 6.5cm
299. [1920s] Black and white photograph of [Nance, Kate and May O'Brien] in flat at 66 Great Ormond street, London, sitting on a chair with pictures in the background. One of two similar images.  
8.5 x 8.7cm
300. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and [her sister Nance] at flat at 66 Great Ormond street, London, seated facing each-other and joining hands.  
14 x 8.1cm
301. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing outside a brick house in the snow, holding a snowball.  
13.5 x 8cm
302. [1920s] Black and white photograph of [O'Brien's sister Nance] in profile seated at a balcony with a pile of papers on her lap. Includes handwritten note on back which reads 'Nance?'  
14 x 8.9cm
303. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien's head and shoulders in profile.  
12.5 x 8cm
304. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in black descending a staircase with a decorative door-case behind her. Image is cropped.  
6.5 x 8.2cm
305. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in white standing with her hands behind her back [on the grounds of Strand House, Limerick].  
13.1 x 6.9cm

**P12/**

306. [1920s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and her husband Gustaff Renier standing at a window facing each-other. Image is cropped.  
8cm x 10.3cm
307. [1928] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and Ruth Stephens outside a house. O'Brien sits on the windowsill smoking a cigarette whilst Ruth is stretched out on a table reading. Contains a note on the back recorded in ink by O'Brien which reads 'K.O'B. & Ruth Stephens. [Sanyathi] – 1928'.  
5.8 x 8.2cm
308. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien amongst the rocks at the seaside working on a draft of her novel 'Without My Cloak'. Includes handwritten note on back in ink which reads 'Kate O'Brien working on Without My Cloak. Book Society Choice here for December. My choice months ago, and here's hoping you have as good [going] as you did on Dr. Seracold Grand Hotel, etc. Mary Leonard. Doubleday Doran.'  
14 x 9cm
309. [1930s] Cropped black and white photograph of O'Brien in the garden with a shovel. Image is cropped.  
8.8 x 2cm
310. [1930s] A group of seven black and white photographs pasted on a single sheet of paper with images of [O'Brien, Nance and Stephen O'Mara, and their son, Peter O'Mara, on the grounds of Strand House and at the beach in Kilkee, county Clare].  
25.4 x 20.6cm  
(measurement of sheet)
311. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien having tea with Ruth Stephens, with note on back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B Ruth Stephen's in background (Ruth in childhood)'.  
5.6 x 8.3cm
312. 1932 Black and white photograph of a brick building and its grounds with note on the back written by O'Brien which reads 'Foxborough Hill – 1932'.  
5.8 x 8cm

**P12/**

313. [1930s] Black and white photograph of a brick building and its grounds with motor-car in the foreground with [O'Brien] inside. Note on the back written by Mary O'Neill which reads 'Foxborough Hill (house) in background'.  
6 x 8.4cm
314. [1932] Black and white photograph of [Jack, Ida, Kay, Kate, Tom, Gerry and Clare O'Brien outside Mulcair House, county Limerick] Contains handwritten note by O'Brien in ink on the back which reads 'Jack & family. Gerry & K.O'B. Summer 1932?'  
6 x 8.5cm
315. [1930s] Black and white photograph of [Peter O'Mara] as a baby in a pram.  
6 x 6.5cm
316. [1930s] Black and white photograph of [Peter O'Mara] as a young boy looking back over his right shoulder at the camera. Image is cropped.  
6.2 x 5.3cm
317. 1936 Black and white photograph of O'Brien's head and shoulders as she looks at the camera, with note on back in her handwriting which reads 'K.O'B. 1936.'  
6.5 x 5.6cm
318. 1936 Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing with her arms by her sides outside the arched entrance of a stone building. Note on the back records the following in O'Brien's handwriting 'K. O'B. Deal -1936. (Taken by J.W.)'  
8.5 x 5.9cm
319. July 1935 Black and white photograph of Peter O'Mara and his aunt, Kate O'Brien, on beach at Glin, county Limerick, with both figures with their backs to the camera and facing the water. Handwritten note on the back by O'Brien saying 'Glin - July 1935.'  
11.1 x 7.5cm
320. Same as P12/319
321. [July 1935] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and her nephew, Peter O'Mara at Foynes, county Limerick, with vegetation and

**P12/**

water in the background. Handwritten note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Foynes. 1935.'

10.9cm x 7.8cm

322. [1935] Black and white photograph of O'Brien, and Nance and Peter O'Mara sitting in a garden. O'Brien is sitting on a step reading a paper, with Nance beside her holding an umbrella, and Peter is on one of a pair of deckchairs to the right of the image.  
14.2 x 8.5cm
323. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien sitting with her legs crossed and her hands on her knees in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick.  
9.4 x 4.5cm
324. [1935] Black and white photograph of O'Brien sitting with Peter O'Mara standing beside her in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick. Contains a note in pencil on back by Mary O'Neill saying 'K O'B with Peter O'Mara'. One of a series of nine similar images, and image is cropped.  
7.7 x 4.5cm
325. Same as P12/324 but with note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Strand House. K. O'B. & Peter O'M. 1935' and measures 8.4 x 6cm.
326. [1935] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick, smiling at the camera. Contains a note on the back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B'. One of a series of nine similar images.  
8 x 6.2cm
327. Same as P12/326 and P12/328
328. Same as P12/326 and P12/327 but measures 9.5cm x 7cm
329. [1935] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in profile standing in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick, with a cigarette in her left hand. Contains a note in pencil by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B'. One of a series of nine similar images.  
9.5cm x 7cm

**P12/**

330. 1935 Black and white photograph of O'Brien and Peter O'Mara standing in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick. Contains a note on the back in ink by O'Brien which reads 'K. O'B. & Peter O'M. Strand House 1935'. One of a series of nine similar images, and image is cropped.  
8 x 6.1cm
331. July 1935 Black and white photograph of O'Brien smiling at the camera as she stands with a cigarette in her left hand in the grounds of Strand House, Limerick. Contains a note on the back in ink by O'Brien which reads 'July 1935. Strand House garden.' One of a series of nine similar images.  
8.3 x 13.2cm
332. Same as P12/331 but a smaller format measuring 8 x 11.1cm and contains note on back also by O'Brien which reads 'July 1935 at Strand House.'
333. July 1938 Black and white photograph of interior with view of O'Brien and others on the balcony outside. Image is dated on back in O'Brien's handwriting.  
8cm x 10.5cm
334. [1930s] Black and white photograph of [Father Paddy O'Mara or possibly Monsignor Cahill, Nance, Kate O'Brien, and Stephen O'Mara all seated in the garden at [Strand House, Limerick] with a view of the windows of the house behind them.  
6.1 x 11.5cm
335. [1937] Black and white photograph of Peter O'Mara on his bicycle to the left of the image, with O'Brien seated on a chair in the background talking to Stephen O'Mara who is sitting on the pavement outside Strand House, Limerick. Contains note on the back in O'Brien's handwriting which reads 'K. O'B, Stephen & Peter – Strand House, '37?'  
6.1 x 8.8cm
336. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien lying on the ground with her head turned towards the camera and a dog beside her, [in the grounds of Strand House, county Limerick].  
6.3 x 9cm
337. 1939 Black and white photograph of Peter, Nance and Stephen O'Mara sitting in the grounds of Strand House, county Limerick with a black dog.  
5.8 x 7cm

**P12/**

338. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in [England] sitting against a timber fence with a field in the background, facing the camera. Contains note on back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which states 'K O'B'.  
8.5 x 6cm
339. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing on a beach in [Roundstone, county Galway], with a view of a boat and some bathers in the distance. Contains note on back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which states 'K O'B'.  
9cm x 6.4cm
340. [1930s] Black and white photograph of Kate O'Brien with [Tom, Clare and Kay O'Brien] beside a large hay stack. Contains a note in pencil on the back which reads "TIMES BOOK CLUB!"  
8.4 x 5.9cm
341. [1940s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien leaning against a wooden bridge in the countryside and facing the camera. Contains note on back in pencil by Mary O'Neill which states 'K O'B'.  
8.7 x 6cm
342. [1945] Black and white photograph of Nance and Peter O'Mara standing in garden of house at Corofin, county Clare. Contains note on back in ink by O'Brien which reads 'Corofin. Nance & Peter – 1945.'  
8.5 x 6 item
343. [1940s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien with Monsignor Cahill seated in front of a house.  
8 x 9cm
344. [1940s] Black and white postcard of O'Brien standing behind a bench looking straight at the camera holding her handbag and a cigarette in her left hand at [Strand House, county Limerick].  
14 x 8.8cm
345. 22 November 1951 Black and white photograph of O'Brien in Oxford street, London, smiling at the camera as her left hand searches her bag  
And with a view of a van behind her.  
9cm x 14cm

**P12/**

346. [1950s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien smiling at the camera and leaning against a glass structure.  
13.5 x 8.5cm
347. 1950 Black and white photograph of O'Brien in Roundstone, county Galway, leaning against a stone wall with a small kitten resting on her chest. Contains a handwritten note in ink on back by O'Brien which reads 'K O'B. Roundstone 1950.'  
8.5 x 6.4cm
348. 1952 Black and white photograph of Gerry O'Brien with his sister Kate standing outside the bay window of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway. Contains a handwritten note in ink on back by O'Brien which reads 'K. O'B & Gerry, Roundstone '52.'  
5 x 7.5cm
349. [1952] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing in the doorway of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, smiling at the camera with her right hand in her pocket. One of five similar images.  
3.5 x 4.5cm
350. [1952] Black and white photograph of a boy standing in front of the bay window at The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, smiling at the camera with his hands behind his back. One of five similar images.  
4.5 x 3.5cm
351. [1952] Black and white photograph of [Clare] and Kate O'Brien standing in the doorway of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, smiling at the camera. One of five similar images.  
4.5 x 3.5cm
352. [1952] Black and white photograph of two girls standing in the doorway of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway. One of five similar images.  
4.5 x 3.5cm
353. [1952] Black and white photograph of streetscape with trees and the corner of a building.  
3.5 x 4.5cm
354. Black and white negative of P12/349

**P12/**

355. Black and white negative of P12/350
356. Black and white negative of P12/351
357. Black and white negative of P12/352
358. Black and white negative of P12/353
359. Black and white negative of image consisting of a landscape with trees.
360. 1952 Black and white photograph of May O'Brien in profile sitting on a wall in Roundstone, county Galway, with a view of the sea behind her. Contains note on back by Kate O'Brien which reads 'M.O'B. Roundstone '52?'  
6.3 x 6.5cm
361. [1953] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing in the doorway of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, with her left hand in her pocket as she pulls the door with her right. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Roundstone – K.O.B. 1953?'  
6 x 9cm
362. [1953] Black and white photograph of Gerry, John, Donough and Kate O'Brien posing beside a stone wall in Roundstone, county Galway. Contains note on the back by Kate O'Brien which reads 'Roundstone '53? Gerry, John, Donough, K. O'B.'  
6 x 9cm
363. [1953] Black and white photograph of view of Roundstone, county Galway, from O'Brien's garden in The Fort, consisting of a number of trees, with the sea and some houses in the distance. Contains note on the back by O'Brien which reads 'Roundstone from my garden – K. O'B.'  
8.6 x 5.9cm
364. [1953] Black and white photograph of view of Roundstone, county Galway, from O'Brien's garden in The Fort, consisting of the bay and mountains in the distance. Contains note on the back by O'Brien which reads 'Roundstone – the bays & the Twelve Bens – from my garden. K. O'B.'  
5.7 x 8.7cm

**P12/**

365. 1953 Black and white photograph of three girls standing on a beach in their swimsuits and holding hands as they smile at the camera. Contains handwritten note on back which reads '1953'.  
6.5 x 11cm
366. [1950s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien dressed in white standing on a balcony with her right hand in her pocket.  
8.8 x 6cm
367. August 1953 Black and white photograph of O'Brien leaning on her walking stick as she stands with actress Joyce Grenfell at Errismore Races, Connemara, county Galway, with an open space behind them. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Kate O'Brien & Joyce Grenfell Errismore Races August 1953.'  
11.4 x 8.8cm
368. [1953] Black and white photograph of Kate O'Brien with Maggie Knight standing in a Barren landscape at Eragh Lough. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Maggie Knight & K. O' B. Eragh Lough – 1953?'  
6.5 x 9cm
369. [1950s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien and two other women in [Clifden, county Galway] with church and other buildings in the background.  
8 x 11.7cm
370. [1950s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in her cloak and spectacles facing the camera whilst a second woman explores the rocks behind her.  
8 x 11.7cm
371. [1950s] Black and white photograph of group of children joining hands and playing in a garden, with a washing-line and trees in the background.  
7 x 11.5cm
372. [1950s] Black and white photograph of a woman and child on her lap in a garden.  
11.5 x 7cm

**P12/**

373. 5 February 1957 Black and white photograph of Peter and Mary O'Mara standing with linked arms, Peter carrying his hat in his left hand and Mary carrying a handbag on her left arm as they smile at the camera. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads '- On the Way- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1957.'
- 13.8 x 8.5cm
374. [1957] Black and white photograph of Peter and Mary O'Mara standing in formal wear and holding hands as they smile at the camera. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Peter & Mary – In Ball.' Image is cropped.
- 7.5 x 5.5cm
375. June 1959 Black and white photograph of the front elevation of The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway, framed by trees. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'June 1959. The Fort, Roundstone.' Image is cropped.
- 8.5 x 6.3cm
376. August 1961 Black and white photograph of Clare and Anne O'Mara playing with their toys on the grounds of Strand House, county Limerick. Contains note by O'Brien on back of image which reads 'at New Strand House Aug. 1961'. One of three similar images.
- 8 x 10cm
377. August 1961 Black and white photograph of Clare and Anne O'Mara playing with their toys on the grounds of Strand House, county Limerick. One of three similar images.
- 9 x 11.5cm
378. August 1961 Black and white photograph of Clare and Anne O'Mara playing with their toys on the grounds of Strand House, county Limerick. One of three similar images.
- 9 x 11.5cm
379. [1961] Black and white photograph of Anne O'Mara in a summer dress carrying a [racket] in her left hand as she smiles at the camera. Contains note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Anne about to do some garden-work.'
- 8.5 x 6.3cm

**P12/**

380. [1961] Black and white photograph of Mary, Anne and Clare O'Mara inside Strand House, county Limerick, with the children playing on the floor. 6 x 8.5cm
381. [1964] Black and white photograph of a group of people gathering at an event at Toor Ballylee, county Galway relating to William Butler Yeats. 24 x 19.5cm
382. [1960s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing with an elderly lady in a summer hat and leaning on two walking sticks, with a garden chair behind them. Stamp of Owen and Moroney Commercial Photographers, Shepherds Bush W. 12 on the back. One of two similar images. 21 x 16cm
383. [1960s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien standing with an elderly lady in a summer hat and leaning on two walking sticks, with a garden chair behind them. Stamp of Owen and Moroney Commercial Photographers, Shepherds Bush W. 12 on the back. One of two similar images. 16 x 21cm
384. [1960s] Cropped colour photograph of O'Brien standing in a garden facing the camera, with a brick building behind her. Image is cropped. 12.5 x 5.5cm
385. [1960s] Black and white photograph of [José M. De Areilza and his family] posing together in front of a large tapestry. 20.5 x 25.4cm
386. [1960s] Colour photograph of O'Brien's neighbours in Roundstone, county Galway, Mary Connolly and her family, outside the entrance of a house. 9 x 9cm
387. [1960s] Colour photograph of Mary Connolly, standing behind the bar at [her public house in Roundstone, county Galway]. 9 x 12.5cm

**P12/**

388. [1960s]  
(see P12/459 for letter) Black and white photograph of Mary Connolly and her grandson from Roundstone, county Galway, sitting on a bench. Enclosed with a letter from Connolly to O'Brien.  
6 x 6.4cm
389. [1960s]  
(see P12/459 for letter) Black and white photograph of Mary Connolly's grandchildren sitting under a Christmas tree. Enclosed with a letter from Connolly to O'Brien.  
8 x 8cm

**II. Portraits of Kate O'Brien [1919-1960s]**

a. Studio Portraits [1919-1950s]

390. 1919 Black and white portrait of O'Brien with a frontal view of her seated in University College Dublin graduation garb holding her BA degree. Is mounted on paper and contains stamp of Keogh & Brothers Limited, Lower Dorset Street and Stephen's Green, Dublin.  
15 x 10cm
391. [1920s] Black and white three-quarter length portrait of O'Brien in profile by Lafayette. The subject is leaning against a table and is in casual dress. The image is mounted in paper and contained within a card which states 'With Best Wishes' on the cover. A note on the back of the photograph reads 'Miss Kate O'Brien'.  
14.5 x 9.5cm
392. [1926] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien in profile, sitting in a summer dress with her chin resting on her hand. The image is mounted on paper and is signed Yevonde. On the back of the mount is a stamp which reads 'MADAME YEVONDE, 100 VICTORIA ST. S.W.'  
20 x 15cm
393. 1926 Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien with a frontal view of the subject in a summer dress. The image is signed Sáscha and contains stamp on the rear which reads ' "PHOTOGRAPH BY SASHA" 7, SUFFOLK ST., PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W. 1...' and in addition, handwritten notes by Mary O'Neill in ink which state the following,

**P12/**

'Kate O'Brien (1926) (Taken during the rehearsals of her play "Distinguished Villa" ' and also contains O'Neill's contact details.

33cm x 25.5cm

394. Same as P12/393 but excluding the handwritten notes by Mary O'Neill.
395. [1930s] Black and white portrait of O'Brien with a frontal, head and shoulder view of the subject. The image is mounted on paper and is signed in pencil by Howard Coster, London. The back of the photograph contains a note in pencil which reads 'A Kate O'Brien'. One of four similar images.  
21 x 15cm
396. Same as P12/395 but the back of the image contains the letter A.
397. [1930s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien who is looking away from the camera. The image is mounted on paper and is signed in pencil by Howard Coster, London. The back of the photograph contains the letter D in pencil. The image is mounted on paper and the mount contains a handwritten note in ink which reads 'Kate O'Brien. A's Godmother'. A handwritten note on the cover reads 'Kate'. One of four similar images.  
20.7 x 14cm
398. [1930s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien who is looking away from the camera. The image is mounted on paper and is signed in pencil by Howard Coster, London. The back of the photograph contains the letter C in pencil. The image is mounted on paper. One of four similar images.  
21 x 15cm
399. [1930s] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien in profile in a seated position wearing a suit and gloves. The back of the image contains some handwritten notes including one by Mary O'Neill in ink which identifies O'Brien as the subject and includes O'Neill's contact details. In addition, further information is supplied in pencil, recording O'Brien as 'novelist', providing another address for O'Neill in Illington, Norfolk, and is signed 'Love from Elizabeth'. A stamp on the back reads 'PORTRAIT BY HOWARD COSTER F.R.S.A.'  
20.5 x 16cm
400. Same as P12/399 but without notes on back and measures 24 x 15cm.

**P12/**

401. [1930s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien with frontal view of subject produced by Reprograph Studio, 10 Long Acre, W.C. 2. One of two similar images. 24 x 19cm
402. [1930s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien with frontal view of subject produced by Reprograph Studio, 10 Long Acre, W.C. 2. One of two similar images. 24 x 19cm
403. [1940s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien with frontal view of the subject. The image is mounted and contains stamp of Blackstone Studios, 20 West 57<sup>th</sup> street, New York, on the cover. (Outsized). 24 x 19cm
404. Same as P12/403. (Outsized).
405. [1940s] Black and white head and shoulder portrait of O'Brien in profile. The image is mounted and contains stamp of Blackstone Studios, 20 West 57<sup>th</sup> street, New York, on the cover. (Outsized). 24 x 19cm
406. Same as P12/405 but without the mount and measures 25.3 x 20.3cm
407. [1940s] Black and white, half-length rough proof portrait of O'Brien dressed in black in a seated position, with left arm resting on a chair. Contains a stamp on the back of the image for studio of Howard and Joan Coster, and in addition, a copyright number. 17.5 x 15.2cm
408. [1950s] Black and white, half-length rough proof portrait of O'Brien with a frontal view of her seated at a table with a pen in her hand and a packet of cigarettes beside her. One of four similar images. 14 x 9.5cm
409. [1950s] Black and white, half-length rough proof portrait of O'Brien with a frontal view of her seated at a table with a cigarette in her hand. One of four similar images. 14 x 9.5cm

**P12/**

410. [1950s] Black and white, half-length rough proof portrait of O'Brien consisting of a frontal view of her seated with a mirror behind her. One of four similar images. 14 x 9.5cm
411. [1950s] Black and white, half-length rough proof portrait of O'Brien consisting of a frontal view of her seated with a cigarette in her right hand and a mirror behind her. One of four similar images. 14 x 9.5cm

b. Painted Portraits [1936-1950s]

412. 1936 Photograph of a painted portrait of O'Brien's head and shoulders signed by Mary O'Neill. Contains a sticker on the back from the National Portrait Gallery, London. 20 x 15cm
413. 1949 Two copies of a black and white photograph of a signed and dated sketch of O'Brien's head and shoulders in profile by Mary O'Neill. 18.5 x 15cm
414. [1950s] Photograph of a framed painted portrait of O'Brien with a book in front of her and holding a cigarette in her left hand. The subject is posing in front of a landscape. Painting by [Mary O'Neill]. 27.5 x 23cm

c. Other portraits [1950s-1960s]

415. [1950s] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien in [Roundstone, county Galway] with her hands in her pockets as she looks away from the camera. Contains handwritten note on back which says 'Kate' and the stamp of the Irish News Agency, Dublin. One of six similar images. 14.5 x 15cm
416. Same as P12/415 but measures 25.8 x 20.3cm
417. [1950s] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien with a cigarette in her left hand and seated at desk [in her house in

**P12/**

Roundstone, county Galway]. Contains the stamp of the Irish News Agency, Dublin and is one of six similar images.

25.8 x 20.3cm

418. [1950s] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien with a black cat in [Roundstone, county Galway]. Contains the stamp of the Irish News Agency, Dublin and is one of six similar images.

25.8 x 20.3cm

419. [1950s] Black and white half-length portrait of O'Brien with her glasses in her hands as she leans against a stone wall in [Roundstone, county Galway] and looks away from the camera. Contains the stamp of the Irish News Agency, Dublin, and is one of six similar images.

25.8 x 20.3cm

420. Same as P12/419.

421. [1960s] Black and white portrait of O'Brien seated in [her home in Boughton, Kent] with a cat on her knees and a typewriter behind her.

21.6 x 15.2cm

**III. Home and Away [1932-1973]**

a. O'Brien abroad [1932-1960s]

422. 1932 Black and white photograph of O'Brien sitting on a balcony writing. Contains note on back written by O'Brien which reads 'KO'B. Sardinero, Santander. 1932.'

8.4 x 5.5cm

423. 1933 Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking down a street in Madrid, Spain, carrying books and looking away from the camera, with the pillars of a building and people in the background. Includes handwritten note by O'Brien on back which reads 'K. O' B. Madrid 1933.' Very similar to P12/424.

7 x 5cm

424. 1933 Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking down a street in Madrid, Spain, carrying books and looking to away from the camera, with the pillars of a building and people in the background. Includes

**P12/**

handwritten note by O'Brien on back which reads 'K. O' B. Madrid 1933.' Very similar to P12/423.

7 x 5cm

425. 1933 Black and white photograph of O'Brien in Spain sitting in a café under a striped umbrella smiling at the camera. Contains a note written by O'Brien on the back which reads 'K. O'B. Pasio del Prado, Madrid. Summer, 1933. (Taken by M. O'N.)'

9 x 6cm

426. 1934 Black and white photograph of El Escorial, Spain, with an open space flanked by buildings and trees. Contains handwritten note by O'Brien on back which reads 'El Escorial, Spain. Summer '34. Taken by M. O'N.'

6 x 9cm

427. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking down a street in [Madrid], Spain, carrying a newspaper in her left hand as she looks straight ahead. There are a number of people, trees and buildings in the background. Contains handwritten note on back by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B in Spain'. One of three very similar images.

7 x 5cm

428. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking down a street in [Madrid], Spain, carrying a newspaper in her left hand as she looks straight ahead. There are a number of people, trees and buildings in the background. Contains handwritten note on back by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B in Spain'. One of three very similar images.

7 x 5cm

429. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking down a street in [Madrid], Spain, carrying a newspaper in her left hand as she looks straight ahead. There are a number of people, trees and buildings in the background. Contains handwritten note on back by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B in Spain (street photographer)'. One of three very similar images.

7 x 5cm

430. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in [Paris, France] standing with her right arm leaning on railings as she faces the camera. Contains handwritten note by Mary O'Neill which reads 'K O'B (in Paris?)'

9 x 6cm

**P12/**

431. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in Ostende, Spain, sitting at a table in a café overlooking the street. Contains handwritten note by Mary O'Neill on back which reads 'K O'B Ostende'. Very similar to P12/432. 4.5 x 3.5cm
432. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien in Ostende, Spain, standing beside a café overlooking the street. Contains handwritten note by Mary O'Neill on back which reads 'K O'B Ostende'. Very similar to P12/431. 4 x 3.2cm
433. [1930s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien walking towards the camera on a street in [Spain], with her handbag in her left hand and her umbrella in her right, and a man standing in the background. 13 x 9cm
434. [1950s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien sitting in a café under an umbrella in [Rome, Italy] looking away from the camera towards the crowd. 9 x 9cm
435. Same as P12/434
436. [1950s] Black and white photograph of a busy café on a street in [Rome, Italy] with O'Brien sitting at a table amongst the crowd, looking away from the camera. 9 x 9cm
437. Same as P12/436
438. [1960s] Black and white photograph of O'Brien descending from an airplane in [Madrid, Spain], her left hand clutching the rail and with a case in her right hand. Image is contained on a postcard. 14 x 9cm

**P12/**

b. Roundstone, county Galway [1950s]

439. [1950s] Black and white photograph of a street in Roundstone, county Galway, with people going about their daily business and a bicycle in the left foreground. Contains stamp of Irish News Agency, Dublin, on the back.  
16.5 x 18.5cm
440. [1950s] Black and white photograph of three men in caps standing at the bridge at Roundstone, county Galway. Contains stamp of Irish News Agency, Dublin, on the back.  
14.5 x 19cm
441. [1950s] Black and white photograph of the bridge in Roundstone, county Galway, with a number of figures (including the three men from P12/440) and a view of some of the houses in the village. Contains stamp of Irish News Agency, Dublin, on the back.  
19.5 x 24cm
442. [1950s] Black and white photograph of a young boy in a timber boat in [Roundstone, county Galway]. There is a second boat behind him with a view of the Twelve Pins in the distance. Contains stamp of Irish News Agency, Dublin, on the back.  
19.5 x 24cm

c. Boughton, Kent [1973]

443. [1973] Seven colour photographs of O'Brien's house at 177 The Street, Boughton, Kent, including an image of a woman standing at the entrance and a number of views of the front and back elevations of the property.  
9 x 9cm
445. [1973] Negatives of six images of O'Brien's house at 177 The Street, Boughton, Kent.  
2 items

**IV. Other images (1950 – 1965)**

446. 1950 Black and white photograph of director, Guthrie McClintic on a beach looking out

**P12/**

- at the water. Contains note on back written by O'Brien which reads 'Guthrie McClintic. Martha's Vineyard, 1950.' Image is cropped.  
5.5 x 7.5cm
447. 1952-[1953] Thirteen black and white photographs of mostly sites in Clare, Galway and Limerick including the Burren, county Clare, Noughaville Church, county Clare, Neylon's Tomb in Kilnaboy, county Clare, Kilfenora, county Clare, Pearse's Cottage, county Galway, and Coole House, county Galway. Also includes an image of the [Hanley family]. Each photograph contains a note by [Mary Hanley] identifying the location of the image and providing some historical information.  
(Most images measuring 11 x 6.5cm)
448. 27 September 1957 Two black and white passport-sized photographs of O'Brien.  
6.2 x 4.5cm
449. [1950s] Eleven black and white photographs mostly of cats, Kelly and La Grise at The Fort, Roundstone, county Galway. Some images contain handwritten notes by O'Brien on the back.  
(Images vary in measurements)
450. [1950s] Black and white photograph of two young women with a pram talking to a man accompanied by his donkey.  
6.5 x 6.5cm
451. [1950s] Black and white photograph of two women seated outside a house, one of which has a baby on her lap and is sitting beside a pram.  
6.5 x 6.5cm
452. [1950s] Black and white photograph of a nun holding a baby outside a brick building.  
9 x 6cm
453. [1960] Colour photograph of a wooden chair in a garden with notes in ink on the back relating to measurements of some of O'Brien's furniture. Also notes O'Brien's address in Boughton.  
12.5 x 9cm
454. 2 June 1965 Black and white photograph of statue of Saint Anne with Our Lady and the Infant,

**P12/**

Jesus, at Aylesford Friary, Kent. Contains handwritten note on back by O'Brien which reads 'Saint Anne (with Our Lady and the Infant Jesus)...Aylesford Friary. June 2, 1965.'

14 x 9cm

455. [1960s] Black and white photograph of a house and its front garden.  
6.5 x 6.5cm

456. October 1965 Black and white photograph of the International Congress of Comunità Europea degli Scrittori in Rome. O'Brien is sitting in the third row from the front with a walking stick in her right hand. Caption at the bottom reads 'COMES COMUNITÀ EUROPEA DEGLI SCRITTORI Congresso Internazionale Roma, 6-9 ottobre 1965'.  
23.7cm x 18cm

457. [January 1972]  
(see P12/460 for letter)  
Two black and white photographs of O'Brien with colleagues at a dinner organised by University of Madrid and enclosed with a letter.  
(Images measure 12 x 18cm)

**V. Enclosures (1959-1972)**

458. 29 June 1959  
(see P12/279)  
Letter from Mollie, a school-friend of Nance O'Mara's, from county Clare, which refers to enclosure of photograph of schoolgirls from [Laurel Hill Convent, county Limerick].  
2 items

459. 22 December 1960  
(see P12/388 & P12/389)  
Letter from Mary E. Connolly, Roundstone, county Galway, to O'Brien, outlining all of her news from Roundstone and referring to the enclosure of photographs.  
2 items

460. 13 January 1972  
(see P12/457)  
Letter from P. Cradock, Secretary of Irish Embassy, London, 17, Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1 to O'Brien referring to photographs received by Ambassador to Spain from Prof. Sanchez Castañer, Dean of Faculty of Philosophy and Literature at University of Madrid.  
1p.

## F. Kate O'Brien: End of an Era

### I. Sickness and Death (1974)

461. 13 July 1974  
Handwritten list of possessions owned by O'Brien, having been transferred to Canterbury Hospital and under the care of Dr. Taylor. Signed by O'Brien.  
1p.
462. 30 July 1974  
Letter to O'Brien at 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, from writer, Antonia White, referring to health matters.  
2 items
463. 13 August 1974  
Deceased Patient's Effects form in name of Miss Kathleen O'Brien from Canterbury Group Hospital Management Committee, Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, which records patient's name, ward, date, and description of articles, and is signed by Mary O'Neill and witnessed by [E. Bifold].  
1p.
464. 19 August 1974 -  
5 June 1981  
Two certified copies of death certificate of O'Brien, recording date and place of death as thirteenth August 1974 at Kent and Canterbury Hospital in Canterbury, occupation as novelist and playwright, and cause of death as being bronchopneumonia, peripheral vascular disease and above knee amputation of left leg. The first copy contains the stamp of Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited, Whitehall Branch, 15 Whitehall, London, S.W.1.  
2 items
465. [August 1974]  
Card from Nance O'Mara to Elizabeth Hall, in appreciation for sympathy and flowers stating 'We shall all miss Kate greatly'.  
1p.
466. 25 September 1974  
Letter from Nance O'Mara, New Strand House, Limerick, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 4RE, regarding O'Brien's leg amputation and arrangements for her funeral, stating 'Of course I am willing and have never had any other intention but to pay the funeral expenses...at least I am able to deal with any financial problems of Kate's'. Some lines are underlined in red.  
2 items

**P12/**

467. 17 October 1974 Letter from Antonia White, 42D Courtfield Gardens, S.W. 5, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 4RE, regarding O'Brien's death, stating 'I had known her for some forty years and was very, very fond of her and admired her so much, both as a writer & as a person. She had such indomitable courage & humour & such extraordinary charm.'
- 2 items

**II. Administration of the Estate (1961-1975)**

a. Last Will and Testament (1961-1974)

468. 14 January 1961  
(see P12/469 and P12/470) Photocopy of the last Will and Testament of O'Brien, Minerva Club, 28A Brunswick Square, London, W.C.1, appointing The National Bank Limited, 15 Whitehall, W.W.1 as sole executors of her affairs after her death, and Mary Cecelia O'Neill of 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 4RE as literary executrix, giving O'Neill sole access to papers, letters and writings after O'Brien's death. In addition, bequeaths all possessions including books, furniture and pictures that are in storage with C oras Iompair  ireann (C.I.E.) in Dublin and all other effects of hers to O'Neill. In relation to her estate, O'Brien leaves the income from half of the copyrights (novels, dramas, film, radio, sound and television and all translated versions of works) to O'Neill and the other half to her sister Mary O'Brien, 13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, and on Mary's death, to become the property of two nephews, John and Donough O'Brien, Lanahrone Avenue, Corbally, Limerick, and divides all royalties fifty-fifty between the legatees. O'Brien states that as literary executrix, O'Neill can allow only the publication or reprinting of such writings as have been prepared for publication and states that there shall be no publication at any time of O'Brien's letters. Signed by O'Brien and witnessed by Yvonne Kapp and Margaret Mynett. Enclosed with photocopy of Codicil of Will and letter from William & Glyn's Trust Company Limited.
- 4pp.
469. 29 May 1964  
(see P12/468 and P12/470) Photocopy of Codicil of Will dated 14 January 1961 which bequeaths the Property, 177 The Street Boughton near Canterbury, Kent, to her sister, Nance O'Mara (Anne) of New Strand House, Limerick, and in the event that her sister predecease her, to Anne's son, Peter Joseph O'Mara of 25 Lanahrone Avenue, Corbally, Limerick. Signed by O'Brien and witnessed by R.M. [ ] and J.F. Vaughan, and contains the stamp of the National Bank Limited, Whitehall Branch. Enclosed with photocopy of last will and Testament and letter from William & Glyn's Trust Company Limited.

1p.

**P12/**

470. 20 August 1974  
(see P12/468 and P12/469) Letter from D. F. G. Barnes, Assistant Manager of Williams & Glyn's Trust Company Limited, 13 to 17 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1DL, to Mary O'Neill, carer of 177 The Street, Boughton, North Canterbury, Kent, referring to Kate O'Brien's estate, their decision to formally renounce the right to a Grant of Probate, and the enclosure of copies of O'Brien's Will and Codicil.

2pp.

b. Property in Boughton, Kent (1974)

471. 8 October 1974 Postcard with handwritten note from Marie E. Chilver, Antiques, Oak Lodge, Boughton, North Faversham, Kent, which states 'Contents of 177 The Street Boughton. Less £20 valuation fee £380.00. Signed by Chilver and by V.H. Ruddock West. Contains note in pencil on front which reads 'Books estimated £35-£40' in handwriting of Mary O'Neill.

1p.

472. 14 October 1974 Letter from Marie Chilver, Oak Lodge, Boughton, Faversham, Kent ME13 9BH, to Mary O'Neill, referring to enclosed list of contents of 177 The Street, Boughton, which itemises and prices the contents of each room. Documents contain notes by Mary O'Neill summarising their contents.

2 items

c. Anthony Newell, Solicitor (1975)

473. 16 April 1975 Handwritten letter from John O'Brien, 13 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, to Mary O'Neill, regarding issues including dealings with the firm Anthony Newell, Solicitor, royalties and negotiations with RTE over payment.

4pp.

474. 9 June 1975 Letter from the firm, Anthony Newell, Solicitor, Kent, to John G. O'Brien, Bridge House, Baggot Street Bridge, Dublin 4, regarding administration of estate, and in particular, O'Brien's income tax affairs. Also refers to O'Brien's marriage and birth certificates held in care of Williams & Glyn's Bank and the enclosure of administration account and statement of firm's charges.

3 Items

**P12/**

475. 25 June 1975 Letter from the firm, Anthony Newell, Solicitor, 43 Court Street, Faversham, Kent, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, regarding estate, noting that it had been possible to clear all liabilities of the estate and the firm's costs due to assistance given from executors of Mrs. [Anne] O'Mara's estate and substantial payment from David Higham. 1p.
476. 9 July 1975 Letter from the firm, Anthony Newell, Solicitor, Kent, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, regarding the administration account. 1p.

**III. Mary O'Neill as Literary Executrix (1974-1987)**

a. David Higham Associates Limited (1974-1975)

477. 21 August 1974 Letter from David Higham, Director of David Higham Associates Limited, Authors' Agents, 5 - 8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London, W1R 4HA, to Mary O'Neill, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, regarding the issue of literary executor. 1p.
478. 31 January 1975 Letter from David Higham, Director of David Higham Associates Limited, London, to Mary O'Neill, 177 The Street, Boughton, Faversham, Kent, regarding some of O'Brien's material, stating 'Very sadly, I don't think that these few pieces have any value either as manuscripts or for publication.' 1p.

b. Lorna Reynolds (1981-1987)

479. 11 March 1981 Handwritten letter from Reynolds, 21 Herbert Avenue, Merrion, Dublin 4, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, referring to a trip to Canada to lecture at International Conference of Canadian Association of Irish Studies, Dr. Angeline Hampton and her proposal to work on a critical account of O'Brien, the Stony Thursday Book. CLOSED UNTIL 2011. 3 items

**P12/**

480. 18 July 1981 Handwritten letter from Reynolds, Parke Cottage, Eyrecourt, county Galway, to O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, referring to reply received from Colin Smythe requesting monograph on O'Brien for Irish Literary Studies, dealings with Radio Telefís Éireann, dinner with Dr. Hampton and writing a book on O'Brien. CLOSED UNTIL 2011. 2 items
481. [1987] Handwritten draft of letter from O'Neill to Reynolds, commending her on her publication, referring to a review of book in Irish Times and to photographs of O'Brien in the archive. O'Neill states the following about the book, 'I am delighted with your book & admire it so much I keep dipping in to it again...You are so very good at bringing back the memory of Kate & her idiosyncraces.' On the subject of the archive O'Neill says '...I don't think the first photo of K with short hair was taken before 1921 or 2. I am almost certain she cut her hair after teaching us in 1921. I would say from the pinched look on her face it could have been taken during her marriage.' 2pp.
- c. Dictionary of National Biography, 1971-1980 (1981)
482. [1981] Notes regarding O'Brien's life and work recorded on separate sheets of paper and on an envelope in the handwriting of O'Neill, listing and dating her works, with some background information. 6 items
483. [1981] Handwritten draft of article on O'Brien by O'Neill in pencil and ink consisting of numbered points addressing date and place of birth, family, career, civil and academic distinctions, and other matters. Also contains further information in pencil. 1 item
484. [1981] Draft of text in pencil by O'Neill addressing O'Brien's early life, education, work in England and Spain, marriage to Gustaff Renier, literary work, move to Roundstone, county Galway, and then to Kent, and other travels. 1 item
485. 21 June 1981 Letter from Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, to the editor of the Dictionary of National Biography, room 310, Clarendon Building, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG, referring to query regarding quotations from Naomi Royde-

**P12/**

Smith and Professor Lyons, and enclosing one page of draft of article with amendments in pencil and ink.

3 items

d. Other Matters (1977–1981)

486. 3 January 1977 Handwritten letter from Mickey Hanrohan, 40 Wolfe Tone street, Limerick, and former neighbour of the O'Briens, to Mary O'Neill, carer of Sunday Press, referring to work by O'Brien entitled 'Memories of a Catholic Education' and how he had lived next door to Boru House, stating, 'I kept a few Pignons next door and could be seen from O'Briens Nursary. Master Jack Miss May Tom & Kate & Mrs O' Mara Brought me Pignons from Shanno[n] view Their Uncle Michael's Home & Stables.'

2 items.

487. 15 October 1981 Letter from Mary D'Agnese, Copyright Department, Harper & Row, Publishers Incorporated, 10 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022, to Mary O'Neill, 24A Steele's Road, Hampstead, London NW3 4RE, regarding the renewal of copyright for 'The Flower of May' by O'Brien.

1p.