Abstract: Irish poet Brian Coffey (1905–1995) handwrote this letter to an unidentified person named "Dee" to accompany an issue of The Lace Curtain, which published an extract from Concerning Making.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F934
Creator: Coffey, Brian, 1905-1995.
Title: Brian Coffey letter to Dee
Inclusive Dates: 1978 October 20
Extent: 2 items
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F934, Brian Coffey letter to Dee, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 64, F934: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes
Location: Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/
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Biographical Note

Avant-garde Irish poet Brian Coffey (1905–1995) was highly influenced by French surrealism and produced works that drew from his interests in philosophy and religion, particularly Catholicism. Coffey ran his own press, Advent Books, in the 1960s and 1970s.

As early as 1924 Coffey began writing poetry. Under the pseudonym, Coeuvre, Coffey published his first poems in the University College, Dublin's *The National Student*.

During these early years, Coffey met fellow aspiring poet Denis Devlin, who would become a lifelong friend. While in Paris in the 1930s Coffey studied with French philosopher Jacques Maritain and became acquainted with Irish literary expatriates, Thomas MacGreevy and Samuel Beckett, both of whom encouraged his writing. Coffey’s best known work is *Missouri Sequence*.

In 1966, Coffey attended printing classes and established his own press, Advent Books, which began publishing limited editions of poetry with a special emphasis on typography and jacket design. Brian Coffey died on April 14, 1995, at his home in Southampton, England.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

Irish poet Brian Coffey handwrote this letter to an unidentified person named "Dee" to accompany an issue of The Lace Curtain, which published an extract from Concerning Making.

Coffey's letter regarded the difficulties which "Dee" had mentioned in a letter that Coffey had received that morning. Coffey counseled "Dee" that he could "appeal for good manners" from his "ill-motivated" attackers but "Dee" need not respond to their charges. The content of the letter suggested an academic setting and mentioned American literary critic and biographer Richard Ellman, who was teaching at Oxford in 1978. Coffey also referred to the accompanying copy of The Lace Curtain.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Coffey, Brian, 1905-1995--Correspondence.

Topical Terms

Poets, Irish--20th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Occupation

Poets.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 099, F854, Brian Coffey letters to Mark Axelrod
MSS 382, Brian Coffey papers
Detailed Description of the Collection

Brian Coffey letter to Dee, 1978 October 20 [Box 64 F934]

1 item (3 p.)

Also includes a copy of the Autumn 1978 (No. 6) issue of The Lace Curtain, which published an extract from Concerning Making.