

MS 25 Fielden Manuscripts

About the Collection:

A collection of (mostly) unpublished works by Northern Irish novelist and playwright Olga Fielden (1903-1973).

Olga Fielden was a student at Queen's University Belfast. She moved to London for a period after her graduation but returned to Northern Ireland where she wrote plays for, and performed with, the amateur dramatics society, the Northern Drama League.

Olga published 2 novels based on life in Ulster, *Island Story* (1933) and *Stress* (1936); a third novel, *Liam Donn*, remained unpublished 'due to war'. Fielden's play *Three to Go* (1950) enjoyed a successful run at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin; she also wrote several one-act plays for radio which were aired on BBC Northern Ireland during the 1950s. (Doak, N. 2007).

This collection was gifted to Special Collections & Archives at Queen's University Belfast in 1979 by Olga's father, Professor V.G.L. Fielden M.D (Doctor of Medicine), Ph.C (Pharmaceutical Chemist). Victor G.L Fielden attended Queen's College Belfast and was awarded his undergraduate medical degree, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O, in 1892 and his M.D., in 1912 both from the Royal University of Ireland. He was a Demonstrator in Practical Pharmacy in Queen's, Belfast from 1893-1927 and a Lecturer in Pharmacy and Dental Materia Medica, 1927/1928 - 1931/1932; he retired from Queen's in June 1932.

MS 25 Outline

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MS 25/1 Play Manuscripts

- MS 25/1/1 n.d. *Witches in Eden*
“A short play for the radio by Olga Fielden”
Script
Newspaper clipping enclosed reporting on interview with Olga Fielden in Dublin
Typescript. 17pp.
- MS 25/1/2 n.d. *Witches in Eden*
“A Play in One Act by A. W.”
Script
Typescript. 18pp.
- MS 25/1/3 22/04/1948 *Witches in Eden*
“A One Act Play by Olga Fielden”
Script
Also contains title page, preface and contents page
Preface by Patricia O’Connor identifies this play as part of the New Plays for the Dramatic Societies Series. No. 1
Contents page lists:
Witches in Eden by Olga Fielden
Dinsmore’s Cash by Anna McClure Warnock
You Never Know your Luck by Ruddick Millar
Canvassing Disqualifies by Patricia O’Connor
Quota Press, Belfast
Typescript. 23pp.
- MS 25/1/4 n.d. *William of Ulster*
“An Historical Play in Three Acts by Olga Fielden”
Script
Fragments of another work inserted
Bound typescript [carbon copy]. 101pp.
- MS 25/1/5 n.d. *The Curing of the Cow*
“A one-act play for young people by Olga Fielden”
Script
Edited/annotated; play is re-titled in pencil as *Butter Bewitched*; paper has been re-used, fragments of another play appear on the reverse sides
Typescript. 13pp.



MS 25/1/6 1953 *Butter Bewitched*
"A One-Act Play for Girls by Olga Fielden"
"Written specially for the St. Nicholas's Girls Club, Carrickfergus. October 1953."
Script
Edited/annotated; paper has been re-used, fragments of another work appear on the reverse sides
Typescript. 21pp.

MS 25/1/7 1953 *Butter Bewitched*
"A One-Act Play for Girls by Olga Fielden"
"Written specially for the Saint Nicholas' Girls' Club, Carrickfergus October, 1953"
Script
Clean, re-typed versions of MS 25/1/6 [?].
Typescript. 7pp. 6 copies.



MS 25/1/8 1951 *I Remember*
"Written by Olga Fielden. Produced by Sam Hanna Bell"
Script
Edited/annotated
Cast, rehearsal and radio transmission details given
Typescript. 25pp.

MS 25/1/9 1956 *Fools for Freedom* by Olga Fielden
Script
Cast, rehearsal and recording details given; "transmission date not yet arranged."
Attached are a clipping from the *Radio Times* and a BBC Supplementary Contract
Typescript. 45pp.

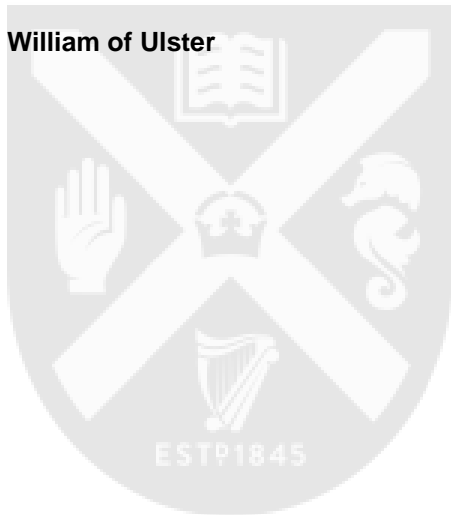
MS 25/2 **Novel Manuscript**

1939 *Liam Donn*
"by Olga Fielden. Author of *Island Story*, *Stress*."
"William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, known to the Irish as Liam Donn, is one of the least known, yet most gallant young figures in the whole history of Norman Ireland" [taken from Author's Note]
Bound typescript. 391pp.

Appendix 1

Index of Names

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	
Hanna Bell, Sam	MS 25/1/8	p. 4
McClure Warnock, Anna	MS 25/1/3	p. 3
Millar, Ruddick	MS 25/1/3	p. 3
O'Connor, Patricia	MS 25/1/3	p. 3
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