



**UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK**

**O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H**

**The Tom Nestor Papers**

**P31**

**University of Limerick  
Library and Information Services**

# University of Limerick Special Collections

## The Tom Nestor Papers

**Reference Code:** IE 2135 P31  
**Title:** The Tom Nestor Papers  
**Dates of Creation:** 1964-2012  
**Level of Description:** Fonds  
**Extent and Medium:** 4 boxes (110 files)

### CONTEXT

**Name of Creator(s):** Thomas G. Nestor (1937-)

**Biographical History:** Thomas G. Nestor was born in 1937 in Coolcappa, Rathkeale, County Limerick as a farmer's son and one of ten children. He was educated in St Flannan's College, Ennis, in 1950-1954, and began his working career in 1955, first with Shannon Sales and Catering Service, and then with an American company in Ennis, where he lived from 1981 to 1990. Nestor later became self-employed and ran a training and consultancy programme for middle managers until his retirement in 2004. He married in 1964, and now lives in County Offaly with his wife.

Nestor began his writing career in 1964 with two articles about rural Ireland, which were published in the *Manchester Guardian*. These were followed by *Twilight in Suburbia*, written for Donacha O'Dulaing for his radio programme *A Munster Journal*. The work was however rejected. His published works include three radio plays broadcast by BBC and RTE, some thirty short stories published in Scotland, USA and Australia, and three novels: *The Keeper of Absalom's Island* (1999), *The Blue Pool* (2002) and *Talking to Kate* (2009). From 1964 to 1998 Nestor also contributed to *The Limerick Leader* with his column *My Life and Times*.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated by Tom Nestor to the University of Limerick on 14 March 2011.

### CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

**Scope and Content:** Manuscripts, published works, correspondence with publishers and literary agents, and agreement forms illustrating Tom Nestor's career as an author and playwright.

**Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information:** All records have been retained.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are possible.

**System of Arrangement:** Material has been arranged into three series according to their form. Series A comprises literary material, including manuscripts and published works. Series B comprises correspondence predominantly with publishers, broadcasting houses and literary agents. Series C comprises agreement forms and other items of interest.

## CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

**Conditions Governing Access:** Unrestricted access to all items.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction:** Tom Nestor retains all proprietary rights and copyright in his published and unpublished writings. Those materials may not be duplicated or reproduced without written permission from Tom Nestor. Please contact the staff at Special Collections for contact details. Reproduction of any items dated after 1980 containing personal information is also prohibited. For photocopying other material, please consult with the staff at Special Collections.

**Language/ Scripts of Material:** English.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** Paper documents in good condition.

**Finding Aids:** A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

## ALLIED MATERIALS

**Related Units of Description:** Published works by Tom Nestor other than those forming part of this collection are available in the Special Collections and the Main Library at the University of Limerick. Please consult the library catalogue at <http://193.1.100.111/TalisPrism/>

## DESCRIPTION CONTROL

**Archivist's Note:** Papers arranged and described by Anna-Maria Hajba.

**Rules or Conventions:** This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000.

**Date of Description:** January 2012.

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The Tom Nestor Papers

A. LITERARY MATERIAL

I Manuscripts

Also see P31/90

1. Radio Plays

(a) A Sheltered Place

- 1 [c. 1974] Loose sheet typescript of *A Sheltered Place*. The cover page bears a stamp 'Not as broad-cast' together with dates of rehearse/ record, edit and transmission. The play was broadcast on Radio 4 on 26 October 1974. 31 pp

(b) The Ardagh Experiment

For other items relating to this work, see P31/99

- 2 [c. 1978] Loose sheet typescript of *The Ardagh Experiment*, with dates of rehearse/ record, edit and transmission on the cover page. The play was broadcast on Radio 4 on 5 August 1978. 39 pp

(c) The Innocence of Martha Brown

- 3 [1979] Photocopy of a typescript of *The Innocence of Martha Brown* with minor corrections. Paginated, with title page. Originally attached to P31/74. 24 pp

(d) Crossword Puzzle

For other items relating to this work, see P31/73-74

- 4 [c. 1979] Photocopy of a typescript of *Crossword Puzzle*, with occasional minor corrections. Paginated. 23 pp

**2. Short Stories**

(a) Twilight in Suburbia

- 5 [1964] Photocopy of an article-style short story entitled *Twilight in Suburbia*, describing life in rural Ireland. With minor handwritten corrections. 3 pp

(b) Miracle at Barragone

For other items relating to this work, see **P31/73**.

- 6 [c. 1979] Typescript of *Miracle at Barragone*, with minor handwritten corrections. Paginated, with title page. 10 pp

(c) Once upon a Dream

- 7 [1985] Typescript of *Once upon a Dream*. Uncorrected. Paginated, with title page. Originally attached to **P31/77**. 28 pp

(d) The Estuary

- 8 [c. 1985] Manuscript draft of *The Estuary*, with occasional minor corrections. Written on top of the first page is the note 'Australian short story'. 14 pp

(e) Passing Glory

For other items relating to this work, see **P31/81, 85, 114**

- 9 [c. 1990] Typescript of *Passing Glory*. 12 pp

## 3. Novels

(a) The Keeper of Absalom's Island

[1993?] Loose sheet typescript of *The Keeper of Absalom's Island* (published in 2000) with minor corrections and editorial comments by Jonathan Williams Literary Agency. Chapters 1 and 2 are in a different typeface and were originally attached to **P31/106**. Each chapter is individually paginated.

10	Chapter 1	16 pp
11	Chapter 2	16 pp
12	Chapter 3	12 pp
13	Chapter 4	17 pp
14	Chapter 5	18 pp
15	Chapter 6	18 pp
16	Chapter 7	19 pp
17	Chapter 8	16 pp
18	Chapter 9	20 pp
19	Chapter 10	24 pp
20	Chapter 11	25 pp
21	[c. 1990s] Ring-bound typescript of Chapters 1-8 of <i>The Keeper of Absalom's Island</i> , with extensive handwritten corrections and editorial comments by Jonathan Williams Literary Agency.	120 pp
	[c. 1990s] Loose sheet typescript of Chapters 9-14 of [ <i>The Keeper of Absalom's Island</i> ], with extensive handwritten corrections and editorial comments by Jonathan Williams Literary Agency. Paginated.	
22	Chapter 9	19 pp
23	Chapter 10	22 pp
24	Chapter 11	21 pp

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25	Chapter 12	22 pp
26	Chapter 13	22 pp
27	Chapter 14	12 pp

(b) The Blue Pool

[c. 2000?] Loose sheet typescript of *Echoes of Forgotten Song* (published as *The Blue Pool* in 2002) with extensive handwritten corrections and editorial comments by Jonathan Williams Literary Agency. Paginated.

28	Chapter 1 (with title pages)	23 pp
29	Chapter 2	18 pp
30	Chapter 3	17 pp
31	Chapter 4	17 pp
32	Chapter 5	19 pp
33	Chapter 6	19 pp
34	Chapter 7	22 pp
35	Chapter 8	21 pp
36	Chapter 9	23 pp
37	Chapter 10	21 pp
38	Chapter 11	22 pp
39	Chapter 12	24 pp
40	Chapter 13	24 pp
41	Chapter 14	28 pp

**4. Articles**

42	August 2003	Scanned copy of <i>Pythagoras – a Man with More than One Theory</i> , published in <i>Ireland's Own</i> , issue 4877 (22 August 2003). 1 p
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- 43            March 2005            Scanned copy of *What's in a Word*, published in *Ireland's Own*, issue 4970 (25 March 2005).  
2 pp
- 44            April 2005            Scanned copy of *Importance of the Plough*, published in *Ireland's Own*, issue 4971 (1 April 2005).  
1 p
- 45            November 2005        Scanned copy of *How We Got Our Alphabet*, published in *Ireland's Own*, issue 5003 (11 November 2005).  
1 p
- 46            December 2006        Scanned copy of *November Fair*, published in *Ireland's Own*, issue 5056 (1 December 2006).  
1 p
- 47            [9 January 2012]      Typescript set of articles published in *Ireland's Own* between 2003 and 2011, including *Gift of the Nina*, *As I Looked Out*, *Messenger Boy*, *Building a Wall*, *The Storyteller*, *Beneath the Oil Lamp*, *The Legend of Europa*, *The Prolific Rabbit*, *Through the Night Darkly*, *The Storm*, *The Sound of Silence*, *Meeting Sean O'Faolain*, *The Painted Harlequin*, *Nonie*, *The Irish Palatines*, *Seeing the Future*, *The Mystery of the Swallow*, *Back Then* and *Christmas 1943*.  
49 pp

**5. Other Drafts**

- 48            [c. 1960s]            Manuscript of an untitled short story, or part of a longer story, featuring a man named Felim Sherlock. With occasional minor corrections.  
20 pp

**II        Published Works**

**1. In Blackwood's Magazine**

Also see **P31/68**

- 49            October 1966            Volume 300, Number 1812 containing Nestor's short story *The Ploughing*. Inserted between the pages is an advertisement for writing for profit by *The Writer's News*. For this work, also see **P31/68**.  
2 items

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- |    |                |   |         |
|----|----------------|---|---------|
| 50 | June 1967      | Volume 301, Number 1820 containing Nestor's short story <i>The Golden Swath</i> . Inserted between the pages is an order form for the magazine.   | 2 items |
| 51 | September 1967 | Volume 302, Number 1823 containing Nestor's short story <i>The Sighing Heather</i> .  | 100 pp  |
| 52 | January 1968   | Volume 303, Number 1827 containing Nestor's short story <i>Manus</i> .  | 96 pp   |
| 53 | February 1969  | Volume 305, Number 1840 containing Nestor's short story <i>A Monument for Paddy</i> .   | 2 items |
| 54 | June 1969      | Volume 305, Number 1844 containing Nestor's short story <i>The Market Road</i> . Inserted between the pages are an order form for the magazine; and advertisements for forthcoming publications by William Blackwood & Sons, Ltd.       | 5 items |
| 55 | January 1970   | Volume 307, Number 1851 containing Nestor's short story <i>Odran, the Spalpeen</i> . Inserted between the pages are an order form for the magazine and an advertisement for a forthcoming publication by William Blackwood & Sons, Ltd. | 3 items |
| 56 | April 1970     | Volume 307, Number 1854 containing Nestor's short story <i>The Leaping Trout</i> .  | 96 pp   |
| 57 | July 1970      | Volume 308, Number 1857 containing Nestor's short story <i>Incentives</i> . Inserted between the pages is an order form for the magazine.   | 2 items |
| 58 | October 1970   | Volume 308, Number 1860 containing Nestor's short story <i>The Lost Leader</i> .  | 96 pp   |

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**59** August 1973 Volume 314, Number 1894 containing Nestor's short story *Ulick's Island*. Inserted between the pages is an order form for the magazine with a list of current titles available from William Blackwood & Sons, Ltd.  
2 items

**60** November 1976 Volume 320, Number 1933 containing Nestor's short story *Mountain Men*. For this work, also see **P31/61, 87 and 88**.  
96 pp

**2. In Short Story International**

**61** October 1977 Volume 1, Number 4 containing Nestor's short story *Mountain Men*. Inserted between the pages are a compliment slip signed by David Fletcher and a note of congratulations by [illegible]. For this work, also see **P31/60, 87 and 88**.  
3 items

**62** August 1987 Volume 11, Number 63 containing Nestor's short story *The Mountain Top*.  
160 pp

**63** February 1988 Volume 12, Number 66 containing Nestor's short story *Byway of the Rose*.  
160 pp

**64** August 1989 Volume 13, Number 75 containing Nestor's short story *Portrait*. For this work, also see **P31/79, 82 and 112**.  
2 items

**65** December 1989 Volume 13, Number 77 containing Nestor's short story *The Kingmaker*. For this work, also see **P31/80, 83 and 113**.  
160 pp

**66** April 1990 Volume 14, Number 79 containing Nestor's short story *Passing Glory. Fragile*. For this work, also see **P31/9, 81, 85 and 114**.  
160 pp

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- 67 April 1991 Volume 15, Number 85 containing Nestor's short story *So Long, My Lovely*. For this work, also see **P31/84** and **115**.  
160 pp

**3. In Other Publications**

- 68 1969 *Tales of the Horse from 'Blackwood'*. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood & Sons Ltd., 1969, containing Nestor's short story *The Ploughing*. For this work, also see **P31/49**.  
282 pp
- 69 1989 *Australian Short Stories – International Issue No. 27* containing Nestor's short story *The Legend Lives*. For this work, also see **P31/95**.  
104 pp

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

**I With Publishers and Broadcasters**

**1. The British Broadcasting Corporation**

- 70 24 February 1975: Letter from Michael Heffernan, Drama Producer, BBC, Broadcasting House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, inviting Nestor to a radio drama seminar. Also two copies of Nestor's reply.  
11 March 1975  
3 items
- 71 4 February 1976: Carbon copy of a letter to Bill Morrison, Drama Producer, BBC, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, enclosing a copy of his radio play *Jack of All Fools*. Also a related reply from Michael Heffernan.  
25 March 1976  
2 items
- 72 13 December 1977: Letters from Robert Cooper, Drama Producer, BBC, Broadcasting House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, relating to the commissioned re-writing of Nestor's radio play *Bramford Junction*.  
22 February 1978  
2 items

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- 73            1 March 1979:            Letter from Robert [Cooper] concerning *Crossword  
10 April 1979            Puzzle, The Left Hand of Love* and *Miracle at Barragone*,  
and a related letter from Judith Elliott, Producer,  
Arts Programmes, BBC Radio, concerning *Miracle  
at Barragone*.  
  
2 items
- 74            27 July 1979            Carbon copy of a letter to Robert Cooper enclosing  
the radio play *The Innocence of Martha Brown* (for  
which see **P31/3**) and responding to Cooper's  
comments regarding *Crossword Puzzle*.  
  
1 p
- 75            1987-1988            Letters from Kathryn Porter, Producer, BBC,  
Broadcasting House, Ormeau Avenue, Belfast,  
regarding Nestor's radio play *Pillar of Dreams* and  
changes to be made to the text. Also carbon copies of Nestor's replies, a  
typed copy of a suggested scene breakdown for the play with handwritten  
corrections, and an amended copy of same.  
  
7 items

### 2. Short Story International

- 76            6 September 1983:      Letter from Sylvia Tankel, Editor, Short Story  
20 July 1984            International, 6 Sheffield Road, Great Neck, New  
York, accepting *Ulick's Island* for publication and  
attaching an agreement form (not present). Also  
a photocopy of a related letter from Nestor.  
  
2 items
- 77            17 April 1985            Photocopy of a letter from Nestor to Sylvia Tankel  
enclosing a copy of his short story *Once Upon a  
Dream* (for which see **P31/7**).  
  
1 p
- 78            8 September 1986      Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing two agreement  
forms (not present) for unspecified short stories  
accepted for publication, and urging Nestor to  
reread his work to reduce the need for editorial assistance. Nestor's draft  
reply has been written by hand on the bottom of the page.  
  
1 p

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- 79            8 February 1988            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing an agreement form (for which see **P31/112**) for the short story *Portrait* accepted for publication. 1 p
- 80            31 May 1988:  
9 June 1988            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing an agreement form (for which see **P31/113**) for the short story *The Kingmaker* accepted for publication. Also a carbon copy of Nestor's reply. 2 items
- 81            26 October 1988            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing an agreement form (for which see **P31/114**) for the short story *Passing Glory* accepted for publication. 1 p
- 82            5 June 1989            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing a fee for the short story *Portrait* and regretting that they will not be able to produce a collection of Nestor's stories. 1 p
- 83            12 October 1989            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing a fee for the short story *The Kingmaker*. 1 p
- 84            21 December 1989            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing an agreement form (for which see **P31/115**) for *So Long, My Lovely*, which has been accepted for publication. 1 p
- 85            2 February 1990            Letter from Sylvia Tankel enclosing a fee for the short story *Passing Glory*. 1 p

**3. William Blackwood & Sons Limited**

- 86            29 July 1976:  
4 August 1976:            Letter from David Fletcher, William Blackwood & Sons Ltd, 32 Thistle Street, Edinburgh, inviting Nestor to submit a short story for consideration. Also a carbon copy of Nestor's reply. 2 items

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- 87                    21 September 1976      Letter from David Fletcher, accepting *Mountain Men* for publication and seeking Nestor's approval that editorial changes be made to the text.  
1 item
- 88                    21 July 1977:  
28 July 1977              Letter from David Fletcher informing Nestor of permission he has given to *Short Story International* to reprint *Mountain Men*. Also a carbon copy of Nestor's reply.  
2 items
- 4. Others**
- 89                    1975-1976                Carbon copies of letters to *Independent Newspapers Ltd.*, *Connacht Tribune*, *Irish Farmer's Journal*, *The Kerryman Ltd.*, *The Guardian* and *Cork Evening Echo* seeking to submit work for publication.  
9 items
- 90                    6 March 1976            Copy of a letter to Vincent Browne, Managing Editor, *Sunday Tribune*, 8 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, seeking to submit work for publication and enclosing a sample beginning of a short story.  
2 items
- 91                    March-April 1976        Correspondence with John McDonnell, Editor, *Ireland's Own*, North Main Street, Wexford, relating to the prospect of supplying work for the magazine.  
5 items
- 92                    March 1976                Correspondence with Brendan MacRua, Editor, *The Irish Post*, 2/4 Broadway, Southalls, Middlesex, relating to the prospect of supplying work for the magazine.  
3 items
- 93                    16 December 1987       Letter to Mary Feehan, Mercier Press, 4 Bridge Street, Cork, expressing an interest in having a non-fiction book published and suggesting four possible topics.  
2 pp

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94            23 October 1989        Letter from Amy Cohen, Houghton Mifflin Company, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, USA, rejecting the offer of Nestor's manuscript *A Handful of Corn* for publication. 1 p

95            [c. 1989]                Letter from Bruce Pascoe, Pascoe Publishing Pty. Ltd., PO Box 42, Apollo Bay, Australia, accepting *The Legend [Lives]* for publication in *Australian Short Stories*. 1 p

**II        With Literary Agents**

**1. John Johnson Limited**

96            10 April 1975            Carbon copy of a letter to Andrew Hewson, John Johnson Limited, 12/13 Henrietta Street, London, enclosing a copy of the radio play *The Substance of Rock*. 1 p

97            4 February 1976:  
17 February 1976        Carbon copy of a letter to Andrew Hewson, enclosing a copy of the radio play *Incident at Meadow Close*. Also Hewson's reply. 2 items

98            7 April 1976            Letter from Andrew Hewson acknowledging receipt of *Jack of All Fools*. 1 p

99            29 August 1978        Notice of payment from John Johnson Limited for the broadcasting of *The Ardagh Experiment* on BBC Radio 4. 1 p

100          5 October 1988        Letter from Andrew Hewson acknowledging receipt of the first chapter of an unnamed historical novel and suggesting that Nestor take the book to a complete first draft before offering it for reading. 1 p



**2. Richard Curtis Associates**

- 101**            Aug-Sept 1988            Correspondence with Richard Curtis Associates, 164 East 64th Street, New York, USA, relating to an unnamed historical novel.  
3 items

**3. Others**

- 102**            20 January 1976            Carbon copy of a letter to Owen McKiernan, President, Irish American Cultural Institute, 683 Osceola Avenue, St Paul, Minnesota, USA, seeking advice on how to break into the American market.  
1 p
- 103**            9 February 1988            Photocopy of a letter to Gordon Stepto, Baldwin, Boyle, Stepto & Associates Pty. Ltd., Public Relation Consultants, Suite 63, 6th Floor, 74 Pitt Street, GPO Box 4882, Sydney, Australia, seeking advice on how to break into the Australian market.  
1 p
- 104**            26 May 1988            Photocopy of a letter to Graham Sheil, 2 Macey Grove, North Ringwood, 3134 Victoria, Australia, seeking advice on how to break into the Australian market.  
1 p
- 105**            5 August 1988            Letter from Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, 336 East 73rd Street, New York, USA, acknowledging receipt of sample material from Nestor and advising him to contact her again when he has finished the full manuscript.  
1 p
- 106**            20 September 1993            Letter from Jonathan Williams [Literary Agency], 2 Mews, 10 Sandycove Avenue West, Sandycove, county Dublin, attaching a corrected version of Chapters 1 and 2 of *The Keeper of Absalom's Island* (for which see **P31/10** and **P31/11**) and suggesting a meeting to discuss prospective publishers for the text.  
1 p

III With Other Correspondents

- 107            October 1975            Correspondence with Bastow, Charleton & Co., Chartered Accountants, 24 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, relating to a claim for tax exemption by a writer or artist under Section 2 of the Finance Act 1969. Attached to one letter is a photocopy of the said act. 4 items
- 108            1975-1976            Correspondence with Robert V. Trainer, Secretary, Roller Bearing Company of America, Sullivan Way, West Trenton, New Jersey, USA, relating to Nestor's attempts to locate a copy of a book entitled *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* [by John Fox Jnr] about the American Civil War. 4 items
- 109            12 November 1988    Letter from the Rev Eric Gallagher, 9 Cloverhill Avenue, Lisburn, Northern Ireland, recommending a good book on the subject of John Wesley. 1 p
- 110            28 June 1990            Letter from Susie Watson, Pagette Communications Ltd., 4 Bedford Square, London, relating to one of Nestor's short stories, which has been included among 50 shortlisted stories for the 1990 Ian St James Awards. Also a letter from Graham Taylor, The Ian St James Awards, 2A Haven Green, Ealing, London, regretting that Nestor's short story has failed to reach the top-twelve shortlist. 2 items
- 111            23 July 1990            Letter from Kenneth Wade, Herefordshire, thanking Nestor for his letter and looking forward to reading further works by him in the newspapers. 1 p

C. OTHER ITEMS

I Agreement Forms

- 112            [1988]            Agreement form for the publication of *Portrait in Short Story International*. Originally attached to P31/79. 1 item

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- 113 [1988] Agreement form for the publication of *The King-maker* in *Short Story International*. Originally attached to **P31/80**.  
1 item
- 114 [1988] Agreement form for the publication of *Passing Glory* in *Short Story International*. Originally attached to **P31/81**.  
1 item
- 115 [1989] Agreement form for the publication of *So Long, My Lovely* in *Short Story International*. Originally attached to **P31/84**.  
1 item

**II Other Items**

- 116 [c. 1970s?] Booklet entitled *Some Notes for Authors*, produced by William Blackwood and Sons Ltd, Scotland.  
4 pp