

## ANNOTATED CATALOG AND BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THE LAVIN COLLECTION

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### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Title

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#### Scope & Content Note

The Mary Lavin Collection supplements another significant acquisition in Irish literature, The Padraic Colum Collection, at the State University of New York at Binghamton. The Lavin collection, consisting almost entirely of letters, is of interest to scholars primarily because of the close and lasting friendship between Mary Lavin and Lord and Lady Dunsany. The correspondence lasts more than twenty years, and includes more than 191 letters or postcards from the Dunsanys to Mary Lavin.

In addition to the Dunsany letters, other correspondence to Mary Lavin from Seumas O'Sullivan, Estella Starkey, and Jack B. Yeats is included in this collection, as well as tape recordings of a set of interviews I conducted with Mary Lavin during the spring of 1972. The letters, which were purchased from Ms. Lavin several years ago, delineate the scope of Lord Dunsany's imagination, and testify to a warm, longstanding community of literary interest. I am indebted to Mr. Josiah T. Newcomb, former Director of Libraries at State University of New York at Binghamton, for his confidence and judgment in consenting to the purchase of the Lavin collection, and to Mr. Willis Bridegam for his encouragement in preparing and publishing this catalog. I would like also to extend my appreciation to Theodore Billy and Robert Kuhn for doing most of the detail work in the preparation of this catalog.

*Zack Bowen*

by

*Zack Bowen*

*Theodore Billy*

*Robert Kuhn*

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| 3.   | Letter 3, "I am returning the last 2 pages which were left out by mistake." <b>November 25, 1944</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin             |
| 4.   | Letter 4, "No word from you: do tell us how things are going." <b>March 28, 1945</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin                             |
| 5.   | Letter 5, "I hope your father is at Bective & not any worse." <b>May 28, 1945</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin                                |
| 6.   | Letter 6, "Thank you so much for writing. My mother died quietly one night..." <b>June 18, 1945</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin              |
| 7.   | Letter 7, "I did not write to you about your father, but you will know how sorry I was." <b>November 2, 1945</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin |
| 8.   | Letter 8, "Congratulations from us both, & you certainly have done a good deed..." <b>December 20, 1945</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin      |
| 9.   | Letter 9, "P. Swan, Smithstown, Dunshanyhlin is the owner of Brabazon's Farm..." <b>January 13, 1946</b><br>From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany<br>To: Mary Lavin         |
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43. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
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56. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
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- From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
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58. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
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59. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin  
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60. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
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61. From: Lady Beatrice Dunsany  
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71. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
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158. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 159, "I am returning you the copy of the Dublin Magazine with your story in it." August 20, 1959
159. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 160, "Those are most interesting letters, ..." August 1, 1962
160. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 161, "Hearty congratulations to you both, ..." (includes Christmas card, clipping, and telegram all enclosed in a card) N. D. (1945)
161. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 162, "A Boer girl, now living in Germany, has written some tales..." January 25, (no year)
162. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 163, "A lot of letters were lost, so write again." May 17, (no year)
163. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 164, "A Nun's Mother, 7, 200..." N. D.
164. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 165, "Come to tea tomorrow, if that suits you." September 7, (no year)
165. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 166, "Congratulations on the Tate Black Memorial Prize." February 21, (no year)
166. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 167, "Glad you are still alive." August 27, (no year)
167. From: Lord Edward Dunsany

- To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 168, "Good, but not-so good as most of your tales." **June 4, (no year)**
168. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 169, "Here's the photograph." **July 21, (no year)**
169. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 170, "How are you? Are you dead or alive?" **March 31, (no year)**
170. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 171, "How are you? Send me a letter, if still alive." **May 13, (no year)**
171. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 172, "How is the writing going?..." **February 25, (no year)**
172. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 173, "I answer your letter within the month." **May 29, (no year)**
173. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 174, "I shall be glad to see the book, and to hear the news about the London publisher, ..." **June 3, (no year)**
174. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 175, "I think you said you couldn't find the papers, ..." **June 29, (no year)**
175. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 176, "I've just been listening to your Green Grave & The Black Grave." **February 22, (no year)**
176. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 177, "I was delighted to hear about the novel." **October 15, (no year)**
177. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 178, "I was very glad to hear from you again." **August 25, (no year)**
178. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 179, "I was very sorry indeed to hear of the death of your father." **October 1, (no year)**
179. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 180, "If still alive, will you send me your new tales..." **November 14, (no year)**
180. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 181, "Many thanks for the tale. I liked it very much." **November 14, (no year)**
181. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 182, "Many thanks for the tale, which has just arrived." **November 20, (no year)**
182. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 183, "Many thanks for the tale, ..." **June 4, (no year)**
183. From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin

184. Letter 184, "Thank you very much indeed for the book, ..." **May 27, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
185. Letter 185, "That is great news." **June 15, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
186. Letter 186, "The enclosed cutting reminded me of an incident of the War of 1812." **March 17, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
187. Letter 187, "This is to introduce to you Mr. John Manda." **July 1, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
188. Letter 188, (Postcard) "We are back." **January 10, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
189. Letter 189, "We will gladly come to tea with you when we are in Dublin." **February 8, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
190. Letter 190, "Yes, the typing is a bit on the awful side." **March 16, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
191. Letter 191, "Yes, we liked Eudora Welty very much indeed." **September 10, (no year)**  
From: Lord Edward Dunsany  
To: Mary Lavin
192. Letter 192, "I thank you for sending me the little sketch, ..." **October 11, 1938**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
193. Letter 193, "I thank you for your note of April 28th." **May 16, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
194. Letter 194, "I regret my delay in thanking you for the MSS which you sent to me in June." **September 7, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
195. Letter 195, "Many thanks for the return of the MSS, ..." **September 18, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
196. Letter 196, "Of course I am one of the editors of the Tower Press Booklets-..." **October 9, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
197. Letter 197, "Many thanks for the MSS." **October 28, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
198. Letter 198, "Many thanks for your letter and for the permission to print your two poems..." **November 3, 1939**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
199. Letter 199, "Many thanks for your letter of Jan. 18th, ..." **February 6, 1940**  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin

200. Letter 200, "Many thanks for your note of May 17th, ..." [May 30, 1940](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
201. Letter 201, "I really cannot understand why you should feel in any way perturbed by the memory of the letter..." [June 25, 1940](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
202. Letter 202, "Of course I will read the collection of your stories, ..." [November 8, 1940](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
203. Letter 203, "Many thanks for the MS `Lilacs'..." [January 6, 1941](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
204. Letter 204, "I return, with many thanks, the copies of the College Magazine..." [January 12, 1941](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
205. Letter 205, "I will be very glad to have a story from you for my July-August issue." [April 21, 1941](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
206. Letter 206, "Miss Gough has sent me your MSS and on re-reading them..." [May 7, 1941](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
207. Letter 207, "(I must really have a little time in which to grow accustomed to the other name), ..." [May 24, 1943](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
208. Letter 208, "I am in a difficulty, and I appeal to you for help." [August 10, 1943](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
209. Letter 209, "Thanks for your letter. I would certainly like to have a story from you..." [October 6, 1943](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
210. Letter 210, "Many thanks for the review of `Food and Farming'." [October 20, 1943](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
211. Letter 211, "Many thanks for your letter. We were indeed sorry to hear that your father has been ill, ..." [February 15, 1945](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
212. Letter 212, "We both show you our grateful thanks for the much appreciated gift of your book." [September 8, 1945](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
213. Letter 213, "Our best thanks for the very kind gift..." [December 2, 1946](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
214. Letter 214, "I wish that I could be of some use in regard to Mr. Westrop, but I have never met him." [January 28, 1947](#)  
From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin

- Letter 215, "Thanks for your letter, ..." April 18, 1947  
215. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 216, "Thanks for your letter, ..." June 30, 1947  
216. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 217, "Many thanks for your letter and for the Story, *An Akoulina of the Irish Midlands*, ..." March 28, 1954  
217. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 218, "Please forgive my delay in writing to you." May 16, 1954  
218. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 219, "I am very sorry for my delay in writing, ..." January 13, 1955  
219. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 220, "Thanks for your letter and for your kind invitation..." April 3, 1955  
220. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 221, "Thanks for your letter of July 2nd..." July 21, 1955  
221. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 222, "Many thanks for the return of the novel, ..." August 8, 1955  
222. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 223, "Please forgive my delay in writing to you." October 2, 1955  
223. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 224, "Many thanks for your very kind gift..." March 9, 1956  
224. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 225, "Many thanks for the story, *Brigid*, ..." N. D.  
225. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 226, "Thanks for your letter. We have been hoping to get to Bective..." N. D.  
226. From: Seumas O'Sullivan  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 227, "If you are doing nothing important tonight..." December 19, 1940  
227. From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 228, "We have just seen the announcement of the death of your dear father..." October 1, 1945  
228. From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 229, "We both feel we would like to wish you all a very happy New Year--" December 31, 1945  
229. From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
- Letter 230, "We are so very pleased to hear the good news of the arrival of `Elizabeth'." January 3, 1946  
230. From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
231. Letter 231, "We were very pleased to hear from you & look forward to seeing you both quite



- soon." **May 22, 1946**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
232. Letter 232, "Thank you very much for your very kind invitation." **June 22, 1946**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
233. Letter 233, (Postcard) "Very sorry we couldn't get down to you." **April 28, 1947**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
234. Letter 234, "So sorry I missed you on phone." **September 10, 1947**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
235. Letter 235, "I'm so very sorry to have to postpone our visit to you again." **September 18, 1947**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
236. Letter 236, (Postcard) "Thank you for card, but-no letter arrived here!" **October 17, 1947**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
237. Letter 237, "The Fates & the elements seem determined to prevent our long postponed visit to you." **November 2, 1947**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
238. Letter 238, "Would you & Mr. Walsh come & have dinner with us on Wednesday next..." **March 16, 1950**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
239. Letter 239, "Would you both come & have dinner with us next Saturday 14th?" **July 6, 1951**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
240. Letter 240, "I was very glad to get your very kind letter." **June 19, 1958**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
241. Letter 241, "I meant to write to you long ago but Seumas has been very ill..." **May 10, (no year)**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
242. Letter 242, "I was disappointed when I heard that you had called with that magnificent bunch of daffodils, ..." **March 30, (no year)**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
243. Letter 243, "Thank you for your card." **May 31, (no year)**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
244. Letter 244, "We were very pleased to get your card this morning..." **November 10, (no year)**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
245. Letter 245, "With many thanks. I think that these first notices are really remarkably good." **N. D.**  
From: Estella F. Starkey  
To: Mary Lavin
246. Letter 246, "It was very kind of you to make me a present of your book `The Becker Wives'." **January 7, 1947**

- From: Jack B. Yeats  
To: Mary Lavin
247. Letter 247, "I thank you very much for your letter and the pleasurable things you say in it." **August 17, 1948**  
From: Jack B. Yeats  
To: Mary Lavin
248. Letter 248, "Thank you very much for sending me `Mary O'Grady'." **April 18, 1950**  
From: Jack B. Yeats  
To: Mary Lavin
249. Letter 249, "Thank you again for sending me your book and thank you for writing `Mary O'Grady'." **November 9, 1950**  
From: Jack B. Yeats  
To: Mary Lavin
250. Letter 250, "It is only now I hear of your great sorrow..." **October 29, 1954**  
From: Jack B. Yeats  
To: Mary Lavin
251. Typed Manuscript, (with handwritten note) "Preface" by Lord Edward Dunsany **N. D. (1941)**  
Note: "I wrote these lines about a year ago, and someone will find them in a drawer, ..."
252. Signed Article, "8 Minutes on Meath, " by Lord Edward Dunsany **N. D.**

## Part 2

253. Tapes, 3 cassettes. Tape-recorded interviews of Mary Lavin by Zack Bowen. **Recorded April, 1972.**