Biographical Chronology


1940-1941  Entered St. Catharine's College, Cambridge.

1941-1946  Served in the Royal Navy (including a long stint in North Russia); became sub-lieutenant

1945  Married Doreen John of Plymouth, England

1946-1950  St. Catharine's College (BA 1947, MA 1949, Ph.D 1950

1950-1957  Taught at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland (Fellow of Trinity College, 1954-1957

1952  *Purity of Diction in English Verse* (2nd edn 1967)

1955  *Brides of Reason; Articulate Energy* (2nd edn 1976.)

1957  *A Winter Talent and other poems.*

1957-1958  Taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara


1959  *The Forests of Lithuania.*

1961  *A Sequence for Francis Parkman; New and Selected Poems; The Heyday of Sir Walter Scott.*

1963  *The Language of Science and the Language of Literature, 1700-1740.*

1964-1968  Appointed Professor of Literature at the new University of Essex; served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, 1965-1968.

1964  *Events and Wisdoms: poems 1957-1963; Ezra Pound: poet as sculptor.*

1965  *The Poems of Dr. Zhivago.*

1968-1978  Appointed Professor of English at Stanford University, California.

1969  *Essex Poems.*
1970  Six Epistles to Eva Hesse.


1973  Elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1974  The Shires.

1976  Pound.

1977  In the Stopping Train and other poems; The Poet in the Imaginary Museum; Essays of Two Decades.

1978-1988 Taught at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, as Mellon Professor of the Humanities.

1979  Trying to Explain.


1982  These the Companions: recollections.

1987  Named Fellow, British Academy.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of author, educator, poet, and critic Donald Davie consist of his writings, published and unpublished, printed and in draft form, both manuscripts and typescripts, literary correspondence, personal and biographical data, materials pertaining to his academic career and other professional activities, works of his associates and colleagues, and writings by other twentieth century poets and authors, some of them Davie’s students. The earliest materials are letters Davie wrote as a young man in the Royal Navy in 1942 and the latest are his obituaries written in 1995. The papers consist of these series:

I. Writings
II. Correspondence (Literary)
III. Personal and Biographical Data
IV. Academic Career
V. Professional Activities
VI. Associates and Colleagues
VII. Writings by Others

The series Writing includes some printed material, but the majority of this series is in manuscript or typescript. An oversized box contains a handcrafted book of poems by Davie and photographs by his wife, Doreen Davie. These materials date from 1947 until 1988. The subseries are:

Poems and Translations
Essays and Articles
Reviews
Lectures (Not class lectures)
Book Manuscripts
Bibliographies
Tables of Contents and Book Plans
Notebook

The series Correspondence (Literary) consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence. It is arranged alphabetically by the correspondent’s last name. These letters range in date from 1958 until 1989.

The series Personal and Biographical Data consists of a handwritten account of his wartime experiences in Russia, personal correspondence of that era, and his obituaries. These materials range in date from 1942 until 1995. The subseries are:

Autobiography
Personal Correspondence
Obituaries
The series Academic Career consists of press clippings, materials relating to his university career in Britain, and his lecture notes, arranged by subject, in typescript and manuscript. Most of the lecture notes appear to date from his seven years at Trinity College Dublin. The items in this series range in date from 1951 until 1988. The subseries are:

- Clippings
- Correspondence and Memoranda
- Lecture notes

The series Professional Activities consists of audiocassettes and reel-to-reel tapes recorded by Davie and materials from the journal *PNR* during the time Davie was editor. The materials date from 1972 until? The subseries are:

- Recorded Readings
- PNR Materials---Editing

The series Associates and Colleagues consists of manuscripts and printed materials by Howard Warshaw and Peter Whigham, both colleagues of Davie at Stanford, whose works he supported and promoted. The materials in this series date from 1969 until 1983. The subseries are:

- Warshaw, Howard
- Whigham, Peter

The series Writings by Others consists of critiques of Davie’s work and influence, proof copies Davie received to review, poetry of Davie’s students, and off-prints and books written by twentieth century poets and academics on the subject of poets and poetry. These materials range in date from 1922 until 1987. The materials dated in the 1920s are Xeroxed copies of material by Ivor Gurney (d. 1937), but they were copied for Davie in 1988. The subseries are:

- About Donald Davie
- Proof Copies Received for Review
- Student Poetry
- Twentieth Century Poets and Authors

The Donald Davie Papers were purchased from his estate, and literary rights remain the property of his heirs. Please consult the Head of Special Collections for permission to quote or publish any part of this collection.
Writings

Poems by Donald Davie

Box 1

File 1

Across the Bay (2)
After An Accident
After the Accident
After the Match
Against Confidences
Agave in the West (2)
An Aquaintance
Anecdote of Transitions (2)
Asking for It
At the First Turning
At Sea
Auto Wrecking
Barnsley Cricket Club
Barnsley & District (2)

File 2

A Battlefield
The Bawdy Loves of Injuste
Between Dead and Alive
Bolyai, the Geometer
The Boy Scouts Sing for William Yeats (2)
Child’s Play
A Christening
Christmas Eve Carol
Coastal Redwoods, California
Coming to Maricopa
Confession of Jovan Babic (1915) also known as Testament of Jovan Babic (1915)
Criccieth
The Cypress Avenue (2)
Déraciné
Dublin Boy
Duplicity in Prayer
Ebenezer’s Son
File 3
The English and the Russian Poet
Expecting Venice
Explanation
The Farmer’s Wife: at Foston’s Ash
The Feeders
First Love
Flatterers
For the Duchess of Wellington
From the Kaibab Forest
Gangsters Talk

File 4
The Gardens of Savoy (2)
Grey Squirrel
Hidden Persuaders
The Hill Field (2)
His Fair Compatriot
Homage to John L. Stephens
The Horde
Hornet
Housekeeping
Humanly Speaking (2)
Hyphens (2)

File 5
In California (2)
In Chopin’s Garden (2)
In Course of Custom’s Lapse
In the Watermeadows
Indian Summer
Intrusions

File 6
In the Forests of Lithuania
The Homestead
The Castle
The Gathering of Mushrooms
The Drawing Room
The Year 1812

File 7
John Maydew, or the Allotment
Knowing and Showing –see alternate title Thanks
Landfall and Funeral
Life Encompassed
A Lily at Noon
Love and the Times (2)
Low Lands
Marriage
A Measured Tread (5)
A Meeting of Cultures (3)
Metals (2)
Middle Age: Phayader –see alternate title Rhayader
Mister Parkman Among the Indians
Navy Day at Devonport

File 8

New Dawn
New York in August (2)
The Nineteen-Sixties in Wales
Nine-year old, Touring for Di.
North and South
Ode to the Soul of Friendship

File 9

Of George and Mary Oppen (2)
Of the Will
On Generous Lines
On Not Deserving (3)
Orford
On Receiving a Heavy Pocketknife (2)
Orion

File 10

Parochial
Past and Present (2)
The Pegasus
Perspectives
Porec (2)
Portland
The Prolific Spell –also contains Piazza Tartini
Prompters
Red Rock of Utah
The Red Mills (5)
Reminded of Bougainville

File 11

Resolutions
Return to Hinton (2)
Rhayader (3) –see alternate title Middle Age

File 12
Right Wing Sympathies (3)
The River
Salute to Pushkin
San Bernadino
Savannah, For Alexander Heard (2)
Sculptures in Hungary (3)

File 13
A Sequence for Francis Parkman (2) plus worksheets

File 14
Shambles Street after Seven Years
Soliloquy of the Minister for Culture (2)
Smoking Habits (2)
The Stone Guest
Storm Passing Over
Stratford on Avon
The Swineherd
Telephone Call from the Palace of Art (2)
Thanks (2) –alternate title Knowing and Showing
To the Age of Bronze
To Scott Fitzgerald
Tolstoy at Christmas
Through Bifocals

File 15
The University of the South (4)
Untitled
Vezelay
Viper Man
Virtual Space
Visiting Day a the General Hospital (2)
Vindication of Jovan Babic (1915) –alternate title Confession of Jovan Babic(1915)
A Voice from the Garden: for D.
Vying (2)
Want in Summer
Where Depths Are Surface
Wide France (3)
Windfall
A Winter Landscape Near Ely
The Wordsworthian
Yorkshire Antiquarians
Zelazowa Wola

Poems (Translations)

File 16
Akhmatova, Anna “Boris Pasternak”
Illyes, Gyula “Horror”
Mandelstam “on Dante, Voronezh. 1937
Pasternak, Boris –from “Dr. Zhivago”
August
Autumn
The Bad Days
The Breach
Christmas Star
Daybreak (3)
Earth
Explanation (2)
Fairy Story
Foul Ways in Springtime
Hamlet
In Passion Week

File 17
Pasternak, Boris –from “Dr. Zhivago”
Magdalene I
Magdalene II (3)
March (2)
The Miracle (2)
Rendezvous
Summer in the City
Wedding
Wind
White Night
Pasternak, Boris –The Break
Pasternak, Boris –Death of a Poet
Pasternak, Boris –Grass and Stone
Pasternak, Boris –Soul
Vyazemsky, P. A. –Stanzas to Davydov (1854)

Essays, Articles

File 18
Academicism and Jonathan Swift
Adrian Stokes and Pound’s “Cantos”
Augustans Old and New
File 19  
Austin Clark

File 20  
Baroque in the Hymn-book  
Berkeley and the Style of Dialogue

File 21  
Berkeley’s Style in “Siris”  
The Breath-Pause and the Caesura in 16th century Verse  
Can Literary History be Permitted?  
The Conservatism of N. S. Leskov

File 22  
The Deserted Village: Poem as Virtual History  
Disaffection of the Dissenters under George III

File 23  
Dostoievsky and the Dandy  
Dramatic Poetry: Dryden’s Conversation-Piece

File 24  
The Dry Salvages  
The Earnest and the Smart Provincialism in Letters  
Elitism, and So On

File 25  
From the Marches of Christendom: Mandelstam and Milosz

Box 2

File 1  
Hardy’s Poems of 1912-1913  
Is there a London Literary Racket?  
Ivor Gurney  
Kaethchen of Heilbron by Heinrich von Kleist  
Landscape as Poetic Focus

File 2  
Niedecker and Historicity  
Notes to Zhivago’s “The Wedding”

File 3  
Notes on “White Night”  
Parochial Reflections of a Man of Letters
File 4
The Poems of Prince Vyazemsky

File 5
The Port in the Imaginary Museum
The Poet Thomas Hardy

File 6
Poetry and Philosophy. For Vicki Hearne. Also “Three Allusions to Issac Watts” and “Three Allusions to George Berkeley”
Poetry and Politics in Tomlinson
The Poetry of Coleridge (2)
Poetry, or Poems?

File 7
Postmodernism and Allen Curnow
Postmodernism, Craft, and the Market for Poetry
Rob Roy: An Introduction

File 8
Scientist; Philosopher; Poet
Sir Herbert Read’s Romanticism
A Son of Ezra

File 9
The Stories of Ivan Bunin
Strength and Ease of Terms of Seventeenth Century Criticism

File 10
To See and Not to See You by Rafael Alberti translated by Lloyd Mallan
Trying to Explain
Verse Translation
Warshaw, Howard Preface by Davie for Warshaw’s “Drawings on Drawing”

Reviews

File 11
Akhmatova, Anna. Trans. By Judith Hemschemeyer. The Complete Poems of Anna Akhmatova. (2)

File 12
Bunting, Basil. Richard Caddel, ed. Uncollected Poems
Forde, Victoria. The Poetry of Basil Bunting
Browning, Robert. John Woolford and Daniel Kaelin, eds. The Poems of Browning
Clare, John. H. Haughton, A. Phillips, and G. Summerfield, eds. *John Clare in Context*

File 13

Davis, Paul. *Dryden’s Imaginary Commonwealth.*

File 14


File 15

McGann, Jerome J. *Black Riders: The Visible Language of Modernism.*
Nabakov, Vladimir. *The Gift.* Review printed on unidentified newspaper, plus draft and notes for the review

File 16

Paz, Octavio. Helen Lane, trans. *The Other Voice. Poetry and the Fin-de-siecle.*
Robinson, Peter. *In the Circumstances: About Poems and Poets.*
Rosenberg, David and Harold Bloom, trans. *The Book of J.*

File 17


Lectures

File 18

Aesthetic Value –Judgements in Literary Criticism or What Do We Mean When We Say “This is a Good Poem?” Address to the Irish Philosophical Club.
Undated
American Poetry Through British Eyes. Addressed to the Friends of the Joint University Libraries of Vanderbilt University. Undated
D. H. Lawrence, Englishman. Undated

File 19

File 20

File 21
The Russian Novel – draft of a paper for the Shirley Society, undated.

File 22

File 23

File 24

Book Manuscripts

File 25

Box 3

Bibliographies

File 1
English Translations of Russian Fiction in Book Form
English Translations of Russian Fiction in Book Form (continued)

File 2
Essays and Articles on Russian Writers of Fiction Appearing in English Periodicals Between 1882-1945.

File 3
Reading List for Lectures on 18th century Poetry.
Tolstoy: Bibliography of Translations into English.
Works in English Upon Russian Fiction I. General Works.
Works in English Upon Russian Fiction II. Specific Authors.

Tables of Contents, Book Plans

File 4
Auburn, or the Civilization of North America. The Book never went beyond the planning stage.
Current Poetry of the American West
Poems, 1957-1962. (2)

Notebook

File 5
Notebook of handwritten poems, essays, travel notes, dated from 26 November 1957 to March 1959

Literary Correspondence

Outgoing/ Incoming

File 6
From D. D. to Mrs. Farmiloe, 14 March 1970
From Mark Brown, 27 April 1988
From Jim Chandler, 8 October 1981
From Mark Ferrer (stepson of Howard Warshaw), 8 April 1978
From Reginald Gibbons, 3 April 1980
From Donald Greene, 30 November 1977
From Elizabeth Griffin, 17 September 1958
From Thomas Kabdebo, 30 December 1968
From Dorothy Oberhaus, 11 January 1988
From Greg Miller, 18 and 27 August 1983
From John Pikoulis, undated
From Paul Ramcey, 21 October 1979
From Janet Adam Smith, 5 April 1965
From Stephen Spender, 1 January 1989
Personal and Biographical Materials

Autobiography

File 7
Remembering Russia. A Personal Record

Personal Correspondence

File 8
Donald Davie to Rene Haigh (6)
Donald Davie to Dorothy Loomis

Obituaries

File 9
Independent. 20 September 1995
The Times (London) 21 September 1995
Vanderbilt Register. 2-8 October 1995

Academic Career

Clippings, Memoranda

File 10
“Separate Spheres” The Times Literary Supplement. 27 July 1967
Untitled. The Times Literary Supplement. 27 July 1967
“International Week At Vandy” The Tennessean. 16 March 1986
International Week Literary Symposium (1986)
Private and Confidential Memo from Davie to the Vice-Chancellor of Essex University. Titled A Narrative of Certain Events. 28 May to 4 May 1968.
Memoranda of what appears to be a critique perhaps two different recordings of Shakespeare’s sonnets
Lecture Notes

File 11
Arguments for a Break in Elizabethan Verse about 1590
Auden. Lecture
Jane Austen
Blake
Charlotte Bronte
Bunyan –Pilgrim’s Progress I.
Bunyan II.
Burns

File 12
Byron –Lecture I.
Byron -Lecture II.
Byron –Lecture III.
Crabbe: The Borough
Crabbe –Lecture II.
Samuel Daniel

File 13
Sir John Davies
Thomas Deloney
Dryden I.
Dryden II.
Dryden III.

File 14
George Eliot I.
George Eliot II.
Elizabethan Novel
Elizabethan Prose –Fiction
English Novel
John Gay
Gay’s “Beggar’s Opera”

File 15
Robert Greene I.
Robert Greene II.
Fulke Grenville, Lord Brooke
Growth of the English Language
James Joyce

File 16
John Lyly I.
John Lyly II.
Lyly and Sidney
Thomas Lodge

File 17
Meredith
Thomas Nashe
George Peele
Raleigh
Shakespeare – As you Like It
Shakespeare – Macbeth I.
Shakespeare – Macbeth II.

File 18
Shakespeare – Macbeth III.
Shakespeare – The Tempest
Shakespeare – Troilus and Cressida I.
Shakespeare – Troilus and Cressida II.
Shakespeare – Sonnets

File 19
Shenstone – Elegies
Sidney – Apologies for Poetrie
Sidney – Arcadia
Christopher Smart
Robert Southwell

File 20
Spenser – Faerie Queene I.
Spenser – Faerie Queene II.
Jonathan Swift I.
Jonathan Swift II.
Sterne
Thackery – Vanity Fair
Trollope – Barchester Towers

File 21
Victorian Novel – The Introductory Lecture I.
Victorian Novel – Dickens II.
Victorian Novel – Dickens III.

File 22
Victorian Novelists – IV. Thackery
Victorian Novelists – Charlotte Bronte
Wordsworth and Some Contemporaries
Box 4

Professional Activities

Recorded Readings

File 1  Three audio cassettes
        Donald Davie/Selected Poems
        Donald Davie reading John Dryden
        Donald Davie Interview for WPLN Nashville with Molly Howell, originally
        broadcast 21 May 1980

File 2
        Davie, Donald. Contemporary Poets Reading Their Own Poetry. The British
        Council--Recorded Sound Section. Tape No. 1841-Dubbed 21 December 1972.
        7 & ½ ips. Duration-28minutes, 37 seconds.
        Film. 1800 feet, 7 " reel. Red label appended-reads "1-Stevenson-7 & 1/2." No
        other markings.

PNR Materials –Editing

File 3
        Editorial in PNR
        Galley proofs for various issues of PNR edited by Donald Davie

Associates and Colleagues

Howard Warshaw

File 4
        Correspondence from Howard Warshaw to Donald Davie (4)
        “Drawings on Drawing” by Howard Warshaw

Peter Whigham

File 5
        Correspondences 1, 1982. An international review of literature; this copy
        belonged to Peter Whigham and announced publication of his work to appear in
        the next issue

File 6
        “A Dante Portfolio” by Peter Whigham

File 7
        “The Comedy of Dante Aligheri: Inferno Canto I.” Translated with notes on the
        translation by Peter Whigham. Inscribed
File 8
Whigham, Peter. *Do's and Don'ts of Translation*. California: Turkey Press, 1982. Inscribed. Inserted into the book are 2 photocopied pages of poems, without an author’s name or date.

**Writings by Others**

**About Donald Davie**

File 9

File 10

**Proof Copies Received for Review**

File 11

File 12

**Box 5**

File 1

File 2

File 3
**Student Poetry**

**File 4**

**File 5**
De Arajo, Virginia. Correspondence and Miscellaneous poems.

**File 6**

**File 7**

**File 8**

**File 9**

**File 10**

**Box 6**

**File 1**

**File 2**
Miller, Greg. The Beautiful Broken Things. Photocopy of poetry ms. No date.

**20th Century Poets and Authors**

**File 3**
Brown, Mark W. Photocopy of archive material of Ivor Gurney transcribed by hand and annotated. File includes a note dated April 27, 1988.

File 4

File 5

File 6
Erinna. Translated by Daniel Haberman with Marilyn Arthur. Erinna to Baucis. With an epigram by Antipater of Sidon.
Flanner, Hildegarde. The Hearkening Eye. 1979. (Booklet of poetry).

File 7

File 8

File 9
Greene, Donald. "'Dramatic Texture’ in Pope” in From Sensibility to Romanticism: Essays in Honor of F.A. Pottle (Yale, 1965) (Offprint) Inscribed.
File 10
Greene, Donald. "Western Canadian Literature" 1967. (Offprint) Inscribed.
Greene, Donald et al. Correspondence sent to Donald Davie.

File 11
Gurney, Ivor. Photocopy of handwritten archive (poems and letters) of Ivor Gurney. No date.

File 12
Gurney, Ivor. Photocopy of handwritten archive (poems and letters) of Ivor Gurney. No date.

Box 7

File 1

File 2
Kreyling, Michael. "Lee Agonistes: The Southern Hero In the ‘Mid-Passage,’" The South Atlantic Quarterly Vol. 84, no. 4, Autumn 1985. (Offprint)

File 3

File 4

File 5

File 6
Menashe, Samuel. Poems: "The Bare Tree" Nov. 22, 1968 (Typescript mss. of Poems) Inscribed. (Water damaged)
File 7

File 8

File 9

File 10
Occident. Vol. XCIX. No. 1, Fall 1979

File 11

File 12
Pinsky, Robert. Sadness and Happiness (Typed mss. of Pinsky’s first book of poetry)

File 13

File 14

File 15

File 16
Ramsey, Paul. Typescript mss. of poems sent to Davie to be considered for inclusion In The Oxford Book of Christian Verse. Also photocopy of poems

Box 8

File 1
Sandeen, Ernest. Photocopies. No date.

File 2

File 3

File 4
Shapiro, Alan. Typescript of "Far Lamps at Night", an essay on the poetry of J.V. Cunningham N.d.

File 5
Shapiro, Alan. Essay "A Living to Fail: The Case of John Berryman." N.d.

File 6
Smith, Janet Adam. "Scott and the Idea of Scotland" (Parts 1 and 2) University Of Edinburgh Journal Spring and Autumn 1964 (Offprints)

File 7
Steele, Timothy. "Uncertainties and Rest." Copy of mss. N.d. Correspondence from Steele to Davie.

File 8

File 9
Stillman, Michael B. "Memories of Grace Street." (Typescript). Inscribed.
File 10


File 11


Oversize Folder

Davie, Donald and Doreen Davie. Romanesque Brevagna. Original book by Donald and Doreen Davie. String-tied in red paper boards, one of two sets.