

COLLECTION TITLE	Papers of Margaret Diesendorf
COLLECTION IDENTIFIER	MSS 228
INCLUSIVE DATE(S)	1583 to 1993
EXTENT	11 boxes + 2 oversize + 2 AV boxes
CREATOR	Margaret Diesendorf 1912-1993
RELATED ENTITIES	Margaret Diesendorf 1912-1993 Gwen Harwood, 1920-1995 Herbert (Howard) Sergeant 1914-1987 Alec Derwent Hope 1907-2000 Robert Graves 1895-1985 Rosemary Dobson 1920-2012 Poetry Australia (literary journal)
RELATED COLLECTIONS	Papers of Margaret Diesendorf
ACCESS POINTS	Australian poetry -- 20th century Editors Educators Herbert (Howard) Sergeant, 1914-1987 -- Correspondence Linguists Margaret Diesendorf, 1912-1993 -- Archives Poets Robert Graves, 1895-1985 -- Correspondence Translators

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wikipedia article https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Diesendorf

Margaret Diesendorf née Máté (1912–1993), was an Australian linguist, poet, editor, translator and educationist. Born in Vienna, Austria, Diesendorf migrated to Australia in 1939. She published two books of poetry, made numerous translations of other people's works, and with Grace Perry, edited *Poetry Australia*

References:

Judith Beveridge, 'Diesendorf, Margaret (1912–1993)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/diesendorf-margaret-29670/text36654>, published online 2020, accessed online 15 April 2020

AustLit, Margaret Diesendorf (www.austlit.edu.au), St Lucia: The University of Queensland, 2002- , accessed online 15 April 2020

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection comprises the personal papers of linguist and poet Margaret Diesendorf, covering aspects of her life and career in Austria and Australia, editorship of *Poetry Australia*, and the many literary connections she maintained with poets nationally and internationally. Highlights include the sequences of correspondence relating to prominent figures such as Howard Sergeant (publisher of Britain's oldest independent poetry magazine *Outposts*) and Robert Graves (the celebrated British classicist and writer). Also featuring are folders of correspondence with noted Australian poets such as AD Hope, Judith Wright, Gwenn Harwood and Rosemary Dobson. Of special interest is a late 16th century ancestral land tenure manuscript, handwritten in ink on parchment with a wax seal, signed by the historic Swedish sovereigns of Poland

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Access: Open Access

This collection contains a variety of copyright material. Copyright is held by the creator of each item. Specific conditions for this collection are listed below. If no conditions are stipulated then the standard terms of the Copyright Act apply for published and unpublished items. Digitised material from manuscript collections is provided to clients by UNSW Canberra in good faith for private study and research only, and may not be published or re-purposed without the express and written permission of the individual legal holder of that copyright. Refer also to the UNSW [copyright, disclaimer and takedown policy](#).

Copying: Copying of material for private study and research is approved

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

The collection was acquired from Margaret Diesendorf in two consignments in 1991

RELATED ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

Related Material

Further material relating to Margaret Diesendorf (including extensive correspondence) is located in the papers of Rudi Krausman ([MSS 094](#)), Vivian Smith ([MSS 041](#)) and in the records of Poetry Australia ([MSS 015](#)) and *The Oxford companion to Australian literature* ([MSS 011](#)).

Separated Material

This collection originally included a number of publications, listed below. These works have been catalogued separately and added to the UNSW Canberra Academy Library collection.

Agence de L'Union Protestante Liberale. *Le Nouveau Testament*. Paris, 1862 (no longer held in Library)

Amanuddin, Syed. *Gems & germs*, with English, French and Urdu translation by Peter Ford and Mukhtar A. Chaudhry. Sumter, South Carolina: Poetry Eastwest Publications, [1978]

Amanuddin, Syed. *The age of female eunuchs*. Sumter, South Carolina: Poetry Eastwest, c1974

Baylebridge, William. *Love redeemed*. Popular edition. Sydney, NSW: Tallabila Press, 1934

Cumpston, Amy. *Human, my race*. Bexley, [NSW]: Pacific Press, 1955

Haley, Martin. *Lucretia and the banks of Anio: an anthology of Italian poems in English*

Brisbane : Printed by V.E. Martin, 1965

Haley, Martin. *Trophies: taken mostly from the French of Jose Maria de Heredia* Brisbane: [s.n.], 1972

Hiener, Wilhelm. *South Africa: a cycle of thirty poems*. Newnham, Tasmania: The Wattle Grove Press, 1966

Klein, Johannes. *Geschichte der deutschen Novelle: von Goethe bis zur Gegenwart* Wiesbaden: Steiner, 1954

Laurent, Jacques. *Mauriac sous de Gaulle*. [Paris]: La table ronde, c1964

Lyrisches Holland . *Lyrical poetry = La Hollande lyrique* Amsterdam: Arbeiderspers, 1954

Perry, Grace. *I am the songs you sing and other poems*. Sydney: Consolidated Press, 1944

Présentation-Société royale du Canada, No [1], 1943-1944. Ottawa: Société royale du Canada, 1944

Scott, L.E. *Nothing but a man*. Wellington, NZ: Voice Press, 1981

'Two cities', *La revue bilingue de Paris* 1964 (no longer held in Library)

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

Papers of Margaret Diesendorf (MSS 228)

1583 to 1993 (Inclusive date(s))

This collection comprises the personal papers of linguist and poet Margaret Diesendorf, covering aspects of her life and career in Austria and Australia, editorship of *Poetry Australia*, and the many literary connections she maintained with poets nationally and internationally. Highlights include the sequences of correspondence relating to prominent figures such as Howard Sergeant (publisher of Britain's oldest independent poetry magazine *Outposts*) and Robert Graves (the celebrated British classicist and writer). Also featuring are folders of correspondence with noted Australian poets such as AD Hope, Judith Wright, Gwenn Harwood and Rosemary Dobson. Of special interest is a late 16th century ancestral land tenure manuscript, handwritten in ink on parchment with a wax seal, signed by the historic Swedish sovereigns of Poland

Audiovisual material (MSS 228.AV)

See also Box 5/Folder 31 for three additional audiocassettes

AV 1.1 (MSS 228.AV.1.1)

Audio cassette – Dinner at the Feintuch home in Paris (Feintuch was one of the directors of Électricité de France)

AV 1.2 (MSS 228.AV.1.2)

Audio cassette – Matron talks with us: lunch at Trelawney Street home ('Matron' was the former matron at Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School (SCEGGS), Moss Vale, where Diesendorf was French and German mistress)

AV 1.3 (MSS 228.AV.1.3)

Audio cassette – Diesendorf singing

AV 1.4 (MSS 228.AV.1.4)

Audio cassette – Halloween, USA, fall in Vermont: recording made whilst guest at the home of a fascinating young Australian mother of four (whose husband was a scientist)

AV 1.5 (MSS 228.AV.1.5)

Audio cassette – Reminiscences: Diesendorf's arrival in Australia, 1939, first impressions

AV 1.6 (MSS 228.AV.1.6)

Audio cassette – Trudy Swift remembers...with her husband, Dean, contributing (a descendant of the creator of *Gulliver's travels*, Jonathan Swift: recording of reminiscences of Diesendorf's school friend and fellow Australian immigrant Swift

AV 1.7 (MSS 228.AV.1.7)

Audio cassette – Life at Rensselear whilst Diesendorf's husband was Visiting Professor at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York

AV 1.8 (MSS 228.AV.1.8)

Audio cassette – Syed Amanuddin reading his poems

AV 1.9 (MSS 228.AV.1.9)

Audio cassette – Diesendorf reading (for tape and unprepared) poems from Rosemary Dobson's *L'Enfant au Cacatoes*, to mail to her now blind collaborator and friend, Louis Dautheuil (partly erased)

AV 1.10 (MSS 228.AV.1.10)

Audio cassette – Diesendorf reading a selection of her own poems

AV 1.11 (MSS 228.AV.1.11)

Audio cassette – Recording of Diesendorf's son John providing information on his parents to the Academy Library, UNSW Canberra

AV Box 1 (MSS 228.AV.B1)

AV Box 2 (MSS 228.AV.B2)

Check with Curator

Box 1 (MSS 228.B1)

Folder 1 (MSS 228.B1.1)

Ancestral manuscripts of feudal tenure with Royal seals, concerning house, lands and people, signed by the historic sovereigns of Poland (Swedish House) – original documents in contemporary hands on parchment with wax seal and ribbon, dated 1583 and 1636, with 1867 amendment stamped 'Instanz Gericht Goldingenschen'=Instance Court of Goldingen? Add digitised content to Cloudstor & insert link; make note to check originals for more exact details when time available in future

Folder 2 (MSS 228.B1.2)

Correspondence from various poets regarding Diesendorf's anthology *Light*, c1981

Folder 3-4 (MSS 228.B1.3-4)

Correspondence with Syed Amanuddin, Sumter, South Carolina (editor of *Poetry Eastwest* and *Creative moment*) – Diesendorf was Associate Editor of *Creative moment* for the Pacific region

Folder 5 (MSS 228.B1.5)

Correspondence with Australian scholar, literary critic and poet RG (Robert Guy) Howarth
View Clubs of Australia Poetry Competition 1974 – judge's comments and correspondence with competitors
Transcripts and English translations of taped interviews with leading French writers for ABC Radio program *Today's Writing*, 1965-1966, some transcribed on airmail paper when Diesendorf continued the work from Paris, London and Vienna

Folder 6 (MSS 228.B1.6)

Correspondence (14 letters) with British poet and classicist Robert Graves, 1968-1973 and three poems
Correspondence with Australian poet AD Hope

Box 10 (MSS 228.B10)

Folder 73 (MSS 228.B10.73)

Correspondence with West Australian poet Joyce Parkes

Folder 74-76 (MSS 228.B10.74-76)

Correspondence from Rupert Oliviera, Parts 1-3

Folder 77 (MSS 228.B10.77)

Correspondence from Australian poet Judith Wright

Folder 78 (MSS 228.B10.78)

Typescript draft – 'The Body the Altar', selected and translated by Diesendorf

Folder 79 (MSS 228.B10.79)

'Traduttore: traditore?' – typescript draft outline of autobiography
'King Orben's autobiography' handwritten draft by Thor Diesendorf
Assessments of Jacques Delarville and Jutta Sieverding
Copy of Rudi Krausmann interview with Margaret Diesendorf

Folder 80-81 (MSS 228.B10.80-81)

Miscellaneous correspondence relating to writing and publishing, Parts 1-2

Box 11 (MSS 228.B11)

Folder 82 (MSS 228.B11.82)

Miscellaneous correspondence relating to writing and publishing, Part 3

Folder 83 (MSS 228.B11.83)

Correspondence, documents and notes relating to Joseph Nadler
Copies of manuscripts published and unpublished work
Newspaper clippings

Folder 84 (MSS 228.B11.84)

'Alexi' and 'Sound in poetry' – articles on school reform

Folder 85 (MSS 228.B11.85)

Correspondence with poet Frederick Parmee
Crayon self-portrait (aged 16)
Photograph of Diesendorf, 1933
'Sonnet' worksheets

Folder 86 (MSS 228.B11.86)

Correspondence with Lloyd Rees, Lolo Honbein and Jocelyn Ott-Saeed

Folder 87 (MSS 228.B11.87)

Poems dedicated to Diesendorf
Australian book review, Adelaide Festival of Arts, 1968
'This Bitter Earth' by LE Scott

Folder 88 (MSS 228.B11.88)

'Die Dichtungssprache des Expressionisms', Margaretha Máté, PhD thesis

Box 2 (MSS 228.B2)

Folder 7 (MSS 228.B2.7)

Correspondence with Australian poet Gwen Harwood, 1971-1987

Folder 8 (MSS 228.B2.8)

Correspondence with AD Hope
'Faust' – original complete draft, Part 2, last scene, handwritten about 1933
Correspondence from Swiss primary school children taught by Diesendorf in 1939 (in Swiss-German)

Folder 9 (MSS 228.B2.9)

Paper written for Department of French, University of Vienna (in French), c1936 (66 pp)

Folder 10 (MSS 228.B2.10)

Correspondence regarding *The electrical imagination* compiled by Dr Brian Coleman, with whom Diesendorf collaborated by letter
Coleman, Brian (compiler). *The electrical Imagination: electricity in literature and music* Vancouver: B. Coleman, 1975

Folder 11 (MSS 228.B2.11)

New poetry from Australia, edited by Diesendorf and Syed Amanuddin – drafts submitted to Diesendorf by six Australian poets and associated correspondence
New poetry from Australia, edited by Diesendorf and Syed Amanuddin – draft introduction

Folder 12 (MSS 228.B2.12)

Correspondence with Earle Birney (1904-1995), distinguished Canadian poet and novelist

Folder 13-14 (MSS 228.B2.13-14)

Correspondence with Edwin Tanner (1920-1980), Australian artist and his son Edwin after his father's death

Box 3 (MSS 228.B3)

Folder 15 (MSS 228.B3.15)

Correspondence with Edwin Tanner (1920-1980), Australian artist and his son Edwin after his father's death

Folder 16 (MSS 228.B3.16)

Newspaper cuttings from correspondence by Diesendorf published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*

Folder 17 (MSS 228.B3.17)

Education and literature manuscripts and related correspondence
South Head Press editorial correspondence

Folder 18 (MSS 228.B3.18)

Poetry Australia correspondence

Folder 19 (MSS 228.B3.19)

Correspondence regarding Rosemary Dobson's *L'Enfant Au Cacatoès (Child with a Cockatoo)*. Paris, 1967

Folder 20 (MSS 228.B3.20)

Correspondence with *La recherche* (Paris)
VIEW Clubs of Australia – correspondence with Diesendorf as judge of poetry competition
Four carbon copies of manuscript

Folder 21 (MSS 228.B3.21)

Press clippings

Folder 22 (MSS 228.B3.22)

'Le silences' by John Millett – draft, c1973

Box 4 (MSS 228.B4)**Folder 23 (MSS 228.B4.23)**

Notes on translation
Publicity for Australian poetry in Germany
French paper – draft, 1944
Newspapers cuttings - correspondence to newspapers and publicity on literary activities
Diaries, including birth of first child, European journey, 1960

Folder 24 (MSS 228.B4.24)

Book of foreign language poetry
Press clippings
'Translation' talk – draft, probably written for an Italian seminar held in Melbourne, 1968
Press clippings of poems printed in *Education: journal of the NSW Public School Teachers Federation*
Draft paper in French

Folder 25 (MSS 228.B4.25)

Press clipping
Education: journal of the NSW Public School Teachers Federation –drafts (some first) and related correspondence:

'The role of the P&C movement in the integration of the migrant into the community'.
'Education in Europe'.
The English Association Annual Dinner, 1957 (Union Recorder), monitor broadcast
'Personalities past and present'
'Comprehensive secondary education'
'Statement of the Wyndham Committee'
'The comprehensive school'
'NSW Parent and Ex-students Association – selective high schools' (Diesendorf was a foundation member)
Comprehensive secondary education – talk
'The myth of the Wyndham Report' (paper) – various statements by Diesendorf
'Selectivity and the Wyndham Report' – short paper
'The common core' – talk
'The children growing up' - talk at Orange cinema
'The role of the P&C movement in the integration of the migrant into the community' – carbon copy

Folder 26 (MSS 228.B4.26)

Notes for an address
Correspondence with Robert Graves and La Recherche (Paris)

Folder 27 (MSS 228.B4.27)

Correspondence relating to Rosemary Dobson's *L'enfant au cacatoe*. Paris, 1967

Folder 28 (MSS 228.B4.28)

Original cover design for *PAN*. 44, 1972
Drafts – 'Two lessons in Viennese cooking', 'A democratic case against state aid'
Drafts – 'Witness: biographical short story' of Diesendorf
New Poetry from Australia material
Draft – 'L'enfant au cacatoes' by Rosemary Dobson

Folder 29 (MSS 228.B4.29)

Thank you correspondence

Folder 30 (MSS 228.B4.30)

Correspondence with Mariano Coreno regarding *Vento al sole*
'Con le mani aperte al sole' – draft
Miscellaneous correspondence

Box 5 (MSS 228.B5)

Folder 31 (MSS 228.B5.31)

3 audio cassettes, including 'John to us in NY, USA'

Folder 32 (MSS 228.B5.32)

Correspondence from Rina Lasnier including some of Diesendorf's replies
Correspondence relating to 'Sonnets de l'ingeneur'
Correspondence relating to *Poetry magazine*, 4/5

Folder 33 (MSS 228.B5.33)

Correspondence with Louis Dautheul regarding a novel in the form of love letters

Folder 34 (MSS 228.B5.34)

Correspondence mainly in French

Folder 35 (MSS 228.B5.35)

Correspondence with Grace Perry regarding poems discussed over the phone

Folder 36 (MSS 228.B5.36)

Two articles - 'Water fluoridation' and 'Statement on consumer standards regarding water'
Berrima Winter by Grace Perry – draft
Correspondence with AD Hope, Geoffrey Dutton, DJ Enright

Folder 37 (MSS 228.B5.37)

Transcript of a recording by Trudy Swift
Correspondence from notable poets

Folder 38-40 (MSS 228.B5.38-40)

Correspondence with British poet and literary editor Howard Sergeant, 1975-1983

Box 6 (MSS 228.B6)

Folder 41-45 (MSS 228.B6.41-45)

Correspondence with Howard Sergeant, 1975-1983

Folder 46 (MSS 228.B6.46)

Correspondence with Monsieur Victor Barbeau, President de l'Academie Canadienne-Francaise, regarding *Cahiers de l'Academie Canadienne-Francaise* 13 et 14 with dedication
La face et l'envers: essais critiques by Victor Barbeau, with dedication and letter
Libre examen de la democratie by Victor Barbeau, 1960 with dedication
L'Academie Canadienne-Francaise by Victor Barbeau.
Handwritten manuscript by C.F. Meyer 'Novellen. Persönlichkeitsgehalt', Seminar, Unterstufe, Margarete Máté, 1932/3, University of Vienna
Correspondence with American poet Herbert Woodward Martin

Folder 47 (MSS 228.B6.47)

The electrical imagination: electricity in literature and music compiled by Brian Coleman, 2nd enlarged edition with additional unpublished Australian material provided by Diesendorf

Folder 48 (MSS 228.B6.48)

Correspondence regarding Borestone Mountain Poetry Awards
'Modern German Poetry' lecture delivered by Diesendorf at the University of Sydney (in *Poetry Australia* series) – draft
'Education abroad: school reform in Germany' by Diesendorf – draft (unpublished due to Wyndham Report controversy)

Box 7 (MSS 228.B7)

Folder 49 (MSS 228.B7.49)

Script of interview with Diesendorf by Rudi Krausmann
Booklets in German prepared for the Commonwealth Office of Education for the instruction and information of migrants on various aspects Australian citizenship, including the 'Census', 'Learning English', 'Citizenship'

Folder 50 (MSS 228.B7.50)

Correspondence with Martin Haley (1905–1980), poet, essayist, translator, teacher

Folder 51 (MSS 228.B7.51)

Correspondence with Poetry Australia

Folder 52 (MSS 228.B7.52)

Photocopied manuscripts of 'Poems of Grace Perry', with German translations by Diesendorf

Folder 53 (MSS 228.B7.53)

Manuscripts and correspondence concerning *Creative moment* poetry journal

Folder 54 (MSS 228.B7.54)

Creative moment – draft, proof stage of Diesendorf special issue

Folder 55 (MSS 228.B7.55)

Photocopy manuscript of Diesendorf's article 'Aboriginal Poets Writing in English: Kath Walker, Jack Davis, Kevin Gilbert' for *Creative moment*, Spring 1973
Creative moment, Spring, 1973, II, I
'A Lume Spento' (obituary for Ezra Pound, *Poetry Australia*) for the *Poetry Australia* notice board – carbon copies
French version of welcome to CIGRE (Conference Internationale des Grands Reseaux Electriques), Melbourne, 1973
Festival of Sydney 1979 papers including invitation to participate (Adrian Rawlins) and publicity material
Correspondence from Margaret Trist (1914-1986), Australian writer

Folder 56 (MSS 228.B7.56)

Poems collected by Diesendorf for shortlisting after consideration by Robert Graves, for a planned anthology of 'New Australian Poets' co-edited by both writers

Folder 57 (MSS 228.B7.57)

Correspondence with Yasmine Gooneratne, Australian-based writer and academic, and noted Sri Lankan poet
Creative moment – issue featuring Gooneratne's work

Folder 58 (MSS 228.B7.58)

Two unpublished addresses - 'A reply to what is new on the poetry scene', 'What ethnic writers can, and could, do in the field of translation.'
Australia Council writing grant assessment – Raphael Pomain
Australia Council writing grant assessment – Jutta Sieverding

Miscellaneous business correspondence

Box 8 (MSS 228.B8)

Folder 59 (MSS 228.B8.59)

View Clubs Australia – judge's report, 1974

Folder 60-64 (MSS 228.B8.60-64)

Papers relating to 'Correspondence: a novel in the form of love letters'

Box 9 (MSS 228.B9)

Folder 65 (MSS 228.B9.65)

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings

Correspondence from Norman Talbot, James Dickey, Alan Rees (son of artist Lloyd Rees), Barry Breen and Margaret Denat

Folder 66 (MSS 228.B9.66)

Typescript draft – 'The Nine Lives of Big Meg O'Shannessy: poems' by John Millett

Correspondence with Marguerite Schluter, Limes Verlag publishing house

Correspondence with Jean-Guy Pilon, editor of *Liberte-Montreal*, concerning the Canadian issue of *Poetry Australia* and *Liberte-Montreal* 52, with copies of the French versions of the poems submitted with the article

Folder 67 (MSS 228.B9.67)

Three unpublished reviews, c1966-1967 for *Poetry Australia* – typescript carbon copies

Correspondence from Rosemary Dobson, 1961-1975

Correspondence with Barbara Giles, 1976-1982

Folder 68 (MSS 228.B9.68)

Miscellaneous correspondence.

Correspondence from Louis Dautheuil, 1964-1985

Folder 69 (MSS 228.B9.69)

Correspondence with *Southern review*, 1977

Correspondence regarding water fluoridation

Correspondence with Howard Sergeant, 1983-1986

Folder 70 (MSS 228.B9.70)

Published and unpublished manuscripts

Poetry Australia correspondence

Folder 71 (MSS 228.B9.71)

Review of *The rebirth of Austria* by Richard Hiscocks, 1957

Translation of the 'Charter of the Swiss Confederacy: 1291'

Translation from the French by Diesendorf of paper by Guinean poet Djibril Tamsir Niane for *PEN international* bulletin

Folder 72 (MSS 228.B9.72)

Correspondence with West Australian poet Joyce Parkes

Oversize Material (MSS 228.OS)

Folio 1 (MSS 228.OS.1)

Galley proofs:

Poetry Australia, No. 1, December. 1964, plus printed issue

E&S poetry frozen section

Poetry Australia, No. 27

Poetry magazine, No. 1, 1964, plus printed issue

E&S poetry, No. 22 [no date]

E&S poetry, No. 45, 1972

Folio 2 (MSS 228.OS.2)

Record, 33 1/3rpm – Nexus & Earle Birney III

Florilège collection – French poetry including Laforgue, Rictus, Jammes, Apollinaire, Jacob, Carco, Cadon
