



KENNETH MACKENZIE COLLECTION GUIDE

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Kenneth Mackenzie collection
Collection dates:	1935-1953
Creator:	Kenneth Mackenzie
Languages represented:	English
Repository:	Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/
Extent:	1 box
Genre and Forms:	Correspondence; manuscripts poetry, plays and prose; press clippings; diary.
Abstract:	Kenneth Ivo Mackenzie was both an author and poet in his own right and the sometime editor of <i>Smiths Weekly</i> . This collection represents correspondence both business and personal from Hugh McCrae and Rose Lindsay, general manuscripts of his prose and poems, critiques, press cuttings, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance

The Mackenzie papers were deposited with the University Library by his widow, Kathleen Mackenzie.

Access

Rare Books and Special Collections is a closed access collection located on Level 1 of Fisher Library. For information on how to view items visit our website <https://www.library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/>

Staff will retrieve the material for you which must be read under supervision in the Rare Books Reading Room. You must provide identification (eg. University of Sydney library card, driver's license, passport) while you are using the material.

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Preferred citation

Kenneth Mackenzie collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library.

Biographical note

Kenneth Seaforth Mackenzie (1913-1955) was born in Perth and educated at Guildford Grammar School. He studied briefly at Muresk Agricultural College and at the University of Western Australia.

He left Perth in December 1933 for Melbourne, moving to Sydney the following year where he worked as a reviewer of movies, books and drama for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In 1934 he married art teacher Kathleen Bartlett and they had two children. Mackenzie worked as a journalist with *Smith's Weekly* and *ABC Weekly*, before being drafted into the army in 1942. He served as a corporal in Cowra, overseeing Italian captives in a Prisoner of War camp, and later spent time in an army hospital. Mackenzie drew on his war experiences in his novel *Dead Men Rising*.

Mackenzie used the pen name, Seaforth Mackenzie, for his first novel *The Young Desire It* (1937). He had several novels published, as well as short stories and collections of poetry. He left behind unpublished manuscripts of short stories, radio plays and a novel. Mackenzie's fiction and poetry explores such themes as family relationships, the passage of time and life cycles, sexuality, and death. The Oxford Companion to Australian Literature asserts that his later poetry achieves "a controlled tranquility and compassion".

Quote from: Name record, Mackenzie, Kenneth. AustLit: Australian Literature Gateway (www.austlit.edu.au), 2002- [Retrieved 28/10/2004]

Local Catalogue Headings

Mackenzie, Kenneth, 1913-1955

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Access restricted to scholars and family

Mackenzie Collection 1

- a] McCrae, Hugh. Letters to Kenneth Mackenzie. c.1938 -1947
These also contain poems, pencil, and pen and ink sketches and satires. Numbering is that assigned by Mackenzie himself.
1. Numbers 1-4, 6-9, 11-20
 2. Numbers 21-40
 3. Numbers 41-48
- b] McCrae, Hugh. Miscellaneous sketches, some with notes.
1. Number 49. Sketch of Mussolini and Hitler. With note "Merry Christmas Kim"
 2. Numbers 50 - 60
 3. Unnumbered sketches. 2 items. "Satyrs", "The God Pan"

- c] Lindsay, Rose. Letters to Kenneth Mackenzie. 5/6 Dec.1940 - 25 Apr.1942
1. Letters. 1940 - 1941. 11 items.
2. Letters. 1942. 2 items.

Mackenzie Collection 2

General correspondence, 1936 -1954. 6 envelopes.

Mackenzie Collection 3

Critiques of manuscripts (by other writers) submitted to publishers

Mackenzie Collection 4

Articles and reviews

Mackenzie Collection 5

Press cuttings on the Arts, 1945-49

Mackenzie Collection 6

Manuscripts, prose

Mackenzie Collection 7

Manuscripts, plays

Mackenzie Collection 8

Manuscripts, poetry

Mackenzie Collection 9

Poems 1935-37, 1940, 1953

Mackenzie Collection 10

Diary 4 April 1948 - 15 May 1948

Mackenzie Collection 11

Hugh McCrae, "The Mimshi Maiden"

Miscellaneous notes

Cards and sketches

Concert programmes

Photographs (Alice Kenny, Norman Lindsay)

Mackenzie Collection 12

Microfilm of manuscript poetry