

George Mackay Brown Collection
Orkney Library & Archive

D124 George Mackay Brown Collection

Files of material by George Mackay Brown collated by type (essays, short stories, poetry, plays, novellas, novels) and ordered chronologically within this. This collection includes manuscripts and typescripts of a number of the author's best-known works, and also includes rarer and unpublished material. Permission to reproduce material must be sought from the literary executor.

George Mackay Brown (1921-1996) was born in Stromness in the Orkney Islands and lived there all his life; apart from the time he spent as a student at Newbattle Abbey College in Dalkeith, and at the University of Edinburgh where he studied English. He began his literary career as a poet (his first collection of poetry, *The Storm*, was published in 1954) and he soon expanded his repertoire to include several collections of short stories, five novels, numerous plays, children's books and collections of local journalism. Along with Peter Maxwell Davies, Brown set up the inaugural St Magnus Festival in 1977. He was awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Book Prize in 1988 and won the Saltire Book of the Year Award in 1994 – the same year that he was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for his novel *Beside the Ocean of Time*. He is the author of over fifty works, including a posthumously-published autobiography and over eighteen volumes of poetry.

D124/1 Essays 1955-1984

This box contains folders of manuscript and typescript non-fiction essays by George Mackay Brown, written across four decades. Broadcast scripts and newspaper clippings of these essays are also included. Many of these were published in *The Scotsman*, *Scotland on Sunday* and *The Tablet*. They are ordered chronologically.

D124/1/1 – Essays 1955-1968

- /1 Living in Orkney (1955), clipping
- /2 The Viking Cathedral (1960), broadcast script
- /3 Magnus the Martyr (1962), clipping
- /4 How the Sabistons Came to Orkney (1963), clipping and photocopy
- /5 Yule in the North (1964), broadcast script
- /6 Childhood in Orkney (1968), clipping

D124/1/2 – Essays 1972-1978

- /1 'George Mackay Brown: The Orkney Saga-Man' (1972), broadcast script fragment
- /2 Scottish Writing: 'The Orcadian Voice' (1973)
- /3 Scottish Writing: The Literature of the Northern Islands (1973), broadcast script
- /4 Scottish History: 'Scotland and Scandinavia' (1974), broadcast script
- /5 A Poet Shipwrecked (1974), ts
- /6 Introduction to Selected Stories of GMB (1974), ts
- /7 Midwinter in Orkney (1974), ts
- /8 How Stromness Flourished (1974), clipping
- /9 Rites and Festivities I (1976), broadcast script
- /10 As I Remember: An Autobiographical essay (1977), 2 tss
- /11 Whitemaas (1977), ts
- /12 Newbattle: Early Days (1977) ts
- /13 Books, Plays, Poems: Poems for all Seasons (1978), broadcast script

D124/1/3 – Essays 1979

- /1 Hamnavoe (1979), 2 tss
- /2 Letters to the River (1979), ts
- /3 Solstice of Light: Introduction to BBC 3 recording (1979), 3 tss
- /4 The Harp and the Eagle's Claw: a radio talk (1979), 2 tss
- /5 The Living Poet: George Mackay Brown (1979), broadcast script and ts
- /6 A Composer and His House (1979), 2 tss

D124/1/4 – Essays 1980-1981

- /1 John Brown: Tailor and Postman (1980), 3 tss
- /2 Orkney: Observer Article (1980), 2 tss
- /3 Living in the Islands (1980), 2 tss
- /4 The Shore (BBC Radio Schools) (1980), 2 tss & photocopied ts
- /5 Scottish Writing: George Mackay Brown: 3 (1980), broadcast script
- /6 Akros – Edwin Muir Special (1981), magazine [including 9 letters from Hugo Brunner & one from Peter Butter]**

/7 Ernest Walker Marwick (1981), ts

D124/1/5 – Essays 1982-1984

/1 Silver: How it Came to be Written (1982), ts

/2 The way of literature: an apologia by George Mackay Brown (1982), photocopy

/3 The Place for Me (1982), broadcast script [with letter fro the BBC]*

/4 Autumn in the Islands (1983), ts

/5 Britain: Tomorrow's Heritage: Orkney (1983), ts

/6 Introduction: Guide Book (1983), 2 tss

/7 Stromness: Guide Book (1983), ts

/8 Norman MacCaig: One or Two Impressions (1983), ts

/9 The Gentle Shetlander: Foreword (1983), ts & 2 photocopies

/10 Orkney Short Stories: Introduction (1983), ts

/11 John Brown – Postman (1984), ts

/12 Entry for Dictionary of Literary Biography (1984), offprint [with letter]*

/13 Foreword: Scotland from the Air (1984), ts

/14 Orkney and Scotland (1984), 2 tss & photocopied ts

/15 Stenwick Days (1984), 2 tss

/16 A Poet and a Cat (1984), 2 tss

D124/2 Essays 1985-1996 & Undated Essays

This box contains folders of manuscript and typescript non-fiction essays by George Mackay Brown, 1985-1996, as well as undated essays. Broadcast scripts and newspaper clippings of these essays are also included. Many of these were published in *The Scotsman*, *Scotland on Sunday* and *The Tablet*. They are ordered chronologically.

D124/2/1 – Essays 1985

/1 Suddenly there were Penguins (1985), ts

/2 Edwin Muir (1985), 2 tss

/3 Islands in the Rain (1985), ts

/4 Poetry and Voyaging (1985), 2 tss

/5 Pub Which Gave Birth to a Family of Poets (1985), clipping

- /6 Saint Magnus of Orkney (bbc schools radio) (1985), ts
- /7 The Writer's Predicament (1985), 2 tss
- /8 The Verge of the Ice Age (1985), 2 tss
- /9 The Goodness and Beauty of Stones (1985), ts
- /10 Elegies by Douglas Dunn (review, 1985), ts
- /11 The Isles of the Sea (review, 1985), ts
- /12 The Orkney Story (review, 1985), 2 tss
- /13 The Kilmarnock Poems (review, 1985), ts
- /14 Old Confessions and New Cliches (review, 1985), ts
- /15 Summoned by Knox: Poems in Scots (review, 1985), ts
- /16 Celebrating Beauty that is Underfoot (1985), clipping
- /17 A Poet's Encounters with the Roving Gypsy of Orkney (1985), clipping
- /18 Household Goods and Winter Blossoms (1985), clipping

D124/2/2 – Essays 1986-1989

- /1 Foreword: Selected Stories (1986), ts
- /2 From the Islands to the Old Quad (1986), ts
- /3 Orkney (1986), ts
- /4 Pen Mightier than the Predicament (1986), clipping
- /5 Thoughts of an Old Age Pensioner (1986), ts
- /6 Time in a Red Coat (précis for German translation) (1986), 2 tss
- /7 A Garioch Miscellany (review, 1986), ts
- /8 Introduction: Poems by Ida Matthews (1986), ts
- /9 The Dirty Business (review, 1986), ts
- /10 Introduction: Book of Orkney Photographs (1987), ts & photocopied ts
- /11 Magnus Saga (review, 1987), ts
- /12 Edwin Muir (1988), 2 tss
- /13 Treasures Beyond Price (1988), clipping
- /14 Introduction: The Tryst on Egilsay (1988), 2 tss
- /15 Orkney and the Artist (1988), photocopy of ms, ts & proof
- /16 Silver: A Commentary on a Story (1988), 2 tss & broadcast script
- /17 The Truth of Imagination, Edwin Muir (review, 1988), ts
- /18 The View from Here (1989), clipping and photocopy

- /19 Orkney: People of the Sea (1989), 2 tss
- /20 The Realms of Gold: An Anthology for the St Magnus Festival '89 (1989), ts
- /21 Stones of Aran: Pilgrimage (review, 1989), ts and clipping

D124/2/3 – Essays 1990-1996

- /1 Foreword: Highlands and Islands of Scotland (1990), ts
- /2 The Old Man and his Writing Desk (1991), ts, photocopy and clipping
- /3 Orkney Diary (1991), photocopy
- /4 Scenes from a Provincial Life (1991), ts & photocopy
- /5 A Harvest of Island Lore (review, 1992), clipping
- /6 Fly on the Wall (1994), photocopy
- /7 Rooted in One Dear Familiar Place (1994), 2 tss
- /8 Bernard Shaw in Stromness (1994), ms & 3 tss
- /10 Playgrounds (1996), ts
- /11 'Tablet' essay (1996), ms

D124/2/4 – Essays, Undated

- /1 Why Live in Orkney?, ts
- /2 A Seat by my Bed, play script
- /3 By Car through Many Centuries: An Orkney Journey, ts
- /4 Edinburgh, ts
- /5 Edwin Muir, ts
- /6 Poetry Review: Scotsman , ts
- /7 Orkney Days by Christine Muir (review), ts
- /8 The Mystery of Making, ts
- /9 Notes of a Clay Pigeon (review), ts
- /10 P.E.N. New Poetry I (review), ts
- /11 North by Seamus Heaney (review), ts
- /12 Selected Letters of Edwin Muir (review), ts
- /13 The 'Old Orkney' Distillery, 2 tss & photocopied ts
- /14 (Charles Senior) Death of a Poet, clipping and photocopy
- /15 An Island Town, ts

- /16 Earl Thorfinn, 2 tss
- /17 Stromness, 3 photocopies
- /18 I Know what I Like: George Mackay Brown, broadcast script
- /19 Introduction to Stories from The Two Fiddlers for Radio, ts
- /20 Article on Newbattle, photocopy
- /21 My Country Childhood, photocopy
- /22 Saint Magnus, 2 BBC tv tss
- /23 Stromness, George Mackay Brown, ts
- /24 The Burning Revenge of Earl Thorfinn, 2 newspaper clippings
- /25 Iain Crichton Smith: A Life (review), 2 tss
- /26 The View from Orkney, photocopy
- /27 Poetry: Keeping the Flame Alive, photocopy
- /28 The Sonnet as Cobra, clipping
- /29 Oil and the Orcadians, ts
- /30 Edwin Muir, proof

D124/3 Novellas 1972 – 1994

This box contains folders of manuscripts, typescripts and broadcast scripts for novellas (1972-1994).

- /1 The Island of the Women (1972-1988), 4 tss
- /2 The Fortress (1977), 2 mss, 4 tss and partial ts
- /3 The Laird's Story (1977), ms and ts
- /4 Poet and Prince: A Fable (1985), 2 tss
- /5 The Voyage of the Flood-Tide (1990), ts
- /6 The Taking of the Islands (1994), 2 mss and 2 tss

D124/4 Plays 1967 – 1979

This box contains folders of manuscripts, typescripts, film shooting scripts & rehearsal scripts for plays (1967-1979).

- /1 Per Mare, ms (not GMB's hand, original performance of this play is noted as 1967)
 - The Storm Watchers, tss [includes emails from Archie Bevan]*
 - The Wireless Set, 2 tss [adapted from the short story by Morag MacInnes]

- /2 A Spell For Green Corn (1972), 2 tss with some ms pages, theatre programme & broadcast script
- /3 A Child's Play of Magnus in Fourteen Stations (1973), ms
- /4 Earl Rognvald's Crusade, 3 tss [includes a letter from Brown's typist & a letter from the BBC, 1974]*
- /5 Grey furrow, Black Furrow (1974), ts
- /6 The King of Thule (1976), 3 tss & partial broadcast script [includes a letter from the BBC]*
- /7 The Road to Colonus (1977), ms programme note and 2 tss
- /8 The April Play (1977), 2 tss
- /9 Let's See Orkney (1978), rehearsal scripts and film shooting scripts
- /10 Hamnavoe Market: A Dramatisation for Radio (1979), photocopied ts

D124/5 Three Plays

This box contains folders of typescripts and galley proofs for *Three Plays: The Loom of Light, The Well, The Voyage of Saint Brandon*. Some plays are undated but are collated together as they appear together in the same published collection (1984) and are at various stages of revision for this collection here.

- /1 Three Plays: The Loom of Light, The Well, The Voyage of Saint Brandon (undated), revised proof. Introduction to Three Plays (1983), ts. [includes a letter from Chatto & Windus/The Hogarth Press]*
- /2 Three Plays: The Loom of Light, The Well, The Voyage of Saint Brandon (1984) revised galley proof, & printer's copy (undated).
- /3 The Voyage of Brandon (undated), 2 tss
- /4 The Voyage of Saint Brandon (undated), Radio 3 Broadcast script
- /5 The Loom of Light (undated), ts scenes from the play:
 - /1 - 2 tss of 'Introduction'
 - /2 - 2 tss of scene 1: Seedtime
 - /3 - 3 tss of scene 2: A Boy and a Seal
 - /4 - 3 tss of scene 3: Song of Battle
 - /5 - 2 tss of scene 4: The Fields in Summer
 - /6 - 3 tss of scene 5: Prelude to the Invocation of the Dove
 - /7 - 2 tss of scene 6: The Killing
 - /8 - 2 tss of scene 7: Harvest
- /6 The Loom of Light (undated), ts
- /7 The Loom of Light (undated), ts scenes from the play:
 - /1 - 7 tss of scene 1: Seedtime

- /2 - 4 tss of scene 2: A Boy and a Seal
- /3 - 2 tss of scene 3: Song of Battle
- /4 - 2 tss of scene 4: The Fields in Summer
- /5 - 2 tss of scene 5: Prelude to the Invocation of the Dove
- /6 - 3 tss of scene 6: The Killing
- /7 - 6 tss of scene 7: Harvest

/8 The Well (1980-1981), ts

D124/6 Plays 1982 – 1990 and Undated Plays

This box contains folders of ms and ts plays from 1982-1990, and some undated plays.

- /1 The Milestone: A Christmas Play (1982), 2 tss
- /2 The Well, 2 partial mss (1982), 3 partial tss, 1 photocopy ts
- /3 The Island of the Saints: A Play (1983), 2 tss
- /4 The Silver Oar (1983), 3 ms drafts & 2 tss
- /5 The Girl from the Sea: A Play for Voices (1984), ts and 2 photocopies tss
- /6 The Sweetie Shop in the Snow (1986), ts
- /7 Edwin Muir and the Labyrinth: A Play (1987), photocopied ts
- /8 The Highlander's Umbrella (1990), 2 tss
- /9 The Stranger (undated), ms
- /10 The Holy Voyage (undated), ts
- /11 Sea Witch (undated), ts & photocopy
Lands of Odin, ts
Play fragments, 2 tss
- /12 The Eavesdropper (undated), ms

D124/7 Novels 1971 – 1973

This box contains folders and bundles of typescripts and galley proofs for novels 1971 – 1973.

- /1 Greenvoe (1971), page proof and galley proof.
- /2 The Two Fiddlers (Children's book, 1973), ts, page proof, galley proof. [includes letter & memorandum of agreement from publisher]*
- /3 Magnus (1973), 3 tss, page proof and partial ms.

D124/8 Novels 1977 – 1983

This box contains folders and bundles of proofs and tss for novels 1977-1983.

- /1 Pictures In The Cave (Children's book, 1977), ts. [includes letter from publisher]*
- /2 Time in a Red Coat (1982), ts, chapters 1-10
- /3 Time in a Red Coat (1982), ts, chapters 11-16
- /4 Time in a Red Coat (1982), ts, chapters 1-10
- /5 Time in a Red Coat (1982), ts, chapters 11-16
- /6 Time in a Red Coat (1983), uncorrected proof

D124/9 Novels 1983

- /1 Time in a Red Coat (1983), corrected ts , chapters 1-10.
- /2 Time in a Red Coat (1983), corrected ts, chapters 11-16.
- /3 Time in a Red Coat (1983), printer's page proof

D124/10 Novels 1983 – 1987

This box contains folders of the ts and proofs for The Golden Bird: Two Orkney Stories.

- /1 The Life and Death of John Voe (1983-1984), ts
- /2 Correspondence with the publisher about Portrait of Orkney, The Scottish Bestiary and The Golden Bird and The Life and Death of John Voe (1986). Also includes memorandum of agreement for The Golden Bird. 5 envelopes*
- /3 The Ballad of the Golden Bird (1984-1986), ts
- /4 The Golden Bird: Two Orkney Stories (1984-1986), ts
- /5 The Golden Bird: Two Orkney Stories (1987), corrected proof
- /6 The Golden Bird (1987), proof

D124/11 Novels 1990 – 1993

This box contains folders of tss and proofs for novels 1990-1993.

- /1 Vinland (1990-1991), uncorrected ts [includes memorandum from publisher]*
- /2 Vinland (1990-1991), ts

- /3 Vinland (1992), corrected proof
- /4 Beside the Ocean of Time (1992), ts
- /5 Beside the Ocean of Time (1993), proof

D124/12 Short Story Collections 1960s

This box contains folders of tss and galley proofs for short story collections published in the 1960s.

- /1 A Calendar of Love (undated, but Brown's first collection), ts of:

- Five Green Waves
- The Wheel
- Tam
- The Ballad of the Rose Bush
- A Calendar of Love
- The Ferryman
- Rehearsal script for 'Witch' (October 1971), Radio 4 (Scotland)

- /2 A Time To Keep, 2 galley proofs (1968 and 1969), including Brown's corrections.

- /3 A Time to Keep, 2 ms fragments and ts of:

- Icarus (2 tss)
- The Wireless Set (2 tss)
- The Eye of the Hurricane (2 tss)
- Celia

- /4 A Time to Keep, ts of:

- A Treading of Grapes
- A Time to Keep
- The Story Teller (June 1965)
- The Five of Spades
- The Whaler's Return (January 1966)
- The Bright Spade
- Tartan
- A Carrier of Stones

D124/13 Short Story Collections 1970s

This box contains folders of tss and galley proofs for short story collections published in the 1970s.

/1 Hawkfall, galley proof (1974)

/2 Hawkfall, ts of:

/1 - The Tarn and the Rosary

/2 - The Girl

/3 - The Drowned Rose (2 tss, January 1970)

/4 - Perilous Seas

/5 - The Interrogator

/6 - The Cinquefoil (dated April – August 1973)

/3 The Sun's Net, ts (with corrections) of:

/1 - Pastoral (January/February 1974)

/2 - Silver (February 1973)

/3 - The Seven Poets (March 1975)

/4 - Soldier from the Wars Returning (January 1974)

/5 - Perilous Seas

/6 - The Book of the Black Arts

/7 - The Pirate's Ghost (October/November 1974)

/8 - Brig-O-Dread (November-December 1972)

/9 - A Winter Tale (December 1973-January 1974)

/10 - Stone, Salt, and Rose (April-May 1974)

/4 The Sun's Net, ts:

/1 - The Book of the Black Arts

/2 - The Pirate's Ghost (October/November 1974)

/3 - Brig-O-Dread (November-December 1972)

/4 - Pastoral (January-February 1974)

/5 - A Winter Tale (December 1973-January 1974)

/6 - Soldier from the Wars Returning (January 1974)

/7 - Stone, Salt, Rose (April-May 1974)

/8 - The Seven Poets (March 1975)

/5 Witch and Other Stories (1977), proof

D124/14 Short Story Collections 1980s-1990s.

This box contains folders of tss and galley proofs for short story collections published in the 1980s and 1990s.

/1 Andrina and Other Stories (1983), galley proof

/2 Andrina and Other Stories, ts:

/1 - The Feast at Paplay (October 1971), ts & photocopy

/2 - The Day of the Ox (August 1980)

/3 - The Battle in the Hills (March 1977), photocopied ts

/4 - An Epiphany Tale (January 1979)

/5 - The Golden Coat

/6 - A Winter Legend (Winter 1977)

/7 - Darkness and Light (December 1976 – January 1977)

/8 - A Candle for Milk and Grass (5 November 1976)

/9 - The Lost Boy: A Christmas Story (15 October 1981)

/10 - The Satirist (August 1975)

/11 - Gold Dust

/12 - The Skald in the Cave (August 1975)

/13 - Lord of Silence (August 1975)

/14 - The Chamber of Poetry (1-2 June, 1976)

/15 - The Battle in the Hills (March 1977), 2 tss and photocopy

/16 - Michael Surfax, Whaler (21-22 September 1976), ts, photocopy & newspaper clipping

/3 The Masked Fisherman (1989), proof

/4 Short Stories that will eventually become collected as Winter Tales. This folder contains:

/1 - Stories for a Possible Book (August 1994), ms list

/2 - A Crusader's Christmas: A story (26-27 October 1990), ts

/3 - The Laird's Son: A Christmas Story (November 1989), ts & photocopy of newspaper publication (Scotsman, 1989)

/4 - The Woodcarver, 2 newspaper clippings (Scotsman, 24 December 1991)

/5 - The Architect, ts

/6 - Lieutenant Bligh and Two Midshipmen (October 1985), 2 tss & 2 partial tss

/7 - Dancey (1993), photocopy from New Writing 2

/8 - A Boy's Calendar: A Story (22-24 October, 1990), ts

- /9 - The Lost Sheep: A Story (29-30 October 1990), 2 tss
- /10 - Foreword: Winter Tales, 3 tss
- /11 - The Road to Emmaus: A Story (16-17 April, 1974), 3 tss
- /12 - The Sons of Upland Farm: A Christmas Story, ts
- /13 - The Lantern at the Rock: A Ballad in Prose (May 1994), ts
- /14 - Saint Christopher, ts
- /15 - Twenty-One Pairs of Boots: A Christmas Story (December 1981), ts

D124/15 Short Story Collections 1990s

This box contains folders of tss and proofs for the short story collection Winter Tales.

- /1 Winter Tales, photocopy of ts with corrections [includes a letter from publisher (1994) about The Golden Bird]*
- /2 Winter Tales, photocopy of ts proof
- /3 Winter Tales, some tss and page proof. [includes letter from the publisher (1995)]*

D124/16 Short Stories 1949 -1980 (not held together as collections)

This box contains folders of short stories by Brown, from 1949-1980. Many of these were published in newspapers and magazines; some of them found their way into collections of short stories some years later. Short stories are listed chronologically and if several mss and tss of one short story are included, they are usually dated according to the earliest ms or ts.

D124/16/1 – Short Stories 1949-1973

- /1 Meditation on a Murder (dated 19 April 1949), ts [this is not the original ts]
- /2 The Whaler's Return (January 1966), ts
- /3 The Milkmaid and the Wife with Bunions (November 1967), clipping from North 2 & photocopy.
- /4 Sealskin (February 1971), ts
- /5 The Burning Harp (December 1971), ts [with letter from typist]*
- /6 Tithonus: Fragments from the Diary of laird (February 1972), ts
- /7 Brig-O-Dread (November-December 1972), ts
- /8 A Winter Tale (December 1973-January 1974), ts
- /9 Dialogue (July 1973), ts

/10 The Changeling (August 1973) ms, & 2 tss

D124/16/2 – Short Stories 1974-1975

/1 The Patriot Crofter Wife (1974), 2 tss

/2 The Mercenary (April 1974), 2 clippings from Scotia Review no. 7

/3 The Prisoner: A Romance (April-May 1974), ts

/4 Two Horses: Rose and Terror (25-27 June 1974), ts

/5 The Tryst of the Kings: A Christmas Story (November 1974), 2 tss

/6 The Feast of the Strangers: An Orkney Fable (11-12 November 1974), ts & newspaper clipping

/7 The Paraffin Lamp (1975), clipping from Hydro News

/8 Dialogue (1975) ts for BBC Radio

/9 The Seven Poets (March 1975), ts

/10 Beliah (April-May 1975), ts & photocopy of published text

/11 The Sinking (8 August 1975), ms

/12 Spinster (September 1975) ms, photocopy of ms & 7 tss

/13 The Otter's Tale (1-2 October 1975), ts & clipping from Words 9

/14 The Innocents: A Christmas Story (23 November 1975), ts

/15 The Ides of March (15 December 1975), 2 tss & clipping from Panache 1981

D124/16/3 – Short Stories 1976-1977

/1 Love Song (Idyll) (1976-85), 5 tss & 2 photocopied tss

/2 Jim (March 1976), ms

/3 Winifred and Penny (16 September 1976), ms

/4 Night Crossing (18 September 1976), 2 tss & photocopy of published text

/5 The First Day of Spring (27 October 1976), tss

/6 Keepers of the House (December 1976), ts

/7 Stones (1977), ts, ts photocopy & photocopy of published text

/8 Miss Barraclough, ts, filming script & commentary script (1977)

/9 The Last Night of the Seige (Idyll) (16 March 1977), 2 tss

/10 Igor the Poet (31 March 1977), ms

/11 Orpheus With Numbers (April 1977), 2 tss

/12 Saul Scarth (Idyll) (July 1977), 3 tss

/13 The Burning Stone (18-21 July 1977), ms

- /14 The Fairground poet (20 August 1977), ms & 4 tss
- /15 Orpheus with his Lute (23 August 1977), ts and photocopied ts
- /16 The Street of the Seamen (December 1977/January 1978), ms

D124/16/4 – Short Stories 1978-1980

- /1 Elizabeth Sweyn, Widow, at her Writing Desk in the Hall (Idyll) (1978-80), ts
- /2 The Trows and the Highest Mountain (November 1978), 2 tss
- /3 The Martians are Coming! (December 1978), 3 tss
- /4 The Lodging-House Keeper, 2 undated tss & 2 photocopies of published text (1979)
- /5 Men and Gold and Bread (14 February 1979), 2 tss
- /6 The Scholar (Idyll) (1979-80), ts
- /7 A Little Old Tailor (1979), 2 tss & 2 ms short story plans
- /8 The Meeting: An Orkney Tale by George Mackay Brown [not in GMB's hand, dated 1980]
- /9 Jenny Barraclough (1980), clipping & photocopy from New Edinburgh Review No. 50
- /10 The Winter Song (1980), clipping from The Scotsman
- /11 Love Song (February, 1980), ms
- /12 The Feast on the Shore (April 1980), 5 tss
- /13 Whales (6 April 1979) ms & 2 tss
- /14 A Woman in a Village (11 December 1980), ts

D124/17 Short Stories 1981-1989 (not held together as collections)

This box contains folders of short stories by Brown, from 1981-1989. Many of these were published in newspapers and magazines; some of them found their way into collections of short stories some years later. Short stories are listed chronologically and if several mss and tss of one short story are included, they are usually dated according to the earliest ms or ts.

D124/17/1 – Short Stories 1981-1982

- /1 Hunters (Idyll) (1981), 2 tss & photocopy of published text
- /2 Love Story (April 1981), ts & 4 ts photocopies
- /3 Old Mada and Young Willa (27 April 1981), 2 tss
- /4 Sam and the Sea (May-June 1981), ts & photocopy of published text
- /5 Snow and Harvest (7 November 1981), 2 mss

/6 Twenty-One Pairs of Boots (December 1981), ts

/7 The Seasons (1982), ms

/8 The Wanderer's Tale (summer 1982), ts

D124/17/2 – Short Stories 1983-1984

/1 The School Inspector (March 1983), ts, 2 photocopies of published text, & proof

/2 The Horse Fair (idyll) (Easter 1983), 2 tss

/3 Scarecrow (May 1983), ts

/4 Betty Corrigan (12 July 1982), ts & photocopy of published text

/5 The Christmas Exile (November 1983), 4 tss, 2 newspaper clippings & newspaper clipping photocopy

/6 The Old Man in the Snow (1984), ts & clipping from The Scotsman

/7 Shell Songs: A Letter from the Laird's Wife (1984), photocopy of published text from Scottish Short Stories 1984

/8 A Farewell to Gretyl (January 1984), ts

/9 Beachcomber (February/March 1984), ts

/10 The Stone Rose (December 1984), ts

D124/17/3 – Short Story 1985

Prince and Poet: A Game of Chess (Winter 1985-1986), 2 tss & 2 ms fragments [includes large wooden mouse ornamental paperclip]

D124/17/4 – Short Stories 1985-1986

/1 Small Tales of Hamnavoe (1985, Radio Orkney), 8 tss including 'A Stubborn Fisherman', 'Bloody Pudding' and 'Pilgrim'.

/2 Sea Women (1985), ts, photocopied ts, photocopy of newspaper clipping & 4 other duplicate tss

/3 Noah's Ark (29 August 1985), 2 tss

/4 David and Goliath (29 August 1985), 2 tss

/5 The Last Island Boy (14-15 October 1985), tss, 2 newspaper clippings & clipping photocopy

/6 Ghost Story for Aiden Chambers (5 January 1986), ms

/7 The White Horse Inn (August 1987), 2 tss

/8 Christmas Story (27 September 1985-30 September 1985), ms

/9 The Hooded Ones (November 1986), ts, ts photocopy & newspaper clipping

/10 New Year, 1930 (5 December 1986), ts

D124/17/5 – Short Stories 1987-1989

- /1 The Island (1987), ms
- /2 'It is an island of no consequence...' (12 February 1979), ms
- /3 Burn Song (1 August 1987), ms
- /4 The Star Seeker (November 1987/November 1988), 2 tss & 2 newspaper clippings [includes letter from the Scottish Arts Council (1988)]*
- /5 One Christmas in Birsay (16/17 November 1987), photocopied ts
- /6 A Croft in January (25 November 1987), ts
- /7 A Child's Christmas in Orkney, 2 undated tss, 1 ts photocopy, clipping & photocopied clipping of published text in The Tablet (December 1987)
- /8 Arnor the Poet (November 1988), ms
- /9 The Christmas Horse (7-8 November 1988), 2 tss, 2 newspaper clippings & a photocopied newspaper clipping
- /10 The Return: A Story (20 July 1989), ts
- /11 The Feast of the Children: A Christmas Story (16-17 November 1989), 2 tss
- /12 Herman: A Christmas Story (23 December 1989), newspaper clipping from Glasgow Herald

D124/18 Short Stories 1990-1996 (not held together as collections)

This box contains folders of short stories by Brown, from 1990-1996. Many of these were published in newspapers and magazines; some of them found their way into collections of short stories some years later. Short stories are listed chronologically and if several mss and tss of one short story are included, they are dated according to the earliest ms or ts.

D124/18/1 – Short Stories 1990-1992

- /1 The Rose Tree: A Passiontide Story (12/13 February 1990), 2 tss
- /2 Yolo (1991), 2 tss
- /3 The Death of Augustus: A Mystery Thriller (1991), 2 tss
- /4 The Lost Traveller: A Story for Christmas (November 1991), ms
- /5 A Christmas Holiday: A Short Faction (9 December 1991), ms
- /6 The Ship (27 December 1991), ms
- /7 The Seller of Sea Winds: An Epiphany Tale (1992), ms

/8 Lazarus: A Story for Easter (April 1992), 2 tss

/9 Ring Out Wild Bells: A Tennyson Centenary Story (January 1992), ms & 2 tss

/10 The Stone Cutter (November 1992), ms

D124/18/2 – Short Stories 1993-1994

/1 Explorers: Franklin and Rae (February/March 1993), ms

/2 The Golden Slipper: A Twentieth Century Country Shebeen (July 27-29, 1993), ms

/3 The Fight in the 'Plough and Ox' (February 1994), ts

/4 The Lantern at the Rock (May 1994), ms, ts & 4 photocopies of published text

/5 The Winter Battle: A Story (5 November 1994), ms

/6 Magnificat (June/July 1994), ms

D124/18/3 – Short Stories 1995-1996

/1 A Saint Andrew's Day Legend (1995), 2 tss, proof and photocopy of published text

/2 The First Football Match (1995), 2 tss

/3 The Sixth Station (1995), ms & 2 tss

/4 Paddy Crowsnest and the Elements (January 1995), ms and 3 tss

D124/18/4 – Short Stories 1995-1996 Continued.

/1 The Mad Viking (15 August 1995), ms

/2 Stars: A Christmas Story (October 1995), ms, ts & photocopy of published text

/3 The Poor Man in his Castle: A Christmas Story (3/4 October 1995), ms & ts

/4 The Taking of Orkney (October/November 1995), 3 proofs

/5 Song for the Spring Equinox, 2 tss (1996) from an earlier ms (1966)

/6 The Man on the Shore (1996), ms & 2 tss

/7 I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In (October 1995), ms, 2 tss & newspaper clipping (22 December 1996)

D124/19 Undated Short Stories

This box contains folders of undated short stories by Brown. Many of these were published in newspapers and magazines; some of them found their way into collections of short stories some years later.

D124/19/1 – Undated Short Stories folder 1

- /1 'The house was in a state of neglect...', ms
- /2 The Noust, ms
- /3 The Horseman (Idyll), ts
- /4 Miss Barraclough [not in gmb's hand], ms
- /5 'I was coming round the shoulder of the hill...' (Idyll), ms
- /6 'national politics and the affairs of the town...' (fragment), ts
- /7 The Fires of Christmas, ts
- /8 The Fight At Greenay, ts
- /9 The Pirate's Ghost, galley proof
- /10 The Book of Black Arts, ms
- /11 The Book of Black Arts, ts [different from above]
- /12 The Book of Black Arts, ts [different from above]
- /13 Shore Dances, ts
- /14 Pictures (Idyll), 4 tss
- /15 The Three Old Men, ms
- /16 An Island in the West, 2 tss

D124/19//2 – Undated Short Stories folder 2

- /1 William and Mareon Clark, 3 tss
- /2 Shell Story, photocopy
- /3 Pearl, photocopy of ts
- /4 Soldier from the Wars Returning, galley proof
- /5 The Shebeen in the Hills, 2 tss
- /6 'I did not expect her tonight...' (Idyll), ms
- /7 Andrew (Idyll), ms & ts
- /8 'John kissed Sarah goodbye...', ms

- /9 'On April the sixteenth....', ms
- /10 Hair Like the Sun (Idyll), 3 tss
- /11 The Little Magician (Idyll), ms & 2 tss
- /12 'Now, says she, stand. "Our Father"...' (Idyll), ms
- /13 'Miss Instone....' (Idyll), ms & ts
- /14 Fisherman (Idyll), ms
- /15 The Rose Jar (Idyll), ms & ts
- /16 The Road to the Kirk (Idyll), ms

D124/19/3 – Undated Short Stories folder 3

- /1 Airman (Idyll), ms
- /2 Lady of the Manse and Captain's Daughter (Idyll), ms
- /3 1588 (Idyll), 3 tss
- /4 A Distant Drum, ms fragments, 5 tss & partial ts

D124/19/4 – Undated Short Stories folder 4

- /1 Home is the Sailor, photocopied ts
- /2 The Jomsvikings, 3 tss
- /3 Livia, ms
- /4 The Boy Prince, ms
- /5 'So, he got word that his grannie was....', ms
- /6 'In Shetland, at a place called Aith...', ms
- /7 Yule Bounty, ms
- /8 Lowrie, ms
- /9 Orpheus, ms
- /10 The Cures of Saint Magnus, ts
- /11 'Mrs Fairfax's nocturnal adventure...', ms
- /12 'When I returned to the island...' , ms fragment

D124/19/5 – Short story scripts for the BBC.

This folder contains scripts of Brown's short stories to be transmitted on BBC radio and television.

- /1 The Whaler's Return, Radio 3 (1969)

/2 The Story of Jorkel Hayforks, Weekend Woman's Hour, Radio 4 (1972) [includes letter from the BBC]*

/3 Earth Gold, Sea Silver, Radio Scotland (1976)

/4 Morning Story: 'The Village', BBC Scotland (1984)

/5 The Whaler's Return play script, (missing front page, date and radio station)

/6 A Play for Today: Three Stories of Orkney, undated.

D124/20 Other Books

This box contains folders of ms and ts books by Brown: An Orkney Tapestry (published 1969) and Letters to Gypsy (published 1990).

/1 Correspondence about An Orkney Tapestry with the publisher, Victor Gollancz Ltd. 15 Letters from the publisher, dating from 1968-1969.*

/2 An Orkney Tapestry (1969), ts

/3 An Orkney Tapestry (1969), ts chapters:

Foreword, ts

Islands and People, 2 tss

Rackwick, 2 tss

Warrior, 2 tss

Crusader, 2 tss

Martyr, 2 tss

/4 An Orkney Tapestry (1969), ts chapters:

The Midsummer Music, 2 tss

The Midwinter Music, 2 tss

The Ballad Singer, 2 tss

Robert Rendall, 2 tss

The Watcher: A Play, ts

/5 Letters to Gypsy (1986-89), photocopy of ms & ts with some illustrations.

/6 Letters to Gypsy, ts with illustrations

/7 Correspondence with publisher of Letters to Gypsy . 4 Letters (1989-90), partial ts of The Sea King's Daughter, & 6 photographs of artwork for Letters to Gypsy.*

D124/21 Other Books continued

/1 Eureka: Prose Poems (1989), ts & photocopied ts [includes a letter from the publisher dated 1990]*

/2 Eureka ts & proof, & The Sea King's Daughter, proof. [includes letter from the publisher dated 1991]*

/3 In The Margins of a Shakespeare (1990), ts chapters & proof [includes a letter from the publisher]*