



Sean O’Casey correspondence (reference AL362)

Listed by Viv Aggett

Reference	Dates	Letter title (correspondent details)	Scope and content
AL362/1	May 16 1937	Sean O’Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Prince of Wales Road, Battersea. Two sides of paper. Apology for missed phone call. O’Casey refers to a debate, which must be postponed, about theatre and his book “The Flying Wasp.” Refers to “your President” who thinks that English theatre is going to the dogs and is friendly with [James] Agate. Wrestling with [Agate’s] articles on American theatre. Mentions “Nathan” Ivor Brown in <i>The Observer</i> .
AL362/2	1 July 1946	Sean O’Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Station Road, Totnes. Two sides of paper. About critics: quotes differing views (Frewin and Stonier)

			<p>on the British Israel episode.</p> <p>Sympathises with Peter over his fifty pupils, suggests he gives them comics. Refers to a member of the International Brigade who has stayed with him. Says Carroll's "White Steed" is good.</p>
AL362/3	12 August 1948	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Station Road, Totnes. Two sides of paper.</p> <p>Says that most of his books are out of print, including "Brown Priest" and goes on to talk about the discipline of priests by the Roman Catholic Church. Congratulates Peter on his proposed marriage. Mentions New York productions of his plays. Family news, Breon to study painting.</p>
AL362/4			Number not used.
AL362/5	15 September 1949	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Station Road, Totnes. One and a half sides of paper.</p> <p>Family news. Has been preoccupied with "what to say to himself and the wide world." Has written a one-act play "Hall of Healing." Talks about "Cockadoodle Dandy" and the fall in his income from America.</p>
AL362/6	3 September 1952	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Station Road, Totnes. Two sides of paper.</p> <p>Thanks Peter for defending him in "John O'London" magazine. A. Clarke, the proposed Dean of Irish poetry,</p>

			dislikes O'Casey and slates "Juno" and "The Plough." Working on the last volume of autobiography "Sunset and Evening Star." Family news.
AL362/7 (i) and (ii)	23 May 1953	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Station Road, Totnes. [One letter written on two pieces of paper, three sides.] Protests that there is no truth in the "canard about Charlie and Sean", which has attracted much attention all over the globe. [From Eileen O'Casey's book <i>Sean</i> , it seems that this is about a production of <i>Purple Dust</i> by Sam Wanamaker.] About articles he is writing for literary magazines in America and Canada.
AL362/8	1 November 1954.	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Torquay. One and a quarter sides of paper. About a lecture he gave at St.Catherine's College Cambridge. The late marriage of [Jean George] Nathan to Julie Haydon. About his health. About leaving Tingrith in Totnes after seventeen years.
AL362/9	10 November 1954	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Torquay. Two sides of paper. Literary articles and gossip. His work on <i>Purple Dust</i> for a New York production. More literary "gossip", J. C. Murray, <i>Drums under the Window</i> , young Irish writer Patrick Galvin in S.E.Star. No time to tackle Warsley. Again talks about leaving Tingrith (Totnes.)

			<p>About <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i> and “his” (Orwell’s?) article <i>The Green Flag</i> and his views about Ireland angered O’Casey.</p> <p>Critical about the Communist Party and the <i>Daily Worker</i>, Palme Dutt, the “Z” agitation.</p>
AL362/10	21 November 1954	Sean O’Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Torquay. Two sides of paper. Peter Newmark’s letter to the <i>New Statesman and Nation</i>, which was not published. <i>Sunset and Evening Star</i> [6th volume of autobiography] much yelling about things it reveals.</p>
AL362/11	7 February 1955	Sean O’Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Torquay. Two sides of paper. <i>The Bishop’s Bonfire</i> to be produced by Cyril Cusack. Reactions in Ireland, London and New York. Remembers reactions to <i>The Plough and the Stars</i> and <i>The Silver Tassie</i>.</p> <p>Comments about Peter and the Labour Party “there are very few independents anywhere in Parliament or out of it.”</p> <p>About a visit from a Unity Theatre worker. Good Communists not necessarily good actors.</p>
AL362/12	20 March 1955	Sean O’Casey to Peter Newmark.	<p>From Torquay. Two sides of paper. About literary articles, in this case in the <i>New Statesman</i>. Their critic Donat O’Donagh is Conor Cruise O’Brien and most of the Irish critics share his opinions. Articles submitted now need to be typed. About [<i>The Bishop’s Bonfire</i>] at the Gaiety</p>

			Theatre, staged by Cyril Cusack and its reception.
AL362/13	18 May 1955	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Torquay. Two sides of paper. Thanks Peter for some articles he has sent. But they are about the bigger things in the world's knowledge whereas he (O'Casey) only knows about beginnings, for example, in education, to him, primary schools are the most important. Articles must be typed. The <i>Bonfire</i> in its fifth week playing to full houses thus "crushing the critics into silence." Visited by Brooks Atkinson and Alan Dent from the <i>News Chronicle</i> .
AL362/14	7 December 1957	Sean O'Casey to Peter Newmark.	From Torquay. Two sides of paper. Has written another play <i>The Drums of Father Ned</i> . To be given its world premiere next May. "Dublin is already agitated about it." Writing down a few thoughts for a possible book on theatre and life in general. Comments on Osborne as a playwright. What do you think of Samuel Beckett? Taking leave he sends "blessing to the human toddlers."