UQFL570
Helen Haenke Collection

Size 7 boxes

Contents Drafts of short stories, prose, poetry and novels in print and electronic text

Date range c1960s to c1980s

Biography Helen Joyce Haenke (1916 – 1978), poet and playwright, was born on 9 May 1916 at Wickham, New South Wales, daughter of Walter Charles Petherbridge, medical practitioner, and his wife Lily Myrtle, née Wood. She married Willis Lynn Haenke, an industrial chemist from Queensland, and from 1943 settled in Ipswich. She became an influential figure in the local community and used her historic home, Rockton, as a focal point for the creative arts. She began her writing career by contributing prose and poetry to literary magazines. Throughout the 1950s her short stories appeared in the Australian Women's Weekly. Her unpublished play, 'Truth to Tell', won an Ipswich drama competition award in 1960, and in the following decade Southerly published her poems and short stories. From 1968 to 1978 she studied a range of arts subjects at the University of Queensland. Her first published poem won a Courier-Mail competition in 1965. She subsequently published two volumes of poetry and her libretto for the opera, The Pied Piper, was performed in Brisbane in 1971. She died of cancer on 7 December 1978.

Notes Unrestricted access
Most manuscripts were transcribed prior to donation and are included on CD within each folder.

Short stories

Box 1

Folder 1
Short story inventory

Folder 2
Short story crits

Folder 3
Folder SS1, 1983
‘Backward in coming forward’
‘The Bride Place’
‘Brutality, sadism, which? Or neither’
‘Cactus (The real wonder)’

Folder 4
Folder SS2
‘The Cathedral’
‘Child prodigy’
*The chosen child*
‘Cousins’
‘The demonstration’
‘The dewy look’

Folder 5
Folder SS3
‘Don’t look back’
‘Drown in a teacup’
‘The edge of fear’
‘The elm tree (two versions)’

Folder 6
Folder SS4
‘A feller running away’
‘Finder’s keeper’
‘First with the news’
‘Gay little ideas’
‘A glass of water’

Folder 7
Folder SS5
‘A golden crown for a gown’
‘The hand of friendship’
‘He’s a good boy’
‘A head for money’
‘Henry Salt and the urge’
Folder 8
Folder SS6
‘Honey saw (The dud)’
‘Idyll’
‘If cherries were kisses’
‘It takes a flood’

Folder 9
Folder SS7
‘The judge’
‘Lalo’
‘Lament for death by euthanasia’
‘The lark turned sour’
‘The last eagle’

Folder 10
Folder SS8
‘Last rites’
‘Late spring’
‘A lot in common’
‘The man on the verandah’

Box 2
Folder 1
Folder SS9
‘Messenger of the gods’
‘Metamorphosis’
‘The middle aged spread’
‘Moment’
‘A night of spiders’

Folder 2
Folder SS10
‘Old Frankenstein’
‘Once – bitten – twice shy’
‘One man’s meat’
‘Rain from heaven’
‘Return to the scene’

**Folder 3**
Folder SS11
‘The Right sort of eyes’
‘The Rooster’
‘Run away home’
‘Schoolgirls don’t change (whither Scotland Yard)’
‘Second chance’

**Folder 4**
Folder SS12
‘Shopping for love’
‘The shuddering tree’
‘A spell of sunshine’ (‘Pretending sunshine & the Prince of hope’; ‘The yellow curtain’)
‘Sponge cake for tea’
‘The steady state’

**Folder 5**
Folder SS13
‘The stone’
‘The sun and the wind’
‘Take care of my heart’
‘Things you should know’
‘Three can play at that game’

**Folder 6**
Folder SS14
‘Three part invention’
‘To grave and maker’
‘Two pigeons’
‘The voices of love’
‘White linen’
'Young corn growing'

**Folder 7**
Folder SS15
‘The bug woman’
‘(Death of a suffragette)’
‘Miss James’

**Prose**

**Folder 8**
Prose inventory

**Folder 9**
Prose crits

**Folder 10**
Folder G1
General prose

**Folder 11**
Folder G2
‘You can keep a good man down’

**Folder 12**
Folder G3
‘Autobiographical letters’

**Novels**

**Box 3**

**Folder 1**
Folder N1
‘The opposing general’
Folder 2
Folder N2
‘Blackfeller’s country’ [Has not been reproduced as electronic text]

Folder 3
Folder N3
‘The little pond’ (workshop version) [Work in progress has not been reproduced as electronic text]

Folder 4
Folder N4
‘The little pond’

Plays
Box 4
Folder 1
Inventory

Folder 2
Crits

Folder 3
Folder D1
‘Adventure in friendship’

Folder 4
Folder D2
‘Bitter orange’

Folder 5
Folder D3
Blackout

Folder 6
Folder D4
First performance
Folder 7
Folder D5
*In memoriam*

Folder 8
Folder D6
*Late warning*

Folder 9
Folder D7
*Return to the fray*

Folder 10
Folder D8
‘The angell of lords’

Folder 11
Folder D9
‘Pandora’s daughter’

Folder 12
Folder D10
*The golden sword*

Folder 13
Folder D11
‘The pied piper’

Folder 14
Folder D12
*Time and the bell*
‘Troth to toll’
**Folder 15**
Folder D13
‘Walk about’

**Folder 16**
Folder D14
‘The Duchess’

**Folder 17**
Folder D15
*The toad*

**Folder 18**
Folder D16
‘One character in search of …’

**Folder 19**
Folder D17
‘A street stall’

**Folder 20**
Folder D19
*The bottom of a birdcage*
Published by Playlab and not reproduced as electronic text

**Box 5**
**Folder 1**
Eight note books hand written notes – including contact addresses, meeting minutes, poetry and speeches (books labelled 1 to 8)

**Poetry**
**Folder 2**
Poetry inventory
Folder 3
Poetry crits

Folder 4
Folder P1, 1964-65
‘Descant to a sigh’

Folder 5
Folder P1A, 1964-65
‘Descant to a sigh’

Folder 6
Folder P1B, 1965
‘Descant to a sigh’

Folder 7
Folder P2
The good company

Folder 8
Folder P3
Prophets and honour

Box 6
Folder 1
Folder P4
‘Five men at Circular Quay’

Folder 2
Folder P5, 1964

Folder 3
Folder P6, 1964
‘Verses for beginners’
Folder 4
Folder P7, 1965

Folder 5
Folder P8, 1966

Folder 6
Folder P9, 1967

Folder 7
Folder P10, 1968

Folder 8
Folder P11, 1968
Overseas poems

Folder 9
Folder P12, 1969

Folder 10
Folder P13, 1970-71

Folder 11
Folder P14, 1970-71
‘Love takes a walk’

Folder 12
Folder P15, 1971-72

Box 7
Folder 1
Folder P16, 1972
‘Hysterectomy’
Folder 2
Folder P17, 1972-73

Folder 3
Folder P18
‘National library’

Folder 4
Folder P19, 1973

Folder 5
Folder P20, 1974

Folder 6
Folder P21, 1975

Folder 7
Folder P22, 1976

Folder 8
Folder P23, 1977

Folder 9
Folder P24, 1977 & 78 HW

Folder 10
Folder P25
‘Full moon’

Folder 11
Folder P26
Undated
Folder 12
Folder P27
‘Domestic ditties’

Folder 13
Folder P28
Poetry in notebooks