

BC 751

THE PEN COLLECTION

The PEN Collection was donated to UCT Libraries in 1982, and further papers added in 1999. These are the papers of SA PEN Centre (Cape), which is an affiliate of International PEN.

PEN is a world association of writers, editors and translators in all branches and classes of literature; the initials standing for poets, essayists and novelists - later expanded to also include playwrights and publishers. It was founded in 1921 by the English poet and novelist C A Dawson-Scott, under the presidency of John Galsworthy. The first South African branch of International PEN was founded in Johannesburg in 1927. The Cape Town Centre was begun in 1960.

Although all centres are autonomous, all branch members automatically belong to International PEN, whose headquarters are in London. Annual international congresses are held in different parts of the world, and members from any centre are invited to attend. There is documentation in the collection relating to the annual conferences, at which matters relating to writers in apartheid South Africa sometimes arose; as well as minutes, memoranda, newsletters, newsclippings and correspondence, both internal and international. Included are opinions of and comment from renowned writers, especially regarding bannings, censorship and similar constraints on authors in SA during the apartheid years. These issues are aired in different sections of the collection - members correspondence (D3); interaction with SA PEN correspondence (D7); interaction with International PEN; as well as in the main Protests section (F). Correspondence is included from the likes of Nadine Gordimer, Sarah G Millin, Alan Paton and Wilbur Smith as well as long-time President Mary Renault and Chairman Frank Barlow.

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P.E.N. COLLECTION

A 1	Foundation papers	
A 2	Constitution	
B	Membership	
B 1	Application for membership	
B 2	Lists of members	
B 3	Lists of members' published works	
B 4	Information sheets remembers' publications	
C	Meetings	
C 1	Minutes Book - minutes of Inaugural Meeting, Committee Meetings & AGMs	1960-69
C 2	Minutes Book - minutes of Committee Meetings & AGMs	1970-81
C 3	Loose-leaf - AGM notices/agendas/minutes	1982-95
C 4	Circulars about meetings	1960-80
C 5	International meetings and congresses	
C 5.1	BLED (playwright's boycott in SA on the agenda)	1964-65
C 5.2	others	1968-80
D	Correspondence	
D 1	Committee matters - nominations; memos between Committee members; circulars	1961-82
D 2	Treasurers	1960-81
D 3	Members - subscriptions; changes of address; resignations; deaths etc. also attempts to recruit black members (see also D7)	1960-83
D 4	Luncheons and luncheon speakers	1962-82
D 5	Newsletter	1968-81
D 6	Mary Renault (long-time President of SA PEN (Cape) - personal papers	1970-83
D 7	Interaction with SA PEN- including restructuring and 1981dissolution of JHB branch	1960-81
D 8	Interaction with International PEN & other PEN- including allegations of passivity of SA PEN	1951-83
D 9	Miscellaneous correspondence	1961-82
E	Specific subjects documentation	
E 1	Copyright	1965-70
E 2	Undesirable publications	1959-63
	1963 Bill	
	SAPEN reaction & response	
E 3	Censorship - official publications; correspondence	1970-79

E 4	PEN collection at South African Library	1968-71
E 5	Public lending rights	1969-76
F	Protests	
F1	External : Government restrictions in the form of censorship/bannings/visa & passport refusals reaction of protests/boycotts etc. by P.E.N- arranged chronologically	1960-79
F2	Internal : Nico Malan ban Finances of International PEN Short Story Competition Miscellaneous	1972 1966-7; 1962 1966-79 1960-89 1990-92
G	Newsletters PEN (Cape) Nos. 1 -165 SA PEN Nos. 166-176	
H	Journals PEN News - Journal of SA PEN Centre nos. 177-190	1992-95
I	Miscellaneous items	
J	Newsclippings Additions to BC 751 P.E.N. COLLECTION	July 1999
•	AGM notices/agendas/minutes plus accompanying documentation such as Chairman's Reports & financial statements	1982-1995
•	Newsletters Nos. 120-176	1981-1992
•	Information sheets re members' publications	
•	Miscellaneous information sheets/notices	
•	P.E.N. News Nos. 177-190	1992-1995