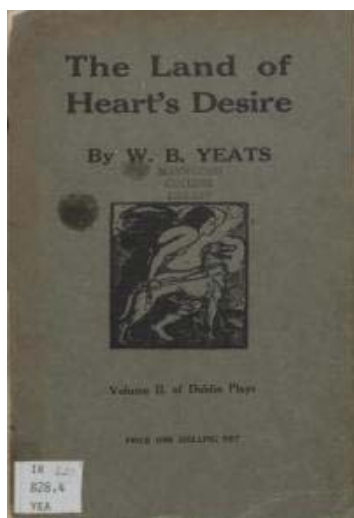


William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

By Olive Morrin, Special Collections & Archives



'The Land of Heart's Desire' by W.B. Yeats

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of [William Butler Yeats](#) on 13th June 1865. Yeats became one of the most prominent figures of 20th Century literature and was the first Irish person to be awarded the [Nobel Prize for Literature](#) although it is generally considered he wrote his best works after he received the prize.

The Library holds copies of much of Yeat's work and a considerable amount of reviews and criticisms by other writers. Special Collections & Archives also holds several unique volumes, including:

- *I am of Ireland: favourite poems by W.B. Yeats with paintings by Yeat's Irish contemporaries* such as Louis Le Brocquy and Harry Clarke.
- *A brief account of the Cuala Press, formerly the Dun Emer Press, founded by Elizabeth Corbet Yeats in 1903*
- *Yeats, the tarot, and the Golden Dawn* by Kathleen Raine
- *W.B. Yeats and the designing of Ireland's coinage: text W. B. Yeats and others, by Brian Cleeve*
- *The Yeats family and the Pollexfens of Sligo* by William M. Murphy with drawings by John Butler Yeats
- *A tower of polished black stones: early versions of 'The shadowy waters'* by William Butler Yeats: edited by David Ridgley Clark and George Mayhew with five illustrations by Leonard Baskin and drawings by the poet

The Library also holds a copy of [The Dolmen Press Yeats Centenary Papers 1965](#) which commemorated the centenary of his birth. This bound collection of twelve papers was published separately between March 1965 and April 1968.

Yeats died in 1939 in [Roquebrune](#), France. His body could not be brought home because of the outbreak of World War II. In 1948 his body was finally brought back to Sligo and he was buried "Under [Ben Bulbin](#)" in [Drumcliffe](#) - as he specified in his *Last Poems*.

References:

The Dolmen Press Yeats Centenary Papers MCMLXV edited by Liam Miller