

## Bullock Manuscripts MS24

Shan Bullock manuscripts donated to the Library of Queen's University, Belfast, by Mrs. Nora Elson in 1965.

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#### 1. LETTERS

- (a) May 25th, 1912.  
Office of the Chief Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Dublin Castle  
Letter to Nora, the author's daughter. Family matters and reference to Sir Horace Plunkett.
- (b) July 2nd, 1922.  
Hotel Bellevue, Samaden  
Letter to Nora. Family matters.
- (c) No date, probably 1923.  
84, Merrion Square, 1 Dublin  
Tuesday  
Letter from George Russell, ('A.E.')
- (d) April 23rd, 1925.  
The Grosvenor Hotel , West Bournemouth  
Letter to Sydney, the author's son. Family matters.

#### 2. NOVELS

- (a) Longhand Ms. of Little Victorians  
Shan Bullock, Emo, York Rd, Chea.  
Undated. 23 chapters. Unpublished.
- (b) Three Ms.of Sheila Passes:
  - 1. Longhand Ms. pp.291  
Dated 13/11/18 – 16/01/20, 21 Chapters.
  - 2. Typescript (with longhand pages inserted) pp.282  
Contains extensive marking and corrections
  - 3. Typescript pp.271All addressed "Mr. Shan Bullock, Emo, York Rd, Cheam, Surrey"  
Unpublished.

(c) Longhand Ms. Plan of an episodic novel with alternative titles, His Reverence, A True Blue, or The Papish Minister. Separate stories linked by the figure of a minister:

- I 'Orange Lilies'  
'A True Blue'  
'Black Sheep'
- II 'The Foundling'  
'Looking Back'  
'A June Rose'
- III 'Orange and Green'  
'An Interlude'  
'Things New and Old'
- IV 'The Silent Hour'  
'A Bad Sixpence'

'The Fatted Calf'

V 'Three Twenties'  
'Aunt Rebecca'  
'Miss Sharp'

Address on all episodes except 'A Bad Sixpence'  
39 Gleneidon Rd, Streatham, S.W.

Address on 'A Bad Sixpence'  
167 Gleneldon Rd, Streatham, S.W.

Published Episodes:

'The Foundling', The British Monthly, May 1901, 313.

'A June Rose Supplement to the British Monthly, March 1901, vii

'An Interlude The Outlook, 1901, 958—61

'Three Twenties'. The Outlook, Undated.

### 3. PLAYS (Unpublished)

- (a) COUNTRY WIVES: A Skit in One Act:  
(Based on an episode in Irish Pastorals entitled 'The Wee Tay Table'.)  
Hannah Breen, a farmer's wife, tries to impress Mary Dolan, Ellen Hicks and Sarah Hogan by inviting them to afternoon tea in her parlour. The women laugh at her attempts to be genteel and she is eventually thwarted by her husband who blunders in and pulls out the table which has only three legs. The curtain falls on the sound of breaking crockery and laughter.  
Undated. Performed by the Dramatic Section of the Irish Literary Society at the Rehearsal Theatre, on the 20th of December 1924
- Two identical typewritten Mss.
- (b) THE FATTED CALF:  
(A one-act play, loosely based on a story in Ring O'Rushes entitled 'Shan's Diversion'.)  
Mary Grimes, convinced that her husband, John, has been womanising and not, as he claims, taking a three-day holiday in Belfast, takes her case to Thomas Coulson J.P. He ridicules her wish for a divorce but, undeterred, she marches John home for further punishment.
- Undated. No reference to any performance.  
Typewritten Ms.
- (c) THE QUESTION: A Dialogue:  
(A one-act play based on 'An Interlude' which was published in The Outlook.)  
David Sherson arrives at the home of Thomas Coulson J.P. in order to discuss the merits of two marriageable women. He likes Ann Myres best but the village harridan, Sarah Hicks, is richer. Thomas advises him to marry Ann but five minutes later David comes back, announcing that he will take Sarah after all.
- Undated. No reference to any performance  
Typewritten Ms.
- (d) SPRING WEATHER : A Pastoral in One Act  
(Based on the story 'The Turfcutters' in Irish Pastorals)  
The turf-cutters, taking a break from work, talk about marriage and Lizzie Dolan is offended by James Daly's jokes. Their high spirits turn to melancholy

when Old Robin describes his bereavement and how he misses his wife. The

play ends with Lizzie helping Robin and triumphantly reminding James of his cynicism.

Undated. This play appears to have changed its title. Since it is adapted from 'The Turfcutters' and since the Irish Literary Society performed a play named 'The Turfcutters' at the same time as 'Country Wives', it is likely that 'Spring Weather' and 'The Turfcutters' are the same play.

Typewritten Ms.

(e)

THE STRANGER

(A one-act play using characters from Hetty: The story of an Ulster Family.)

Set in an Ulster farmhouse kitchen, the play begins with Rhona Dell telling her mother, Charlotte, that she cannot marry Hugh Jarman since she promised her love to Phil Martin, a man she met in Dublin. The women are surprised by a visit from Phil Martin who, now married and working in Belfast, tries to impress Rhona's father, Mark, and Hugh by boasting about his ambitions. When he leaves, Rhona confesses her foolishness and agrees to marry Hugh.

Undated: Performed for the first time by the Irish Literary Society along with 'Country Wives' and 'The Turfcutters'

Handwritten in small notebook.

#### 4. SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS

(a)

Stories:

- i. 'The Eternal City'. Undated. Planned as part of a series to be called 'The Barney Papers', but the manuscripts contain no further reference to this title. Longhand Ms.
- ii. 'The Herd'. Undated, but forms part of the collection of stories, Irish Pastorals, published in 1901. Typewritten Ms.
- iii. 'The Hole in the Shutter'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- iv. 'A Hot Corner'. Undated. Typewritten Ms.
- v. 'How Mickey the Wig Saw "the auld boy".'. Undated. Published in Ring O'Rushes as 'Th'Ould Boy' 1896. Longhand Ms.
- vi. 'How She Let Him Have It'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- vii. 'The Moral Twins'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- viii. 'Mr. Richard Cuddy's Love Quest'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- ix. 'Paying the Piper'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- x. 'Robin Redbreast'. Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xi. 'The Sergeant and the Pig.' Undated. The character of Dan the car driver also features in Master John, where the story of the sergeant and the pig is referred to on page 87. Longhand Ms. Final page missing.
- xii. 'The Sisters' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xiii. 'Two Brothers. A True Sketch. ' Undated. Story of the two poverty-

stricken brothers seems to be loosely based on the description of

Pete and Oiney Coyne provided in By Thrasna River. Longhand Ms.

xiv. 'Where Ignorance is Bliss.' Undated. Longhand Ms.

(b)

Essays:

- i. 'Almanacs.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- ii. 'Almost persuaded - a chat about Home Rule.' Undated. Longhand Ms
- iii. 'Books - and books which have influenced me.' Longhand Ms.
- iv. 'Book Titles.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- v. 'The Building of my Yacht.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- vi. 'Curiosities of Hair Dressing.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- vii. 'Curious Names.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- viii. 'The Grudges (?) of Authors.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- ix. 'Interesting Annotations.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- x. 'The Irish Parliament as it was - and could be again if.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xi. 'An Irish Watering Place.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xii. 'A Literary Experience.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xiii. 'My First Wild Duck.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xiv. 'The Personal Element in Criticism.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xv. 'The Popular Sentiment Towards Authors.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xvi. 'The Prettiest Watering Place in Ireland: Bundoran.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xvii. 'The Romance of Numbers.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xviii. 'School Boys' Blunders.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xix. 'The Scotch Spurgeon.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xx. 'Stories of the Law.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xxi. 'A Word on Slang.' Undated. Longhand Ms.
- xxii. There is also an untitled essay of which the subject is: 'how our forefathers ate'. Undated. Longhand Ms.

**5. MISCELLANEOUS**

- (a) A Brief Family History of the Bullocks of Bullicks of Northern Ireland, by John W. Beck, A.M.I.E.E.

Loosely bound, typewritten sheets. No date.

- (b) Handwritten extract from Ireland's Literary Renaissance by Ernest Boyd, concerning Shan F. Bullock. Undated, and not in Bullock's handwriting.
- (c) Photograph Album belonging to Mrs. N.M. Elson containing obituaries, fifty-two in all, written around the time of the author's death, a review of The Loughsiders taken from The Court Journal, September 26, 1924, and a cutting from the Northern Whig, December 13, 1924 entitled 'An Ulster Novelist : The Work of Mr. Shan Bullock', written by an unknown author.

- (d) Photographs  
Undated photographs of:

The author's father, Thomas Bullock.  
His mother, Mary Bullock.  
His sister, Minnie, aged 17-18.  
His sister, Minnie Liddell (nee Bullock), aged 40.  
His sister, Elizabeth Bullock (later Wilson).  
The author, aged 25-27 years.  
His wife, Emma Mitchell at the time of their marriage 1889.  
His wife, Emma, undated.  
His wife, Emma, aged about 50.  
Unsigned photograph of a young man, probably the author.

- (e) A poem, written roughly on loose paper.

- (f) A Portrait of Shan F. Bullock, with the inscription:  
Shan F. Bullock, 1865-1935  
(John William Bullock M.B.E.)  
Artist - Dermot O'Brien, 1923  
(Presented by Mrs. N.M. Elson, daughter of Mr. Bullock, 1965)

One of the obituaries among these papers [see Miscellaneous, (c)] is an undated cutting from The British Weekly entitled 'The Passing of "Shan F. Bullock", A Friend's Tribute'. Speaking of Bullock's work in Dublin with Sir Horace Plunkett, the anonymous author states that:

*In Dublin he gave sittings to Mr. Dermot O'Brien, President of the Royal Hibernian Academy. The portrait was an excellent likeness, was exhibited in London, but was among many pictures which were destroyed during the later Irish Troubles.*

This portrait was not actually destroyed but was eventually presented to Queen's University, Belfast.

[This item is now part of the University's art collection]