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| **BC MSS POETRY** | **Beckett Collection: Poetry Series**Containing manuscripts for the following:AntipepsisComment DireThe DownsDrunken BoatHors crâne seul dedansLes joues rouges les yeux rougesMirlitonnadesRoundelaySomething thereAlbaWhat is the word |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/ANT** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Antipepsis**1946 |  |
| **BC MS 2906** | Antipepsis1946Typescript with handwritten alteration by the author.1 leaf; 15 x 21 cm. |  |
|  | At top of leaf: "1946 after St. Lo." |  |
|  | Published in: Metre, No. 3, Autumn 1997, p.5. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/ANT 01 |  |
|  | Typescript (top copy) of a twenty-four line poem in English entitled ‘Antipepsis’. Dated and inscribed by Beckett, ‘1946 after St. Lô.’ One leaf. 21 x 14 cm.The paper upon which this poem is typed is yellowing but the text is fully legible. The tone of this poem is one of a pugnacious, prickly weariness. It begins: ‘And the number was uneven’. There is a single manuscript correction by Beckett, to line eight. This is in a black ink which is sharper than the blue-black ink used by Beckett to date the poem in the top-right corner. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/COM** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Comment Dire**1988-1989 |  |
| **BC MS 3316** | Comment dire1988Manuscript.1 notebook (68 p.) ; 22 cm. |  |
|  | Sporting Herakles notebook with female windsurfer design containing 68 pages (p.8-68 blank). Pages 1-7 (plus page tipped in on p.7) contain drafts of Comment dire. Dated 29.10.88 at top of p.7. |  |
|  | Final draft on p.7 published in facsimile form: Paris: Librarie Compagnie, 1989. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/COM 01 |  |
|  | Poem written originally in French, in 1988, as ‘Comment dire’.Original manuscript and notes toward ‘Comment dire’ in exercise book, ‘Sporting-Herakles’ design with colour photograph of female windsurfer on front cover. Dated f.2, September 1988, dated f.4 (final version), 29 October 1988. 22 x 17 cm; 34 leaves. Manuscript material found on verso f.1-recto f.4. Rest of book blank. Written and corrected in black ink.On verso f.1, recto and part of verso f.2, and recto f.3 Beckett has written on the lined exercise book pages themselves. The lower part of verso f.2, all of verso f.3 and recto f.4 have supplementary sheets attached upon which Beckett has written compositional drafts toward the poem. This version is a sixteen-line draft, immediately revised below by a substantially corrected twenty-seven-line draft which concludes ‘comment dire-‘, the first appearance of the eventual title. The next page (verso f.2) has various random notes on the page itself and a forty0line draft on a piece of squared paper, again substantially corrected, glued to the page, obscuring some on the notes beneath.There is further extensive revision on recto f.3, with two full drafts, both extensively corrected. Many marginal, experimental notes, words and phrases fringe the drafts. Verso f.3 and recto f.4 both carry attached sheets, featuring the last two drafts of the poem. Recto f.3 is moderately revised; verso f.4 carries a quartet of minor corrections. The piece of paper which carries this penultimate version has been folded by Beckett and on its internal face there is the uncorrected, final, titled and dated version of ‘comment dire’. Thus there are, in all, seven drafts of the poem from its inception to its completion, placed chronologically by Beckett in this exercise book. |  |
|  | MS 3316/2: Photocopy of manuscript material towards ‘Comment dire’ found in notebook MS 3316/1. 7 leaves; 30 x 21 cm. (A4 copies). |  |
| **BC MS 3317** | Comment dire1988Word processor typescript (photocopy).1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Dated 29.10.88 at bottom of leaf. |  |
|  | Published: Paris: Librarie Compagnie, 1989. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/COM 02 |  |
|  | Typescript of ‘Comment dire’. One leaf; 30 x 21 cm. Uncorrected. Same text as that dated 29 October 1988 on sheet attached to recto f.4 in notebook MS 3316/1. |  |
| **BC MS 3506** | What is the word1989Word processor typescript (photocopy).1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Published in: As the story was told / Samuel Beckett, London: John Calder, 1990, p.129-134. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/COM 03 |  |
|  | Photocopy of a word-processor print out of an uncorrected, fifty-three-line poem entitled ‘What is the word’, Samuel Beckett’s translation of ‘Comment dire’ into English. Undated. One leaf; 30 x 21 cm.This piece is undated but clearly must have been completed after October 1988. Published in the Beckett obituary in the Sunday Correspondent, 31 December 1989. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/DOW** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - The Downs**1981 |  |
| **BC MS 2911/1** | The downs1981?Typescript with two-lines handwritten by the author at the end.1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Published in: Poems 1930-1989 / Samuel Beckett, London: Calder Publications, 2002, p.42. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/DOW 01 |  |
|  | Typescript of a fifty-one-line poem beginning ‘the downs’ top copy, with two-line manuscript addition by Beckett in black ink at foot of text. One leaf. 30 x 21 cm. Undated.The poem is divided into seven stanzas; stanzas 2-6 are of eight lines, while the opening stanza is of seven lines. The final stanza has six lines of type with final brace of lines added by Beckett in manuscript. |  |
| **BC MS 2911/2** | The downs1981?Holograph (photocopy) with handwritten alterations by the author.1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Photocopy of p.100 of a Sotheby's catalogue, reproducing the opening section of Lot 175, an "autograph manuscript of a 'quick miscarriage' of a poem, comprising 183 lines with extensive autograph revisions and deletions, signed and dated (Paris 1981) at the end." |  |
|  | Published in: Poems 1930-1989 / Samuel Beckett, London: Calder Publications, 2002, p.42. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/DOW 02 |  |
|  | Photocopy of a page (p. 1000 from a catalogue of an auction sale at Sotheby’s in aid of Oxfam. Describes as for sale Lot 175, being ‘three sheets of squared exercise book paper, quarto’ containing ‘Beckett (Samuel) Autograph manuscript of a “Quick miscarriage” of a poem, comprising 183 lines with extensive revisions and deletions, signed and dated (Paris 1981)’.Lower section of the sheet carries a photographic reproduction of a detail of the manuscript. Transcription error in catalogue, with first line printed as ‘The Worms’. The reproduction of the opening of this manuscript clearly shows itself to be the original holograph manuscript. The poem is much less precise metrically at this initial stage, with undifferentiated stanzas and lines of unequal length. The text is divided into ‘A’ and ‘B’ sections and the bulk of the text is crossed through by Beckett. At top of sheet is typed message from ‘Jim E’ (former RUL Archivist James Edwards) to ‘Jim’ (Professor James Edwards) expressing willingness to bid for this item at the auction, which took place on 12 December 1981. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/DRU** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Drunken Boat**1932 |  |
| **BC MS 1396/4/1** | Drunken boat1932Typescript.2 leaves; 33 cm. |  |
|  | Ms. burnt and water damaged at centre and edges, where it had originally been folded. |  |
|  | This translation published as: Drunken boat: a translation of Arthur Rimbaud's poem Le bateau ivre / translated by Samuel Beckett; edited with an introduction by James Knowlson and Felix Leakey, Reading: Whiteknights Press, 1976. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/DRU 01 |  |
|  | Typescript of ‘Drunken Boat’, Beckett’s translation into English of Arthur Rimbaud’s poem ‘Le Bateau ivre’; completed 1932. 33 x 20 cm. 2 leaves, damaged by fire and water.This text is identical to the version published in Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984), pp. 125-137, with the exception of a very few typing errors, and the initial letter of ‘stroms’ (stanza 21) in lower case, as against the upper case of the published version. |  |
| **BC MS 1522/2** | Order form for facsimile copy of Samuel Beckett's translation of drunken boatEdition designed by Sue Walker and printed in Department of Typography and graphic Communication, University of Reading2 documents |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/HOR** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Hors crâne seul dedans**1974 |  |
| **BC MS 2923** | Hors crâne seul dedans1974Typescript.1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Published in: Poèmes; suivi de Mirlitonnades / Samuel Beckett, Paris: Les Éditions de Minuit, 1978, p.25. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/HOR 01 |  |
|  | Uncorrected typescript of a twelve –line poem beginning ‘hors crâne seul dedans’. 30 x 21 cm. One leaf.Exactly duplicates the text of the published version of this poem in Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984), p.64; Poèmes suivi de mirlitonnades (Paris, Editions de Minuit, 1978), p.25. |  |

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| **BC MSS POETRY/JOU** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Les joues rouges les yeux rouges**1938 |  |
| **BC MS 2912** | Les joues rouges les yeux rouges1938?Typescript.1 leaf; 27 cm. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/JOU 01 |  |
|  | Uncorrected typescript of a twenty-four-line poem in French beginning ‘les joues rouges’. Undated (but dated from 1938/9). One leaf, 27 x 21 cm. Poem appears in a single twenty-four-line block. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/MIR** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Mirlitonnades**1977 |  |
| **BC MS 2460** | Mirlitonnades1977Manuscript with handwritten alterations by the author.36 items. |  |
|  | First item lists 28 poems which Beckett planned to publish as the Mirlitonnades; verso lists a further 6 poems. |  |
|  | 35 of these poems were published in: Poèmes; suivi de Mirlitonnades / Samuel Beckett, Paris : Les Éditions de Minuit, 1978. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/MIR 01-03 |  |
|  | Large envelope marked ‘MIRLITONNADES’ in black ink, in Beckett’s hand. Contains thirty-six irregularly shaped scraps of paper which feature manuscript drafts of the brief ‘mirlitonnades’ (being a set of child’s brightly coloured ribbons, associated with fairgrounds) first published by Editions de Minuit, Paris, 1978 (although the sample here does not match exactly the published selection). Also contains six-leaf typescript of the poems, marked up ready for printing, 30 x 21 cm. Brown envelope, 23 x 16 cm, with listing in Beckett’s hand of ‘titles’ of these poems. Listing headed Poèmes courts 77, which is then deleted and, above it, ‘MIRLITONNADES’ added. The sequence on this list is different from that found in the published version. Envelope which contains all these items, 32 x 23 cm.These brief poems are written in black ink, with some in pencil and red felt-tip. The manuscripts are a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Types of paper used include pieces of card, variously coloured pieces of notepad paper, diary pages, the back of letters to Beckett which he has torn into mall squares, cheroot packets, part of a cardboard box which contained a bottle of whiskey, squared exercise-book paper and an air-mail envelope. These fragments contain original manuscript drafts and compositional sequences of the mirlitonnades. They are virtually all dated and located by Beckett. There is a French poem dated June 1980 and a single English piece dated Paris, 9 September 1981, but the great majority of the poems in this sequence are dated between February and July 1977 and located to Paris, Ussy or Tangier.Each fragment of paper contains the full draft sequence of the individual mirlitonnade it carries. The consistency of ink or pencil used in each individual item suggests that each poem was composed in its full draft sequence at a single sitting. This is reflected in the specific dating and locating of each leaf by Beckett. There are only three exceptions to this, in which black ink, red felt-tip and pencil notes mix. One of these is a poem dated 5 July 1979. Beckett used red felt-tip for the main work; a single draft and the date are in black ink. On the verso of the poem ‘fleuves et océans’, dated Ussy, Toussaint, 1977, are notes relating to what appears to be an initial draft of A Piece of Monologue (q.v.).There is a lengthy explanatory noted from James Knowlson, in a separate envelope inscribed ‘SAMUEL BECKETT MIRLITONNADES’ in Beckett’s own hand, reporting that this item was given to him by Samuel Beckett in Paris, September 1982. This note also lists the first lines, which function as titles, of each of the manuscripts of the mirlitonnades in this item, in the order in which they appear in Poèmes suivi de mirlitonnades (Paris, Editions de Minuit, 1978) and Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984). Note is made of those missing from the manuscript sequence, the first lines of the unpublished poems and the dates of all the separate manuscripts within this item.He six-leaf printer’s typescript of the text of the mirlitonnades contains all thirty-five poems. They are separated by a small ‘+’ symbol. The poems are uncorrected. |  |
| **BC MS 2901** | "Mirlitonnades" notebook1977Manuscript with handwritten alterations by the author.1 item; 12 cm. |  |
|  | Notebook containing 173 pages (p.33-173 blank). Index of contents in Beckett's hand on inside of back cover. Contains drafts of the 35 poems published as the Mirlitonnades in Poèmes; suivi de Mirlitonnades / Samuel Beckett, Paris: Les Éditions de Minuit, 1978, as well as other Mirlitonnades published in: Poems 1930-1989 / Samuel Beckett, London: John Calder, 2002. Each draft is dated and has a location (e.g. Paris, Ussy, Tangiers). |  |
|  | Also contains other poems in French and English, including One dead of night (p.12), dated St[uttgart] 26.6.77, as well as notes relating to Company and quotations from Heine, Johnson, Mallarmé, Pope, Schopenhauer and Voltaire. |  |
|  | Also known as: The "Sottisier" notebook. |  |
|  | Former reference number: duplicate BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/MIR 02-1 |  |
|  | Original manuscript notebook with badly tanned calf spine and ‘wood grain’ design hard-covers. 12 x 9 cm. 86 leaves, many blank. Entries date from 1976-1982.Front inside cover is inscribed by Beckett, ‘Rimailles/Rhymeries/versicule(t)s’ and the notebook contains the holograph manuscripts, dated between 1976-1978, of the thirty-five poems in French published by Editions de Minuit in Poèmes suivi de mirlitonnades (Paris, 1978). The poems are numbered by Beckett, but the order is not always that of the published text; the sequence is broken by other material in the book, including various random jottings and quotations from, among others, Dr. Johnson, Pascal and Dante.There are several poems written subsequently to the 1978 publication, and some English language verses. The latest piece here is dated 11 March 1982. The earliest, on the inside front cover, and beginning ‘rentrer/ à la nuit’ is dated 1976 and suffixed ‘Hans Meyer’. Question marks placed by Beckett by some of the dates suggest a transcription from the loose sheets of MS 2460 to a more durable notebook form. Indeed, not all dates concur with those in MS 2460. |  |
|  | Original holograph manuscript of a seventeen-line poem in English beginning ‘One dead of night’. On f.12 of the ‘Sottiser’ notebook. One leaf; 12 x 9 cm. Dated 26 June 1977. Uncorrected, seemingly completed draft in black ink. The date places its composition during the period of intense poetic productivity which produced the mirlitonnades, although the length and form of this poem is unlike that of those published. The poem is divided into seven sections by short, horizontal dashes; the sections are four, two, three, one, five, one and one lines long respectively. |  |
|  | A short prose piece written in English in the late 1970s and translated into French as Compagnie.Original manuscript notebook containing notes pertaining to Company, 12 x 9 cm. Hard covers with wood-grain design and badly tanned calf spine. 86 leaves, ff. 17-85 blank. Company notes are found on ff. 1-2; f. 1 dated 16 January 1976.All material in this notebook is written and corrected by Beckett in black ink. Notes between’16.1.76’ and ’11.3.82’ are found here. The notes towards Company are titles on f.2 ‘VERBATIM’, the earliest extant title for the work. The notes on f.1 consist of three separate listings, the first untitled, the second headed ‘Harping’ and the third ‘Other characteristics’.The first list of four phrases begins ‘No hearing anywhere- deaf speaker’; the ‘Harping’ section has two entries, the first beginning ‘1. Unavoidable (want of words and matter- variety)’. The ‘Other characteristics’ listing contains nine entries, including ‘Old’, ‘Breathless’ and ‘Estranged from words, things.’Beckett’s p.2 (verso f.1) is headed ‘title: VERBATIM’. This is followed by brief notes on relationship of three voices which are simultaneously the same voice, recalling the detailed notes for Voice in the That Time manuscript/typescript sequence- ‘A, B, C one and the same’, for example. Notes also on ‘Variations on theme’ and descriptions on ‘A describes A (to A)’.This notebook, known as the ‘Sottisier’, contains various notes in Beckett’s hand with quotations from, for example, Dante, Voltaire, Parnell and Mallarmé. Also contains manuscripts of the short poems in French published by Editions de Minuit in 1978 as Mirlitonnades, along with more recent poems of similar scale in French and English. Short deleted prose piece dated 28 December 1980 on f.14. |  |
|  | Small notebook with leather spine and mottled covers. 12 x 9 cm. 85 leaves, ff. 17-85 blank. Entries date from 1976-82.Notebook contains jottings in Beckett’s hand, including quotations from, among others, Voltaire, Pope, Johnson, Parnell, Schopenhauer and Mallarmé. Drafts of poems in English and French include some of the Mirlitonnades. The first two pages contain draft notes prefiguring Company. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/ROU** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Roundelay**1976 |  |
| **BC MS 2913/1** | Roundelay1976Typescript.1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | "1976" in author's hand after last line of poem. |  |
|  | Published in a revised form in: Modern Drama, Vol. 19, No. 3, September 1976, p.[223]. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/ROU 01 |  |
|  | Two copies of a typescript of a thirteen-line poem entitled ‘Roundelay’. One is dated ‘1976’ at foot of text by Beckett in black felt-tip; the other is undated. One leaf. 30 x 21 cm.The typescript contains a line-variant from the version published in Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984) p.35: lines 7 and 8 in the published version exchange place. |  |
| **BC MS 2913/2** | Roundelay1976Typescript.1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Published in a revised form in: Modern Drama, Vol. 19, No. 3, September 1976, p.[223]. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/ROU 02 |  |
|  | Two copies of a typescript of a thirteen-line poem entitled ‘Roundelay’. One is dated ‘1976’ at foot of text by Beckett in black felt-tip; the other is undated. One leaf. 30 x 21 cm.The typescript contains a line-variant from the version published in Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984) p.35: lines 7 and 8 in the published version exchange place. |  |
| **BC MSS POETRY/SOM** | Manuscripts: **Poetry - Something there**1974-1975 |  |
| **BC MS 2924/3** | Something there1975New departures1 leaf; 30 cm. |  |
|  | Holograph, signed (photocopy). |  |
|  | At foot of page in author's hand: "New Departures 7/8, 10/11, August 1975." |  |
|  | Published in: New Departures, Nos. 7/8 & 10/11, 1975, p.27. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/SOM 01 |  |
|  | Photocopy of a manuscript fair copy of a twenty-six-line poem entitled ‘Something there’, in Beckett’s hand. Original page size 15 x 10 cm, copy sheet size 30 x 21 cm. One leaf. Date and publishing details in Beckett’s hand at the foot of the text: New Departures (August 1975). |  |
| **BC MS 2924/1** | Something there1974New departures1 leaf; 27 cm. |  |
|  | Typescript with manuscript corrections by the author. |  |
|  | Published in a revised form in: New Departures, Nos. 7/8 & 10/11, 1975, p.27. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/SOM 02 |  |
|  | Typescript of a twenty-six-line poem entitled ‘Something there’, with corrections and additions in Beckett’s hand. Dated January 1974. One leaf. 27 x 21 cm.Contains several variants on the version published in Collected Poems 1930-1978 (London, John Calder, 1984), p.65. These involve changes in word order, along with additions and deletions to the actual content. |  |
| **BC MS 2924/2** | Something there1974New departures1 leaf; 27 cm. |  |
|  | Typescript. |  |
|  | Published in: New Departures, Nos. 7/8 & 10/11, 1975, p.27. |  |
|  | Former reference number: BECKETT COLLECTION--MSS POETRY/SOM 03 |  |
|  | Uncorrected typescript of a revised version of MS 2924/1, a twenty-six-line poem in English entitled ‘Something There’. Undated. One leaf. 27 x 21 cm.Incorporates the manuscript revisions of MS 2924/1 and is in agreement with the published version. |  |
| **BC MS 3034** | **`Alba'** by Samuel Beckett. Poem mounted on cardUndated |  |
| **BC MS 3567** | Typescript copy of a poem **"What is the word",** 19891989 |  |