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## **Catalogue of the Robin Dix Papers**

**Date range of material: 1974-2005**

Durham University Library  
April 2023

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## Preface

### Creation of catalogue

EAD list created by Michael Stansfield May 2018

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ark:/32150/s1w9505050d/PDF](http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ark:/32150/s1w9505050d/PDF)



## Introduction

*Collection title:* Robin Dix papers

*Reference code:* GB-0033-RDX

*Dates of creation:* 1974-2005

*Extent:* 2 metres

*Repository:* Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

*Creator:* Robin Dix

*Language of material:* English

## Contents

The academic papers of Robin Dix, English lecturer, comprising his notes and essays as an Oxford undergraduate, his teaching papers as an academic including lectures and reading lists, and especially his research papers into and publications on the eighteenth century Newcastle-born English poet Mark Akenside (1721-1770), author principally of *The Pleasures of the Imagination*, including correspondence with publishers, fellow academics and librarians/archivists.

## Biography

Robin Dix (1956-2007), was educated at Wycliffe School, Stonehouse, Glos 1966-1974, and then undertook undergraduate and doctoral degrees at New College Oxford 1975-1982. He was a lecturer in English at Bedford College, London, before moving to the English Studies department of Durham University in 1991 where he was a specialist in eighteenth-century writing and thought, particularly the writings of Mark Akenside, the Newcastle physician and poet. The department established an annual memorial lecture to commemorate his life and work after his death in 2007.

## Accession details

Transferred from the English Studies department of Durham University in April 2018, Acc No Misc.2017/18:78.

## Previous custodial history

Remained in the department at 77 Hallgarth St, Durham, since his death.

## Arrangement

Arranged into:

A Student papers

B Teaching papers and lectures

C Research papers and publications

D Administration and Correspondence

## Conditions of access

Open for consultation.

## Copyright and copying

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible

with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material

#### Appraisal

Weeded of duplicate material

#### Accruals

None expected

#### Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0033-RDX, or the collection name Robin Dix Papers, followed by the *reference number*

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

#### Bibliography

Robin Dix ed, *The poetical works of Mark Akenside* (Madison, NJ, 1996)

Robin Dix ed, *Mark Akenside: a reassessment* (Madison, NJ, 2000)

Robin Dix, *The literary career of Mark Akenside, including an edition of his non-medical prose* (Madison, NJ, 2006).

#### Related material - here

Robin Dix Akenside Collection (AKE)

Books by and about Mark Akenside collected by Robin Dix

## Student Papers

## RDX A

RDX A1-4 [1975 - 1978]

Robin Dix Oxford University undergraduate notes and essays:

1. Middle English
  2. Elizabethans and Shakespeare
  3. T.S. Eliot, Yeats, with some marked essays
  4. Wordsworth, Coleridge
- 4 paper files

RDX A5 [?1978]

"Middle English Macaronic Lyrics: A Study", [Robin Dix Oxford University undergraduate dissertation].

Paper file

RDX A6 1974 - 1978

Oxford University Scholarship and Entrance English exam papers (November 1974), and English Language and Literature Honour School exam papers 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978.

Paper file

RDX A7 1978 - [1980]

Note book of "works consulted for B.Litt" , in alphabetical order with Bodleian Library references.

Paper book

RDX A8 [?early 1980s]

Bibliography of works and topics for his thesis on Akenside, including notes on books, a list of Akenside's acquaintances and notes from books on topics such as background, continuity of tradition, miscellaneous, and philosophy.

File of 5 x 8" index cards

## Teaching and Lectures

## RDX B

## RDX B1 [1990s]

Robin Dix lectures on Hardy's novels (lecture 2 beginning: "On my way into Durham, this morning, as I was sitting in the usual traffic jam, I found myself composing a limerick. It went something like this: A general, out conquering more land for his nation, Told the press, in a carefully-worded oration: 'When I fire off this flak, It won't be an attack, But - pre-emptive retaliation.'") With a reading list, synopses, and extended passages.

Paper file

## RDX B2 [1980s x 1990s]

Robin Dix lecture on The Novel, beginning "I'm glad that the course organizer has left, because I have a confession to make, which I fear she'd find rather shocking. I actually resent the novel.", with a synopsis and checklist of major 18th century essayists/novelists.

Paper file

## RDX B3 [1980s x 1990s]

Teaching notes on Jane Austen and Charles Dickens ( *Bleak House* )

Paper file

## RDX B4 [1980s x 1990s]

Robin Dix lectures, noted as "discarded material from Restoration Drama I and II".

Paper file

## RDX B5-7 [later 1970s - later 1990s]

Robin Dix reading lists and essay questions for various courses at his various institutions.

3 paper files

## RDX B8 1997

English department [library] standing orders.

Paper file

## RDX B9 [c.1990]

Alphabetical list of English works of literature, with ISBNs.

File of 3 x 5" index cards



## Research and Publications

## RDX C

RDX C1 1987

Notes, drafts and letters from David Fleeman re "A British Phillipic".

Paper file

RDX C2 [1980s x 1990s]

Notes and drafts for Dix's work on Akenside.

Paper file

RDX C3 [c.1990]

Allusion and Imitation Poems printouts.

Paper file

RDX C4 [1980s x 1990s]

Notes on Akenside.

Paper file

RDX C5 1987 - 1988

Computer searches for Akenside material in the British Library, with a *British Library Computer Search Service* guide (October 1987).

Paper file

RDX C6-11 [1990s]

Notes and drafts of Akenside material.

6 boxes of 3.5" floppy disks

RDX C12 [1980s x 1990s]

Photocopies of Akenside texts.

Paper file

RDX C13 [1980s x 1990s]

Photocopies of Akenside texts at Amherst College, Massachusetts.

Paper file

RDX C14 [1980s x 1990s]

Photocopies of critical articles on Akenside, with some occasional correspondence.

Paper file

RDX C15-17 [1980s x 1990s]

Robin Dix's collation notes on Akenside's texts:

15. The Pleasures of Imagination

16. Odes

17. Hymn to the Naiads etc

Paper file

RDX C18 [1980s x 1990s]

Annotated drafts of the appendices, bibliography, and index of *The Poetical Works ...*

Paper file

RDX C19-36 [c.1996]

*The Poetical Works of Mark Akenside*, published by Associated University Presses, typescript [final] draft, with pagination.

17 paper files

RDX C37 [2000]

*Mark Akenside: a Reassessment*, published by Associated University Presses, camera ready copy, with annotations.

Paper file

RDX C38 1996 - 1997

*Mark Akenside: a Reassessment*, draft bibliography.

Paper file

RDX C39 1996 - 1998

*Mark Akenside: a Reassessment*, correspondence with contributors, including Howard Weinbrot, Kirk Fabel, Geoffrey Hartman, Nicholas Reid, James Engell, Mark Dowling, Richard Wendorf, Claude Rawson, Anne Williams, Dustin Griffin, Harriet Jump, Anderson Silber, including the initial cultivation of interest in the volume, and then feedback on contributions; also a critical bibliography of all relevant publications on Akenside and contemporaries.

Paper file

RDX C40 1982

Article: "Sublime Repose in Eighteenth-Century Aesthetic Theory", draft and correspondence with *The British Journal of Aesthetics*.

Paper file

RDX C41 1996 - 1999

Article: "Pleasures of Speculation" (*British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*), correspondence, especially with Howard Weinbrot, and offprints.

Paper file

RDX C42 1999

*New Dictionary of National Biography* articles on Mark Akenside and John Gilbert Cooper, correspondence, proofs and submissions.

Paper file

RDX C43 1999 - 2002

Article on "Ferguson's Aesthetics", drafts, correspondence with Vincenzo Merolle for *The European Journal*.

Paper file & 4 x 3.5" floppy disks

RDX C44 2002 - 2004

Article "Eighteenth-Century Developments in the Patronage System: The Case of John Gilbert Cooper", draft, with correspondence with Prof Peter Fenves, editor of *Eighteenth\_Century Studies*.

Paper file

RDX C45 2004

Article "Richard Dawes and the Art of Pre-Emptive Self-Defence: the Figure of 'Momion' in Akenside's *The Pleasures of Imagination*", draft and letter to *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

Paper file

RDX C46 2004

Article "Mark Akenside", draft, contract, letter and contributor's manual for *Encyclopedia of British Literature*.

Paper file

RDX C47 [1980s x 1990s]

Notes on David Fordyce, ?for a *Nineteenth Century Contexts* article.

Paper file

RDX C48 1983 - 2005

Offprints and photocopies of articles, papers and contributions to journals by Dix including *Notes and Queries*, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, *The Library*, *The Age of Johnson*, *Archaeologia Aeliana*, *Durham University Journal* and *English Language Notes*.

Paper file

RDX C49 [1983]

Trudi Darby, "A Critical, Old-Spelling Edition of *A New Wonder, a Woman Never Vext*, by William Rowley", King's College London PhD thesis.

Paper file

## Administration and Correspondence

## RDX D

## RDX D1 2000 - 2003

Appraisal, including feedback forms from students, applications for promotion, his membership of the Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, and correspondence with the Arts and Humanities Research Board.

Paper file

*Access restrictions:* Closed until 2029 under DPA as information supplied in confidence.

## RDX D2 1995 - 1998

ABES (annotated Bibliography for English Studies) correspondence with Dix about his contributions, with some statements of editorial policy etc, and some correspondence with EBRES (European Bibliography of Resources for English Studies), with also lists of periodicals searched and some British Library Boston Spa order slips.

Paper file

## RDX D3 1991 - 2000

Correspondence with Associated University Presses re the publication of his edition of Akenside including some proofs and flyers.

Paper file

## RDX D4 1996 - 1997

Correspondence with Steve Clark of the University of London.

Paper file

## RDX D5 1986 - 1996

Correspondence with John Creaser of Royal Holloway College University of London, including an article by Robin Dix "To See Ourselves as Others See Us" reflecting on his experiences in finance and administration outside academia.

Paper file

## RDX D6 1996 - 1997

Correspondence with John Dunkley, editor of the *British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* with a copy of an article "Radical Insincerity" in Edward Young's "Night Thoughts".

Paper file

## RDX D7 1990 - 1995

Correspondence with David Fairer of the University of Leeds.

Paper file

## RDX D8 1985 - 1994

Correspondence with J.D. (David) Fleeman of Pembroke College Oxford, including a letter presenting a copy of Dix's Akenside edition to Pembroke College Library in Fleeman's memory in 1996.

Paper file

## RDX D9 1996 - 1997

Correspondence with Dorothy Hartley of Sovereign Education re a lecture on Arthur Miller, with a text of the lecture.

Paper file

## RDX D10 1984 - 1998

Correspondence with Harriet Jump.

Paper file

RDX D11 2000

Correspondence with Sandro Jung and a draft copy of his article "Poetic Achievement in the Poems of Mark Akenside and William Shenstone".

Paper file

RDX D12 1988 - 1993

Correspondence with Hilton Kelliher of the British Library.

Paper file

RDX D13 1987 - 1996

Correspondence with John Lancaster of Amherst College Library Special Collections, Massachusetts with some drafts of texts on Akenside.

Paper file

RDX D14 1996 - 1997

Correspondence with Hilary Laurie of Everyman Paperbacks about a possible edition of poems by William Collins.

Paper file

RDX D15 1993 - 2000

Correspondence with the Royal College of Physicians.

Paper file

RDX D16 1990 - 1996

Correspondence with Marcus Walsh of the University of Birmingham.

Paper file

RDX D17 1997 - 2001

Correspondence with Howard Weinbrot of the University of Wisconsin-Madison about reviews.

Paper file

RDX D18 1992 - 1999

Correspondence with Karina Williamson of the University of Edinburgh.

Paper file

RDX D19 1990 - 2002

Correspondence of Robin Dix about research, including with John Goodenough, Dustin Griffin, Roger Hawkins, Michael Bird Saenger (about pieces on *Macbeth* and *Coriolanus*), and Pat Southern, including possible portraits of Akenside, lectures, a review of Kirk Fabel's Akenside article, and research in archives.

Paper file

RDX D20 1986 - 2000

Correspondence with various about Akenside, trying to find letters and publication permissions re them.

Paper file