

P387 Viewforth Presentations, Neil Gunn Tapes

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	P387
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Viewforth Presentations, Neil Gunn Tapes
Dates of creation:	1996-2000
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	2 cassette tapes
Format:	Cassette tapes

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators: Viewforth Presentations for Caithness FM

Administrative history: Neil Gunn (1891-1973), one of Scotland's most prolific and distinguished novelists, wrote over a period that spanned the Recession, the political crises of the 1920's and 1930's, and the Second World War and its aftermath. Although nearly all his 20 novels are set in the Highlands of Scotland, he is not a regional author in the narrow sense of that description; his novels reflect a search for meaning in troubled times, both past and present, a search that leads him into the realms of philosophy, archaeology, folk tradition and metaphysical speculation.

Born in the coastal village of Dunbeath, Caithness, the son of a successful fishing boat skipper, Gunn was educated at the local village primary school and privately in Galloway. In 1911 he entered the Civil Service and spent some time in both London and Edinburgh before returning to the North as a customs and excise officer based (after a short spell in Caithness) in Inverness. Before voluntary retirement from Government service in 1937 to become a full-time writer, he had embarked on a literary career with considerable success.

In 1948 Gunn's contribution to literature was recognised by Edinburgh University

with an honorary doctorate to the author; in 1972 the Scottish Arts Council created the Neil Gunn Fellowship in his honour, a fellowship that was to include such famous writers as Henrich Boll, Saul Bellow, Ruth Pravar Jhabvala, Nadine Gordimer and Mario Vargas Llosa.

Custodial history:

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description: Recordings of essays and memories of Neil Gunn

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: July 2012

Ref.	Description	Dates
P387	Neil Gunn tape recordings	1996-2000
P387/1	Cassette tape labelled 'Memories of Neil Gunn (1891-1973) with Dairmid Gunn and Ronald Thomson edited from a 1996 recording, A Viewforth Presentation for the Northern Archives of Wick Public Library' [1 tape]	1996
P387/2	Cassette tape labelled 'Neil Gunn – Essays, Boyhood	2000

	Memories read by Ronald Thomson, other essays read by Dairmid Gunn, tape recorded by Archive McNaughton, a Viewforth Presentation by Ronald Thomson, Edinburgh 2000, with compliments to Wick Public Library Caithness' [1 tape]	
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