



## BOSTON COLLEGE

**"...my monster is in safe keeping"**

**EXCLUSIVE EXHIBIT AT BOSTON COLLEGE'S BURNS LIBRARY  
HONORS 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OF NOBEL LAUREATE SAMUEL BECKETT  
-- Now Through January 2007 --**

**Exhibit Features Material from BC's Renowned Beckett Collection,  
Some on Display for the First Time in the United States;  
Includes Newly Acquired Judith Schmidt Douw Correspondence**

CHESTNUT HILL, MA -- An exhibit honoring the centennial of the birth of acclaimed Irish playwright Samuel Beckett is now on display at Boston College's John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections. The free public exhibit, titled "...my monster is in safe keeping," will be on view throughout the main exhibit floor of Burns Library through January 31, 2007.

The exclusive exhibit, which includes items never before displayed in the United States, is comprised of correspondence, manuscripts, posters, photographs, publications and other papers by and about Samuel Beckett (1906- 1989), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969 and noted for works that include "Waiting for Godot."

The exhibit is drawn from Boston College's celebrated Beckett Collection, considered to be one of the world's finest. It is comprised of more than 400 manuscripts and other pieces collected by the playwright's friends Calvin and Joann Israel, as well as correspondence between Beckett and North American literary agent Barney Rosett, correspondence with director Alan Schneider, and correspondence in French between Beckett and Swiss-born French novelist and playwright Robert Pinget.



**At right, a grouping of documents and photographs related to the Beckett plays "Endgame," "Krapp's Last Tape" and "Happy Days."**

The exhibit is in celebration not only of the centennial of Beckett's birth but also of a new Burns Library acquisition: The Judith Schmidt Douw Collection of Correspondence with Samuel Beckett, 1957-1984, which contains more than 130 letters from Beckett to Judith Schmidt (later Judith Schmidt Douw), secretary to Barney Rosett of Grove Press, Beckett's American publisher.

"This exhibit gives Boston College an opportunity not only to celebrate the life of the great Irish playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett but also to showcase the University's latest Beckett acquisition, the nearly 30-year correspondence between Samuel Beckett and Judith Schmidt

Douw," said BC's Burns Librarian Robert O'Neill. "This collection significantly strengthens the American Beckett Collection, already well represented at Burns Library by the Israel, Schneider and Rosett collections."

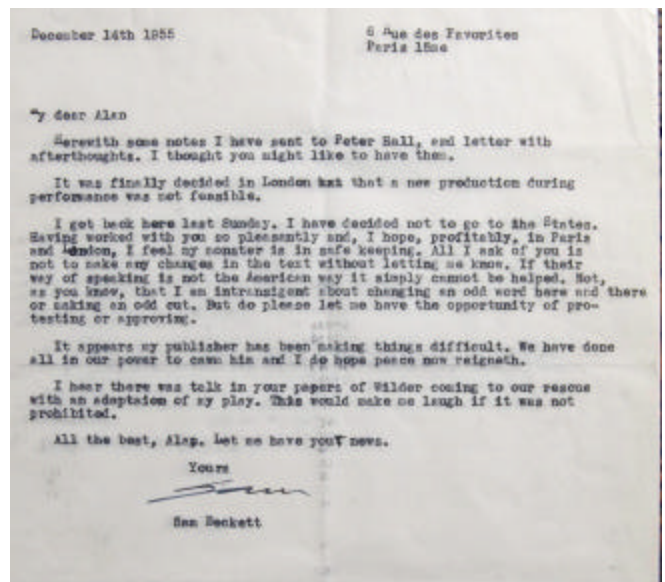
In addition to letters from the newly-acquired Schmidt Douw collection, the exhibit includes the rare Beckett manuscript "Suite" (later called "La Fin") written in 1946, said exhibit curator Robert Bruns. "It was during the course of this manuscript that Beckett switched from writing in English to French, which may have marked the point at which he started writing extended prose works in French."



Also on display are several of the letters from Beckett to Alan Schneider on how to direct his plays, Schneider's letter to Thornton Wilder describing his first meeting with Beckett, and rare posters from openings of Beckett plays, including the original production of "En Attendant Godot" ("Waiting for Godot") at the Theatre de Babylon in Paris, shown at left.

In addition, the exhibit includes several examples of BC's extensive collection of signed Beckett publications from the Israel Beckett collection, annotated typescripts of early versions of novels and plays, and a typescript of Beckett's prize-winning 1930 poem, "Whoroscope."

The exhibit title, "...my monster is in safe keeping," is a quote drawn from a letter, shown at right, in the collection from Beckett to Alan Schneider. On December 14, 1955, Beckett wrote, "Having worked with you so pleasantly and, I hope, profitably, in Paris and London, I feel my monster is in safe keeping." He was referring to his play "Waiting for Godot," which Schneider was to direct in the United States.



The Samuel Beckett Collection at Burns Library is one of the hallmarks of Boston College's renowned Irish Collection, considered to be the premier, most comprehensive collection of Irish research material in the United States. Also housed at Burns Library, the collection documents the history, life and culture of the Irish people, with strong holdings in Irish history, religion and politics, and significant collections related to some of Ireland's greatest writers.

The John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Boston College is named in memory of the Honorable John J. Burns, a 1921 BC alumnus who was one of its principal benefactors. It houses more than 160,000 volumes, 15 million manuscripts and impressive holdings of artifacts, maps, paintings, photographs, ephemera and architectural records.

**Through January 31, 2007: "...my monster is in safe keeping,"** an exhibit comprised of correspondence, manuscripts, posters, photographs, publications and other papers by and about Irish playwright Samuel Beckett, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969 and noted for works that include "Waiting for Godot." The exclusive exhibit marking the centennial anniversary of Beckett's birth is drawn from Boston College's celebrated Beckett Collection, considered to be one of the world's finest, and includes material never before on display in the United States. The John J. Burns Library at Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Mass. Free and open to the public. Hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment. Venue is handicapped accessible. For information call: 617-552-3282.

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