

University Library, Special Collections & Archives  
Highlight for October 2010

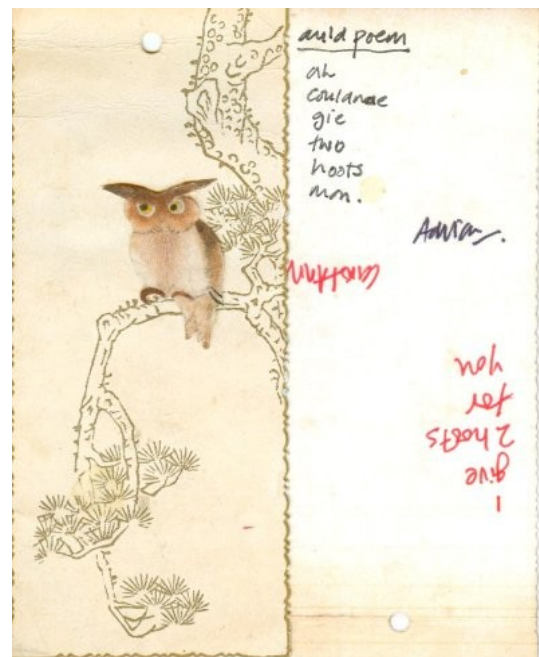
**Fifty years after the publication of *The Mersey Sound*, the University of Liverpool Library has acquired the archives of Adrian Henri, Roger McGough and Brian Patten with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

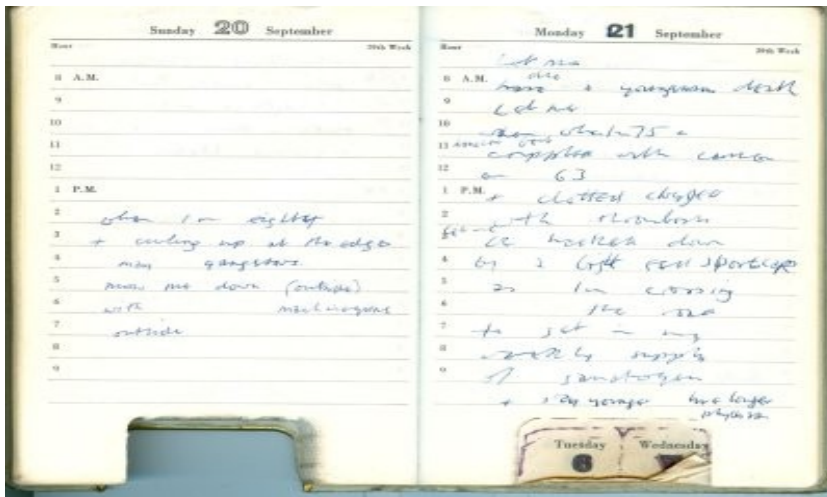


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The archives contain a wealth of material relating to the lives and works of the poets, dating from the 1950s to the present day. The papers offer an insight into the working practices of the poets and include manuscript drafts and notebooks, corrected typescripts, galley proofs, correspondence and other material relating to their published works, both for adults and children. There are a number of printed works by the poets, including signed, limited editions, and many audio and video recordings of their poetry readings and performances, and television and radio appearances.

Adrian Henri was an artist as well as a poet and his archive includes material from manuscript poems to sketches and the ephemera and 'found objects' he collected for use in his artwork. Alongside the manuscript poems, prose and plays, sketches and illustrated poems there is much material relating to the work he did to promote Arts, particularly with the Liverpool Academy of Arts and his collaborative work with schools, poets and artists. The archive also reflects elements of his personal life, through many letters from family and friends and the work of other poets, artists and writers, including Willy Russell, Carol Ann Duffy and Nell Dunn.





Roger McGough's archive contains a large number of manuscript and typescript drafts of poetry and children's books, as well as many manuscripts for stage plays and a wide variety of work for television and radio. There are also 150 notebooks and sketchbooks in the collection, dating from 1953. Many of the early sketchbooks are undated but, primarily from the 1950s, during his time at Hull University and whilst teaching in

Liverpool. In addition to his own literary work McGough's archive is also a rich source of material relating to his time as a member of the music/comedy performance group The Scaffold, of which he was a member from 1964 to 1972. There is a large amount of correspondence from friends and colleagues on various literary matters and collaborative projects, and also a large amount of fan mail. Notable correspondents include Philip Larkin, John Betjeman, Peter Blake and Victoria Wood.

The papers of Brian Patten date from 1958, and include some early attempts at poetry, written aged 14 when he was still at Sefton Park Secondary Modern School; there are also notebooks dating from 1961 when he worked as a cub-reporter on the Bootle Times. From about 1961, aged 16, Patten began to think of publishing his work and produced several typescript handmade poetry booklets these, now incredibly fragile, are a precursor to his later published poetry magazine *Underdog*, in which his own, McGough's and Henri's early works were published in eight issues between 1962 and 1966. His correspondence includes letters from various literary figures, such as Allen Ginsberg, Ted Hughes, Harold Pinter and Alan Brownjohn.



## References:

For further information and links to the collection catalogues see:

- <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/henri.html>
- <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/mcgough.html>
- <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/patten.html>

Website: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/index.html>

Literary manuscripts: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/modlitmss.html>