

U DIW**Records of Ivor Wilson****1969-2001****Accession number:** 2024/09

Biographical Background: Born 1924 in Humberstone, Lincolnshire, Ivor Wilson spent his early years in Caister. At school he showed a flair for athletics and football, but no high level of academic achievement. In 1941 he enrolled at Sheffield Teacher Training College, cycling the 61 miles from Caister to Sheffield at a time when the blitz meant there were no car, rail or bus services. At Sheffield he played football and cricket for the college teams, and met his future wife Marjorie. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, allowing him to finish his teaching qualification during the Second World War, and became a sub-lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm undertaking his training at Aylmer in Canada. Upon his return to England, he flew a Corsair fighter aircraft, but suffered severe burns when his plane crashed in December 1944. His injuries necessitated multiple plastic surgeries and a two and a half year hospital recovery period. Ivor and Marjorie were married on 17 March 1945 in a hospital ward whilst he was still recovering at Rooksdown House. At this time, Marjorie had a teaching job in Hull so travelled regularly to Basingstoke to see him in hospital. In 1947, Ivor was invited to a 6 week long Swiss Red Cross retreat as the senior officer of a party of burned Fleet Air Arm and RAF pilots. He and Marjory used this retreat as a delayed honeymoon. His experience led him to become a founding member of the Rooksdown Club association for burns victims, and he would later write a recollections piece for the Club's magazine titled 'The Musings of an Old Gent'. Upon returning from Switzerland. Ivor began a teaching career at Jervis High School in Hull (now Andrew Marvell), where he taught for 14 years. His interest in football led him to referee school matches. During the 1950s, he studied at Hull Art College, and became an accomplished artist, painting in the 'Impressionist' style right up to the end of his life. Whilst raising a young family, he completed a part-time degree in Economics externally through the University of London and obtained a 2:1 classification, before taking up employment at the Hull College of Commerce where he lead courses in economics and politics. In 1975 he started working at Hull College of Higher Education, becoming Dean of Humanities and introducing a Diploma in Higher Education and part-time degree courses to support mature students in the local area.

Outside of his teaching career, Ivor was a prolific writer. Between 1962 and 1965 he wrote four spy thrillers which were published by Collins: *But Not For Love*, *That Feeds On Men*, *Lilies That Fester*, and *Empty Tigers*. The hero of his novels, Gregory Flamm, was a tougher and grittier take on Ian Fleming's James Bond who appeared at the same time. Ivor claimed to have become bored with novels and began writing plays. The BBC bought a five part TV series written by Ivor, but it was never produced. He began writing radio plays, the first of which was titled *Take Any Day*, and was aired by the BBC in 1969 to critical acclaim. He went on to write more than 30 radio plays for the BBC, many of which were also broadcast on the World Service and attracted voice actors from other other shows such as *The Archers* and *Coronation Street*. Many of his characters had a remarkable similarity to friends and family, he wrote from experience. He also contributed to a Radio 3 new writers programme, *The Northern Drift*, and wrote a number of short stories as well as a one-act play titled *Trial and Error*. He retired from his job at Hull College of Higher Education in 1984 and, after a number of his BBC plays were translated into German to be broadcast on German radio stations, his writing career took off again. He wrote a number of radio plays for German broadcasters in later life, and two of his plays were broadcast in Germany after his death. Ivor died peacefully on 30 January 2002.

Custodial history: Kept by Ivor Wilson whilst alive, then by his wife. Transferred to custody of Ivor Wilson's son following the death of his wife, and donated by him in person at Hull History Centre on 25 Jul 2024.

Description: Collection contains radio play scripts written by author and teacher Ivor Wilson, a contemporary and friend of Alan Plater. Many of the scripts were recorded and aired for the BBC and German broadcasters in the later part of the 20th century, broadcast details are included in the descriptions of individual scripts where this is known. Please note that a radio play titled 'Afternoon Call' is known to have been written and broadcast in both the UK by the BBC on 10 Dec 1983 and Germany by Süddeutscher Rundfunk in 1984, however, the script has not survived. Also a play titled 'The Drop' is thought to have been written around 1979, but again no script has survived.

Arrangement Chronological based on date of first broadcast, as arranged by creator.

Extent: 0.83 linear meters

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

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Language: English

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U DIW/1	Radio Plays - Unknown Broadcast Scripts for radio plays written by Ivor Wilson but with unknown broadcast information. 18 items	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/1	Script. 'Alpha to Omega' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/2	Script. 'A Dog's Life' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/3	Script. 'A Personal Affair' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/4	Script. 'A Question of Bias' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/5	Script. 'Accidental death' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/6	Script. 'Chalk and Cheese' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/7	Script. 'Death of a Pumpkin' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/8	Script. 'Eyes to See' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/9	Script. 'Faster than Harold Larwood' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.

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U DIW/1/10	Script. 'Nor all your tears' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/11	Script. 'Our Mam' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/12	Script. 'Rhubarb, Rhubarb, Rhubarb' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. Note that there are three copies. 1 file	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/13	Script. 'Safety Match' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. Note that there are two copies. 1 file	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/14	Script. 'So Nice to know you Mrs Crocodile' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/15	Script. 'The Bodies in Question' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/16	Script. 'Tomatoes' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/17	Script. 'Weekend' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. 1 item	late 20th cent.
U DIW/1/18	Script. 'Who Saw Him Die' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, unknown broadcast details. Note that an earlier title appears to have been 'A Mouse That Bites'. 1 item	late 20th cent.

U DIW/2	Radio Plays - Broadcast on UK and German Radio Scripts for radio plays written by Ivor Wilson and broadcast by the BBC, and by German broadcasters Süddeutscher Rundfunk, Saarländischer Rundfunk, and Westdeutscher Rundfunk. 37 items	1969-2001
U DIW/2/1	Script. 'Take Any Day' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 19 Nov 1969 and 9 Jan 1972. Script is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1969 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios. Note that this play was published in Bradley, A. (Ed.), <i>Out of the Air: Five Radio Plays</i> (Longman Imprint Books, 1978). 1 file	c.1969
U DIW/2/2	Script. 'Insufficient Evidence' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Midweek Theatre' on 4 Mar 1970, and by German broadcaster Süddeutscher Rundfunk in 1971. Note that there are two copies of the script, both are annotated and one has a cover page noting that the 1970 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios. 1 file	c.1970
U DIW/2/3	Script. 'Fly In Amber' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 4 Jul 1970. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1970 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios. 1 file	c.1970
U DIW/2/4	Script. 'Over The Hills & Far Away' Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 20 Jan 1971. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1971 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios. 1 file	c.1971

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- U DIW/2/5 Script. 'Time to go home' c.1971
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programmes 'Midweek Theatre' and 'Afternoon Theatre' on 1 Dec 1971, and by German broadcaster Saarländischer Rundfunk in 1973. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1971 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/6 Script. 'Our John' c.1972
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programmes 'Midweek Theatre' and 'Afternoon Theatre' on 2 Feb 1972. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1972 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios but this has been crossed out.
1 file
- U DIW/2/7 Script. 'A Shot In The Dark' c.1972
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 8 Apr 1972. Script is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1972 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/8 Script. 'Who Walks Alone' c.1972
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 23 Aug 1972. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1972 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/9 Script. 'Save A Slice of Ham For Me' c.1972
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 13 Dec 1972.
1 file

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- U DIW/2/10 Script. 'Never miss a bargain' c.1973
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programmes 'Midweek Theatre' and 'Afternoon Theatre' on 24 Jan 1973. Note that there are three copies of the script with a loose selection of correction pages, two copies are annotated and one has a cover page noting that the 1973 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/11 Script. 'Full Fathom Five' c.1973
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 22 Sep 1973. Script is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1973 recording was produced by Tony Cliff at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/12 Script. 'On The Second Day of Christmas' c.1973
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 26 Dec 1973. Note that there are three copies of the script, two of which are annotated.
1 file
- U DIW/2/13 Script. 'Bread Upon The Waters' c.1974
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 23 Feb 1974. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and the other has a cover page noting that the 1974 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios but this has been crossed out.
1 file

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- U DIW/2/14 Script. 'Cause for Alarm' c.1974
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 27 Jul 1974. Note that there are three copies of the script, one annotated and titled 'Find the Lady', a second titled 'Cause for Alarm' although this is written over the top of 'Find the Lady' which had been crossed through, and a third titled 'Cause for Alarm!! alias Find the Lady' which is annotated and one has a cover page noting that the 1974 recording was produced by Tony Cliff at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/15 Script. 'That Boy' c.1974
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programmes 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 12 Oct 1974 and 'Afternoon Theatre' on 23 Oct 1978. Note that there are three copies of the script, two of which are annotated, and one of which has a cover page noting that the 1974 recording was produced by Tony Cliff at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/16 Script. 'As Others See Us' c.1974
Manuscript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 27 Nov 1974. Note that the following alternative titles are written on a cover page: 'To See Ourselves'; 'A Time to Live'; 'Fellow Travellers'.
1 file
- U DIW/2/17 Script. 'Away From It All' c.1975
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 28 Aug 1975. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1975 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file

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- U DIW/2/18 Script. 'Roses Round The Door' c.1976
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 14 Apr 1976. Note that there are two copies of the script, one has a cover page noting that the 1976 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/19 Script. 'Free Fall' c.1977
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 5 Jan 1977. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and both have a cover page noting that the 1977 recording was produced by Alfred Bradley at Manchester Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/20 Script. 'All On A Summer's Day' c.1977
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 29 Apr 1977 and 5 Oct 1979. Note that there are three copies of the script.
1 file
- U DIW/2/21 Script. 'Boys into Men / All Kinds of Men' c.1977
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 21 Jul 1977. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is marked 'Original copy', and the other is marked '2nd copy with revisions', both are titled 'Boys into Men'.
1 file
- U DIW/2/22 Script. 'Sufficient Unto The Day' c.1979
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 2 Jun 1979. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and both have a cover page noting that the 1979 recording was directed by Alfred Bradley at Manchester Studios.
1 file

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- U DIW/2/23 Script. 'When The Bough Breaks' c.1979
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 4 Sep 1979. Note that there are two copies of the script, both are annotated and one has a cover page noting that the 1979 recording was produced by Tony Cliff at Leeds Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/24 Script. 'A Trouble Shared' c.1979
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme '15 Minute Theatre' on 12 Oct 1979, and by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1981. Note that there are four copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1979 recording was directed by Peter King.
1 file
- U DIW/2/25 Script. 'Grandad Never Told Lies' c.1980
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Afternoon Theatre' on 4 Jul 1980. Note that there are two copies of the script, one has a cover page noting that the 1980 recording was directed by Tony Cliff at Manchester Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/26 Script. 'Broken Fences' c.1982
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 26 Jun 1982. Script has a cover page noting that the 1982 recording was directed by Tony Cliff at Manchester Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/27 Script. 'When Echoes Fade' c.1983
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 4 Jun 1983. Script has a cover page noting that the 1983 recording was directed by Tony Cliff at Manchester Studios.
1 file

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- U DIW/2/28 Script. 'Balloons' c.1986
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 1 Feb 1986. Note that there are two copies of the script, one has a cover page noting that the 1986 recording was directed by Tony Cliff at New Broadcasting House, Manchester, also three summaries of the play one of which is manuscript.
1 file
- U DIW/2/29 Script. 'To See Ourselves' c.1987
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 20 Jun 1987. Note that there are two copies of the script, one is annotated and has a cover page noting that the 1987 recording was directed by Tony Cliff at Manchester Studios.
1 file
- U DIW/2/30 Script. 'Roses Have Thorns' c.1989
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by the BBC on the programme 'Saturday Night Theatre' on 7 Oct 1989. Note that there are two copies of the script and two additional manuscript pages noting alternative titles of 'All Our Yesterdays' and 'All The Time in the World'.
1 file
- U DIW/2/31 Script. 'A Nest of Spiders' c.1992
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1992.
1 item
- U DIW/2/32 Script. 'Find the Lady' c.1993
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1993.
1 item
- U DIW/2/33 Script. 'Ask The Professor' c.1995
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Süddeutscher Rundfunk in 1995.
1 item

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| U DIW/2/34 | Script. 'Caught in the Act'
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1996.
1 file | c.1996 |
| U DIW/2/35 | Script. 'My brother's Keeper'
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1998. Also file of revisions and correspondence between Ivor Wilson and Hubert von Bechtolsheim regarding the same.
1 file | c.1998 |
| U DIW/2/36 | Script. 'Interlaken Special'
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 1999. Also file of revisions and correspondence between Ivor Wilson and Hubert von Bechtolsheim regarding the same.
1 file | c.1999 |
| U DIW/2/37 | Script. 'Rough Justice'
Typescript script for a radio play written by Ivor Wilson, aired by German broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk in 2001. Also file of revisions and correspondence between Ivor Wilson and Hubert von Bechtolsheim regarding the same.
1 file | c.2001 |