

# **Graeme Moore collection of Ian Hamilton Finlay material**

**Ms. Coll. 1386**

**Finding aid prepared by Sam Allingham.**

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Last updated on April 17, 2019.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2019 April 8

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Moore, Graeme
<b>Title</b>	Graeme Moore collection of Ian Hamilton Finlay material
<b>Call number</b>	Ms. Coll. 1386
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1972-2013
<b>Extent</b>	8 linear feet (10 boxes)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language Note</b>	The bulk of this collection is in English, however, there are a number of documents in French.
<b>Abstract</b>	Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925-2006) was a Scottish poet, artist, and landscape and garden designer, best known for his prints and pamphlets and his iconic garden Little Sparta, a collaboration with his second wife, Sue MacDonald-Lockhart. Graeme Moore is an English landscape and garden designer and critic, and former head gardener of Little Sparta. This collection contains material collected by Graeme Moore related to his relationship with Ian Hamilton Finlay and Finlay's work.

**Cite as:**

Graeme Moore collection of Ian Hamilton Finlay material, 1972-2013, Ms. Coll. 1386, Kislak Center

for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

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## Biography/History

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Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925-2006) was a Scottish poet, artist, and landscape and garden designer, best known for his iconic garden Little Sparta, a collaboration with his second wife, Sue MacDonald-Lockhart. Born in Nassau in the Bahamas, Finlay's family returned to Scotland soon after. Finlay left school at thirteen and briefly attended the Glasgow School of Art before the outbreak of World War II. During the war, Finlay served in the Royal Army Service Corps, which inspired a lifelong artistic interest in military iconography. After the war, he worked as a shepherd in Orkney, and began work on poetry which was not well-received in Scotland, but earned admirers in America, especially among the Black Mountain School, who helped influence Finlay's interest in concrete poetry.

During the 1960s and 1970s, he produced postcards, poster poems, and pamphlets through his own Wild Hawthorn Press; and in 1966, he purchased a five-acre farm in Lanarkshire called Stonypath (later renamed Little Sparta). While his wife, Sue, was the principal gardener, Finlay dotted the garden with sculptures, temples, and ponds that epitomized a style he called Neoclassical. In the 1980s, Finlay's use of military (and sometimes Nazi) imagery in his garden plans earned him criticism from art critics and, on one occasion, the French government; however, Finlay resolutely denied any Fascist sympathies, and pursued a successful defamation suit. In addition to Little Sparta, Finlay designed gardens in Stockwood Park in Luton and at the Serpentine Gallery in London. He received an honorary doctorate from Aberdeen University in 1987 and the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 2002. He died in Edinburgh on March 27, 2006.

Graeme Moore trained in horticulture at Cannington College, Somerset and Writtle College, Essex, and studied art history and literature at the University of Essex. After initiating a correspondence with Ian Hamilton Finlay and defending the artist during his battles with art critics and the National Trust, Moore became the head gardener of Finlay's garden Little Sparta for a brief period in 1990, before a falling-out with Finlay over terms of pay led to his termination. However, the two men repaired their relationship, and Moore later wrote pamphlets and scholarly articles on the garden and Finlay's work in general. In addition to his scholarly work, Moore is also a well-known landscape artist in his own right, producing works such as *The New Orangery* (1983, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC), *Grass Snake* (1987, Castle Park, Colchester, Essex), *Lime Walk* (1990, Hughson Gallery, Glasgow), and a permanent garden at Dunsyre, *The Old School*.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains material collected by Graeme Moore related to his relationship with Ian Hamilton

Finlay. It is arranged in eight series: correspondence between Moore and various correspondents, including Finlay; Ian Hamilton Finlay material, including pamphlets, prints, and miscellanea, such as receipts for garden work and a tree tag from the garden at Little Sparta; Graeme Moore material, including his writings on Finlay's work and research material for these writings; articles and reviews of Finlay's work; exhibition catalogs and promotional material for Finlay's exhibitions; audiovisual material, including taped interviews with Finlay and slides of Little Sparta and other gardens designed by Finlay; scrapbooks collected by Moore that detail the history of Little Sparta, Finlay's print work, and his battle with art critics, the National Trust and the French Ministry of Culture; and tools and miscellaneous objects, including metal garden implements, a reed basket, and an olive oil bottle.

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## **Administrative Information**

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University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2019 April 8

Finding aid prepared by Sam Allingham.

### **Access Restrictions**

This bulk of this collection is open for research use, however, access to original audio/visual materials (located in box 4, folders 8 and 9) and computer files is restricted. The Kislak Center will provide access to the information on these materials from duplicate master files. If the original does not already have a copy, it will be sent to an outside vendor for copying. Patrons are financially responsible for the cost. The turnaround time from request to delivery of digital items is about two weeks for up to five items and three to seven weeks for more than five items. Please contact Reprographic Services ([reprogr@upenn.edu](mailto:reprogr@upenn.edu)) for cost estimates and ordering. Once digital items are received, researchers will have access to the files on a dedicated computer in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. Researchers should be aware of specifics of copyright law and act accordingly.

### **Use Restrictions**

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### **Source of Acquisition**

Sold by Graeme Moore, 2012.

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## **Related Materials**

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## **Related Archival Materials note**

At Columbia University: Ian Hamilton Finlay manuscripts, 1958-1963.

At Getty Research Institute: Ian Hamilton Finlay papers, 1948-1992, 890144

At the Tate Archive: Correspondence concerning the disputes between Ian Hamilton Finlay and the Fulrum and Coracle Presses, 1974-1979, GB 70 TGA 824

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **CORPORATE NAME(S)**

- Little Sparta (Dunsyre, Scotland).

### **FORM/GENRE(S)**

- Artifacts (object genre)
- Audiovisual materials
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Publications (documents)
- Scrapbooks
- Slides (photographs)

### **PERSONAL NAME(S)**

- Finlay, Ian Hamilton, 1925-2006

### **SUBJECT(S)**

- Art
- Artists
- Gardens
- Gardens--Scotland
- Landscape design

- Poetry, modern--20th century
- Poets
- Poets, Scottish

## Collection Inventory

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### **SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE.**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

This series contains correspondence between Graeme Moore and Ian Hamilton Finlay, Sue Finlay, and various artists, critics, and cultural figures. The correspondence was organized by Moore according to subject, and every effort has been made to preserve this original order. Subjects include the fight between Finlay and the National Trust, discussions about what Finlay considered libelous statements concerning his work by art critics and the French Ministry of Culture, and Moore's time as head gardener at Little Sparta, including his concerns over lack of pay. When no subject delineation was apparent, the correspondence was grouped by recipient. The resulting folders are arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
Ian Hamilton Finlay, letters to Graeme Moore, 1985-1990.	1	1
Ian Hamilton Finlay, stamped envelopes sent to Graeme Moore.	1	2
Patrick Eyres, letters to Graeme Moore, 1987-1997.	1	3
Graeme Moore, letters to Ian Hamilton Finlay before becoming head gardener of Little Sparta, 1987-1990.	1	4
Controversy over libel against Little Sparta, correspondence and documents, 1986-1988.	1	5
Controversy over libel against Little Sparta, correspondence and documents, 1988 January-February.	1	6
Controversy over libel against Little Sparta, correspondence and documents, 1988 March-December.	1	7

University Gallery artist books catalog slandering Finlay, correspondence, 1988.	1	8
Controversy over libel against Little Sparta, controversy, 1989, undated.	1	9
Sue Finlay, letters to and from Graeme Moore, 1989-2007.	1	10
Ian Hamilton Finlay's landscape projects at Arne, Gateshead, Luton, and Noordhorn, correspondence and plans, 1989-1991.	1	11
Graeme Moore's appointment as head gardener of Little Sparta, correspondence, 1990-1991.	1	12
Graeme Moore, letters to and from, during his tenure as head gardener of Little Sparta, 1990-1991.	1	13
Moore's battle with Ian Hamilton Finlay over pay as head gardener of Little Sparta, correspondence, 1991.	1	14
Graeme Moore, miscellaneous letters to and from, 2011.	1	15

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**SERIES II: IAN HAMILTON FINLAY MATERIAL.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material produced by Ian Hamilton Finlay and collected by Graeme Moore. It includes pamphlets, most of which were produced for propagandistic purposes, primarily against Finlay's artistic opponents, including the National Trust and various prominent critics; prints and chapbooks; and miscellaneous documents, including receipts for garden purchases and a tree tag from Little Sparta.

**PAMPHLETS.**

	Box	Folder
Pamphlets produced by Finlay to attack the National Trust, 1987-1989.	1	16

<i>Three Gates</i> , a photo essay concerning the closing of Little Sparta, 1996.	1	17
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**PRINTS AND CHAPBOOKS PRODUCED BY WILD HAWTHORN PRESS.**

	Box	Folder
<i>5 Signposts</i> , 1989.	1	18

	Box	Folder
<i>After Bernini</i> , undated.	3	

	Box	Folder
<i>Apollinaire: a variation</i> , 1997.	8	1

<i>Apollo and Daphne: after Bernin</i> , undated.	8	1
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<i>Arne, a proposal for</i> , 1988-1989.	1	18
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<i>Beautiful Kydippe</i> , undated.	8	1
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<i>The Bicentennial Proposal, the French War, the War of the Letter</i> , 1989.	8	1
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<i>Brailed</i> , a collaboration with Grahame Jones, 1988.	1	18
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<i>Carnation</i> , 1987.	1	18
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<i>Clay the Life</i> , collaboration with Alexander Stoddart, undated.	8	1
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<i>A Concise Classical Dictionary</i> , 1988.	1	18
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<i>A Country Lane with Stiles</i> , a collaboration with Laurie Clark, 1988.	1	18
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<i>Cythera</i> , a collaboration with Peter Lyle, 1979.	1	18
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<i>Detached Sentences on Weather</i> , collaboration with Jo Hincks, 1986.	1	18
<i>Eye Spy Trees</i> , undated.	1	19
<i>Forest of Dean, a proposal for</i> , a collaboration with Gary Hincks, 1988.	8	1
<i>Garden Poem (Urn)</i> , 1986.	1	19
<i>Garden of Pauline Karpidas, a proposal for</i> , a collaboration with Andrew Townsend, 1989.	1	19
<i>Gateway to a Grove</i> , a collaboration with Michael Harvey, 1985.	8	1
<i>Hirtenleid</i> , a collaboration with Pia Maria Simig, 1999.	1	19
<i>Into the Forest</i> , a collaboration with Andrew Townsend, 1989.	1	19
<i>Jacobin Definitions</i> , a collaboration with Kathleen Lindsley, 1991.	1	20
<i>Un Jardin Revolutionnaire</i> , a collaboration with Alexandre Chemetoff, 1988.	1	20
<i>Lasciate Ogni Speranza Voi Ch'entrate!</i> , undated.	8	1
<i>The Leasowes, a proposal for</i> , a collaboration with Nicholas Sloan, 1992.	1	20
Little Sparta map, undated.	8	1
<i>Little Sparta gardens: revolutions dethrone kings and enthrone columns and watering cans</i> , 1990.	8	1
Little Sparta gardens: a map, undated.	8	1
<i>May Your Bark Bear the Words Beautiful Kydippe</i> , undated.	8	1
<i>Mr. Aislachie's Garden</i> , or <i>A proposal for Lothian Estates, Monteviot</i> , a collaboration with Nicholas Sloan, 1981.	1	20

<i>An Obelisk, a proposal</i> , a collaboration with Annet Stirling, circa 1992.	1	20
<i>Oh, Parisians</i> , 1989.	8	1
<i>A Pair of Gates Piers and Finials, a proposal</i> , a collaboration with Robert Johnston, 1990.	8	1
<i>Personees Interessees</i> , undated.	8	1
Picabia posters, undated.	8	1
<i>Picturesque</i> , 1991.	8	1
<i>Private garden in Germany, a proposal for</i> , a collaboration with Robert Johnston, 1989.	1	20
<i>Prospects</i> , undated.	1	20
<i>Projet Pour un Parc Republicain</i> , a collaboration with Gary Hincks, 1988.	8	1
<i>Proverbs for Jacobins</i> , a collaboration with Kathleen Lindsay, 1989.	1	20
<i>A Remembrance of Annette (Eine Erinnerung an Annette)</i> , a collaboration with Gary Hincks, 1987.	1	20
<i>A Remembrance of R.L.S.</i> , a proposal for the Robert Louis Stevenson Club, 1987.	1	20
<i>Scud</i> , 1991.	1	21
<i>Serpentine Gallery grounds, a proposal</i> , a collaboration with Pia Maria Simig, 1997.	1	21
<i>Six Milestones: a proposal for Floriade</i> , a collaboration with Michael Harvey, 1992.	1	21
<i>Six Proposals for the Improvement of Stockwood Park Nurseries in the</i>	8	1

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*Borough of Luton*, a collaboration with Gary Hincks, 1985-1986.

<i>Six Tree-Column Bases</i> , undated.	8	1
<i>Still-life</i> , a collaboration with Carlo Rossi, 1989.	1	21
<i>Stonypath, Little Sparta, Dunsyre</i> , 1984.	8	1
<i>Sundial</i> , a collaboration with Kathleen Lindsley, 1989.	1	21
<i>Temple</i> , a collaboration with Mark Stewart, 1983.	8	1
<i>Temple of Apollo/Saint-Just, a proposal for</i> , collaboration with Mark Stewart, 1994.	1	22
<i>Terror is the Piety of the Revolution: a commentary</i> , by Alexander Stoddart, 1986.	1	22
<i>Thermidor</i> , a collaboration with Laurie Clark, 1989.	1	22
<i>Two Additions to the House at Horse Shoe Road, a wall sundial and a stile</i> , a collaboration with Robert Johnston, 1989.	1	22
<i>Two Examples</i> , undated.	1	22
<i>A Variation on Lines by Pope</i> , 1986.	8	1
<i>What a Government it is, Planting Trees of Liberty on the Scaffold and Placing Death's Scythe in the Hands of the Law</i> , undated.	8	1
<i>Woodpaths</i> , a collaboration with Solveig Hill, 1990.	8	1

**MISCELLANEA.**

Box Folder

Tree tag from Little Sparta, 1984.	1	23
Receipts, 1991.	1	24

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**SERIES III: GRAEME MOORE WRITINGS AND RESEARCH MATERIAL.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material produced and collected by Graeme Moore, including writings concerning Finlay's work, research material he consulted for his writings, including publications by other landscape critics; and miscellanea, including address lists, letterhead, and financial documents.

	Box	Folder
Writing by Graeme Moore regarding the work of Ian Hamilton Finlay, circa 2007.	1	25
Clippings and photocopies of articles related to the work of Ian Hamilton Finlay used by Moore for research purposes, 1980-2009.	1	26
Maps and diagrams by others collected by Moore, 1988-2005.	1	27
Maps and diagrams by others collected by Moore, 2011.	8	1
Publications by others collected by Moore, 1980-2000.	1	28
Address lists kept by Moore, undated.	1	29
Letterhead from the Little Sparta Garden Trust, undated.	1	30
Financial documents, circa 2002.	1	31

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**SERIES IV: ARTICLES AND REVIEWS MENTIONING FINLAY (IN PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS).**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains issues of periodicals, including newspapers and magazines, that contain reference to Finlay's work and/or memorialize his death. Periodicals can be located in box 2, folders 1-17, while newspapers can be located in box 5, folder 1. The series is arranged chronologically.

	Box	Folder
1981-1983.	2	1
1984-1985.	2	2
1986-1989.	2	3
1990.	2	4-5
1991.	2	6
1992-1993.	2	7
1995.	2	8
1996.	2	9
1997.	2	10
1998.	2	11
1999.	2	12
2000.	2	13
2003-2004.	2	14
2005.	2	15
2006.	2	16

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2006-2010, undated.	2	17
Newspapers, 1985-2009.	5	1

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**SERIES V: EXHIBITION CATALOGS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains exhibition catalogs and promotional material for exhibitions of Finlay's work, as well as a small amount of catalogs and promotional material of work by related artists. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

**FEATURING FINLAY.**

	Box	Folder
1972-1976.	3	1
1977-1984.	3	2
1985-1987.	3	3
1988-1990.	3	4
	Box	Folder
1989.	3	
	Box	Folder
1991-1993.	3	5
1994-2001.	3	6
2002-2004.	3	7

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	Box	Folder
2005.	3	
	Box	Folder
2005-2006.	3	8
2006.	3	9-10
2007-2013.	3	11
undated.	3	12

**FEATURING OTHERS (NOT FINLAY).**

	Box	Folder
2011-2013.	3	13

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**SERIES VI: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains audiovisual material related to Finlay and his work. It consists of three subseries: slides of Moore's visits to Finlay's gardens, including Little Sparta, Luton, and the Serpentine Gallery; audio recordings of interviews with Finlay; and photos of Little Sparta.

**SLIDES.**

	Box	Folder
Little Sparta, 1989-2000.	3	14-17

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Luton, 1991.	4	1
Edinburgh (Princes Street Gardens and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art), 2005.	4	2
Bristol Architecture Center, 1995.	4	3
Livingston, 1996.	4	4
Cherrybank (Perth, Australia), 1996.	4	5
Hamilton (a location), undated.	4	6
Kroller Muller, undated.	4	7

**AUDIO RECORDINGS (RESTRICTED).**

	Box	Folder
BBC Scotland interview with Finlay, 2000.	4	8
Belgian interview with Finlay, 1988.	4	9

**PHOTOS.**

	Box	Folder
Little Sparta, undated.	4	10

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**SERIES VII: SCRAPBOOKS.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains scrapbooks of Finlay’s work created by Moore. There are three scrapbooks, each arranged chronologically, and each scrapbook is intended to provide an overview and context for a specific aspect of Finlay’s artistic career. The first scrapbook, entitled “The Garden is Open,” describes the history of Stonybrook/Little Sparta from 1970-2005. The second, “War Art,” describes Finlay’s fight with the National Trust, the UK critical establishment, and the French Ministry of Culture over the worth of Little Sparta and accusations that Finlay’s work evidenced Fascist sympathies. The third, untitled scrapbook is a collection of Finlay’s prints. The scrapbooks contain penciled notes in Moore’s hand that provide explanations and context for Finlay’s work.

	Box	Item
"The Garden is Open," a scrapbook of photographs, prints, and promotional leaflets collected by Moore, along with notes on the history and development of Little Sparta, 1970-2005.	6	1
"War Art," a scrapbook of prints and incendiary pamphlets protesting the treatment of Little Sparta by the National Trust, French Ministry of Culture, and the art press, 1985-1990.	6	2
Scrapbook collecting prints by Finlay, with notes from Moore, 1985-2005.	6	3

**SERIES VIII: TOOLS AND MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.**

**Scope and Contents note**

This series consists of objects from Finlay’s gardens collected by Moore: a set of metal garden tools, a bottle of olive oil, and a reed basket.

	Box	Folder
Olive oil bottle, undated.	7	
Metal gardening tools, undated.	9	
Reed basket, undated.	10	