Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire

CUARDAIGH DO CHARTLANN

EXPLORE YOUR ARCHIVE

Explore Your Archive 2021

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A Word from the Chair

Welcome to this year's Autumn Newsletter.

As the colder weather and longer nights set in, that can mean only one thing - the run up to the Explore Your Archive Campaign launch week, which will be taking place between 20 - 28 November this year! As always, we are excited to hear about and promote your events, and also have some exciting plans ourselves! Watch this space...

In other ARA UK and Ireland news, Deborah Mason has taken up the ARA staff post of Communications Manager, starting in September and now full-time as of October 4th. Deborah welcomes any thoughts you may have on how ARA can improve engagement with the membership going forward, so please do get in touch with her if you have any comments or suggestions. Ruth Macleod is the new ARA Board Trustee with responsibility for the Nations & Regions portfolio, so ARA Ireland committee members will be touching base with Ruth in the near future. The ARA Strategy 2021-2025 is in the final stages of completion, and the new ARA website is also ready for imminent launch.

The first solely virtual ARA Conference, held in August, was a huge success, attracting a record 561 delegates. The online format was well received, and enabled speakers and attendees to join from across a wide geographic spread, including the option for multiple people to attend as an intuitional group for the first time. This was Mike Anson's final year as Conference Chair, and the position is currently being advertised. The conference will return next year with a new Chair, as a face-to-face event, convening in the historic city of Chester. I'm sure this will be a welcome opportunity not only to hear the latest sectoral developments, but of equal importance, to catch up with friends and colleagues in a social setting.

This leads aptly on to ARA Ireland's October campaign #ArchivistAppraiseThyself, focusing on the importance of looking after our mental health and general wellbeing. Ours can often be a lonely or isolating sector, with many working as sole professionals in an organisation or within a small team. This has no doubt been exacerbated by the challenges of Covid, including working from home and the inability to connect in person with colleagues and friends over the last eighteen months in ways we might have done previously. For anyone who missed it, the wonderful Wellness for Archivists session, presented by Dr Hester O'Connor earlier this month, was recorded and will be available in due course. Keep an eye out on social media for #ArchivistAppraiseThyself and more on looking after yourself.

And finally, we say goodbye to Fionnuala Parfrey and Lisa Murphy, former Training Officer and member for New Professionals respectively, both of whom have recently stepped down from these ARA Ireland committee roles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fionnuala and Lisa for their contribution to the sector and support of the membership during their time with the committee. I'm sure many of you will have benefitted from some of the development events they delivered over recent years. Role descriptions are circulating, advertising both of these posts, so if you want to get involved, develop your skillset and widen your professional network, we would love to hear from you.

Wishing you all a Happy Halloween.

Janet Hancock
Chair, ARA, Ireland

American Revolutionary War

Brett Irwin, PRONI



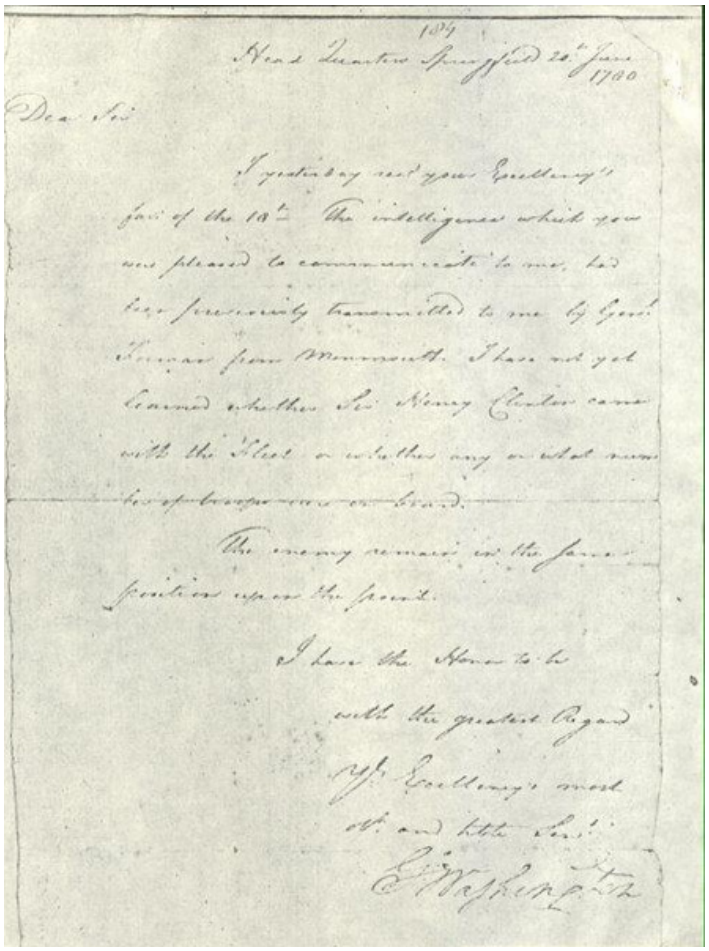
INF/7/B/8 - Illustration of the Boston Tea Party

When researching an idea around the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), I wondered if I could find enough archival sources from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) to stage an online public history presentation: One copy of a George Washington letter; A hand drawn campaign map, a guide to Colonial Williamsburg, documents relating to the actual person who first printed the Declaration of Independence and various letters detailing ordinary soldier's experiences later... I had plenty of really interesting archival material for an online talk.

The war greatly shocked the world when the 13 Colonies of America took on the might of the British Empire and eventually won. Fighting broke out on 19 April 1775 when the Massachusetts militia at Lexington engaged with the British army who had been stationed in Boston. After initial setbacks and defeats, Washington's army scored successes at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. France would later join the war on the American side and the war was over when General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, although the official peace treaty would not be concluded until 1783.

These are a few of the key archives used in my online talk that took place on the afternoon of September 9th 2021.

The Tea Act was imposed on Colonial citizens stifling free trade and leaving them to the monopoly of the East India Company. On December 16th 1773 Bostonians boarded three British ships and threw 342 chests of tea overboard so they would not pay tax on the tea. Parliament closed Boston harbour and suspended the Massachusetts Congress until the tea was paid for. One of the key events that paved the way to war.



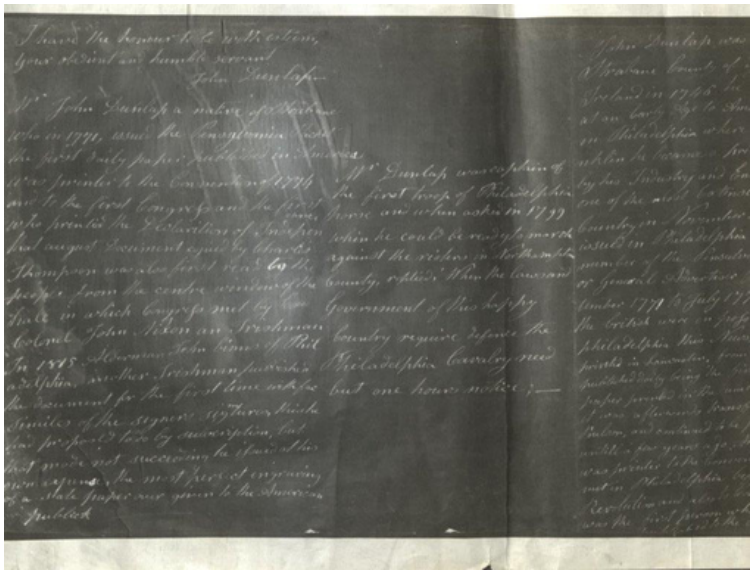
T2949/4 - George Washington letter relating to Naval Intelligence, 20 June 1780

Copy letter from George Washington, '*Headquarters*', *Springfield, [Mass] U.S.A. concerning the threat from a British Fleet during the American War of Independence.* '*... the intelligence which you were pleased to communicate to me, had been previously transmitted to me by Genl. Forman from Monmouth, I have not yet learned whether Sir Henry Clinton came with the Fleet or whether any or what number of troops were on board. The enemy remain in the same position upon the point ...*'



D3197/2 - Printed 'Virginia Revolutionary War Map 1774-1783'

A truly engaging and colourful document that clearly illustrates the campaigns, major actors and also features some fine examples of Colonial architecture from the American Revolutionary War.



T1336/15 - Memorandum on the life of John Dunlap and Biographical note on John Dunlap written c.1820

'John Dunlap was born in Strabane, County of Tyrone, Ireland in 1746; he emigrated at an early age to America settling in Philadelphia where like Franklin he became a printer and by his industry and enterprise one of the most extensive in the country; in November, 1771, he issued in Philadelphia the first number of the Pennsylvania Packet or General Advertiser; from September, 1771, to July, 1778, whilst the British were in possession of Philadelphia this newspaper was printed in Lancaster; from 1784 it was published daily being the first daily paper printed in the United States; it was afterwards transferred to Mr. Poulson and continued to be published until a few years ago. Mr. Dunlap was printer to the Convention which met in Philadelphia before the Revolution and also to Congress and was the first person who printed [and] published to the world the Declaration of Independence. John also served with the Philadelphia Cavalry'.

This quote below really shows John's enthusiasm for the American cause.

"..... *in the Campaign of 1799 or Northampton Expedition having received notice of a general order directing the Cavalry to hold themselves in readiness to march in a few days, Captain Dunlap makes the following reply Wednesday evening March 29, 1799. Sir about an hour ago I received through you the general orders of the Commander in Chief dated this day with a letter directing me to report when the first troop of Philadelphia Cavalry will be ready to march, with pleasure I tell you that when the laws and government of this happy country required defence the first troop of Cavalry wants but one hours' notice to march. I have the honour to be with esteem your obedient and humble servant John Dunlap.*"

The online talk was a great success and it even attracted attendees from the USA who asked some great questions afterwards. It showed that while not always appropriate, showcasing material online can reach new users and create engagement with archives.

All archival material used with permission from the Deputy Keeper of Records, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Explore Your Archive 2021

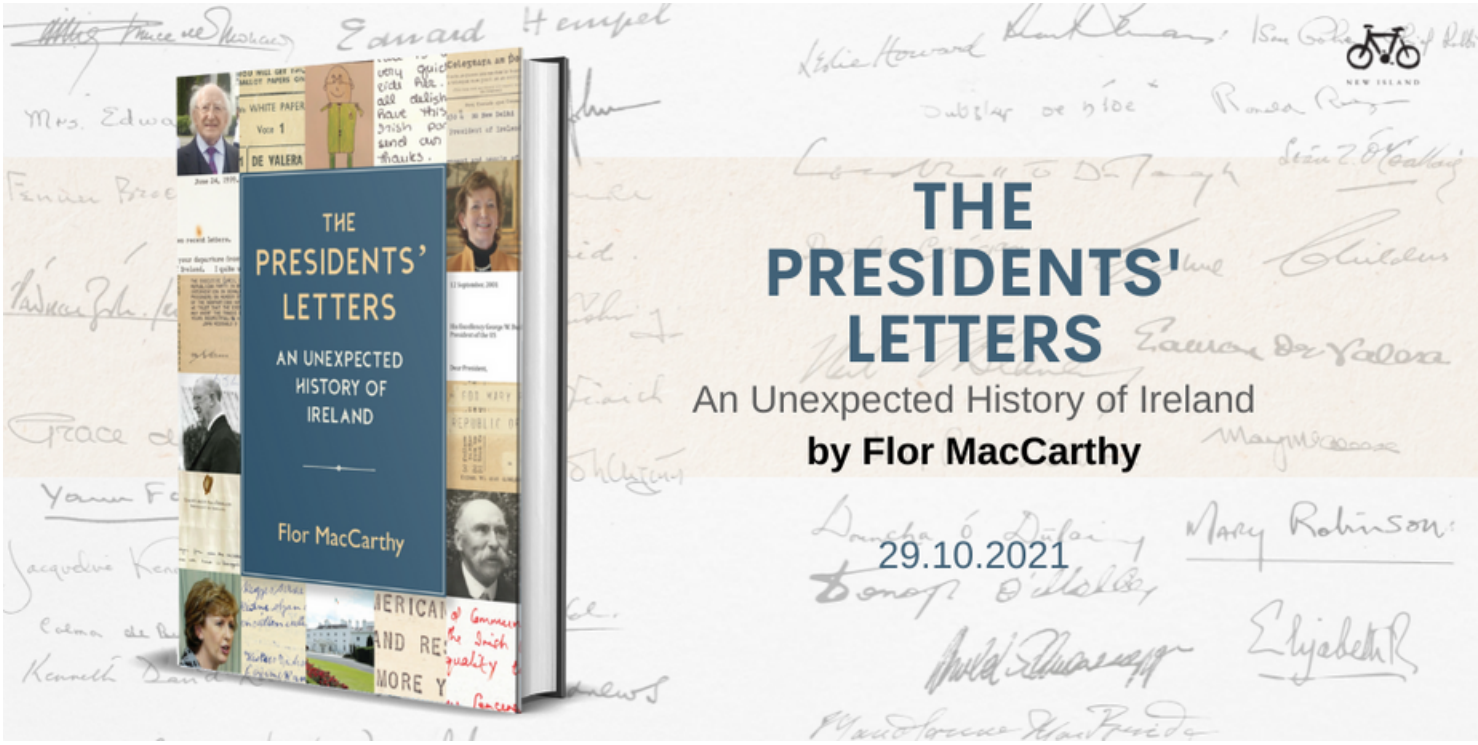
Niamh Ní Charra
Communications and Campaigns Officer

Days are getting shorter and shorter and the weather has definitely turned which means we have reached that time of year, when archives and institutions start to plan for the annual ARA "**Explore Your Archive**" campaign. This year's campaign will run from Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th November. Like last year, the ARA Board have instructed committees not to hold any in-person events before the end of this year. Therefore, while we won't get to see your lovely faces in person (over the usual glass of vino) we do hope to see you for our virtual launch which will take place online on Thursday 18th November. More details on the launch itself can be found later in this article.

For those not familiar with ARA's **Explore Your Archive** annual campaign , it aims to showcase the best of archives and archive services across Ireland and the UK and to make the public aware of the phenomenal array of archival collections held by organisations, both public and private, whatever their size and scale, and wherever their location.

ARA Ireland are delighted to announce that this year's EYA ambassador is journalist, broadcaster (and proud West Cork woman) **Flor MacCarthy**. Flor's first book The Presidents' Letters: An Unexpected History of Ireland (New Island Books) is coming out on 29 Oct, 2021, and is guaranteed to be a popular choice for the Christmas stocking. Featuring a selection of 350+ letters, telegrams, memos, photographs and drawings from the files of all nine presidents of Ireland, it was researched in numerous archives and libraries including: the NAI; the NLI; UCD Archives; the James Hardiman Library NUI Galway; TCD; the RIA; the Royal Archives, Windsor; and the Royal Palace Archives, Monaco. A presenter of political debates on Oireachtas TV, Flor is a former news reporter and presenter on RTÉ radio and television, and has acted as a consultant for several international human rights organisations. Freelancing these days, and with a passion for history and the arts, she has contributed to numerous events in Ireland's Decade of Centenaries.





There are many ways to get involved in this annual campaign, whether virtually or in person. Here are just a few suggestions on how to get people engaged with your archives during the campaign and show off the fantastic work that you do:

Events and 'Featured Archives'

Hold an event such as a talk, exhibition or tour relating to your work, project or collection. Whether in-person, online or a hybrid of both, do let us know what you plan on doing and we will host details of these events online; we can also promote events through social media and a press release.

We would also welcome submissions for 'featured archives'. This is a great way to show off a collection from your archive or a project that you are working on. It should be about 250 words and can include text, images and links. This will also be promoted and shared on social media.

For more ideas, check out last year's events and featured archives on our website.

Social Media

This year, as last year, the Explore Your Archive campaign have introduced a different theme each day. We would love you to share your work, collections and experiences online to give your followers a sense of the work that goes on behind the scenes and the fabulous archives that you care for. You can use these themes to inspire your tweets, but don't forget to tag us at @araireland and to use the **#ExploreYourArchive** hashtag each day. (You can also tag us and/or use #ExploreYourArchive on any archives related tweet throughout the year.)

EYA 2021 Themes:

- Saturday 20th: Small
- Sunday 21st: Big
- Monday 22nd: Handwriting (best and worst!)
- Tuesday 23rd: Going digital
- Wednesday 24th: Archive Shelfie
- Thursday 25th: Collaboration
- Friday 26th: Conservation Nightmare
- Saturday 27th: Achievements (aka "what have you achieved in 2021")
- Sunday 28th: Watch This Space (aka "what comes next?")

The Launch

The ARA Ireland campaign will be launched on the evening of Thursday 18th November 2021 at 6:00 pm (tbc). We will send more information and some promotional materials soon and hope you can join us.

The advantage of running an online virtual launch is that ARA Ireland members can tune in from all over Ireland, or even further afield if you so choose. You can doll yourselves up or go as casual as you like! Tuxedo tails paired with tracksuit bottoms - anything goes, well almost anything. And while we won't be able to clink glasses or cups in person, cocktails, mocktails, tea or hot chocolate - the choice is all yours!

Following the success of last year's quiz and competitions, we will run something similar again this year, and will again be awarding prizes. Up for grabs this year will be copies of our EYA 2021 ambassador's new book, hot of the presses.

So get planning your events, social media posts, launch outfits and beverages, and stay tuned for more updates.

If you have any questions about the **Explore Your Archive** campaign, or wish to submit events or material for the featured archive please do not hesitate to contact me on niamhnicharra@gmail.com

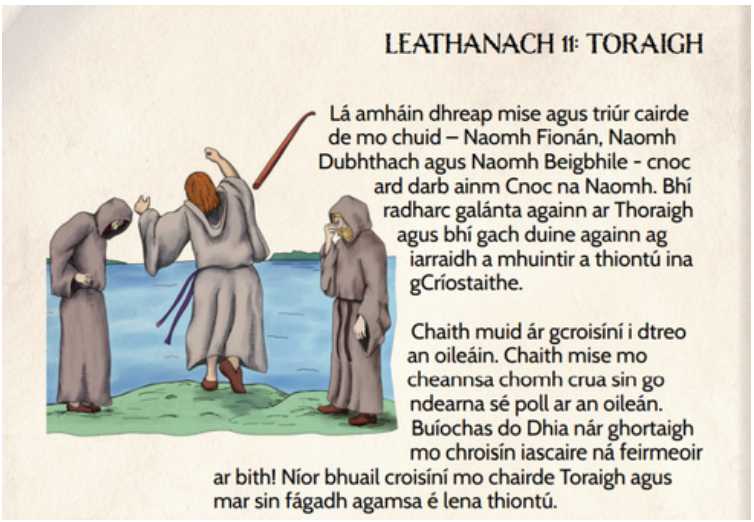
Have fun planning!
Niamh

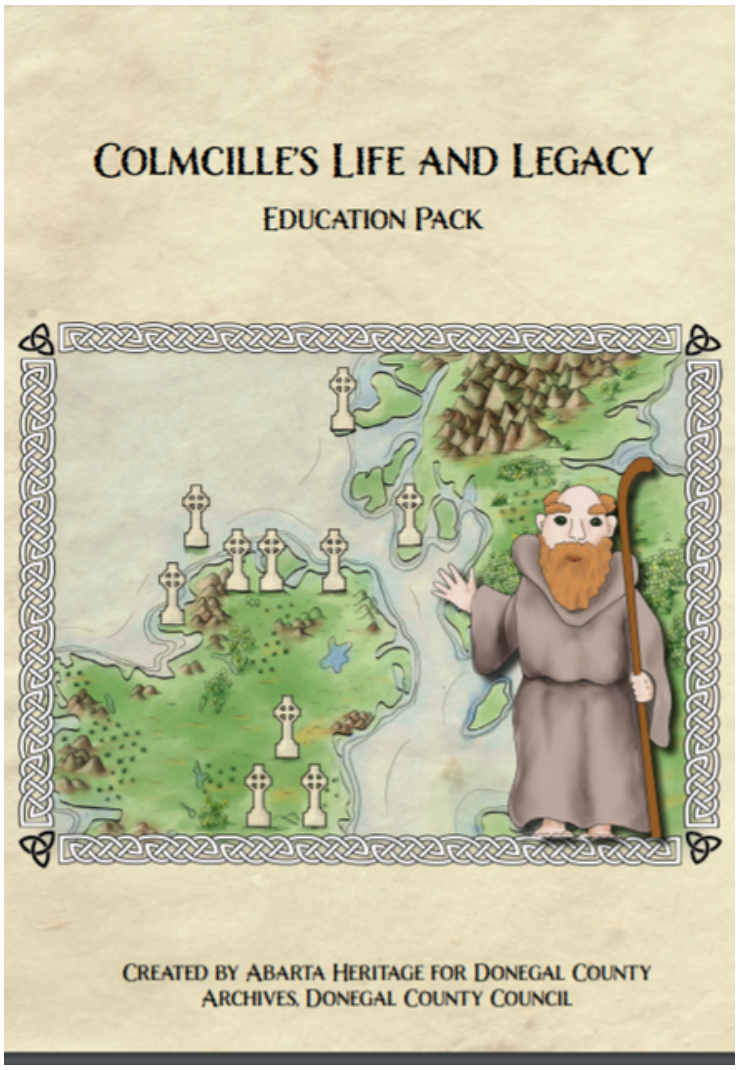
Commemorating Colmcille's Life and Legacy: An Education Pack for Primary Schools

Niamh Brennan
Donegal County Council

Colmcille, also known as Columba, one of Ireland's three patron saints and also the patron saint of Derry, was born in Gartan, County Donegal 1500 ago. His birthday is traditionally celebrated on 7th December. One of the most significant and legendary saints of Ireland, his influence spread far and wide during his lifetime and beyond. He founded many monasteries but is best known for founding the monastery at Iona. His life, legacy and the vast heritage associated with him are being commemorated this year to mark the 1500th anniversary of his birth.

Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council are coordinating the commemoration programme in the north west of Ireland. This programme, which includes a series of events, activities and resources, is supported by key partners, including the North West Development Fund, in conjunction with and supported by government. Among the vast range of projects initiated/supported by the Council's Culture Division are a grants scheme, an exhibition at the museums in Derry and Donegal, a Library run book club, a colouring book (Heritage Office), Arts projects and art exhibitions, the staging of Brian Friel's play, The Enemy Within at An Grianán Theatre, a digital schools' folklore project, walking trails and a dedicated website: https://colmcille1500.com/english/





As part of the commemoration programme, the Archives Service of Donegal County Council has commissioned a primary school education pack Colmcille: Life and Legacy, Beatha agus Oidhreacht Cholm Cille, from Abarta Heritage. The pack Colmcille: A Life and Legacy is in Irish and English and is co-funded by Donegal County Council and Creative Ireland.

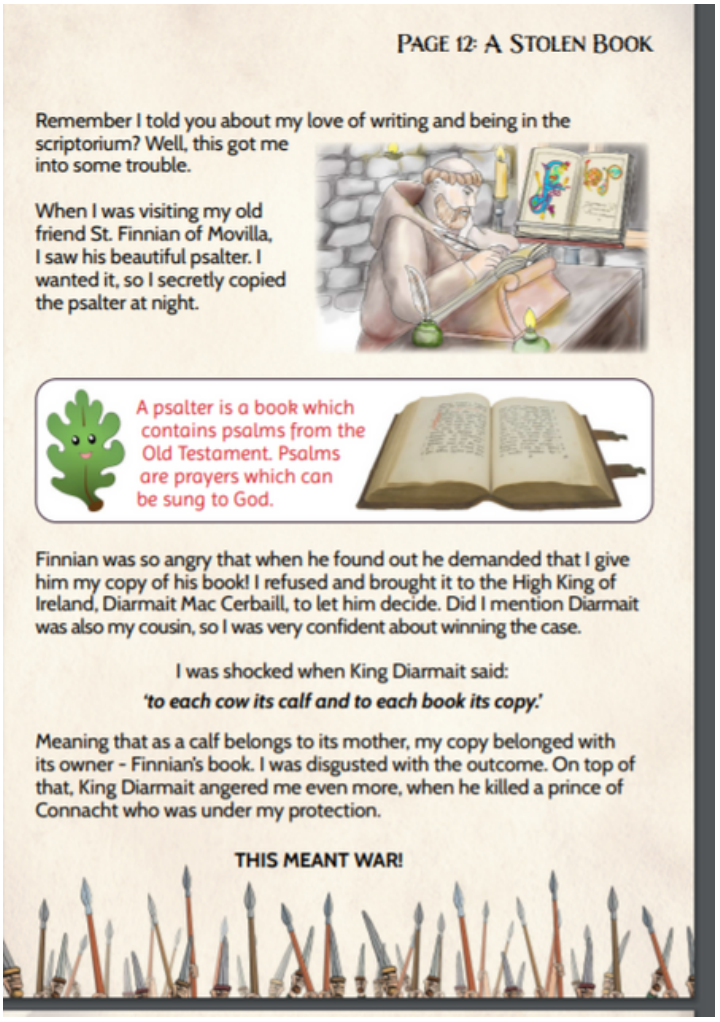
The pack is aimed at younger children from about 7 to 12 years old. It incorporates an illustrated booklet which aims to introduce the story of Colmcille to children. The booklet explores the history, stories, folklore and legacy of St. Colmcille in a fun and accessible way for primary age children. Also included is a workbook containing

exercises, puzzles, archival images and questions for students in class. The pack has been distributed to schools across County Donegal and also to schools in Derry, Sligo and Meath. The pack's contents are available free of charge and easy to download on the Council's Archives website. Both pack and worksheets are in English and Irish languages. https://www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/archives/education/

This book was researched, produced and designed by Abarta Heritage. https://www.abartaheritage.ie/

The company and the Archives Service are grateful for the input of colleagues, teachers and others who reviewed and gave feedback on the pack. The Archives Service is grateful to the Board of Trinity College, the Bodleian Collection and the National Folklore Collection for allowing the reproduction of images from their collections.

For more information or a copy of the pack, please contact Donegal County Council's Archives Service at **archivist@donegalcoco.ie**



The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives

Natalie Milne
National Archives of Ireland



The Decade of Centenaries is coming to its crescendo in the next few years and the next few months are particularly important for the National Archives. Last month saw the official launch of our 2021 Commemoration Programme of Events to mark the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 and the reveal of our flagship event, the forthcoming major exhibition The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives.

This exhibition, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy and the National Library of Ireland, gives the public the opportunity to see for the first time one of the most significant historical documents held in our collections- the treaty itself. The exhibition will include records relating to life in London for the delegation while heated negotiations took place from October to December 1921 as well as original cabinet minutes, correspondence, secret drafts, private papers, and photographs, it will also include records from the collections of the Military Archives and University College Dublin.

The exhibition is held to mark the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty that brought the modern Irish state into being, but it will also centre the importance of archives and Irish archival collections as a way to encourage historical enquiry and the understanding of the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during this complex period in our history.

The exhibition is free and will be held at Dublin Castle from the 6th of December until the 27th March 2022.

Section for New Professionals (SfNP) Representative – Role Description

The SfNP Representative role is to liaise, on behalf of the Ireland region, with the Section for New Professionals and represent the views of new professionals in the region to the ARA Ireland committee. NB candidates for this role should be less than five years qualified.

Main responsibilities:

- To participate in SfNP committee meetings (usually 3-4 per year by teleconference via MS Teams).
- To attend and participate in regional ARA Ireland committee meetings.
- To prepare and deliver reports to the SfNP on the Ireland Region's activity.
- To attend the annual SfNP summer seminar in June.
- To keep up-to-date generally with issues and activities currently of concern to new professionals in the Ireland region.
- To report to the region on SfNP activities.
- Organise one event per year (supported by the SfNP and ARA Ireland Training Officer) in the Ireland region for new professionals.
- To maintain good communications with other officers within the region and to contribute to activities organised within the region and beyond.

If you are interested or need further information please contact: ara.irelandregion@gmail.com

Training Officer - Role Description

ARA Ireland is currently accepting applications for the role of Training Officer to undertake duties in a joint capacity with the current Training Officer. ARA Ireland is a vibrant, active nation and holds meetings and events regularly throughout the year. It plays a key part in the archive and record keeping sector in Ireland working closely with colleagues from across both Ireland and the UK to promote the care and preservation of archival materials. ARA Ireland seeks to represent the views of the diverse community of professionals working in this field.

Working with our experienced Training Officer, this role provides an exciting opportunity to be part of a well-established yet ever evolving training programme responsive to the needs and challenges of colleagues across the archives, conservation and record keeping professions.

What would the Training Officer be asked to do?

- Attend and participate in committee meetings, giving opinions and adding agenda items when required
- Report to the committee every three months and annually to ARA,I members.
- Plan, organise and run the section's events, including devising event programmes, finding venues and speakers, and arranging for catering provisions. Please note, training events will be taking place online for the immediate future.
- Create event master plans, circulate to the committee and keep officers updated of progress.
- Delegate tasks to other committee members and coordinate tasks necessary for ens-uring the organisation and smooth running of events.
- Collect expense forms from speakers and pass onto treasurer
- Collect feedback from officers and attendees about the events and how they are run
- Attend ARA Training Group meetings

What are the benefits of being Training Officer?

- Develop your skills in event management, budget planning and communicating / liaising with speakers, venues and caterers
- Volunteering is a great source of CPD and can also be used in your application for ARA professional registration
- Have your say and influence the work of ARA Ireland
- Have your say and influence the work of ARA Ireland
- Raise your profile and get involved with other professionals

Who would I be working with?

- Primarily you will be working in partnership with the existing ARA Ireland Training Officer, but also the ARA Ireland committee and the Chair for general guidance

- The ARA Ireland Treasurer regarding events budget, expenditure and invoice procedures
- The ARA Ireland Communication and Social Media officer, to help promote events
- Members of staff and caterers at prospective venues
- The ARA Office

How much time would be involved?

- 2-3 hours per week on average. This may increase around event dates
- Possible additional planning meetings for upcoming events
- Minimum commitment of one year with opportunity for longer service (2-3 years recommended)

What are the personal benefits to volunteering for this role?

- Contribute to the development and evolution of your professional community
- Meet fellow professionals from across both the Irish and UK archive sector, extending your own personal network and experience
- Be at the fore of emerging professional training and development and opportunities
- Enhance your experience in a diverse range of competencies, including communication, event management and team working

If you are interested or need further information please contact: ara.irelandregion@gmail.com