Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire



TCD MS 177 the Life of St Alban by Matthew Paris

Inside this Issue

P.2 A Word from the Chair

P.3 Archiving the 8th

P.4 New Medieval Manuscript Project from the Library of Trinity College Dublin

P.6 Digitisation Grant Awarded to MHSI Archives

P. 8 Diversity Allies Update

A Word from the Chair

Welcome to this year's Summer Newsletter.

I hope you have all been able to enjoy a little more freedom and some of the better weather we have had over the past weeks as Covid restrictions slowly ease.

ARA Ireland is delighted to welcome Steven Skeldon onto the committee. Steven has taken up a second Training Officer post, working alongside Fionnuala Parfrey to deliver a highly engaging and informative programme of events, including the Archives and Social Justice series and the recent 'Coffee Roulette' - for those of you who missed the first session I would urge you to come along to the next 'virtual' social morning as it is a great opportunity to meet and chat with colleagues informally and rebuild some of the networking we have all so badly missed.

Thanks to all of you who supported the first #ArchiveDiaspora social media campaign on 1 July. This was a great opportunity to highlight the diverse range of material out there relating to migration history and something we hope to build on in coming years.

The Archives and Records Association have now appointed a new full-time Communications Officer, who comes with a wealth of relevant experience and is due to take up post in September, and all vacant ARA Board posts have now been filled. Comments received from members on the draft ARA Strategy 2021-2025 are now being considered, as are budget submissions from regional committees and groups. ARC magazine will be issued bi-monthly going forward, and a new ARA website is set to launch over the coming weeks, bringing with it improvements to navigation and content which will hopefully result in an improved user experience for members and other visitors alike.

Over 200 delegates have registered for the annual ARA Conference, which will be held virtually this year, resulting in a reduction in costs to attendees. An excellent programme is on offer and there is still time to book a place.

Many of us will be holidaying locally this year, and will be reminded of the fantastic landscape, attractions and cultural heritage on offer on home soil. Whether heading off to explore or planning family time at home, I hope you all enjoy a summer break and take some time to recharge the batteries after the challenges this past year has brought.

Janet Hancock

Chair, ARA, Ireland



Dr Maeve O'Brien AFHEA, Research Co-Ordinator, Archiving the 8th
University College Dublin

Calling all archivists, archive conservators and records managers in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland – are you collecting/accepting items relating to the lifespan of the 8th Amendment in your repositories?

Funded by the Wellcome Trust, the School of Art History and Cultural Policy at University College Dublin is currently compiling a comprehensive database documenting the repositories, digital spaces, museums, libraries, arts centres and more who are collecting any materials that relate to the 8th Amendment – from its inception to repeal.

This database will enable people across the spectrum to find the relevant sites (local or national) to donate their diverse catalogue of objects and materials from 1983-2018. Going forward, this database will assist researchers in their studies of this important constitutional, health, and cultural moment in Irish history.

If you are collecting or accepting donations, please get in touch with Dr Maeve O'Brien via email maeve.obrien@ucd.ie to add your information so that it can be stored in the online database. For more information on the Archiving the 8th Project, please follow the Twitter account: @archivingthe8th.

New Medieval Manuscript Project from the Library of Trinity College Dublin

Estelle Gittins, Archivist and Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project Lead

The Library of Trinity College Dublin is delighted to announce the start of the Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project.
https://www.tcd.ie/library/manuscripts/blog/2021/05/manuscripts-for-medieval-studies-virtual-trinity-library-project-supported-by-the-carnegie-corporation-of-new-york/

Its intent is to research, catalogue, conserve, digitise and share sixteen medieval manuscripts of international significance.

This project concentrates on manuscripts studied as part of the Trinity MPhil in Medieval Studies. The selection demonstrates the breadth and variety of the Library's collections and their relevance across the medieval period and particularly the history of the book. Two of the Library's most significant and highly decorated manuscripts, the Winchcombe Psalter (TCD MS 53, 12th century) and the Life of St. Alban by Matthew Paris (TCD MS 177, 13th century), will be colour-photographed in their entirety for the first time. Other works that will feature on the project include surviving manuscripts from Salisbury Cathedral, medieval music from Britain and Ireland, and a rare 15th-century life of St Thomas Becket.



TCD MS 35 detail from 14th century Bible



TCD MS 35 detail from 14th century Bible

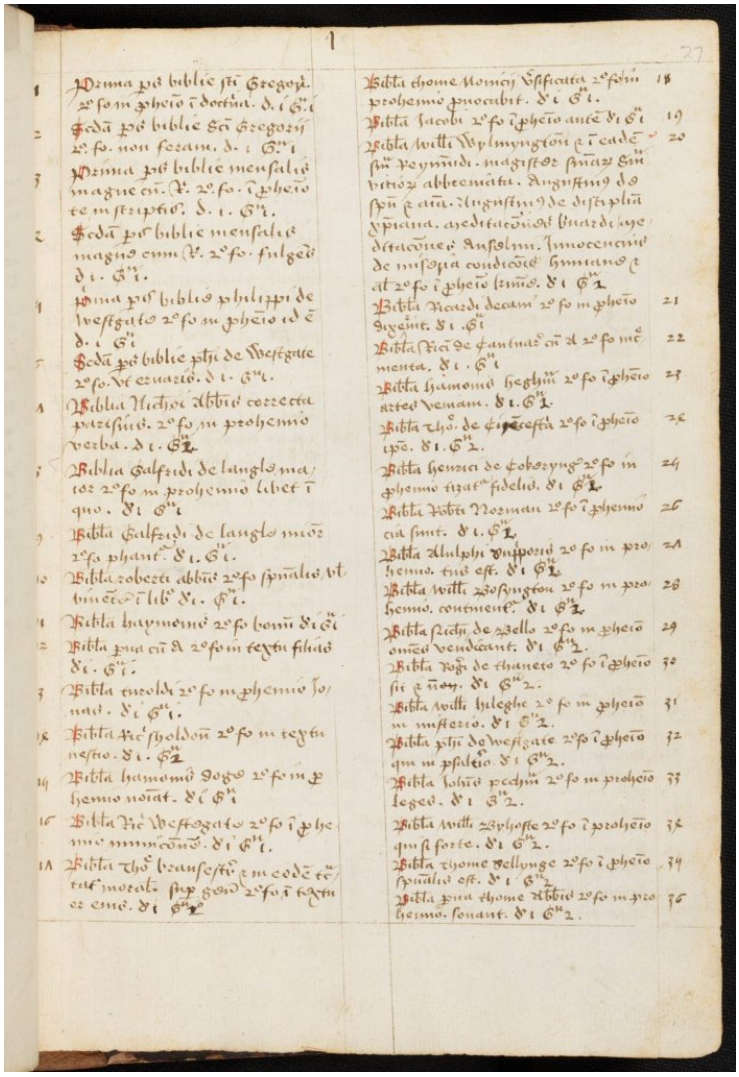
The first of its digitised manuscripts, the Catalogue of the Abbey of St Augustine in Canterbury (TCD MS 360), has just been published online at https://doi.org/10.48495/7p88cp52b.

This fifteenth-century manuscript was once in the possession of Queen Elizabeth I's famous astrologer, the mathematician John Dee (1527-1608/9). Its true significance, however, lies in its status as the earliest surviving catalogue of the oldest recorded book collection in England. This was the library founded at Canterbury in the late sixth century by the Christian missionary St Augustine (d.604).

The manuscript, which references over 1,700 texts, is a hugely important resource for anyone with a scholarly interest in the development of library collections during the medieval era. 300 of the texts identified within it are now housed across a wide range of international collections, the British

Library, The Parker Library and the Bodleian Libraries being among the most prominent. This is the first time this manuscript has been made so widely accessible, and the current project has utilised recent research as part of a detailed catalogue entry and bibliography of secondary sources linked via the Manuscripts Online Catalogue MARLOC:

https://manuscripts.catalogue.tcd.ie/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=IE+TCD+MS+360&pos=11



TCD MS 360 f.27r opening page of main catalogue of St Augustine's Library

You can read more about the contents and context of the manuscript in this blog post https://www.tcd.ie/library/manuscripts/blog/2021/06/a-medieval-library/

There are many more manuscripts which will be featured as part of this project, and further updates and posts will appear on the Virtual Trinity Library website, the Research Collections blog https://www.tcd.ie/library/manuscripts/blog/, @TCDResearchColl twitter, and @TCDLibrary Instagram.

The Manuscripts for Medieval Studies Project has been made possible due to funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, enabling the appointment of a project Archivist, Conservator and Photographer. The project is part of the newly launched Virtual Trinity Library Programme which is designed to share content and catalyse research on a global scale, whilst ensuring the preservation of Trinity Library collections for generations to come.

Virtual Trinity Library *is a digitisation initiative of the Library of Trinity College Dublin's most valued collections. It will conserve, catalogue, curate, digitise and research these unique collections of national importance, making them accessible to a global audience, from schoolchildren to scholars.* *https://www.tcd.ie/virtual-trinity-library/*

Digitisation Grant Awarded to MHSI Archives

Robin Roddie, Archivist, MHSI Archives



The Heritage Council of Ireland has awarded the Methodist Historical Society of Ireland a grant of €15,000 to enable the second phase of a programme to preserve and make freely available online over 150 years of Irish Methodist periodicals from 1859 to 2015. These originals are held at the MHSI archives in Belfast. The scanning and hosting of the pages is being undertaken by the specialist Dublin company, Informa, and as they become available will be accessible via the MHSI webpages.

Methodism, the smallest of the so-called 'Four Main Churches' since 1747 has been a contributor to Irish religious, social and political life. Among the most important sources for researching the attitudes, cultural and political responses of the Methodist people over the last 150 of these years are the pages of its periodicals published since 1858.

The Methodist Historical Society of Ireland, which itself is approaching its centenary in 2026, and now based at Edgehill House, Belfast. It is the main repository of Methodist heritage and holds the vast majority of Irish Methodist records including baptismal and marriage registers – all of which are listed on the Society's website. It also publishes a yearly historical journal, The MHSI Bulletin which has in recent years featured substantial articles by historians such as Professors David Fitzpatrick, Keith Jeffery, Eugenio Biagini and in its latest issue, Dr Marie Coleman of QUB.

The scanning process involves the creation of digital copies of each issue and also gives the user the ability to word search for names and subjects. The first phase of the project was completed in 2020 and involved the scanning of the (unofficial) weekly The Christian Advocate which ran from 1883-1923. These editions cover the tumultuous years of the Home Rule debates, the First World war and the partition of Ireland. These are now available through the MHSI website at http://methodisthistoryireland.org under the publications tab.

The second phase which the Heritage Council award has made possible includes the digitisation of the Irish Christian Advocate that in 1924 superseded the earlier



Scanning pages of the Advocate at INFORMA, Dublin

Advocate. It continued to be published until its premises and records were destroyed in collateral bomb damage in Belfast in 1971. In content it was more self-consciously Irish than its predecessor and, for example, featured columns written in Irish by the Methodist scholar Earnán De Siúnta (Ernest Edwin Joynt) and more recently, had as a regular contributor the noted Irish writer Risteárd Ó Glaisne. More surprisingly, among others whose names are found among its pages was Padraig O'Horan, one of the Anti-Treaty Republicans ('Irregulars') of 1922, who following a period of incarceration at Gormonston Internment camp, became a convert and entered the Methodist ministry

The Methodist Historical Society of Ireland

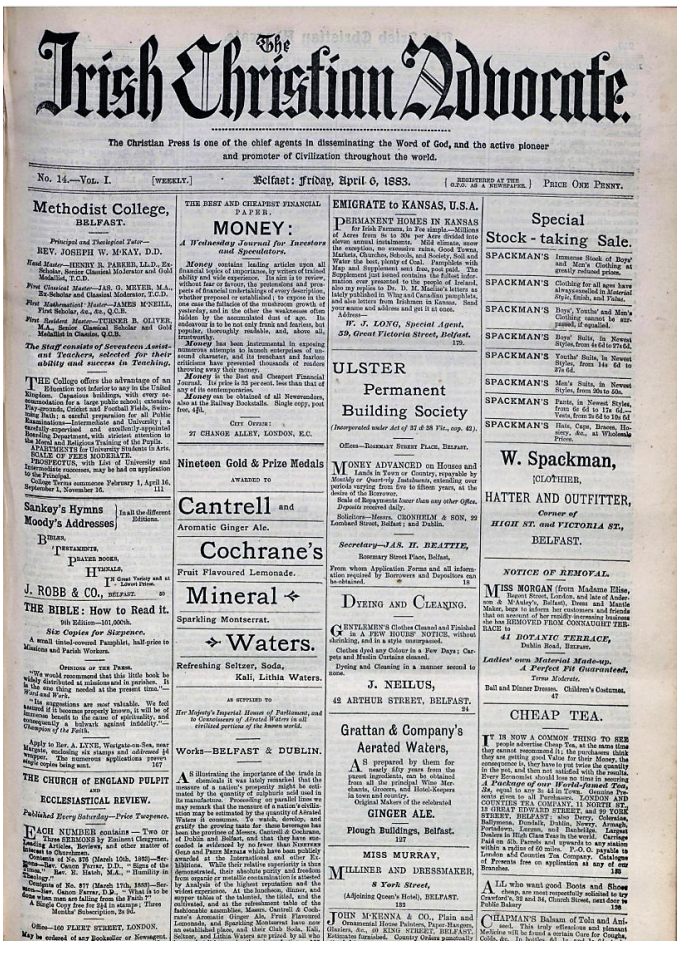
The Society was founded in 1926 and was first based in what was Wesley College's premises in Stephen's Green, Dublin. In the intervening years a greatly enlarged Society has grown into what has become 'the memory of Irish Methodism'. It now has its own purpose-built archives at Edgehill House, Belfast and is home to many hundreds of printed and manuscript items. Its unique collection encompasses more than 250 years of Irish Methodist history—from its 18th-century origins to the contributions of its present-day members.

There are in its climate-controlled archives original letters from John Wesley (Methodism's founder) dating from the late 1770s as well as autograph poetry of his hymn-writing brother Charles. There are also journal and diaries of early preachers and portraits of leading personalities of the movement.

In more recent years the majority of Irish records including baptismal and marriage registers have been transferred to the MHSI archives.

The Society has become the first port of call for students living in Ireland and overseas interested in the documentation and study of Irish Methodist history. Its unrivalled collection of Irish Methodist printed pamphlets and periodicals, and original manuscript collections of correspondence provides a rich resource for all who wish to explore the story of how Methodism arrived and contributes to life in Ireland today.

The Society's journal is published annually, comprising one or two issues each year. The 2020 edition featured the career of Louie Coade, the wife of a Methodist minister who campaigned for women's suffrage and who was a peace activist. In a separate article Prof. Desmond Hunter profiles the role of Sylvia Fannin who did so much to maintain the tradition of annual performances in Dublin of Handel's Messiah.



The Irish Christian Advocate.

The Christian Press is one of the chief agents in disseminating the Word of God, and the active pioneer and promoter of Civilization throughout the world.

No. 14.—Vol. I. [WEEKLY.] Belfast: Friday, April 6, 1883. [REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.] PRICE ONE PENNY.

Methodist College, BELFAST.

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THE BIBLE: How to Read it.

CHEAP TEA.

An early issue of the Irish Christian Advocate, an Irish Methodist weekly, running from 1883-1923. It is available on line at http://methodisthistoryireland.org

ARA Diversity & Inclusion

Diversity Allies Update

Alicia Conley and Lorraine Bourke

Last month, the Diversity Allies made a decision regarding the structure and framework of the group. Up until now, the Allies have been loosely organised, without a formal leader or structure. The group was organised this way as members felt it made the Allies a welcoming place for a wide variety of people. However, over time, we started to feel that without a leadership structure it was difficult to advance the goals and priorities of the group.

At our most recent meeting, attendees came up with a proposal to formally constitute the group. Leadership will involve a 10 person committee, including one member from each of eight working groups, a chair and a secretary, with the roles changing over at least yearly. The proposal was emailed to all Allies for a yes or no vote, which was approved. Currently members have been invited to put themselves forward for these new roles.

After these changes, the Allies will be a formally constituted group reporting to the ARA Board. We will also be able to request and manage a budget. The two of us are excited about this new leadership and believe it will help the group move forward with a clearer direction and goals. We will keep you updated on the work of the Allies as these changes take place.