Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire



ARA Ireland EYA 2021 Ambassador Flor MacCarthy, and ARA,I Communications and Campaigns Officer Niamh Ní Charra, Marsh's Library, photo Marc O'Sullivan

Inside this Issue

P.2 A Word from the Chair
P.3 Seachtain na Gaeilge at 120
P.5 Iarnród Éireann drawings on display in Irish Architectural Archive
P.7 The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives.
P. 9 'Bloody Sunday' Fifty Years Later – Testimony and Records from Kevin Boyle Archive
P. 12 Explore Your Archive 2021
P. 16 ARA Ireland Committee

A Word from the Chair

Welcome to this year's Winter Newsletter, and wishing you all a belated Happy New Year!

The date for this year's ARA Ireland AGM has been set for 29th March, to take place in the early evening, preceded by a training event. We will continue to be guided by ARA protocols and local measures in relation to Covid precautions, but are hopeful this may be our first opportunity to host in-person events since the start of the pandemic. Further information will follow in due course.

A number of existing ARA,I Committee Officer roles will become available over the coming months as officer's terms are coming to an end. This will undoubtedly be a huge loss in terms of knowledge and experience, but also enables other members to get involved. Taking a Committee role is a great opportunity to contribute to sector development within the region, bringing your own unique knowledge and perspective to the position, whilst developing new skills and adding to your professional portfolio. If you are interested in finding out more, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact myself or Committee colleagues who will be happy to outline what's involved.

The deadline has also been extended for submission of papers for this year's ARA Annual Conference, the theme of which is 'Facing Forward: Post-pandemic recordkeeping - change, challenge, choice', which will be held in-person in Chester, UK. Papers relating to Information Governance and Digital Preservation are particularly welcome, and proposals will be accepted until 8th February.

Janet Hancock

Chair, ARA, Ireland

Seachtain na Gaeilge at 120

ARA,I Communications and Campaigns Officer, Niamh Ní Charra

Social media has become an increasingly popular and effective tool to promote archives, their contents and the work of archivists, records managers, conservators and related professions. It has been embraced by many institutions and professional bodies including our own, with online campaigns increasingly taking centre stage in archive outreach programmes.

Many members will already be familiar with the annual #ExploreYourArchive campaign launch every November that is going from strength to strength, and their recently introduced monthly themes (see article in this newsletter on the most recent campaign). Other campaigns which have been very successful include ARA Scotland's #Archive30 modelled after the already successful #Museum30, and the monthly #ArchiveHour with rotating hosts including ARA Ireland. ARA Ireland has played its part too not just in co-hosting / participating in these campaigns but also elsewhere with a new #ArchiveDiaspora campaign which ran last year, and which will run again this year in July, and the #ArchivistAppraiseThyself campaign which we ran for the month of October.





Joining this list is a brand new campaign which will run in March to coincide with the 120th anniversary of the biggest Irish language festival in the world - Seachtain na Gaeilge. Funded in 1902 as part of the Gaelic revival by Conradh na Gaeilge, Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia is an international Irish language festival celebrating our native language and culture that takes place each year in Ireland and in many other countries, reaching over 1 million people on 5 continents annually. We at ARA Ireland would like to encourage everyone to join in the anniversary celebrations by sharing interesting material from your collections, in or about the Irish language from the 1st to 17th March. Use the hashtag #ARAIrelandSnaG120, use #CuardaighDoChartlann if you wish as well, and make sure to tag us @ARAIreland! We can't wait to see what jewels from your collections you share with us, and we would like to encourage everyone to use whatever cúpla focail you have.

Go n'éirí libh / Best of luck to you all

Dates for the Diary / Dátaí don Dialann

01-17 March #ARAIrelandSnaG120

Celebrating 120th anniversary of Seachtain na Gaeilge campaign with all things related to the Irish language

01 July #ArchiveDiaspora

Celebrating Irish diaspora abroad and the New Irish who made/ have made Ireland their home.

04-28 Oct #ArchivistAppraiseThyself

Month long #MindYourMind campaign to improve mental health and fitness

24 Nov ARA Ireland #ExploreYourArchive

Launch - venue and further details tbc

26 Nov - 4 Dec #ExploreYourArchive

Week long launch campaign - more details tbc

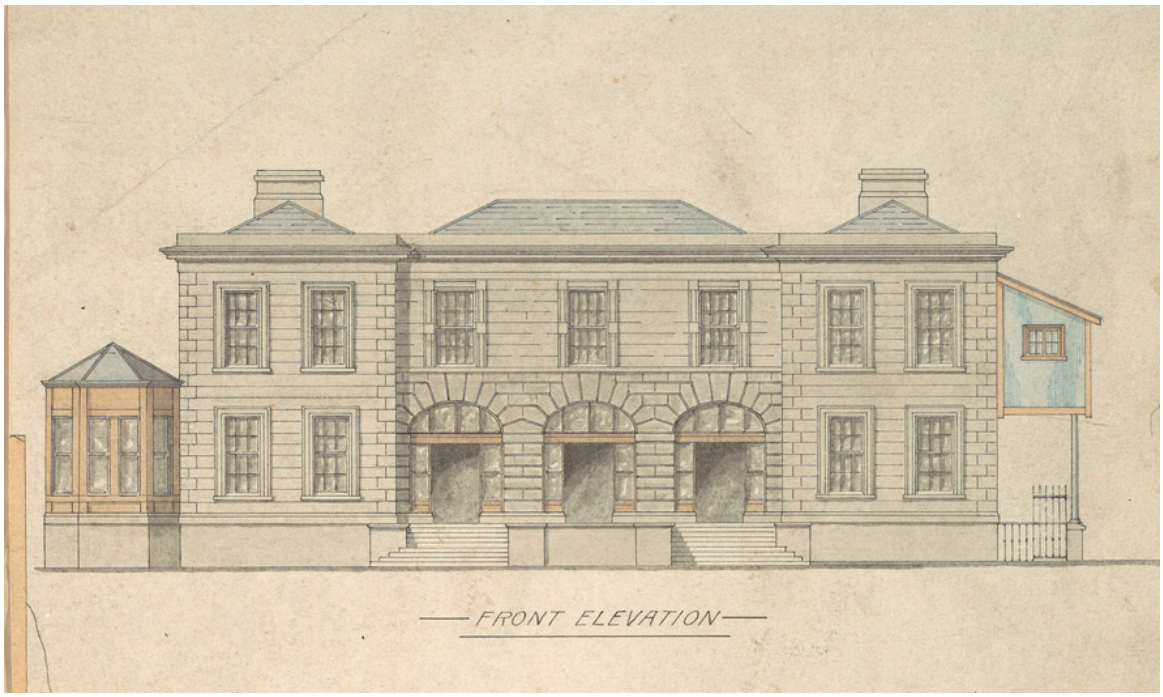
23 Dec #ArchiveSanta

Get into the holiday spirit, get your name in the hat, and surprise your Secret Santa recipient with a festive tweet.



Iarnród Éireann drawings on display in Irish Architectural Archive

Colum O'Riordan,
Irish Architectural Archive



Ireland was at the forefront of the nineteenth-century railway revolution and the building of the railways is comprehensively recorded in the little-know but astonishingly rich collection of original drawings held by Iarnród Éireann. Curated by Michael Barry, Pioneers and Visionaries: Drawings from the Golden Age of Irish Railways is new exhibition featuring a small sample from the collection now on in the Irish Architectural Archive Architecture Gallery.

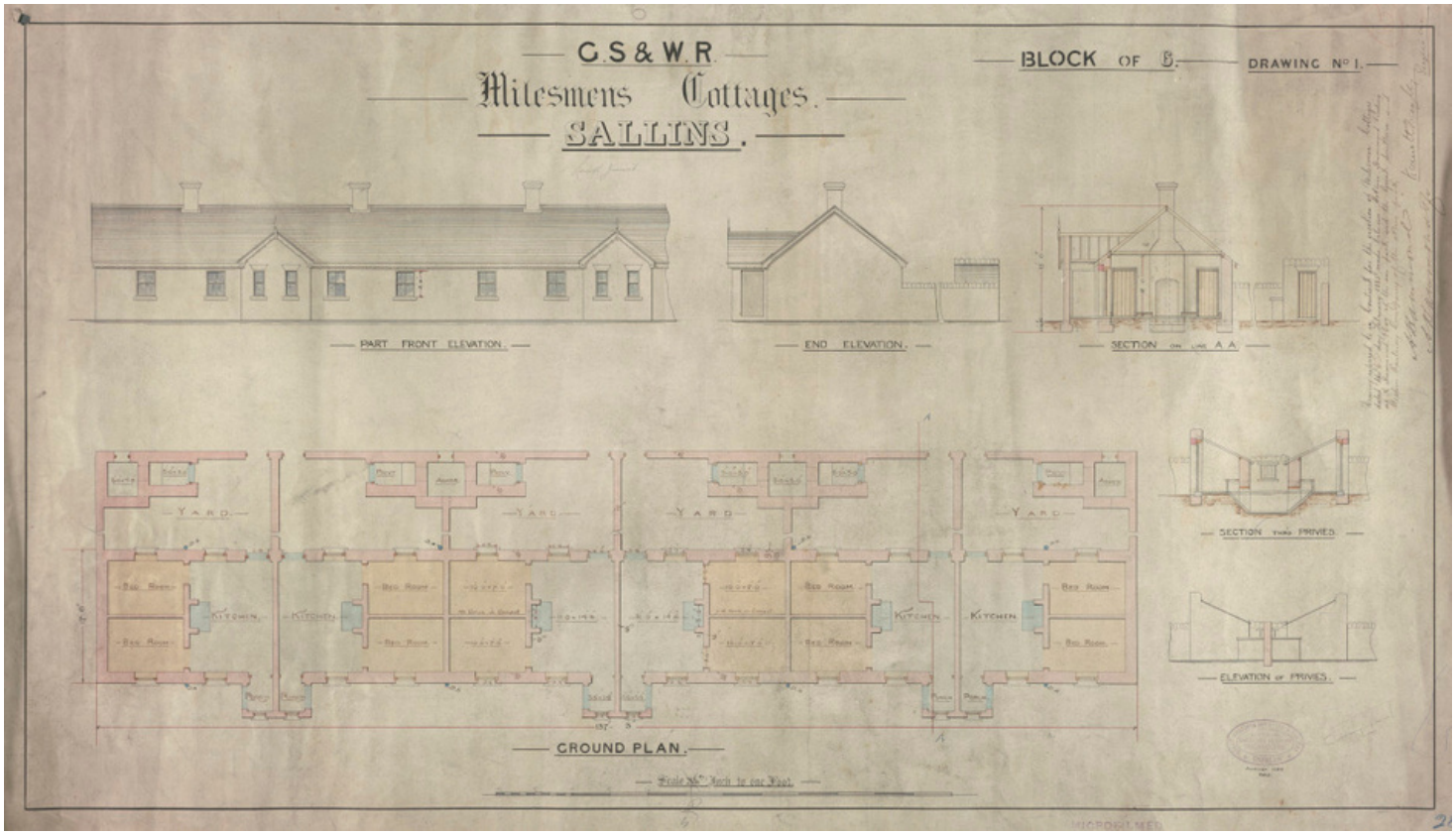
The first commuter railway in the world, and the first railway in Ireland, was the Dublin and Kingstown Railway which opened in December 1834. At the heart of this project were two men who would become the most prominent names in railway development in Ireland: Charles Blacker Vignoles as Chief Engineer and William Dargan as Contractor. Other prominent railway engineers were William Hemingway Mills, Chief Engineer of the Great Northern Railway, and Sir John Benjamin Macneill, a pioneering railway developer. Railway buildings were designed to make an impact during an era when making an impression was important to attract investors. Many of the railway architects of the time, including Sancton Wood and William Deane Butler, went on to be leading architects of public buildings, not just in Ireland but in Britain also. These, and others, laid the foundation for what would become an extensive network of railways which crossed every county in Ireland. They were engineers and architects whose signatures, sometimes literally, are written all over this exhibition.



The engineering and architecture of the early railways has left a heritage of buildings and bridges which are familiar to everyone. As the railway network expanded, the country experienced a technological transformation the social, economic, and cultural impacts of which were of an order every bit as profound as the later arrival of electricity or broadband. The fabric of many of the railways remains today as a testament to the ingenuity and vision of railway engineers and architects. This is visible not just in the physical form of what was constructed, but also in the drawings and documents in which their ideas were expressed. Much of this legacy has been inherited by Iarnród Éireann which today holds a substantial and significant collection of drawings from the Victorian era.

This exhibition shows just a fragment of that legacy and illustrates the wealth of what has survived in the hope that there will be greater awareness of the importance of this collection.

Pioneers and Visionaries: Drawings from the Golden Age of Irish Railways runs in the IAA Architecture Gallery, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, from 24 January to 25 March 2022, 10am-5pm, Mondays to Fridays. Access is free.



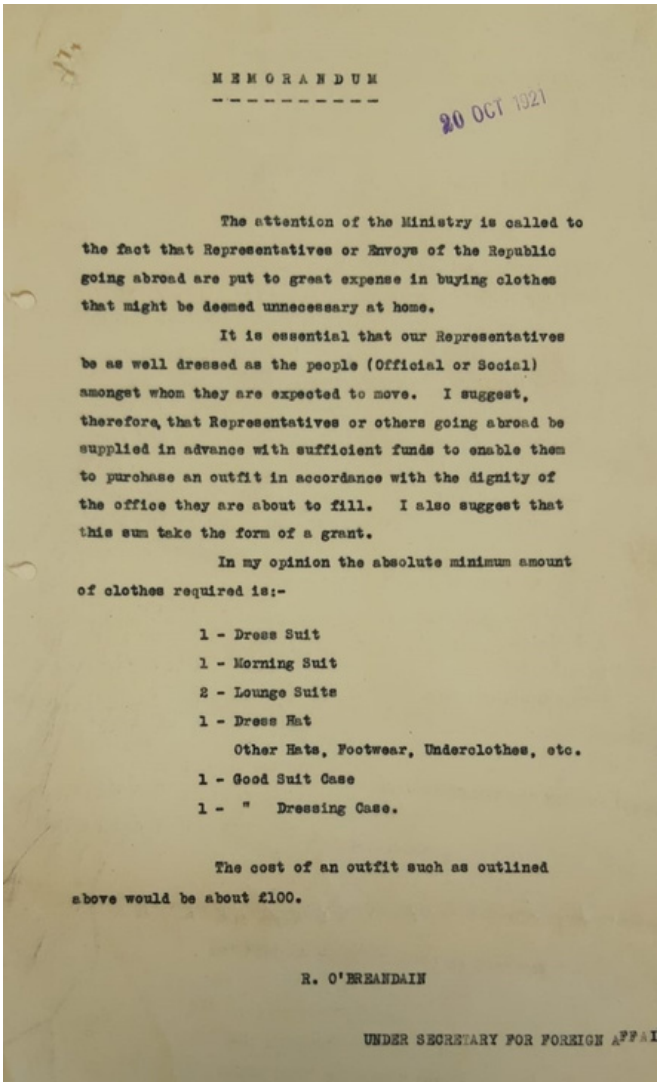
The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives.

Zoë Reid, Senior Conservator
National Archives if Ireland

Last year, the National Archives' Commemoration Programme marked significant events of 1921, culminating in the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. A major exhibition, The Treaty, 1921: Records from the Archives, previewed in the British Academy in London on 11 October and opened in Dublin Castle on 6 December.
https://www.nationalarchives.ie/2021commemorationprogramme/the-treaty-1921-records-from-the-archives/

The exhibition is on display in Dublin until 27 March after which it will tour to 8 counties across the country between April and June 2022. A comprehensive exhibition catalogue, featuring over 100 document images and 30 photographs relating to the period will be published in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy in March 2022. A high quality educational resource will be distributed to secondary schools nationwide to accompany the exhibition tour. A virtual tour of the Treaty exhibition is accessible here: https://www.nationalarchives.ie/2021commemorationprogramme/treaty-virtual-tour/

In preparing for the exhibition, the National Archives curatorial team reviewed a lot of archival material both from the National Archives and in collections held by other institutions. The team was delighted to partner with National Library of Ireland, the Military Archives and UCD Archives when it came to the final selection of documents. It was, however impossible to include everything. Here, archivist Suzanne Bedell looks at a document which helped shape our understanding of the importance of appearances for the delegation, while archivist Rosemary King highlights material from one the lending partners which demonstrates how even the smallest item of ephemera can enrich our appreciation of events surrounding the delegation in London in 1921.



MEMORANDUM

20 OCT 1921

The attention of the Ministry is called to the fact that Representatives or Envoys of the Republic going abroad are put to great expense in buying clothes that might be deemed unnecessary at home.

It is essential that our Representatives be as well dressed as the people (Official or Social) amongst whom they are expected to move. I suggest, therefore, that Representatives or others going abroad be supplied in advance with sufficient funds to enable them to purchase an outfit in accordance with the dignity of the office they are about to fill. I also suggest that this sum take the form of a grant.

In my opinion the absolute minimum amount of clothes required is:-

1 - Dress Suit
1 - Morning Suit
2 - Lounge Suits
1 - Dress Hat
Other Hats, Footwear, Underclothes, etc.
1 - Good Suit Case
1 - " Dressing Case.

The cost of an outfit such as outlined above would be about £100.

R. O'BRIANDAIN

UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAI

Memorandum relating to the purchase of new clothes for members of the Irish delegation.
(NAI/DFA/ES/Box 17/File 109)

Travelling in Style

The Irish delegation was in the spotlight from the very second they started their journey to London on 8th October 1921 for the Treaty negotiations which began on 11th October 1921. The press were attentively covering the discussions and crowds from the Irish community in London gathered outside 10 Downing Street to show their support. The plenipotentiaries were representing Ireland on a global stage with countries such as America following what was happening. The delegates all knew the importance of the occasion and therefore they had to look the part.

A memorandum by Robert Brennan, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, dated 20 October 1921 highlights the importance of dressing accordingly during this momentous period in Irish history. The delegates were given a grant to purchase "an outfit in accordance with the dignity of the office they are about to fill."

Brennan outlines in the memorandum the minimum amount of clothes that was required of the Irish Delegate:
"1-Dress Suit 1-Morning Suit 2-Lounge Suits 1-Dress Hat, other Hats, Footwear, Underclothes, etc. 1-Good Suit Case 1-[Good] Dressing Case."
He estimates the cost of the outfits to be around £100. The equivalent in today's currency is £2,905.77/€3407.72.

This document is important as it gives insight into how the delegates presented themselves. The recommended dress reveals the fashion of our politicians during that time, the type of events the Irish plenipotentiaries attended and the cost of such items from that period. It is interesting how Robert Brennan insisted that the delegates who travelled to London were reimbursed for the clothes that they wore. Brennan claims they were being put to great expense in buying clothes that might be deemed unnecessary at home. From looking at the converted price of £100 to what it is today, one can understand why.

Hottest ticket in town!

On the evening of Wednesday 26 October 1921, the Royal Albert Hall was the place to be for the London Irish! The event was a 'Reception of Irish delegates' organised by the Irish Self-Determination League, the Gaelic League of London, the GAA and the Roger Casement Sinn Féin Club.

The Irish Self Determination League of Great Britain [ISDL] was established in March 1919 'to band together the Irish residents in Great Britain in order that they shall as a body support their compatriots in Ireland, and use every means in their power to secure the application of the principle of self-determination for Ireland.'

A letter from Art O'Brien, Vice President of the ISDL responds to a request for a ticket to the event, but also extends the offer if more are required. It was reported that 5,000 people attended the evening.



The ticket stub is for the Reception of Irish Delegates, Albert Hall, Platform Row A, Royal Albert Hall IE/AL/1921/100]

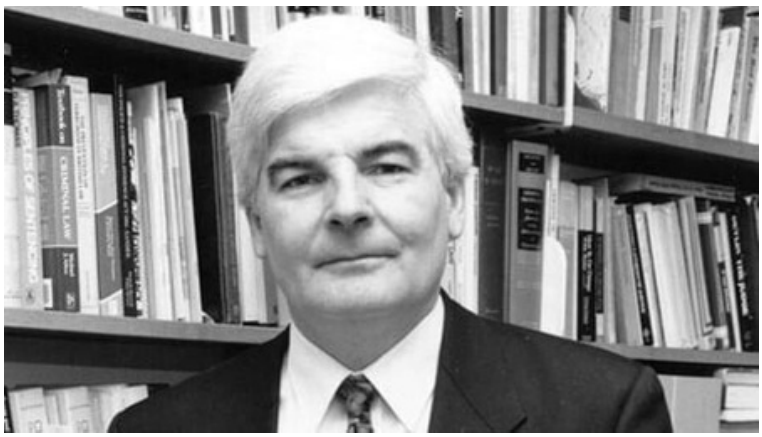
A souvenir programme was produced for the event and it details an evening of speeches, traditional Irish dancing from school children, music and songs. Gathering the autographs of the delegates and others in attendance, appears to have been the ultimate keep-sake of the evening. One signed souvenir programme proved to be very useful on the afternoon of 6 December when in his absence delegate Éamon Duggan's signature was cut out and pasted to the British copy of the Agreement.

These documents highlight the importance of the Irish diaspora in London and the role Art O'Brien (Vice President of ISDL; appointed London envoy of first Dáil Éireann in early 1919) played behind the scenes during the negotiations.

'Bloody Sunday' Fifty Years Later – Testimony and Records from Kevin Boyle Archive

Dr. Barry Houlihan
NUI Galway

The civil rights march held in Derry on 30th January 1972, and which would ultimately become known as 'Bloody Sunday', was first suggested by Kevin Boyle, an executive member and press officer for the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA). Born in Newry, Co. Down, in May 1943, Boyle was a central figure and witness to the rise of the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland. Boyle's biographer, Mike Chinoy, also positions Boyle at the centre of the rise of the human rights movement, not just in Ireland but internationally. A skilled orator, lecturer, barrister and academic, Boyle was the first full-time Professor of Law at NUI Galway (then UCG), in 1977, before becoming the founding director of the international NGO, 'Article 19', working on Freedom of Expression in the mid-1980s.



Professor Kevin Boyle. Boyle Archive NUI Galway

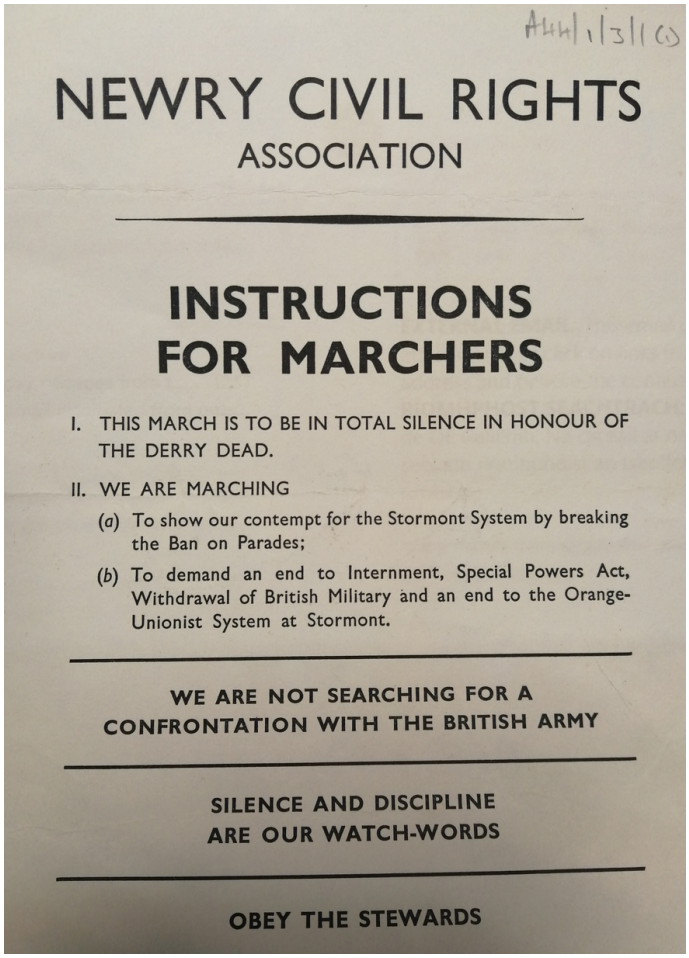
Boyle held numerous roles through the 1980s and 1990s, reporting on human rights abuses for Amnesty international, from South Africa, to Somalia, and the Gambia, as well as taking many cases to the European Court for Human Rights at Strasbourg. Later Professor and director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, Boyle's (who died in 2010) vast archive is located at NUI Galway Library, comprising over 120 boxes of materials. Within it, are records not just of the NICRA (main executive committee and regional branches), People's Democracy, other civil rights bodies from Northern Ireland, but also files of personal correspondence to Kevin Boyle from the years and months through the late 1960s and 1970s, all which documents Northern Ireland political and social history from Boyle's direct viewpoint and experiences.

Hugh Logue has written:

At the outset of 1972 a programme of events, including marches, was drawn up by NICRA. It was Boyle's idea to hold a march in Derry on the last Sunday of January 1972. North Derry Civil Rights, of which I was vice-chairman, would organise, one week before the Derry event, a march on the Magilligan internment camp. Since access by road was banned, the march went along Magilligan beach, where John Hume, who was to be our main speaker, confronted the British army commander on the beach near the camp. Those British soldiers were members of the infamous parachute regiment that would wreak such havoc in the Bogside eight days later Bloody Sunday.

Boyle was not present on the day of the march in Derry on 30th January 1972. In his statement to the Saville Enquiry Boyle outlined his memories of the lead up to the march. Boyle's archive provides a remarkable insight into Boyle's own role but also his memories of the events leading up to Bloody Sunday in 1972.

The inaugural meeting of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association took place in 1967. Boyle became active in the group in the following year. " . . . after the march in Dungannon on 5th October 1968 . . . After that, the People's Democracy ("PD") was established by the students (of Queens University, where Boyle was then a lecturer) and I made the conscientious decision to join. PD was essentially an alliance of student socialists and the unaligned." In the period following this and up to 1972, Boyle recounts "a polarisation" in public opinion. Boyle took a more public role and spoke at demonstrations, such as in Armagh.



NEWRY CIVIL RIGHTS
ASSOCIATION

INSTRUCTIONS
FOR MARCHERS

I. THIS MARCH IS TO BE IN TOTAL SILENCE IN HONOUR OF THE DERRY DEAD.

II. WE ARE MARCHING

(a) To show our contempt for the Stormont System by breaking the Ban on Parades;

(b) To demand an end to Internment, Special Powers Act, Withdrawal of British Military and an end to the Orange-Unionist System at Stormont.

WE ARE NOT SEARCHING FOR A CONFRONTATION WITH THE BRITISH ARMY

SILENCE AND DISCIPLINE ARE OUR WATCH-WORDS

OBEY THE STEWARDS

Flyer advertising a march in response to the Bloody Sunday Killings, Newry, Co. Down, [February] 1972.

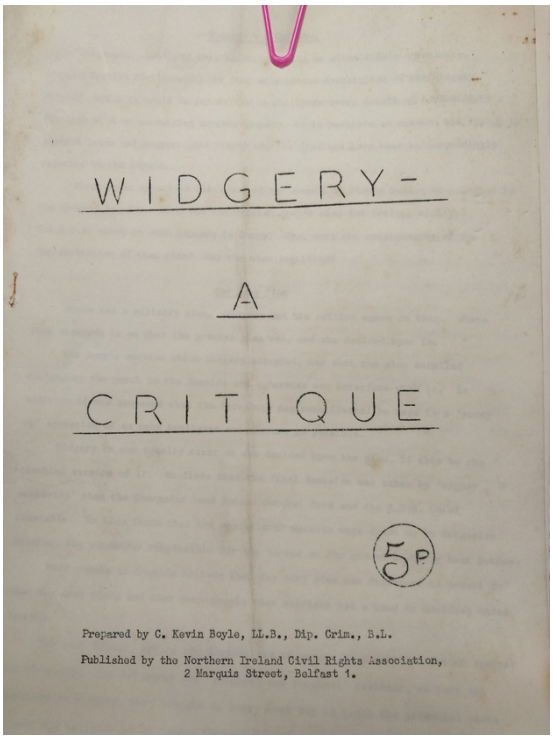
Becoming more disassociated with PD following the Apprentice Boy's march in August 1969, Boyle took greater interest in the NICRA from the middle of 1970. (Boyle had previously been elected to the NICRA Executive in 1969 at the NICRA AGM held at St. Mary's Hall, Belfast). As Boyle further clarified, despite being central to the early planning of the march, and on wider matters of civil disobedience and peaceful protest during his time with the NICRA, what would unfold on 'Bloody Sunday' was not within the expectations of the Executive, nor did Boyle travel to Derry for the march:

At the time, no one had a sense that something major was going to happen at the march in Derry. For example, I was not present at the march, having stayed in Belfast to catch up with some academic work that weekend.

"At the time", Boyle concluded: "We had no sense of a premonition of serious trouble at the march". When later pressed about his 'conscience' as regards the events on Bloody Sunday, Boyle responded in a considered manner, that:

What my conscience, how my conscience responds is, is something I'll have to decide for myself, it's a very complicated question. The point I would like to make is that twenty thousand people came to the streets of Derry yesterday. It wasn't three or four hundred people, determined militants who have no sympathy in or with the people. The whole of the Bogside and Creggan communities were on the streets in Derry, they wanted to be on the streets. That seems to me the best answer to those who say that it was irresponsible to organise demonstrations. The people themselves responded and they are the people that we in the end of the day feel responsible to."

Boyle's archive holds a copy of his testimony as given to the Saville enquiry, which exonerated all marchers and organisers of any culpability in antagonising events on Bloody Sunday. Long before the Saville Enquiry, the Widgery Report was published in the immediate aftermath of the Bloody Sunday Killings. Though today (and then), Widgery is widely regarded as a whitewash and inaccurate in its findings, Boyle wrote the first legal perspective response which condemned the report. Boyle's "Widgery – a Critique" is a forensic unpacking of the failings of Widgery's investigation into the killings of Bloody Sunday that still stands today as an important document. Like all of Kevin's later legal research and advocacy, his extensive manuscript notes and research materials are collected within his archive.



WIDGERY -

A

CRITIQUE

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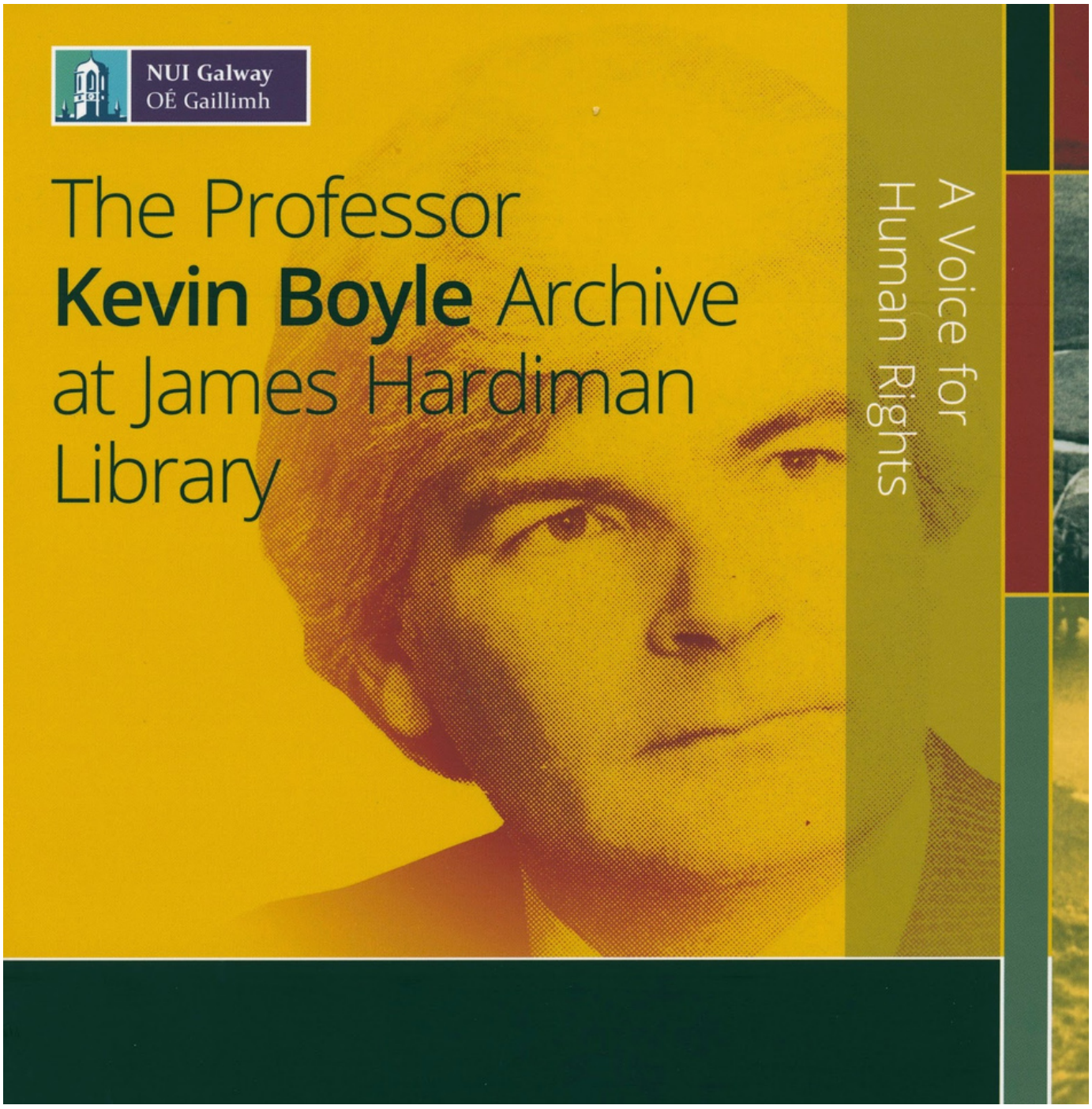
Prepared by C. Kevin Boyle, LL.B., Dip. Crim., B.L.

Published by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association,
2 Marquis Street, Belfast 1.

'Widgery – A Critique' by Kevin Boyle

Files of correspondence sending condolences from individuals, organisations and governments around the world to Kevin (in capacity as his PRO role with the NICRA), including the Human Rights Committee of the GDR, East Germany, and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Now fifty years after the killing of fourteen unarmed civilians in Derry on 30th January 1972, and in the post -Saville era that removes any false blame from the marchers, but yet still with no convictions secured for any of the murders, the Kevin Boyle archive provides a human rights-based perspective and memory on the events, from his own personal testimony from records of executive and regional branches of the Civil Rights Association.



Explore Your Archive 2021

Niamh Ní Charra
ARA Ireland Communications and Campaigns Officer

The Explore Your Archive launch week ran from Saturday 20th to Sunday 28th November last, with ARA Ireland's launch event taking place on Thursday 18th. This was ARA Ireland's second time hosting an online-only launch event, with Covid-19 restrictions again preventing us from holding an in-person event.

While members may have missed out on meeting and catching up in person at what is always a fun and social occasion, the fully virtual nature of this year's launch did not dampen spirits, and we are immensely grateful to all who took part as best their circumstances allowed. We are however keeping the fingers crossed that 2022's launch event later this year will allow members to meet again in person.

We kicked off event proceedings with an introductory speech from our chair, Janet Hancock, followed by a brief introduction to this year's ambassador, journalist, broadcaster and author, Flor MacCarthy. Flor was not able to attend the online event itself but kindly pre-recorded a wonderful message which can be viewed here. Flor was also very active during the campaign, not only retweeting ARA Ireland tweets but also sharing items from her own archive and research work which tied in with the themes. She even roped in her husband, Paul Cunningham, political correspondent for RTÉ, who shared an image of rejection letters he had received over the years for the theme #small! Flor, who was in the middle of a media tour to promote her new book "The Presidents' Letters", made frequent reference to the archives she accessed and the work of the archivists during her press interviews, for which we are very grateful.



For the theme #small, a tweet from RTÉ political correspondent Paul Cunningham

Normally following the ambassador's speech everyone would head for the wine/water, mingle and catch up. Since this wasn't possible and as we were limited to online participation only, we ran a series of competitions with the winner of each getting a copy of Flor's phenomenal book, a very popular prize. Winners for each category are as follows:

Best Dressed: Carol Quinn



Best Zoom Background: Nora Thornton, with special mention to our chair Janet Hancock, who was runner-up.



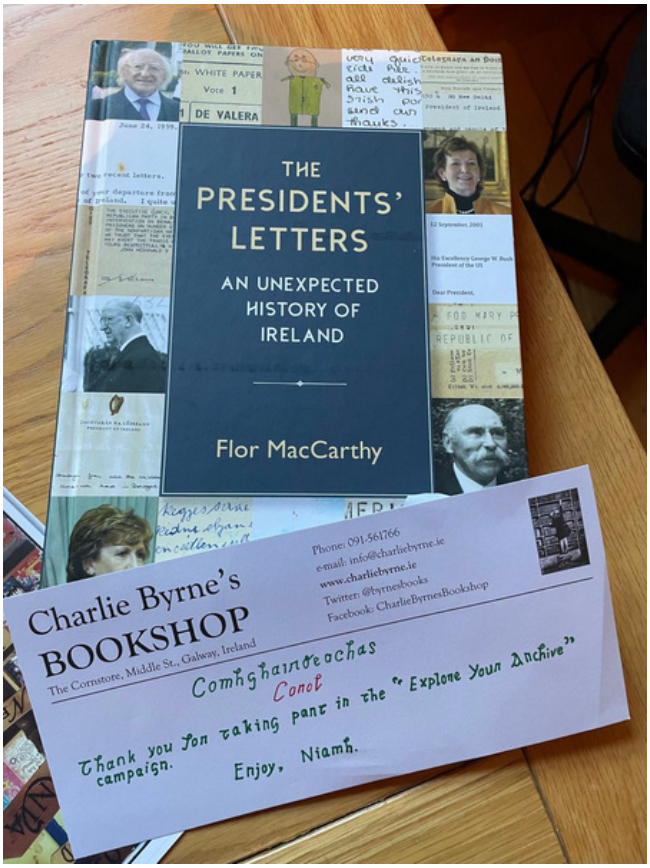
Best Poster: Julie Crowley



Best Food/Drink: Rachel Barrett



Winning prize



We were particularly impressed with the detail and presentation which went in to the creation of the silverfish cocktail - it might just have to feature at our next launch! Many thanks to the committee who helped choose some of these winners on the night and to those who took part in our online polls to choose the other winners. We'd also like to thank all those who partook in our quiz, created especially for the launch night.

The Explore Your Archive launch week itself kicked off the following Saturday. As in 2020, events were entirely online. While we missed the opportunity to host physical exhibitions, talks, presentations, walks etc. many members embraced the new reality of online events, with many holding online talks, writing blogs and showcasing newly digitised collections. The ARA Ireland website was used to promote all of these events, and you can see what you missed on both our events page, and featured collections page. We are looking forward to a bumper campaign later this year when we can hopefully expand beyond online events once again.

We were delighted with the media coverage the campaign received this year with one of the beautiful photographs taken by Marc O'Sullivan of our ambassador, Flor at Marsh's Library featuring in the Irish Times, and an interview I had with Ryan Tubridy on his morning show on RTÉ Radio garnering a lot of traction. It also featured as a highlight on the show's weekly podcast and can be accessed here.

Of course, a report on the annual launch week has to include the always popular social media campaign, and this year was no exception. I was delighted to see members embracing this year's EYA themes with gusto and the engagement on social media reflect this. For the 12 day period from our launch event to the end of the campaign our twitter account received on average 3,600 daily impressions, with a whopping 8,341 profile visits. The most popular theme was that of "handwriting" with some gorgeous examples being shared by institutions all over Ireland. As in 2020, Instagram and Facebook were also used to promote the events and themes.

It is important to remember that the November launch week, and proceeding launch event, are part of a year-long Explore Your Archive campaign. ARA's Explore Your Archive committee have recently released monthly themes for 2022, with the 10th of the month designated as Explore Your Archive Day. With this year-long campaign, as well as others mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter including several of ARA Ireland's own initiatives, we would urge you to check our social media accounts and website regularly for news, events, and other updates. The ARA Ireland website will continue to promote archive related events throughout the year, so please feel free to contact me to share those details (niamhnicharra@gmail.com).



Featured in the Irish Times Images of the Day, ARA Ireland EYA 2021 ambassador Flor Maccarthy, at Marsh's Library, photo Marc O'Sullivan

The Explore Your Archive launch week felt like an immensely positive end to a second difficult and stressful year for all of our members, and I would like to reiterate again our thanks to you all for embracing what was a very unusual launch.

Until next year,
Fanaigí slán, fanaigí sabháilte agus beirigí bua / Stay safe, stay healthy and take care

Niamh



Explore Your Aarchive monthly themes

Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire

ARA Ireland Committee

The ARA Ireland Committee is made up of members from across Ireland and from a variety of different organisations. The aim is to get a broad range of experience and contributions from across the sector to help us represent members and contribute to the progression of the sector.

A number of vacancies on the committee will become available over the coming months, as the term of some officers is coming to an end. We would welcome anyone who is interested in the following roles and to contact us for further information. There will be a handover for each role from the previous officer and committee members are more than happy to chat if you have any questions. Please also keep an eye on our website for further details: https://www.araireland.ie/committee-details

Officers are required to attend quarterly committee meetings.

Newsletter Editor

- Produce a newsletter every quarter using Canva design software
- Please contact Joanne Carroll for further information: jcarroll@nli.ie

Joint Training Officer

- Planning, organising, and hosting ARA Ireland training events
- Assist in organising approximately four events a year
- Please contact Steven Skeldon for further information: steven.skeldon@gmail.com

Treasurer

- Budget planning, reporting, record-keeping, and managing any incoming and outgoing funds of the Committee
- Please contact Killian Downing for further information: killiandowning@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

- Taking minutes and action points during quarterly committee meetings and disseminating to officers
- Please contact Niamh Scannell for further information: niamhannscannell@gmail.com

Honorary Secretary

- Organise quarterly meetings and produce an agenda.
- Monitor ARA Ireland email account
- Please contact Karen de Lacey for further information: karendelacey@hotmail.com