Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire



Inspecting the new Lego model at the National Library Kildare Street. Photo: National Library of Ireland

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A Word from the Chair

Welcome to this year's Summer Newsletter – a bumper edition as we didn't have a Spring issue!
Despite the fact the weather can't seem to make up its mind what season we are in, it is in fact the traditional holiday period and I hope you will all be able to enjoy a well-earned break over the coming weeks and months. Over the last couple of years, many of us working from home have found ourselves squeezing our lunch breaks short and being tempted to check emails at all hours, some have been delivering services onsite in an uncertain and ever-changing environment, and others may be struggling amidst the impact of changes to our previous operating models or in light of the concerning economic climate in general. Thinking back to our Archivist Appraise Thyself campaign last year, I can't help but reflect on the importance of those messages of taking care of ourselves – looking after our health and well-being – and making some time to rest and recover from the pressures of daily life where we can.

We have had a number of changes to the regional committee in recent months, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank outgoing members for all their hard work and dedication. This includes Fionnuala Parfrey and Lisa Murphy who stepped down as Training Officer and New Professionals officer respectively during 2021; Killian Downing, who stepped down as Treasurer (but is kindly continuing to support the committee with his expertise whilst this role remains vacant); Karen DeLacey, who stepped down as Honorary Secretary; Joanne Carroll, who stepped down as Newsletter Editor; and Niamh Scannell, who stepped down as recording Secretary.

In turn, we extend a very warm welcome to our new Committee members Gillian Doherty and Ashley Williams who are taking up the roles of Honorary Secretary and Recording Secretary respectively, Erin McRae who joins us as representative for new professionals, and Nora Thornton who has taken up the role of Newsletter editor. We do still have two unfilled vacancies – Honorary Treasurer and a second training officer post – so I would urge anyone who is interested to speak to myself or an existing committee member and we will be happy to talk to you about what's involved. Participation is a great opportunity to meet colleagues across our profession and add to your skills portfolio.
On the central Board, Andrew Nicoll has now been confirmed as Chair of the Archives & Records Association, following the resignation of Lisa Snook.

Our training officer Steven Skeldon has already been busy this year, working closely with the Information and Records Management Society, Ireland (IRMS) to deliver 'Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future', a joint ARA,I/IRMS training seminar held at PRONI in Belfast on 26th May. This was our first in-person training event since before the pandemic began, and in addition to the high calibre programme, it was really wonderful to be part of a live audience and enjoy the simple pleasures of chatting to colleagues over lunch!
Thanks to all of you who joined the engaging discussion as ARA,I hosted Archive Hour on Twitter on 30th June, exploring the theme of #ArchivesInTimesOfConflict, particularly to our guest participants Cécile Chemin, Zoë Reid and Timothy Murtagh, and of course our own Niamh Ni Charra for co-ordinating the event. Thanks also to everyone who supported our second #ArchiveDiaspora social media campaign on 1 July, highlighting the diverse range of material out there relating to migration history. This annual event is really gaining traction across the globe and looks here to stay!

I had the privilege of attending an event which also had truly global significance on 27th June, as the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland was launched by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD in Dublin Castle. Led by Trinity College Dublin, the Beyond 2022 project has been working with core archival partners and repositories across the world to source transcripts and digital surrogates of that which was lost, and using digital technologies to re-imagine and recreate the archive of the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin, which was lost to fire on 30th June 1922 at the outset of the Civil War. This free resource is now available online where a local and international audience can explore seven centuries of Irish history. As sector professionals, we are all acutely aware of the enduring impact of the loss of the Public Record Office, and it was an historic moment witnessing the unveiling of the Virtual Treasury. I extend congratulations to the project team and all of those involved across the wider archive sector and ARA membership.
And finally, the annual ARA Conference will be back to an in-person event this year, running in Chester from 31st August to 2nd September. An excellent programme is on offer and there is still time to book a place.

Janet Hancock
Chair, ARA, Ireland

Upcoming conferences

Deborah Mason ARA Communications Manager

CAHG conference: Galway 15th-17th July

ARA's Community Archives Heritage Group's conference is in Ireland this year and registration is still open for the event in Galway from 15-17th July. The conference is a co-production between CAHG and the Irish Community Archive Network, Galway County Council and Hardman Library NUI Galway.

You can find the full programme and register here. Registration is fee but delegates need to cover the cost of their own accommodation and travel. Conference website here https://cahg.clr.events/event/132307

Throughout the conference Digital Posters will be displayed on a 60" screen. Delegates can vote for the poster and group they would like to hear more about, and post conference we will hold a separate online event featuring presentations from those groups.

We are still taking submissions from community archive and heritage groups for these posters and as they are digital they are easy to produce by using a slide template from a PowerPoint presentation. If you are part of or work with such a group please consider submitting a poster.

Taking into consideration the theme of the conference Meitheal* you can create a bold and imaginative poster. Include your group's name and any detail, such as a website or Facebook page. Get inspiration from previous CAHG Posters https://www.communityarchives.org.uk/content/conference/past-cahg-conferences/posters-at-the-2019-cahg-conference

Once you have made your poster, send it as an attachment to Audrey Wilson: a.wilson@scottisharchives.org.uk

In the email include the following information:

Email Subject - POSTER CAHG CONFERENCE 2022

Group Name:
Location:
Why your poster reflects the theme of the conference in 200 words or less:
Email contact:

By submitting a poster, you are giving permission for the image to be used to promote the Post Conference event and it may be shown on Partner websites and social media.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FRIDAY 8TH of JULY

*the Irish word for a work team, gang or party; it denotes the traditional co-operative labour system in Ireland where groups of neighbours help each other in turn with farming work

ARA Annual Conference: Chester, 31st August-2nd September

ARA Ireland members might be particularly interested in attending our conference this year. Our first face-to-face conference for three years features Zoe Reid, Keeper at National Archives, Ireland as our Friday keynote. In a recent interview with Annie Starkey for Conservation Today, Zoe talked about a wide range of topics, including what it's like to be the first conservator to be Keeper of the National Archives in Ireland, she also spoke about the subject of her Thursday presentation, the Michael Collins Diaries:

"[the] next big thing is the conservation of the Michael Collins diaries. When I say big, I mean in terms of profile, but actually the diaries are really small. There are five pocket dairies form 1918-1922, the last entry that we have is for 6th August 1922, he died in the Irish Civil War two weeks later. Meeting the family when they donated them to the State and handling them for the first time was something really, really special. There is such interest in these dairies, as we are coming to the centenary of his death there is a bit of pressure to do a good job but I thought if I'm going to leave conservation I'm going to leave it on a high by doing something as amazing as that. I am delighted to say that the first paper that I will be presenting on the project will be to the ARA Conference in Chester."

You can read edited highlights from Annie's interview with Zoe on the ARA website here: https://www.archives.org.uk/news/an-interview-with-zoe-reid-keeper-national-archives-ireland
We have a full three day programme of events with great content across all four streams of Archives and Records, Conservation, Digital Preservation and Information Governance, as well as the usual great social events.
Read about the highlights here: https://bit.ly/3MND56t

The full programme can be found here: https://conference.archives.org.uk/2020-programme/
Register as soon as possible as accommodation within the conference hotel is booking up fast. Whilst we do have an 'overflow' option we all know how handy it is to be able to pop up to fetch something from your bedroom and take the lift to bed after the Gala Dinner rather than take a taxi!
Full conference package (including accommodation) is £555. Day options are available.
Details and registration here: https://conference.archives.org.uk/conference-registration/



Photo: National Library of Ireland

Lego model of the NLI Unveiled

In May The National Library of Ireland unveiled a large-scale Lego model of its building on Kildare Street, Dublin 2. The model has been commissioned alongside the ongoing redevelopment of the main NLI building on Kildare Street. The first phase of the redevelopment programme ran from 2017 until 2019, moving 350,000 books, newspapers and periodicals from the Victorian 'West Wing' to newly-developed, safe book storage. The coming phase will redevelop the West Wing as six storeys of exhibition and public engagement space, and will ensure universal access for all visitors.

The model shows the current building and imagines how the National Library of Ireland might look when the project is complete. Over the last four years, Lego hobbyists David and Breda Fennell worked closely with staff at the National Library of Ireland to create a design that represents the main concepts of the soon-to-be redeveloped Library, and which facilitated creativity and some fun features. The model is one of the largest of its kind in Ireland: It measures 180cm x 168cm and stands at 60cms high.

Speaking at the unveiling, NLI's Acting Director Katherine McSharry said: "As we move through our redevelopment programme, this hugely impressive model offers the public the opportunity to reimagine the National Library of Ireland with us. This next phase of our capital development programme, a partnership with the OPW and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, will result in the complete renovation of our former book store into an exciting cultural experience - creating a major new public space for a new generation of visitors. This once-in-a-lifetime building project will deliver major new exhibition galleries, universal access for all, new learning and event facilities, a new shop and café, and enticing new public spaces for everyone to enjoy.
"The Lego model highlights both the opportunities offered by our redevelopment, and celebrates the much-loved features of our Victorian buildings. David and Breda have recreated the Library's iconic Reading Room with a skill and attention to detail that will charm and delight all our visitors."

The Lego model will remain in place in the main entrance hall of the National Library on Kildare Street throughout 2022. No appointments are necessary: just drop in and reimagine your National Library.

Further information on the NLI - including opening hours - can be found on www.nli.ie and keep an eye on our social media platforms for a Lego competition.

Collaborative Project: The M. Michael Corcoran Photograph Albums

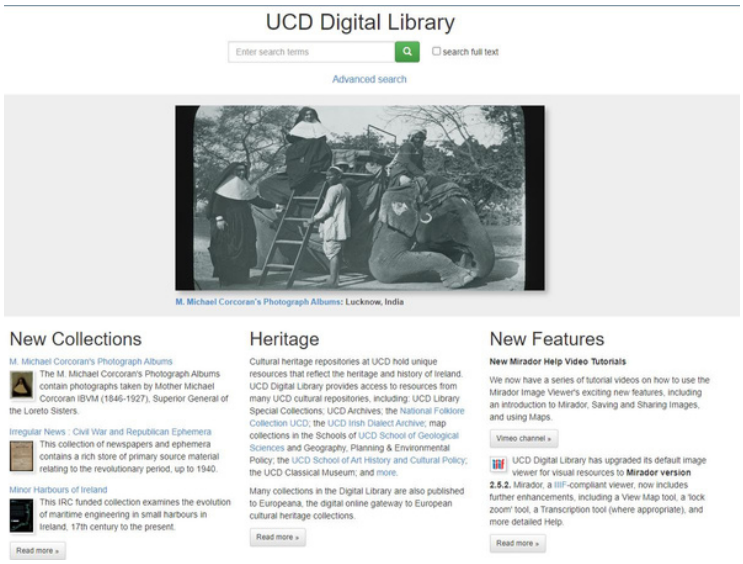
IBVM Archives & UCD Digital Library

Áine Mc Hugh IBVM (Loreto) Institute Archives
archives@loreto.ie

On 04 April 2022, an exciting new digital collection of early 20th century photographs from Ireland, India, Australia, Spain and Italy, uniquely the work of female religious photographer, were launched online via UCD Digital Library. A rich and diverse collection of over 500 individual images captured during extensive international travel between 1900 and 1905, they uniquely record the lives of women religious, their pupils, staff and communities, and aspects of indigenous cultures in this wide geographic spread.

Made possible by a long-standing relationship with UCD Digital Library, UCD School of Education & the Convent Collections, in particular Prof. Deirdre Raftery, School of Education and funding from UCD Decade of Centenaries, the digitised collection has offered new opportunities for promotion, accessibility and research for a wide group of users. The resulting images are fully searchable online via UCD Digital Library, https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:262000, with options for enhanced viewing and available to viewers to download and use under a Creative Commons License.

Adding to the unique value & research potential of the collection, the photographer M. Michael Corcoran IBVM, 1846 - 1927, was a self-taught, female religious who was an innovator in many fields, including education. Her remarkable contribution to women's education in Ireland and abroad has recently begun to draw attention from academic researchers, and the digital collection enhances this renewed exertion of interest in her. Born Frances Corcoran in Dublin in 1846, she entered religious life in Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham in 1867, and became known in religion as M. Michael. Her skills and talents as educator, leadership and innovation were quickly recognised, and she was soon appointed Mistress of Schools, alongside offices in administration and leadership. In 1888, she was elected Superior General of the international Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (more commonly known by its nickname 'Loreto'), and would be re-elected for a further five consecutive terms, until she retired from office in 1918.



Screenshot of M. Michael Corcoran Photograph Albums, UCD Digital Library



M. Michael Corcoran IBVM, Normanhurst, Australia 1903, courtesy of IBVM Australia & South Eastern Asia Archives

Under her careful stewardship, women's education in Loreto schools advanced, the formal and professional teacher training, provision of third level education across the global network of Loreto schools and the union of the wider, global Institute were initiated and progressed, often with radical outcomes. In her commitment to education, modern technologies were embraced, including photography, which was used to effect to illustrate various class lessons, including history, geography and art. However, it was in her capacity as Superior General, and the first to undertake visitation of houses abroad, namely India and Australia between 1902 and 1904 that her skills as photographer emerged. Enabled by the status and requirements of her office to travel internationally, a tripod camera accompanied her on her many sea voyages and train journeys, documenting her travels, experiences, and the people she encountered. A substantial collection of negatives were processed, and the resulting photographic images collated and arranged in the six photograph albums which now survive, enhanced by 6 further glass plate negatives.



Image from MC/PHO/03/ 10,
Loreto Convent Darjeeling, India, 1902

The photograph albums, artefacts in themselves, are complimented by the addition of annotations and further contextual information, providing locations and at times named individuals. Long considered amongst the more 'high impact' elements within our collection, due to their unique visual content and appeal, and supported by further contextual resources, it had long been acknowledged that the collection would benefit from digitisation.

However, as a small archive operating without sufficient IT infrastructure to host, disseminate and preserve digital copies of the collection, any digitisation project was earmarked for the distant future. The collection was periodically used by researchers who visited the Archives in person, and was used in promotional material by archives staff. However, it had remained a largely 'hidden collection', under-utilised and under-explored.

The collection is of value to those interested in the history of women religious, education, childhood, international travel, colonial experiences and local history, featuring a diverse range of subject matters from Ireland, India, Australia, Spain, Gibraltar, and Italy. M. Michael possessed a key eye for photographic composition, and skilfully used the resulting images for purposes of education and communication. The albums were primarily compiled to educate the Sisters in Ireland about the ministries and daily lives of their counterparts in other parts of the world. When viewed alongside, her detailed descriptive letters typed almost weekly during her prolonged period of travel, the images are contextualised and opened to further interrogation and analysis. Her photographs from Ireland reveal a natural curiosity in the natural world, people, and especially children, and many of her photographs from Ireland are 'natural', 'un-posed' shots, capturing families, individuals and children in the course of their daily activities- as much as they could be with a slow, cumbersome tripod camera.



Image from MC/PHO/04/27, woman in
[Napali] dress with two children, 1902



Image from MC/PHO/05/26, cutting hay, back lawn Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham

UCD Digital Library was launched in 2012, has Trusted Digital Repository status (Core Trust Seal), hosts over 93 different digital collections from 32 different partners, including Irish religious archives such as the IBVM (Loreto), PVM (Presentation), Sisters of Mercy, Dublin Diocesan Archives and others.

The IBVM Archives had previously worked with the UCD Digital Library team on a project - Loreto, the Green & Easter 1916 an arts and culture google project - https://artsandculture.google.com/story/loreto-the-green-and-1916-ucd-library/7wXRZ7OXNFm3KA?hl=en , which digitised the community annals from St Stephen's Green offering first- hand accounts of the Easter Rising as it unfolded in front of the Sisters and pupils.

Funding from UCD Research, Decade of Centenaries Award and the expertise of the UCD Digital Library team once again enabled the digitisation and hosting of this collection, and the creation of a detailed finding aid in Excel format. The benefits of this collaborative project have included access to expertise skills, knowledge and infrastructure in the digitisation and digital preservation of a collection, and enhanced accessibility to an otherwise 'hidden' collection.

In the brief time-frame that the collection has been available online, we have already received a number of requests arising from the images and permissions to reuse the images in various forums, confirming and enhancing the benefits of this collaborative project.
All images reproduced with permission from IBVM Institute Archives.

See https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:262000

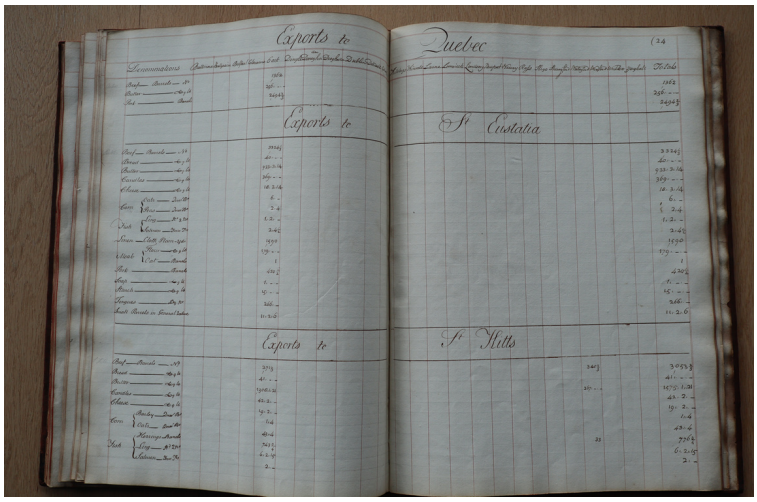


Image from MC/PHO/02/10, pupils playing on Balbriggan Beach, Dublin

Discovering the Diaspora through Pirate Ships and Ledgers in the Central Bank of Ireland's Archive

Erin McRae, Archivist at the Central Bank of Ireland and ARA Ireland New Professionals Representative

When I first started as Archivist in the Central Bank of Ireland, I was thrilled that I may get the opportunity to use the Bank's outstanding physical collections to promote various social media campaigns. When I found out that ARA Ireland would be running #ArchiveDiaspora and that it would be kicking off on July 1st, I immediately jumped at the chance to liaise with our Communications team at the Bank and find suitable content. I didn't have to look far to find three magnificent ledgers of imports and exports to and from Ireland for the years ending March 1786, 1793 and 1795 (CBI/L/1). The destinations of the exports and the origin of the imports are vast and far between including places such as Antigua and Barbados, reaching across to North America and north to Scandinavia. The provenance of the ledgers is also very fascinating as they were originally part of the records of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce with links to the Ouzel Galley Society.



CBI/L/1: Exports from Ireland to Québec; St Eustatia; and St Kitts

For a bit of historical or perhaps mythical context, Lisa-Marie Griffith explains in her article, "Never let the facts interfere with a good story': the origin of the Ouzel Galley Society", the Ouzel Galley was a merchant ship which was first owned by a company called Ferris, Twigg and Cash under the direction of Captain Massey in c. 1690, sailing from Dublin for Levant, full of grain and agricultural provisions.[1] The fantastical stories that surround the ship tell of tales that once the ship reached the Mediterranean it was taken over by Barbary pirates.[2] When the ship didn't return to Dublin it was assumed that the Ouzel was shipwrecked and lost.[3] However, it is said that the pirates kept the crew of the Ouzel alive to work the ship as a pirate ship but the crew, after biding their time mutinied, returning to Dublin in 1705 with the ship full of bountiful pirate treasure.[4] The contents of the ship had originally been insured and the company that owned the ship was paid by the insurers.[5] The issue then became who owned the newly acquired pirate treasure? Was it the company, the insurers or the crew?

Fast forward five years and the legal case was no closer to being resolved, then entered a group of prominent Irish merchants who made the final decision on the case.[6] The treasure was sold and the profits were used for the good of the poor in the city.[7] The decision having been so popular with the public ensured the creation of a permanent arbitration body, which charged small fees and used the earnings to support the city's poor and this is what became known as the Ouzel Galley Society.[8] The aims of the society were as follows: to provide low-cost and ready arbitration and to lobby for a more sophisticated legal code in dealing with commercial disputes.[9] The society continued to function until 1889, when an arbitration code came into being that was considered appropriate for the commercial businesses in the community.[10]

In 1783, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce was founded and it linked itself to the Ouzel Galley Society.[11] As Griffith states the origin-myth of the Ouzel Galley's capture by pirates and its return to Dublin is not substantiated in any records of the eighteenth-century she consulted.[12] The popular myth appears to have been borne out of references to the involvement of pirates in a nineteenth-century novel by William Kingston's *The Missing Ship*.[13] Kingston was a writer of fiction and the themes of his books were primarily nautical adventures and he claimed that the original notes he took for the novel were from a logbook of the ship however, it is more likely that the story's premise was based on the popular myths that had already circulated widely concerning the ship's origins.[14]

The connections between the Chamber and the Ouzel Galley Society are further cemented by their links to the Commercial Buildings, which is also the site where the Central Bank's Dame Street premises was later located. As I have found in the files I have catalogued for the Central Bank's Archive as well as online from RTÉ Archives, the original Commercial Building was "demolished and a reproduction erected perpendicular to the original".[15] Furthermore, as one of the Central Bank's previous staff wrote in an issue of the organisation's internal publication, Bank Notes, in 1981, "the members of the Ouzel Galley Society moved into Commercial Buildings [in 1799], erecting over the doorway of the present courtyard their emblem – carved in portland stone, [a depiction of the Ouzel Galley ship]".[16] In 1888, after it had existed for 180 years the Society disbanded, distributing the last of its wealth to charitable organisations and this was when the Dublin Chamber of Commerce acquired and continued many of the Society's functions.[17] Perhaps through these connections, we might one day find in our stores in North Wall Quay, further materials which have not yet been catalogued that will lead to clues which may then lead to the discovery of the origins of the Ouzel Galley and the mysterious logbook documenting the ship's origins.



CBI/L/1: Imports and Exports of Ireland for year ending 25 March 1786

The Irish Diaspora has reached across all areas of the world and continues to this day as the world becomes more and more globalized. Many people have made their home in Ireland and abroad, my own links to the Irish diaspora begin with my mother who immigrated to Canada with her family in the 1960s, starting a new life in Montréal, Québec. Twenty-two years into the future I moved to my mother's previous home, Dublin to do my MA in Archives and Records Management at UCD. Despite two years in Scotland after my MA, I have still found myself returning to Ireland and its history through my work as an Archivist. It is a job I am so privileged to be able to do and which I am so excited to continue to do as I attempt to link the history of my home in Canada to Ireland as well as to Scotland where I discovered another place to call home in the last two years.



CBI/AC/42: The Seal of the Commercial Buildings Company of Ireland, the Ouzel Galley ship can be seen in the background of both seals.

The Central Bank of Ireland's Archive is an expansive and fascinating collection of materials which have had an impact on many aspects of Irish life, particularly economical and financial, but they also demonstrate just how interlinked the Currency Commission was and following the Central Bank is, to Irish businesses both past and present. The evolution of Irish trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and business can be linked to many if not all of the fabulous artefacts and records in our collections. It is a role and I am extremely fortunate to have and an incredible Archive to be working in.

Endnotes:

[1] Lisa-Marie Griffith, "'Never let the facts interfere with a good story': the origin of the Ouzel Galley Society,' 18th-19th Century Social Perspectives, 18th-19th - Century History, Features, History Ireland 20, no. 2 (2012): web, accessed June 20, 2022, https://www.historyireland.com/never-let-the-facts-interfere-with-a-good-story-the-origin-of-the-ouzel-galley-society/.
[2] - [14] Ibid.
[15] "Bid For Dame Street Property 1962," RTÉ Archives, accessed June 20, 2022, https://www.rte.ie/archives/2022/0303/1284140-commercial-buildings-dublin/.
[16] Maura Mullane, "Commercial Buildings: A Romantic History," Bank Notes 4, no. 1 (1981): 3, file:///C:/Users/emcrae/AppData/Local/Temp/22/MicrosoftEdgeDownloads/d7cd8e95-2f9c-4e3d-a099-0c1fe6d1a3d4/1981%20Vol%204%20No%201%20May.pdf.
[17] Ibid.

References:

Imports and Exports of Ireland for year ending 25 March 1786, 25 March 1786, F1893164, CBI/L/1, Registries and ledgers, Chambers of Commerce, Central Bank of Ireland Archive.

The Seal of the Commercial Buildings Company of Ireland, 1799-1963, CBI/AC/42, Artefacts of the Central Bank of Ireland, Central Bank of Ireland Archive.

Griffith, Lisa-Marie. "'Never let the facts interfere with a good story': the origin of the Ouzel Galley Society." 18th-19th Century Social Perspectives, 18th-19th- Century History, Features, History Ireland 20, no. 2 (2012): web. Accessed June 20, 2022. https://www.historyireland.com/never-let-the-facts-interfere-with-a-good-story-the-origin-of-the-ouzel-galley-society/.

Mullane, Maura. "Commercial Buildings: A Romantic History." Bank Notes 4, no. 1 (1981): 3. file:///C:/Users/emcrae/AppData/Local/Temp/22/MicrosoftEdgeDownloads/d7cd8e95-2f9c-4e3d-a099-0c1fe6d1a3d4/1981%20Vol%204%20No%201%20May.pdf.

"Bid For Dame Street Property 1962." RTÉ Archives. Accessed June 20, 2022. https://www.rte.ie/archives/2022/0303/1284140- commercial-buildings-dublin/.

The Papers of Joseph McGrath T.D. and Major-General Thomas Cullen

By Georgina Sweetnam, Archive Services
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

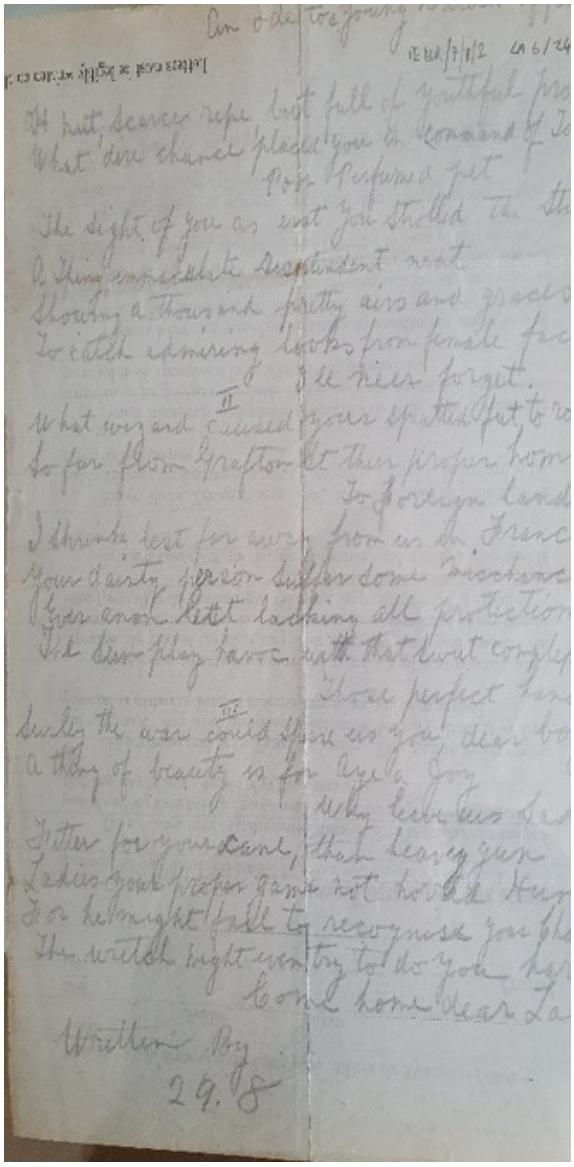
The papers of Joseph McGrath and Thomas Cullen are small collection of documents, mostly dated 1918-1924, which were part of the contents of the Cabinteely House sold by the McGrath family to the then Dublin County Council 1990. Ownership has since passed Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

An inventory of the papers was completed August 1997, but the papers were left largely untouched since then. In 2021, it was decided to revisit the Collection, to catalogue it to ISAD (G) standards and to make it publicly accessible. This work is on-going with preservation needs addressed, as well as preparation for future digitization.

The Cullen collection is very small, but it has been decided to separate it from the McGrath papers and to catalogue it as a stand-alone series. Joe McGrath and Tom Cullen were closely associated, but there is no apparent explanation as to why their papers are together or how they came into McGrath's care. It was certainly sometime after 1934 following the deaths of both Cullen and his wife.

The Cullen papers add nothing to what is known of Tom Cullen's life and involvement with the Republican movement, including his close association with Michael Collins. Born, in Blessington in 1891, he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1913, and remained in Wicklow during the Easter Rising, as an active volunteer.

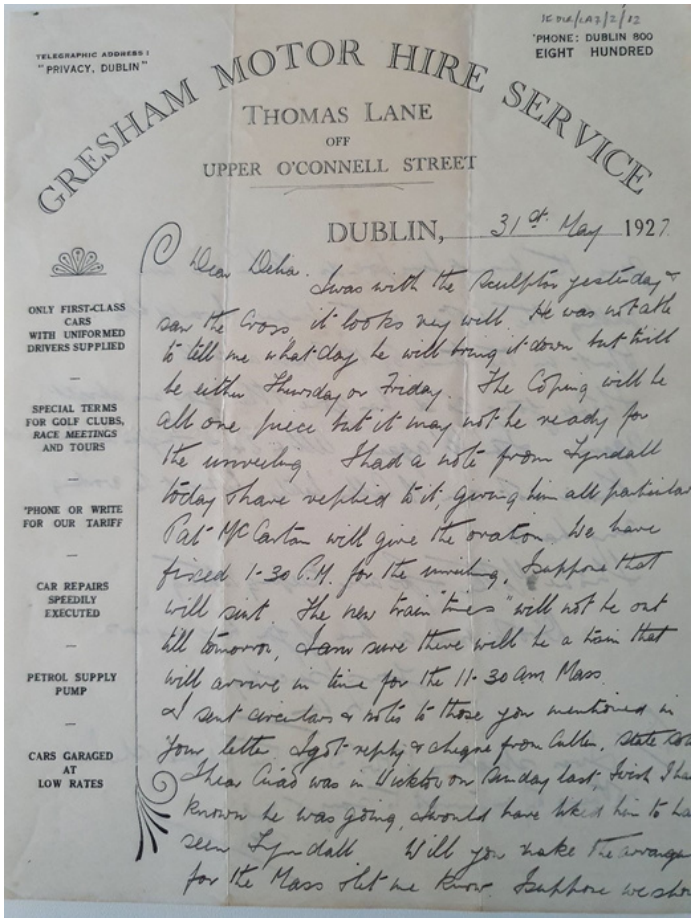
In April 1918 he was arrested and imprisoned in Mountjoy, and the only item in the Collection written by Cullen personally dates from his time there, a poem, handwritten in pencil on prison paper. On his release in May 1918, Cullen joined Michael Collin's staff, working closely with Liam Tobin. There are a number of notes from Collins, and Cullen was a part of the Treaty Delegation in London October-December 1921, as a member of The Squad, Collins' protection officers.



Ode to a Young British Officer by Tom Cullen
(Courtesy of dlr Archive Services)

Cullen supported the Treaty and became part of the National Army and subsequently the Army Mutiny with Tobin. None of this is reflected in the correspondence, although the most personal and moving letters are those written to Cullen on the death of Michael Collins. Cullen died in a drowning incident on Lough Dan on June 23rd, 1926.

Delia Cullen's papers begin, effectively, with the death of her husband when she was in receipt of letters of condolence, including a telegram from Kevin O'Higgins, and a resolution passed by Wicklow County Council marking General Cullen's death. Cullen's Death Certificate is included as is a letter from Liam Tobin outlining the arrangements for a headstone and a first anniversary Mass for Cullen. In summary, the Cullen papers are essentially a curiosity.



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CARS GARAGED AT LOW RATES

DUBLIN, 31st May 1927

Dear Delia. I was with the Sculptor yesterday & saw the Cross, it looks very well. He was not able to tell me what day he will bring it down but will be either Thursday or Friday. The Coping will be all one piece but it may not be ready for the unveiling. I had a note from Lyndall today & have replied to it, giving him all particulars. Pat McCartan will give the oration. We have fixed 1-30 P.M. for the unveiling, I suppose that will suit. The new train times will not be out till tomorrow, I am sure there will be a train that will arrive in time for the 11-30 Am Mass. I sent circulars & notes to those you mentioned in your letter Aug 1st reply & cheque from Callan. State [illegible] Dear Liam was in Wicklow on Sunday last, & I knew he was going, should have like him to [illegible] see Lyndall. Will you make the arrangements for the Mass & let me know. I suppose we shall

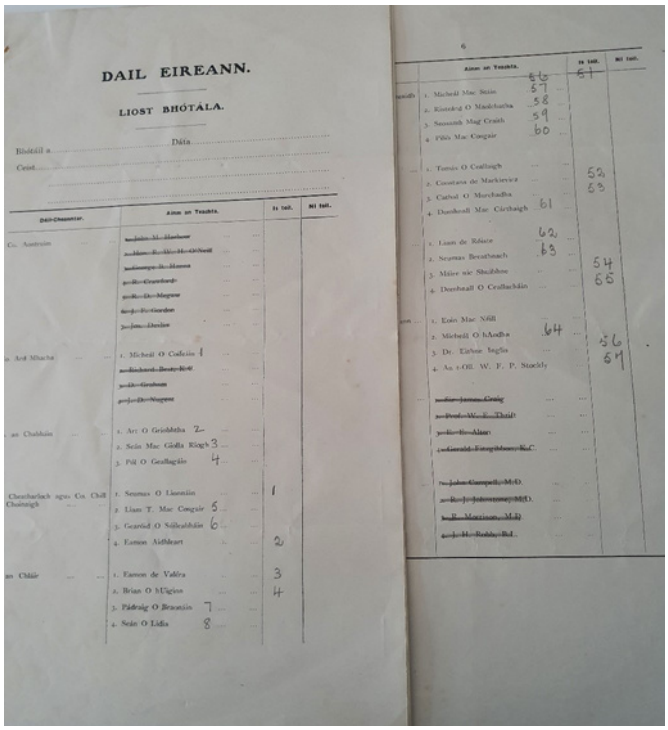
Letter from Liam Tobin to Delia Cullen
(Courtesy of dlr Archive Services)

The main part of the collection is the papers relating to Joe McGrath, with the bulk of them belonging to the period 1919-1925, mirroring Joe McGrath's active political life. Most of the political documents are copies but enhanced in many cases by McGrath's annotations. McGrath's name is now chiefly remembered in the context of the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes, horse racing and as a successful businessman. However, in this period, he was chiefly involved in Irish nationalism and the founding of the State and was a member of the first four Dáils.

In terms of its cataloguing, the McGrath series is being separated into 5 sub-series, covering the Treaty period, the Army Mutiny and the founding of the National Party, McGrath's correspondence with Judge Daniel Cohalan, General correspondence and Ephemera.

There are relatively few documents concerning the Treaty and the period leading up to the signing of the Treaty and following that the drafting of the 1922 Constitution of the Irish Free State. The majority are typescript copies, frequently with annotations which are assumed to be McGrath's. Instructions to the Plenipotentiaries from Cabinet signed by de Valera is there, as is a signed copy of the Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland stamped Irish Delegation of Plenipotentiaries.

McGrath's annotated copy of the Dáil voting paper on 7th January 1922, records the names of the deputies who voted "For "or "Against" when the Treaty was ratified. McGrath appears to have been closely involved in the development of the 1922 Constitution and Copy No. 4 of the relevant papers are marked for the attention of Mr. McGrath.

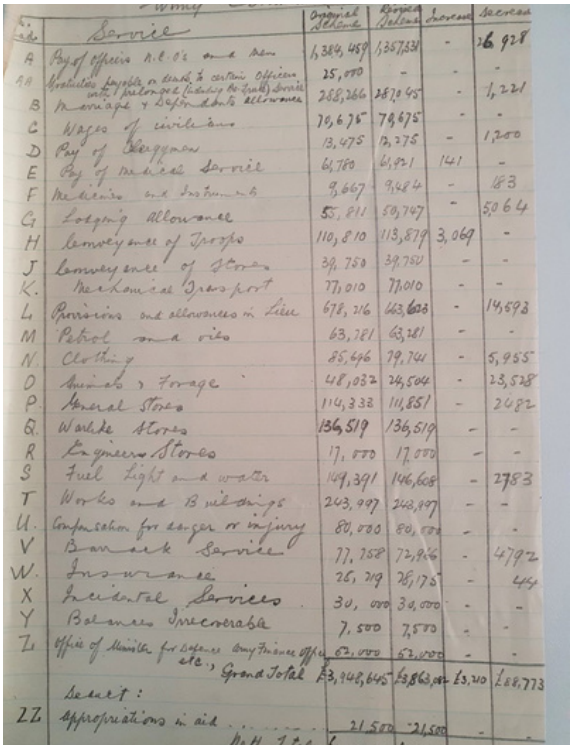


DAIL EIREANN.

LIOST BHÓTÁLA.

Joe McGrath's annotated Dáil Voting Paper,
7th January 1922 (Courtesy of dlr Archive Services)

There are no records from the time of the Civil War and there are also no records of his time as Director of Intelligence and his Oriel House activities. There is, however, a considerable amount of material relating to the Army Crisis and it is possibly here that original material will be found. From a cataloguing point of view, this is the series which requires the most consideration. There are a number of files containing up to 160 pages each, which in 1997 were recorded as single items. The contents are now being recorded individually which will increase ease of access to the content and enable expert assessment of their historical value. There is considerable detail on the proposed organization of the Army for the period 1924-1925, including McGrath's handwritten Army Estimates for the same period.

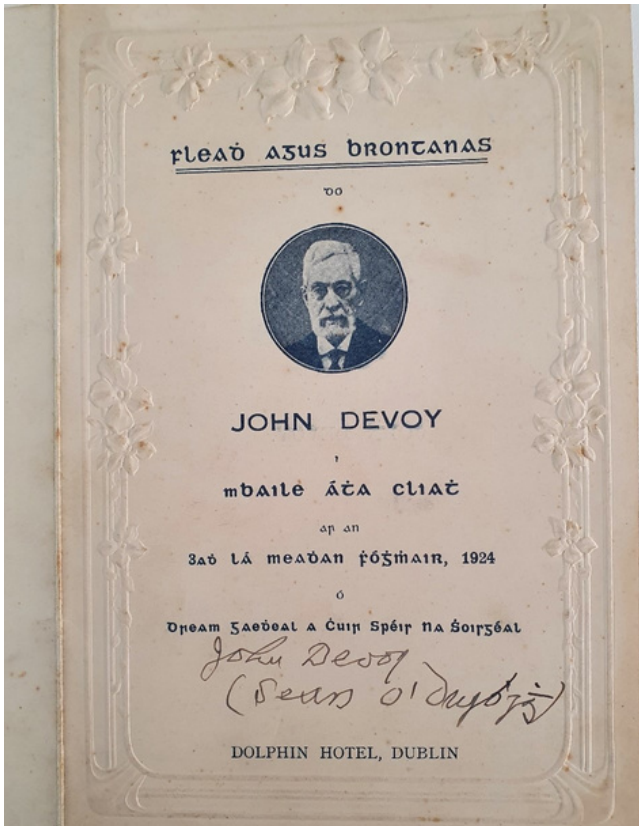


	Service	Original Estimate	Revised Estimate	Increase	Decrease
A	Pay of officers, N.C.O's and men	1,384,459	1,367,531	-	16,928
AA	Gratuities payable on death to certain officers who retire prior to completion of qualifying service	25,000	-	-	-
B	Marriage & Separation allowances	288,266	289,045	-	1,221
C	Wages of civilians	78,675	78,675	-	-
D	Pay of Chaplains	13,475	12,275	-	1,200
E	Pay of medical service	61,780	61,921	141	-
F	Medicines and Instruments	9,667	9,484	-	183
G	Lodging allowances	55,811	50,747	-	5064
H	Conveyance of troops	110,810	113,879	3,069	-
J	Conveyance of Stores	39,750	39,750	-	-
K	Mechanical Transport	77,010	77,010	-	-
L	Provisions and allowances in lieu	678,216	663,603	-	14,593
M	Petrol and oils	63,781	63,781	-	-
N	Clothing	85,696	79,741	-	5,955
O	Animals & Forage	48,032	24,504	-	23,528
P	Mineral Stores	114,333	111,851	-	2482
Q	Warlike Stores	136,519	136,519	-	-
R	Engineers Stores	17,000	17,000	-	-
S	Fuel Light and water	149,391	146,608	-	2783
T	Works and Buildings	243,997	243,997	-	-
U	Compensation for danger or injury	80,000	80,000	-	-
V	Barrack Service	77,758	72,966	-	4792
W	Insurance	26,219	26,170	-	49
X	Incidental Services	30,000	30,000	-	-
Y	Balances Irrecoverable	7,500	7,500	-	-
Z	Office of Minister for Defence, Army Finance Office etc.,	62,000	62,000	-	-
	Grand Total	£3,948,645	£3,863,...	£3,210	£88,773
	Deduct:				
ZZ	Appropriations in aid	21,500	21,500	-	-

McGrath's Army Estimate 1924-25
(Courtesy of dlr Archive Services)

From March 1924, McGrath was focused on the newly-founded National Party which he led. As with the Army Crisis material, many papers relating to the establishment of the Party are filed together and will now be treated separately. This section effectively charts the rise and fall of the party in which McGrath frequently outlines - in draft letters - his own summaries of the political situation from the time of the Army Crisis, the resignation of the National Party members from the Dáil, and the ultimate end of the National Party, marking the end of his political career.

Despite the number of letters in the collection, there is in fact only one group composed of an exchange of letters, throughout a fairly condensed period in 1924, between McGrath and Judge Daniel F. Cohalan. Cohalan - a Supreme Court Justice - was one of the most influential men in Irish-American political circles. The letters commence with McGrath summarising the events leading up to the Army Crisis, the establishment of the new Party and the reasons for the split between the IRAO and the IRB. McGrath is also seeking funding. Cohalan's response was swift and fruitful as he wrote shortly afterwards enclosing a draft for £2,000. McGrath kept Cohalan updated on political events, such as the report of the Army Enquiry Committee, and frequently the correspondence involves Cohalan's requests to McGrath for introductions of various US figures to public life in Ireland. Mention is made of John Devoy's visit to Ireland and McGrath kept his copy of the menu, from a commemorative dinner, which was signed (very shakily) by John Devoy. Economic matters were also considered, in particular plans for inbound tourism. The correspondence tails off towards the end of the year, except for one 1929 letter in which McGrath expresses concern about Florida land investments in which Cohalan was involved.



Fleadh agus Bronntanas

do

JOHN DEVOY

mbailé átha cliath

ar an

3ad lá meadhan fómhair, 1924

ó

Dream Gaedeal a Cuir Spéir na Soirséal

John Devoy
(Sean O'Dubhthaigh)

DOLPHIN HOTEL, DUBLIN

Signed copy of the Menu from the Dinner in honour of John Devoy (Courtesy of dlr Archive Services)

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The working title for the fourth sub-series is currently General – and it may well remain as that. Correspondence reflects McGrath's involvement in the 1924 Tailteann Games; his successful libel action in 1925; and Boss Croker's application to become a Citizen of the New State. It is only in this section that any sense of McGrath the person comes through, as most of the correspondents are seeking his assistance – whether financial, seeking employment or other. Correspondents include Maud Griffiths (widow of Arthur), Margaret Pearse (mother of Padraig) and Mary Dunne (mother of Reginald). There is a group of letters from Dan Breen, at one point offering tips for Fairyhouse 1928.

The final group in the Collection is difficult to categorise and contains no documents: the current working title is Ephemera. It ranges from photographic negatives of unidentified people to 1930s stationery. It is dominated by a group of prayer cards and related religious material and it is difficult to know whether these belonged to McGrath or the extended Cullen family. Two items stand out: an Autograph Book, and a Visitor's Book. The Autograph Book was signed on 7th December 1921 by four of the five Treaty plenipotentiaries– Arthur Griffiths, Michael Collins, George Gavan Duffy and Robert Barton. Most of the book is blank but it also contains two pencil drawings of Seamus and Mollie McGrath as children, drawn by a family friend in 1933. The Visitors' Book contains entries dated from mid-October to early December 1921, and it seems clear that the book comes from either one of the Treaty Delegation Houses in London. Better known visitors include Seán T. O'Ceallaigh and Kitty Kieran. There is no absolute way of knowing the exact provenance of these books and whether they were McGrath's or Cullen's.

This is a very brief introduction to the McGrath and Cullen Collection to future researchers. While no startling discoveries may be made in future studies, we believe that it is important that the papers are correctly catalogued and preserved. In McGrath's entry in the Dictionary of Irish Biography it is noted that his papers were lost in the flooding of the Sweepstake Building in 1986. Could it be therefore that this minor assortment of papers is the only surviving example of McGrath's records in the public domain – which in itself makes it unique?

gsweetnam@dlrcoco.ie



A Civil War Cantata

Kate Manning, Principal Archivist, UCD Archives

Who'd ever think it would come to this? A civil war cantata

This joint UCD Archives/UCD School of Music Decade of Centenaries project commemorates the 100th anniversary of the start of the civil war in Ireland. The cantata is based on a libretto by author, journalist and former war correspondent, Ed Vulliamy, which uses documents concerning the civil war from the collections in UCD Archives, adapted for performance by UCD Ad Astra artistic director, Kellie Hughes. The music is composed by UCD graduate Anne-Marie O'Farrell, Tutor in Harp Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Ciarán Crilly, Head of UCD School of Music, will conduct the performance. The performers are: RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Resurgam (artistic director, Mark Duley), Colette Delahunt, soprano, Sharon Carty, mezzo-soprano, Dean Power, tenor, and Benjamin Russell, baritone.

The cantata is funded by the Arts Council, UCD Decade of Centenaries, UCD College of Arts and Humanities

The performance will take place on 30 September at 7.30pm in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD. Tickets are €35 (€15 concession) which will include a copy of the commemorative programme, and will be available to purchase from civilwarcantata.ie from 28 June, when the site will go live.