Archives & Records Association
Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
Ireland/Éire

Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Inside this issue:

A Word from the Chair	1
UCD Archives Updates	3
Message from ARA Ireland Communications Officer	9
'Kitchen Power - Women's Experiences of Rural Electrification'	10
Explore Your Archive 2019	14
ESB Archives celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Clady Hydroelectric Scheme, Co. Donegal	17
Celebrating the history of Irish local government, Ag ceiliúradh stair Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann	20
Help us celebrate ARA Ireland's 40th Birthday!	23

A Word from the Chair

Dear Member,

Welcome to the autumn 2019 newsletter.

Firstly, thank you to all who attended the Joint Archives and Records Association, Ireland and the Information and Records Management Society, Ireland joint training event in September. The event was held in the Royal Irish Academy and was focused on career development and the route to gaining professional recognition through accreditation and other frameworks for professional development.

The annual Explore Your Archive campaign is running from 23 November to 1 December this year. As always, we would love if you could get involved in whatever way you can, to highlight the great work you do and the great collections you work with, through events and featured archives. This year we will also be featuring the very popular daily hashtags for you to join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our launch this year will be held on 21 November in the Irish Architectural Archive, Merrion Square, Dublin and our guest speaker and EYA ambassador will be Fin Dwyer from the Irish History Podcast. For more information on how you can get involved in this year's campaign, check out the article by Joanne Carroll, ARA Ireland Campaigns Officer, on page 14 of this newsletter.

Our next training event ‘Diversity and Inclusion in Irish Archives’ will also be held on 21 November. Guest speakers on the day will include, Katherine O'Donnell and Maeve O'Rourke to talk about the Magdalene Oral History Project, Maria Ryan to speak about the National Library of Ireland's Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and Rebecca O'Neill who will speak about collaborating with Wikimedia Projects to improve representation of Irish culture/history. Further details on the event will be circulated soon.

And finally, a date for your diaries: we are hoping to hold an event to celebrate ARA Ireland’s 40th birthday on 5 December. Further details to follow.

Best wishes,

Gerard Byrne
ARA Ireland Chair

UCD Archives Updates

Kate Manning
Principal Archivist, UCD Archives

1. *Launch of UCDA P17a Papers of Ernie O'Malley (additional material) and UCDA P244 Papers of Frances-Mary Blake*



Cormac O'Malley speaking at the launch of two new collections concerning his father, Ernie O'Malley.

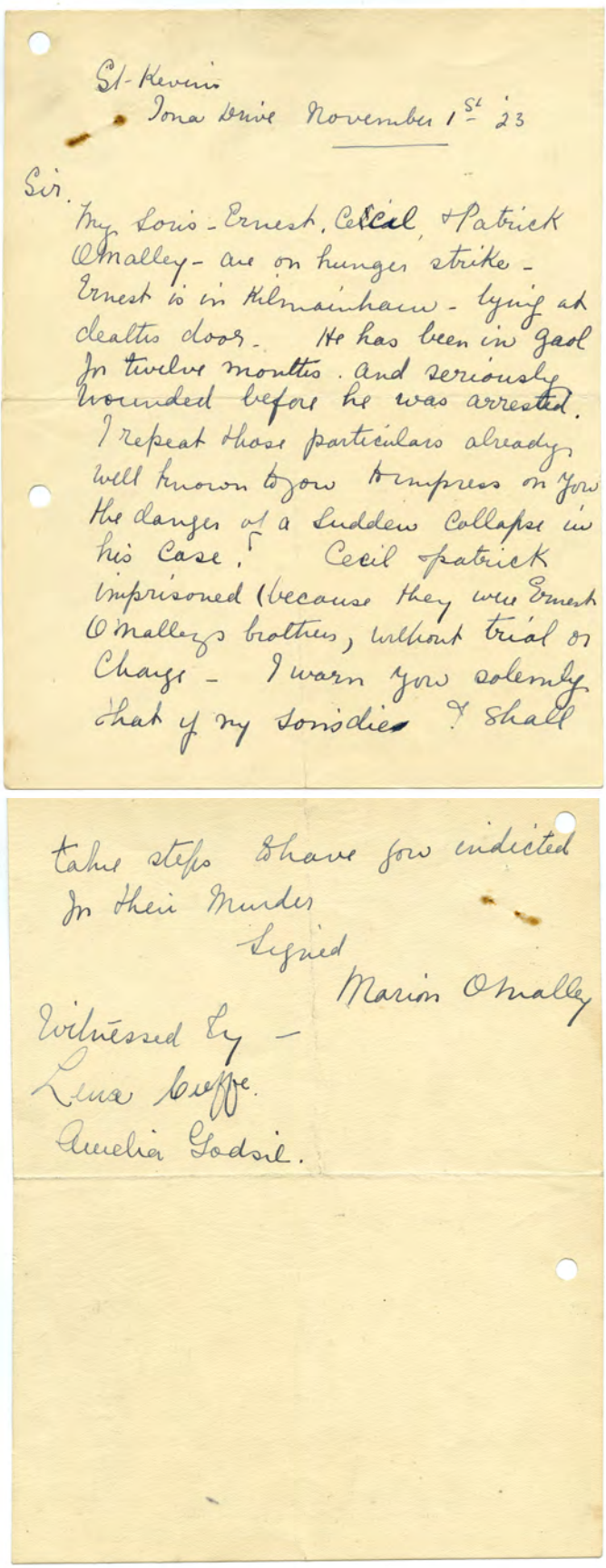
Cormac O'Malley, son of revolutionary and writer Ernie O'Malley, launched two collections in UCD Archives on Friday, 20 September: an additional collection of O'Malley material added as a fourth series to the existing three in the catalogue for P17a, and a new collection of Frances-Mary Blake papers.

Both collections have significant value in their own right, but are also closely intertwined.

The O'Malley collection of papers in UCD Archives is one of the most significant sources for the War of Independence and the anti-Treaty position of the Civil War. They were transferred to UCD in 1974 under the terms of the O'Malley Trust (the Trust was wound up in 2015 when ownership transferred to the university). The newly-available documents are an important contribution to the release of archival material in this Decade of Centenaries. In addition to contemporary documents, this new series includes tape recordings of Cormac O'Malley's interviews with Seán Lemass and Sighle Humphreys, Madge Clifford and Jack Comer; and Sighle Humphreys, George Gilmore and Peadar O'Donnell. Transcripts of these interviews were made by Frances-Mary Blake and may be found in her papers.

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St-Kevins
Iona Drive November 1st 23

Sir.

My sons - Ernest, Cecil & Patrick O'Malley - are on hunger strike - Ernest is in Kilmainham - lying at deaths door. He has been in gaol for twelve months. And seriously wounded before he was arrested. I repeat those particulars already well known to you to impress on you the danger of a sudden collapse in his case. Cecil & Patrick imprisoned (because they are Ernest O'Malleys brothers, without trial or Charge - I warn you solemnly that if my sons die I shall take steps to have you indicted in their murder.

Signed
Marion O'Malley

Witnessed by -
Lena Caffe.
Amelia Godsil.

UCDA P17a/289 Papers of Ernie O'Malley: Letter from Marion O'Malley, Ernie O'Malley's mother, to Richard Mulcahy, Minister for Defence, informing him that her sons "Ernest, Cecil, & Patrick O'Malley—are on hunger strike. Ernest is in Kilmainham—lying at deaths door. He has been in Gaol for twelve months. And seriously wounded before he was arrested." She states that should any of her three imprisoned sons die, she will "take steps to have you indicted in their murder." (1 November 1923)

The Papers of Frances-Mary Blake constitute a unique and significant addition to the collections of women's papers in UCD Archives, although not typical of them. Her work on Ernie O'Malley's literary and archival output has made an important contribution to O'Malley's reputation. Her own papers also offer an insight into the work of a biographer and editor as well as someone who became enamoured of the Republican cause. She initially intended to publish a biography of O'Malley but it never came to fruition. However, as part of her research, Blake interviewed and corresponded with many figures from the Irish republican struggle, such as Máire Comerford, Peadar O'Donnell, Liam Deasy, Kathleen Barry Moloney, and Sighle Humphreys, as well as members of the O'Malley family.



UCDA P244/119 Papers of Frances-Mary Blake: A hand-tooled, illustrated, leather cover for Frances-Mary Blake's book The Irish Civil War which was made for her by Republican prisoners in Portlaoise Prison. (1980s)

Blake prepared O'Malley's Civil War memoir, The Singing Flame, for publication. She edited, and wrote the introduction to, Raids and Rallies (originally published as a popular series of newspaper columns written by O'Malley from September 1955 to June 1956). She later published her own thoughts on the period in *The Irish Civil War, 1922–23: And What it Still Means for the Irish People*.

Both collections were catalogued by Sarah Poutch.



L-R: Sarah Pouch, archivist; Cormac O'Malley; John Howard, UCD Librarian

2. *Ernie O'Malley Notebooks Transcription Project*

It was a great pleasure to announce at the above launch, a joint Irish Manuscripts Commission, UCD Digital Library and UCD Archives project to transcribe the O'Malley Notebooks and make them available online via UCD Digital Library, and in print in a multi-volume series published by the IMC, beginning 2022.

Anne Dolan, Associate Professor in Modern Irish History, Trinity College Dublin, and Eve Morrison, Canon Murray Fellow in Irish History, Oxford University, will undertake the transcriptions using the software Transkribus. Digital copies of the notebooks with the resulting transcriptions will be made available online in the UCD Digital Library, overseen by Audrey Drohan, Digital Library Manager.

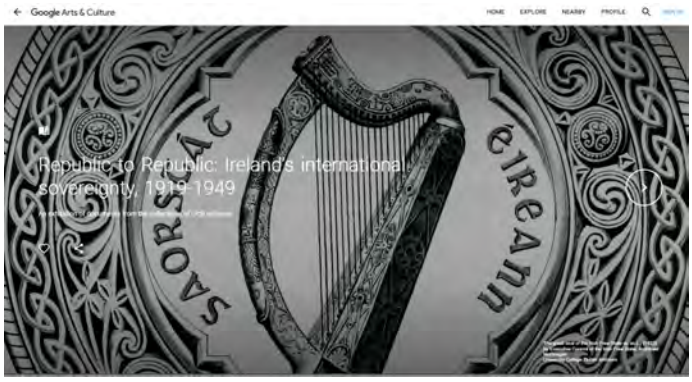
Eve Morrison summarises the importance of the Notebooks as follows: "From the late 1930s up to 1953, Ernie O'Malley, the IRA veteran and writer, conducted more than 660 individual interviews with almost 450 separatist nationalist veterans of the Irish Revolution (1913–1923). O'Malley's interviews, along with the Bureau of Military History witness statements and Military Service Pension records, are the third in a trio of attempts between the 1930s to the 1950s to document (retrospectively and for varying purposes) the independence struggle. O'Malley's interviews are uniquely gritty, atmospheric, occasionally profane, punctuated with graphic descriptions of political violence and, in terms of documenting individual experiences of the Civil War (1922–1923), unrivalled."

I am very grateful to Prof. John McCafferty, Chairman, Irish Manuscripts Commission, for accepting the initial proposal, and to Dr John Howard, UCD Librarian, for his support for the project.



L-R: John McCafferty, Chairman, Irish Manuscripts Commission; Cormac O'Malley; John Howard, UCD Librarian

3. *Online Exhibition: Republic to Republic: Ireland's international sovereignty, 1919–1949*



John Gibney, Associate Editor, Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, Royal Irish Academy, and I co-curated a Google Arts exhibition to mark the 70th anniversary of the declaration of the Irish republic: *Republic to Republic: Ireland's International Sovereignty, 1919–49*. It was launched on 18 April and was a feature of the Royal Irish Academy's anniversary event *Unexpectedly a Republic: A panel discussion on the 70th anniversary of Ireland becoming a republic* which was addressed by An Taoiseach.



UCDA P194/788 Papers of Michael MacWhite: Press conference in the White House, Washington DC, marking the implementation of the Kellogg- Briand Peace Pact which was signed in Paris in 1928. This was the first international treaty signed by the Irish Free State in its own right. Michael MacWhite, Irish Free State minister to the US is second from right.

Among the collections held in UCD Archives are those concerning the individuals (former revolutionaries, politicians and diplomats) who were key figures in the shaping of independent Ireland's foreign policy. They have been heavily used by the DIFP series since its beginning so the partnership was a natural one. Both the online exhibition and printed catalogue use documents solely from our collections.

I am very grateful to the UCD Library outreach team, Josh Clarke and Catherine Bodey for their invaluable assistance with promotion and design for this project.

You can visit the exhibition here: www.ucd.ie/library/exhibitions/republic.



L to R: Professor Michael Peter Kennedy, President, Royal Irish Academy; Kate Manning, Principal Archivist, UCDA and Dr John Gibney, Associate Editor, Documents on Irish Foreign Policy at the *Unexpectedly a Republic* event in the RIA. All holding copies of the catalogue of the UCDA/DIFP exhibition *Republic to Republic: Ireland's International Sovereignty, 1919–1949.*

4. *Cycling Ireland Archives*

Cycling Ireland, in collaboration with UCD Archives, is building a collection of archives to ensure that the history of Irish cycling as a sport in Ireland, will be fully documented. The collection will be deposited in UCD Archives where it will be catalogued and made available for research.

The project is being co-ordinated for Cycling Ireland by Dr Tom Daly of Killarney Cycling Club who has researched aspects of Irish cycling history extensively. UCD Archives has built up strong collections of records of significant organisations including sporting bodies and cultural associations, so we offer a natural home for this collection. Professor Paul Rouse, UCD School of History, who is acting as an advisor for this collaboration, notes that "the story of Irish cycling is a fascinating one. The intersection between sport and politics, as revealed through the story of Irish cycling is endlessly interesting. This archive will be an invaluable international resource for sports historians around the world—and will also be of great value to historians of modern Ireland."



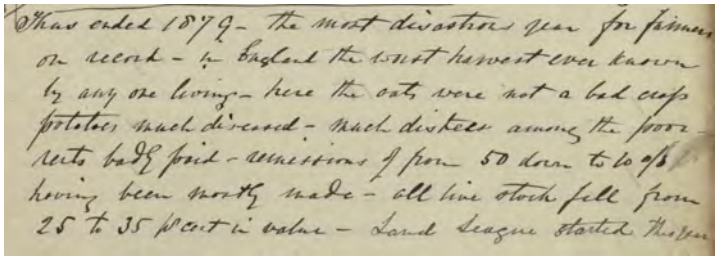
L-R: Associate Prof. Paul Rouse, UCD School of History; Dr Tom Daly, Killarney Cycling Club; Kate Manning, UCD Archives; Marie Burke, UCD Library; Ciarán McKenna, President, Cycling Ireland.

5. *Launch of the digitised Oram Diaries (UCDA P258)*

On 25 July, UCD Archives and UCD Digital Library launched the digitised diaries of John and Arthur Oram, now available online at UCD Digital Library.

Father and son, John and Arthur Oram were farmers and land agents in Burrishoole, County Mayo. Their diaries hold a wealth of information on farming life and estate management, covering the periods 1854–1907 and 1887–1919. They record information such as the planting and harvesting of crops, trips to livestock markets, and repairs to farm buildings. As land agents, the Orams' duties included collecting rents and negotiating tenants' arrears. Growing tensions between landlords and tenants impinged directly on their personal lives when John was shot in 1872. The influence of the weather on their lives is also evident: both men record daily weather observations and note the impact of droughts, wind storms, and major snow falls.

The diaries refer to events of national and international importance: a famine in 1879; the foundation of the Land League in 1879; the 1882 Phoenix Park murders; the death of Queen Victoria in 1901; the sinking of the Titanic in 1912; news of the Rising in Dublin in 1916; and the 1918 influenza epidemic.



P258/4 Diary of John Oram: 1 January 1879–10 July 1888: *Thus ended 1879 - the most disastrous year for famine on record - in England the worst harvest ever known by anyone living - here the oats were not a bad crop - potatoes much diseased - much distress among the poor - rents badly paid - ... Land League started this year.*

Of interest to those researching agriculture, landed estates, meteorology, as well as the general history of Ireland at the time, the diaries are also fascinating as a record of the intricacies of human life.

The diaries were deposited in UCD Archives by Carolyn Sturdy and Christopher Oram in June 2012 and were catalogued by Orna Somerville in 2013. Audrey Drohan and Órna Roche were responsible for the digitisation of the diaries and their publication online. Both the Archives and Digital Library were delighted that Carolyn Sturdy and her husband Colin, were present for the launch. Ms Sturdy and her brother Christopher maintain an excellent website with additional contextual information and family history concerning the Orams: familyhistory.oram.ca/burrishoole/. The diaries may be viewed at doi.org/10.7925/drs1.ucdlib_256149.



L-R: Orna Somerville, archivist; Audrey Drohan, Digital Library Manager; Órna Roche, assistant librarian; Carolyn Sturdy; John Howard, University Librarian.

Message from ARA Ireland Communications Officer

Niamh Ní Charra

Stop the Press

We have a brand spanking new website! Many thanks to those who answered the call for images as advertised in the last newsletter. We were sent a very impressive quantity of great images and these will feature, in rotation, on the main page. (We don't want to slow down the site by uploading too many at a time). We also hope to include these in the gallery page. Work continues on the website but feel free to browse at either www.araireland.ie or www.araireland.com.

Call for blogs

As part of the new website we have planned a blog which we hope will have regular contributions from ARA Ireland members. If you would like to submit a guest blog please contact me at niamhnicharra@gmail.com.

ArchiveHour

Many thanks to our lovely guests Kieran Hoare (NUI Galway Archives), Dr Eve McAuley (Irish Architectural Archive), Natalie Milne (National Archives of Ireland) and Gerard Byrne, chair of ARA Ireland who joined ARA Ireland as we hosted last month's #ArchiveHour. We chose #Fabulous40 as our topic to celebrate ARA Ireland turning 40 and the hour was a tremendous success with much engagement.

Explore Your Archives

Make sure to follow our facebook, twitter and instagram accounts for latest updates throughout the upcoming campaign. For a list of hashtags please refer to the EYA page on our brand new website. (Did I mention we have a brand spanking new website!!?? The excitement is getting to me!).

See you all online!

'Kitchen Power - Women's Experiences of Rural Electrification'

Deirdre McParland
Senior Archivist, ESB Archives

ESB's foundation in 1927 was based on a vision to continuously improve the lives of Irish people. Our archives document the purpose of ESB over the last 92 years. Through the meticulous curation, collection, preservation and access to this history, our digital platform, esbarchives.ie has opened the story of the electrification of Ireland to a diverse range of users. From documentary and film makers, publishers, academics, students, the general public and of course ESB employees, we welcome all researchers, both physically to our reading room and online.

While we continue to wade through the sea of cataloguing and digitising, we simultaneously research, curate exhibitions, deliver specialised workshops, talks and projects by authenticating and unlocking the stories of ESB.

Three years ago, one of our academic researchers, Dr. Sorcha O'Brien of Kingston University received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to research the effects of rural electrification on rural Irish housewives and homes during the 1950s and 1960s. The research project culminated in the exhibition 'Kitchen Power – Women's Experiences of Rural Electrification', officially launched by former President of Ireland Mary Robinson at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, in Turlough Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo in July. It is the flagship temporary exhibition at the National Museum and will remain open until summer 2020.



Former President Mary Robinson launching Kitchen Power Exhibition.
Copyright ESB Archives

When Ireland's first national hydroelectric scheme, the Shannon Scheme was completed in 1929, ESB prioritised connecting towns and cities to the national grid. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, ESB and the Irish Free State Government began working on initial plans for rural electrification. However, the outbreak of World War II in 1939 delayed the process.

While the greater part of Europe was coming out of War, in 1946 ESB embarked on the Rural Electrification Scheme. Described as 'the greatest social revolution in Ireland since the land reforms of the 1880s and 1890s', the scheme was particularly transformative to the lives of Irishwomen. While women throughout Europe had begun the move to traditional male roles during the War years, the lives of many Irishwomen, particularly in rural Ireland were in the home and farm, largely due to the obligatory marriage ban and cultural attitudes.

The Government in its approval of the scheme in August 1943, stressed that priority should be given to the most remunerative areas with the stipulation that initially one area must be developed in each county. For the purposes of the scheme, ESB divided every county into rural areas of about 25 - 30 sq. miles (typically based on parish boundaries). After the initial selection of one area in each county, the contest for priority was between areas within each ESB district. Over the course of the first phase of the scheme 1946 – 1965, 300,000 rural homes were connected, over 1 million poles were erected, and 50,000 miles of line were strung across the length and breadth of the country. By 1978, 99% of Irish homes nationwide were connected to the grid.



Rural demonstration lead photograph used in marketing collateral for exhibition. Copyright ESB Archives

ESB engineered the influencing skills of voluntary organisations such as the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA), Muintir na Tire and Macra na Feirme and local clergy to secure sufficient numbers for ESB to commence the labour-intensive roll-out.

The ICA described by former President Mary McAleese on their 100th anniversary as 'the original social network' were paramount in the success of the scheme. They saw electricity as alleviating the work that countrywomen had to perform in the home and farm. Through their relentless advocacy and outreach programmes they championed the benefits of electricity in their communities, particularly the campaign for access to piped water. The crucial role that the ICA played in the scheme is best summed up by a quote from a past chairman of ESB, Mr. Murray in 1963 noting 'While it may be true that projects of this kind are planned by menfolk, they would surely lie fallow were it not for the enterprise and determination of our womenfolk'.

ESB employed many women as demonstrators. Highly trained and experts in their field, each demonstrator was issued with a detailed file containing all the information they needed to get a community excited about electricity. Specifically, during rural electrification, the demonstrators travelled around the country, usually in their Volkswagen beetles, showcasing the latest electrical appliances through exhibitions at the RDS, demonstrations in the home and local parish halls. The success of the nationwide demonstrators was visible in the resulting sales of electrical appliances for ESB. In 1964 the top three household electrical sales were the iron, the kettle, closely followed by larger appliances, the electric

cooker and washing machine.



Household appliances on display in Kitchen Power.
Copyright ESB Archives

Over 150 reproductions of photographs, public relations pamphlets, advertising, film and television adverts from our rural electrification collection form an integral part of the exhibition. A 1958 photograph of the ESB/ICA model kitchen (which was taken coincidentally on the same day of the official launch) was the inspiration of the reconstruction of the same kitchen on display in the galleries. A collection of our artefacts including a fridge, light bulbs, switches, kettles and a film projector are on display throughout the exhibition. Further household appliances were supplied by our retired colleague and private collector Bernard O'Connell. While research from our archive provides key amounts of contextual information, over 60 oral histories recorded by Dr O'Brien and her team provide fascinating perceptions of the scheme. The oral histories add a colourful record and complement the evidence provided by our own documentation. While our archive has recorded oral histories of ESB lady demonstrators over the years, this new collection of oral histories forms an in-depth public history.

In line with our access and research policies, all readers to our archive, must at the outset, state their research purpose. As Dr. O'Brien's research was for exhibition purposes, we briefed our colleagues in Corporate Communications from the beginning, later working collaboratively on managing the PR of the exhibition from an ESB perspective.



Photograph of original ICA/ESB model kitchen 19 July 1958.
Copyright ESB Archives

Open communication is crucial to all successful collaborations. In the final few months of Dr. O'Brien's research, we were in the final stages of a major change management project, appraising, packing and moving our collections to a new purpose-built archive repository. Throughout this process we ensured that all final exhibition image and marketing collateral requests were received and dealt with efficiently as possible.

The week of the launch coincided with early mornings and longer days as the physical transfer of our collections was in full swing. The inevitable and welcome eleventh-hour media interview requests were all warmly received during this busy time. With participation in numerous back to back media interviews over a two-day period, the exhibition launch received extensive positive PR

and was broadcast on RTÉ One News bulletins throughout the day. The launch also featured on RTÉ Radio One Morning Ireland and in national, local print media and online channels.

The benefits to our archives supporting academic research and collaborative partnerships is worthy of a paper on its own. In addition to the obvious positive PR benefits, by sharing our expertise and access to our collections, participating in the Museum's outreach programme, we continue to demonstrate the impact and value of archives to a wider audience. No doubt the most beneficial aspect of the collaboration, was the extensive oral history project, ensuring that the legacy and stories of the women who participated in the scheme will continue to be told for generations to come.

For further information on Rural Electrification visit:
www.esbarchives.ie
www.electricirishhomes.org

Explore Your Archive 2019

Joanne Carroll
ARA Ireland Campaigns Officer

The annual ARA campaign Explore Your Archive will run from 23rd November – 1st December, with a launch on Thursday 21st November in the Irish Architectural Archive, Dublin. For the 2019 campaign we would love for archives, collections and projects of all shapes and sizes to get involved in whatever way you can.

Explore Your Archive is a campaign that showcases the best of archives and archive services in Ireland and the UK. The campaign aims to open the phenomenal archival collections held by organisations – public and private – across Ireland and the UK, whatever their size and scale, and wherever they are. Here are just a few suggestions on how to get people engaged with your archives 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. Let us know what you plan on doing and we will host details of these events online; we can also promote events though 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.

Please send on any details of events, exhibitions and/or 'featured archives' to Joanne Carroll, ARA Ireland Campaigns Officer at jcarroll@nli.ie.



Explore Your Archive 2019, Ireland poster

Social Media

This year the Explore Your Archive campaign will have a different hashtag each day for you to join in on, on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. 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 also use #ExploreYourArchive on any archives related tweet throughout the year.

23rd November: **#SweetArchives** Share something sweet – in taste or temperament – from your collections. And yes, #Archive Cake welcome!

24th November: **#HairyArchives** Back by (un) popular demand – share something hairy.

25th November: **#FriendlyArchives** Are you a friendly neighbourhood archivist? Celebrate friendliness in the sector and in your collections.

26th November: **#SurprisingArchives** Share something we wouldn't expect to see in your collection.

27th November: **#ActionArchives** From physical movement to moving image, share action-inspired archives.

28th November: **#ArchivesAtSea** If nautical nonsense is something you wish, then share your best sea-worthy archives.

29th November: **#MysteriousArchives** Sometimes being an archivist requires some real detective work. Share your most mysterious material.

30th November: **#ArchiveVoices** Amplify the many voices present in your archive by sharing examples of language, diverse voices, and sound archives.

1st December: **#WildArchives** Share something WILD from your collections.



Joanne Carroll (ARA Ireland Campaigns Officer), Gerard Byrne (ARA Ireland Chair) and Anne Cassin, Ambassador for Explore Your Archive 2018.

Promotional Materials

There is a great set of resources available on the Explore Your Archive website: www.exploreyourarchive.org/info-resources/ including an EYA toolkit, information on social media, tips on how to get involved and poster templates. We will also send out an Ireland specific template for you to cater to your own organisation/ collection and an Ireland only poster to use.

The Launch

The ARA Ireland campaign will be launched on the evening of Thursday 21st November 2019 at 6:00

pm in the Irish Architectural Archive. We will send the invitation out soon and hope to see you there.

If you have any questions about the Explore Your Archive campaign please do not hesitate to contact me on jcarroll@nli.ie

ESB Archives celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Clady Hydroelectric Scheme, Co. Donegal

Tanya Keyes
Archivist, ESB Archives



Canal view, 14 November 1958, ESB Archives

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Clady Hydroelectric Scheme, ESB Archives curated a pop-up photographic exhibition for the Forbairt Dhún Lúiche festival, in Dunlewey, Co. Donegal. The free exhibition was on display throughout the month of August. Following this success, the exhibition travelled to Donegal County Museum in Letterkenny, where it was officially opened for Culture Night on 20th September. The exhibition is on display until early November.

Clady Station

The Clady Hydroelectric scheme, operational to this day, was one of three hydro stations commissioned by ESB in County Donegal. Both Cliff and Cathleen's Falls stations utilized the natural resources from the River Erne. They were completed in 1950 and 1951 respectively. At that time all three stations fed into the national grid and contributed to meeting the increasing growth in demand for electricity.



Penstock, 17 October 1958, ESB Archives

Construction on the Clady Scheme commenced in 1954 and was completed in 1959. Substantial civil engineering works were constructed, such as Gweedore Weir and a 2.5km-long headrace canal developed as well as the raising the level of Dunlewy Lough.

Before the scheme, there was little industry in the region. The local community were dependent on seasonal migration, mostly to Scotland. The predominantly male workforce were employed by the civil works contractor, Malachy Burke Ltd. The labour rate was one shilling and eleven and a half pence. Four years later it had increased to two shillings and ten pence.



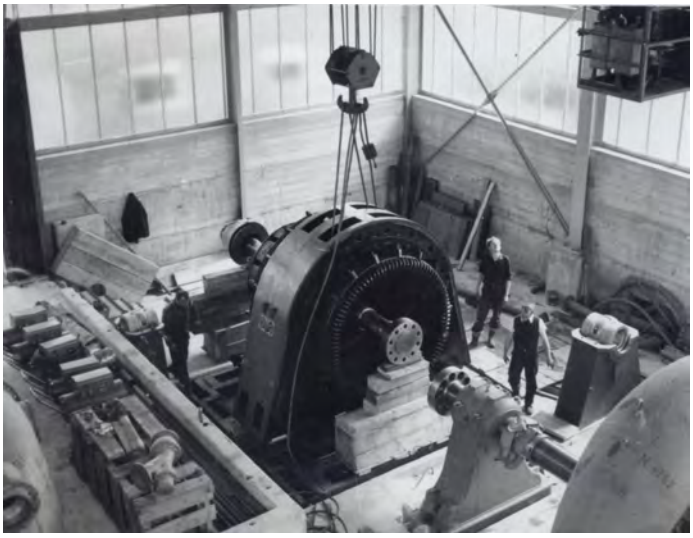
Penstock, 17 October 1958, ESB Archives

A small but visionary hydro-electric scheme, the station continues today to supply the Donegal electricity network with the same 4,200kW of renewable electricity to this day, which is enough to meet the needs of 3,000 homes, farms and businesses in the county.

Exhibition

The pop-up exhibition features previously unseen photographs captured during the construction of the hydroelectric scheme in the 1950s.

They capture the engineering feat of the construction over the five years, at the dams, the weir, the canal and the station. The exhibition also featured contextual information with the aid of a timeline and infographic. The timeline displayed key construction milestones, while the infographic detailed when all towns, villages and parishes of Donegal were connected to the national grid for the first time.



Power house, installing generator rotor, 18 July 1958, ESB Archives

Extensive research was conducted in our archives to identify content for the exhibition. In addition to researching our collection on the Clady scheme, we also utilised research from the papers of the Company Secretary, Rural Electrification and internal publications. Further supplementary research by local historian Seán Ó Domhnaill, provided insights into the scheme as recorded in the local and national press. Staff past and present at the station were also an invaluable source of information. All of this archive material was then carefully collated, allowing us to develop a strategy for the overall design.

There were no copyright restrictions on the photographic content, as all photographs of the scheme were commissioned by the Public Relations Department of ESB. Once selected, we prioritized the digitization of the photographs; access copies created in JPEG and TIFF for preservation standard. The images were printed professionally for the display. Due to time constraints, we prioritized the digitization of the photographs. Cataloguing of the full collection will take place at a future date.

To promote the exhibition, we utilized our social media and digital channels. We created a blog post on our website for our external audiences. Internally, we created a story on our internal digital platforms, yammer and the hub, reaching out to our 8,000 employees globally.



www.esbarchives.ie

The blog and social media content, via Instagram and Twitter was positively received and led to further public and internal engagement.



@esbarchives

Digitisation improves the accessibility of the archive and opens us to new audiences. By unlocking these collections through local community engagement programs and our digital platform, we highlight the valuable role that archives continues to play throughout Irish society. Our archive acts as a positive employee engagement tool instilling a sense of pride throughout ESB.

To this day the legacy of the Clady Hydroelectric Scheme continues to supply the same 4200 KW of clean renewable energy, making a lasting contribution to the social, economic and industrial development in Co. Donegal. It provides inspiration as ESB embrace the energy challenges of the coming decades, seeking to create a brighter future in leading Ireland's transition towards a low carbon society.

Celebrating the history of Irish local government
Ag ceiliúradh stair Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

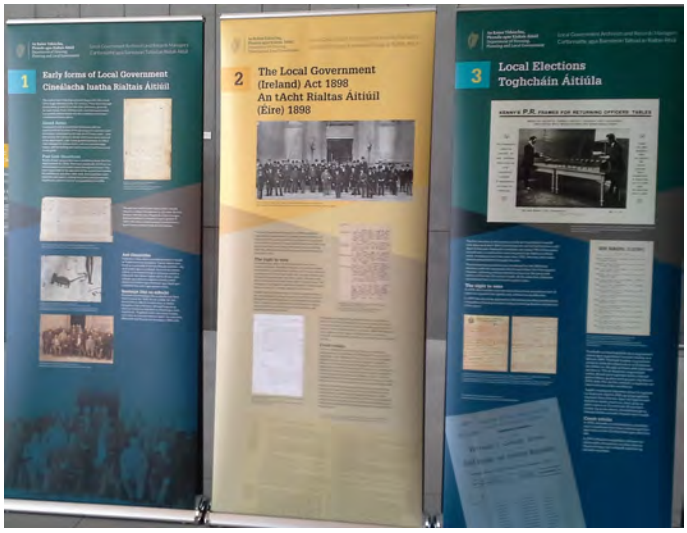
Niamh Brennan
On behalf of LGARM (Local Government Archivists and Records Managers)



Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government Exhibition, extract from panel 1 (Image: Cork City and County Archives)

Ireland celebrates its 120th year of modern local government this year. The 1898 Local Government (Ireland) Act radicalised local government, establishing new and far more democratic local authorities, including County Councils and Urban and Rural District Councils. The franchise was greatly extended also, for example allowing some propertied women the right to vote for the first time. The new local authorities were elected in 1899, with nationalists in County Councils winning 75% of the vote. Newly elected County Councils met for the first time on 22 April that year.

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers (LGARM) collaborated this year to celebrate this milestone by producing a national exhibition highlighting the many achievements of modern local government. The resulting exhibition, in Irish and English, is entitled *Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government, Ag ceiliúradh Stair Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann.* The text and images were supplied by the local authority archives services and the exhibition was funded by the Department.



Panels from Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government Exhibition (Image: Wexford County Archive)

This exhibition is an exploration of the history and development over many decades of local democracy in Ireland. It begins by providing a brief history of early forms of local government, in particular the Grand Juries and Boards of Guardians. It then explores the significance of the pivotal 1898 Local Government Act which brought about the modern-day local authorities (and others that have since been dissolved) and which greatly extended the franchise. One of the panels highlights some of the more significant local elections, highlighting for example the introduction

of proportional representation in 1920. Other highlights include a panel explaining the 'reserved functions' of our Elected Members and the end of the 'dual mandate.'

The long road to modernisation of Ireland in the 20th century is exemplified by the very gradual increase in numbers of women both as voters and as elected members. One such woman highlighted is Lady Albina Broderick, the first woman (and a Republican and radical) elected to Kerry County Council in 1920.



Panel entitled Women in Local Government
(Image: Galway County Archives)

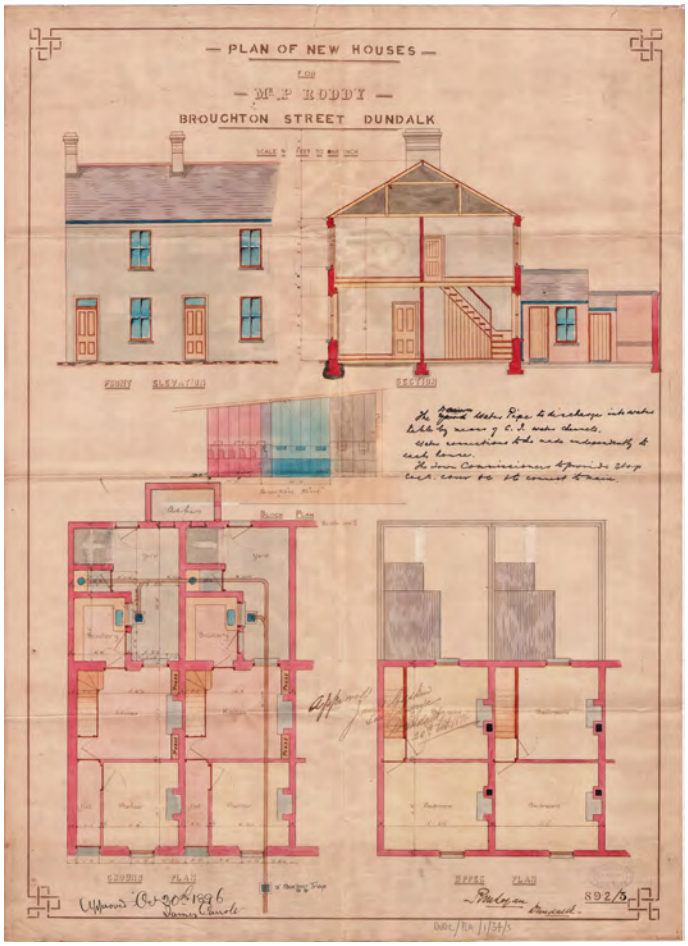
The exhibition examines the variety of roles held by each Service or Section of local authorities in the development of their counties, cities, towns and localities. A panel explores the building and maintenance of roads, the added function in 1903 of motor registration and the development since 1940 of fire fighting services. The crucial work of building and maintaining social housing from the earliest days of the labourers' cottages is explored. The exhibition looks at the many different roles of Environmental Services such as provision of clean water and modern sewerage systems, prevention of pollution and the regulation of burial grounds. Included also is a panel focusing on the ever increasing importance of Planning and Development since the inception of the 1934 Town and Regional Planning Act.



First members of Galway County Council, with others, 1899
(Image: Galway County Council Archives)

The changing or evolving roles of local authorities since the late 20th century is examined in three of the panels. While Library Services have existed since the 19th century, other Cultural and Recreational Services developed much more recently, including Archives, Museums, Arts and Heritage. The importance of other relatively recent functions is emphasized also, especially the work of local authorities in leading and working in

partnership with local communities, including in national initiatives or commemorations such as the Centenary of the 1916 Rising and Creative Ireland. The development of Community and Enterprise Services in roles such as assisting and supporting local business and tourism, and in accessing funding through programmes such as Peace and Interreg (EU-funded) is also examined in the exhibition.



Plan of new houses in Dundalk
(Image: Louth County Archives)

This is an illustrated exhibition which aims to inform the public in a succinct and interesting way about the hugely important role played by all of Ireland's local authorities in the development of cities, towns, counties and communities over the past 120 years.

The exhibition consists of 14 pull up panels, and is illustrated with images highlighting the work of local authorities across the length and breadth of the country. Anyone interested in viewing the exhibition in their own locality should contact their local authority for information.



Advertisement for frames for tables for returning officers, 1920 local elections
(Image: Donegal County Archives)

Help us celebrate ARA Ireland's 40th Birthday!

Felix Meehan
ARA Ireland Newsletter Editor



To help us celebrate our birthday and look back over the past 40 years, we are hoping to publish some articles and photographs in the winter 2019 edition of the newsletter which will (hopefully!) bring back some fond memories for members of our association's work since 1979.



Part of the cover of the Society of Archivists newsletter celebrating 20 years of the Irish Region in 1999.

The winter edition of the newsletter will be published in late December and, as well as inviting submissions on all topics relating to archivists, records managers and conservators in Ireland as usual, we are also asking our members to help to make the next edition an extra special one by writing an article and/or sending in any old photographs relating to the past 40 years of ARA Ireland/Society of Archivists. As usual, please send all submissions directly to me at felixpmeehan@gmail.com.



The logo used in the Society of Archivists newsletter to celbrate 30 years of the Irish Region in 2009.

To help jog your memories and provide inspiration for those articles, here are some photographs from past anniversary editions of the newsletter:



Launch of the Standards publication (30 April 1997). *left*: Mary Clark, Rena Lohan, Frances McGee, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, David Sheehy, Virginia Teehan, Aideen Ireland, Kerry Holland. *centre*: Deirdre Heaphy, Carol Quinn, Colette O'Flaherty, Karl Magee, Colum O'Riordan, Seamus Helferty, Aideen Ireland. *right*: Dr Garret Fitzgerald.



Launch of the Directory *(19 May 1993)*. *left :* Seamus Helferty, Ray Refaussé, David Sheehy.
right : David Sheehy and Michael D. Higgins T.D.



Regional Visit to Edinburgh *(June 1996)*. *left :* Kieran Hoare, Carol Quinn, Seamus Heaney, Karl Magee.
centre : Deirdre Heaphy. *right :* Brian Donnelly, Alan Cameron, Aideen Ireland.



Members of the Irish Region at the Annual Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne. *from left :* including Aoife Leonard, Virginia Teehan, Mary Mackey, Patricia McCarthy, Aideen Ireland, Bruce and Fiona Jackson *(1991)*.



left : Regional Visit by the Irish and North West Regions to the Isle of Man *(August 1997)*. Group photograph.
centre : Nigel Hardman, Carol Quinn, Aideen Ireland. *right :* Deirdre Heaphy, Carol Quinn, Catriona Mulcahy.

1979 - 1980

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Visit by officers and committee of the Society of Archivists and Irish Region to Áras an Uachtaráin *(24 June 1997). left :* Presentations to Mary Robinson. *centre :* Group photograph on the steps of Áras an Uachtaráin. *right :* Mary Robinson, President of Ireland; Aideen Ireland, Chairman of the Irish Region; Patrick Cadell, Chairman of the Society of Archivists.