



4.0 Seachtar Sínteoirí an Fhorógra

4.3 Tomás Mac Donnchadha

Tomás Mac Donnchadha: ball de Rialtas Sealadach Phoblacht na hÉireann agus ceannfort ar an 2ú Cathlán d'Óglaigh na hÉireann.

Rugadh Tomás Mac Donnchadha (1878-1916) i gCloch Shiúrdáin, Co. Thiobraid Árann, mac le Joseph MacDonagh agus Mary Parker, beirt mhúinteoirí. Cuireadh oideachas ar ag Coláiste Rockwell in aice le Caiseal, Co. Thiobraid Árann, áit ar chaith sé seacht mbliana ag staidéar le bheith ina shagart.

Nuair a d'fhág sé Rockwell, d'oibrigh Mac Donnchadha mar mhúinteoirí ag Coláiste Naomh Ciaráin, Cill Chainnigh (1901-3) agus ag Coláiste Naomh Colmán, Mainistir Fhear Maí, Co. Chorcaí (1903-8). I rith an ama seo, ghlac sé ballraíocht i gConradh na Gaeilge, áit ar cuireadh idéalacha náisiúnacha faoina bhrád don chéad uair. Chun a líofacht a fheabhsú, thug sé cuairt ar Oileáin Árann, áit ar chas le Pádraig Mac Piarais don chéad uair. Nuair a d'oscail an Piarsach Scoil Éanna i 1908, bhí Mac Donnchadha ar an bhfoireann mar leas-phríomhoide. Fad is a bhí sé ag teagasc go lánaimseartha, rinne Mac Donnchadha staidéar páirtaimseartha i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, áit a bhfuair sé BA i 1910; an bhliain dar gcionn fuair sé céim MA as a thráchtas 'Thomas Campion and the Art of Poetry' (arna fhoilsiú i 1913). Ceapadh mar léachtóir le Béarla in UCD é chomh maith i 1911.

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Idir an dá linn, bhí a bhuanna mar fhile á bhforbairt ag Mac Donnchadha, agus d'fhoilsigh sé a chéad chnuasach, *Through the Ivory Gate*, ar a chostas féin i 1902; ina dhiaidh sin d'fhoilsigh sé tuilleadh chnuasach lena n-áirítear an saothar is fearr leis *Lyrical Poems* (1913). Scríobh sé trí dhráma chomh maith; bhí éirí amach Éireannach mar théama in *When The Dawn is Come*; agus thrasnaigh Pagans an gnáthshaol leis an saol boihéamach. Mar aon leis sin, scríobh sé ailt in irisí éagsúla lena n-áirítear *The Nation* agus *The Leader*, agus bhain sé cáil amach i measc mhuintir liteartha agus amharclainne Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Bhí sé gníomhach le rudaí eile chomh maith. Bhí sé ina bhall díograiseach den National Literary Society, agus i 1909 bhí sé ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí Chumann na Meánmhúinteoirí, Éire. Bhí sé ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí an iris mhíosúil liteartha *Irish Review* (1911) chomh maith, a raibh sé ina chomheagarthóir air ar feadh tréimhse. Chreid sé go raibh amharcann ag teastáil a bhí dírithe go hiomlán ar an réalachas (seachas rómánsaíocht Amharclann na Mainistreach), agus i 1914 bhunaigh Mac Donnchadha, Ióseph Ó Pluingcéad agus Edward Martyn an Irish Theatre i Sráid Hardwicke.

Bhí Mac Donnchadha feasach ar an bpolaíocht riamh: bhí sé gníomhach san Irish Women's Franchise League a bunaíodh i 1911, agus bhí sé ina bhall den Dublin Industrial Peace Committee i rith díospóid lucht saothair 1913. Nuair a bunaíodh Óglaigh na hÉireann i Samhain 1913 ghlac sé ballraíocht ann, bhí sé mar bhall den choiste sealadach ina dhiaidh sin agus ghlac sé páirt i smuigléireacht gunnaí Bhinn Éadair. Scríobh sé 'The Marching Song of the Irish Volunteers' chomh maith. I Márta 1915, ceapadh ina cheannfort ar an 2ú Cathlán de Bhriogáid Bhaile Átha Cliath é. Ag an am seo, creidtear go mbainfí saoirse na hÉireann amach trí 'mhairtíriugh díograiseacha', ar bhealach síochánta más féidir ach trí chogadh dá mba ghá. Cé go raibh sé ina bhall de Bhráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann ó Aibreán 1915, níor comhthoghadh ar an gComhairle Míleata é go dtí tús Aibreán 1916, agus mar sin ní raibh mórán baint aige i socruithe pleanála don Éirí Amach. Creidtear, áfach, gur chuidigh sé le hábhar an Fhorógra.

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Mar dhuine de cheathrar cheannfort cathláin i mBaile Átha Cliath, bhí páirt ghníomhach aige san Éirí Amach, bhí sé i gceannas ag monarcha briosca Jacobs' i Sráid an Easpaig. Ba iad an bheirt oifigeach ba shinsearaí a bhí aige an Maor John MacBride agus Michael O'Hanrahan, dlúthchara leis. Mar gheall ar a shuíomh go príomha i gceantar ina bhfuil go leor tógála agus nach raibh sé éasca dul chomh fada leis, níor ionsaíodh Jacobs' go díreach. Nuair a chuaigh ordú géillte an Phiarsaigh chomh fada leis an ngarastún ar an Domhnach, ní raibh fonn ar Mhac Donnchadha ná a chuid fearr cloí leis i dtosach.

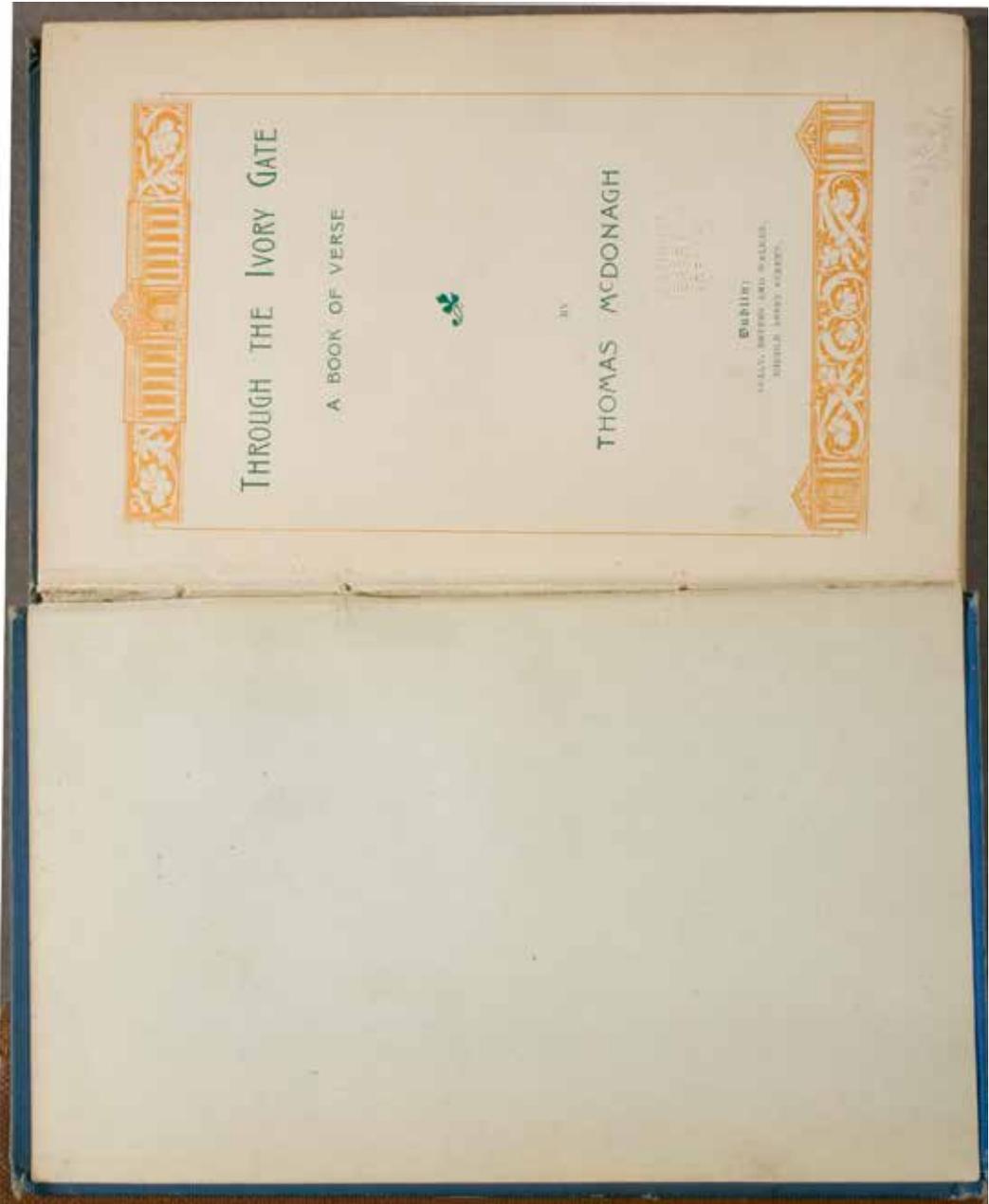
Cuireadh Mac Donnchadha ar thriail armchúirte agus cuireadh chun báis é le scud lámhaigh i bPríosún Chill Mhaighneann ar an 3 Bealtaine. D'fhág sé a bhean Muriel Gifford agus a leanaí Donagh agus Barbara ina dhiaidh.

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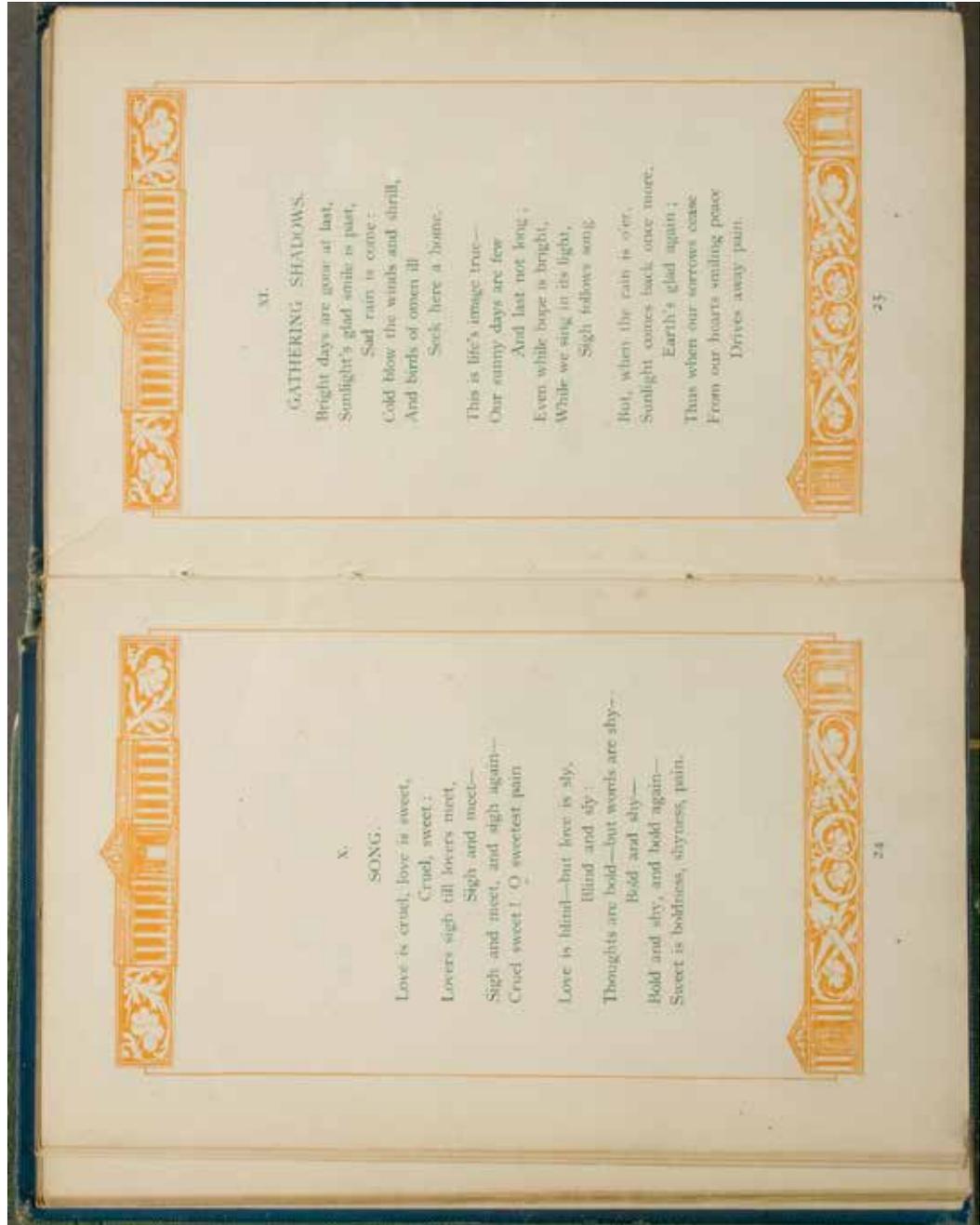
Thomas MacDonagh.

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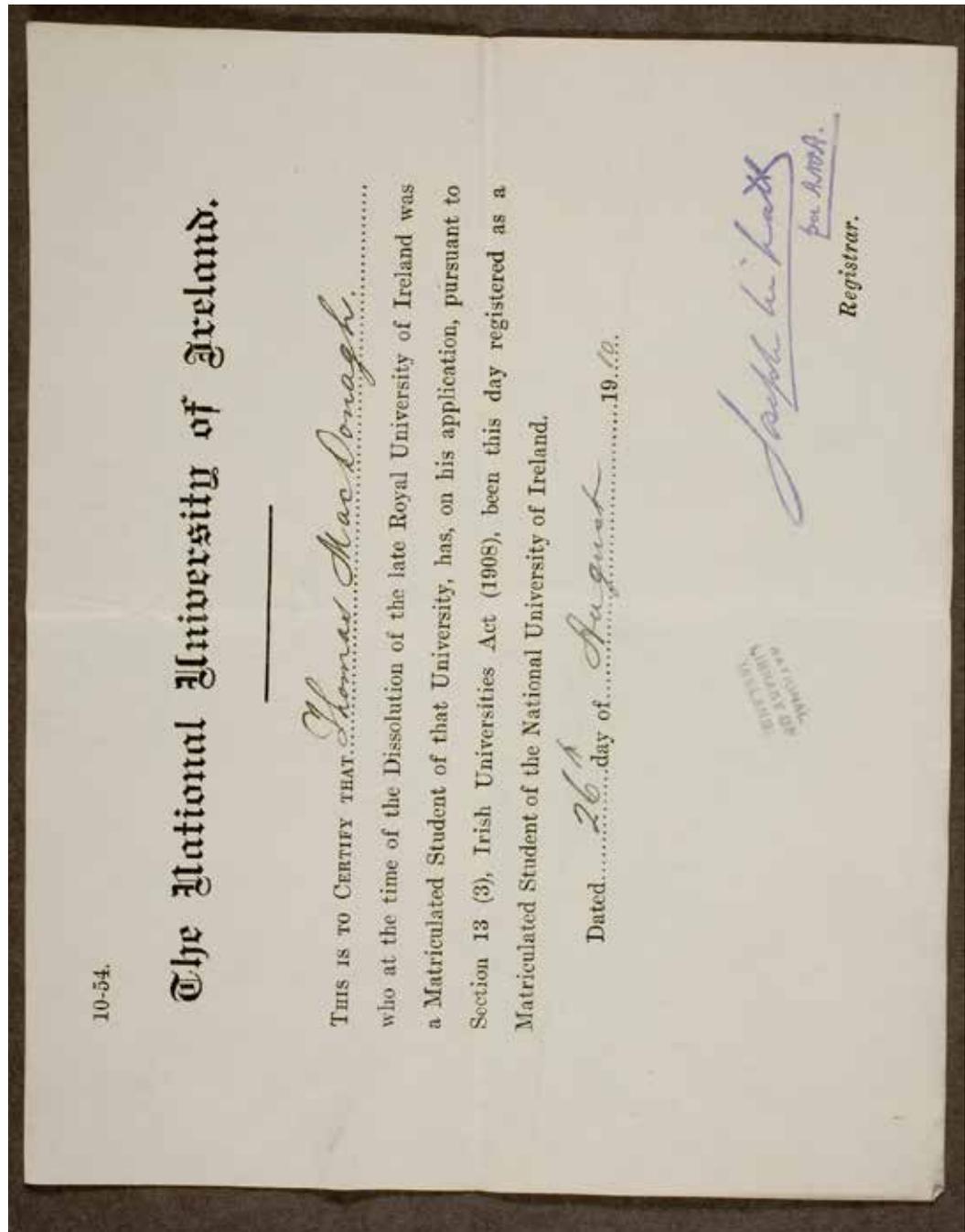
Pages from MacDonagh's first collection of poems which was published in 1902.

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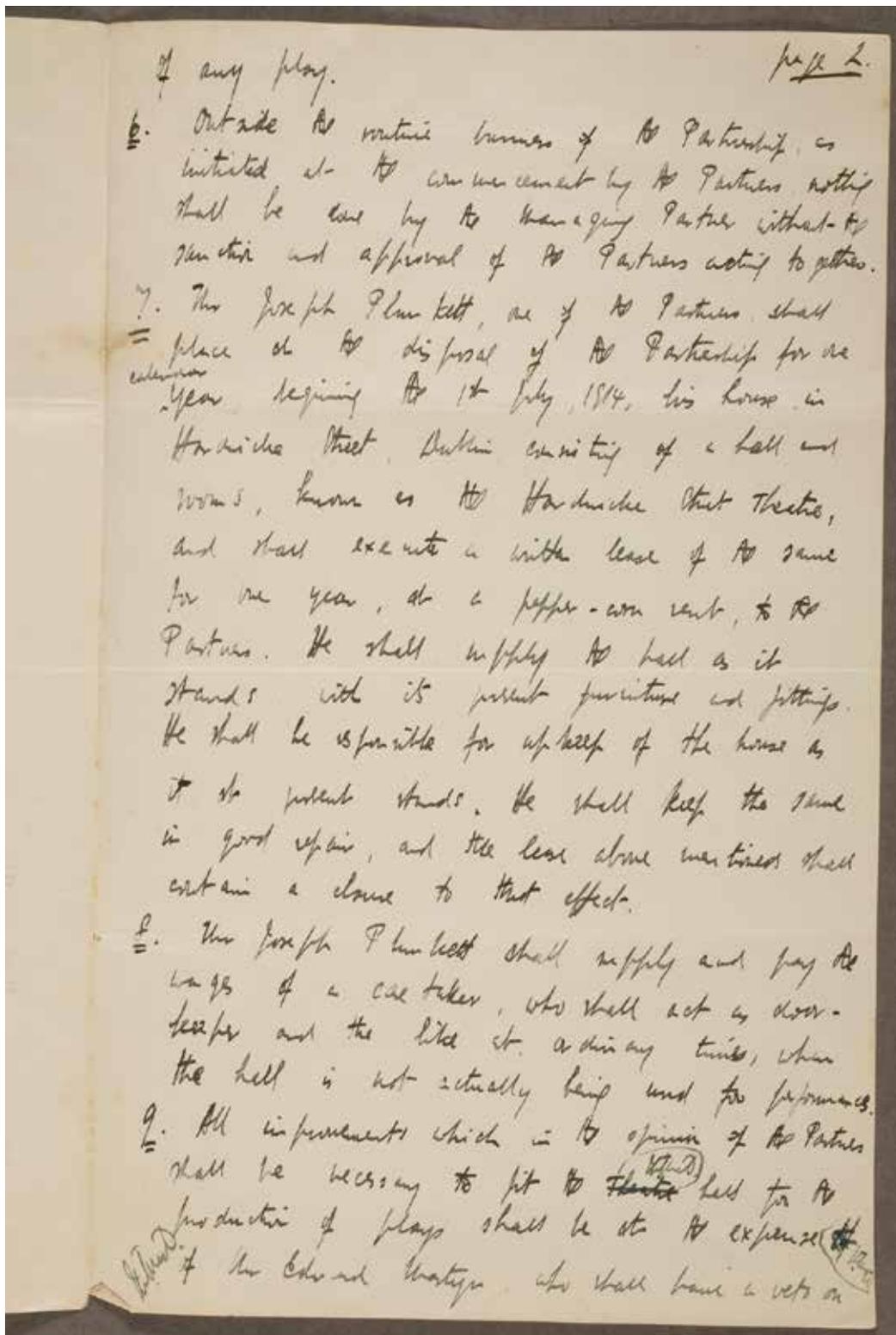
Pages from MacDonagh's first collection of poems which was published in 1902.

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Certificate from the National University. (Ms. 10,855).

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Agreement between Edward Martyn, MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett concerning the establishment of the Irish Theatre, 30 June 1914. (Ms. 17,301).

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the execution of any such improvement.

10. The expense of lighting the hall and rooms for rehearsals and performances shall be paid by Mr Edward Martyn.

11. Mr Edward Martyn shall bear all the expenses of management. He shall on the last day of each of the twelve calendar months, beginning the 31st July, 1914 and ending the 30th June 1915; pay to the Managing Partner Mr Thomas MacDonagh, the sum of twelve pounds and ten shillings (£12.10.0). Mr Thomas MacDonagh shall thereupon defray all theatrical and managerial salaries and expenses, save such expenses as are provided for by Articles 12 and 13 hereof.

12. Mr Martyn shall pay for stationery and stamps, advertisements, theatre programmes and all necessary general printing, accounts to be furnished by the Managing Partner and duly audited.

13. Mr Martyn shall bear all the expenses of the production of plays by the Partnership.

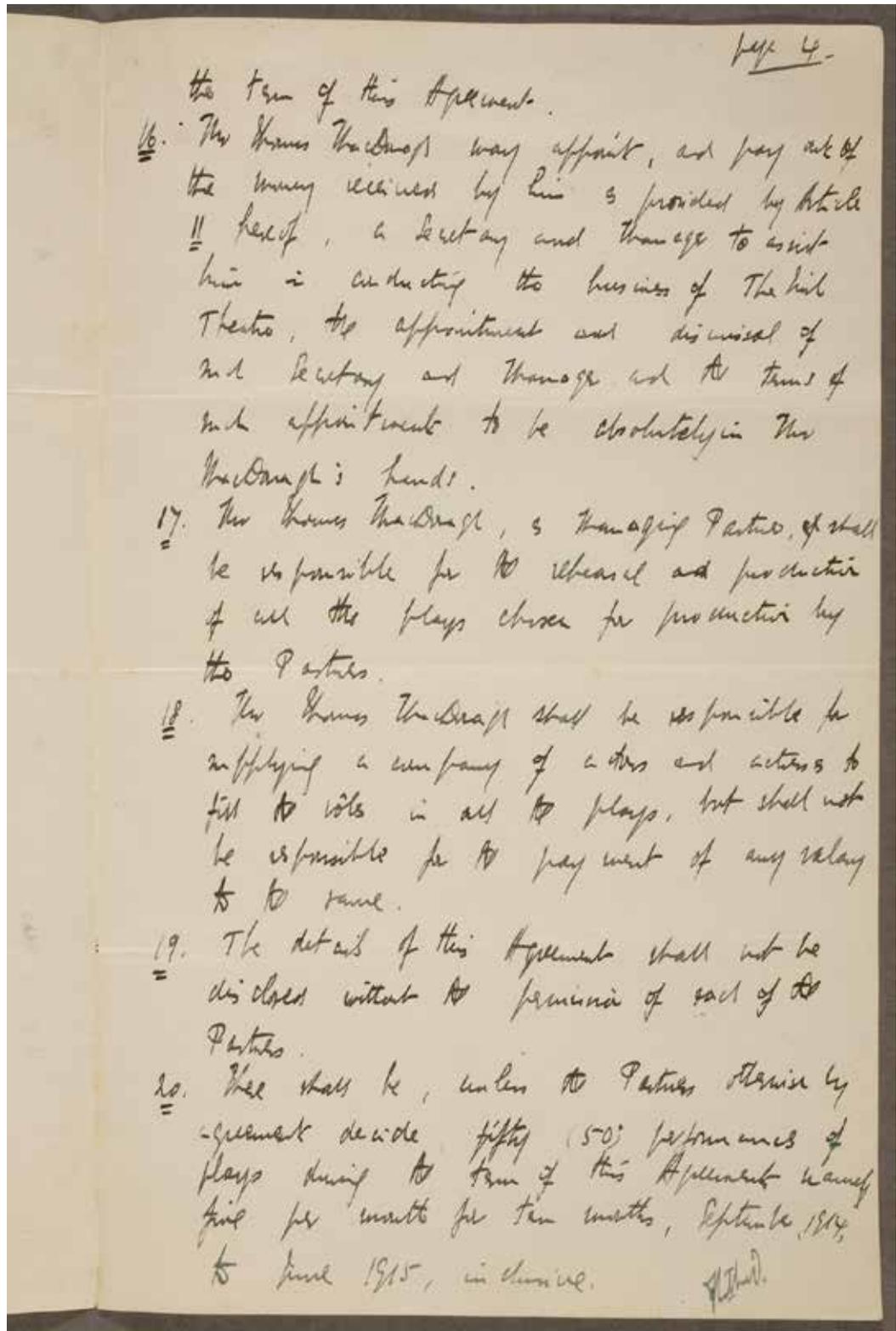
14. All moneys received by the Partnership, from any source whatever, shall be placed to the account of Mr Edward Martyn at his bank within one week of the receipt thereof.

15. Mr Thomas MacDonagh, one of the Partners, shall act as Managing Partner of the Irish Theatre during

copy
MacDonagh
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Agreement between Edward Martyn, MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett concerning the establishment of the Irish Theatre, 30 June 1914. (Ms. 17,301).

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Agreement between Edward Martyn, MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett concerning the establishment of the Irish Theatre, 30 June 1914. (Ms. 17,301).

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21. The terms of commission of the publisher of any ^{page 5.}
 other papers to the performances shall be fixed
 by the Partners.

22. The partners shall on the 31st March, 1915, or within one
 week thereof state to each other in writing whether
 they are willing to enter into an agreement of
 partnership substantially similar in terms to those
 presents to continue for a further year.

23. It is agreed that of the total number of
 plays in the English language, original or
 translated, produced by the partnership during the
 ten months, September 1914 to June, 1915; at
 least one half shall be plays written by
 the Edward Martyn, if so many be available
 and be approved by the Partners.

24. The accounts of the Partnership shall be audited
 at the end of the term by an independent
 accountant to be selected by the Edward Martyn
 and the Joseph Plunkett. Any liabilities the
 fund due, more or less to be provided for, shall
 be borne by, and any profits shall be placed
 to the credit of the Edward Martyn

Signed this 30th day of June 1914.

Edward Martyn
 Thomas Donoghue
 Joseph Plunkett

Agreement between Edward Martyn, MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett concerning the establishment of the Irish Theatre, 30 June 1914. (Ms. 17,301).

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Transcript

An agreement for the foundation and maintenance of a partnership made this 30th day of June 1914 between Edward Martyn of Tulira of the first part, Thomas MacDonagh of Woodlands, Fairview of the second part and Joseph Plunkett of 17 Marlboro Road, Donnybrook of the third part.

Whereas the aforesaid parties are desirous of establishing a partnership for the production of plays in the city of Dublin upon the terms hereinafter set forth, now it is hereby agreed as follows:

1. A partnership is hereby established for the production in the city of Dublin of the plays of three classes, namely: (1) Plays in the Irish language, (2) Plays, other than peasant plays by Irish authors, and (3) Plays translated from foreign languages.
2. The name of the partnership shall be The Irish Theatre.
3. Messrs Edward Martyn, Thomas MacDonagh and Joseph Plunkett shall be the partners. The term of the partnership shall be the calendar year, beginning the 1st day of July 1914.
4. The partners shall have complete control of the enterprise and all business connected therewith.
5. They shall chose the plays to be performed, but any one partner shall have a veto on the production of any play.
6. Outside the routine business of the partnership as initiated at the commencement by the partners nothing shall be done by the managing partner without the sanction and approval of the partners voting together.
7. Mr Joseph Plunkett, one of the partners shall place at the disposal of the partnership for the calender year beginning the 1st July, 1914, his house in Hardwicke Street Dublin consisting of a hall and rooms, known as the Hardwicke Street Theatre, and shall execute a written lease of the same for one year, at a pepper-corn rent, to the partners. He shall supply the hall as it stands with its present furniture and fittings. He shall be responsible for upkeep of the house as it at present stands. He shall keep the same in good repair, and the lease above mentioned shall contain a clause to that effect.

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8. Mr Joseph Plunkett shall supply and pay the wages of the caretaker, who shall act as door-keeper and the like at ordinary times, when the hall is not actually being used for performances.

9. All improvements which in the opinion of the partners shall be necessary to fit the hall for the production of plays shall be at the expense of Mr Edward Martyn, who shall have a veto on the execution of any such improvements.

10. The expense of lighting the hall and rooms for rehearsals and performances shall be paid by Mr Edward Martyn.

11. Mr Edward Martyn shall bear all the expenses of management. He shall on the last day of each of the twelve calendar months, beginning the 31st July 1914 and ending the 30th June 1915, pay to the managing partner

Mr Thomas MacDonagh, the sum of twelve pounds and ten shillings (£12-10-0). Mr Thomas MacDonagh shall thereupon repay all residual and managerial expenses, save such expenses as are provided for by articles 12 and 13 hereof.

12. Mr Martyn shall pay for stationary and stamps, advertisements, theatre programmes and necessary general printing, accounts to be furnished by the managing partner and duly audited.

13. Mr Martyn shall bear all the expenses of the production of the plays by the partnership.

14. All monies received by the partnership, from any source whatever, shall be placed to the account of Mr Edward Martyn at his bank within one week of the receipt thereof.

15. Mr Thomas MacDonagh one of the partners, shall act as managing partner of The Irish Theatre during the term of this agreement.

16. Mr Thomas MacDonagh may appoint, and pay out of the money received by him as provided by article 11 hereof, a secretary and manager to assist him in conducting the business of The Irish Theatre. The appointment and dismissal of such secretary and manager and the terms of such appointment to be absolutely in Mr MacDonagh's hands.

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17. Mr Thomas MacDonagh, as managing partner, shall be responsible for the rehearsal and production of all the plays chosen for production by the partners.

18. Mr Thomas MacDonagh shall be responsible for supplying a company of actors and actresses to fill the roles in all the plays, but shall not be responsible for the payment of any salary to the same.

19. The details of this agreement shall not be disclosed without the permission of each of the partners.

20. There shall be, unless the partner otherwise by agreement decide fifty (50) performances of plays during the term of the agreement, namely five per month for ten months, September 1914 to June 1915, inclusive.

21. The terms of admission of the public as of any other persons to the performances shall be fixed by the partners.

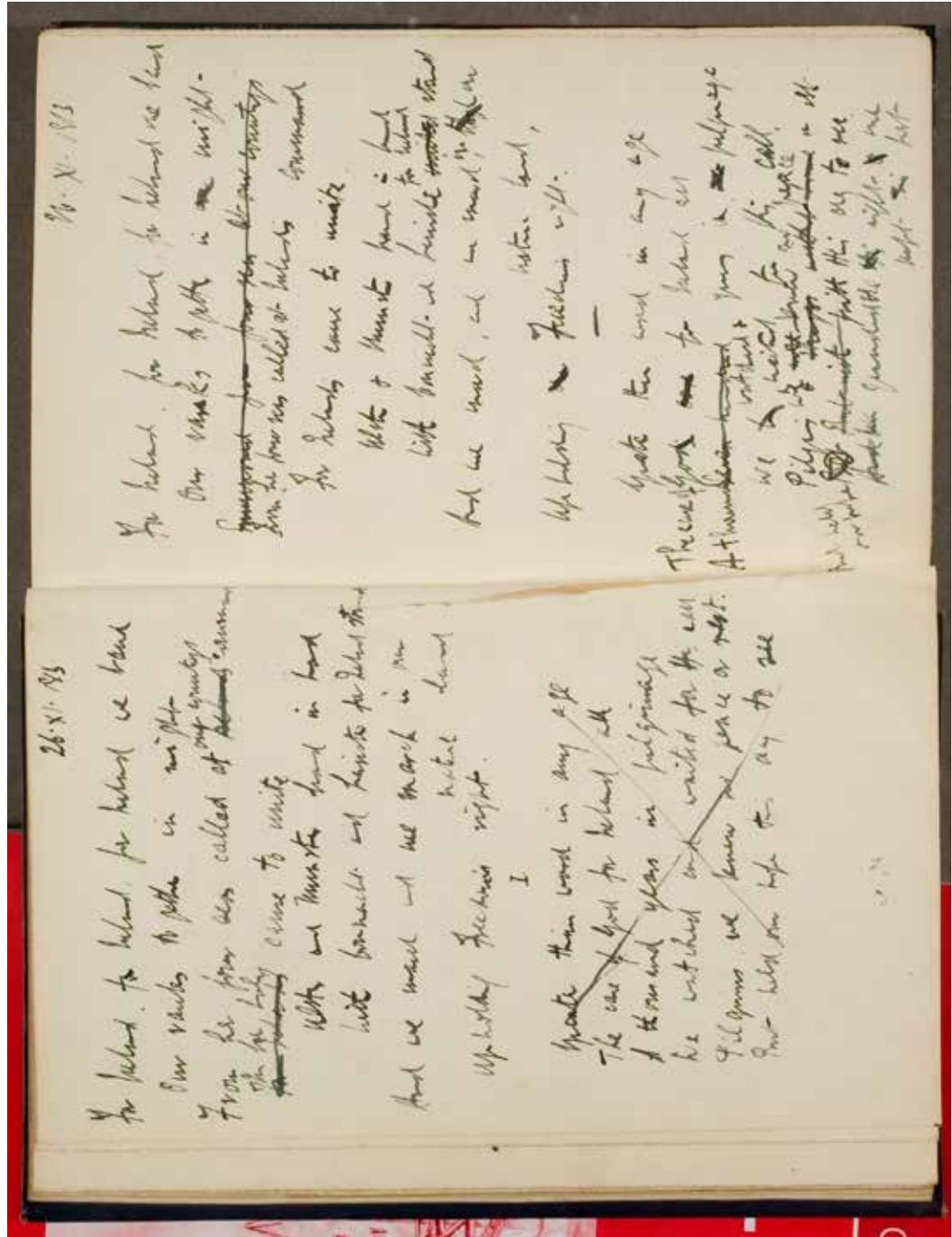
22. The partners shall on the 31st March 1915 or within one week thereof state to each other in writing whether they are willing to enter into an agreement of partnership substantially similar in terms to these present to continue for a further year.

23. It is agreed that of the total number of plays in the English language, original or translated, produced by the partnership during the ten months, September 1914 to June 1915, at least one half shall be plays written by Mr Edward Martyn, if so many be available and approved by the partners.

24. The accounts of the partnership shall be audited at the end of the term by an independent accountant to be selected by Mr Edmund Martyn and Mr Joseph Plunkett. Any liabilities then found due, same as heretofore provided for shall be borne by and any profits shall be placed to the credit of Mr Edmund Martyn.

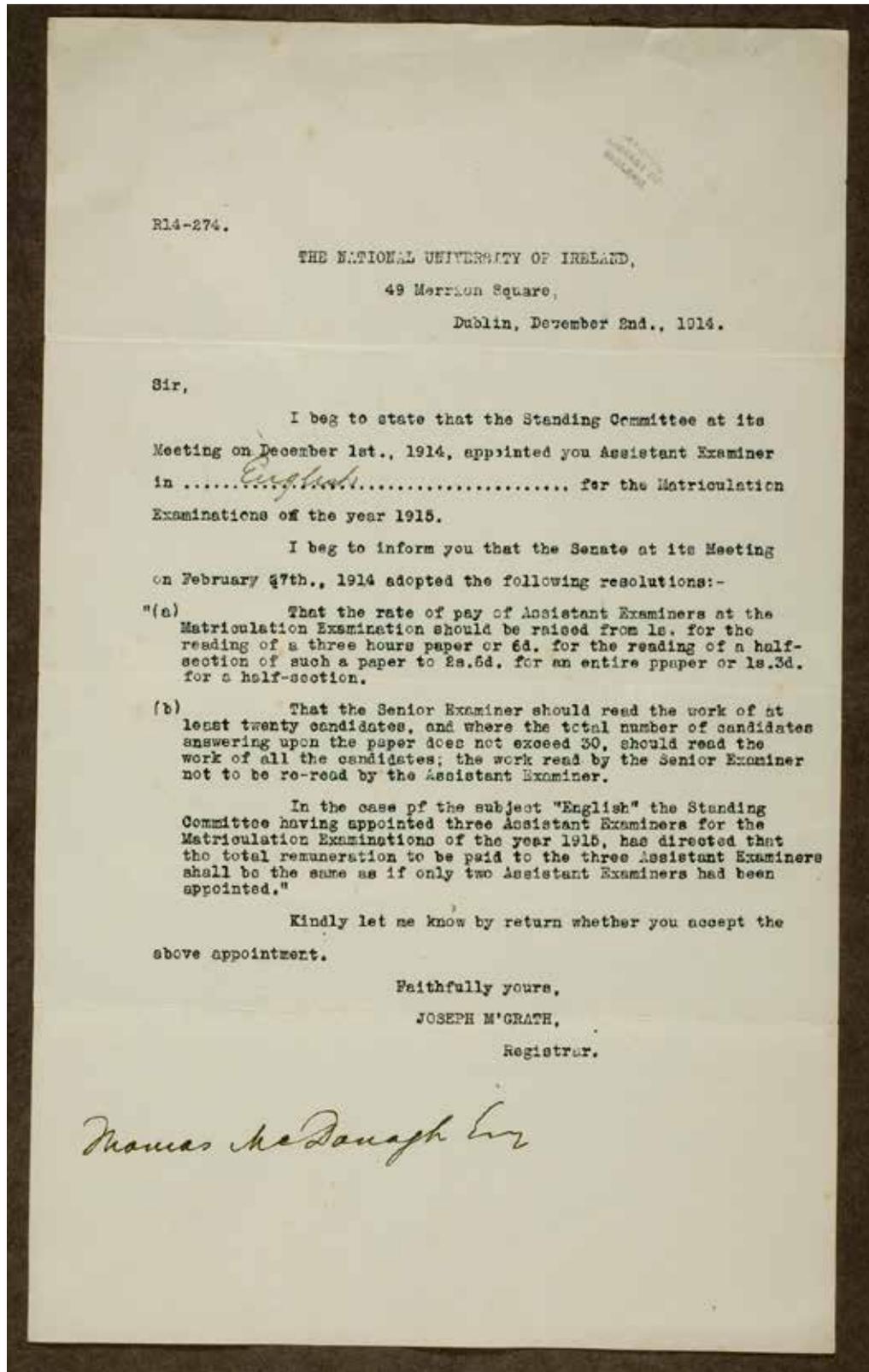
Dated this 3rd day of June 1914. Edmund Martyn, Thomas MacDonagh,
Joseph Plunkett

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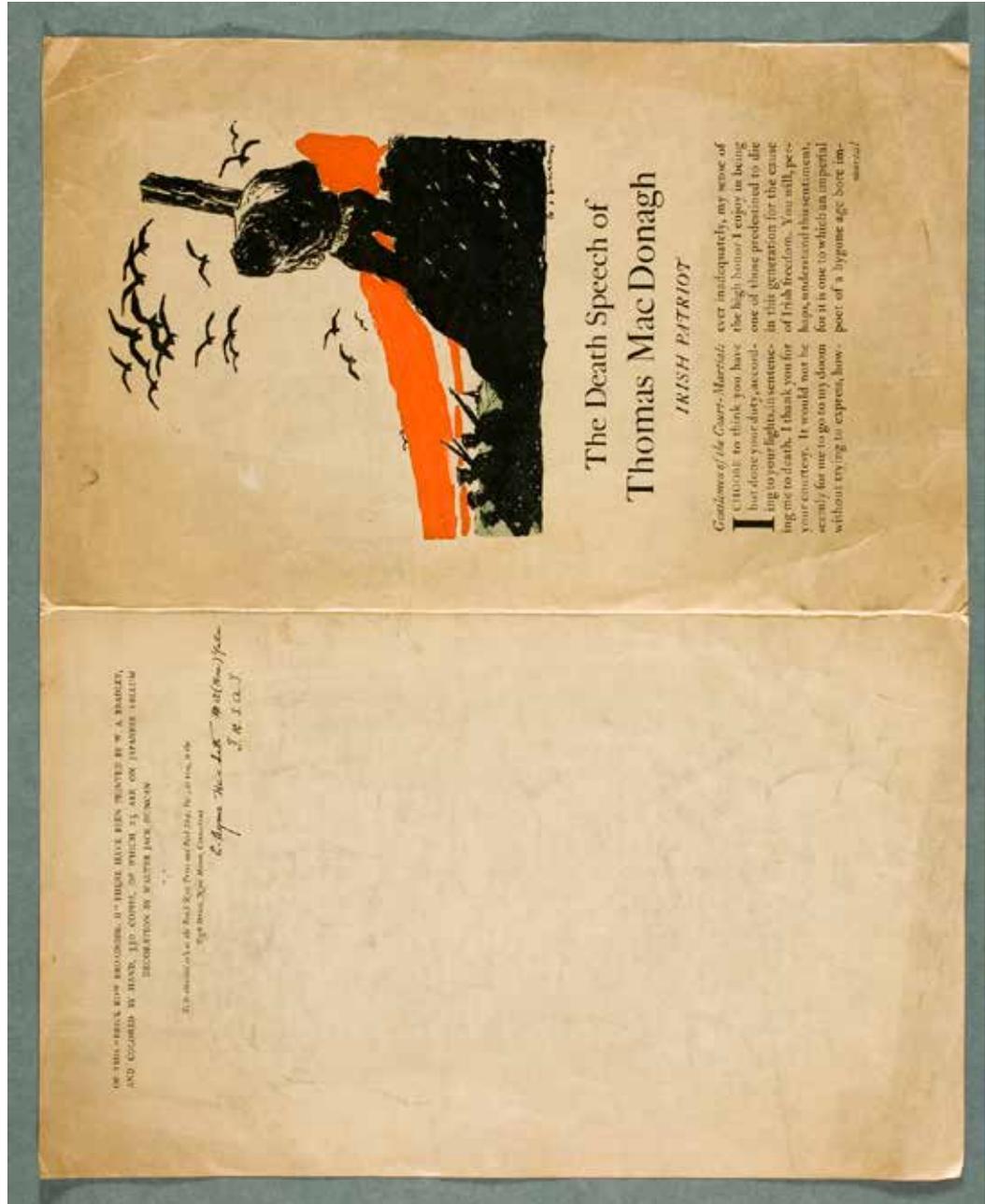
Drafts of a poem by MacDonagh. (Ms. 1645).

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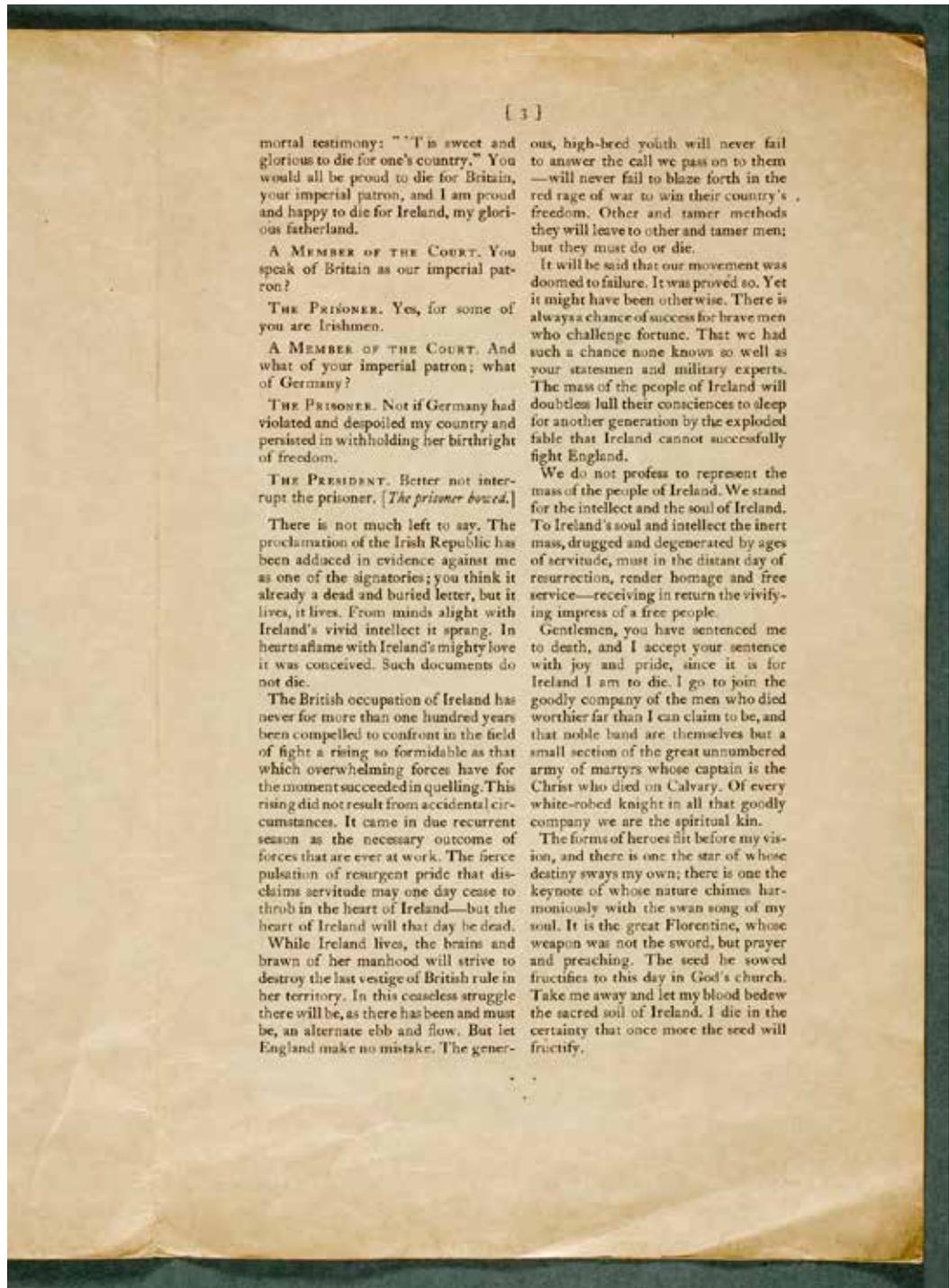
Appointment of MacDonagh as an examiner for matriculation examinations, 2 Dec. 1914. (Ms. 10,855, MacDonagh Papers).

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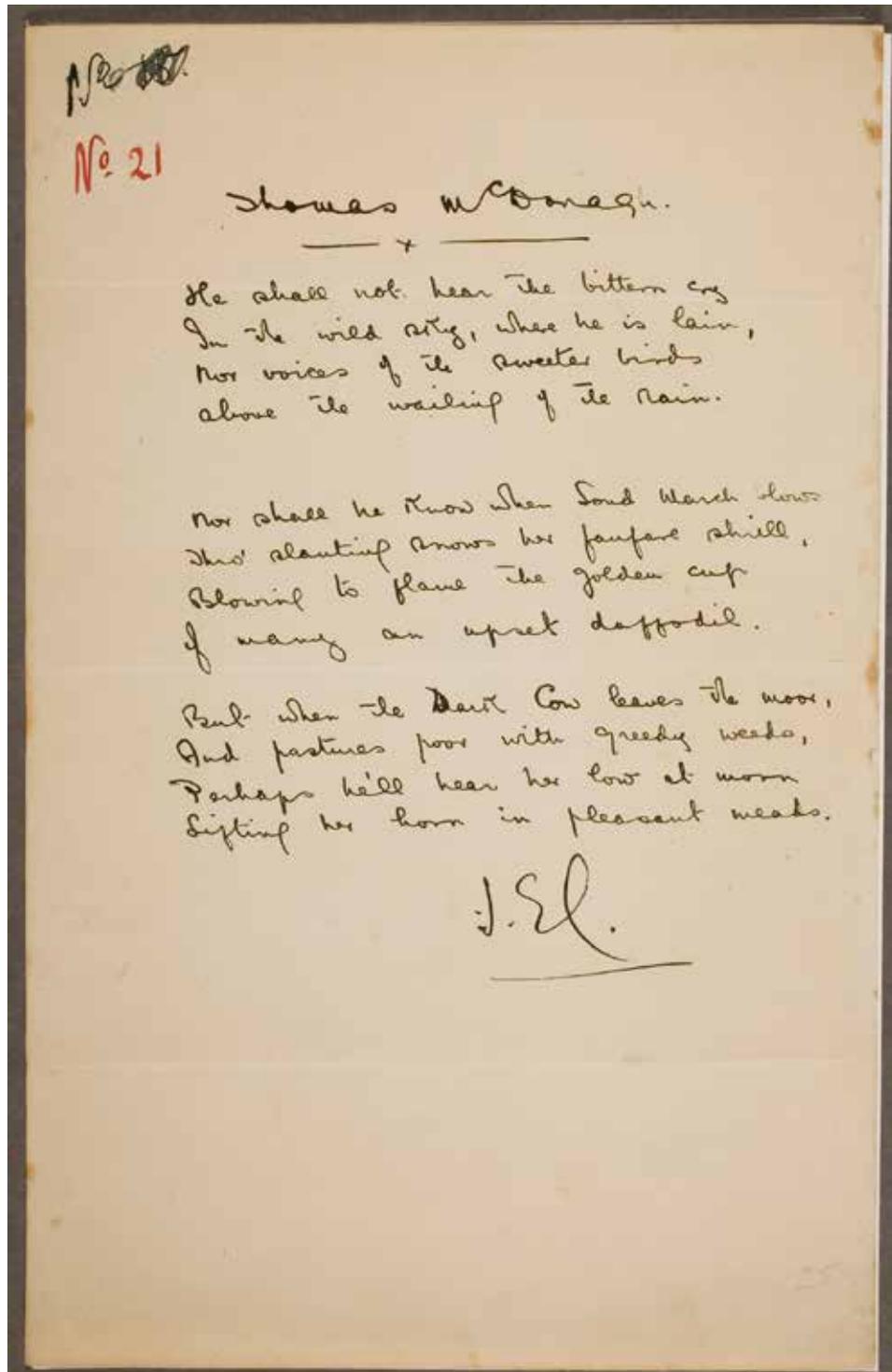
An undated American edition of MacDonagh's speech to the court-martial. The imagery echoes the legendary Cú Chulainn who tied himself to a pillar so that he would die standing. (Proclamations).

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An undated American edition of MacDonagh's speech to the court-martial. The imagery echoes the legendary Cú Chulainn who tied himself to a pillar so that he would die standing. (Proclamations).

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Autograph manuscript of Francis Ledwidge's poem in memory of Thomas MacDonagh. Ledwidge gave it to his friend Lord Dunsany who presented it to MacDonagh's son Donagh in 1940. A former member of the Irish Volunteers, Ledwidge was killed in action in Belgium on 31 July 1917. Lord Dunsany was a captain in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at the time of the Rising and was wounded in the Church Street area near the Four Courts on the Tuesday of Easter Week. (Ms. 15,542).

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Transcript

Thomas McDonagh

He shall not hear the bittern cry
In the wild sky, where he is lain,
Nor voices of the sweeter birds
Above the wailing of the rain.

Nor shall he know when loud march blows
Thro' slanting snows her fanfare shrill,
Blowing to flame the golden cup
Of many an upset daffodil.

But when the Dark Cow leaves the moor,
And pastures poor with greedy weeds,
Perhaps he'll hear her low at morn
Lifting her horn in pleasant meads