MEDIA RELEASE

***Matrimonial Map* acquired by National Library offers guidance in advance of Valentine's Day**

7 February, 2012: With Valentine's Day in the offing, adventurous souls embarking on a journey in search of romance might be well-advised to consult the very rare early 19th century matrimonial map in the collections of the National Library of Ireland.

Printed by Cork lithographers Callaghan Bros, the map delineates the delights but also outlines the possible pitfalls facing those embarking on a voyage across The Great Ocean of Love!

Intrepid travellers are provided with a compass indicating the routes to hope and love, but also to despair and hatred.

Must-see sights include the Settlement Isles that nestle in the Bay of Delight. Travellers may wish to venture inland to pay a visit to the Temple of Hymen, though the unwary should be warned that this trip often includes a lengthy stay at Cradle Point. A short distance away is the Dead Lake of Indifference, and jaded tourists who linger here can enjoy fabulous views over Callous Bay to nearby Divorce Island.

For those who find it difficult to navigate amorous areas using maps alone, the forthright descriptive text surrounding the Matrimonial Map should prove very useful, especially to those travelling independently. For example, the unwary may not realise that the River Amour "is dangerous and in some parts not fordable" or that the Rocks of Jealousy "are a dangerous group, on which ships have been frequently dashed to pieces".

This Matrimonial Map was acquired by the National Library of Ireland in 2009. It is in very good condition, and almost 200 years after its creation, continues to be an excellent guide for those in search of adventure on The Great Ocean of Love.

For further information call Brenda O'Hanlon on 087 258 3292 or Honora Faul, Curator, Prints and Drawings, National Library of Ireland on 603 0225