Ephemera Collection List

Sean O’Mahony Ephemera Collection

Assorted Political and Commemorative ephemera collected by Sean O’Mahony relating to Irish history and various republican and nationalist movements with an emphasis on the troubles in Northern Ireland and the contemporary Irish Republican movement.

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Introduction

Sean O’Mahony
A native of county Kerry, Sean O’Mahony has spent his working life in Dublin. Fascinated by Irish history and politics he has written a number of articles on various aspect of Irish republicanism (see MS 44,039 /7, 44,303 /11 and MS 44,304 /6) and published a book Frongoch: University of Revolution (Ir 94109o36). This collection is the extensive amount of material he accumulated over the years on Irish republicanism. The main focus of the Collection is the Irish Republican Movement from the Easter Rising in 1916, through the Troubles in Northern Ireland to the Peace Process of the 1990s.

Custodial History and Access

The Sean O’Mahony collection was acquired by the National Library through purchase in 2004. The collection is comprised of manuscripts, books and periodicals, posters, political and commemorative ephemera and photographs. Owing to the size and diversity of the collection the decision was taken to divide it up and transfer to the relevant sections of the library. All manuscript material is available in the Manuscript Department (see Sean O’Mahony Collection List 130 for more details). The extensive collection of printed material accumulated by O’Mahony can be found on the National Library of Ireland’s online catalogue, where the provenance is detailed. The photographic material is held in the National Photographic Archive, PC08LOT02. All posters, political and commemorative ephemera are held in the Ephemera Department. This collection would be of relevance to anyone with an interest in Irish Republican History. The ephemera collected by SOM highlight some of the major political campaigns of the twentieth century. In addition the political material collected in relation to Northern Ireland and the troubles from the 1970s-1990s show the hatred that existed between the two opposing sides Republican and Unionist and how this eventually changed in the move towards reconciliation and peace.

Content Structure and Arrangement

This list details those items now held in the Ephemera Department. I have arranged the ephemera collection into two main subjects Political and Commemorative. Each section then contains a series of headings based around the volume of material collected. The first heading Sinn Féin Political Ephemera contains political material published and issued by Sinn Féin from the 1920s right up to 2000s. The next heading is Assorted Political Ephemera contains political material accumulated by SOM relating to a wide range of political parties and political issues and campaigns. The third heading Assorted material related to Hunger Strikers and Political Prisoners contains both political and commemorative ephemera. For anyone with an interest in this period of Irish history this material is really interesting. The images and iconography used on some of the ephemera give a real insight into the harrowing nature of the Hunger Strike campaign. The fourth
heading is titled Assorted articles, newsletters and information bulletins and contains some interesting articles written by members of the Catholic Church in relation to the troubles in Northern Ireland. The final section contains the bulk of the Commemorative ephemera and is listed under the heading Souvenir and Commemorative Material. It contains material related to various Republican and Unionist commemorations. This section also contains some unusual items such as commemorative calendars, stickers, illustrations and stamps.

Note to Researcher

Throughout the list I have referred to Sean O’Mahony as SOM.

Lisa Cruise
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I. Sinn Féin Political Ephemera

**SOM 1**

1920s
Pamphlets and leaflets issued by Sinn Féin and the Irish Government on issues such as The Treaty, Partition and Northern Ireland.
7 items

**SOM 2**

1960s-1970s
Leaflets, pamphlets, newsletters and flyers published by Sinn Féin relating to different political events from the 1960s and 1970s. Includes material on joining the Sinn Féin party, women’s rights, political prisoners, police brutality, Sinn Féin literature, Hunger Strike, Eire Nua Campaign, The EEC, Offences Against the State Act, political policy, commemorative events and political meetings.
ca.76 items

**SOM 3**

1960s-2000s
Leaflets, flyers, manifestos and newsletters published by Sinn Féin relating to various local and national elections. Includes profiles of candidates, policy documentation and political campaign ephemera.
ca.185 items

**SOM 4**

1980s
Leaflets, pamphlets, newsletters and flyers published by Sinn Féin relating to different political events during the 1980s. Includes material pertaining women’s rights, British rule in Ireland, unemployment, local election campaigns, the Irish People Tour, republican publications, political policy, environmental issues, The EEC, housing issues, membership of the Sinn Féin party, commemorative events and political meetings.
ca.130 items

**SOM 5**

1990s-2000s
Leaflets, pamphlets, newsletters and flyers mainly published by Sinn Féin concerning various political and domestic issues during the 1990s and 2000s. Includes material pertaining to election campaigns, political policy, federal republic, the peace process, Good Friday Agreement, women’s rights, Iraqi war, RUC, political prisoners, commemorative events and political meetings.
ca.83 items
SOM 6  
Assorted collection of Sinn Féin memorabilia; includes delegate membership cards, invitations to republican political and social events, press passes, election stickers, raffle tickets and cards with information on the location of different Sinn Féin Advice Centres. Note some of the material is signed by Sinn Féin Councilor Aengus O Snodaigh

36 items

II. Assorted Political Ephemera

SOM 7  
1920s and 1930s
Assorted collection of pamphlets and leaflets relating to various political issues from the 1920s and 1930s including neutrality, republicanism and taxation.

11 items

SOM 8  
1950s – 1960s
Leaflets, flyers, notices and election cards issued by Clann Na Poblachta in relation to local and national electoral campaigns.

42 items

SOM 9  
[1958]
Pamphlet titled ‘The Murder of James Crossan’ published by the United Irishman, One Gardiners Row, Dublin.

12 pp

SOM 10  
15 March 1966
Copy of information bulletin published by the Irish Government’s Department of External Affairs titled ‘Eire, Ireland’.

11 pp

SOM 11  
1960s-1990s
Material issued by the Irish Socialist Party, Communist Party and Labour Party pertaining to political policy and workers rights in Ireland. Includes copies of socialist party branch newsletters, flyers advertising demonstrations, notices about workers rights and campaigns and other related memoranda.

40 items
Leaflets, notices, newsletters and bulletins issued by the People’s Democracy pertaining to foundation of the party, party membership, internment, anti-imperialism, 75th anniversary of the 1916 Rising and other matters.

14 items

SOM 13  1964, 1980, 1984 - 1986
Leaflets, flyers, policy documents and election material published by the Northern Ireland Labour Party and the Socialist Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP).

18 items

SOM 14  1970s – 1980s
Leaflets and flyers issued by New Ireland Group, Ulster Club Movement and Northern Irish Government relating to political policy.

5 items

SOM 15  1980s
Leaflets, flyers and notices pertaining to the ‘Troops out of Ireland’ campaign.

16 items

SOM 16  1980s
Leaflets, flyers and newsletter issued by Co-operation North.

5 items

SOM 17  1984
Leaflets, flyers and editorials issued by different political parties in relation to the 1984 European Parliament election campaigns.

9 items

SOM 18  1987 and 1996
Newsletters and flyer relating to the Irish language in Northern Ireland and the Language Freedom Movement. Includes a copy of newsletter ‘An tUltach’ from 1996.

4 items

SOM 19  1990s
Leaflets and flyers issued by the Irish National Congress pertaining to political legislation including the referendum to change Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution.

31 items
SOM 20  Material published by the Ulster Loyalist Party and Ulster Unionist Party pertaining to political policy. Includes newsletters, flyers, notices and other related memoranda. Also includes two issues of the newsletter ‘The North – voice of the people’.

15 items

SOM 21  Assorted collection of leaflets and notices published by German and Norwegian organisations supporting the Irish Republican movement in Northern Ireland and political prisoners. Material in German and Norwegian.

15 items

SOM 22  Assorted collection of political material. Includes leaflets, notices, flyers and newsletters pertaining to various political and domestic issues in Ireland such as unemployment, homelessness, making Ireland a Nuclear Free Zone, trade unions, the Gulf War, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action and the drugs problem in Ireland.

23 items

SOM 23  Leaflets, reports and information bulletins related to Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly, Britain and Ireland Human Rights Centre, Northern Ireland Ombudsman and Civil Liberties in Northern Ireland.

23 items

SOM 24  Leaflets, flyers, notices and information bulletins relating to various political and domestic issues in Northern Ireland such as the Civil Resistance Movement, release of political prisoners and the Offences Against the State Act.

19 items

SOM 25  Miscellaneous material pertaining to Irish American support of the republican movement. Includes notices about demonstrations and republican fundraising events, newsletters, flyers about Republican appeal campaigns, St Patrick’s Day parade programmes, booklets about The Irish Famine, Irish American Unity conference programmes and other related memoranda.

22 items

SOM 26  Flyers, leaflets and notices issued by Security Forces and Northern Ireland Government highlighting terrorism in Northern Ireland and calling for an end to it.

10 items
III. Assorted material related to Hunger Strikers and Political Prisoners

III. i. Political Material

SOM 27 1960s - 1990s
Notices, flyers, leaflets, newsletters and other memoranda pertaining to the rights of political prisoners and policing in Northern Ireland. Includes material about police brutality, strip searches and extradition.

ca. 62 items

SOM 28 1970s – 1980s
Flyers and election ephemera pertaining to H-Block political prisoners standing as candidates for election.

30 items

SOM 29 1970s - 1980s
Irish Northern Aid leaflets, newsletters and promotional stickers relating to appeals to collect funds in the United States for the dependants of Irish political prisoners.

22 items

SOM 30 1980s
Leaflets and flyers concerning the Birmingham Six and the Guilford Four campaigns.

5 items

SOM 31 1970s – 1990s
Notices, flyers, newsletters, leaflets and other memoranda pertaining to the Hunger Strike Campaign and the H Block prisoners.

143 items

SOM 32 1980s – 1990s
Leaflets, flyers and promotional cards issued by the campaign to free Irish Republican political prisoners, Saoirse.

19 items
III. ii. Commemorative Material

Assorted collection of Hunger Strike commemorative calendars.
Calendars issued by Sinn Féin and the Irish Freedom Press.
7 items

SOM 34 2001
Notices, leaflets, flyers, event guides and promotional cards
pertaining to 20th anniversary of the Hunger Strike.
20 items

IV. Assorted articles, newsletters and information bulletins

SOM 35 1941, 1942 and 1970s
Collection of Irish Republican newsletters compiled and printed
locally by members of the Republican movement. Includes issues of
‘The Irish Felon’ and ‘Ardoyne Freedom Fighters’.
19 items

SOM 36 Leaflets and information bulletins issued by the Catholic Church in
relation to political and justice campaigns in the North of Ireland.
6 items

SOM 37 1970s - 1990s
Articles, newsletters, notices and pamphlets written by Fr Dennis
Faul and Fr Raymond Murray in relation to the repression of the
Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, violation of human rights in
Northern Ireland, Catholic prisoners rights, women’s rights and other
issues to do with Northern Irish political and justice campaigns.
59 items
V. Souvenir and Commemorative Material

V. i. 1916 Rising Commemorations

SOM 38 1935 and 1936
Two Céilidhe Mhór souvenir programmes in aid of the 1916 Third Battalion Benevolent fund. Programme for 1935 has signature of Eamon De Valera on cover. 2 items

SOM 39 1966
Material related to the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the 1916 Rising. Includes souvenir programmes, limited edition golden jubilee commemoration cards, commemorative poster issued by Independent Newspapers, pamphlet ‘Seactar Fear Seacht Lá’ by Bryan MacMahon, envelopes and postcards with first day of issue 1916 Rising Commemoration stamps, information brochure about the 1916 Rising Commemorative stamps, a selection of commemorative stamps and exhibition catalogues. 23 items

SOM 40 1990-1991
Material related to the Reclaim the Spirit 75th Anniversary 1916 Rising campaign. Includes copies of newsletter An Cháisc 1916, letters from the Reclaim the Spirit festival committee, press releases, souvenir programmes, information notices, posters and promotional flyers. 33 items

SOM 41 1996-2003
Leaflets and flyers published by Sinn Féin relating to Irish Republican commemorative events including the 20th anniversary of the Hunger Strike and the 80th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising. 13 items

SOM 42 Souvenir programmes, flyers, brochures and posters from various 1916 Rising Commemorations. 9 items
V. ii. Republican Souvenir and Commemorative Material

SOM 43  1920s - 1940s
Pamphlets and leaflets concerning Irish Republicanism. Includes memorial leaflets, copy of the lyrics to a song ‘A Free State Jinny-Jo’ and a copy of the Proclamation.
9 items

Assorted collection of calendars commemorating Irish Republican History. Includes a rare 1951 Fianna Fáil commemorative calendar, printed by Oriel Press.
9 items

Assorted collection of Irish Republican calendars. Includes calendars issued by Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Resistance movement.
19 items

Collection of envelopes and postcards with first day of issue commemorative stamps. The stamps were issued to commemorate certain events in Irish History. The stamps pay tribute to the leaders of the 1916 Rising and 1798 Rebellion, the anniversary of the first Dáil, the Fenian Rising of 1867 and the 1803 Rebellion.
14 items

SOM 47  1971
Souvenir supplement with summer issue of ‘An tOglach’. Supplement contains the articles of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty and images of the signatories and signatures.
1 item

Collection of Feis Na Poblachta programmes.
8 items

SOM 49  1994
Material concerning the 1994 ‘Time for Peace Time to go’ campaign. Includes information booklet with autograph of Robert Ballagh, flyers, commemorative programmes, signed campaign correspondence, press pack and tickets to commemorative concerts.
26 items
SOM 50  1996 – 1999
Five ‘Old I.R.A. Commemorative Calendars’ from County Tipperary and County Limerick. Calendars contain ‘short biographical sketch and photographs of a number of patriots’.

SOM 51  1997
Series of graphic design proofs for commemorative bookmarks and posters to mark to 25th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

SOM 52

SOM 53
Thirteen collectable cards from the Irish Patriot Series issued in packets of Capital Dividend Tea. Series included twenty five cards in total. Cards bear an illustration of a famous Irish Patriot on one side and biographical information on the other.

SOM 54
Memorial card for Tomás Aghas with photograph and prayer ‘Let Me Carry Your Cross for Ireland, Lord’.
| SOM 56 | Miscellaneous Irish Republican souvenir material. Includes card printed in 1930 by Cumman Na mBán and Sinn Féin to commemorate the leaders of the Anti-Treaty side in the Irish Civil War, 1950 souvenir programmes to commemorate Anti-Treaty faction in the Irish Civil war, a copy of a Republic of Ireland bond certificate issued by Eamon De Valera on behalf of the Republic of Ireland, a card with English and Irish lyrics to Amhrán na bhFiann, a 1986 Republican Diary, postcards, booklet with photographs of Republican Wall Murals in Belfast, stickers, illustrations, commemorative pocket book and other related material. | 44 items |
| SOM 57 | Assorted collection of material related to various 1798 Rebellion commemorative events. Includes a series of leaflets (No.1 – 12) printed by Joseph H Fowler ‘Who Fears To Speak of ’98’, information booklets about the rebellion, souvenir programmes, event guides, notices and flyers. | 27 items |
| SOM 58 | Miscellaneous souvenir material collected by SOM includes heritage centre guides, festival programmes, arts programmes, theatre guides, souvenir programmes, event guides, tickets to events and concerts, exhibition catalogues and restaurant menus. | 66 items |
| SOM 59 | Memorial cards, flyers and commemorative booklets for various Republican Martyrs including Bobby Sands, Barnes-McCormick, McAllister and Dwyer and Máire Drumm. | 16 items |
| SOM 60 | Broadside of poem ‘Letter to a British Soldier on Irish soil’ by Patrick Galvin. Printed by The Red Hanrahan Press. | 1 item |
V. iii. Ulster Unionist Souvenir and Commemorative Material

SOM 61 1913-1914
Collection of photographic portrait prints. Includes an image of Edward Carson, The Most Reverend Dr. McHugh, Bishop of Derry, and The Most Reverend Dr. O’Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick.
4 items

SOM 62 Leaflets, flyers and mementos issued by the Belfast County Grand Orange Order and other Unionist organisations. Includes series of leaflets with the following titles ‘The Truth About Ulster’, ‘The Role of the Orange Institution in Ulster’ and ‘Ulster And The Way Ahead’. Also includes a piece of cloth with the symbol of the red hand of Ulster and the caption ‘No Surrender’ and a key ring with the red hand of Ulster flanked by guns.
14 items

SOM 63 Selection of Ulster Unionist ephemera. Includes a card published by the Ulster Unionist Council advocating Northern Ireland is not part of the Republic of Ireland, 3 vote unionist stickers, a twenty pound sterling note issued by the Ulster Bank in 1996 depicting an image of Drumcree Church and a postcard and illustration of William III Prince of Orange
7 items

V. iv. Miscellaneous

SOM 64 1945-1950
Collection of Abbey Theatre Programmes for various productions between 1945 and 1950. Includes programmes for productions of ‘The Playboy of Western World’ and ‘Shadow of a Gunman’.
10 items

SOM 65 1945 – 1948
Selection of theatre programmes for different productions in the Gate Theatre, Gaiety Theatre, Olympia Theatre and Capitol Theatre Dublin.
10 items

SOM 66 1947 – 1949
Notebook containing details of accounts, minutes of meetings and correspondence from a branch of Craobh Chulann in Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Includes list of members names and subscriptions paid.
1 item