

**Leabharlann Naisiúnta na hÉireann  
National Library of Ireland**

**Collection List No. 104**

**THOMAS H. NALLY PAPERS**

**(Mss 36,213-36,217)**

**ACC. No. 5193 (Part of)**

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
1. <i>THE SPANSEL OF DEATH</i>	4
2. OTHER WRITINGS	5
2.1 Literary	5
2.2. Non-Literary	6
3. NALLY'S CAREER	7
4. DIARIES AND MISCELLANEOUS	7
INDEX	9

## **Introduction**

The Papers of Thomas H. Nally were purchased by the National Library in January 1998. They share a common provenance with portion of the Weale Family Papers (see National Library of Ireland Collection List 105), not only with regard to their source of acquisition but also with reference to their previous ownership by the Nally family. Correspondence in MS 36,217/5 below indicate a connection between the Nally and Weale families.

## 1. *The Spancel of Death*

*The first production of this play scheduled to occur on Easter Tuesday, 1916, at the Abbey Theatre, was cancelled because of the Easter Rebellion. It was edited by Adele Dalsimer and published: Holbrook, N.Y. : Irish Studies, 1983.*

*In addition to the material listed here, the National Library also holds a set of parts scripts in its Abbey Theatre Series of Playscripts at MS 21,422. These parts scripts were used to prepare the edition mentioned above.*

### MS 36,213/1

The “Boorough Waash” or “The Spancel of Death”. A drama in four acts, of one scene each. Presenting peasant superstition in County Mayo in 1779. A.D. Founded on absolute facts. By T. H. Nally. Typescript with MS alterations. [6], 73 sheets.

### MS 36,213/2

Production script. Typescript with various MS additions. VI, [1], 21, [1], 27, 27a-27b, 28-37, [1], 53,[1], 54-67, [+? Lacks final page(s)].

### MS 36,213/3

Abbey Theatre programme for production of (1): *Kathleen Ni Houlihan* by W.B. Yeats and (2) first production of *The Spancel of Death*, on “Easter Tuesday, April 25, 1916 and remainder of week at 8.15 p.m. Saturday matinee at 2.30 p.m.”. With inserted flyer for first Dublin production of Rudolf Berier’s *Lady Patricia* and J.M. Barrie’s *Half-an-Hour*. 2 printed items; [8] p. + 1 sheet.

### MS 36,213/4

Correspondence etc. relating to the production of the play.  
*All letters are to Nally, unless otherwise stated.*

- (1) [1915] Aug. 21. From W.B. Yeats. With typed transcript. 2 sheets.  
*Original withdrawn; photocopy substituted.*
- (2) 1915 Nov. 3. From Abbey Theatre. Signed M.A. McConaghy.  
Typescript. 1 sheet.
- (3) 1915 Oct. 1. Contract between Nally and Abbey Theatre. Signed by St. John G. Ervine. Printed item with blanks completed in typescript. 1 sheet.
- (4) 1916 Jan. 9. From Nally to W.B. Yeats. 1 sheet.
- (5) 1916 Jan. 14. From St. John Ervine. Abbey Theatre postcard. 1 item.
- (6) 1916 Apr. 2. From Sir Henry A. Robinson. With typed transcript and note. 3 sheets.
- (7) 1916 Apr. 6. From Sir Henry A. Robinson. 1 sheet.
- (8) 1917 Mar. 20. From Nally to Lady Gregory. Draft MS. 1 sheet.
- (9) [1917] Mar. 21. From Lady Gregory. With typed transcript. 2 sheets.
- (10) 1917 Apr. 26. From Nally to Lady Gregory. 1 sheet.
- (11) [1919?]. Draft letter from Nally to Sara Allgood. 1 sheet.
- (12) 1919 Oct. 30. Nally to Sara Allgood. Carbon typescript copy. 1 sheet.
- (13) 1919 Oct. 30. Receipt for making typescript copy of the play. 1 sheet.
- (14) 1921 July 8. From James B. Fagan. Signed typescript with Royal Court Theatre letterhead. 1 sheet.

### ...MS 36,213/4

- (15) 1921 July 26. From Nally to Sara Allgood. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (16) 1921 July 26. From Nally to James B. Fagan. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (17) 1921 July 28. From Sara Allgood. With carbon typescript copy. *2 sheets.*
- (18) 1921 Aug. 1. From Nally to Sara Allgood. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (19) 1921 Aug. 2. From Nally to James. B. Fagan. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (20) 1921 Aug. 31. Nally to James B. Fagan. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (21) 1921 Sept. 21. From Nally to James. B. Fagan. Carbon typescript copy. *1 sheet.*
- (22) 1922 May 10. From Nally to Sybil Thorndike. *2 sheets.*
- (23) 1924 Feb. 28. From W.B. Yeats. Signed typescript. With typed transcript. *1 sheet.*  
*Original withdrawn; photocopy substituted.*
- (24) 1924 July 31. From Nally to Literary Committee of Aonach Tailtean. *1 sheet.*
- (25) 1953 Nov. 21. From Frank G. O'Neill of National Arts Repertory Theatre, Dublin, to Ellis Nally. *1 sheet + cover.*
- (26) 1953 Nov. 24. Copy letter from Ellis Nally to Frank G. O'Neill. *1 sheet.*
- (27) 1956 Oct. 26. Micheál Ó hAodha (Radio Éireann letterhead) to Ellis Nally. *1 sheet.*
- (28) Newsclippings. 1951-1954 and undated. *4 items.*
- (29) Fragment of account of the story on which the play is based. *1 sheet.*

## 2. Other Writings

### 2.1 Literary

#### MS 36,214/1

“The R.M.’s Daughter: an Irish Picture-Comedy”. *2 vols.*

“Call of the Slums”. *3 vols.*

“Genius in the Making”. *25 sheets.*

#### MS 36,214/2

“The Haunted Mill: a real Ghost Story”. *Sheets [1], 3-63, “65”.*

#### MS 36,214/3

Untitled story for children beginning: “The blessing of God on ye, my children!”. *1 vol.*

Untitled story beginning: “Circumstances! Yes, Reader, Circumstances, as they are glibly called, ... *1 vol.*

**...MS 36,214/3**

Fragment of story. Incomplete; lacks 1st sheet. Text begins: "for him she had no other existence, a mere automatic drudge". *Sheets 2-21, [1]*.

Untitled story beginning: "Was there ever a heart so full". *1 vol.*

**2.2. Non-Literary**

**MS 36,215/1**

"Thesis on Cancer". *2 vols.*

"The Ethics of the Irish Question". In Ridgemill series exercise book no. 534.

Preceded by extracts concerning reception given in Rome by Sean T Ó Ceallaigh on beatification of Oliver Plunket, 1920 May 29, and concerning election of Eamon De Valera as President of the Irish Republic, 1921 Aug. 26. *1 vol.*

**MS 36,215/2**

"Did the Olympic Games Originate in Ireland. By T.H Nally". Series of 5 lectures. *1 vol.*

"Ancient Irish References to Tailtean". *1 vol.*

"The Antiquity of Man". *2 vols. + 5 separate sheets.*

"Communism. God Defend New Zealand!" [1929]. *2 vols.*

**MS 36,215/3**

Scientific & other Discourses by T.H. Nally. Vol. 5. Dated on p. 11: 1898 Dec. 21. *1 vol.*

Series of notebooks on various scientific subjects. *10 vols.*

**MS 36,215/4**

Dublin guidebook. Typescript with MS alterations. 1925 June. 4, "4", 5-19, 21-29+ [4] *sheets.*

**MS 36,215/5**

Miscellaneous poems, sketches and newsclippings. *29 sheets.*

### **3. Nally's Career**

#### **MS 36,216/1**

Series of testimonials in favour of Nally. 1903-1908. Includes those issued by W.F. Barrett, Sir Charles A. Cameron, Sir Arthur Chance, Sir John Lentaigne, Sir Christopher J. Nixon. *17 sheets.*

“Testimonials of T.H. Nally, Temple Hill, Terenure”. 1901-1918. *30 printed sheets, some with MS alterations.*

#### **MS 36,216/2**

Correspondence etc. relating to Commission of Inquiry into the Resources and Industries of Ireland, of which Nally was Assistant Secretary. Mostly concerned with dispute resulting from the replacement of the Secretary, Darrell Figgis, by R.N. Tweedy. 1919-1922. *10 sheets.*

#### **MS 36,216/3**

*Memoir on the Coalfields of Ireland, July 1921.* Vol. I: text. Dublin : [the Commission], [1921]. xii, 396p. (Coimisiún Fhiafruighthe Maoin is Tionnsca Éireann. [=] Commission of Inquiry into the Resources and Industries of Ireland). In MS on titlepage: “by T.H. Nally for The Commission.” *1 vol.*

#### **MS 36,216/4**

Correspondence between Nally and Compensation (Ireland Commission), Land Settlement Commission, Commission on Agriculture, mostly re his salary. 1922-1924. *11 sheets.*

#### **MS 36,216/5**

Letter from Frank Aiken to Mrs. Nally. 1926 Sept. 2. *1 sheet.*

Testimonial signed by Eamon De Valera on behalf of Nally on the latter's departure from Ireland. Fianna Fáil letterhead. 1926 Oct. 29. *1 sheet.*

#### **MS 36,216/6**

Correspondence re Nally's career in New Zealand mostly concerning his employment by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and as an Extra Clerk in the House of Representatives. Also a letter to Nally's daughter relating to the Nally family's return to Ireland with photograph of Nally on board ship. 1927-1932. *7 items + 3 covers.*

### **4. Diaries and Miscellaneous**

#### **MS 36,217/1**

Account of a visit by Julia Cochrane. 1897 Sept. 24 – Oct. 5. *1 vol.*

#### **MS 36,217/2**

Diary of voyage to Adelaide. 1926 Nov. 11 – Dec. 26. With notes on evolution and on the SS Bendigo etc. *1 vol.*

**MS 36,217/3**

“Index to my Books on New Zealand and some notes. N.Z. Library. – (No. XII)”.  
Also with extracts made by Nally from various publications re Australasia. *1 vol.*

**MS 36,217/4**

Notebooks containing miscellaneous material written while Nally was in New Zealand. Includes details of preparations to bring a New Zealand contingent to the Dublin Eucharistic Congress of 1932. *2 vol.*

**MS 36,217/5**

Miscellaneous family correspondence etc. Includes references to the Weale family. *27 sheets and covers.*



## **Index**

### **A**

Abbey Theatre, 4  
Aiken, Frank, 7  
Allgood, Sara, 4, 5  
Aonach Tailtean, 5

### **B**

Barrett, W. F., 7

### **C**

Cameron, Charles A., Sir, 7  
Chance, Arthur, Sir, 7  
Cochrane, Julia, 7  
Commission of Inquiry into the Resources and Industries of Ireland, 7  
Commission on Agriculture, 7  
Communism, 6  
Compensation (Ireland Commission), 7

### **D**

De Valera, Eamon, 6, 7

### **E**

Ervine, St. John G., 4  
Eucharistic Congress, 8

### **F**

Fagan, James B., 4  
Figgis, Darrell, 7

### **L**

Land Settlement Commission, 7  
Lentaigne, John, Sir, 7

### **N**

Nally, Ellis, 5  
National Arts Repertory Theatre, 5  
Nixon, Christopher J., Sir, 7

### **O**

Ó hAodha, Micheál, 5  
O'Neill, Frank G., 5  
O'Kelly, Sean T., 6

Olympic Games, 6

**R**

Radio Éireann, 5

Robinson, Henry A., Sir, 4

Royal Court Theatre, 4

**T**

Thorndike, Sybil, Dame, 5

Tweedy, R. N., 7

**Y**

Yeats, W. B., 4, 5