

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

**Collection List no. 131**

**Thomas MacDonagh Family Papers**

**(MS 44,318 – MS 44,345)**

(Accession No. 2702)

A collection of the personal letters and papers of Thomas MacDonagh and his wife Muriel, neé Gifford, and other members of their families. Also includes some literary material and papers relating to the Irish Volunteers.

*Compiled by Harriet Wheelock, 2008  
Archival Studentship Holder*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Biography.....	4
The papers.....	6
Arrangement.....	7
Assessment.....	7
Bibliography.....	7
Notes on names.....	8
<b>MACDONAGH FAMILY TREE.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>GIFFORD FAMILY TREE.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS OF THOMAS MACDONAGH.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>I. CORRESPONDENCE.....</b>	<b>12</b>
I.i. Family correspondence.....	12
I.i.1. Thomas MacDonagh to Muriel Gifford, later MacDonagh.....	12
I.i.2. Muriel Gifford, later MacDonagh to Thomas MacDonagh.....	18
I.i.3. Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh with their children Donagh and Barbara	21
I.i.4. Correspondence of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca.....	22
I.i.5. Other family correspondence.....	24
I.ii. Pádraic Colum.....	26
I.iii. Dominick Hackett.....	28
I.iv. David Houston.....	29
I.v. Joseph Plunkett.....	30
I.vi. Other named correspondents.....	31
I.vii. Miscellaneous correspondence.....	33
<b>II. PERSONAL PAPERS.....</b>	<b>37</b>
II.i. Financial papers.....	37
II.ii. Applications and testimonials.....	37
II.iii. Miscellaneous.....	38
<b>III. IRISH VOLUNTEERS PAPERS.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV. LITERARY PAPERS.....</b>	<b>42</b>
IV.i. Poetry.....	42
IV.ii. Plays.....	43
IV.iii. Other works.....	44
IV.iv. Notebooks and miscellaneous notes.....	44
IV.v. Literary papers of John and Donagh MacDonagh.....	45
<b>APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHS.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2 – ADDITIONAL MATERIAL.....</b>	<b>48</b>
I. CORRESPONDENCE.....	48
I.i. Family correspondence.....	48
I.ii. Correspondence of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca.....	49

I.iii. Dominick Hackett .....	51
I.iv. Joseph Plunkett.....	54
I.v. Other correspondence .....	55
II. PERSONAL PAPERS.....	60
II.i. Applications, testimonials and teaching positions .....	60
II.ii. Guardianship of MacDonagh minors .....	60
II.iii. Miscellaneous .....	61
III. IRISH VOLUNTEERS .....	63
III.i. Organisational papers and Orders.....	63
III.ii. Correspondence .....	64
III.iii. Other papers.....	65
IV. LITERARY PAPERS .....	68
IV.i. Poetry.....	68
IV.i.1. <i>Through the Ivory Gate, April and May</i> and <i>The Golden Joy</i> .....	68
IV.i.2. <i>Songs of Myself</i> .....	69
IV.i.3. <i>Lyrical Poems</i> .....	69
IV.i.4. Other poetry .....	69
IV.ii. Plays and the Irish Theatre .....	71
IV.iii. <i>Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry</i> .....	73
IV.v. <i>Literature in Ireland</i> .....	74
IV.vi. Other work.....	75
V. MARY-LOUISE MACDONAGH neé PARKER .....	77
VI. JOHN MACDONAGH.....	78
VII. JOSEPH MACDONAGH .....	80
VIII. DONAGH MACDONAGH.....	82

## INTRODUCTION

### Biography

Thomas Stanislaus MacDonagh was born on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1878 in Cloughjordan, county Tipperary. He was one of eight children of Joseph MacDonagh, a schoolteacher and Mary-Louise neé Parker. MacDonagh was sent to Rockwell College, near Cashel at the age of fourteen. He was a good student, and in 1894 decided to enter the religious life. While training as a novice at Rockwell, he taught English and Latin, but in 1901 he abandoned his idea of joining the priesthood and left Rockwell.

The decision to leave Rockwell and his subsequent move to Kilkenny, proved a decisive turning point in MacDonagh's life. In Kilkenny, as well as teaching at St. Kieran's College, he joined the Gaelic League and was introduced to Irish nationalism. It was also at this time that MacDonagh published his first poetic works; *Through the Ivory Gate* (1902), *April and May* (1903) and *The Golden Joy* (1904). The books were published at his own expense, and received limited success. W.B. Yeats to whom one of the books was dedicated advised MacDonagh against publication as he felt MacDonagh had not yet found himself as a poet. MacDonagh had more success, however, with a sacred cantata *The Exodus* for which he wrote the lyrics, and which won a prize at the 1904 Dublin Féis Ceoil.

In 1908 MacDonagh moved to Dublin and took the post of assistant head teacher under Pádraig Pearse at St. Enda's School. Newly established, the school aimed to promote all aspects of the Gaelic language and culture. MacDonagh's move brought him closer to the Dublin literary, theatrical and nationalist circles. He formed friendships with Pádraic Colum, James Stephens, Æ [George Russell], Arthur Griffith and James Connolly. He became increasingly involved with a number of different issues including the extension of franchise and the suffrage movement. In 1910 MacDonagh was awarded a BA, having studied part-time at University College, Dublin, (UCD), and a year later received his MA for his thesis *Thomas Campion and the Art of Poetry*.

MacDonagh's literary career and reputation developed at this time. He contributed articles to journals and poetry to collections. In 1908 the Abbey theatre produced his first play, *When the Dawn is Come* depicting an Irish Rising against English rule. In 1910 MacDonagh published another volume of poetry, *Songs of Myself*. Better received than his early works, it contained two of his best poems, 'John-John' and 'Envoi'. In 1911 Pádraic Colum, James Stephens, David Houston and MacDonagh founded the *Irish Review*, a monthly literary and current affairs journal. It was also at this time that he took on Joseph Plunkett as a private pupil of Irish, the beginning of a long and lasting friendship between the two.

In 1908 one of MacDonagh's suffragette acquaintances Mrs. Dryhurst came to visit St. Enda's, bringing with her Sydney, Grace and Muriel Gifford. When Mrs. Dryhurst jokingly suggested MacDonagh should marry one of the girls, he replied, "That would be easy –the only difficulty would be to decide which one!" In January 1912 he married Muriel Gifford.

Muriel was one of twelve children of a mixed marriage between the Catholic solicitor Fredrick Gifford and the protestant Isabella Burton. As was customary at the time the boys were raised as Catholics and the girls as Protestants. There are few details of the early education of the Gifford girls, their later studies show them following the paths open to single women. Katherine the eldest sister studied languages at the Royal University, Helen became a teacher, Ada and Grace studied at the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art, and Muriel began training as a nurse.

Mrs Dryhurst, a family friend, was influential in introducing the Gifford sisters, especially Muriel, Grace and Sydney, to new social circles. Through her they began to mix with literary and theatrical figures, including Æ [George Russell] and the Yeats family. Muriel, Grace and Sydney were to become involved in the concerns of the new social circle, women's suffrage, poor relief and Irish nationalism. Although the Gifford parents were supporters of British rule, four of their daughters, including Muriel, were to become associated with the struggle for Irish freedom. Sydney contributed articles to Arthur Griffith's Sinn Féin newspaper, and was to become a skilled nationalist writer under the pen-name of John Brennan. Grace created a career for herself as an artist; in 1915 she fell in love with Joseph Plunkett, and converted to Catholicism. Their marriage in Kilmainham Gaol hours before his execution secured her place in the nationalist movement. Helen, a member of the Citizen's Army, took part in the Easter Rising, supplying food to the rebels.

It was three years after their first meeting at St. Enda's that Muriel and Thomas became engaged in the autumn of 1911. Muriel's engagement to a Catholic caused problems with her family, especially her mother. Their relations which had never been close, was to remain strained, as was MacDonagh's relationship with his mother-in-law. Muriel and Thomas married in January 1912 and set up home in a flat on Baggot Street in the centre of Dublin. The marriage was a close and loving one, although Muriel's bouts of ill-health caused periods of separation. The first of Muriel's illnesses occurred after the birth of their son Donagh in November 1911, and mother and child spent several months with her parents while she recuperated. A second child Barbara was born in March 1915, by which stage the family had moved to the Dublin suburb of Ranelagh.

MacDonagh left St. Enda's before his marriage and took a better paid teaching post at UCD. He continued with his literary work, having his second play, *Metempsychosis*, produced in 1912. He also published his most accomplished volume of poetry, *Lyrical Poems*, and his MA thesis *Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry*, both in 1913. His interest in theatre led to the establishment of the Irish Theatre by MacDonagh, Edward Martyn and Joseph Plunkett in 1914. They aimed to stage Irish and continental plays, and the theatre was managed by MacDonagh's brother John. The Irish Theatre produced MacDonagh's last play *Pagans*, based on his poem 'John-John' in 1915.

In 1913 MacDonagh joined the Irish Volunteers and became increasingly involved in their activities. He was on the central provisional committee, commanded one of the four Dublin Brigades, oversaw training and addressed rallies around the country. He also put his literary talents into writing 'Marching Song of the Irish Volunteers' and 'Freedom's Hill' for the movement. When the movement split over their response to the First World War, MacDonagh went with the minority and more militant Irish

Volunteers. In 1915 he was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and was involved in the organisation of the funeral of the Fenian Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa. MacDonagh's time was increasingly occupied with the IRB and their plans for armed revolt. When this finally came at Easter 1916, MacDonagh was one of the signatories of the Proclamation and commanded the garrison at Jacob's biscuit factory. MacDonagh's garrison saw little fighting and he was reluctant to surrender when the order came.

MacDonagh was found guilty at his court-martial on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and was sentenced to death. Although he sent messengers to his wife, they could not reach her and his last visitor was his sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca. MacDonagh was executed by firing squad at 3.30am on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1916. His death left his widow and children distraught and in financial difficulties. They were supported by the MacDonagh family, and various charitable organisations. In addition MacDonagh's literary work became increasingly popular after his death. His final book *Literature in Ireland: Studies Irish and Anglo-Irish* was published posthumously and broke new ground in literary theory. Several editions of his complete poetic works were published in 1916, including one on which Muriel collaborated. At Easter 1917 Muriel converted to Catholicism, something she had refused to do at the time of her marriage. In July of the same year she was drowned in a swimming accident at Skerries, county Dublin. After their parent deaths, Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh became the subject of a series of custody battles between the MacDonagh and Gifford families, mainly over the issue of their religion. Donagh would eventually follow his father's literary path.

## **The papers**

This Collection was deposited with the National Library in 1968 by Nuala MacDonagh on a long loan, although the material was not available for consultation without the permission of the family. In 2007 the National Library purchased the material from the MacDonagh family, and made it fully available for consultation. The principle class of documents are correspondence and personal items, although there are a smaller number of literary and Irish Volunteer papers. The bulk of the papers cover the period 1911-1917, with the earliest document dating to 1848 and the latest 1966. The papers are contained within 5 boxes, and are generally in a good condition. The collection of photographs which formed part of the MacDonagh Collection has been transferred to the National Photographic Archive, and been assigned the accession number **PC08 LOT04**. There is a catalogue of the photographic part of this Collection in **Appendix I**.

The National Library holds two other small collections relating to Thomas MacDonagh and members of his family, as well as numerous individual items. All the other relevant material is listed in **Appendix II**, which also gives details of how it came into the library.

## Arrangement

When the MacDonagh Collection came to the National Library the original order of the papers had been largely upset. The papers have now been arranged into four subgroups; the first contains the large collections of correspondence, the second other personal papers, the third material relating to the Irish Volunteers and the fourth literary papers. Within each subsection, where necessary, the material has been further separated by theme and then arranged chronologically.

## Assessment

This Collection contains an extensive set of personal letters between Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh, neé Gifford. As such it gives an important insight into the private and family life of this public figure, from one of the most important periods of Irish history. The material also shows the family relationships within the wider MacDonagh and Gifford families, through their letters and personal items.

While the Collection contains a large amount of correspondence and personal material, there is very little material relating to MacDonagh's literary work or his involvement in the Irish Volunteers. Much of this material is already held by the National Library, and is detailed and catalogued in **Appendix II**.

## Bibliography

Gillan, Patrick, 'MacDonagh, Thomas Stanislaus (1878–1916)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004)  
[www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/58820](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/58820)

Hayes, Richard J., *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation* (1965).

Hayes, Richard J., *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation, First Supplement 1965-1975* (1975).

Longley, E., 'Ledwidge, Francis Edward (1887–1917)', in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004)  
[www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34464](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/34464)

Luddy, Maria, 'Czira, Sidney (1889–1974)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005)  
[www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/58614](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/58614)

Mullin, Katherine, 'Plunkett, Joseph Mary (1887–1916)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004)  
[www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/62969](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/62969)

Mullin, Katherine, 'Gifford, Grace Evelyn Mary Vandeleur (1888–1955)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005)  
[www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/59681](http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/59681)

Norstedt, Johann A., *Thomas MacDonagh. A Critical Biography* (University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1980)

O'Neill, Marie, *Grace Gifford Plunkett and Irish Freedom. Tragic Bride of 1916* (Irish Academic Press, Dublin, 2000)

Parks, Edd Winfield and Parks, Aileen Wells, *Thomas MacDonagh. The Man. The Patriot. The Writer* (University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1967)

*Report of the Council of Trustees of the National Library of Ireland, 1947-8.*

Schrank, Bernie and Demastes, William (eds.), *Irish Playwrights 1880 -1995. A Research and Production Sourcebook* (Greenwood Press, London, 1997)

Sternlicht, Sanford, 'Colum, Pádraic (1881–1972)' in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004)  
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/62943>

## Notes on names

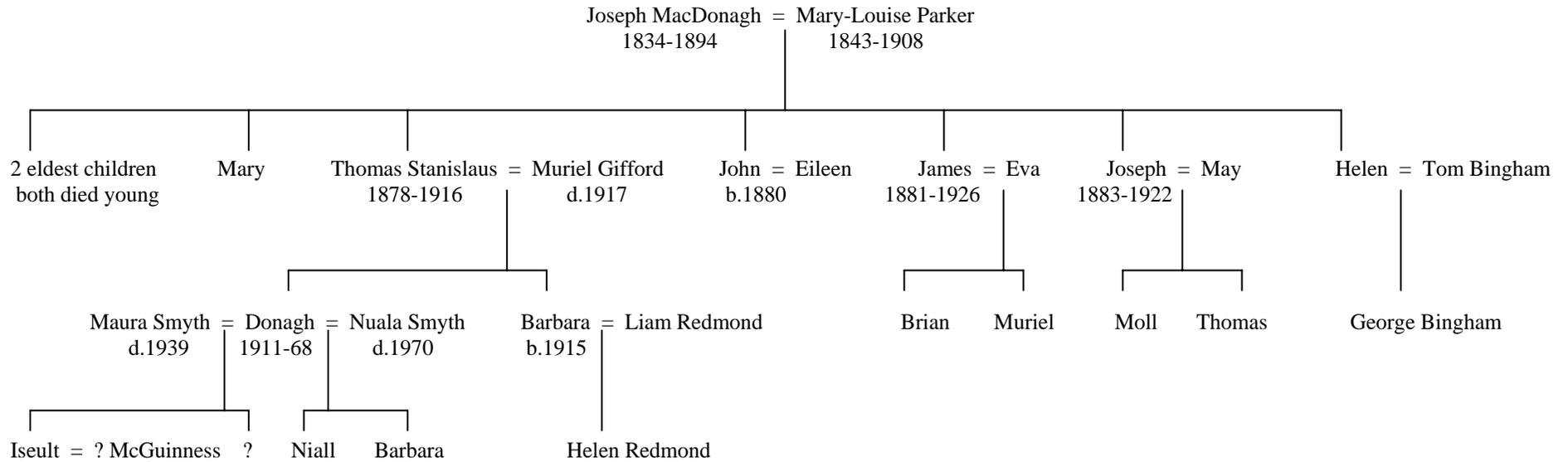
### The MacDonagh Family

Joseph MacDonagh, father of Thomas, is referred to as Joseph MacDonagh Senior throughout this list, to distinguish him from his son Joseph. The four sons of the MacDonagh family are often referred to within family documents by shortened forms of their names; Joseph as Joe, James as Jim, John as Jack and Thomas as Tom. Where this occurs the form in the document is retained. Similarly Helen MacDonagh, later Bingham, is referred to as Nell or Nellie. Mary MacDonagh took the name Sister Francesca on becoming a nun with the Sisters of Charity; she is referred to as Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca throughout this list.

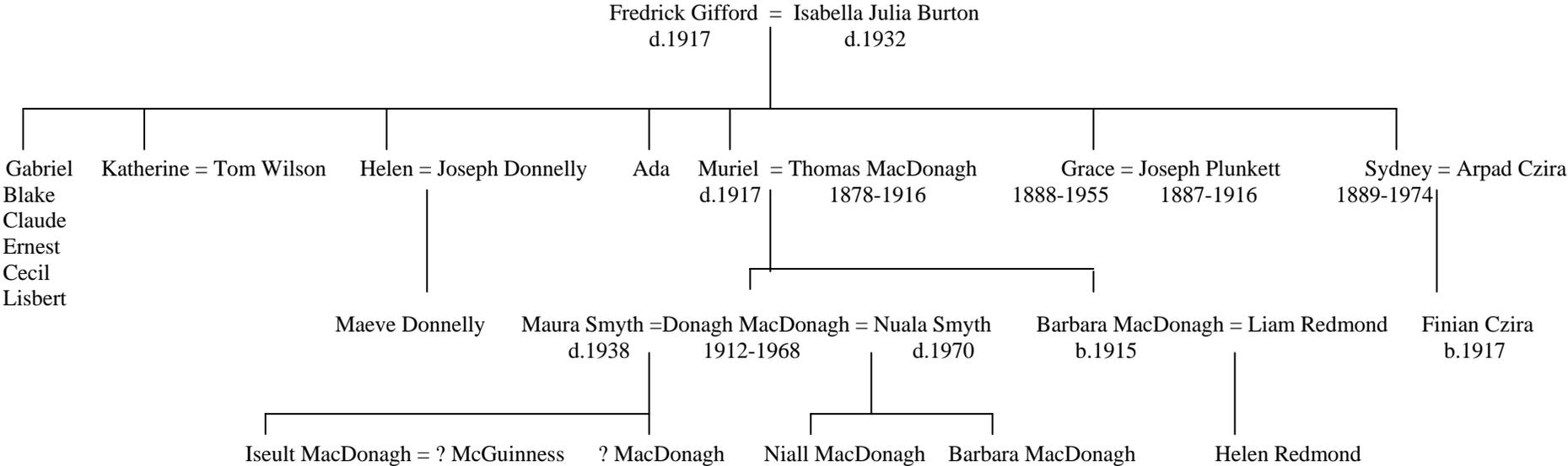
### The Gifford Family

As with the MacDonagh family, members of the Gifford family are referred to by shortened forms of their names in family documents, Katherine as Katie and Helen as Nell or Nellie. Where this form occurs it has been retained. In different places the name Sydney Gifford is spelt either Sydney or Sidney. Throughout this list it is spelt Sydney. In addition Sydney Gifford is sometimes referred to by her pen name John Brennan, when this occurs in a document her real name is appended in brackets to avoid confusion.

## MACDONAGH FAMILY TREE



### GIFFORD FAMILY TREE



## SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS OF THOMAS MACDONAGH

- Through the Ivory Gate: A Book of Verse* (Sealy, Bryers & Walkers, Dublin 1903)
- April and May with Other Verses* (Sealy, Bryers & Walkers, Dublin 1904)
- The Exodus. A Sacred Cantata*, words by Thomas MacDonagh, music by B. Palmieri  
(Doremi & Co., London, 1904)
- The Golden Joy* (O'Donoghue Press, Dublin, 1906)
- When the Dawn is Come. A Tragedy in Three Acts* (Maunsel, Dublin, 1908)
- Songs of Myself* (Hodges, Figgis & Co., Dublin, 1910)
- Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry* (Hodges, Figgis & Co., Dublin, 1913)
- Lyrical Poems* (The Irish Review, Dublin, 1913)
- Literature in Ireland. Studies Irish and Anglo-Irish* (Talbot Press, Dublin 1916)
- Last and Inspiring Address of Commandant Thomas MacDonagh* (Dublin, 1916)
- The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh* (Talbot Press, Dublin, 1916)
- Poems of the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood: Thomas MacDonagh, P.H. Pearse,  
Joseph Mary Plunkett, Sir Roger Casement*, ed. Pádraig Colum (Small,  
Maynard & Company, New York, 1916)
- Pagans. A Modern Play in Two Conversations* (Talbot Press, Dublin, 1920)

## I. CORRESPONDENCE

### I.i. Family correspondence

#### I.i.1. Thomas MacDonagh to Muriel Gifford, later MacDonagh.

This section contains the correspondence of Thomas MacDonagh with his fiancée and later wife, Muriel Gifford. During their engagement and periods of separation in their married life, when Muriel was ill or MacDonagh away on business, MacDonagh wrote nearly every day and sometimes more than once a day. Although the letters are personal, they do contain information about MacDonagh's literary works and profession life.

**microfilm**  
**p.10169**

Letters written at St. Enda's School or Grange House Lodge, to Muriel Gifford, 8 Temple Villas, Palmerston Road. These are personal letters, making arrangements to meet and to attend a play. One letter is typescript with handwritten annotations. 4 items with envelopes, **originals are with the family but microfilm copies are available.**  
July – Sep 1911  
[one item contains some Irish]

**MS 44,318 /1**  
**microfilm**  
**p.10169**

These are personal letters, subjects include arrangements to meet and discussions of their future. One letter contains a single sheet entitled 'Testimonial of Intentions', "in earnest of this I have freely given to my beloved, the said Lady Muriel, a lock of my hair (lack-lustre brown) and one penny (with a hole therein) ... it is my set intention and most [ ] wish to wed, marry and spouse the said lady". The letters also contains references to life at St. Enda's and Pádraig Pearse, as well as visits from his friends Æ [George Russell] and [James] Stephens. 8 items most with envelopes, **3 of the originals are with the family but microfilm copies are available.**  
Oct 1911

**MS 44,318 /2**  
**microfilm**  
**p.10169**

These are personal letters, subjects include arrangements to meet, finding a house and future finances, "I am writing another letter – to the Gaelic League, accepting the job ... because I see that the school [St. Enda's] may not be able to pay me any money at all ... [Pádraig] Pearse [may] work for nothing or next to same, I cannot do". Letters also contain reference to [W.B.] Yeats, Æ [George Russell] and [David] Houston. One letter contains a passage relating to the reaction of MacDonagh's family to his proposed marriage "I told her [Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca] right away, and she took it most sedately. She is troubled about religious difficulty [MacDonagh was Catholic and Muriel a Protestant] but otherwise is of course delighted by it & you, and glad too we are going to get married right away ... she wants you to go to her alone on Thursday next". Some of the letters are written during study hall at St. Enda's, "I have your cross planted

up here before me as I write. I am sure Jim Baul is [ ]. He takes after his mother in glorying in interest in things. He always makes it a point of coming up here to ask me questions and the like when I am writing in study. He has just now been up twice, and, I suppose seen your cross”.

13 items, most with envelopes, **2 originals are with the family but microfilm copies are available**

Nov 1911

[some letters contain some Irish]

**MS 44,318 /3**

These are personal letters most of the contents concerned with their forthcoming wedding, including MacDonagh’s desire to wear a kilt to the ceremony. Also included is a letter written on the eve of their wedding “Tomorrow begins life for us. My Darling, you do not know what you have brought to me and what you make me look forward to. I have lost years and years. Now we’ll make up for that – Regard I’m getting sentimental. You must be hard on me all next week, darling, and keep me on the straight and sober ... I’ll kiss you good night in future, always, always.”

3 items, 1 with its envelope

Dec 1911

**MS 44,318 /4**

Letters written at 32 Upper Baggot Street, to his wife Muriel. These are personal letters mainly concerned with Muriel’s health during her pregnancy with their first child, during which she spent time at her parent’s house [8 Temple Villas] and in the Rotunda Hospital.

5 items, most with envelopes

July – Oct 1912

[some letters contain some Irish]

**MS 44,318 /5**

These are personal letters mainly concerned with the health of Muriel after the birth of their son Donagh MacDonagh, both are staying with her parents. The letters also contain some reference to MacDonagh’s daily life and his work at UCD, and a meeting with [Douglas] Hyde.

8 items, all with envelopes

Nov 1912

**MS 44,318 /6**

These are personal letters written during Muriel’s illness after the birth of Donagh. The letters are mainly concerned with her health, and the progress of Donagh. “I have just stopped to copy the birth announcement for Sinn Féin. I suppose it is better to put it in Irish alone in that, that seems to be their custom.” There are some reference to his work at UCD and articles for ‘the [Irish] Review’.

15 items, all with envelopes

1-15 Dec 1912

**MS 44,318 /7**

These are personal letters written during Muriel’s illness after the

birth of Donagh. The letters are mainly concerned with her health, the progress of Donagh and when they are likely to return home. There are also reference to MacDonagh's work for the *Irish Review*, and his friends Gabriel [Gifford?] and [Joseph] Plunkett, whose work MacDonagh had been reading. There is also a reference to MacDonagh's own literary works "I have changed the poem for publication – I love to be working on something that has to do with you. I could not and would not, try to write poems that did not come naturally. This poem did. Others could define only something of my love but would fail to express it. Indeed the best of my love is not expressed in poems or letters or words at all – You know that. Well, I have finished this poem, and now have two editions, one for publication and one for you and me."  
14 letters, all with envelopes  
16-30 Dec 1912

**MS 44,318 /8** These are personal letters written during Muriel's illness after the birth of Donagh. The letters are mainly concerned with her health, and Donagh. There are also reference to MacDonagh's work at UCD, and his decision to apply for the position of assistant examination chief. MacDonagh also comments on the preparations for the publication of *Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry*, "[Robert] Donovan [a lecturer at UCD] was in town tonight and took me in with him ... He is delighted at my dedication of the book to him". One of the letters also contains a separate sheet with a sketch entitled 'a boy'.  
16 items, most with envelopes  
1-15 Jan 1913

**MS 44,318 /9** These are personal love letters written during Muriel's illness after the birth of Donagh. The letters mainly concern her health and Donagh. There are reference to MacDonagh's work at UCD, and some of his friends Pádraig Pearse, David Houston and Robert Donovan. He also discusses his literary work "I have just written to Vivian, and to the printers, and to [ ] with two poems ... "Night Hunt" and "Catullus: LXXVII". I do not care which he uses" [Possibly relating to publication in *The Irish Review*, Night Hunt was first published there in Feb. 1913]. "I have just typed off a notice of my book [*Thomas Campion*] for [Hodges and] Figgis to send to the papers. My lectures I must do in the morning". There is talk of future plans "in 1915 I will be D.Litt and will be publishing book after book, please the Lord".  
15 items, all with envelopes  
16-30 Jan 1913

**MS 44,319 /1** These are personal letters written during Muriel's illness after the birth of Donagh. The letters mainly concern her health and Donagh. There are references to MacDonagh's work at UCD, and for the *Irish Review*, as well as his meeting with or writing to Pádraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett, Arthur Griffith and Edward

Martyn. "Edward [Martyn] was delighted to see me. He says that he has decided that with the exception of [W.B.] Yeats there is no one he know that has [a] sense of literature like me ... he wants my opinion on a list of things he has thought of since our last conversation". MacDonagh also discusses the possible publication of a new book of poems, "I have been working – not at exams, as I ought to be, - but at a book of poems. I must get that out of the way next by publishing it. I have now put into it all the poems I want published ... 8 Images, 12 Inscriptions, 20 Early Poems, 4 Translations, 6 New Poems – 50 poems, 1480 lines, 124 pages". [This clearly refers to *Lyrical Poems* although some poems were cut before publication]. "I will wait till I see the complete book tomorrow. I will keep the first copy for you, darling ... It will be four times anything I have yet published. I think the last poem, ending with our "Postscriptum" will be a better dedication than "to my wife" that Lynd & [James] Stephens and Campbell & all the boys use". [*Lyrical Poems* was dedicated 'to Muriel and Donagh MacDonagh].

17 items, all with original envelopes  
1-16 Feb 1913

**MS 44,319 /2**

Letters, and one telegram, written on trips to Galway and Dungannon, to Muriel MacDonagh, 32 Upper Baggot Street. One letter is from a visit made by MacDonagh in March to Galway to canvas support for his application for the chair in English at the university. The rest of the letters date from a visit to Dungannon, where MacDonagh was an examiner for the Intermediate Education Board. The letters are personal letters mainly concerned with his trip, the area and his work. Letters also refer to Pádraic Colum, Pádraig Pearse, and Robert Donovan who MacDonagh hopes will support him in a dispute at UCD over MacDonagh's lecturing style. One letter includes a programme for the cinema he attended, and one includes a separate letter addressed to his son Donagh, who has just cut his second tooth.

12 items, most with original envelopes  
5 March and 16-23 June 1913

**MS 44,319 /3**

Letters written at 32 Upper Baggot Street, to Muriel MacDonagh, during her stay in two nursing homes. These are personal letters, mainly concerned with Muriel's health "When you come back to me now in some days, darling, we shall begin a new stage in our life. The first stage was from before 30.IX.1911 to 3.I.1912 [their courtship]. The second 3.I.1912-22.XI.1913 [date of their marriage to birth of Donagh], the third 22.XI.1912 to the day you come back [Muriel's prolonged and recurring illness after the birth of Donagh]. The fourth will, I think, be very like the second. It will be our married life, with you and me being together". There are also details about Donagh, who has remained with MacDonagh and is being looked after by 'Lisheen'. The letters also concern references to the final drafts of *Lyrical Poems*,

MacDonagh sends proofs for comments and corrections to Muriel and [Joseph] Plunkett. One of the letters is typescript, with handwritten annotations and contains a poem;

“You with all gifts of grace have this one gift, -

Or simple power, - your way of life to lift

For use of love out of the common way

Of conduct where with all till now it lay.

You hold no secret of yourself from you,

But rightly do what’s in your heart to do.

You hold no secret of yourself from me.

And rightly see in me what is to see.

So you, surrendering every defence,

Yield not, but hold the perfect reticence

Of intimate love. – we have no need of speech.

Or knowledge even, our perfect trust to reach.

Our Acts we guard not, and we go our ways

Free, though together now for all our days”

[an extended version of this poem was published posthumously under the title ‘To My Lady’ in *The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh* (1916)]

17 items most with envelopes

30 Oct – 15 Nov 1913

**MS 44,319 /4**

Letters written on trips to Charleville, county Cork, and Derry on Irish Volunteer’s business. These are personal letters, mainly dealing with MacDonagh’s journeys. They also give some details of his activities “The meeting was a great success, and I spoke to my perfect satisfaction. I am now expecting seven delegates from the difficult corps of [Irish] Volunteers in the city here to consult with me about local affairs.”

3 items, with envelopes

18-19 April and 20 May 1914

**MS 44,319 /5**

Letters written in Carlow where MacDonagh was working as an examiner for the Intermediate Education Board, to Muriel MacDonagh, 29 Oakley Road, Dublin, also includes one note written during a night spent away from Muriel in Dublin. These are personal letters, mainly concerned with family matters, especially their new daughter Barbara. “I have got going on my poem to Barbara, but have not finished it. I hope it will come” and later “I have not finished Barbara’s poem. It is still a fragment, but I have got the rhythm, and that is the great thing with me”.

[‘Barbara’ was published in *The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh* (1916)] MacDonagh also includes three letters to his son, Donagh.

11 items, most with envelopes

15-22 June and 18 Sep 1915

[some letters include some Irish]

**MS 44,319 /6**

Copy of last letter and will of Thomas MacDonagh, copied by

Muriel MacDonagh and [ ] Plunkett and given to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca. "I Thomas MacDonagh, having heard the sentence of the Court Martial held on me today, declare that in all my acts – all the acts for which I have been arraigned – I have been actuated by one motive only, the love of my country, the desire to make her a sovereign independent state. I still hope and pray that my acts may have for consummation her lasting pardon and happiness. I am to die at dawn, 3.30 am, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, I am ready to die and I thank God that I die in so holy a cause. ... The one bitterness that death has for me is the separation it brings from my beloved wife Muriel, and my beloved children Donagh and Barbara. My county will take them as wards I hope ... it breaks my heart to think that I shall never see my children again, but I have not wept or mourned." MacDonagh detailed his poor financial situation, appoints David Houston and Joseph MacDonagh to help his family, and Joseph Plunkett, "[if] he survives me" as his literary executor. He then writes final messages to his children and wife, "I have but one trouble in leaving life – leaving you son. Be brave darling. God will assist and bless you. Good bye, kiss my darlings for me, I send you the few things I have saved out of this war. Good Bye my love, till we meet again in heaven, I have a sure faith of our union there. ... But for your suffering, this would be all joy and glory. Good bye."; 5pp

2 May 1916

[for photostat of original see **MS 15,003 /1**]

**MS 44,319 /7**

Two undated letters. The first letter is written during October 1911, MacDonagh insists he was not making love to John Brennan [Sydney Gifford] as Muriel accuses him. [Muriel's letters to MacDonagh making reference to the same events is dated 8 October]. MacDonagh also refers to Muriel's family, "I like John [Brennan, Sydney Gifford] and Nellie [Gifford] and Grace [Gifford] very much – Nellie, I think, the most, but my liking for them is as different as the spheres from my love for you, Muriel". The second letter is a note written from Kilkenny giving the time of his return home, it is written after the birth of their son, c.1913-4

2 items

undated, Oct 1911 and c.1913-4

## I.i.2. Muriel Gifford, later MacDonagh to Thomas MacDonagh

This section contains the correspondence of Muriel Gifford with his fiancée and later husband, Thomas MacDonagh. The correspondence covers the period of their engagement and periods of separation in their married life, when Muriel was ill or MacDonagh away on business. As with MacDonagh Muriel wrote nearly every day and sometime more than once a day, although less frequently during her periods of illness.

- MS 44,320 /1** Letters from 8 Temple Villas to St. Enda's School. These are formal letters of invitation or acceptance of invitations.  
3 items all with envelopes  
7 Aug 1909, Feb. 1910 and undated
- MS 44,320 /2** Letters to Grange House Lodge, letters are personal letters mainly concerned with arrangements to meet, Muriel's jealousy of other women, including her sisters, and her desire for MacDonagh to wear his kilt. She also dwells on her difficulty in concealing her engagement from her parents, "I must commence by telling you that my mother did see us meeting yesterday – when I came home 'Jonathan' rushed out to open the door and warn me. So I had my [ ] ready when I came into the room – Your name is Mr Homan. I really feel ashamed of myself, dearest, that I should deny YOU". She also conceals MacDonagh's friends, "I hadn't seen [Frank] Cruise O'Brien since you introduced him to me – well I was in Grafton Street today with my mother, & [greeted] him there – of course she asked who he was & I told her the truth of course (I don't think – as you would say)". Muriel also comments on her mother's hostility to Roman Catholics, "[Mother] is mad with us for going to this lecture, as she says under the patronage of the priests, & with a Jesuit in the Chair. Now she regards Jesuits as something worse than demons. I think she is afraid that some more of her daughters may marry Catholics (sorry – Roman catholics.)" Muriel is also concerned about the damage marriage may do MacDonagh, "My Poor Boy, it makes me miserable to think that I may keep you back & spoil your life for you – how I wish my darling that I could be some use to you instead of another weight of responsibility."  
13 items, all with envelopes  
13 Sep and 3-31 Oct 1911 and undated
- MS 44,320 /3** These are personal letters, mainly concerned with arranging meeting and their future together, 'don't talk to me about our bungalow [the MacDonaghs originally intended to live in Grange House Lodge after their marriage] or as if it was not good enough for me – you know how much I love you – I adore you my love, and if you were actually destitute I would a million times rather tramp with you than marry the wealthiest man in the world ... so please don't talk of my making sacrifices". Their lack of money is a worry "there is just one thing I want to say to you, dearest, and it

is this – let us not get married until you think it would be wise to do so – I suppose it really would be madness to start off with a debt – and you are one of those open handed people, darling, that would live up to every penny you got”. Muriel also talks of her life at home, and of her visit to meet MacDonagh’s sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca “I really love your sister ... I don’t know how she remains so fresh and energy – I think a convent would give me melancholic there is such a holy look about everything there.” At the end of the month Muriel told her parents about her engagement, “My mother took it very badly – much worse than I could have imagined – what about it – I suppose she will get over it some time – my father kept perfectly silent about the whole thing – thank Heavens I got my lecture in public – I don’t at all appreciate these heart-to-heart talks – Nellie [Gifford] and ‘Jonathan’ were present and joined me in boosting you – wasn’t it decent of them.”

11 items, with envelopes, one letter contains a pressed flower  
Nov 1911

[1 item is damaged with a piece missing]

**MS 44,320 /4**

These are personal letters mainly concerned with the forthcoming wedding and setting up house, “I brought my mother round today to see the flat & she was quite charmed with the rooms ... I think I brought her round in more than one way ... [she] has promised us some spoons & forks, & says she has a lot of things in her china closet that she’ll never use again.” Although both families are reconciled to the match, there are still some difficulties, “it was really absurd of me to think of letting you join on Thursday to see your sister – I must not be so lacking in courage. I’ll go in myself & tell her that there is no chance of my becoming a Catholic. You know darling, she was very nice about the whole thing & I really love her very much.”

6 items, all with envelopes

1-27 Dec 1911 and 2 Jan 1912

**MS 44,320 /5**

Letters from 8 Temple Villas, where Muriel was recovering after the birth of Donagh, to 32 Upper Baggot Street. These are personal letters mainly concerned with Muriel’s health and the baby, “We are coming home to you soon ... I am so delighted that you love him so much – I am never so happy as when you are here with him in your arms talking to him”. Muriel also talks of her difficult relationship with her mother, “Don’t imagine I am always unhappy here, dearest - really Mother is most decent to me when you are away – I think it is from sheer contrariness that she talks about you coddling me, & she resents your thinking that I am not cared for in this house”.

5 items, with envelopes

Dec 1912 and 31 Jan 1913

**MS 44,320 /6**

Letters from 32 Upper Baggot Street to Galway and Dungannon,

where MacDonagh was working. These are personal letters mainly concerned with Muriel's daily activities and descriptions of Donagh. "They boy was delightful in town today – one of the men in Brown & Thomas clicked his fingers at him, & the boy immediately started making up to him ... he tried to do some shoplifting at the silk counter & also at the patterns department at Swityer's. When I finally moved on he nearly fell out of the car ... his tooth is progressing nicely, thank you." There are also reference to John [Brennan Sydney Gifford] who was staying with Muriel, and the MacDonagh's mutual friends [Pádraig] Pearse and Edward Martyn, "[he] is certainly a champion rubber, met him today in Grafton St. & he nearly slipped off the pavement looking after me – but the boy returned his stare – he is able now to look round the side of the hood after people". Muriel also talks of a visit to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca.

9 items, with envelopes

March and 16-23 June 1913

**MS 44,320 /7**

Letters from two nursing homes where Muriel was recovering from illness. The letters are mainly about her health, how much she misses MacDonagh and Donagh, and her wish to return home, "I want to try & make things nice for you my poor darling – I feel like Cathleen ni Houlihan, (or Hooligan as Lisheen calls her) that there are too many strangers in the house. I want to have you to myself, in order to tyrannise over you". Muriel is also reading the proof of MacDonagh's new book *Lyrical Poems*, "I have been reading "The Golden Joy" – thank you darling for bringing it in to me – I was also reading the same part of your book simultaneously & I think you have made great improvements in them – my book is going to be a great one darling."

9 items, with envelopes

6-15 Nov 1913

**MS 44,320 /8**

Letters from 32 Upper Baggot Street and 29 Dalkey Road to Kilkenny, Derry, Charleville and Carlow where MacDonagh was away on business. These are personal letters mainly about family life, and the children, "the moment we came in Don[agh MacDonagh] pesters the life out of me to let him write a letter to Dadden ... the little darling adores Dadden, and I know someone else who does the same, darling". Muriel refers to visits and letters from their friends and members of MacDonagh's family "your sister sent me a sweet little silk bonnet ... so I set down at once & wrote to thank her for them – she really is too decent for anything – all your family are utterly, utterly decent, darling – Jack [MacDonagh] came over this afternoon ... and offered to take Don[agh MacDonagh] out tomorrow morning". Muriel shows support of MacDonagh's political activities "I hope the meeting was a success ... I love you darling & I want you to do fine things for the [Irish] Volunteers – I hope you didn't think last night that I was standing in the way of your going."

14 items, most with envelopes  
5 March, 18 April, 20 May and 15-22 June 1914

### **I.i.3. Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh with their children Donagh and Barbara**

See also **MS 44,319 /2** and **MS 44,319 /5** for further letters from Thomas MacDonagh to his son, enclosed within letters to Muriel.

- MS 44,321 /1** Letters written by Thomas MacDonagh, 32 Upper Baggot Street to Donagh MacDonagh, addressed care of Muriel MacDonagh, on the occasion of his birth and on the day he was one month old. Letters are full of fatherly pride and wishes for the future, “I must myself formally congratulate you on having such a mother. You are the most fortunate child in the world, as I am the most fortunate man. Please god we three are going to have a long and happy and loving life together”  
2 items, with envelopes  
22 Nov and 22 Dec 1912
- MS 44,321 /2** Letters written by Thomas MacDonagh in Carlow, while away working, to Donagh MacDonagh. These are personal letters containing descriptions of what he has seen and stories, mainly about animals, made up by MacDonagh. Also includes one undated note, probably written at the same time  
5 items, most with envelopes  
16-22 June 1915 and undated  
[some items contain some Irish]
- MS 44,321 /3** Letters written by Donagh MacDonagh, 29 Dalkey Rd, to Thomas MacDonagh. These are personal letters asking for “Dadden to come home to Don”, and telling him what he has been doing.  
4 items, some with envelopes  
17-19 June 1915 and undated
- MS 44,321 /4** Letter written by Thomas MacDonagh in Carlow, while away working, to Barbara MacDonagh. Letter is about MacDonagh’s concern for her health and the poem he is writing for her, “This is only to say that I am so engrossed in writing your poem at last that I can not write letters to anyone”. [‘Barbara’ was published in *The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh* (1916)]  
1 item, with envelope  
21 June 1915
- MS 44,321 /5** Postcards written by Muriel MacDonagh to Donagh while he was in hospital with tuberculosis and she was on holiday in Skerries. Also contains a sheet of paper in which the cards were wrapped, on it in Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca’s hand “These cards written by poor Muriel to Don. Fearing he would tear them I took them to keep them for him later. His mothers love appears in

every line. Alas! For the children who have lost such a kind loving noble mother.”

9 items

July 1917

#### **I.i.4. Correspondence of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca**

Mary MacDonagh, eldest sister of Thomas MacDonagh, became Sister Francesca in 1895 when she entered the Sisters of Charity Convent, Dublin. She seems to have taken a central role in looking after the interests of her siblings, especially her brothers, and keeping the family in contact. She remained close to Muriel after MacDonagh’s death, and to their two children. In the aftermath of the MacDonagh’s death she took responsibility for preserving their personal and literary papers and protecting them during the War of Independence, for an account of this see **MS 44,336 /1**

See also **Section I.ii.** in **Appendix II** for further correspondence

- MS 44,322 /1** Personal letters and postcards from Muriel MacDonagh mainly concerned with arranging visits and sending thanks for presents sent to the children. Also includes one letter from the same to the Mother Superior of the convent thanking her for a gift of a pair of slippers.  
7 items, some with envelopes  
1911-15
- MS 44,322 /2** Letter from Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca to her brother Thomas MacDonagh. This is a personal letter, full of family concern about their brother Joe, who is ill due to his financial and possibly matrimonial troubles.  
1 item, with envelope  
[15 June 1915]
- MS 44,322 /3** Christmas greeting, written on the back of a playbill for his play *Author! Author!* from Jack MacDonagh.  
December 1915  
1 item
- MS 44,322 /4** Personal letters from Muriel MacDonagh mainly concerned with the difficulties arising from the death of Thomas MacDonagh. Muriel is experiencing financial problems, “Tristan tells me that the insurance people have been raising difficulties about paying, but I suppose it will be alright”, although she got some support “from the “Volunteer Aid Association” – the one with which my name is connected, not the National Aid Association, which never came near me.” The letters also refer to the removal of her possession and her move to a new house.  
5 items, some with envelopes  
June – Dec 1916

- MS 44,322 /5** Letter from Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca to her brother Jim MacDonagh, concerned with the death and burial of Thomas. “His face was covered with his handkerchief he was dripping with blood his hands clasped & wounded. There he lies on his uniform with his brave, pure, high souled friends. Truly a goodly company. No coffin holds them, & he who in his poems asked that a rose tree should be planted on his grave has not even a hallowed sod over him. The priest who buried him told me this.” Mary also talks of the treatment the family has received as a result. Joe MacDonagh, a civil servant, has been persecuted being moved to a new position with a large salary reduction “such a change was never made of a man in his position, especially one that never was accused of a fault during his 9½ years service, that he well knew the real reason of the transfer, viz. being brother of T[ho]mas.” Also Muriel “[whose] future will be I think secured & the children’s education will be seen to. She is still looking for a house & now one of the Plunketts will let her one on [a] nice road.” Also “his [Thomas] works will bring her in some [money]. She is to get £30 for sale up to present of Literature [in Ireland].” Included with the letter are three poems relating to the Rising copied in Mary’s hand. All are enclosed with an envelope with the inscription, “Poor Jim kept this letter I wrote him re Tom’s death in 1916, all the years until his own death 1926. [ ] got it among his papers & brought it home.”  
4 items, with envelope  
5 Sep 1916
- MS 44,322 /6** Letter from Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca to her brother John MacDonagh, imprisoned in Frongoch Camp, North Wales, contains copies of poems relating to the Easter Rising; 1 item  
c.1916-7  
See **MS 20,647 /3** for replies
- MS 44,322 /7** Personal letters and cards from Muriel MacDonagh mainly concerned with arranging visits and family news, especially the illness of Donagh MacDonagh. Muriel is also contemplating another move “but doubt if its advantages would outweigh the fact that I have put a good deal of money & work into this house ... also I am not at all anxious to make an eight change within the year”. Also included is a sheet of paper in which the letters were wrapped with the following inscription, “I put this parcel together on July 12 1917 Her first night in her grave a lovely summer night with red sun [ ] in West. Poor darling. Muriel’s letters to me. RIP Monday July 9.1917”  
8 items, some with envelopes  
Jan – July 1917
- MS 44,323 /1** Letters to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, from various correspondents, topics include the illness of her nephew Donagh,

the death of Muriel, “I shall get all the others to prayers I can, to beg of the good God to leave the dear Children with their father’s relations. . . . Poor little Don[agh MacDonagh] will miss his loved mother very much”, and the death of Fr. Albert. Contains one letter from Katie Gifford-Wilson, sister of Muriel, thanking Mary for her sympathy on the death of her brother.

9 items, some with envelopes  
1917, 1933 and 1934

**MS 44,323 /2** Letters from Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca to Muriel MacDonagh, these are personal letters, one written on the anniversary of Muriel’s wedding in 1917, also includes a poem in Mary’s hand, inscribed to Muriel.  
3 items  
1917 and undated

**MS 44,323 /3** Letters to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca from her brother Joe MacDonagh, during his imprisonment in Mountjoy and Read Jail, “you will be surprised to hear I have been arrested for making speeches under the Defence of the Realm Act . . . I go before the magistrate tomorrow & expect to be handed over by him to the military authorities. I daresay I shall get two years without hard labour”. Includes one letter from an official at Reading Jail, asking on behalf of Joe MacDonagh for information on the health of his nephew Donagh MacDonagh.  
4 item some with envelopes  
1917-19  
See **MS 20,647 /2** for replies

**MS 44,323 /4** Postcards and one letter to Mary MacDonagh from her nephew Donagh MacDonagh, with a small book of fairytales he gave her. Also includes one letters to Mary from her niece “Jessie”.  
10 items, one with envelope  
undated

### **I.i.5. Other family correspondence**

This section contains correspondence between other members of the Gifford and MacDonagh family, mostly involving Muriel or Thomas.

**MS 44,324 /1** Letter to Mary-Louise MacDonagh neé Parker from the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, accepting her story *Three Tipperary Boys* for publication.  
1 item with envelope  
2 August 1907

**MS 44,324 /2** Letters from Mary-Louise MacDonagh neé Parker to her son Thomas MacDonagh, mainly concerned with family matters, one asks him to write “when you have any news”. There is also a note

- on the bottom from his sister Nell MacDonagh.  
2 items, one with envelope  
Aug – Sep 1908
- MS 44,324 /3** Letters from Sydney Gifford and Nellie Gifford [Muriel’s sisters] to Thomas MacDonagh. These are personal letters, one from Sydney enclosing a letter from her sister Nellie, who wants help translating some text into Irish.  
3 items with envelope  
April 1909 and undated
- MS 44,324 /4** Letters and a postcard from Jack MacDonagh to his brother Thomas, also includes one to his sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca. These are personal letters written from trips to America, the letters deal with his work and his views of America. The brother also discuss their literary works, “you suggested the plot [of Jack’s play] might do for the Abbey, but I have endeavoured to broaden the appeal to make it acceptable in the regular theatres, however as there would be great difficulties, I presume, in getting an ordinary business manager to produce it the Abbey would be a splendid place to try”.  
6 items, some with envelopes  
1909-14
- MS 44,324 /5** Letters to Muriel MacDonagh from her sisters Ada, Nellie and Sydney Gifford, these are personal letters mainly concerned with family news. Also includes part of a letter to Muriel possibly from one of her sister  
5 item, with one envelope  
1911, Aug [1915], 1916 and undated
- MS 44,324 /6** Letters from Isabella Gifford [Muriel’s mother] to Thomas MacDonagh. These are personal letters, one is making arrangements for MacDonagh’s wedding, the other apologising for annoying MacDonagh and inviting him and “the little family on xmas day”.  
2 items, one with envelope  
3 Jan 1912 and 21 Dec 1915
- MS 44,325 /1** Letters from Fredrick and Isabella Gifford to their daughter Muriel MacDonagh. These are personal letters, two are concerned with wedding presents sent to Muriel. Two letters ask for news about Nell Gifford who has not written to her parents for two months  
5 items, some with envelopes.  
1912, 1914 and 1916
- MS 44,325 /2** Letters from Jim MacDonagh to his brother Thomas MacDonagh, these are personal letters, one dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 1916 begins “We were all surprised to hear of the Dublin affair [the Easter Rising].

I hope by now all is over & no friends injured in any way. What is the cause of it all? Indeed I wish the war was over we see some terrible results here at concerts etc. blinded soldiers & the like poor fellows it all seems dreadful.”

2 items one with envelope

20 Jan and 26 April 1916

**MS 44,325 /3** Note to Muriel MacDonagh from [Jack MacDonagh] written during Easter Rising. “All is well & I am in Stephens Green. MacD is safe –also all leaders. Connolly in G.P.O. – now headquarters & Seán Connolly in Dublin Castle. The republican flag over both God Save Ireland Cork & Kerry are up since 4 this morning. Love and will send again.”  
1 item  
April 1916

**MS 44,325 /4** Postcard from Jack MacDonagh to his nephew Donagh in hospital.  
1 item  
July 1917

**MS 44,325 /5** Letter to Muriel MacDonagh from her sister-in-law Helen Bingham neé MacDonagh, asking for news especially of Don[agh] MacDonagh.  
1 item  
undated, c.1917

### I.ii. Pádraic Colum

Born in Longford Pádraic Colum moved to Dublin in 1897, where he began writing plays and poetry. He joined the Gaelic League and the Abbey Theatre Board, and mixed with the leading Irish writers of the day. In 1911 Colum founded the *Irish Review* with David Houston, Thomas MacDonagh and James Stevens. The financial problems of the *Review* came to a head in 1913 causing difficulties amongst the founders. Joseph Plunkett took over the responsibility for the debts, as well as replacing Colum as editor. In 1914 Colum and his wife Mary neé Maguire moved to America.

See **MS 33,567 /1** and **MS 20,642 /4** for further correspondence

**MS 44,326 /1** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh, the letters are concerned with the literary ambitions of each, as well as mutual friends. Colum is working on *Wild Earth* and sends verses for MacDonagh’s criticism, “Thanks very much for the criticism of the verses I sent you. I cut out the stanza you disliked, but afterwards put it back amended”. MacDonagh is also “thank[ed] very much for the title and for the interest that made you evolve it. I shall, of course, credit you in the book”. Colum also passes on news of their Dublin friends “[W.B.] Yeats is in town and I fancy he’ll be here

for some time ... The Fays Brother [William and Frank Fay] have resigned from the Abbey theatre, and I don't know what Yeats is going to do about carry on the theatre." Colum also offers MacDonagh literary advice "And now about your own play [*When the Dawn is Come*] I know the Abbey Theatre people were considering the play ... Do not be disheartened for a moment. We all have to re-shape our work, sometimes more than once, when that work is for the stage. I would advice you to adopt Yeats suggestions, I am certain he has gone into the play thoroughly."  
5 items, with envelopes  
1907

**MS 44,326 /2**

Letters, two written from London where Colum was looking for work, mainly concerned with literary topics. Colum was working on several plays and poems, as well as sketches, "some of my sketches in the Nation attracted attention. My editor paid me the complement of a congratulation and offered me more work. The Morning Leader and the Manchester Guardian made offers too." Colum also asks about MacDonagh's work, "I was much interested to hear about your own play. I hope it will go on and I hope I will be in Dublin to see it on." He also thanks MacDonagh for the review of *Wild Earth* he wrote for *The Leader*, "You have quoted what I would like to see quoted, and your article would interest people in the book ... By the way, your article was well-written"  
3 items, with envelopes  
1908

**MS 44,326 /3**

Letters concerned with literary topics and the *Irish Review*. Letters contain Colum's congratulations on MacDonagh's degree and his publication of *Thomas Campion*, although "after I had started the book I felt the worst person in the world to write about it. I don't know anything about rhapsody, nor music, no classic Companys". One letter is concerned with the sale of the *Irish Review* and the difficulties this created between Colum, MacDonagh and David Houston. "he [David Houston] had stated on more than one occasion that it was not necessary to consult you about the affairs of the Irish review. Why? Because your interests in it were not vital. I did not admit that before but I proclaim it now." Colum also states his objections to Joseph Plunkett taking over the review. "he [David Houston] should not (granting that he thought your interests were not vital) have made you aware that I was holding Plunkett back ... I do not greatly care [who takes over] because I have to relinquish the editorship of the Irish Review. But I do care about an organ of free opinion in Ireland. I have a great respect for Plunkett but I know that he is a delicate young man and may have to put the whole thing aside on a doctor's order."  
3 items, with envelopes  
c.1910 and Feb – June 1913

**MS 44,326 /4**

Letters to Muriel MacDonagh, these letters are concerned with the publication of *Poems of the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood* in American, a volume of poems by Pádraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett and Thomas MacDonagh. “they [the publishers] asked me to advise them, and very much to my satisfaction, I was able to write an Introduction that has some appreciation of a life that I loved. The publishers agreed to pay a ten per cent royalty to be divided between you and Mrs Pearse and Mrs Plunkett. Under ordinary circumstance this would not amount to much, but the book has sold out an edition already, had gone into a second, and will, very likely go into a third”. Colum also discusses the need for an American edition of the complete works of MacDonagh. Also included is a copy of a letter from Colum to the Talbot Press, Dublin dealing with American copyright issues relating to the publication of the book of poems.

3 items one with envelope

6 Oct 1916 and 1 Feb 1917

### **I.iii. Dominick Hackett**

Dominick Hackett was born in Kilkenny where his father was a physician, he first met Thomas MacDonagh in the Gaelic League in Kilkenny c.1901. They developed a close personal friendship which was sustained by continued correspondence after Hackett emigrated to America, c.1904-6. Hackett was also closely acquainted with Jack MacDonagh, who visited him in America.

For copies of Thomas MacDonagh letters to Hackett see **Appendix II Section I.iii.**

**MS 44,327 /1**

Letters to Thomas MacDonagh, these are personal letters and show a shared interest with many of MacDonagh’s views. Hackett felt “impelled to subscribe for the [St. Enda’s] school because I am profoundly convinced of its importance ... had [George] Moore or G.B. Shaw or a dozen others been educated at St. Enda’s what a different aspect would Irish affairs be in to-day. Yes it is sad to think that every movement that is worth while in Ireland had to be subsidized from here [America].” Hackett also offers criticism of the *Irish Review* which he feel dose not “adhered closely enough to the policy laid down in the preface”. Hackett supports MacDonagh’s application for a professorship at Galway University but fears “the fact that you have a “convert” as an opponent is a very bad sign. Do you not know that the more recently one has shown an interest in Catholicism the more one is appreciated. It does not matter whether ones ancestors for 4 generations have ruined themselves in order to support the Catholic Religion in Ireland he is forgotten in the sacred presence of a “convert”.” The letters also contain frequent reference to MacDonagh’s family, especially Jack MacDonagh as well as the Miss Giffords.

4 items most with envelopes  
April – Dec 1911

- MS 44,326 /2** Personal letters, containing family news, thoughts on books read and support for MacDonagh's activities, "I was Greatly interested to hear of your book on Literature [*Thomas Campion*] and I hope it will be reviews in the *New Republic* when it appears ... I was very interested in the Irish Theatre and glad to hear that Jack [MacDonagh] has found some place for his talents." Hackett also asks for news from Ireland which is difficult to obtain in wartime, "I hear very little news from Ireland and was glad to learn all you told me. I do not know how far the censor operates but I get none of the papers which give the news that tells of real conditions."  
3 items, one without envelope  
1913-5
- MS 44,326 /3** Personal letters, mainly concerned with family news and with subscriptions to the *Irish Review*, also includes Christmas card.  
3 items  
undated

#### I.iv. David Houston

David Houston was a professor at the College of Science in Dublin. He met Thomas MacDonagh after he moved to Dublin in 1908. Houston took a fatherly interest in MacDonagh, he was his landlord at Grange House Lodge, and the two became close friends. Houston was a co-founder of the *Irish Review*, and provided much of the financial backing, as well as standing guarantor to MacDonagh's personal loans. MacDonagh appointed Houston his literary executor, in case of the death of Joseph Plunkett, and Houston provided help and support to Muriel MacDonagh during the last year of her life.

See **MS 10,854 /5** for a further letter

- MS 44,328 /1** Letter to Thomas MacDonagh, mainly concerned with the establishment of the *Irish Review*, "[I am] suggesting that each of "the three" [MacDonagh, Pádraic Colum and James Stevens] should draft a copy incorporating their ideas & that we should then meet & lick the thing into its final shape ... the draft can be printed & used for the purpose of getting contributors names." He also congratulates MacDonagh "on your little book of Song [of Myself]. I think I like the "Envoi" the best ... John-John stands by itself & I hope you will do more like it".  
1 items without envelope  
c.1910 [undated]
- MS 44,328 /2** Letters concerned with the sale of the *Irish Review* and the divisions between its founders, "I won't venture to express on paper what my feelings are with respect to [Pádraic] Colum. It

hurts one to see ones friends display a meanness of spirit & over this matter of the Review his suspicions are mean. With Mrs Colum I'm afraid both of us are writ large in her black book for ever and for ever."

4 items one with envelope

11 June 1913 and c.1913 [undated]

- MS 44,328 /3** Incomplete letter from [Muriel MacDonagh] to Houston, "you are forgiven conditionally. The condition is that you send me that analysis of the [ ] & also my copy of "When the Dawn is Come".  
1 item  
27 June 1917

- MS 44,328 /4** Personal letters, one relating to a visit by Houston to MacDonagh's house when all the family were out, also mentions Æ [George Russell]. Another relates to the misbehaviour of MacDonagh's dog Flip while being looked after by Houston, "if you want to save you indelicate canine from the fury of our domestics you had better lose no time! ... he has quite charming manners but his customs tested by ordinary domestic standards are low, vulgar & entirely impossible ... for the love of God, take him away else bloody murder will be committed under our honest roof".  
3 items, without envelopes  
undated

### **I.v. Joseph Plunkett**

Joseph Plunkett was born in Dublin in 1887, the son of George Noble, Count Plunkett. He studied in Dublin and Lancashire, he took an interest in Irish Heritage and language, and joined the Gaelic League. Through the league he met Thomas MacDonagh who tutored him in Irish. The two became close friends, and Plunkett acted as godfather to Donagh. In 1913 he assumed the editorship of the *Irish Review* which became increasingly politicised under his editorship. In 1915 he joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and was one of the original members who planned the Easter Rising. Hours before his execution he married his fiancée Grace Gifford, the sister of Muriel MacDonagh.

See also **Appendix 2 Section I.iv.** for further letters

- MS 44,329 /1** Letters and postcards to MacDonagh, subjects include lessons from Frank Fay, "he is certainly a wonderful man, knows a tremendous lot and has great enthusiasm – but I suppose his sense of humour is reposing, neatly folded, in the proper basket." There is also discussion of the *Irish Review*, and what should be included and who should be asked for contributions, Plunkett suggests MacDonagh and Frank Cruise O'Brien.  
4 items, one with envelope  
1912 – 1913

**MS 44,329 /2** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh mainly concerned with the *Irish Review* and MacDonagh's literary work. "I have just read your play [possibly *Pagans*]. It is not a play, it is a poem. Or if you will have it a play, it is a Dream-play. ... To be frank, prose is not good enough for it – even your prose. I am in a rage with you for having attempted to writ it in prose. Why will you deny your creation its proper style and dignity?" One letter is also concerned with the Irish Volunteers, it is addressed to "the Commander Company C Batt. II Irish Volunteers", and states "Good news from Wicklow. Have heard generally expressed desire for big parade of armed Volunteers to back up [John] Redmond's demand for immediate practical steps to put H[ome] R[ule] Bill into effect." Also includes a short note from MacDonagh to Plunkett with details of the April issue of the *Irish Review*.  
4 items, none with envelopes  
1914

**MS 44,329 /3** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh mainly concerned with Plunkett's health, one letter deals with problems with the production of a play, possibly at the Irish Theatre, "I went down to the rehearsal and waited till 'Fred' came. Then I waited some more. Then as there was no sign of stage furniture or dress of "Gladys" or of the other three knowing their parts I took the opportunity of telling Fred that I thought the whole thing was a trifle too casual." Also includes a postcard to Mrs Joseph Plunkett [Grace Gifford]  
3 items  
undated

#### **I.vi. Other named correspondents**

**MS 44,330 /1** Letters from Sealy, Byers & Walkers, Printers and Publishers, to MacDonagh arranging the publication of *Through the Ivory Gate* and *April and May*. Letters detail the cost of different material, styles of printing and binding and productions cost. MacDonagh is keen to use only Irish material, he also tends to choose the more expensive options.  
26 items, none with envelopes  
1901-8

**MS 44,330 /2** Letters from O'Donoghue & Co., Booksellers and Publishers, to MacDonagh arranging the publication of *The Golden Joy*. Letters detail cost of printing, the importance of publicising the work, forwarding the reviews and the difficulty of funding publication. "Your letter has interested me considerably. I fully realise the difficulty young writers have in getting a hearing unless they are prepared to spend a certain amount of money in bringing out their books. ... although I would be glad to be of use to many of the

new writers I am hampered by lack of capital. I have taken the small risk involved in [Thomas] Boyd's Poems, but neither he nor I will see much profit. ... I intend to issue a small anthology of living Irish poets & I will give you a space in it. That should help your volumes, because the book would be bought for the bigger names & you would gain by being in good company."

13 items, most with envelopes

April 1906 – Sep 1907

**MS 44,330 /3**

Letters from Thomas Stewart Omond to MacDonagh concerning the proofs of *Thomas Champion* which Omond has read and sends a detailed commentary and regards it as "a most interesting book, to say nothing of kind references to myself."

3 items none with envelopes

Sep 1911 – Dec 1912

[see **MS 20,642 /7** for a further letter]

**MS 44,330 /4**

Letters from Seághan P Mac Énrí, lecturer at Galway University to MacDonagh.

5 items, some with envelopes

Nov 1912 –Feb 1913

[items are all in Irish]

[see **MS 20,642 /10** for further letters]

**MS 44,330 /5**

Letters, with last page of another letter and a postcard from Edward Martyn to MacDonagh. Mainly concerning the Irish Theatre, "Enclosed cheque for £12.10. due to you today. I hope you are getting on the play [*Pagans*], & have all at least cast".

There is also advice on casting and music. On the reverse of the loose page is a pencilled note by Martyn on The Irish Theatre.

5 items, some with envelopes

1912, 1915 and undated

**MS 44,330 /6**

Photostat of a typescript letter from MacDonagh to Martin Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Killanin, responding to Killanin's views on his work, "I am very glad that something in my book [*Thomas Champion*] has interested you, and that you agree, if indeed you do so, with my interpretation of the peculiar metrical quality of [W.B.] Yeats' verse. ... Yeats was here lately and I told him of some things in my book, which was not then published. He was pleased and excited by my theories - - I suppose I have to call them that".

MacDonagh also refers to Killanin's papers of the philosophy of poetry, and ends "I had not intended this egoistic letter, but your reference to Yeats and his chanting and your kind sympathy with my views tempted me, I suppose." Also included is a covering letter from Michael Morris, 3<sup>rd</sup> Barron Killanin to Donagh MacDonagh sending the photostat.

2 items

2 March 1913 and 9 March 1966

- MS 44,330 /7** Letters from Frank Fay to MacDonagh. One from Limerick where Fay was acting as Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet* asks for MacDonagh to recommend him as an elocution teacher to his student. The other from America suggests MacDonagh should apply to William Fay for help “He [William Fay] is in with a lot of play-producing societies in London and knows how they are worked. He could give you a lot of valuable help ... He thinks the scheme [The Irish Theatre] would be successful, if carefully arranged.  
2 items one with envelope  
15 June 1913 and undated  
[see **MS 33,567 /4** for a further letter]
- MS 44,330 /8** Letter from MacDonagh to [Professor Robert Donovan?] concerning the correction of examination papers  
1 item  
5 July 1915
- MS 44,330 /9** Letter from Eamonn Ceannt, asking to book MacDonagh to speak at an [Irish Volunteers] meeting.  
1 item with envelope  
3 April 1916
- MS 44,330 /10** Invitation from Constance Markievicz to meet Mme Maud Gonne  
1 item  
undated

### I.vii. Miscellaneous correspondence

- MS 44,331 /1** Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mostly concerned with views on *Through the Ivory Gate*, including two from T. Darlington, lecturer at UCD, “What strikes me at first in the variety of different metres attempted, showing you have a skill in all kinds: - but with this defect viz no one metre attempted shows the polish of regular practice. How could it when you fly from one to another like a butterfly in a flower garden!”. Also includes personal letters from friends, and one letter from “an Australian girl [asking] the very great favour to send her your autograph”.  
9 items  
1902-4
- MS 44,331 /2** Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, personal letters from friends asking for news and arranging meeting and one testimonial to MacDonagh. Also contains letters relating to literary matters, includes a letter from Elizabeth Sharp, widow of William Sharp, agreeing to the use of *Through the Ivory Gates* for the title of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition as “it stands for a section only, among my husbands poems and the title can never be used, now, by him in any other way”. Also a letter from poet John Ramsden Tutin

thanking MacDonagh for the copy of his work, and expressing “sympathy with your aims & ideals.”

15 items, some with envelopes

1905-7

[some items are in Irish]

**MS 44,331 /3**

Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, some relating to views of MacDonagh’s poetry, “I have been told the *Golden Joy* is the greatest book outside Yeats, by any Irishman.” As well as views on *When the Dawn is Come* “I abhor blank verse spoken as prose. Moreover I am sure it will prove a serious obstacle to the success of the play. I think you know me as a friend well enough to let me say this.” There are also two letters from the Abbey Theatre, “[we] have decide to put off your play [*When the Dawn is Come*] till the autumn, as it is too important a play to produce at the end of the season.” There are also personal letters expressing sorrow at MacDonagh’s move from Colman’s College, Fermoy to St. Enda’s School, and on the death of his mother.

11 items, some with envelopes

1908

[one item is in Irish]

**MS 44,331 /4**

Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mainly short personal notes. Includes one postcard addressed to him in Paris.

5 items, some with envelopes

1909-10

[one item is in French]

**MS 44,331 /5**

Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mostly personal letters from friends, one congratulating him on his lecturing position at UCD. Also includes some business letters including an application to have a short biography with a portrait to publish in the monthly journal *The Biographer*.

10 items, some with envelopes

1911

[some items are in Irish]

**MS 44,331 /6**

Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh. Personal letters included congratulations from Mrs Plunkett [mother of Joseph] on the birth of Donagh. There are letters giving MacDonagh permission to quote from publication in *Thomas Campion*, as well as asking for submissions from him for publication. Also includes a letter from the Catholic University Church, where MacDonagh had intended to get married, retuning the fee as the ceremony actually took place at the church on Beechwood Avenue.

13 items, some with envelopes

1912

[some items are in Irish]

**MS 44,331 /7**

Miscellaneous letters and one telegram to Thomas MacDonagh.

Contains testimonials and letters relating to MacDonagh's application for a post at Galway university, as well as congratulations on the publication of *Thomas Campion* and thanks for copies. Includes letters from a publisher in Belfast who wishes to include some of MacDonagh's poems in an anthology of Irish poets, and a letter inviting MacDonagh to speak on the composition of the police inquiry to the Dublin Civil League.  
28 items, some with envelopes  
1913  
[some items are in Irish]

**MS 44,331 /8** Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mainly concerned with the *Irish Review*, either submissions or subscriptions. Contains one letter relating to the publication of some of MacDonagh's poems in an English anthology and the high price asked by his publishers. Also includes a letter from the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol [National Eisteddfod of Wales] to the Gaelic League asking for "information as to the methods adopted in your county in connection with the formation and development of the National Drama."  
8 items, some with envelopes  
1914

**MS 44,331 /9** Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mainly personal. Subjects include congratulations of birth of daughter from Mrs Plunkett, invitations and request for views on St. Enda's. Contains some business letters from The Educational Company of Ireland Ltd. about the publication of *Literature in Ireland*, as well as an invitation to join a committee to "look after the interests of Mr. Sheehy-Sheffington's family". Also includes a number of letters relating to a chair in English literature at Fribourg University, Switzerland for which MacDonagh has been suggested.  
25 items, some with envelopes  
1915-6  
[one item is in Irish]

**MS 44,332 /1** Miscellaneous letter and cards to Muriel MacDonagh. Some are letters of condolence, one from the students at UCD. There is also one asking for a souvenir of MacDonagh. Many of the letters deal with the Irish Volunteers Dependants Fund, with which Muriel was involved, there are also letters relating to the publishing of *The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh* as well as a copy of his last address, and an article about him in *The Irish Citizen*. Also contains one undated, probably earlier, postcard.  
19 items, some with envelopes  
1916 and undated

**MS 44,332 /2** Miscellaneous letters to Muriel MacDonagh. Many are short notes arranging visits, or letters commemorating the first anniversary of Thomas MacDonagh's death. There are also letters relating to

lessons Muriel is taking in preparation to conversion to Roman Catholicism, something she refused to do at the time of her marriage.

16 items, some with envelopes

January – June 1917

- MS 44,332 /3** Miscellaneous letters to Thomas MacDonagh, mainly personal letters includes letter from Eileen Colum [sister of Pádraic?] thanking him for the poem written in her book. Includes one letter referring to the Irish volunteers, “you might let me know by Saturday, if you can, if we may expect a body of Dublin men for Sunday, and if so whether they will be cyclists or infantry by train. I am trying to get everything fixed up in good fashion to make things go as smoothly as possible on Sunday.” Also contains draft of a letter from MacDonagh submitting poems for publication.  
22 items, one with envelope  
undated
- MS 44,332 /4** Page of a letter from “E.A.M.” [a London based artist] to unknown, with pen portraits accompanying the letter; 1p  
undated
- MS 44,332 /5** Miscellaneous letters to different correspondents in various hands.  
6 items  
various dates
- MS 44,332 /6** Miscellaneous envelopes; c.55 items  
various dates
- MS 44,332 /7** Blank headed paper and postcards; c.20 items  
undated

## **II. PERSONAL PAPERS**

### **II.i. Financial papers**

- MS 44,333 /1** Rent and rate receipts of Joseph MacDonagh senior and Mary-Louise MacDonagh, neé Parker, also includes copy of Ordinary Civil Bill in County Courts, with Mary-Louise as Defendant; 20 items  
1898-1905
- MS 44,333 /2** Life insurance vouchers for Thomas MacDonagh, with a related letter from the New-York Life Insurance Company; 6 items  
1906-15
- MS 44,333 /3** Personal account, vouchers and receipts of Thomas MacDonagh, including loans to MacDonagh and David Houston; 10 items  
1906-16
- MS 44,333 /4** Bank book of Thomas MacDonagh with the Provincial Bank of Ireland, with lodgement receipts and cheques paid out; c.70 items  
1911-7
- MS 44,333 /5** Rent receipts of Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh; 11 items  
1913-7

### **II.ii. Applications and testimonials**

- MS 44,334 /1** Testimonials to Thomas MacDonagh for unspecified positions; 9 items  
1903-8 and undated
- MS 44,334 /2** Testimonials to Thomas MacDonagh's capability to fill position of organiser of Irish under the board of National Education; 2 items  
June 1907
- MS 44,334 /3** Application form, notice and testimonial to Thomas MacDonagh relating to the positions of examiner and superintendent under the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland; 7 items  
1908-16
- MS 44,334 /4** Typescript of application of F. P. O'Nolan to Office of the Congested District Board, with testimonials from Pádraig Pearse and Douglas Hyde; 1 items  
August 1911
- MS 44,334 /5** Printed application of Thomas MacDonagh. M.A., for appointment to the Chair of History, English Literature and Mental Science in University College, Galway. Referees include

Douglas Hyde, W. B. Yeats, George Noble, Count Plunkett and Pádraig Pearse. Contains manuscript and typescript originals of many of the testimonials, and a letter acknowledging receipt of application. Also contains letter of introduction from Frederick Gifford to a member of the university governing body; 8 items  
1913

### II.iii. Miscellaneous

- MS 44,335 /1** Copy of *The Irish Felon. Successor to the United Irishman*; 8pp  
22 July 1848  
[item is dirty and pages are damaged at edges]
- MS 44,335 /2** *Officium Parvum Beatae Virginis Mariae with the English translation* (Dublin), inscribed “Thomas MacDonagh Rockwell College 1892 to 1900” and “ This book belonged to Thomas MacDonagh”; 144pp  
c.1892
- MS 44,335 /3** *The Holy Bible containing the old and new testaments* (Oxford), inscribed “Muriel Gifford xmas 1897”; 1,055pp  
1897
- MS 44,335 /4** Pocket diary of Thomas MacDonagh; 1 item  
1904
- MS 44,335 /5** Membership cards of Thomas MacDonagh for various organisations; 5 items  
1910-16
- MS 44,335 /6** Invitations to various events including Thomas MacDonagh’s graduation with an MA from UCD; 9 items  
1910-15
- MS 44,335 /7** Form registering birth of Donagh MacDonagh, with Birth notice for newspapers in hand of Thomas MacDonagh; 2 items  
Dec 1912
- MS 44,335 /8** Envelopes containing locks of hair and other mementoes, mainly of Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh; 8 items  
c.1911-7
- MS 44,335 /9** Newspaper cuttings relating to various members of the MacDonagh family, including death of Muriel, Joe MacDonagh, Donagh MacDonagh and Liam Redmond husband of Barbara MacDonagh; 20 items  
1917 and undated
- MS 44,336 /1** Notebooks compiled by Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca,

containing an inventory of the possessions of Muriel and Thomas MacDonagh for their children. Also contains an account of how she hid the MacDonagh's personal and literary papers during the War of Independence due to a fear that the Black and Tans would confiscate them; "When the fury became appalling, and fearing that even when I had the things the B[lack] & Tans might light on them, I resorted to a plan to hoodwink them. So I made 3 footstools, and called them the 3 musketeers. In these three boxes I placed ... all his [Thomas MacDonagh] letters to Muriel [MacDonagh] & hers to him. ... These stools I covered with chintz cretonne & fringe. & there I left them."; 2 items  
1922

- MS 44,336 /2** Printout from a microfilm of an account written by Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, mainly concerned with Muriel's conversion to Catholicism. The account starts with the marriage of Thomas and Muriel, detailing her agreement to raise the children as Catholics and the papal dispensation needed. Mary states Muriel's decision took place at the time of Barbara's birth as "[she] wanted to be a catholic like her husband and children". Mary also states that Muriel's father stopped her allowance as she no longer attended protestant worship, and that "Mrs Gifford tried by all means to get her [Barbara] baptised a protestant". The final pages deal with her last visit to her brother and the final year of Muriel's life, during which time she was often with Mary; 17pp  
undated
- MS 44,336 /3** A soft bound book entitled *Squibs*, containing poems [copied in the hand of Muriel MacDonagh]. Also contains *The Rebelly Crew*, a sonnet written by G[abriel] P[aul] Gifford, Muriel's brother, and manuscript poems copied in unknown hand; 4 items  
undated
- MS 44,336 /4** Envelope containing visiting cards of Muriel MacDonagh, as a widow, also some loose cards of Thomas MacDonagh and some cards of their friends; 12 items  
undated
- MS 44,336 /5** *The new road map of the environs of Dublin*; 1 item  
undated
- MS 44,336 /6** Envelope containing "Muriel's screen silk", and another piece of fabric; 3 items  
undated
- MS 44,336 /7** Miscellaneous forms, newspaper cuttings and notes; c.50 items  
various dates

### III. IRISH VOLUNTEERS PAPERS

This section contains the small amount of material relating to the Irish Volunteers within this collection, there are also two relevant letters **MS 44,329 /2** from Joseph Plunkett and **MS 44,330 /9** from Eamonn Ceannt.

See **Appendix II Section III** for a much larger collection of Irish Volunteer material

- MS 44,337 /1** Membership card of Thomas MacDonagh, also includes two printed memorial cards, one to Thomas MacDonagh and one to all 16 men who lost their lives in 1916, and two copies of times of Anniversary Masses to be held in 1917; 5 items  
1913, 1917 and undated
- MS 44,337 /2** *Supplement to the Irish Volunteer*, containing 'Freedom's Hill. A National Anthem', written by Thomas MacDonagh, music by O'Brien Butler; 2pp  
26 December 1914
- MS 44,337 /3** Printed documents issued by the Irish Volunteers, also includes black sheet of headed notepaper; 3 items  
1915 and undated
- MS 44,337 /4** Notebook of Thomas MacDonagh relating to the Irish Volunteers, containing drafts of letters and memos to various recipients, including Eamon de Valera, as well as instructions for training exercises and lists. Folder also contains receipt for payment for work done on volunteer handbook by Eamon de Valera, paid by MacDonagh. Also includes notes on route and procession, possibly for funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa; 3 items  
1915-6
- MS 44,337 /5** Newspaper cuttings, including Nellie Gifford's account of the Easter Rising and a biographical study of Thomas MacDonagh; 6 items  
1916-32 and undated
- MS 44,337 /6** Printed and manuscript poems written about the Easter Rising, also includes two copies of Pádraig Pearse's last letter; 9 items  
1916 and undated
- MS 44,337 /7** Series of postcards featuring pictures of the leaders of 1916; 15 items  
c.1916
- MS 44,337 /8** Printed photograph of Thomas MacDonagh with printed signature; 10 items  
undated
- MS 44,337 /9** Printed photograph of Joseph Plunkett; 13 items

undated

**MS 44,337 /10**

Typescript of *The Last Chapter of Roger Casement's Life*; 5pp  
undated

## IV. LITERARY PAPERS

This section contains the small number of literary papers within the Collection. The documents have been divided by the type of work; poetry, plays, other works and notebooks and arranged chronologically. There is also a section on the literary works of John and Donagh MacDonagh.

For list of other literary material see **Appendix II Section IV**

See also **MS 44,340 /1**

### IV.i. Poetry

- MS 44,338 /1** Three poems 'Parody on Fredrick Rans[ ]', 'In Festo Sancti Spiritus Ad Sanctum Spiritum' and 'The Sea' written by MacDonagh while at Rockwell College, Cashel and sent to his sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca; 3 items  
c.1890s
- MS 44,338 /2** Newspaper and journal reviews of *April and May*, *The Golden Joy* and *Lyrical Poems*; 13 items  
1903 – 1914
- MS 44,338 /3** Printed poems cut from publication, 'The Place of Wild Nonsense' and 'The War Legacy'; 2 items  
1905 and c.1914-6
- MS 44,338 /4** Accounts and receipts relating to the publication of MacDonagh's works and the *Irish Review*; 8 items  
1906-16
- MS 44,338 /5** Printed proofs of contents page and first two poems, 'In the Storm' and 'In Absence', from *Songs of Myself* corrected in the author's hand; 2pp  
c.1910
- MS 44,338 /6** Typescript of 'A Song of Muriel', heavily corrected in the author's hand, and signed; 2pp  
21 November 1911
- MS 44,338 /7** Manuscript, in hand of Muriel MacDonagh, of her husbands poem 'Barbara, born 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1915'; 1 items  
July 1916
- MS 44,338 /8** Typescript of 'An Bunan Buide' [The Yellow Bitten], with corrections and annotations in the authors hand; 5pp  
undated
- MS 44,338 /9** Manuscript of 'The Praises of Beauty. VIII. The Fairy Beauty of Ireland', in the author's hand; 1p  
undated

- MS 44,339 /1** Typescript of ‘O’Donovan Rossa’, with corrections and annotations in the author’s hand; 1p  
undated
- MS 44,339 /2** Typescript of ‘John-John’, with corrections in the author’s hand; 3pp  
undated
- MS 44,339 /3** Proof of ‘Grange House Lodge’, with corrections and annotations in the author’s hand; 1p  
undated
- MS 44,339 /4** Typescript and proof of two translated poems ‘Ta na realta na seasamh ar an aer’ [The stars stand up in the air] and ‘Druimfhionn Donn Dilis’, with corrections in the author’s hand; 2p  
undated
- MS 44,339 /5** Miscellaneous typescript and manuscript poems or parts of poems; 21 items  
undated

#### **IV.ii. Plays**

- MS 44,340 /1** Incomplete bound manuscript of play *The Visitors*, in the author’s hand, dated 7 December 1910. In the back of the volume are various notes, includes poems published in his various books (dated 12 May 1911) and a draft of a first year examination paper. The book also holds several loose sheets, including an early layout for *Lyrical Poems*; c.50pp  
1910-11 and undated
- MS 44,340 /2** Soft bound typescript of play *Pagans. A Modern Play in Two Conversations. By Thomas MacDonagh*, with annotations in the author’s hand; c.30pp  
c.1915
- MS 44,340 /3** Incomplete [early] draft of play *When the Dawn is Come*; 3pp  
undated
- MS 44,340 /4** Incomplete drafts of various plays; 5 items  
undated
- MS 44,340 /5** Collection of theatre programmes and tickets, including programme for first production of *When the Dawn is Come* and advertisement for *Metempsychosis or A Mad World*; 6 items  
undated

**MS 44,340 /6** Newspaper cuttings relating to MacDonagh's plays and public performances, also includes programme for a concert in which he performed; 5 items  
undated

#### **IV.iii. Other works**

**MS 44,341 /1** First proof of advertisement for *The Irish Review*. Also includes two different finished printed advertisements; 7 items  
1911

**MS 44,341 /2** Notes on preparation of MA thesis for publication as *Thomas Campion*; c.25pp  
1911 and undated

**MS 44,341 /3** Printed flyers for *Thomas Campion*, with one press cutting; 5 items  
1913

**MS 44,341 /4** Flyers for vacation courses at UCD, English course taught in part by Thomas MacDonagh; 4 items  
1913

**MS 44,341 /5** Manuscripts of book reviews; Includes *A Swordsman of the Irish Brigade* by Michael O hAnnrachain, and *Modern Anglo-Irish Verse* by Padric Gregory; 2 items  
c.1914

**MS 44,341 /6** Galley proofs of *Literature in Ireland*, with annotations in the author's hand; 10pp  
c.1915-6

**MS 44,341 /7** Proof of *Last and Inspiring Address of Thomas MacDonagh* and a short biographical note on him, both corrected in the hand of Muriel MacDonagh. Also includes printed copy of *Last and Inspiring Address*; 3 items  
c.1916

#### **IV.iv. Notebooks and miscellaneous notes**

**MS 44,342 /1** Soft bound notebook containing notes on first three books of verse, some verses, parts of review articles and notes on the plots of various plays and books; 20pp  
1906-7 and undated

**MS 44,342 /2** Soft bound notebooks containing verses and notes on his own poetry by Thomas MacDonagh; 4 items  
undated

- MS 44,342 /3** Reporter style notebooks contain verses and literary notes; 3 items undated
- MS 44,342 /4** Small notebooks, mainly containing short notes or lists, also some verse; 7 items undated
- MS 44,342 /5** Miscellaneous notes, fragments and lists; c.70 items in 2 folders undated

#### **IV.v. Literary papers of John and Donagh MacDonagh**

This sections contains literary papers and related items of John and Donagh MacDonagh, for full literary remains plus a short biographical note see **Appendix II Sections VI** and **VIII** respectively

- MS 44,343 /1** Programme for popular concert featuring [Joseph] MacDonagh, one for a recital of scenes from Shakespeare featuring [John] MacDonagh, and a concert featuring John MacDonagh; 2 items 1899 and undated
- MS 44,343 /2** Newspaper cutting relating to plays and poetry by Donagh MacDonagh; c.70 items c.1940-50s
- MS 44,343 /3** *Kennedy's Spout. A Short Story*, Donagh MacDonagh; 16pp undated
- MS 44,343 /4** Newspaper cuttings relating to plays of John MacDonagh; 7 items undated
- MS 44,343 /5** Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings relating mainly to literary subjects; c.20 items various dates

## APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHS

This appendix contains a list of the photographs that form part of this Collection, and which have been transferred to the National Photographic Archive, accession number **PC08 LOT04**

Photographs of Muriel Gifford, later MacDonagh; 10 items  
1909-16

Photograph of Dominick Hackett, friend of Thomas MacDonagh;  
1 item  
August 1911

Photographs of the Gifford sisters, one of Sydney and Muriel  
Gifford and two of Grace Gifford Plunkett one with Donagh  
MacDonagh; 3 items  
1911 and 1916

Photographs of Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh, with their  
children Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh. Also includes  
photocopies of three photographs which were lent to Kilmainham  
Gaol for an exhibition; 16 items  
1913-7

Photographs of Donagh MacDonagh; 12 items  
1913-4 and undated

Photograph album containing photographs of Thomas, Muriel,  
Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh on family holiday in  
Greystones, county Wicklow September 1915. Also contains  
some photographs taken in the garden of their house 29 Oakley  
Road, Dublin. Photographs also include Isabella Gifford (Muriel's  
mother), Grace Gifford (Muriel's sister) and family friends  
including Professor Houston; 12pp  
1915

Photographs of Barbara MacDonagh; 6 items  
1915-6

Mounted photographs of Joseph Plunkett, both inscribed on back.  
One reads "Joseph Mary Plunkett, shot at Kilmainham Jail May  
4<sup>th</sup> 1916. he died for the Land he loved. To his godson, Donagh  
MacDonagh from his godmother & aunt, Sister Francesca [Mary  
MacDonagh]. Xmas 1916". Other "given to me S[ister] Francesca  
[Mary MacDonagh] by Grace Plunkett [née Gifford] July 1917";  
2 items  
1916 and 1917

Photographs of Father Albert, one shows him with Donagh and  
Barbara MacDonagh, the others are of his missionary station in

Santa Inez California; 11 items  
1920 and c.1930

Miscellaneous photos; 4 items  
undated

Folder [belonging to Muriel MacDonagh] which contained most  
of the photographs within this collection; 1 item  
undated

## APPENDIX 2 – ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

This appendix contains all the other material held by the National Library relating to Thomas MacDonagh and previously catalogued in Hayes' Manuscript Sources, Hayes' Supplement, the card catalogue and the online catalogue. The material has come into the library in a number of accessions, the two main ones are detailed below.

### **MS 10,843 – MS 10,858**

A collection of mainly literary papers of Thomas MacDonagh, donated to the library by his son Donagh in 1947. The collection also includes literary remains of Thomas MacDonagh's mother Mary-Louise MacDonagh, nee Parker.

### **MS 20,645 – MS 20,650**

A collection of papers of Thomas MacDonagh including some of his literary papers, correspondence and Irish Volunteer papers, donated to the library by Mrs Eileen MacDonagh in 1974. This collection also contains literary and Irish Volunteer papers of John MacDonagh and the correspondence of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca.

In addition to these two collections, the appendix also details a number of accessions, either donated by members of the MacDonagh family or purchased from other sources. The list also contains material relating to Thomas MacDonagh held within collections of other papers, such as the Joseph Plunkett papers.

Because much of the material relating to Thomas MacDonagh is contained within collections that also contain papers of other members of his family this appendix lists all the material held by the library relating to other members of the MacDonagh family, mainly Joseph, John, Donagh, Mary-Louise and Mary, Sister Francesca MacDonagh.

The material in this appendix is arranged in eight subheadings, the first four correspond to those of the main list, although some of the divisions within the subheading are different. There are then four more subheadings dealing with the papers of other members of the MacDonagh family; Mary-Louise MacDonagh, nee Parker, John MacDonagh, Joseph MacDonagh and Donagh MacDonagh

## **I. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **I.i. Family correspondence**

- MS 20,649 /2** Correspondence between Thomas MacDonagh and his mother Mary-Louise MacDonagh nee Parker, also includes telegram from Joseph MacDonagh to [James MacDonagh] announcing the death of their mother; 3 items, one with envelope  
1896-1908
- MS 20,642 /1** Letter from Thomas MacDonagh to his sister Helen Bingham nee MacDonagh, sending Christmas greetings and family news. Letter is written on the back of a programme for productions by MacDonagh's Irish Theatre, including *Author! Author!* by John MacDonagh; 2pp

23 Dec. 1915

- MS 20,644 /7** Last letter and will of Thomas MacDonagh written [in unknown hand] on a will form. Also includes will of Thomas MacDonagh dated 22 April 1916 leaving everything to his wife, and witnessed by Grace Gifford, and bill for expenses relating to death of MacDonagh; 3 items  
22 April, 2 May and August 1916  
[see **MS 40,320 /6** for further details of last letter]
- MS 15,003 /1** Photostat of last letter and will of Thomas MacDonagh to his wife Muriel; 4pp  
2 May 1916  
[see **MS 40,320 /6** for further details]
- MS 21,592** Typescript of last letter and will of Thomas MacDonagh, from the papers of Grace Gifford Plunkett; 2pp  
2 May 1916  
[see **MS 40,320 /6** for further details]
- MS 10,854 /7** Letter from Jim MacDonagh to Muriel MacDonagh, relating to the death of Thomas MacDonagh. Also includes note to Donagh MacDonagh from Fr. [ ] arranging a visit to him in hospital; 2 items  
May 1916 and c.1917
- MS 20,649 /3** Personal correspondence of Muriel MacDonagh, includes undated note from her husband, letter from Muriel to Jim [MacDonagh] 26/5/1917, letter to Muriel from National Aid Fund 30/10/1916 and letter from David Huston to Muriel c.1917; 4 items, one with envelope  
1916-17 and undated
- MS 33,567 /9** Postcards from Muriel MacDonagh, on holidays in Skerries, county Dublin, to Fr. Albert, Franciscan Capuchin Friary, Dublin, asking him to visit her son Donagh in hospital; 2 items  
July 1917

### **I.ii. Correspondence of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca**

For details of Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca and further correspondence see **Section I.i.4.** of the main list.

- MS 20,647 /1** Letter to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca from her mother Mary-Louise, full of family news. Also contains two postcards from Thomas MacDonagh, and a telegram calling Mary to the hospital where her mother was dying; 4 items, one with envelope  
1907-8 and undated

- MS 20,647 /2** Letters from Joseph MacDonagh to his sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca. Topics include the shock at the news of Thomas MacDonagh's death, and the trouble Mary is experiencing in the convent due to her brothers' actions; "I hear with amazement of the attitude of the other members of your community towards you in connection with the recent fighting in Dublin. As soon as this matter is over [Joseph was in prison] I will take the matter up ... If possible tolerate your present colleagues in the meantime. If not come to my home where I trust there will be some attempt made to practice that branch of Christianity which your order preaches." Includes letter Mary wrote to Joseph three days before he died. Also contains 2 letters from J. Griffith who worked for Joseph giving news of his arrest in 1920, and a letter from R.A. Hayes a fellow prisoner in Reading Gaol, with associated items; 10 items, some with envelopes  
May 1916 – Dec. 1922  
[see **MS 44,323 /3** for replies]
- MS 20,647 /3** Letters from John MacDonagh to his sister Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, written while imprisoned in Kuntsford and Frongoch after the 1916 Rising. Letters comment on the conditions of his imprisonment, the appeals board in London and the after affects of the Rising, "As for Tom I fear the worst as I heard a rumour in Dublin that the signatories would be all shot. I saw him last on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> he was quite cheerful and his only thought was for us all. I'm sure Muriel is prostrated. You will have seen her I know". Letters express his concern about keeping Thomas's uniform safe, which John has with him in Frongoch, one letter contains a poem written by him. Also contains postcard of Frongoch and a letter from Chaplin at Knutsford, "I have not yet seen the man MacDonagh but have learnt that he is quite well & bearing his punishment bravely; 7 items, most with envelopes  
May-July 1916  
[see **MS 44,322 /6** for replies]
- MS 33,567 /7** Letter from Isabella Gifford to Sister Francesca, Mary MacDonagh. Letter is mainly concerned with Muriel MacDonagh situation after her husband's death, "I am really grateful to you for all your kindness to Muriel and her children, I assure you she is a very difficult person to deal with, and I fear your goodness is not appreciated. ... It is very good of you brothers to offer to help Muriel but at present, at least, she has plenty of money, and I don't think it would be wide to let her think she can spend it foolishly, and then expect help elsewhere". She also comments on Mary's proposed vacation "I hope you get out to the sea, & that you don't have to wear that appalling dress & veil, which are enough to kill the patience of any poor human ... However I suppose you prefer to "mortify the flesh" & you do it with a vengeance."; 1p, with envelope  
21 June 1916

- MS 20,647 /4** Letters to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca from Fr. Albert and Fr. Augustine, letters are personal letters and relate to her and the children of Thomas MacDonagh; 4 items some with envelopes 1916-24
- MS 33,567 /8** Letter from Muriel MacDonagh to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca inviting Mary to her reception into the Catholic Church, and giving information on the health of Donagh MacDonagh; 1p  
16 May 1917
- MS 20,647 /5** Letters from Austin Stack to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca written while he was in Manchester Prison, personal letters relating to accounts of friends and family; 2 items, with envelopes July-Aug. 1919
- MS 20,647 /6** Letters from M[ary] A[lden] Childers to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, these are either personal letters or relate to Robert Childers Barton, a British prisoner, who both women were trying to help. Also includes one typescript signed letter from Erskine Childers; 8 items most with envelopes  
June 1920 – Aug. 1921
- MS 20,647 /7** Miscellaneous letters to Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, with associated items; 8 items  
various dates
- MS 20,647 /8** Miscellaneous envelopes; 5 items  
various dates

### **I.iii. Dominick Hackett**

This section contains details of the letters written by Thomas MacDonagh to his friend Dominick Hackett, this is the largest collection of letters by Thomas MacDonagh aside from those to his wife, they contain a large amount of details of his life, literary works and involvement in the Irish Volunteers.

See **Section I.iii.** of the main list for Hackett's replies

- MS 22,934** Bound volume containing typescript copies of letters from Thomas MacDonagh to Dominick Hackett;  
1903-4 Subjects include the Gaelic League in Kilkenny, where the two men met and mutual friends, MacDonagh's new teaching position at St. Colmans College, Fermoy and the slow sales of *The Ivory Gate*; 7 letters
- 1906-7 Subjects include the Gaelic league, MacDonagh's new book *The Golden Joy* and his expanding circle of friends

which includes Æ [George Russell] and George Moore, also “Pádraic Colum who writes to me every week now, and with whose views on most things literary I utterly disagree, though I think him the most loveable, unspoiled, generous friend”; 2 letters

1908 Subjects include family news relating to MacDonagh’s brothers and the illness and death of his mother. There is also much information, including a plot synopsis of *When The Dawn is Come*, “I went up to Dublin this day week and that evening saw [W.B.] Yeats at the Abbey. He was bad with influenza and could not talk business or anything else. Later I saw Lady Gregory who is tremendously impressed with the play and almost knew it by heart; she wants it to go on at once ... Then [J.M.] Synge who is now running the Abbey. He said better things in praise than the others but sees difficulties on account of the unusual nature of the play”. Although later he felt the play “was badly performed. It was misunderstood.” MacDonagh also gives his view on St. Enda’s School where he has started teaching, “you will have heard of this school in the papers. It is a great success. It is Irish. It is sound. It is rational. We are carrying out our ideal, I think. It is very hard work.”; 6 letters

1909 Subjects include the Gaelic League, Irish Politics, Home Rule, Birrell’s Land Bill and an article by MacDonagh on Women’s Suffrage. “I have also a private pupil [Joseph Plunkett] for Irish, a son of Count Plunkett, he reminds me in little ways of you at times. He is great at genealogy and the like; he knows Egyptian and out of the way things and has studied philosophy at Stoneyhurst under Father Maher.”; 4 letters

1911 One letter details MacDonagh’s recent activities; the establishment of the *Irish Review*, his rewriting of *When the Dawn is Come* as *Freedom*, his plans for an MA and Ireland’s expectations from Home Rule. The second letter is addressed to Hackett and Jack MacDonagh and contains his announcement of his engagement, “I have been for just five weeks now engaged to Muriel Gifford, sister of Grace the artist and of “John Brennan” of “Sinn Fein” and “Irish Freedom” ... I have not yet told my kith here, as she is soi-disant Protestant, and so Mary [MacDonagh, Sister Francesca] would be troubled I fear. We are going to-morrow to see Mary, without letting her know. ... This information is mainly for Jack who will understand my prudence. I don’t want to fall out with Mary, who is really the decentest sister that anyone ever had, but of late the church here is absurd about mixed

marriages. Muriel and I are of the same religion, which is neither Catholic or Protestant nor any other form of dogmatic creed.”; 2 letters

1912-3 These are mainly short letters arranging to meet when Hackett is in Ireland, and giving family news. Also expressing condolences on death of Hackett’s father; 9 letters

1914-5 Letters deal with MacDonagh’s literary work, revisions of his play, the *Irish Review* and the Irish Theatre, he also sends congratulations on Hackett’s marriage. The majority of the letters are taken up with the Irish Volunteers; “we are going to have a tremendous organisation, I hope ... We have already gone a good way towards fusing existing organizations. We have working together without a through of anything but the progress of this, A.O.H. men, Sinn Feiners, Gaelic Leaguers, Irish Freedom men, Parliamentarians, G.A.A. men and university men. I am on the central Provisional Executive.” Later “Well, our work is going on strong and steady. The only opposition we meet is the good old British opportunists of the Castle. Our own people are nowhere against us. The Redmondites give us arms and ammunition knowing that they do not want them. The young Priests are with us. We have given ideal and an enthusiasm to the young boys and girls of Ireland, such as you and I did not get. I have here, in this road, forty boys from ten to sixteen years, who would do anything for the country at my bidding”. Although he does admit some have taken another route “think of anyone you like who had any little shoneenism or any anti-Catholic bigotry and write them off. Men like A.E. [George Russell] now write for the London Times. My friend David Houston, the founder of the *Irish Review*, a splendid man, has been shocked by the Lusitania affair into going in to the British Army”. MacDonagh is convinced that “Constitutional politics are no good. We must depend on ourselves and our arms.”; 2 letters

undated One deals with the publication of a book, and the other thanks Hackett for his subscription to support St. Enda’s; 2 letters

41pp containing 35 letters

1903-15 and undated

[Note the letters are not bound in chronological order]

#### I.iv. Joseph Plunkett

See **Section I.v.** of main list for further letters and a biographical sketch

- MS 10,999 /2** Letters and postcards to Joseph Plunkett including six from Thomas MacDonagh. Four of the letters are about literary topics, one being MacDonagh's view on the proof of *The Circle and the Sword*; "You are at such a safe distance now [Algeria] that I can venture to congratulate you. The book will be fine ... the poems are better to me, now printed, than before. I do not know why it should be so, but it is. The 'Epiture' is splendid". Two letters deal with the Irish Volunteers, these are short notes about the company under MacDonagh's command and arrangement for events; 6 items  
1911-4 and undated
- MS 20,645 /9** Letter from Maunsel & Co., publishers to Thomas MacDonagh about the publication of *The Circle and the Sword* by Joseph Plunkett, which MacDonagh is arranging; 1p  
15 Nov 1911
- MS 10,999 /3** Letters from Joseph Plunkett, mainly to members of his family, contains one letter to Thomas MacDonagh written while Plunkett was in Algeria. Letters relates to the publication of *The Sword and the Circle* which MacDonagh is organising, "'of course I know that I have no right to shirk my responsibilities and throw all the onus on you, but the weak always oppress the strong in out country!"; 1 item in a large collection  
1911
- MS 15,003 /2** Photostat of letter from Joseph Plunkett, in Algeria, to Thomas MacDonagh. Letter is mainly concerned with the publication of Plunkett's book of poetry *The Circle and the Sword* which MacDonagh had edited and helped publish. Plunkett also talks about his lack of Irish and send his congratulations of MacDonagh's wedding; 3pp  
5 Jan. 1912
- MS 10,843 /4** Letter from Joseph Plunkett to Thomas MacDonagh, a personal letter discussing what he has been studying and reading, and lamenting his lack of attention to his Irish studies. Includes a sonnet and some blank verse; 11pp  
23 Aug. 1912  
[contains some Irish]
- MS 15,413** Letter from Thomas MacDonagh to Joseph Plunkett concerning the Irish review; 1p with envelope  
April 1914
- MS 20,649 /5** Letter from Irish National Relief fund to Miss Plunkett enclosing

letter sent by the organisation to the Home Office relating to Irish Prisoner at Lewes, East Sussex. Also contains a fragment of writing by Joseph Plunkett; 2 items  
19 Jan. 1917 and undated

#### I.v. Other correspondence

- MS 10,854 /1** Letters relating to the publication of various works by Thomas MacDonagh, including contract for *Songs of Myself*. Also other profession letters, including application for information for an entry in *The Irish Who's Who*; 12 items  
1901-15
- MS 10,854 /2** Drafts of letters by Thomas MacDonagh, subjects include publication of works, productions of plays, and one to Martin Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Killanin, possibly draft of **MS 44,330 /6**; 6 items  
1902-6 and undated
- MS 10,854 /3** Miscellaneous letters on various subjects, including the Gaelic League in Kilkenny; 7 items  
1903-15  
[one item is in Irish]
- MS 20,642 /3** Letters from W[illiam] A. Byrne to Thomas MacDonagh, letters mainly relate to Byrne's views of MacDonagh's literary work, "I congratulate you heartily on your success, and I trust you will quickly meet with the reception your work so fully merits". Byrne likes *Through the Ivory Gate* so much that he has broken his rule and written a review for publication; 5 items, most with envelopes  
1903-1915
- MS 33,567 /1** Letter from Pádraic Colum to Thomas MacDonagh, giving extensive criticism of *The Golden Joy* and his intention to review it for *Sinn Féin*; 2pp with envelope  
Aug. 1907
- MS 33,567 /2** Letter from James Flecker to Thomas MacDonagh, thanking him for the copy of *The Golden Joy*; 1p with envelope  
23 Dec. 1907
- MS 20,642 /4** Letter from Pádraic Colum to Thomas MacDonagh on literary topics. Also includes a letter from Colum to John [MacDonagh?], thanking him for tickets to the opera; 2 items  
1907-8
- MS 10,843 /2** Copies of letters written while at Oxford by [Herbert Danby] to his brother; 23pp  
1907-10

- MS 10,854 with  
withdrawn  
Yates Material** Photocopies of two letters from W.B. Yeats to Thomas MacDonagh, giving Yeats' view on his literary works; 2 items  
1907 and 1911
- MS 33,567 /3** Letter from J. M. Synge to Thomas MacDonagh, agreeing to the production of *When the Dawn is Come* at the Abbey Theatre, with the stipulation that "we must be permitted to cut certain passages here and there (not a great deal) according as we feel the necessities of the stage may require"; 1p with envelope  
30 March 1908
- MS 22,259** Carbon copies of letters by Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, subjects include the Home Rule Movement, Women's suffrage, the *Irish Citizen* and the First World War. Correspondents include Thomas MacDonagh; 50 items in 4 folders  
1908-16
- MS 20,642 /5** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh from various individuals, most are either personal letters or letters of thanks for copies of his works;  
9 items  
1908-1915
- MS 20,642 /6** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh relating to applications for jobs and testimonials; 2 items  
1908-13
- MS 18,474** Typescript signed letter from W.B. Yeats to Thomas MacDonagh relating to the production of the *Playboy of the Western World* at the Abbey, "I cannot withdraw the Play Boy, though I see of course quite well the effect it may have on my chances of that Chair [in English at UCD?] No, if they won't give it to me because I am myself I shall be well out of it."; 1p  
5 May 1909
- MS 8,903 /1** Letters from Thomas MacDonagh to Mrs Bloomer, House Mistress at St. Enda's School, relating to the arrangements necessary for the students boarding; 6 items  
June – Sep. 1910
- MS 20,642 /7** Letter to Thomas MacDonagh from T.S. Ormond, letters is a long discussion of literary theory as well as containing some discussions of ideas of nationality, especially constructs of British and Irish identity; 5pp  
13 Oct. [1910]
- MS 21,622** Letters to Francis Sheehy-Skeffington mainly concerning the visit of King George V to Dublin, the Irish Anti-Vaccination League, the Irish Women's Franchise League, the Socialist Party of Ireland and the Young Ireland Branch of the United Irish League,

also contains some references to literary matters. Correspondents include Thomas MacDonagh; 185 items in 5 folders  
Feb. – Oct. 1911

- MS 44,344** Printout of a jpeg image of a letter from Thomas MacDonagh to a Mrs. Shelly, sending her some lines of poetry she has requested. Also contains emails relating to the provenance of the letter and a transcription of the text; 4pp  
24 March 1911
- MS 20,642 /8** Letter enclosing postcard from James Stephens to Thomas MacDonagh, both are personal letters; 2 items with envelope  
9 May 1911
- MS 10,854 /4** Miscellaneous official letters, includes ones from the Proportional Representation Society, the National Literary Society and UCD about the continuation of his teaching post; 3 items  
1911-15
- MS 20,642 /9** Letters to Thomas MacDonagh from various correspondents relating to *Irish Review* and the Irish Theatre, including one from Daniel Corkery asking for the *Irish Review* to publish a volume of his poems; 5 items  
1911-4 and undated
- MS 33,567 /4** Letter from Frank Fay to Thomas MacDonagh, giving details of his theatrical tour in Limerick and asking to meet MacDonagh in Dublin to discuss the possibility of founding a Dublin based group to study Shakespeare; 2pp with envelope  
8 June 1912
- MS 10,952 /5** Letters from Thomas MacDonagh to Frank Fay explaining the plan for the Irish Theatre, “The hall belongs to Madam Plunkett, wife of Count Plunkett and mother of Joseph Plunkett, a former pupil of mine, who has played with the Theatre of Ireland and who, with me, would be manly responsible for the organisation of the scheme. ... We would not be the Theatre of Ireland. We do not want to begin with a past. We are not against the Theatre of Ireland or against the Abbey, though I think we are necessary only because of the failure of those two in different directions.” The letters deal with the progress of the project, hampered by Plunkett’s illness, and the question of who to employ as actors and writers. Fay is offered the role of leading male actor; 3 letters  
1912
- MS 20,642 /10** Letters from Seághan P Mac Énrí, lecturer at Galway University to MacDonagh.  
2 items, one with envelope  
14 and 21 Feb. 1913  
[items are all in Irish]

- MS 33,567 /5** Letter from A.H. Bullen to Thomas MacDonagh, thanking him for the copy of *Thomas Campion* and discussing his response; 2pp with envelope  
24 Feb. 1913
- MS 10,843 /5** Drafts of letters by Thomas MacDonagh, one relates to the choice of his verses for a collection, the others to examinations and other publications, all are incomplete; 5 items  
8 Aug. 1913 and undated
- MS 10,854 /5** Letter from David Houston to Thomas MacDonagh, relating to the sale of the *Irish Review* to Joseph Plunkett, and especially the attitude of Pádraic Colum; ‘The Colums are impossible on matters touching real affairs. They cannot keep themselves outside the business in hand. He never apparently realised either that the lessening circulation & the absence of adv[er]ts. under his editorship indicated failure’. Also include note on sale of the review, and a letter from Count Plunkett relating to the review; 3 items  
1913 and undated
- MS 33,567 /6** Letter from Max Drennan to Thomas MacDonagh, thanking him for the copy of *Lyrical Poems* and giving his thoughts on it. Letter contains references to “the spiteful rumour about your marriage that you mention”, there differing political opinions as “I [Drennan] am an Irish Imperialist with the wish to get all the advantages out of the Empire for Ireland and Irishmen that can be got” and the possibility of MacDonagh taking up a position as the University of Fribourg; 3pp with envelope  
16 March 1915
- MS 13,663** Photostats of three letters from W.B. Yeats to Thomas MacDonagh dealing with MacDonagh’s literary works. One letter suggests a meeting and asks MacDonagh to send the altered version of his play [When the Dawn Has Come]. The longest letter is Yeats’ criticism on a draft of MacDonagh’s first book of poems, *Through the Ivory Gate*. Having suggested that MacDonagh is printing too many copies at too great an expense he then states, “Now about the verses themselves – They show that you have a thoughtful and imaginative mind – but you have not yet a precise musical & [ ] language ... but I can say that you have not yet found yourself as a poet.” The letter ends, “If after this you still [ ] to dedicate the book to me, you are certainly welcome to do so.”; 3 items  
undated, c.1903 and c.1908
- MS 20,642 /2** Two draft letters by Thomas MacDonagh;
- To editor of *Irish Independent* relating to a letter by George Bernard Shaw; 2pp

- To “A Chara Dhill” view on draft of play MacDonagh has been reading, and also views on theatre and modern drama generally; 5pp

undated

## II. PERSONAL PAPERS

### II.i. Applications, testimonials and teaching positions

- MS 20,644 /5** Papers relating to Thomas MacDonagh's time as a lecturer and examiner at UCD, includes letters, receipts and exam papers; 10 items  
1911-15
- MS 10,843 /7** Papers relating to Thomas MacDonagh's teaching career, including testimonials; 4 items  
1913, 1915 and undated
- MS 10,855** Applications for appointment to the Chair of History English Literature and Mental Science in University College, Galway and the Chair of English Literature in Trinity College, Dublin; 3 items  
1913
- MS 20,644 /6** Testimonial letter to Thomas MacDonagh's teaching abilities, also includes expenses form for Intermediate Education Board for Ireland examiners; 2 items  
1913 and 1915
- MS 10,850 /24** Manuscript draft UCD English exam papers; 11pp  
undated

### II.ii. Guardianship of MacDonagh minors

- MS 24,376 /1** Papers relating to the funeral of Muriel MacDonagh, financed by the National Aid Association. Includes bills, letter of thanks from Katherine Wilson [née Gifford] and an account of the plot of land purchased in Glasnevin. Also contains letters from Muriel MacDonagh and Joseph MacDonagh relating to the estate of Thomas MacDonagh; 7 items  
1916-7
- MS 24,376 /2** Reports and letters relating to guardianship of Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh arranged by the National Aid and Volunteers Dependent Fund. Correspondents include John MacDonagh, Joseph MacDonagh, Katherine Wilson [née Gifford] and Joseph Donnelly [married to Helen Gifford]. Joseph MacDonagh and Joseph Donnelly were appointed guardians; 14 items  
Sep. 1917 – Sep. 1921 and undated
- MS 24,376 /3** Receipts and accounts relating to expenses of the guardianship of Donagh and Barbara MacDonagh, costs paid by the National Aid and Volunteers Dependent Fund; 23 items  
1917-1921

### II.iii. Miscellaneous

- MS 20,650** Page from the Cloughjordan School Roll, county Tipperary, possibly in the hand of the head teacher Joseph MacDonagh senior. Also includes decree in ejectment for non-payment of rents against Patrick McGrath; 2 items  
1870 and 1882
- MS 20,649 /1** School award to Muriel Gifford; 1p  
1896
- MS 20,644 /1** Pocket diary of Thomas MacDonagh; 28pp  
1903
- MS 20,644 /4** Papers relating to Thomas MacDonagh's time as a student at UCD, including certificate of matriculation; 2 items  
1908-9
- MS 18,433** Photocopy of entry in Marriage Register of the Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Avenue, Dublin 6, showing the marriage of Thomas MacDonagh and Muriel Gifford, witnessed by Claude Gifford and Sydney Gifford; 1p  
Jan. 1912
- MS 20,644 /2** Cheque book of Thomas MacDonagh, with receipts for lodgements to account and other financial papers; 5 items  
1915-16
- MS 20,646 /5** Concert programmes, invitations and circular letters; 3 items  
1916 and undated  
[1 item is in Irish]
- MS 20,649 /6** Newspaper article relating to the death of Muriel MacDonagh, *The Monitor*, July 1917. Also contains newspaper report on court case between Isabella Gifford and Joseph and John MacDonagh over the estate of Muriel MacDonagh; 2 items  
July 1917 and undated
- MS 9,937** Hard bound cash book containing a catalogue of books of the late Thomas MacDonagh, also includes inventory of some household goods; 11pp  
Nov. 1917
- MS 20,649 /4** Copy [in hand of Muriel MacDonagh?] of the will of Fredrick Gifford; 6pp  
1917
- MS 20,646 /1** Biographical material on Thomas MacDonagh collected by his nephew George Bingham, includes recollections by Dominick

- Hackett; 4 items  
1937, 1967 and undated
- MS 33,567 /10** Newspaper cuttings collected by Mary MacDonagh, Sister Francesca, includes report of the inquest into the death of Muriel MacDonagh and a production of *Uncle Vanya* in which John MacDonagh acted; 4 items  
undated, c.1917
- MS 33,567 /11** Postcard of Thomas MacDonagh from a series featuring the leaders of the Easter Rising; 1 item  
undated  
[see **MS 44,337 /7** for a complete set]
- MAP 16 1 36** *Bacon's cycling map of Ireland, also showing railways and stations, with alphabetical index.* Published by G. W. Bacon & co., London. Large folio sheet. With manuscript markings by Thomas MacDonagh; 1 item  
undated
- MS 33,567 /12** Blank postcard, showing a picture of church, with a note in Thomas MacDonagh hand on reverse "New Chapel, unfinished"; 1 item  
undated
- MS 20,644 /3** Miscellaneous personal papers, mainly notes and envelopes; c.20 items  
undated
- MS 20,646 /6** Miscellaneous envelopes; 21 items  
undated

### III. IRISH VOLUNTEERS

This list contains the majority of the papers of Thomas MacDonagh relating to the Irish Volunteers held by the National Library, the material has been divided by type of document and then listed chronologically.

See also **MS 20,648 /1** for John MacDonagh's Irish Volunteer papers

#### III.i. Organisational papers and Orders

- MS 20,643 /1** Papers relating to the organisation of the Irish Volunteers, includes;
- Letters relating to the Redmondite split.
  - Agendas of meeting, including 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention.
  - Manuscript and typescript drafts of Constitution, some in the hand of Thomas MacDonagh.
- 16 items  
1914-15
- MS 20,643 /2** Reports including;
- Two on recruitment.
  - The Command of the Dublin Brigades.
  - Four on training with related syllabus notes (most in hand of Thomas MacDonagh).
  - Headquarters staff.
- 10 items  
1914 and undated
- MS 20,643 /3** Papers of the Dublin Branch of the Irish Volunteers, including;
- Notes in hand of Thomas MacDonagh and others.
  - Details of training camp site in Dublin.
  - Oath in hand of Thomas MacDonagh for C Corps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Dublin Brigade, relating to issues of new rifles and duties required in return, 23 May 1914.
- 16 items  
1914 and undated
- MS 20,643 /4** Irish Volunteer Orders, all typescript; 3 items  
1914
- MS 20,643 /15** Typescript with manuscript annotations by Thomas MacDonagh of Orders for first anniversary of Howth Gun Run, also contains manuscript draft of speech? by MacDonagh for the same occasion; 4 items  
July 1915
- MS 20,643 /20** Papers relating to the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, includes notes on organisation in hand of Thomas MacDonagh, letters from groups taking part and newspaper articles; 11 items

June-July 1915

- MS 20,643 /5** Irish Volunteer Orders, mostly typescript, 3 manuscript drafts by Thomas MacDonagh; 11 items  
1915
- MS 20,643 /6** Irish Volunteer Orders, most typescript, 2 manuscript drafts by Thomas MacDonagh; 7 items  
undated
- MS 20,643 /7** Blank Irish Volunteer Orders, all are typescript one is a draft with manuscript corrections by Thomas MacDonagh; 7 items  
undated

### **III.ii. Correspondence**

- MS 15,003 /4** Photostat of letter from Roger Casement, British Consul Santos, Brazil, to Mr. O'Brien, discussing the news of Ireland that has reached him in Brazil, and the bias against Ireland he feels there is the British newspapers; 3pp  
4 June 1907
- MS 20,643 /9** Letters to Comdt. MacDonagh from Provisional Committee and Irish Volunteer Headquarters most relating to Redmondite split. All are typed and most signed, includes signatures of Bulmer Hobson and Liam Mellows; 7 items  
Feb-Nov 1914
- MS 20,654 /1** Incomplete draft letter from Thomas MacDonagh to O'B[rien] B[utler], containing the latest versions of the verses of 'Freedom's Hill. A National Anthem', for which O'Brien Butler was composing the music; 1p  
9 Dec. 1914
- MS 20,643 /10** Official letters to Comdt. MacDonagh relating to Dublin Brigade, mostly giving orders, includes 3 from Eamon De Valera; 10 items one is a photocopy  
1914-15 and undated
- MS 20,643 /12** Circular Irish Volunteer letters, includes list of lectures with one on report writing to be given by Thomas MacDonagh; 10 items  
1914-15 and undated
- MS 20,643 /11** Letters to Comdt. MacDonagh from various individuals, including one from Philomena Plunkett [sister of Joseph Plunkett] suggesting a contact to supply first aid supplies; 5 items  
1915  
[one item is in Irish]

- MS 10,854 /6** Letters to [Thomas MacDonagh] Director of Training, Irish Volunteers, relating to musketry role, equipment, badges and ranks; 3 items  
c.1915-16
- MS 43,228 /1-30** Folder of correspondents and notes relating to the trial of Eoin Mac Néill. Includes original, manuscript and photostat copy of statement written by Thomas MacDonagh on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1916, “I have had a long consultation with [Eoin] MacNeill and Seán Fitzgibbon upon many aspects of the present situation ... My future conduct may be different from anything now anticipated by MacNeill and Fitzgibbon, two honest and sincere patriots, thought, I think, wrong in their handling of the present situation and in their attitude to military action. They and my countrymen must judge me on my conduct. I have guarded secrets which I am bound to keep. I have, I think, acted honourably and fairly by all my associates. I have had only one motive in all my actions, namely, the good of my country.” Also includes pencil written notes by Mac Néill of the weeks leading up to the Easter Rising and his attempts to stop military action, “saw [Thomas] McDonagh (sic) and [Joseph] Plunkett at my own house, dissuaded them and they were a bit shaken but not convinced. They undertook to consult their friends further.”; 30 items  
1916
- There is a microfilm of the letter only at N.1,196 P.1,396**

### III.iii. Other papers

- MS 10,852 /11** Typescript and manuscript drafts of ‘Freedom’s Hill’ and ‘Marching Song of the Irish Volunteers’; 3 items  
c.1914
- MS 20,643 /17** *Supplement to the Irish Volunteer*, containing ‘Freedom’s Hill. A National Anthem’, written by Thomas MacDonagh, music by O’Brien Butler. Also includes galley proof and typescript of ‘A Marching Song of the Irish Volunteers’; 5 items  
26 Dec. 1914 and undated
- MS 20,643 /18** Newspaper cuttings; 2 items  
1914
- MS 10,853 /3** Newspaper cutting on Irish Volunteers, including draft of letter by Thomas MacDonagh to editor of an unnamed newspaper attacking views of George Bernard Shaw published in the press; 3 items  
1914-16
- MS 10,857 /8** Newspaper cuttings on the Irish Volunteers; c.30 items  
c.1914-16
- MS 20,643 /14** Accounts, includes bills for uniforms and equipment and well as

- receipts for moneys paid to headquarters; 10 items  
1914-16
- MS 20,646 /2** Papers relating to the last days of Thomas MacDonagh, includes copy of last orders issued by him to Irish Volunteers before the Easter Rising, a statement by Thomas McCormack relating to events in April 1916, proofs of a statement by Muriel MacDonagh about her husbands last days, and related newspaper cuttings; 4 items  
1916 and undated
- MS 20,646 /4** Newspaper cuttings relating to Thomas MacDonagh and other leaders of the rebellion. Including announcement of the marriage of Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford, also article written by Donagh MacDonagh on his father as part of a series on the 1916 leaders; 20 items  
1916-38 and undated  
[see **MS 33,694 /B-G** for drafts of Donagh MacDonagh's articles]
- MS 20,643 /8** Manuscript drafts by Thomas MacDonagh on various Irish Volunteer issues, possibly speeches or press releases. 6 complete with 8 incomplete documents; 14 items  
undated
- MS 10,853 /1** Manuscript drafts by Thomas MacDonagh on various Irish Volunteer issues, possibly speeches or press releases, includes;
  - 'Twenty plan facts for Irishmen'.
  - 'Training notes for [regiments]'.
  - 'The Irish Volunteers in 1915'.
  - 'Common sense and the Irish Volunteers'.
6 items  
undated
- MS 10,853 /2** Manuscript notes on various Irish Volunteer subjects, includes exams for Offices, constitution, organisation, training, and Home Rule; c.60pp  
undated
- MS 10,853 /4** Printed flyers;
  - 'Facts about the Army'.
  - 'The Present Crisis. Manifesto issued by the executive council of the Irish Volunteers, 15<sup>th</sup> July'.
2 items  
undated, c.1915
- MS 20,643 /13** Printer material;
  - 'Join the Irish Volunteers' flyer; 2 items
  - 'Secret orders issued to military officers' flyer; 1p
  - Programme for Irish Volunteer display at St. Enda's School; 2pp

- Flyer including advertisement of *Irish Volunteer* newsletter; 2pp

5 items  
undated

**MS 20,643 /16** Manuscript and printed maps, with a handwritten key, mostly of areas within Dublin; 5 items  
undated

**MS 20,643 /19** Miscellaneous papers, mainly notes and envelopes; c.35 items  
undated

## IV. LITERARY PAPERS

This section contains a large collection of the literary remains of Thomas MacDonagh. Items are divided by type of work, and split by published volume where appropriate, and listed chronologically.

### IV.i. Poetry

#### IV.i.1. *Through the Ivory Gate, April and May and The Golden Joy*

- MS 10,852 /1** Manuscript drafts, some in hand of Mary-Louise MacDonagh, nee Parker, of *Through the Ivory Gate*; 5 items  
1901 and undated
- MS 10,852 /2** Galley and page proofs, with corrections, of *Through the Ivory Gate*; 4 items  
1902
- MS 10,852 /3** Manuscript draft of *April and May*; c.20pp  
1903
- MS 10,852 /4** Page proofs, with corrections, of *April and May*; 6 items  
1903
- MS 9,939** Soft bound notebook containing literary notes. Includes verse, revised layout for *Through the Ivory Gate* and *April and May*, as well as drafts of their prefaces. Also includes notes for a lecture; c.50pp  
c.1903-4
- MS 9,938** Bound volume containing newspaper reviews of *Through the Ivory Gate*, and a letter of congratulations on its publication from J. Darlington. The back of the book contains newspaper reviews of *The Golden Joy*; 47pp  
1903-7
- MS 10,852 /5** Manuscript and typescript drafts of *The Golden Joy*, with a notebook containing related material; 5 items  
c.1903-6
- MS 10,856 /1** Notes on sales of *Through the Ivory Gate* and *April and May*; 2pp  
c.1905-6
- MS 10,852 /6** Galley proofs of *The Golden Joy*, with corrections; 4 items  
1906
- MS 10,857 /1** Newspaper cutting on *The Golden Joy*; 10 items  
1907

#### IV.i.2. *Songs of Myself*

- MS 10,851 /1** Manuscript drafts of poem with corrections, published in *Songs of Myself*; c.35pp  
c.1908-10
- MS 10,851 /2** Typescript drafts of poems, with annotations and corrections, published in *Songs of Myself*; c.70pp  
c.1908-10
- MS 10,851 /3** Early typescript copies of *Songs of Myself*, showing slight differences from final version; 2 items  
c.1908-10
- MS 10,851 /4** Corrected proofs of *Songs of Myself*; c.50pp  
1910
- MS 20,654 /7** Letters and accounts from Hodges & Figgis relating to the publication of *Songs of Myself* and *Thomas Campion*, with related items; 6 items  
1912-16

#### IV.i.3. *Lyrical Poems*

- MS 10,851 /5-6** Manuscript and typescript drafts of poems for *Lyrical Poems*; 36 items in 2 folders  
undated
- MS 10,851 /7** Notebook containing contents lists and notes on layout of *Lyrical Poems*; c.20pp  
c. Jan. 1913
- MS 10,851 /8** Incomplete typescript draft of *Lyrical Poems*; c.100pp  
c.1913
- MS 10,851 /9** Proofs of *Lyrical Poems*, also contains proof of poems from the book published in the *Irish Review*, both with corrections; 17 items  
1913
- MS 10,857 /2** Newspaper cutting on *Lyrical Poems*; c.20 items  
1914

#### IV.i.4. Other poetry

- MS 20,645 /10** Reviews of Thomas MacDonagh's books of poetry, or cuttings of his poems published in newspapers or journals, with related items; 7 items

- 1896-1912
- MS 10,843 /1** Typescript of four poems by James Stephens. Also includes typescript of *Rathangan* by W.A. Byrne; 2 items  
1901 and undated
- MS 10,850 /21** Proofs of;
- Part of *April and May* (1903)
  - First pages of *Lyrical Poems* (1911)
  - 'Wishes for my Son' (1912)
  - 'Yellow Bitten' (undated)
- 4 items  
1903, 1911, 1912 and undated
- MS 20,645 /6** Letters and accounts relating to the publications of Thomas MacDonagh's poetic works; 5 items  
1903-6
- MS 10,852 /7** Mainly typescript with some manuscript poems, either written or prepared for publication between c.1906-13; c.50pp  
c.1906-13
- MS 10,852 /8** Typescript of poems collected together and arranged for possible publication; c.50pp  
c.1906-13
- MS 1,645** Bound volume [sample for *Thomas Camion*] containing manuscript drafts of verses by Thomas MacDonagh; c.60pp  
4 Sep. 1913
- MS 20,645 /2** Manuscript draft of 'Barbara born 24<sup>th</sup> March 1915', with annotations; 5pp  
1913
- MS 15,003 /3** Photostat of poem 'Barbara born 24<sup>th</sup> March 1915', "written in June, 1915, copied here the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1916. For Muriel to have for Barbara. With love Thomas MacDonagh". Also includes photostat of cover and dedication page of *Lyrical Poems*, with inscription "with love, 5.XII.1913. Thomas MacDonagh"; 4pp  
1913 and 1916
- MS 10,999 /6** Folder containing letters and poems, including typescript of 'Eamonn an Chnuic' with corrections and annotation in the author's hand; 5 items  
c.1913
- MS 10,851 /10** Manuscript and typescript drafts of poems, later published in miscellaneous section of *The Poetic Works of Thomas MacDonagh*; 12 items  
c.1913-16

- MS 10,857 /3** Newspaper cuttings relating to collected works of Thomas MacDonagh published posthumously; c.20 items  
1916
- MS 15,542** Original manuscript of Francis Ledwidge's poem on Thomas MacDonagh, 'We shall not hear the Bitten Cry'. Also includes letter from Edward Plunkett, 18<sup>th</sup> Baron of Dunsany [Ledwidge's literary patron] to Donagh MacDonagh enclosing poem, "I feel sure you would like to have Francis Ledwidge's original manuscript of the poem he wrote to your father. I do not think he wrote many lovelier poems ... Ledwidge gave me this M.S. at the time that he wrote it."; 2 items  
June 30 1940  
[MS 13,156 contains a photostat copy]
- MS 10,852 /9** Typescript of unpublished and miscellaneous poems, with corrections; c.40p  
various dated
- MS 10,852 /10** Manuscript of unpublished and miscellaneous poems; c.40p  
various dated
- MS 20,645 /3** Typescript and proofs of Thomas MacDonagh's poems, with some manuscript annotations by MacDonagh; 25pp  
undated
- MS 10,852 /12** Miscellaneous and unidentified poems, including some by other authors; c.70pp  
undated
- MS 10,852 /13** Miscellaneous tables of contents; c.50pp  
undated
- MS 8,121 /6** Collection of typescript and manuscript poems collected by Paul O'Farrell, includes one by Thomas MacDonagh  
undated

#### **IV.ii. Plays and the Irish Theatre**

- MS 34,235** Autograph book of Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh, actress with the Abbey and Irish National Theatre, contains signatures of many important figures in Irish theatrical world including Thomas MacDonagh; 1 item  
1904-1950
- MS 10,846 /1** Typescript copy of *The Poet Captain* [later *When the Dawn is come*], part of Act I is missing and there are duplicates of some pages; c.60pp

- 1907
- MS 10,846 /7** Newspaper cutting relating to *When the Dawn is Come* and *Metempsychosis or A Mad World*; 4 items  
1908 and undated
- MS 10,846 /2** Various incomplete manuscript revisions and notes for *When the Dawn is Come*, notes show later titles for work including *Freedom*, *The Victor* and *The Island Republic*; c.25 items  
1909-11 and undated
- MS 10,850 /22** Articles by Thomas MacDonagh on theatre;
- Proof of 'Impressions in Drama', and printed copy in *Irish Review*, 1911
  - Draft manuscript of 'Uncle Vanya at the Irish Theatre' (c.1915)
  - Draft manuscript of 'Plays in Irish and a Suggestion' (undated)
- 3 items  
1911, 1915 and undated
- MS 10,847** Two typescript copies of *Metempsychosis or A Mad World. A play in One Act* by Thomas MacDonagh, with annotations in the author's hand. Also includes galley proof of the same; 3 items  
1912 and undated
- MS 17,301** Signed agreement between Thomas MacDonagh, Edward Martyn and Joseph Plunkett, in the hand of Thomas MacDonagh, for the establishment of the Irish Theatre; 6pp  
30 June 1914
- MS 13,099** Photostat of the draft agreement for the establishment of the Irish Theatre between Thomas MacDonagh, Edward Martyn and Joseph Plunkett, in the hand of Thomas MacDonagh; 6pp  
1914
- MS 10,857 /7** Newspaper cuttings relating to the Irish Theatre; c.25 items  
c.1914-16
- MS 10,848** Incomplete manuscript draft of *Pagans. A Modern Play in Two Conversations* by Thomas MacDonagh, c.60pp, also includes manuscript draft of advertisement for first production; 2 items  
[1915]
- MS 20,645 /4** Typescript for *Pagans*, marked up for the part of Francis, with name and address of John MacDonagh on cover page; c.30pp  
[1915]
- MS 20,645 /5** Bound copy of *Pagans. A Modern Play in Two Conversations* by Thomas MacDonagh, (Talbot Press, Dublin); c.25pp

1920

- MS 21,071** Typescript with corrections in author's hand of *Freedom*, a redraft of *When The Dawn is Come*;  
undated
- MS 10,844 /1-2** Incomplete manuscript drafts of plays in Irish with miscellaneous literary notes also in Irish; c.60 items in 2 folders  
undated  
[items are in Irish]
- MS 10,845 /1** Incomplete drafts of plays;
- Manuscript of part of *Deirdre* by Thomas MacDonagh
  - Typescript of Act Three of *The Privilege of Place*, with corrections and annotations by Thomas MacDonagh
  - Typescript of Act IV of unknown play with annotations in unknown hand
- undated
- MS 10,845 /2** Manuscript notes and miscellaneous pages from scripts, mostly in the hand of Thomas MacDonagh; c.50pp  
undated

#### **IV.iii. *Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry***

See also **MS 20,654 /7** for accounts and letters relating to publication

- MS 10,849 /1** Manuscript draft of *A dissertation on Thomas Campion and the Art of English Poetry*; c.200pp  
[1912-13]
- MS 10,849 /2** Miscellaneous notes relating to *Thomas Campion* and related subjects; c.50pp  
c.1912-13
- MS 10,849 /3** First proofs and revised proofs of parts of *Thomas Campion*; 11 items  
December 1912
- MS 10,849 /4** Printed flyers for *Thomas Campion*; 14 items  
1913
- MS 20,645 /12** Reviews of *Thomas Campion* and *Literature in Ireland*; 10 items  
1913-16  
[2 items are in French]
- MS 10,857 /4** Newspaper cuttings relating to *Thomas Campion*; c.25 items  
1916

#### **IV.v. *Literature in Ireland***

See also **MS 20,645 /12** for reviews of *Literature in Ireland*

- MS 10,850 /13** Notes and early drafts of predecessors to *Literature in Ireland*, contains a draft letter from Thomas MacDonagh to 'Mr Lyons' explaining why MacDonagh can not meet his commitment to submitted a draft by the end of January 1914; 6 items  
January 1914 and undated
- MS 10,850 /14** Early draft of *Literature in Ireland*; c.100pp  
August 1914
- MS 10,850 /1** Manuscript and typescript drafts of contents, dedication and preface; 5 items  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /2** Manuscript drafts of 'Study I: Introduction and General'; 2 items  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /3** Manuscript draft of 'Study II: Anglo-Irish Literature'; 16pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /4** Manuscript drafts and proofs of 'Study III: Language and Literature'; 4 items  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /5** Manuscript draft of 'Study IV: English and Irish'; 24pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /6** Manuscript draft of 'Study V: Anglo-Irish Authors'; 12pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /7** Manuscript draft of 'Study VI: The Irish Mode'; c.30pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /8** Manuscript draft, with some printed pages, of 'Study VII: The Lyric of the Irish Mode'; c.35pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /9** Manuscript drafts, with some printed pages, of 'Study VIII: Irish Literature'; c.80pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /10** Manuscript draft of 'Poems of the Irish Mode'; c.15pp  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /11** Manuscript drafts of notes section; 4 items  
c.1914-15

- MS 10,850 /12** Manuscript drafts of bibliography and index; 5 items  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /15** Miscellaneous notes; 11p  
c.1914-15
- MS 10,850 /16-19** Bundles of galley proof, with corrections by Thomas MacDonagh;  
4 folders  
c.1915
- MS 10,850 /20** Nearly complete set of page proof, with corrections by Thomas  
MacDonagh; c.200pp  
1915
- MS 20,645 /11** Newspaper cuttings relating to the success of Thomas  
MacDonagh's works after his death, especially *Literature in  
Ireland*; 4 items  
1916 and undated
- MS 10,857 /5** Newspaper cuttings relating to *Literature in Ireland*; c.40 items  
1916 and undated
- MS 20,645 /8** Letters from the Educational Company of Ireland, relating to the  
publication of *Literature in Ireland*, and the royalties owing to  
Muriel MacDonagh on *Literature in Ireland*, *Thomas Campion*  
and *Poems of Thomas MacDonagh*; 4 items  
1916

#### IV.vi. Other work

- MS 10,843 /3** Literary papers in the possession of Thomas MacDonagh but not  
by him;
- Part of an essay or speech on J.M. Synge, signed George  
Townshend
  - Manuscript notes on reign of Henry VIII
  - Manuscript short story *The Irish Violinist* by Mary-Louise  
MacDonagh
  - Proof of *La Réponse de Georges Moore à Germaine, une  
Camelite Depuis 23 ans qui lui a demandé de Bruler ses  
Livres*
- 4 items  
1911 and undated
- MS 10,856 /2** *Irish Review* accounts, with related noted; 6pp  
1911-12
- MS 10,850 /23** Draft manuscript reviews by Thomas MacDonagh, includes one  
on *The Circle and The Sword* by Joseph Plunkett, one on Plunkett

- and Lord Alfred Douglas and one on Pádraic Colum; 5 items  
c.1912 and undated
- MS 10,843 /6** Typescript statement, with manuscript annotations, by Thomas MacDonagh, [on behalf of Dublin Industrial Peace Committee], relating to the Dublin Lockout; 2pp  
1913-14
- MS 10,843 /8** Printed material relating to *The Irish Review*, includes pages from a 1913 issue which includes an article by Pádraic Colum and a advert for *Lyrical poems*; 5 items  
1913 and undated  
[items are damaged]
- MS 8,121 /7**  
**MS 32,695 /1**  
**MS 33,675 /1** Copies of *The Last and Inspiring Address of Thomas MacDonagh*, printed in Dublin in 1916, contained within larger collections of material  
1916
- MS 10,843 /9** Incomplete draft of a novel by Thomas MacDonagh, in two parts, one is typescript the other manuscript, with a section missing from the middle; 2 items  
undated
- MS 10,850 /25** Manuscript and typescript drafts of critical articles by Thomas MacDonagh, includes articles on James Clarence Morgan, J.M. Synge and Early Irish Literature; 6 items  
undated
- MS 10,850 /26** Manuscript notes on various aspects of English and Irish literature; 5 items  
undated
- MS 10,850 /27** Miscellaneous manuscript notes; 10 items  
undated
- MS 10,843 /11** Miscellaneous notes, verses and lists; c.65pp  
undated
- MS 10,857 /9** Miscellaneous newspaper cuttings; c.30 items  
undated
- MS 10,843 /12** Blank note papers and headed paper; c.25pp  
undated

## V. MARY-LOUISE MACDONAGH neé PARKER

This section contains the literary remains of Mary-Louise MacDonagh, neé Parker. Mary-Louise was born in 1843 to a Protestant family. In 1868 while a teacher in county Tipperary she met and married Joseph MacDonagh and converted to Catholicism. Mary-Louise wrote short-stories, devotional works and poems. Her short stories followed the traditional rags-to-riches formula, with an added element of religious conversion. The importance of her conversion to her literary work is most clearly seen in her devotional work, *The Daily Life of a True Catholic. By a Convert*. Mary-Louise died in 1908.

- MS 10,858 /1** Notebooks containing manuscript of *The Daily Life of a True Catholic. By a Convert*; 3 items  
undated
- MS 10,858 /2** Manuscript copies of *Lisette's Story – A French Tale*; 3 items  
undated
- MS 10,858 /3** Manuscript of *Old Robin Gray*; 7pp  
undated
- MS 10,858 /4** Notebook containing manuscript of *A Holiday in Rural Island*, contains notes in hand of Thomas MacDonagh; 6pp  
undated
- MS 10,858 /5** Manuscript of *The Irish Violinist*; 13pp  
undated  
[see also **MS 10,843 /3**]
- MS 10,858 /6** Manuscript of *Nearly lost thro' Silence*; 8pp  
undated
- MS 10,858 /7** Notebook containing manuscript of *Rose, Thistle and Shamrocks*;  
1 item  
undated
- MS 10,858 /8** Notebook containing manuscript of *A Tale of Ireland and America*, also includes letter declining publication; 1 item  
undated
- MS 10,858 /9** Notebook containing 'extracts from reading' in hand of Mary-Louise MacDonagh; 1 item  
undated
- MS 10,858 /10** Manuscript poems; 11 items  
undated
- MS 10,858 /11** Miscellaneous notes; 4 items  
undated

## VI. JOHN MACDONAGH

John MacDonagh was born in Cloughjordan, county Tipperary in 1880. During the first decade of the twentieth century he worked with various theatre and opera companies in Dublin, England and America, as well as writing his own plays. In 1914 he helped his brother Thomas with the establishment of the Irish Theatre, which he was to manage and act for. The Irish Theatre also produced some of John's own plays, such as *Author! Author!*. Like his brother Thomas, John was a member of the Irish Volunteers, and served with his brother during the Easter Rising. He was imprisoned as a result of his participation and was interned in Frongoch Camp with many of his fellow revolutionaries. After his release John returned to Dublin and continued with his literary works, he also worked for RTÉ's drama department.

Other material relating to John MacDonagh's literary career can be found in **Section IV.v.** of the main list and **MS 33,567 /10**

For the correspondence of John MacDonagh see **Sections I.i.4** and **I.i.5** of the main list and **Sections I.i.** and **I.ii.** of this appendix.

- MS 20,648 /1** Papers relating to the Irish Volunteers, includes;
- Membership Card.
  - Will made 20 April 1916, leaving all his possession to his brother Thomas MacDonagh, or his heirs. Witnessed by Grace Gifford.
  - Copy of notice of internment at Frongoch.
  - Easter week Role of Honour.
  - Letters relating to the location of the meeting where the 1916 Rising was decided upon.
- 5 items  
1916-35
- MS 20,648 /2** Professional correspondence, relating to literary work, plays, radio and television work, also includes copyright application for his play *The Irish Jew*; 9 items  
1916-56
- MS 20,648 /3** Newspaper articles on John MacDonagh; 16 items  
1920s-50s
- MS 20,648 /4** Telegram from John MacDonagh to [Jim MacDonagh] communicating news of the death of Joseph MacDonagh; 1 item  
Dec. 1922
- MS 17,460** Letters from John MacDonagh to Joseph McGarrity, most are personal letters, one including an appeal to support the IRA chemical expert Jim Donovan's new enterprise *Ireland Today*. One letter includes a typescript copy of Thomas MacDonagh's final speech from the dock; 5 items  
1932-9

- MS 33,675 /A /2 item 57** Letter from John MacDonagh, [RTÉ] Productions Director, to George A Lyons arranging rehearsal of a broadcast by Lyons on Thomas Davis; 1 item  
3 Oct. 1938
- MS 33,654** Letters from Edward Plunkett, 18<sup>th</sup> Baron of Dunsany to Mr. Henry and John MacDonagh of RTÉ's Drama Department, relating to the production of Dunsany's plays; 2 items  
1940-5
- MS 38,669 /11** Letters from John MacDonagh to Austin Clarke sending copies of two poems 'Dead Leaves. To the memory of Thomas MacDonagh' and 'Life and Death'; 1 item in a large collection  
26 March 1953
- MS 10,843 /10** Two short manuscripts by John MacDonagh, *How to scrub the floor of your cell* and *Kleinbach's Children*; 2 items  
undated  
[one item is damaged and pages are torn into 3 pieces]
- MS 20,448 /5** Manuscript and typescripts of poems by John MacDonagh; 5 item  
undated
- MS 20,648 /6** Miscellaneous notes for plays and sketches; c.50 items  
undated
- MS 20,648 /7** Typescript with manuscript annotations of *The Crime of Morgan Lomassnie* by Eoin O'Driscoll, in the possession of John MacDonagh; 15pp  
undated
- MS 20,648 /8** Typescript of *Memories of Roger Casement* by Bulmer Hobson, in possession of John MacDonagh; 7pp  
undated

## VII. JOSEPH MACDONAGH

Joseph MacDonagh was born in Cloughjordan, county Tipperary in 1883. When his brother Thomas moved to Dublin in 1908 Joseph was already established there as an excise man. Although Joseph took no part in the 1916 Rising, he was persecuted in his professional life for the actions of his brothers. Joseph became increasingly politically active after the death of Thomas and was arrested and imprisoned on several occasions between 1917 and 1921, on charges against the Defence of the Realm Act. He took part in the hunger strike in Mountjoy Goal in 1917, which led to the death of Thomas Ashe. Joseph was on the executive of Sinn Féin and elected as MP for Tipperary North and to the First Dáil. He was appointed Minister for Labour and Economic Affairs under the Second Dáil, and oversaw the Belfast Boycott in response to the ejection of Belfast Catholics by the B-Specials. Joseph MacDonagh was re-elected in the 1922 elections, and took an Anti-Treaty stance. He was imprisoned in Mountjoy and died in the hospital there on Christmas Day 1922.

- MS 20,646 /3** Newspaper cuttings relating to Joseph MacDonagh; 14 items  
c.1916-22
- MS 35,294 /1  
item 21** Letter from Joseph MacDonagh to Laurence O’Neill, Lord Mayor of Dublin. Joseph seems to have escaped prison as he states, “I am not putting any address on this letter for the very good reason that the police are anxious to find out my whereabouts, as the attorney General considers it advisable that I finish my sentence – an opinion with which I can’t be expected to agree”. The letter shows Joseph’s support for other republican prisoners, especially those on hunger strike in Dundalk Prison. He wants the Lord Mayor to insist the British government changes the rules at the prison as they have agreed to; 1 item  
c. Nov. 1917
- MS 33,294 /2  
item 7** Letter from Joseph MacDonagh to Laurence O’Neill, Lord Mayor of Dublin. Joseph is sending O’Neill a copy of a letter he has sent to the *Freeman’s Journal*, which is critical of O’Neill’s attitude to republican prisoners on hunger strike; 2 items  
5 March 1918
- MS 33,294 /4  
item 9** Letter from Joseph MacDonagh interned in Reading Gaol to Laurence O’Neill, Lord Mayor of London. Letter gives Christmas wishes and a report of the prisoner’s health, “We are all as well as can be expected under the circumstances ... [W.T.] Cosgrave though not of a robust constitution, is pretty well”. The rest of the letter expresses support for O’Neill “All here are appreciative of the splendid work you have been doing ... I hope when your term of office expires you will be unanimously re-elected”; 1 item  
18 Dec. 1918
- MS 24,110** Collection of letters to Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington. Includes one letter from Joseph MacDonagh (The Film Company of Ireland)

asking for help with translation; 1 item in a large collection.  
20 April 1920

**MS 13,767**

Letters from Joseph MacDonagh, Mountjoy Prison Hospital, to Comdt. Philip Cosgrove T.D., Military Governor Mountjoy Prison. Subjects include sending letters to his wife, his state of health and the need to see a specialist. Also includes letter from Philip Cosgrove to Mrs. J. MacDonagh, sending her the letters after the death of Joseph; 6 items  
Nov-Dec 1922 and 25 May 1923

## VIII. DONAGH MACDONAGH

Donagh MacDonagh was born in Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1912, the son of Thomas and Muriel MacDonagh. Donagh's childhood was marked by the tragic deaths of both his parents, and prolonged custody arguments between his parents' families. He was educated at Belvedere College and UCD. Called to the bar in 1935, Donagh later became a district judge. Like his father Donagh was playwright and a poet, publishing three volumes of poetry, giving lectures on literary topics and producing several plays, the most famous being *Happy as Larry*. Donagh also wrote extensively for the radio, and edited several collections of poetry, notably the *Oxford Book of Irish Verse* (1958) with Lennox Robinson. Much of Donagh's work shows a fascination with the events of the Easter Rising, in which his father lost his life. Donagh MacDonagh died in Dublin in 1968, and his daughter Iseult McGuinness acts as his literary executor.

**MS 38,663 /9** Letters from Donagh MacDonagh to Austin Clarke, requesting that Clarke review his and Niall Sheridan's *Twenty Poems*; that he lend him Seamus O'Sullivan's book from the Tower Booklets series; congratulating Clarke on a broadcast of Rachel Lindsay's 'The Congo'; the Law Library members compliment Clarke; requesting that Clarke return a copy of a radio play and the first draft of new poems that MacDonagh had given him; wishes not to quarrel with Clarke; pleased that he likes MacDonagh's play; critics' confusion about it; Lennox Robinson is enthusiastic about it; the Abbey Theatre showed no interest; requesting that Clarke contact a range of newspapers (regarding his play *Happy as Larry*); responding to Clarke's query concerning the Mercury Theatre by saying that he does not know the situation, as he was unable to contact Martin Browne; called to the Gaiety Theatre but did not meet Benson; tells Clarke that he has found three business men who will put up the capital for *Happy as Larry*; reports a favorable response from Lennox Robinson; asking that Clarke supply him with a testimonial to support his application for the Chair of Modern English at University College Galway; decision to withdraw his application; glad to know that Clarke is using a poem 'Dublin Tramcars II', as it is almost the only purely Dublin poem; gives Clarke permission to use it and waives fee; glad Clarke did not despise the Lantern [Theatre] production; tells Clarke that Michael [Mac Liamoir] is disposed to arrange availability of the Gate Theatre for Clarke's play; 12 items 1934-66 and undated

**MS 15,542** Original manuscript of Francis Ledwidge's poem on Thomas MacDonagh, *We shall not hear the Bitten Cry*. Also includes letter from Edward Plunkett, 18<sup>th</sup> Baron of Dunsany [Ledwidge's literary patron] to Donagh MacDonagh enclosing poem, "I feel sure you would like to have Francis Ledwidge's original manuscript of the poem he wrote to your father. I do not think he

wrote many lovelier poems ... Ledwidge gave me this M.S. at the time that he wrote it.”; 2 items

June 30 1940

[MS 13,156 contains a photostat copy]

- MS 44,345 /1** Annotated first proofs of *Veterans and Other Poems* by Donagh MacDonagh; 20pp  
c.1941
- MS 44,345 /2** Bound copy of *Veterans and Other Poem* By Donagh MacDonagh, (Cuala Press, Dublin); c.40pp  
1941
- MS 5,953** Bound volume containing typescript of speeches read at the Thomas Davis and Young Ireland Centenary, includes *Irish Poetry To-Day* by Donagh MacDonagh; 19pp  
1945
- MS 16,841** Bound typescript copy of *As Happy as Larry. A Comedy in Verse.* By Donagh MacDonagh; c.80pp  
c.1946
- MS 44,345 /3** Marked set of proofs for *The Hungry Grass* by Thomas MacDonagh (Faber and Faber, London), with some loose sheets of notes, c.40pp  
May 1947
- MS 38,669 /11** Collection of letters to Austin Clarke, includes 3 letters from Donagh MacDonagh, entering verse for a competition and specifying a pseudonym, one letter is written in verse from Austria; 3 items in a larger collection  
1949, 1953 and 1954
- MS 29,047 /22** Letters from Donagh MacDonagh to Shelia Wingfield, relating to the *Oxford Book of Irish Verse* of which he was joint editor with Lennox Robinson; 3 items  
16 Jan., 20 and 30 Oct. 1956
- MS 38,665 /1** Collection of letters to Austin Clarke, includes 3 from Donagh MacDonagh. Topics include the inclusion of Clarke's verses in *The Oxford Book of Irish Verse* and the Penguin edition of *Happy as Larry*; 2 items in a larger collection  
1956-7
- MS 34,905 /1** Scrapbook of the Lantern Theatre, Dublin 1957-67, contains;
- Pages 1-3, reviews, programme and card for *Happy as Larry* by Donagh MacDonagh, Oct-Dec 1957
  - Page 14, reviews and programme for *Happy as Larry* by Donagh MacDonagh, Dec 1958
- Oct.-Dec. 1957 and Dec. 1958

- MS 40,180** Playbill, programme and handbill for *Happy as Larry* by Donagh MacDonagh  
Nov 1957
- MS 35,041 /4** Letters to John Jordan, editor of Poetry Ireland, includes one from Donagh MacDonagh as chairman of the James Joyce's Tower; 1 item in a large collection  
27 Aug 1962
- MS 40,208** Visitors signature book of the Lantern Theatre, Dublin 1965-72, includes signature of Donagh MacDonagh; 1 volume  
1965-72
- MS 18,831** Typescript of radio feature *Dublin one-three one-six. A recollection in ballad and action of the People and Happenings involved in the Great Lock-Out and The Easter Rising*. Written by Donagh MacDonagh, devised by Vincent and Jack Dowling; 30pp  
c.1966
- MS 33,720** Typescript of *Easter Christening A Play for Broadcast* by Donagh MacDonagh; 26pp  
undated
- MS 22,491** Typescript with manuscript annotations and corrections of *Down By the Liffy Side* by Donagh MacDonagh; 74pp  
undated
- MS 33,694 /B-G** Typescripts of articles on leaders of The Easter Rising, contains Eamonn Ceannt, Tom Clarke, James Connolly, Sean MacDiarmada, Thomas MacDonagh and P. H. Pearse written by Donagh MacDonagh; 7 folders  
undated
- MS 44,345 /4** Bound typescript of unpublished play *God's Gentry. A play in three acts* by Donagh MacDonagh; 68pp  
undated
- Collection List 83** Collection list of the papers of Austin Clarke, letter by Donagh MacDonagh within this collection have been listed separately above but the collection also contains letters from others making reference to Donagh MacDonagh.