

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

Collection List No. A13

Stephen Rynne-Alice Curtayne papers

(MSS 28,928-29,034)

(Accession No. 4071)

Papers of Stephen Rynne and Alice Curtayne, authors and broadcasters,
c. 1910-1980.

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INTRODUCTION

Personal history

Stephen Rynne, author and journalist, was born in Hampshire, England in 1901 to a prosperous Irish family. He was brought to Ireland in 1907 and educated at Clongowes College. Later he studied at Reading University and University College Cork. In 1935 he married Alice Curtayne. Rynne worked as a journalist and broadcaster, and also became a successful author. His most famous works include *Green Fields* (1938), *All Ireland* (1956) and his biography of Fr. John Hayes, the founder of Muintir na Tire, *Canon John Hayes* (1960). He died in Dublin in 1980.

Alice Curtayne, author, was born in Kerry in 1901 and was educated in Ireland and England. Her works, chiefly biographical, include *St Catherine of Siena* (1929), *Patrick Sarsfield* (1934), *The Trial of Oliver Plunkett* (1953) and *Francis Ledwidge: A Life of the Poet* (1972). She also wrote for several newspapers. Curtayne died in 1981.

The Papers

This small collection was acquired by the National Library in 1984 from Dr Andrew Rynne and consists mainly of correspondence, journals, scripts and newsclippings. The papers of the two authors have been separated and arranged chronologically by document type.

Bibliographical References

The Library has received several other accessions of related papers, some of which are listed in *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*, vol. 4, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1965), p. 305, *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation-First Supplement 1965-1975*, vol. 1, ed. Richard J. Hayes (1979), p. 666, and in the card catalogue index in the Manuscripts Reading Room.

I. PAPERS OF STEPHEN RYNNE

I.i. Correspondence and other papers relating to social, political, family and business life

- Ms. 28,928
(i - ii) Correspondence, mainly between members of the Rynne family;
c.90 items
c.1910-66
- Ms. 28,929
(i - v) Miscellaneous notes and memorabilia concerning Stephen Rynne's
childhood and youth, and the Rynne family; c.55 items
c.1910-75
- Ms. 28,930
(i - iii) Miscellaneous financial and legal papers; c.50 items
c.1925-78
- Ms. 28,931 Correspondence including copy letter by Eamon De Valera, letters from
publishers and from Radio Eireann, two letters from Pdraig Colum, a
letter concerning the history of Collon, county Louth and a letter
regarding publishers Sheed and Ward; c.24 items
1932-80
- Ms. 28,932 Photographs of Stephen Rynne and Alice Curtayne including a group
with Eamon De Valera; 6 items
1932-c. 1960
- Ms. 28,933 Scrapbook containing newscuttings about the play 'Pilgrim'
produced at the Abbey Theatre and written by Mary Rynne.
1938
- Ms. 28,934 Congratulatory letters to Stephen Rynne, including one from
Kate O'Brien on 'Green Fields'; 3 items
1938-40
- Ms. 28,935 Leaflets and legal costs of Irish Farmers' Federation; c.20 items
1939-40
- Ms. 28,936 Correspondence with publishers, including Dundalغان Press and
Bord Fáilte; c.100 items
1941-80
- Ms. 28, 937
(i - ii) Correspondence and other oddments, including letters from
Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Kate O'Brien, G.B. Newe and
Benedict Kiely; c.15 items
1946-76

- Ms. 28,938 Pamphlets produced by the Financial Freedom Federation and the Irish Social Credit Party; c.30 items
c.1946?
- Ms. 28,939 (i– ii) Biographical handouts, miscellaneous poems and articles by Stephen Rynne; c.30 items
c.1951-79
- Ms. 28,940 (i - vi) Correspondence and other papers relating to Muintir na Tíre and Fr. John Hayes
c.1954-69
- (i) Muintir na Tíre, Prosperous, county Kildare
 - (ii) Muintir na Tíre, Prosperous, county Kildare and associate enterprises - Earraí Móna Teo, Progress Kildare
 - (iii) Muintir na Tíre leaflets
 - (iv) Lectures and addresses concerning Muintir na Tíre and Fr. John Hayes
 - (v) Papers concerning Muintir na Tíre, Prosperous, county Kildare, including minute book of the Industry and Unemployment Sub-Committee 1958 and Secretary's Minute book, 1966
 - (vi) Earraí Móna Teo and Prosperous Enterprise
- Ms. 28,941 Newscippings and correspondence concerning Stephen Rynne's lecture tour in America; c.30pp
1961
- Ms. 28,942 Pocket diaries containing brief notes and memoranda
1962-78
- Ms. 28,943 (i - v) John Devoy Memorial Committee: pamphlets, notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings
c.1963-77
- Ms. 28,944 Irish Wildbird Conservancy Newsletter and associated documents and Correspondence; c.30 items
1969-75
- Ms. 28,945 (i-iii) Catalogues and correspondence concerning Stephen Rynne's book dealing activities, his painting, and the Curragh Art Club; c.100 items
1969-78
- Ms. 28,946 (i - ii) Correspondence and other papers relating to inland waterways and the journal 'Canaliana'; c.20 items
1970-75

- Ms. 28,947 Pamphlets and membership lists concerning An Taisce; c.10 items
c.1970
- Ms. 28,948 Correspondence and pamphlets concerning American Irish Foundation
and the Trees for Ireland society; c.15 items
1973
- Ms. 21,949 Correspondence and drafts concerning articles to be written by Stephen
(i - ii) Rynne for the Automobile Association's 'Touring guide to Ireland';
c.30 items
1974-76

I.ii. Literary and other writings

- Ms. 28,950 'The private thoughts of a bird lover': typescript; c.60pp
undated
- Ms. 28,951 'Wedding Eve: a one-act play', typescript; 32pp
undated
- Ms. 28,952 'The Stretch in the days', typescript of an unpublished novel; 259pp
undated
- Ms. 28,953 'Nature notes': specimens only. Illustrations by Bríd Ní Rinn (daughter
of Stephen Rynne and Alice Curtayne): articles from 'Land and Water'
series published in 'The Irish Press' 1946-7 pasted down with
accompanying sketches by Bríd Ní Rinn, and some single sheet articles
on nature and loose sketches; c.60pp
c. 1950
- Ms. 28,954 'All Ireland', typescript; 278pp
c.1956
- Ms. 28,955 Typescripts, notes and correspondence concerning Stephen Rynne's
(i- viii) biography of Fr. John Hayes, founder of Muintir na Tire.
c.1957-61
- (i) 'The Vision of Father Hayes': typescript 'as submitted to
publisher'; 494pp
 - (ii - iv) 'Fr. John Hayes', typescript; c.494pp
 - (v) Notebook containing material in chronological order on life
of Fr. John Hayes
 - (vi) Notes and typescript lecture concerning Fr. John Hayes
 - (vii) Correspondence concerning the life of Fr. John Hayes
 - (viii) Photograph of Fr. John Hayes and specimen of his lecture
notes

- Ms. 28,956 'The Roving farmer', typescript description of life and nature round Ireland, Ms. note 'a great deal of this used, some twice used'; c.300pp 1960
- Ms. 28,957 (i- iii) Unpublished typescript on Irish flora with some essays and articles on nature and some correspondence and notes.
- Ms. 28,958 'Wicklow tour: route I' and 'Wicklow tour: route 2', texts for two guided tours by Stephen Rynne, bound in plastic folders 1979

I.iii. Journals and notebooks

- Ms. 28,959 (i - xxiv) Journals and work notebooks kept by Stephen Rynne c.1922-48
- (i) Loose pages from early journals, c.1922-34
 - (ii) Loose pages from early journals, c.1922-34
 - (iii) Loose pages from early journals, c.1928-33
 - (iv) Small notebook containing notes and anecdotes, 1930-44
 - (v) Journal, October 1930
 - (vi) Journal, 1931
 - (vii) Journal, June 1932 - January 1933
 - (viii) Notebook containing miscellaneous articles, 1935-36
 - (ix) Notebook containing miscellaneous articles, 1936-37
 - (x) Notebook containing miscellaneous articles, January 1938-March 1939
 - (xi) Notebook containing miscellaneous articles, April-December 1939
 - (xii) Notebook containing stories and topographical Notes, c.1940
 - (xiii) Notebook containing miscellaneous articles, December 1939-July 1940
 - (xiv) Notes (torn from journal?) on art and artists, c.1940
 - (xv) Journal, April-October 1941
 - (xvi) Journal, October 1941-July 1942
 - (xvii) Journal, July-December 1942
 - (xviii) Journal, January-August 1943
 - (xix) Journal, August 1943-September 1944
 - (xx) Journal, December 1944-October 1945
 - (xxi) Journal, October 1945-September 1946
 - (xxii) Journal, September 1946-June 1947
 - (xxiii) Journal, June 1947-January 1948
 - (xxiv) Journal, February 1948-August 1948
- Ms. 28,960 Sketch book with watercolour drawings by Stephen Rynne mainly of Downings House and surrounding area; 30pp

- 1947
- Ms. 28,961 Notebook used for 'roughs', miscellaneous notes and essays; c.150 pp
c.1949
- Ms. 28,962 Loose leaf ring binder containing poems; c.20pp
c.1950-70
- Ms. 28,963 Pocket book containing poems by Stephen Rynne; c.365pp
1951
- Ms. 28,964 Miscellaneous fragments, including notes for a book on literary Ireland;
c.12 items
c.1955-75
- Ms. 28,965 Sketch book containing mainly watercolours by Stephen Rynne of
towns in Ireland; 22pp
1956
- Ms. 28,966 Spiral notebook containing topographical notes; c.40pp
1959-63
- Ms. 28,967 Notebook containing notes on places in Leinster, mainly Wicklow and
Wexford, compiled in course of writing a guidebook; c.100pp
c. 1960
- Ms. 28,968 Loose typescript articles on towns in some Leinster counties
(i-vi)
c. 1960
- (i) Dublin
 - (ii) Louth
 - (iii) Meath
 - (iv) Wicklow
 - (v) Wicklow and Wexford
 - (vi) Wexford
- Ms. 28,969 Notebook containing an index to material on various Irish places
c.1960?
- Ms. 28,970 Notebooks containing diary kept during visit to the U.S.A.; 3 items
(i-iii)
17 February-30 April 1961
- Ms. 28,971 Notebook containing topographical notes mainly on Munster; c.90pp
c.1962
- Ms. 28,972 Notes for lectures on Kildare county, work and arthritis; c.30pp
c.1963-67

- Ms. 28,973 Spiral notebook containing notes on flowers and birds; c.60pp
1963
- Ms. 28,974 Notebooks - 'notes and commonplace book'; 3 items
1964-66
- Ms. 28,975 Notebooks containing diary kept during a visit to Portugal; 3 items
November 1966-February 1967
- Ms. 28,976 Sketchbook containing sketches made in Portugal
February 1967
- Ms. 28,977 Spiral notebook containing miscellaneous material, including notes on
some Leinster towns; c.40pp
1968?
- Ms. 28,978 Spiral notebook: II: 'I should have been a bird' - on birds; 59pp
1968?
- Ms. 28,979 'The last'; 8pp
December 1974-January 1975

I.iv. Pressclippings and radio scripts

- Ms. 28,980 Scrapbook containing cuttings of newspaper articles by Stephen
(i - vi) Rynne, mainly the series 'Landsman's Log' from 'The Standard' and
art reviews from 'The Leader', with many loose items
c.1939-61
- Ms. 28,981 'Down to earth' series: cuttings from 'The Irish Rosary'; c.60 items
c.1941-48
- Ms. 28,982 Typescript radio talks, including scripts for series 'Country
(i - iv) Mall', 'How the land lies here', 'Living on the land', and some
book reviews; c.100 items
c.1940-70
- Ms. 28,983 Art reviews mainly from 'The Leader'; c.25 items
(i - ii) 1942-46
- Ms. 28,984 Pressclippings of book reviews by Stephen Rynne; c.30 items
c. 1944-63
- Ms. 28,985 'Land and water' series: clippings from 'The Irish Press'
(i - xi) c.1944-48

- (i) Birds
- (ii) Animals and insects
- (iii) Trees
- (iv) Flowers and plants
- (v) Flowers and plants
- (vi) Sky and stars
- (vii) Seasons
- (viii) Sea and sea-side
- (ix) Miscellaneous
- (x) Miscellaneous
- (xi) Miscellaneous

- Ms. 28,986 'Specimen farms' series: cuttings of articles describing visits to farms all round Ireland, published in 'The Irish Press'; c.50 items 1946
- Ms. 28,987 'Talk of the towns' series: cuttings of articles on Irish towns published in 'The Irish Press'; c.60 items 1947-48
- Ms. 28,988 'The Relief bus', a short story and an article on a Cavan farm with two Irish News Agency features by Stephen Rynne; 12pp, 8pp c.1947
- Ms. 28,989 (i - iii) Miscellaneous clippings and offprints of articles and reviews by Stephen Rynne published in 'The Leader', 'Landmark' and 'Hibernia'; c.60 items c.1946-66
- Ms. 28,990 Articles mainly on Irish counties published in 'Ireland of the Welcomes', c.20p. 1954-77
- Ms. 28,991 (i - xiii) Typescripts of miscellaneous radio talks, mainly on rural life and books; c.300 items c.1955-76
- Ms. 28,992 Cattle: typescripts of radio talks on cattle; 12pp c.1960-70
- Ms. 28,993 'Native places', typescripts of talks on Irish writers - Charles Kickham, Eugene O'Curry, Ned Lysaght and Katherine Tynan - and their homes; c.40pp c.1960?
- Ms. 28,994 'My kind of county', typescripts of talks on different Irish counties, and

- two talks on guides books; c.50pp
c.1960?
- Ms. 28,995 'Trees', typescripts of radio talks on trees; c.30 items
c.1960?
- Ms. 28,996 Albatross-Shellstar programme radio scripts, including many features
on birds; c.30 items
1967-68
- Ms. 28,997 'Down the country' and 'Sunday Miscellany' radio scripts; c.200 items
(i-v)
c.1968-78
- Ms. 25,998 Cuttings of book reviews and short stories by Stephen Rynne;
(i - ii)
c.20 items
c.1968-77
- Ms. 28,999 Miscellaneous radio scripts and scripts for T.V. programme 'Home
truths'; c.30 items
c.1968-70
- Ms. 29,000 Typescripts of radio talks on religious matters, including scripts for the
(i-ii) series 'Thought for the day' and 'The Living Word'; c.40 items
1973-79

I.v. Papers relating to Downings House

- Ms. 29,001 Statements made in the murder case The King v Mary and Jeremiah
McCann; c.40pp
1914
- Ms. 29,002 Letters from C.A. Bury, Yorkshire proprietor of Downings House to
Michael J. Byrne, his agent, at Downings House; c.10pp
1916-18

II. PAPERS OF ALICE CURTAYNE

II.i. Correspondence, journals and other papers

- Ms. 29,003 Letters to Alice Curtayne from Father Vincent McNabb; c.20 items
1929-42
- Ms. 29,004 Offprints of articles by Alice Curtayne and some pamphlets on saints;
12 items
c.1930-60
- Ms. 29,005 Small notebooks containing notes on 'word-lore' and miscellaneous;
2 items
c.1930?
- Ms. 29,006 Folio notebook containing miscellaneous notes on Irish saints and
history; c.200pp
c.1931-55
- Ms. 29,007 Correspondence concerning the establishment of the Legion of Mary in
the United States of America; 4pp
1932-33
- Ms. 29,008 Correspondence articles and notes on Dante; c.200 items
c.1930-32
- Ms. 29,009 Bound typescript of Alice Curtayne's book on Dante; 169pp
1932
- Ms. 29,010 *A Recall to Dante* by Alice Curtayne. London, Sheed and Ward.
1932
- Ms. 29,011 Letters to Alice Curtayne from Maud Gonne MacBride, Frank Duff,
(i - iii) Mícheál MacLiammóir, Ernest Blythe, Dorothy L. Sayers, Padraig
Colum, Mary Lavin and the Talbot Press; c.30 items
1935-76
- Ms. 29,012 Ring binder containing notes on St. Patrick; c.60pp
c.1936
- Ms. 29,013 Typescript short stories by Alice Curtayne; c.60pp
c.1945?
- Ms. 29,014 File containing notes and pamphlets concerning St. Catherine of Siena;
(i - ii) c.6 items
c.1951

- Ms. 29,015 Typescript of 'Saint Catherine of Siena: a play in seven scenes', by Alice Curtayne; c.150pp
c.1951?
- Ms. 29,016 Typescript talk and article on Oliver Plunkett by Alice Curtayne; 2 items
c. 1953
- Ms. 29,017 Promotional literature for American lecture tours with some biographical information; c.14 items
c.1953-76
- Ms. 29,018 Diary kept by Alice Curtayne during her 1953 American tour; 298pp
1953
- Ms. 29,019 Typescript lecture and radio talk on 'Marriage' and 'Woman in the modern world'; 19pp & 8pp
c.1955-65?
- Ms. 29,020 Miscellaneous fragments; c.10 items
c.1960-76
- Ms. 29,021
(i - iii) Transcript of interview between Alice Curtayne and Eileen Joyce Schaurek, sister of James Joyce, published in 'The Critic'.
1965
(i) Interview
(ii) Notes on James Joyce
(iii) Letters to Alice Curtayne containing reminiscences of Joyce; 2 items, 1963.
- Ms. 29,022 Notes on Mary Lavin; c.6 items
c.1964
- Ms. 29,023 Notebook containing notes on Rome, Italy and the Vatican Council, c.50pp
1964-65
- Ms. 29,024
(i - ix) Notes and correspondence concerning Francis Ledwidge.
c.1972-77
(i) Notebooks used for research on Francis Ledwidge; 2 items
c. 1973-75
(ii) Copies, mainly typescript, of poems by Francis Ledwidge, c. 45pp
(iii) Typescript of 'The Crock of gold', a play by Francis Ledwidge, 16pp

- (iv) Folder containing documents, letters and photographs relating to Francis Ledwidge
- (v) Ledwidge (Francis): *Complete Poems*. Edited by Alice Curtayne, London, Martin Brian O'Keefe, 1974
- (vi) Thomas Davis talk on Francis Ledwidge by Alice Curtayne, 17pp
- (vii) 'The Blackbird of Slane: Francis Ledwidge: a presentation of his life and verse' ... compiled by Maureen Bergin
- (viii) Correspondence between Alice Curtayne and her publishers Martin Brian O'Keefe
- (ix) Pressclippings of reviews of Alice Curtayne's books on Francis Ledwidge

Ms. 29,025 Radio scripts by Alice Curtayne for the 'A Thought for today' Series; 12pp
1974

Ms. 29,026 Correspondence between Alice Curtayne and the Talbot Press; 8pp
1977-78

Ms. 29,027 Newspaper clippings and memorabilia relating to John Cardinal Wright, c.10 items;
1978-79

II.ii. Pressclippings

Ms. 29,028 Scrapbook containing clippings of articles, some loose, by and about Alice Curtayne; c.100pp
(i - ii) c.1930-50

Ms. 29,029 Scrapbook containing pressclippings of articles by and about Alice Curtayne, some loose; 100pp
(i - iii) c.1930-40

Ms. 29,030 Scrapbook containing pressclippings, mainly from the series 'A saint of the week' by Alice Curtayne published in 'The Catholic Fireside' 1935-36

Ms. 29,031 Clippings of review and articles by Alice Curtayne
(i - iii) 1936-66

Ms. 29,032 Scrapbook containing pressclippings, some loose, many relating to Alice Curtayne's 1953 lecture tour in the U.S.A.
(i - iii) c.1935-66

Ms. 29,033 Pressclippings, mainly reviews of Alice Curtayne's *The Trial of Oliver*

Plunkett; c.50 items
1953

Ms. 29,034 Pressclippings of reviews of Alice Curtayne's writings; c.20 items
c.1955-65