Papers of Stephen Rynne and Alice Curtayne, authors and broadcasters, c. 1910-1980.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

## I. PAPERS OF STEPHEN RYNNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.i.</td>
<td>Correspondence and other papers relating to social, political, family and business life</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.ii.</td>
<td>Literary and other writings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.iii.</td>
<td>Journals and notebooks</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.iv.</td>
<td>Pressclippings and radio scripts</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.v.</td>
<td>Papers relating to Downings House</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## II. PAPERS OF ALICE CURTAYNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II.i.</td>
<td>Correspondence, journals and other papers</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.ii.</td>
<td>Pressclippings</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 newscloppings. The papers of the two authors have been separated and arranged chronologically by document type.

Bibliographical References

I. PAPERS OF STEPHEN RYNNE

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

Ms. 28,928  Correspondence, mainly between members of the Rynne family; (i - ii) c.90 items c.1910-66

Ms. 28,929  Miscellaneous notes and memorabilia concerning Stephen Rynne’s childhood and youth, and the Rynne family; (i - v) c.55 items c.1910-75

Ms. 28,930  Miscellaneous financial and legal papers; c.50 items (i - iii) c.1925-78

Ms. 28,931  Correspondence including copy letter by Eamon De Valera, letters from publishers and from Radio Eireann, two letters from Padraig 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 Dundalgan Press and Bord Fáilte; c.100 items 1941-80

Ms. 28,937  Correspondence and other oddments, including letters from Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, Kate O’Brien, G.B. Newe and Benedict Kiely; c.15 items (i – ii) 1946-76
Ms. 28,938  Pamplets produced by the Financial Freedom Federation and the Irish Social Credit Party; c.30 items
c.1946?

Ms. 28,939  Biographical handouts, miscellaneous poems and articles by
(i– ii) Stephen Rynne; c.30 items
c.1951-79

Ms. 28,940  Correspondence and other papers relating to Muintir na Tíre and
(i - vi) 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  Newsclippings 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  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  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  Correspondence and other papers relating to inland waterways and the journal ‘Canalianna’; c.20 items
1970-75
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ms. 28,947</th>
<th>Pamphlets and membership lists concerning An Taisce; c.10 items c.1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,948</td>
<td>Correspondence and pamphlets concerning American Irish Foundation and the Trees for Ireland society; c.15 items 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 21,949</td>
<td>Correspondence and drafts concerning articles to be written by Stephen Rynne for the Automobile Association’s ‘Touring guide to Ireland’; c.30 items 1974-76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I.i. Literary and other writings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ms. 28,950</th>
<th>‘The private thoughts of a bird lover’: typescript; c.60pp undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,951</td>
<td>‘Wedding Eve: a one-act play’, typescript; 32pp undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,952</td>
<td>‘The Stretch in the days’, typescript of an unpublished novel; 259pp undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,953</td>
<td>‘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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,954</td>
<td>‘All Ireland’, typescript; 278pp c.1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. 28,955</td>
<td>Typescripts, notes and correspondence concerning Stephen Rynne’s biography of Fr. John Hayes, founder of Muintir na Tire. c.1957-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
<td>‘The Vision of Father Hayes’: typescript ‘as submitted to publisher’; 494pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii - iv)</td>
<td>‘Fr. John Hayes’, typescript; c.494pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v)</td>
<td>Notebook containing material in chronological order on life of Fr. John Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vi)</td>
<td>Notes and typescript lecture concerning Fr. John Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vii)</td>
<td>Correspondence concerning the life of Fr. John Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(viii)</td>
<td>Photograph of Fr. John Hayes and specimen of his lecture notes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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  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  Journals and work notebooks kept by Stephen Rynne (i - xxiv) 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, February1948-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 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 17 February-30 April 1961
(i-i)ii

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  
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  
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  
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’  
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 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 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
c.1968-78

Ms. 25,998  
Cuttings of book reviews and short stories by Stephen Rynne;
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 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

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

Ledwidge (Francis): Complete Poems. Edited by Alice Curtayne, London, Martin Brian O’Keefe, 1974

Thomas Davis talk on Francis Ledwidge by Alice Curtayne, 17pp

‘The Blackbird of Slane: Francis Ledwidge: a presentation of his life and verse’ ... compiled by Maureen Bergin

Correspondence between Alice Curtayne and her publishers Martin Brian O’Keefe

Pressclippings of reviews of Alice Curtayne’s books on Francis Ledwidge

Radio scripts by Alice Curtayne for the ‘A Thought for today’ Series; 12pp

Correspondence between Alice Curtayne and the Talbot Press; 8pp

Newspaper clippings and memorabilia relating to John Cardinal Wright, c.10 items;

II.ii. Pressclippings

Scrapbook containing clippings of articles, some loose, by and about Alice Curtayne; c.100pp

Scrapbook containing pressclippings of articles by and about Alice Curtayne, some loose; 100pp

Scrapbook containing pressclippings, mainly from the series ‘A saint of the week’ by Alice Curtayne published in ‘The Catholic Fireside’ 1935-36

Clippings of review and articles by Alice Curtayne

Scrapbook containing pressclippinga, some loose, many relating to Alice Curtayne’s 1953 lecture tour in the U.S.A.

Pressclippings, mainly reviews of Alice Curtaynes 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