

#### 4.0 The seven members of the Provisional Government

#### 4.5 Éamonn Ceannt

Éamonn Ceannt, member of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic and commandant of the 4th Battalion of the Irish Volunteers.

Éamonn Ceannt (1881-1916) was born Edward Thomas Kent in the police barracks at Ballymoe, Co. Galway, the son of James Kent, an officer in the Royal Irish Constabulary, and his wife, Joanne Galway. James Kent was transferred to Ardee, Co. Louth, where Éamonn attended the De La Salle national school, becoming an altar boy—he remained a devout Catholic all his life. The family next moved to Drogheda, where he attended the Christian Brothers' school at Sunday's Gate. Finally, on the father's retirement in 1892, the family settled in Dublin; there, Éamonn attended the O'Connell Schools on North Richmond Street run by the Christian Brothers, and University College, Dublin. He found employment with Dublin Corporation in the rates department and later the city treasury office.

Éamonn was deeply interested in Irish cultural activities, especially music. In 1899 he joined the central branch of the Gaelic League, where he met Patrick Pearse and Eoin MacNeill. He became a fluent Irish speaker and adopted the Irish form of his name by which he was always known afterwards. He taught Irish part-time at various Gaelic League branches, gaining a reputation as an inspiring teacher. He played a number of musical instruments, the Irish war and uileann pipes being his particular favourites. In February 1900 he was involved with Edward Martyn in setting up the

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Dublin Pipers' Club, of which he became secretary. He managed to procure a printing press on which he printed a journal, An Piobaire, designed to promote the club, the first issue appearing on 5 July 1901. While leading a group of Irish athletes in Rome in 1908, he performed on the uileann pipes for Pope Pius X.

Ceannt had socialist sympathies and was involved in the unionisation of his fellow workers in Dublin Corporation, eventually becoming chairman of the Dublin Municipal Officers' Association. His first serious involvement in national politics, however, was in 1907 when he joined Arthur Griffth's new political party, Sinn Féin, which opposed Home Rule, promoted the concept of national self-reliance, and aimed at national independence; he was eventually elected to the national council of Sinn Féin. It appears that he was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood by Seán MacDiarmada on 12 December 1912. On the foundation of the Irish Volunteers in November 1913, he was elected to the provisional committee, becoming involved in raising finance for the procurement of arms; he was present at both the Howth and Kilcoole importations.

Following the withdrawal of the National Volunteers under Redmond, Ceannt, Pearse and Plunkett were elected to key offices in the Irish Volunteers, giving them virtual control. In addition, Ceannt became commandant of the 4th Battalion of the Dublin Brigade in March 1915. Soon after he was co-opted to the IRB Military Council. Many of the Military Council meetings took place at his house in Dolphin's Barn.

On Easter Monday 1916, Ceannt and 120 men of the 4th Battalion of the Irish Volunteers, who reported for duty, occupied the South Dublin Union, a workhouse/ hospital spread over fifty-two acres of James's Street and also some covering buildings. They held part of the complex until they were informed of the general surrender the following Sunday.

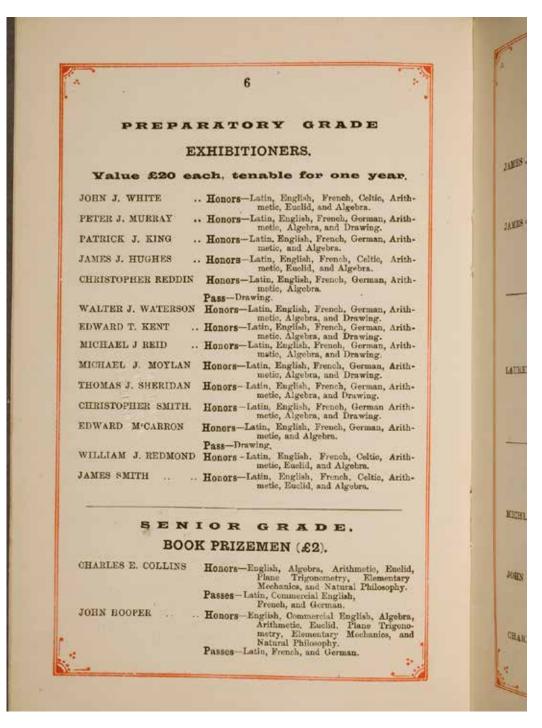
Ceannt was tried by court-martial and executed by firing squad in Kilmainham Jail on 8 May. Among his surviving relatives were his wife Áine O'Brennan, his young son Rónán, and his brother William, a colour sergeant-major in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (British army) stationed in Fermoy, Co. Cork.

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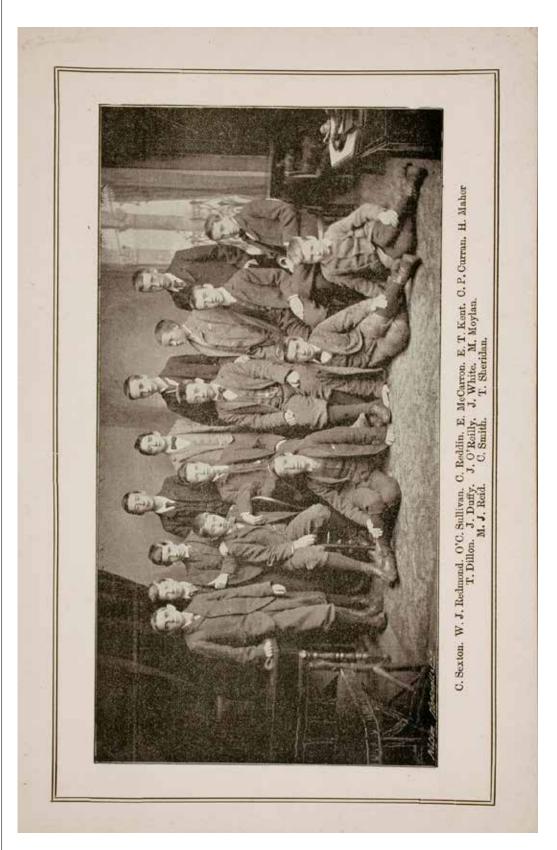
Éamonn Ceannt. He has been described as over six feet tall and as a dark, proud and aloof man. (Keogh 237).

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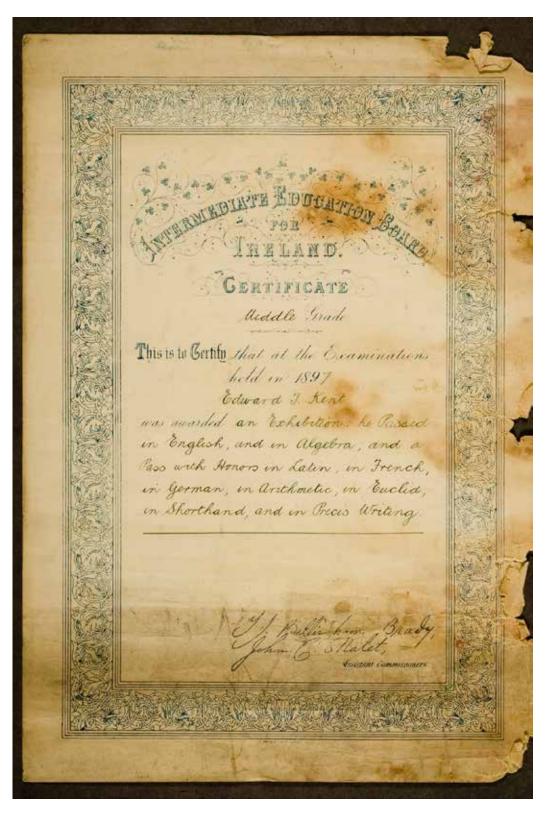
Published results of the O'Connell Schools (Christian Brothers), North Richmond Street, Dublin, 1894, 1896. (Ms. 13,069/44).





Published results of the O'Connell Schools (Christian Brothers), North Richmond Street, Dublin, 1894, 1896. (Ms. 13,069/44).

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State education certificate, 1897. (Ms. 13,069/45).



Ορηηκαύ ης Θαεύιζε,
áro-peis, 1904-5.
~ OX‡XOr
Do cosao Gamon Canno Le beit na
teaccame a chaoro'n and Craol de Chaiss an
áno-feir an read na bliadna dand chioc an 31ad lá
De thi na Dealtaine, 1905.
· July man
an Clo-Cumann, At Cliat.

A delegate's pass for the Gaelic League annual congress, 1905 (Ms. 13,069/26).

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Self-portrait by Ceannt, 1909. 'Mé Féin' is Irish for 'myself'. (Ms. 13,069/55).

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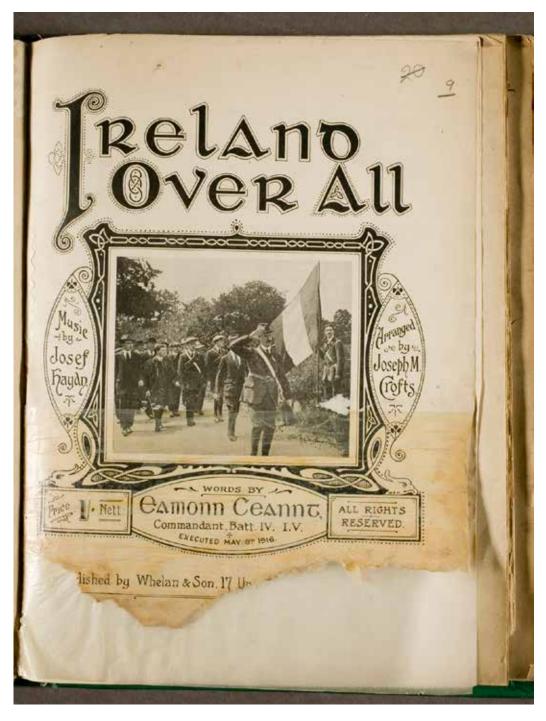
Éamonn Ceannt

The short articles which follow The following series of short articles are intended to for persons interested in the Union or War Pipes. They will be useful to those who thany a great many Rund questions which are being constantly asked will be Some No wear's order is theme in these when " The Union Pipes" or Irich Pipes are those with which the public are most familian. The charts is held on the right kill and the drones (generally three in number ) are tuned with it. The regults is of two octaves and three keys are often found on the chanter; although some have no keys and others have seven. By lifting the chanter artam fores are flattened, This gives the instrument grate pours of expression and long's r several advantages over ordinary wind instruments. It adds to its pour of expression; permits one take to plide into another ason a violin: & The learner must not blow too hard for fear of anyony to the reeds. The participy to makering the makering must In playing, particularly in dance musec, and the progens making one note must be restored to the chanter before the fingers making the following whe have & are pained. No finger should be raised high, farhendarly in dance music. These are the two principal rules for "close fingering" hoose, open-handed filey is not piping at all. in piping "Tongueing" as on the fluts, is done, by short grace notes introduced between the principal niles. generally the grace rule is nitroduced by vaising one finger only.

Draft of an article by Ceannt on the union pipes, c.1910. (Ms. 13,069/33).



Éamonn Ceannt



A marching song composed by Ceannt for the Irish Volunteers who feature on the front cover.



Éamonn Ceannt

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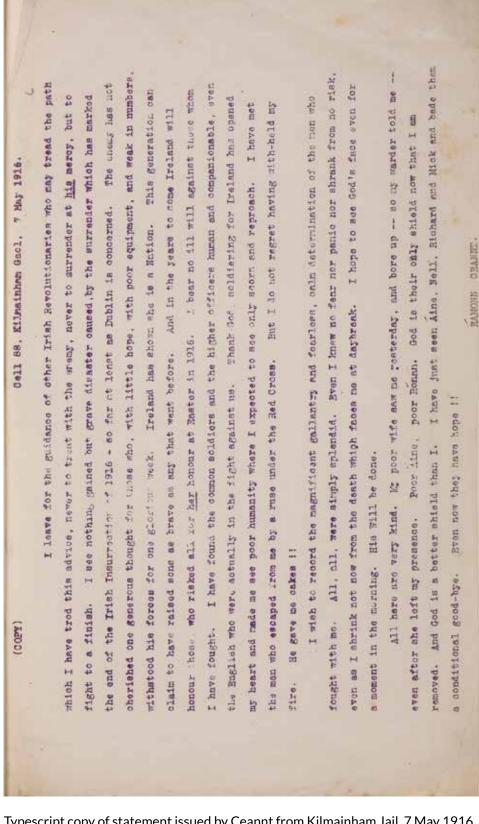
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Éamonn Ceannt

No. < Date. Place Time To men suffered. Tonly regret I have now no longe the an opportunity of showing how I shink of you now at the ch nee of see and is so reme shall die like a man ke : amonn Canne

Letter from Ceannt to his wife; Kilmainham Jail, 5 May 1916. (Ms. 13,069/8).

Éamonn Ceannt



Typescript copy of statement issued by Ceannt from Kilmainham Jail, 7 May 1916. (Ms. 3198).

<sup>4.5</sup> 

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11 applane ben 2.30 a.m 815/16 my searest wife dine, Not wife his widow before these lives reach you. I am here without hope of this woold and without fear, calmby awaiting the end. I have had Holy Communion and Fr augustive has been with me and will be back again. Dearess "siely little Fanny". My for little rweethears of - how namy - years ago. If Ever my comforter, God comfor you how. What can I say ! I due a noble death, for Ireland's freedom. Men and women will vie with one another to shake your dear hand. Be proved of me as I am and ever was of you they cold ex-Terrir was her a mask & has served me in these east days. you have a duty to me and to Roman, that is to live My dyrig wishes are that you shall remember your state of heatth, work only as much as may be necessary and freely accept the little attentions which in due time will be showed upon you. you will be - you are, the wife of one of the leaders of the Revolution. Sweets, still you are my little child, my dearest per, my sweetheast of the hawchorn bedges and himmers wer. I remember all and I barrich all that I way be strong and die bravely. I have one hour to live, then Tools judgment and, through his infinite mercy, a place near your por hannie and my mother and father and Jem and all the five old Jush Cachobics who went through the scourge I rimilar & wiefortune from this Vale of Dears into the Promised hand. Civi mygeai yan & scorpins mo crows. Toy so ceany azus bioù ponse agar zo breugennes a certe apij , biflavery Deadju aya, mye agus Ronan teay bois -Gamoun

Ceannt's last letter to his wife; Kilmainham Jail, 8 May 1916. (Ms. 13,069/9).