

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 2nd February 2016

'Rising' exhibition reveals striking images of 1916 events and locations as part of Ireland 2016 programme

The [National Library of Ireland](#) (NLI)'s National Photographic Archive has today (02.02.16) launched 'Rising', a major photographic exhibition which showcases the NLI's collection of rich imagery documenting the events and locations of 1916.

'Rising' draws on some of the most important collections of photographs at the National Library. It includes images from the Keogh Collection, the Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Collection and newly digitised photographs from the De Valera Collection, and various 1916 albums. The exhibition references the complex political situation in the run up to the Easter Rising and the various groups involved. It consists of 60 photographs, including a number of large scale photographs which emphasise the Rising's impact on Dublin's city centre. These images are enhanced by audio recordings from selected letters and diaries detailing first-hand accounts of the Rising.

In addition to showing the physical damage to the city centre, the exhibition features photographs relating to the arrests, courts martials and internments following the Rising, and the subsequent amnesty for prisoners as the British Government saw the tide turning for those involved in the insurrection.

The short audio pieces feature actors reading witness accounts of the Rising from people of different backgrounds including Dick Humphreys, an Irish Volunteer, who describes a scene in the GPO and the fires on Sackville Street following the bombardment of the area. Humphreys was a nephew of The O'Rahilly and fought in the GPO. He was interned in Wakefield Gaol following the Rising.

Another audio recording comes from the letters of Sarah Ismena Rohde, a widow living in Dundrum, who describes critical civilian reactions to the Rising and the effects on the city's population.

Commenting today, exhibition curator Sara Smyth from the NLI, said: "'Rising' paints a very vivid picture of the events and locations of 1916 and brings visitors into the world of those who experienced the Rising first hand. When we selected the content for the exhibition, we were keen to address certain questions: How did Dublin look during Easter Week 1916, as fighting raged and buildings fell? What kind of landscape, physical and political, was left after the surrender?"

"There are a number of unusual images on display. They include a photograph of Dr Edmund J. McWeeney, a member of the public who, like many Dubliners, discovered the Proclamation posted all over the city on Easter Monday. There is also a photograph of a small group of Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army in the GPO during the Rising."

Sandra Collins, Director of the NLI, added: "Photographs are such an evocative, intimate contribution to the stories of 1916, they draw the viewer directly into the experience of the Easter Rising. We are delighted to offer this beautifully curated exhibition, which is free and open for everyone to visit and enjoy.

"All the photographs in this exhibition are original material drawn from the rich and diverse 1916 collections in the National Library, and we are proud to add the digitised versions to the [NLI's online catalogue](#) so they can be enjoyed across the world by anyone who wants to engage with the Easter Rising and is not able to visit the National Photographic Archive.

"'Rising' is the NLI's flagship exhibition for 2016 and I invite everyone to visit the National Photographic Archive and explore the exhibition which is running until the end of October 2016."

NLI's 2016 Programme

The NLI recently announced a unique digital repository of personal papers and photographs that tell the story of the momentous events of 1916. In addition to the 70,000 digital images already available through the NLI's online catalogue, the digitised personal papers and photographs of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation will all be available online by April 2016. The full collection of Ceannt, Clarke and Connolly's papers are already available to the public, free of charge at [catalogue.nli.ie](#). This month, the NLI will issue the material related to Seán MacDiarmada and Thomas MacDonagh, concluding with the papers of Patrick Pearse and Joseph Plunkett in March 2016.

The NLI will also offer a series of free events and activities throughout 2016 to mark the centenary commemorations of the Easter Rising. Highlights of the NLI's 2016 programme include:

- 'Inspiration Proclamation': a series of public interviews with major figures on themes of the Proclamation and their relevance for Ireland in 2016 and beyond;

- 'Readings from the Rising', a series of performances of literary work accompanied by music and staged throughout our historic buildings;
- A public lecture series in conjunction with UCC's new revolutionary history, 'Atlas of the Irish Revolution', which will examine existing and ongoing research into the revolutionary period.
- Family history workshops to help visitors trace their ancestors in this period.

Visitors to the NLI's main library building on Kildare Street can explore the exhibition 'Signatories', a series of graphics introducing the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation. The exhibition runs until the end of December 2016 and allows everyone to learn more about these men and the women who worked alongside them. The display also features a focus on the staff of the NLI in 1916, and reveals how they were caught up in the year's events.

In No 2/3 Kildare Street, the ongoing exhibition 'World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience', generously supported by the British Embassy in Ireland, highlights Irish involvement in the Battle of the Somme for the 100th anniversary.

Details of the NLI's full 2016 programme of events, from exhibitions and public events to major digitisation projects, are available on the NLI's website www.nli.ie.

'Rising' is free to visit, and is open seven days weekly: Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and 12noon to 5pm on Sundays. The exhibition runs in the NPA until the end of October 2016.

The exhibition is part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, and was made possible through funding awarded under this initiative. The Programme, led by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, TD, is a year-long programme of activity to commemorate the events of the 1916 Rising, to reflect on our achievements over the last 100 years and to look towards Ireland's future. For more information, visit www.ireland.ie. #ireland2016

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Note to Editors

- Interviews available on request.
- Photographer Marc O'Sullivan has been commissioned to cover the launch and will issue photographs to photo desks this afternoon.
- A number of high resolution images from the 'Rising' exhibition are available to download from here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yvqhereh906o51a/AAxlnsFVc3i3_ZsIK7dmFaa?dl=0
 - **Ke185:** Fianna Éireann scouts with Countess Markievicz, includes Fianna Éireann flags.
 - **NPA DUBR4:** George Reynolds and other Irish Volunteers who fought at Mount Street Bridge.
 - **NPA ASG2:** Fianna Éireann and Irish Volunteers transporting guns landed at Howth, 26 July 1914.
 - **NPA PROC:** Dr Edmund J. McWeeney inspecting a copy of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on railings at 84 St. Stephen's Green, Easter Monday, 1916.
 - **NPA GPO2:** A group of Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army soldiers inside the GPO during the Easter Rising, April 1916.
 - **Ke114:** The ruins of Henry Street, workmen clearing rubble with armed soldiers on duty.
 - **NPA DUPR5:** View of the General Post Office from above, showing the destruction to the building interior.
 - **ALB196/27:** The façade of the Imperial Hotel, Clerys department store and a view of Sackville Street looking south-east from Nelson's Pillar.
 - **NPA DEV66:** Volunteers from the 3rd Battalion marching down Grand Canal Street Lower under escort carrying their weapons and a flag after their surrender at Boland's Bakery. A white 'x' has been marked above the head of Éamon de Valera, commandant of the 3rd Battalion.
 - **NPA DEV19:** Michael O'Hanrahan being escorted into his court-martial, Richmond Barracks, 3 May 1916.
 - **Ke127:** A crowd gathered at Westland Row to welcome internees recently released.
- The dedicated hashtag for the NLI's programme of events to mark 1916 is #MyNLI1916

About the NLI: The mission of the National Library of Ireland is to collect, preserve, promote and make accessible the documentary and intellectual record of the life of Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access to the larger universe of recorded knowledge. It is open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult the collections. The Office of the Chief Herald in

Kildare Street and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar are both part of the National Library. Further information is available at www.nli.ie, @NLireland.