NATIONAL LIBRARY of IRELAND

TREASURING OUR HERITAGE

Donation of materials to the National Library of Ireland

LEABHARLANN NÁISIÚNTA na hÉIREANN

INTRODUCTION

Since its foundation in 1877, the National Library of Ireland has maintained an active policy of acquiring heritage items and other materials. As a direct result of strong Government support for the Library's work, we have been actively extending our collections in recent years.

Over the years, the Library has also benefited from substantial donations and bequests of books, manuscripts and other materials. Fortunately, we continue to receive valuable additions to our collections in this way each year, as the lists attached to the Annual Reports of the Council of Trustees demonstrate.

The Library's current collection of some six million items constitutes probably the most outstanding collection of Irish documentary material in the world, offering an invaluable representation of our history and heritage. Books, pamphlets, serials, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, photographs, official publications, prints, drawings, political memorabilia, music, literary correspondence and ephemera make up the bulk of items. We continue to seek additional materials in these categories to add even greater depth and texture to our existing repository of information on Ireland's social, economic, political, religious and literary history.

This leaflet offers general guidelines on the categories of materials sought by the Library. We hope that it will encourage you to consider donating material, or to include a bequest of such material to the Library in your will.

WHO CAN HELP US TO EXPAND OUR COLLECTIONS?

Almost anyone can help. For example:

Private Individuals may have collections of old family papers, early photographs or postcards, or locally published booklets, pamphlets or magazines which could fill gaps in our collections. Programmes for sporting and theatrical events, as well as various kinds of transport timetables, are another possibility.

Family historians/genealogists often build up a considerable volume of documents, letters and notes in the course of their research and frequently compile reports on their findings for circulation within the extended family. Documents and reports such as these could be of interest to us.

Societies and associations of various kinds may have records extending back for a century or more, which they no longer need for their day-to-day operations.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE WE INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING?

The items likely to be of most interest to the Library tend to fall into the following categories:

Literary papers and memorabilia

The Library has an extensive collection of manuscripts, published editions, portraits, engravings, letters and personal papers of leading Irish writers including Jonathan Swift, Maria Edgeworth, George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce, Brian Friel, Seán O'Casey and Patricia Lynch, and poets including William Butler Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh and Michael Hartnett. We are always interested in acquiring papers and memorabilia of authors, poets, playwrights, screenwriters and song writers.

Economy and society

Papers relating to economic and social history, including estate papers, material relating to tenant farmers and other property holders, diaries, journals, correspondence, trade union records or other materials having a bearing on any of the foregoing categories, are of interest.

Family histories

We would be happy to receive collated genealogical materials and family histories. Ideally, these would be original materials, but copies are also acceptable.

The Irish abroad

Collections of letters written by Irish people living abroad, as well as personal journals and diaries of tours abroad by Irish people, would be of interest. In all instances, these should be original materials dating from 30 or more years ago.

Photographic and other visual records

Our National Photographic Archive in the Temple Bar area of Dublin now houses a collection of over 300,000 items and we are anxious to expand this even further. Items of specific interest include photographs of significant events in local and national history; photographs of leading Irish public figures including religious, political and business leaders, writers, artists, designers, musicians, entertainers, sporting heroes and academics.

Items which would also meet our criteria include aerial photographs; photographs of landscapes, streetscapes and other scenes depicting typical city, town and village life; photographic records of industrial, agricultural and commercial events; photographs of various forms of

public and private transport; groups of military and police personnel; groups of school and college students.

Political papers and memorabilia

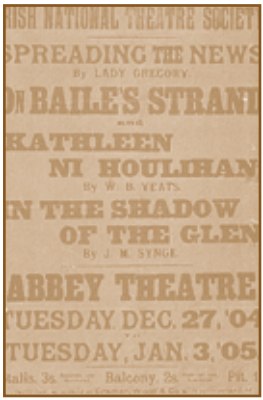
Pamphlets, booklets, posters, handbills, badges, car stickers and other promotional material relating to both local and national political campaigns are of obvious interest. Even more so are collections of papers accumulated by people who were formerly active in politics at local, national or international level.

Religious memorabilia

Items of interest under this heading could include records of religious celebrations and events in formats ranging from photographs to posters, notices, letters and circulars.

Cultural and other events

Currently, the Library holds little in the way of memorabilia reflecting the contemporary classical, folk and popular music scene in Ireland. Therefore, collections of posters, handbills, tickets and programmes relating to events of local, national and international stature would be of particular interest.



We are also seeking printed materials relating to commercial as well as amateur theatre, music, dance and opera productions; visual arts events; local, national and international sports fixtures.

Timetables

Bus, train, tram, plane and shipping timetables provide valuable sources of information and we would be happy to accept collections of these.

Maps

The Library holds a full collection of Ordnance Survey maps, as well as thousands of manuscript maps made by land surveyors and cartographers in earlier years. Manuscript maps of this kind, even if they relate to very small areas, are of considerable interest to us.

Books

Our collection of over one million books relates primarily to Ireland. While the collection is reasonably comprehensive, there are some areas that we aim to augment. Of particular interest are books by Irish authors, or relating to Ireland, which were published before 1960 and, of course, specialist collections, including those containing pamphlets, locally published booklets and similar materials.

NEXT STEP

If you are interested in donating materials to the Library but are not sure if they meet our selection criteria, you should contact the Keeper of Collections, National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Telephone: (01) 603 0200.

Please remember that donations to the Library must normally involve full transfer of ownership, including copyright, where possible. We are prepared to accept material on a loan basis only in exceptional circumstances and then only for a minimum term of 30 years.

Material donated or deposited with us will normally be made available for public consultation as soon as it has been processed. In exceptional cases, however, we would be willing to consider an arrangement under which material may not be made available for public access or research, without the consent of the donor, for an agreed number of years.

TAX RELIEF

Under section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, individuals or companies making donations to the National Library of Ireland may credit the value of those donations against certain tax liabilities. This relief may apply to gifts of "heritage items", such as archives, books, estate records, manuscripts and prints where the total value of the items donated exceeds €150,000. Details of the various qualifying conditions for this relief are set out in the Revenue Commissioners Leaflet HET 1 which is available from the Revenue Commissioners.

If you wish to support the Library by financial donation or bequest, the National Library of Ireland Trust provides a tax efficient mechanism for doing so. The Trust is an approved body within the meaning of section 484 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, which means that donations of up to €12,687 are tax deductible, subject to certain conditions.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND SOCIETY

The National Library of Ireland Society is a voluntary organisation which aims to publicise the Library's resources and needs. It provides an opportunity for interested persons to support the Library's aims and programmes.

For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, National Library of Ireland Society, c/o The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Annual Membership costs €25 (reduced to €15 in the case of students and persons aged 65 and over). The membership fee automatically includes spouses.

Student Membership costs €10 per annum. Corporate Membership (by invitation) costs €1,000 per annum.

National Library of Ireland
Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2

National Photographic Archive
Meeting House Square
Temple Bar, Dublin 2

An Chartlann Náisiúnta Grianghrafadóireachta
Cearnóg Theach an Tionóil, Barra an Teampaill
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel: +353 1 603 02 00
Facsimile: +353 1 676 66 90
Email: info@nli.ie
Web: www.nli.ie