

NEWS

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National Library of Ireland
NUAGHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann



The Library's newspaper collection is its single most used collection, attracting a broad range of readers including lawyers, journalists, students, academics, local historians, genealogists and members of the general public.

Boy selling newspapers at Harcourt Street station.
Photographed by J.J Clarke

One of the reasons for the collection's popularity is that newspapers provide contemporary accounts and commentary on major developments in political, religious, sporting and cultural life. Another reason is the insights that newspapers give us about everyday life: advertisements, reports and photographs of social events, court proceedings and inquests all serve to inform us about the mundane as well as the not so mundane details of people's lives.

Much of this material can be an invaluable source of information for those researching topics ranging from political, economic and social history to local history and genealogy. For those interested in local history or genealogy, for example, newspapers provide reliable and easily accessible records of births, marriages and deaths. For sport aficionados – especially those writing club histories – they provide a definitive record of results tables spanning many years. For social scientists, newspaper advertisements are a useful tool because they provide a snapshot of cultural, social and economic life at a particular point in time.

Despite their obvious merits as primary sources of information, researchers must always bear in mind that newspapers invariably reflect specific (and frequently partisan) interests. However, this also accounts for part of their attraction for researchers: newspapers almost invariably provide the most accurate reflection of what people considered important issues at any given time.

By offering us a window on the past, they highlight not only the big issues of the day, but also the small details – what people were preoccupied with, what fashions prevailed, what sports were being played, what events were taking place in a particular local region. All that, and much, much more.

National Library Events

Library Late

The February 'Library Late' event entitled *Can Newspapers Survive?* featured a panel discussion with a number of prominent media industry experts. Pictured seated from left are Roy Greenslade, Professor of Journalism, London City University; James Cridland, Head of Future Media and Technology, BBC; Noirín Hegarty, Editor, *Sunday Tribune*; Gerard O'Regan, Editor, *Irish Independent*.



Pictured standing from left are Gerard Colleran, Editor, *The Star*; Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland; Dr John Bowman, RTE presenter, who chaired the discussion, and Fintan O'Toole, Assistant Editor, *The Irish Times*.

Strangers to Citizens

Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600-1800, the Library's current major public exhibition at 2-3 Kildare Street focuses on Irish migration to continental Europe from 1600 to 1800 and the considerable achievements of the Irish in Spain, France, Flanders and other countries. It presents the real story of the Irish in Europe, tracing the journey of political, economic and religious refugees and their eventual integration into host societies.



The exhibition was officially opened on 11 December by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr Séamus Brennan TD. He is photographed here with Gerard Danaher SC, Chairperson of the Board of the National Library of Ireland and Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland.

John J O'Meara Memorial Lecture

Latin and the Mass: should we mind and does it matter? was the title of the third John J O'Meara Memorial Lecture which took place in the Library's Seminar Room on 6 February. This year's Lecture, which was organised by the National Library of Ireland Society, was given by Dr Eamon Duffy, Professor of the History of Christianity, Magdalene College, Cambridge.



Professor O'Meara's widow Mrs Odile O'Meara is photographed with her daughters Odile and Catriona and her son Dominic at the reception held before the lecture.

New production of Yeats plays at the Library

Deirdre's Sorrows: Two Versions by WB Yeats and Ulick O'Connor opened at the Library's Seminar Room on 13 February for a seven-night run. This unique production, featuring a distinguished cast including Geraldine Plunkett, Janet Moran and Brian McGrath, set Yeats' finest play *Deirdre* alongside the play of the same name written by Ulick O'Connor in the Japanese Noh form, using mask, music and dance.



Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland is pictured here at the reception following the first performance of the production with Ulick O'Connor (centre) and one of the guests who attended the event, Judge Patrick McCartan.

Presentation of Senator David Norris archive

The personal archive of Senator David Norris, one of the most significant and colourful figures in Irish political and cultural life, was officially donated to the Library on 17 December.

Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former legal advisor to Senator Norris officiated at the presentation ceremony.



Mrs Robinson is photographed here with Senator David Norris and Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland.

Launch of Beyond the Pale exhibition

On 27 February, Mairead McGuinness MEP opened the *Beyond the Pale* exhibition at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar. The exhibition, which comprises photographs from the William Lawrence Photographic Collection 1865–1914, focuses on Irish cities outside the Pale – specifically Waterford, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Derry and Belfast.



Mairead McGuinness (centre) is photographed here with Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Director, National Library of Ireland and Sara Smyth, curator, National Photographic Archive.

NEWSPLAN: a profile

This year marks the 20th anniversary of NEWSPLAN Ireland, a project which combines the twin aims of enhancing the preservation of newspapers with improving access to this valuable national resource.

It is no exaggeration to say that NEWSPLAN has, as a result of its preservation and conservation work, prevented the destruction of innumerable issues of fragile newspapers, many of them unique. Of equal importance however is the fact that through their cooperation with this project, libraries have been able to make available many newspaper titles to which their readers previously did not have access.

The origins of NEWSPLAN Ireland date back to 1986 when the Committee for Library Cooperation in Ireland decided to take the model of NEWSPLAN UK and apply it to the island of Ireland. Work on the project began in earnest shortly after that. It culminated in 1992 with the publication by James O'Toole of *NEWSPLAN: Report of the NEWSPLAN Project in Ireland*. By listing all known newspaper holdings in Ireland, the report provided the Committee with the opportunity to identify and then microfilm the titles which were most at risk. Initially, this work was carried out by Jennifer MacDougall; later it was further developed by Sara Smyth, under whose supervision a second edition of the report was published in 1998 – the same year the Library set up its own in-house microfilm unit.

The process of microfilming newspapers is, of course, not new. Libraries everywhere have been using this technology for decades. What NEWSPLAN has done, however, is outline for participating institutions both the structure and the direction of the work to be undertaken, thus ensuring that microfilming is carried out to the highest international standards. It also ensures that there is no duplication of effort: an Irish newspaper title that has been copied by the Library will not be selected for copying by another participating institution and vice versa.



A Library user consulting a newspaper on microfilm in the Microfilm Reading Room, where self-service printing is available.

From a conservation point of view, newspapers present a considerable challenge as they are generally made of cheap pulp and therefore do not stand the test of time. By microfilming 'at risk' titles, the Library is able to remove original newspapers from circulation, thus allowing preservation and conservation work to be carried out on this critical primary resource.

While NEWSPLAN offers direction to libraries in terms of newspaper title selection, it remains a cooperative movement; institutions retain complete autonomy over which titles they choose to microfilm. For the Library, this remains an important issue: the specific requirements of the Library's readers, and the physical condition of particular newspapers, are the key determinants when deciding which titles to microfilm.

Microfilming institutions such as the National Library of Ireland and the British Library are, under certain conditions, permitted to sell copies of their microfilm materials to other institutions and private individuals. This aspect of the NEWSPLAN project has proved extremely successful, enabling many regional libraries (both public and academic) to purchase from the Library copies of newspaper titles of local interest. It has also allowed the Library to greatly enhance its collections by purchasing various newspaper titles on microfilm from the British Library.

Against a background of growing use of digitisation as a preservation and access medium, it will be incumbent on NEWSPLAN to adapt to changing times. Microfilm and digital products have been proven to complement each other. However, with digitisation standards continuing to evolve, microfilm's proven track record as a preservation medium still has much to recommend it.

The lessons learned from the work of NEWSPLAN will undoubtedly be of use to the Library as it continues to develop its digitisation policies – particularly in relation to newspapers and other primary source materials such as manuscripts and printed ephemera. In the meantime, the central tenet of NEWSPLAN Ireland – that libraries can work together to preserve and enhance access to newspapers – remains as important today as it was twenty years ago.



A recently acquired issue of *The Munster Journal*, Vol. XLVII. No. 4 (13 January 1783). It is currently undergoing conservation work prior to being microfilmed.



A selection of multicultural newspapers.

to be a huge issue. Moreover, the challenge of how to appeal to a generation of younger readers – who may rely on the Internet as their primary news source – increasingly has led the industry to offer consumers incentives such as free CDs, beauty products and glossy magazines with their newspaper purchases.

Another significant transformation in the market has been the increase in the number of newspapers catering for the ethnic and cultural diversity of Ireland's population. Several mainstream newspapers have adapted to changes in their readership mix by providing articles in different languages; the *Limerick Leader*, for example, publishes community notes in Chinese, Russian, and Polish. In addition, we have seen the rise of an independent media which vocalises the news and opinions of this growing sector of Irish society. The Library currently collects two African, one Chinese, one Latvian, two Lithuanian and nine Polish publications, in addition to two newspapers of general appeal to a multicultural readership. These publications feature news, job vacancy columns and social bulletins, as well as articles on Irish health, social policy and Irish culture.

The Library operates a policy of collecting all material relating to modern Ireland without judgement; for us the free paper that blocks your letterbox is as important as the more traditional national broadsheet. In fact, of our weekly intake of 280 titles, 50 are free newspapers.

Newspapers such as the *Dublin Daily* and *Stars on Sunday*, which had a very short existence and are no longer to be found on your local newsagents' shelves, are preserved for posterity in the Library's collection.

The Library's expanding collection of newspapers provides a challenge for its curatorial team. It also provokes some questions about the nature of newspapers in Ireland today and indicates the challenges facing the newspaper industry.

The changing face of the print media in Ireland

The scope and the scale of the Library's newspapers collection is just one indication of the changing face of the print media in Ireland. While some of these changes such as increases in the number of pages per issue or modifications to format can be attributed to achieving reductions in production costs, other transformations are less easily attributable to economies of scale. More likely, they are attributable to societal changes.

Every year, the Library collects 20,000 single issues of newspapers, comprising over 280 titles. These include 18 dailies, 14 Sundays, 220 local papers (covering 32 counties), various biweekly and bimonthly titles and 15 newspapers which are specifically targeted at Ireland's multinational population. These figures alone are illustrative of the high rate of newspaper and magazine readership in Ireland.

Two-thirds of these papers are in compact format, perhaps reflective of a change from the slow-paced lifestyle of *The Freeman's Journal* broadsheet reader of the 1900s to that of the modern commuter elbowing for space on public transport on their way to work.

A typical edition of *The Freeman's Journal* contained just eight pages and its front page was covered entirely in advertisements. For the modern press, the generation of advertising revenue also continues

The Library's collection seems to illustrate that the day of the newspaper primarily acting as a conduit for facts is over. While this is partially due to pressures from other sectors of the media, it also suggests that, increasingly, newspapers are being read for entertainment rather than for information. While page three in a 1901 edition of *The Freeman's Journal* was where people turned in order to track their stocks and shares, it now has quite a different meaning.

Certainly, the diversity of the Library's collection seems to point to a 'new age' in newspaper production: as such it is a valuable gauge of a cultural shift in Irish society. However, while the print media continues to change, the Library's acquisitions policy remains the same: to collect and preserve such material so that future generations may document and understand those changes.

Selection of Polish newspapers available in the National Library of Ireland.



An t-athrú atá ag teacht ar na meáin chlóite in Éirinn

Is é léiriú amháin go díreach atá i scóip agus scála bhailiúchán pháipéir nuachta na Leabharlainne ar an athrú atá ag teacht ar na meáin chlóite in Éirinn. Cé gur féidir cuid de na hathruithe seo cosúil le méadú i líon na leathanach le haghaidh na heisiúna nó leasuithe ar an bhformáid, a chur síos do laghdú i gcostais táirgthe, ní féidir athruithe eile a chur síos do bhairneachtaí scála go furasta. Tá sé níos dóchúla go mbaineann siad le hathruithe sa tsochaí.

Gach bliain, bailíonn an Leabharlann 20,000 eisiúint aonair de pháipéir nuachta, a chuimsíonn os cionn 280 teideal. Áirítear orthu seo 18 bpáipéar laethúla, 14 pháipéar Domhnaigh, 220 páipéar áitiúil (a chlúdaíonn 32 contae), teidil éagsúla dhéshéachtainiúla agus dhémhíosúla, agus 15 pháipéar nuachta atá sonraithe go sainiúil ar dhaonra ilnáisiúnta na hÉireann. Léiríonn na figiúirí seo iontu féin an t-ardráta léitheoireachta atá in Éirinn maidir le páipéir nuachta agus irisí.

Tá dhá thrian de na páipéir seo i ndlúthfhormáid, léiriú b'fhéidir d'athrú ó stíl mhaireachtála réidh léitheoir mórghileoige *The Freeman's Journal* sna 1900idí go dtí stíl mhaireachtála chomaitéir an lae inniu a bhíonn ag iarraidh spáis a dhéanamh dó féin ar an iompar poiblí ar a bhealach chuig a chuid oibre.

Cé nach raibh ach ocht leathanach i ngnáth-eagrán de *The Freeman's Journal*, bhí a leathanach tosaigh clúdaithe go hiomlán i bhfógraí. Leanann giniúint an ioncaim fhógraíochta de bheith ina cheist ollmhór do phreas an lae inniu chomh maith. Ina theannta sin, de bhrí an dúshláin atá os comhair an tionscail chun glúin léitheoirí níos óige, a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag brath ar an ldiríon mar a bpríomhfhoinsé nuachta a mhealladh, táirgeann siad spreagthaí cosúil le CDanna, earraí maisíochta agus irisí glasta saor in aisce do thomhaltóirí leis na páipéir nuachta a cheannaíonn siad.

Athrú suntasach eile atá tagtha ar an margadh is ea an méadú i líon na bpáipéar nuachta a fhreastalaíonn d'éagsúlacht eiteach agus chultúrtha dhaonra na hÉireann. Rinneadh roinnt pháipéir nuachta phríomhshrutha a choigeartú d'athruithe i meascadh a lucht léitheoireachta trí airteagail a sholáthar i dteangacha éagsúla. (mar shampla, foilsíonn an *Limerick Leader* nótaí pobail sa tSínis, sa Rúisis agus sa Pholainnis). Chomh maith leis sin, tá méadú tagtha ar mheáin



neamhspleácha a thugann guth do nuacht agus tuairimí na hearnála seo den tsochaí atá ag méadú. Faoi láthair, bailíonn an Leabharlann dhá fhoilseachán Afracacha, ceann amháin Sínise, ceann amháin Laitvise, dhá cheann Liotuáinéise agus naoi gcinn Pholainnise, le cois dhá pháipéar nuachta a oireann do lucht léitheoireachta iltheangach i gcoitinne. Tá nuacht, colúin ar fholúntais phoist, bullaitíní sóisialta, chomh maith le hairteagail ar pholasaí sláinte agus sóisialta na hÉireann agus cultúr na hÉireann sna foilseacháin seo.

Feidhmíonn an Leabharlann polasaí maidir le gach ábhar a bhaineann le hÉirinn nua-aimseartha gan bhreithiúnas a bhailiú; tá an páipéar saor in aisce a phlódáil do bhosca litreach chomh tábhachtach dúinne is atá an mhórbhileog náisiúnta traidisiúnta.

Is amhlaidh atá 50 páipéar nuachta saor in aice, as ár nglacadh seachtainiúil 280 teideal, .

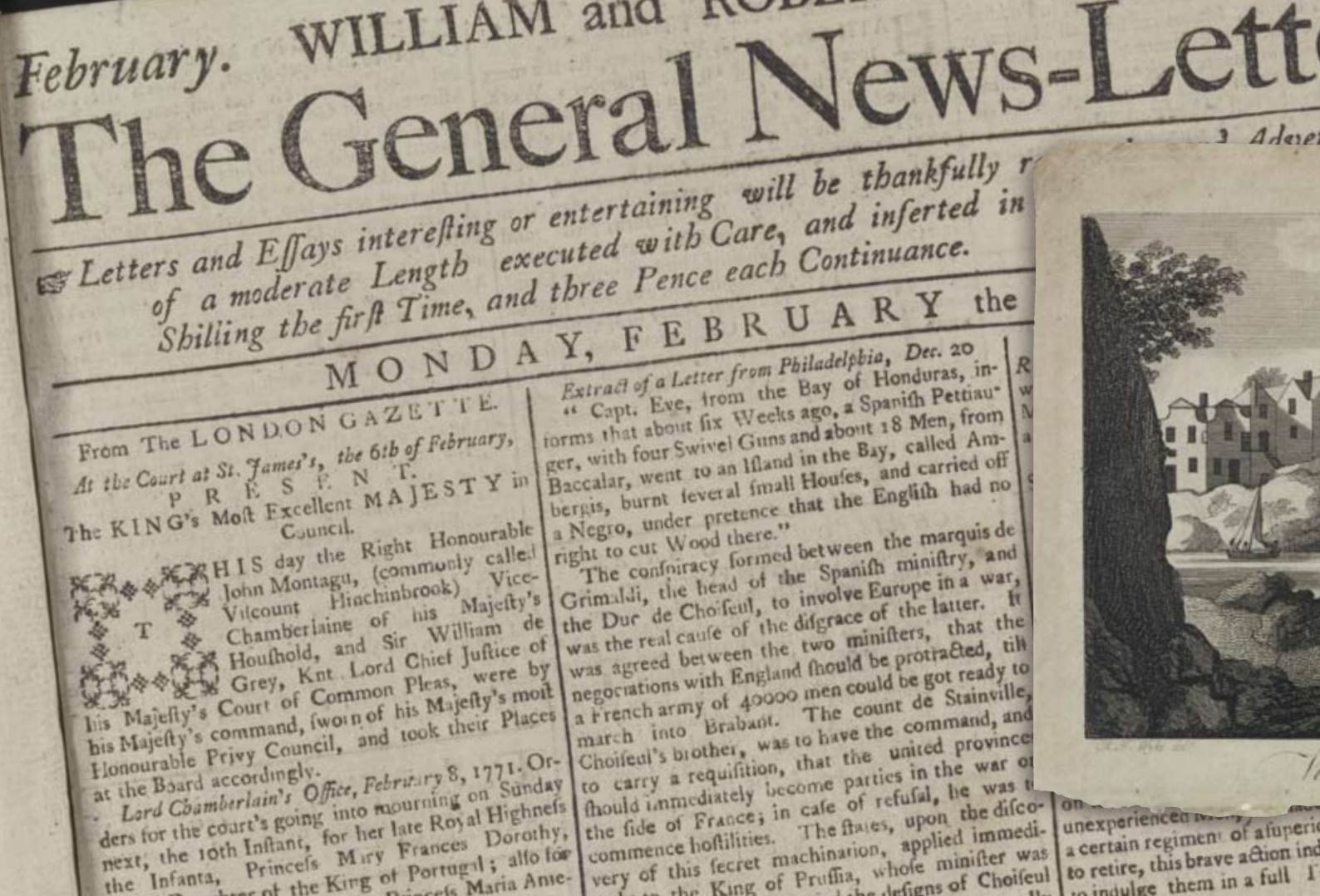
Déantar páipéir nuachta cosúil leis an *Dublin Daily* agus *Stars on Sunday*, nach raibh ann ach ar feadh tréimhse an-ghairid agus nach bhfuil le fáil níos mó ar sheilfeanna bhur nuachtánaithe áitiúla, a chaomhnú le haghaidh ár sleachta i mbailiúchán na Leabharlainne.

Soláthraíonn bailiúchán méadaithe pháipéir nuachta na Leabharlainne dúshláin dá foireann coimeádaithe. Spreagann sé roinnt ceisteanna faoin gcineál páipéar nuachta atá in Éirinn inniu agus léiríonn sé na dúshláin atá os comhair thionscal na bpáipéar nuachta chomh maith.

Is cosúil go léiríonn bailiúchán na Leabharlainne nach bhfeidhmíonn an páipéar nuachta go príomha mar chainéal d'fhíricí níos mó. Cé gurb é brúanna ó earnálacha eile de na meáin is cúis go páirteach leis seo, léiríonn sé fosta, go léitear páipéir nuachta le haghaidh siamsaíochta seachas le haghaidh faisnéise níos mó agus níos mó. Cé gur bhain leathanach a trí in eagrán 1901 de *The Freeman's Journal* le leathanach ina ndéanann daoine a stoic agus a scaireanna a sheiceáil, tá an chiall atá leis anois measartha difriúil.

Is cinnte, go bhfuil an chuma ann go léiríonn éagsúlacht bhailiúchán na Leabharlainne 'aois úr' i dtáirgeadh páipéir nuachta: sé sin gur tomhsaire luachmhar atá ann maidir le haistriú cultúrtha i sochaí na hÉireann. Cé go leanann na meáin chlóite ag athrú, áfach, tá polasaí sealbhaithe na Leabharlainne fós mar a gcéanna: ábhar dá leithéid a bhailiú agus a chaomhnú sa dóigh go mbeidh na glúine amach anseo ábalta na hathruithe sin a thaifeadh agus a thuiscint.





The General News-Letter, Monday 18 February 1771. This is an example of a typical Irish eighteenth-century newspaper with information on the price of advertising. The first page also includes an extract from the London Gazette on the events in the Royal Court at St James, an extract from a letter from Philadelphia reporting Spanish raids in the Bay of Honduras and a concert to be held at Ranelagh House and Gardens in Dublin.

An overview of the Library's collection of eighteenth century newspapers

The Library's collection of eighteenth century newspapers is one of its most frequently consulted collections due to its immense importance as a primary source for political, social, economic and cultural history. The recent acquisition of Limerick and Munster newspapers – dating from 1777 to 1827 respectively – has further expanded the Library's holdings, and provides additional evidence of the vibrancy of Irish print culture in the eighteenth century.

The first Irish newspaper *An account of the occurrences of Ireland* was published in 1659, almost 40 years after the first newspaper appeared in England. Despite being followed by several short-lived titles in the 1680s and 1690s, it was not until the appearance of Dickson's *Flying Post* (1699–1722), the *Dublin Intelligence* (1702–1714) and Pue's *Occurrences* (1703–1788) that the Irish newspaper trade really began to flourish. In the early years of the eighteenth century the most enterprising publishers and literary figures of the day also launched short-lived newspapers; these included Swift's *Examiner* (1710–1712) and *Intelligencer* (1729–30). The first paper published outside Dublin was the *Idler*, published in Cork in 1715.

Irish news was not the dominant feature of these early newspapers; they tended to concentrate on news from London and the Continent. Furthermore, their readership was relatively small, with circulation limited by factors such as low literacy levels. However, as the century progressed, literacy levels continued to rise consistently.

1725 marked the beginning of the century's most successful newspapers which included *Faulkner's Dublin Journal* (1725–1825), *Dublin Evening Post* (1732–1875), *Belfast Newsletter* (1737 – date), *Saunders' Newsletter* (1755–1879), *The Freeman's Journal* (1763–1924) and the *Dublin Evening Post* (1778–1875). At various times, all of these manifested significant and sometimes dramatic shifts in their political stance, often as a result of a change in ownership or a range of government interventions which resulted in control and censorship.

During the early part of the eighteenth century, newspaper revenues were mainly generated from readers' subscriptions. The rise in the popularity of newspaper advertising changed this situation; the newspaper publishing industry became responsible



Newspapers were read in coffee houses such as the one illustrated in this print attributed to John Martyn, (fl. 1794-1828), after an original drawing by Robert Titus Wyke, (ca. 1790-ca. 1870). Department of Prints and Drawings.

Founded in 1768 and now part of the *Limerick Leader* Group, the *Limerick Chronicle* continues to provide a unique insight into life in provincial Ireland. This copy dated 7 August 1813 – one of the 53 editions of the newspaper recently purchased by the Library – significantly increases the number of extant issues of this title.

for the creation of a nationwide distribution network for print and other commodities such as stationery, patent medicines, books and consumer goods. Simultaneously, readership figures were boosted by the wide availability of newspapers in coffee houses and reading rooms.

The 1740s saw the emergence of a new crop of printers, publishers and editors in Dublin who were willing to test the limits of editorial freedom in the Irish press. Newspapers which focused on Irish political issues also began to emerge. The most notable of these, *The Censor* (1749–50), demonstrated that Irish newspapers were not afraid of dealing with the topics of local political controversy, despite government disapproval.

The rise of patriotic feeling in the 1770s and 1780s further encouraged the newspaper industry in Ireland, but it also led to the government introducing legislative measures to curb the industry's freedom. In 1784, when the *Volunteers' Journal* published an inflammatory article and illustration showing John Foster, the Irish Chancellor of the Exchequer hanging from a noose for his crimes against Ireland, it led to the introduction of a libel act.

During the 1790s, newspapers which supported the aims of the Society of United Irishmen suffered most from government attention. In 1797 the *Northern Star* (1792–97), a Belfast newspaper which had the highest circulation in Ireland (c. 4,000), was forced to close as a result of military intervention. Its successors, *The Press* (1797–98) in Dublin and *The Harp of Erin* (1798) in Cork, both suffered the same fate less than a year later.

The introduction of a stamp act in March 1798 further depleted both the number and the range of Irish newspapers. When increased stamp duty came into effect, only one opposition newspaper remained in Dublin – the *Morning Post* (1788–98). It ceased publication four days after the legislation was introduced. On the eve of the 1798 Rebellion, there were no opposition papers in existence; of the newspapers being published, two maintained a line of subdued neutrality and three were publications supported by government advertisements.

The newspaper industry recovered quickly after the 1798 Rebellion in an environment of intense political debate over the proposed Act of Union. Several newspapers were specifically established to oppose the measure; they included the *Anti-Union* (1798–99) and *The Constitution and Anti-Union Evening Post* (1799–1800).

The years between 1659 and 1800 saw the establishment of over 200 newspapers. The crucial and formative role that these newspapers played in every aspect of Irish public life makes them a wonderful source of information for anyone who has a keen interest in eighteenth century Ireland.

Further reading: R Munter, *The history of the Irish newspaper, 1685-1760* (1967) and B Inglis, *The freedom of the press in Ireland, 1784-1841* (1954), both available in the National Library of Ireland.



George Faulkner (1699-1775) was one of eighteenth century Dublin's most prolific and respected printers, booksellers and publishers. He was the publisher of Jonathan Swift's works, a friend of Lord Chesterfield and many other noted Irish writers, and the proprietor of the long-running *Dublin Journal*. Although considered a patriot, he also enjoyed a reputation for inviting people of all political backgrounds to his famous dinner parties. He was elected alderman to the Dublin City Council in November 1770.

Faulkner, George, [Pl. to *Hibernian Magazine*, October 1775]. Department of Prints and Drawings.

The Freeman's Journal

The *Freeman's Journal*, published continuously between 1763 and 1924, was the foremost nationalist newspaper of its era. Originally associated with the 'patriot' party in the Irish Parliament, it was later connected to Dublin Castle though its editor and proprietor Francis Higgins, aka the 'Sham Squire'. In 1837, it was purchased by its first Catholic editor, the Repeal supporter Patrick Lavelle. Three generations of the Gray family were subsequently involved in the newspaper: Sir John Gray, his son Edmund Dwyer Gray (Home Rule MP) and then his son of the same name. The paper initially opposed Parnell in the 1870s but eventually supported him, partly due to the threat that the *United Ireland*, a paper founded by Parnell, might become a rival. At its most successful, circulation reached over 30,000 copies per day.

Having initially supported Parnell in the 'Split', the paper turned against him in 1891 and the next year merged with the *National Press*, another anti-Parnell title. A struggle for control of the paper followed, reflecting the general tensions within Irish nationalism, but from that time the *Freeman* was the organ of the Irish Party at Westminster. From 1905 onwards, it lost business to William Martin Murphy's new *Irish Independent* which sold at half the price. Its premises, near the GPO in Dublin, were destroyed in the 1916 Rising. Sold off in 1919, the paper then experienced more difficulties: suppressed by British authorities from December 1919 to January 1920, the new proprietors and the editor were imprisoned in 1920 and its printing presses were smashed by Irregulars in 1921 in reprisal for the paper's support of 1921 Treaty. The last edition was published on 19 December 1924.

Because of its importance, *The Freeman's Journal* is an obvious title for digitisation and, in fact, it has already been digitised in part by the British Library as one of the titles in its *Nineteenth Century Newspapers* resource. The Library will explore the feasibility of a further digitisation project as part of its research into digitisation possibilities in various Library collections, including newspapers.

The leading article from the last issue of *The Freeman's Journal*, 19 December 1924.

The Freeman's Journal
ESTABLISHED 1763. DUBLIN DEC. 19 1924.

EDITORIAL OFFICES:
6, 7, & Townsend Street, Dublin. Phone 3001.

ADVERTISING OFFICES:
27 Westmoreland Street, Dublin. Phone 50.

LONDON OFFICES: 118 Fleet Street.
Phone: Advertising—Central 1046.
Editorial—City 760.
Telegrams: "Freeman, Dublin."
"Freemavert-Fleet-London."

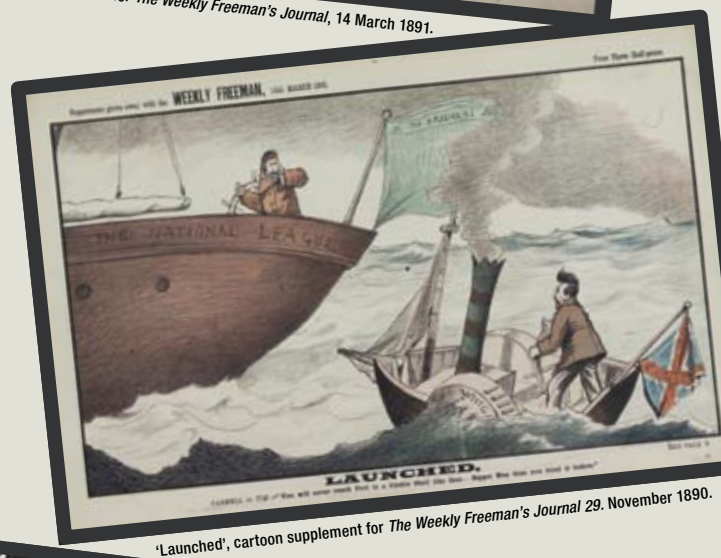
POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
12 Months £3 18
6 Months 1 19
3 Months 0 19
Remittances should be made by cheque
Office Order, payable to the Freeman's
(1919), Ltd., 6, 7 and 8 Townsend Street

TO-DAY'S WEATHER FORECAST.
IRELAND. — N.W.—Wind south-
fresh or strong, with risk of gal-
mainly cloudy; occasional rain or dr-
bly moderate; mild. N.E., S.E.,
—Wind S. to S.W., moderate to
strong; mainly cloudy; local drizzle;
visibility: mild

HIGH WATER AT DUBLIN BAR.
Morning, 4.15. Evening, 4.40.
LIGHTING-UP TIME 5 7

1763---1924.
After a hundred and sixty-one years of
service to the Irish people the conditions of
time compel the cessation of the "Free-
Journal."

Lucas, with Grattan and Flood, founded the
paper. O'Connell relied upon it, Butt, Parnell,
Davitt, Redmond and Dillon had it at their side
when their aims were to be achieved.



National Library of Ireland Society

The National Library of Ireland Society is a voluntary support group which aims "to assist and support the National Library in the maintenance and expansion of its services and the improvement and protection of its status as the National Library of Ireland." It arranges an annual programme of lectures on topics of Irish interest in a variety of subject areas including history, literature and current affairs; it organises an annual outing to historic houses and other venues, and it provides an opportunity for interested persons to support the Library at a crucial phase in its development.

The final event in the Society's 2007 programme took place on 12 December when members were given a private tour of the Library's new exhibition **Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600–1800**.

The Society's Spring/Summer programme got off to a successful start on 6 February when Dr Eamon Duffy, Professor of the History of Christianity, Magdalene College, Cambridge gave a lecture entitled *Latin and the Mass: should we mind and does it matter?* The respondent was Mr Justice Peter Kelly. This was the fourth event in the annual John J O'Meara Memorial Lecture series; the series has been made possible by an endowment from Professor O'Meara's family.

On 12 March, Professor Tom Dunne, Emeritus Professor of History at University College Cork delivered a lecture entitled *Irish and British History in the paintings of Daniel Maclise*.

Details of upcoming Society events can be found on the Library website www.nli.ie.

Lectures and other events begin at 7pm and take place in the Library's Seminar Room.

Membership Rates

Ordinary Membership	€25 p.a.
OAP Membership	€15 p.a.
Student Membership	€10 p.a.
Corporate Membership	€1,000 p.a.

(by invitation only)

Members of the Society are entitled to a 10% discount in the Joly Café and in the Library shop.

Nomination for the William MB Berger Prize for British Art History

The Stapleton Collection; Designs for the Irish neoclassical interior, written by Conor Lucey and published by Churchill House Press in association with the National Library of Ireland, has been nominated for the William MB Berger Prize for British Art History, 2007.

The Prize, which recognises excellence in the field of British art history, was established in honour of the memory of the late William MB Berger. It is awarded annually by *The British Art Journal* in association with the Berger Collection Educational Trust of Denver, Colorado.



Gerard Lyne, Keeper of Manuscripts, National Library of Ireland photographed with Patrick Bergin at the reception to mark the launch of the film series.

Free lunchtime screenings of Patrick Bergin's Yeats' films

The Library was particularly delighted to host a series of lunchtime screenings of three films adapted from the original WB Yeats plays *Calvary*, *The Cat and the Moon* and *The Countess Cathleen* on a number of dates in March.

The films were produced by UK-based actor Patrick Bergin's company Amergin Productions and feature performances by Patrick Bergin and well-known Irish actors Denis Conway, Pat Kinnevene and Caitriona Ní Mhurchú.

Further award win for the Library's WB Yeats exhibition

The Library has won a further award for its exhibition **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats**. The latest accolade – for the use of digital media in the exhibition – was presented at the 2008 Irish Digital Media Awards. These awards recognise innovation and quality in the digital media sector, and this year the judges singled out the work done by the Yeats exhibition design company, Martello Media. It won the *Best Business to Consumer Innovation* award category, it was a finalist in the *Best e-Learning Product or Course* category, and it took second place in the overall Grand Prix.

Calendar of events

Strangers to Citizens

Guided tours of the Library's new exhibition **Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600–1800** take place every Monday at 2.30pm. Information & tour bookings, telephone 01-603 0277 or email stc@nli.ie.

'One City One Book'

As part of this year's Dublin City Libraries' 'One City One Book' event, Professor Andrew Carpenter from the School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin will give a lecture entitled *Swift and Gulliver's Travels*. This event will take place at 1pm on Thursday 17 April.

Library Late

The featured guests for the April 'Library Late' public interview are Myles Dungan, presenter, RTÉ (chair); Lara Marlowe, Paris-based foreign correspondent, *The Irish Times*; Marion McKeone, US correspondent, Today FM's *The Last Word* and former US editor, *Sunday Tribune*, and Richard Downes, RTÉ News. The topic to be discussed is: 'Foreign correspondents – an endangered species?' This latest event in the 'Library Late' series will take place in the Library's Seminar Room at 8pm on Monday 21 April.

The Hollywood Librarian: a look at librarians through film

To mark UNESCO's World Book and Copyright Day, the Library will be holding a free public screening of *The Hollywood Librarian* at 7pm in the Library's Seminar Room on Wednesday 23 April.

Sources for Irish Family History

As part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, The Irish Ancestral Research Association (Boston) will sponsor four family history lectures in conjunction with the Library. On Tuesday 29 April at 6pm Ciara Kerrigan will speak on *Estate Records in the Manuscript Collection of the National Library of Ireland*, and at 7.45pm Gregory O'Connor will lecture on *Court of Petty Session Records in the National Archives*. On Wednesday 30 April at 6pm John Grenham will give a lecture entitled *Irish Loan Fund Records*, and at 7.45pm George B Handran will lecture on *Poor Law Removals – records in the Parliamentary Papers*. Admission is free.

Storytelling theme of Bealtaine (Age & Opportunity) Events

How to tell stories with Susie Minto: Monday 12 May 10am to 4pm and Monday 26 May 11am to 1pm. Learn the craft of becoming a storyteller or improve your existing storytelling skills. Using the exhibition **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats** for inspiration, participants will be shown several ways how to open up their imaginations and create their own stories.

What stories make me with Susie Minto: Monday 19 May 11am to 1pm and also from 2pm to 4pm that day; Monday 26 May 2008, 2pm to 4pm. Using material from the National Library's collections as inspiration, participants will be introduced to the skills of storytelling and ways of collecting stories and passing them on. Admission is free, to reserve a place please call 01-603 0277.

Seminar on landed estates

In association with the Genealogy and Local Studies Section of the Library Association of Ireland (LAI), the Library will host an all-day seminar entitled *Landed Estates: Records and Research* on Thursday, 22 May 2008. Programme details will be posted on the Genealogy and Local Studies Section pages on the LAI website www.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/genealogy-local-studies/. To register your interest in attending the seminar, email your contact details to Síle Coleman at localstudies@sdbulincoco.ie.

POETRY ALOUD 2008

The regional heats of POETRY ALOUD 2008 (the spoken poetry competition for post-primary school students which is organised by the Library in association with Poetry Ireland) will be held in October. As in previous years, competition entrants will choose poems from a prescribed list of poems by Irish poets.

To coincide with the Library's current major exhibition, **Yeats: the life and works of William Butler Yeats**, poetry by Yeats will be on the prescribed list of poems in the finals of this year's competition. Information on POETRY ALOUD 2008 will be sent to all schools in April and updates will be posted on the Library's website www.nli.ie and also on Poetry Ireland's website www.poetryireland.ie. The competition finals will take place in November.

Comments and suggestions on *NLI News* should be addressed to Brid O'Sullivan. Email: bosullivan@nli.ie

