

NEWS



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Dromahair Abbey, Co Leitrim PD 1976TX61

Dr Peter Harbison's latest book, *Our Treasure of Antiquities*, offers a unique combination of new research material on the archaeology of Connacht; 21st century photographs of ancient monuments juxtaposed with sketches of the same monuments as they appeared in the 18th century and colourful accounts of the daily lives of tenant farmers, Franciscan Friars, local aristocrats and others in the late-1700s.

These social observations and sketches were made by Gabriel Beranger, a Dutch-born Huguenot who worked in Ireland as an artist and print-seller, and by Angelo Maria Bigari, an Italian theatrical designer, during a sketching tour of Counties Galway, Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo in 1779.

Their sketches, plans and details may be counted among the most important original documents of their kind as they provide the first comprehensive pictorial survey of some of the province's most important stone monuments surviving from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. Their work was a precursor to the Ordnance Survey's more extensive coverage, which was not initiated until more than half a century later.

Some years ago, Dr Peter Harbison discovered a number of the artists' original drawings in a private collection in England. He subsequently helped to repatriate them to the National Library, where they are now stored.

Our Treasure of Antiquities was published in November 2002 by Wordwell in association with the National Library.

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National Library of Ireland
NUAIGHT Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann





New

Music Library Project

It is almost inconceivable to imagine a situation where Sibelius' music is rarely heard in Finland or Grieg's music is not played in Norway, yet this is exactly the state of affairs that exists in Ireland in relation to our classical music composers. Not only are they largely unknown, there is no easy way of accessing information about them.

The situation in relation to accessing their music is somewhat similar. Holdings in libraries are scattered and unprocessed; much of the published sheet music is missing from publishers' archives, and it is likely that a great deal of valuable material has been lost and will continue to be lost – mainly through a lack of awareness and a lack of any obvious home for printed and manuscript music.

This is in sharp contrast to the situation in most European countries, where the work of national classical music composers is cherished, and where music archives relating to these composers are the norm. It is also in sharp contrast to the situation in relation to Irish traditional music, which is under the aegis of the Irish Traditional Music Archive, and with contemporary composers, whose work is archived by the Contemporary Music Centre.

An initial report on the National Library's Joly and Additional Music collections, which was commissioned last year from the well-known pianist Una Hunt, indicates that they include considerable valuable, exciting and hitherto little known material that is ripe for rediscovery and promulgation to a new audience.

Against this background, the Library has decided to develop its music collections so that they can become the basis of a national archive of Irish composers. This archive will be of considerable interest to performers and music researchers as well as the general public who have not yet been exposed to this music in any substantial way.

As part of the new project the Library has appointed a music librarian who will be responsible for cataloguing, rehousing and providing guidance on its Irish music collections – primarily 18th and 19th century music in the western classical tradition.

It is also intended that a search for the work of Irish composers which may be held in publishers' archives, in private hands, or in other libraries here in Ireland or abroad, will be carried out.

John Field's arrangement of The Two Favourite Slave Dances in Black Beard, London, [1798]. NLI L01730

Remembering Robert Emmet at the National Library of Ireland

The experience of the 1998 bicentenary of the 1798 Rebellion, to which Robert Emmet's efforts in 1803 were inextricably linked, proved that anniversaries are valuable opportunities for critical re-evaluation of important events.

The publications, conferences, lectures and exhibitions which are planned for the Emmet bicentenary will undoubtedly change the way in which the Rising of 1803 will be perceived by subsequent generations. To this end, the National Library of Ireland has commissioned a substantial publication on Emmet's life and political career, drawing on the Library's own collections, in conjunction with the National Archives, the National Gallery, the National Museum and Kilmainham Gaol.

This extensively illustrated book by Dr Ruan O'Donnell will explain the origins, agenda and dynamics of what transpired in Dublin in July 1803, and it will contain rare images and documentation relating to Robert Emmet.

Long discounted as a free-ranging outburst, it will be shown that the clashes with the military in the south city were the visible manifestation of a sophisticated and wholly feasible United Irish conspiracy. Emmet was the chief military strategist of the original plan and, far from being a naive romanticist, was actually one of the key people responsible for reviving the United Irishmen after their defeat in 1798 and re-establishing contact with their French allies.

The book will present numerous items held by the National Library's Manuscripts and Prints and Drawings Departments, as well as a selection of the extensive and diverse range of materials that are held in the main collections. These include sketches of Emmet when on trial in Green Street Courthouse; an embroidered map of Ireland made by his fiancée, Sarah Curran, and the working notes of a judge who tried the 1803 conspirators.

The Library's Brocas collections and other unique images of the period will be used in what will amount to the most complete portraiture of Emmet ever published. Extracts from contemporary newspapers, periodicals and parliamentary records will feature alongside perspectives contained in rare pamphlets and other printed ephemera. Account will be taken of Emmet's enduring appeal to Irish nationalists worldwide, with particular reference to the propaganda of the physical force tradition which claimed his legacy in the nineteenth century.

Dr Ruan O'Donnell is Lecturer in History at the University of Limerick. He has published extensively on the United Irishmen, including *1798 Diary* (Dublin, 1998), *Aftermath: Post-Rebellion Insurgency in Wicklow, 1799-1803* (Dublin, 1999) and *Robert Emmet and the Rising of 1803* (Dublin, 2003).



Robert Emmet : When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth then and not till then let my epitaph be written. James Petrie, (1750-1819) EP EMME-RO(5)1

23 July 2003 marks the bicentenary of the dramatic Rising of 1803, popularly known as 'Emmet's Rebellion'. This anniversary is the most historically notable of the year and of great public interest.



The execution of Robert Emmet, in Thomas Street, 20th September 1803 / F.W. Byrne delt. Ormond Terrace Rathmines ; or F. Byrne Castle Avenue, Clontarf PD HP (1803) 1



The Abbey Theatre, Dublin
From a photograph by Sarah Ross, Ireland

Leabharlann phearsanta Sheán O'Casey faighte

Tá leabharlann phearsanta iomlán Sheán O'Casey, a mheastar a bheith ar dhuine de na drámadóirí is fearr sa 20^ú haois, faighte ag an Leabharlann Náisiúnta. Tá os cionn 1,800 mír inti agus is í an dara fáil mhór d'ábhar O'Casey le déanaí í.

I mí na Nollag 2001, fuair eamar cartlann de 5,000 mír de lámhscríbhinní bunaidh agus de pháipéir phearsanta a bhain le beagnach 50 bliain de ghairm scríbhneoireachta O'Casey. Mar thoradh air sin, is í an Leabharlann Náisiúnta an stór is mó ar domhan de pháipéir agus de chuimhneacháin O'Casey.

Dúirt an Stiúrthóir Brendan O Donoghue, agus é ag fógairt gur fuarthas an bailiúchán leabhar:

"Beidh suim ag mic léinn ar obair O'Casey réimse agus doimhneas an ábhair a léirítear sa bhailiúchán seo a iniúchadh, agus go háirithe, na nótaí atá i líon mór leabhar, arbh iad na leabhair is tuisce a cheannaigh O'Casey go leor acu.

"Áirítear sóisialachas, cumannachas, stair na hEaglaise Caitlicí, stair nádúrtha, luibheolaíocht, ealaín, an Ghaeilge, litríocht na Fraince, bileoga ceoil agus leabhair amhráin Ghaeilge ar na topaicí – agus gan ach cuid díobh a lua. Dá bhrí sin, tugann siad léargas dúinn ar ábhair shuime phearsanta, ar shaincheisteanna agus idé-eolaíochtaí a raibh tionchar acu ar mhachnamh agus ar scríobh an drámadóra Éireannaigh mór le rá seo."

Tá roinnt cóipeanna tíolactha sínithe sa bhailiúchán a leiríonn an cairdeas a bhí ag O'Casey le scríbhneoirí agus ealaíontóirí éagsúla ar nós, Harry Clarke, Lennox Robinson, Lady Gregory, Oliver St John Gogarty agus Edward MacLysaght.

Acquisition of Sean O'Casey's personal library

The National Library has acquired the entire personal library of Sean O'Casey, widely regarded as one of the world's leading 20th century playwrights. Comprising more than 1,800 items, it is the second major acquisition of O'Casey material in recent times.

In December 2001, the Library acquired a 5,000-item archive of original manuscripts and personal papers relating to almost 50 years of O'Casey's writing career. As a result, the National Library is now the world's largest repository of O'Casey papers and memorabilia.

Announcing details of the acquisition, Director Brendan O Donoghue said:

"Students of O'Casey's work will be interested in examining the range and depth of subject matter represented in this collection, and in particular, the annotations contained in a sizeable number of the books, many of which were among O'Casey's earliest purchases.

"The topics include socialism, communism, Catholic Church history, natural history, botany, art, the Irish language, French literature, sheet music and Irish songbooks – to list but a few. As such, they offer unique insights into the personal interests, issues and ideologies that influenced the thinking and writing of this major Irish playwright."

The collection includes a number of signed presentation copies indicating O'Casey's friendships with various writers and artists such as Harry Clarke, Lennox Robinson, Lady Gregory, Oliver St John Gogarty and Edward MacLysaght.

Recent National Library Events



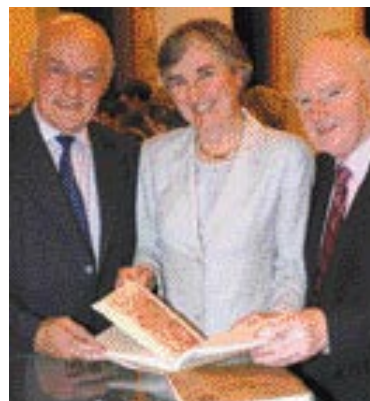
Casement Letters

In December President Mary McAleese presented a series of Casement documents, received from O'Neill of Clanaboye in Portugal, to the National Library of Ireland at a ceremony held in Áras an Uachtaráin. Pictured with President McAleese is Brendan O'Donoghue (centre) Director of the National Library, and Gerard Lyne, Keeper of Manuscripts. The documents comprise four letters from Roger Casement dated 1904 and 1905, a postcard, a printed three-page appeal for funds and Roger Casement's visiting card.

November Book Launches



Elaine Grogan signs a copy of *Beginnings: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Early Sketches* for Professor Michael McCarthy, Department of the History of Art, UCD.



Pictured at the launch of *Beginnings: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Early Sketches* were from left Brendan O'Donoghue, Director, National Library; Elaine Grogan, author and Dr Arthur Gibney PRHA,



At the launch of *Our Treasure of Antiquities* by Dr Peter Harbison were from left Dr Edward McParland, Department of the History of Art, TCD, Dr Peter Harbison, author and Josephine Shields, photographer.

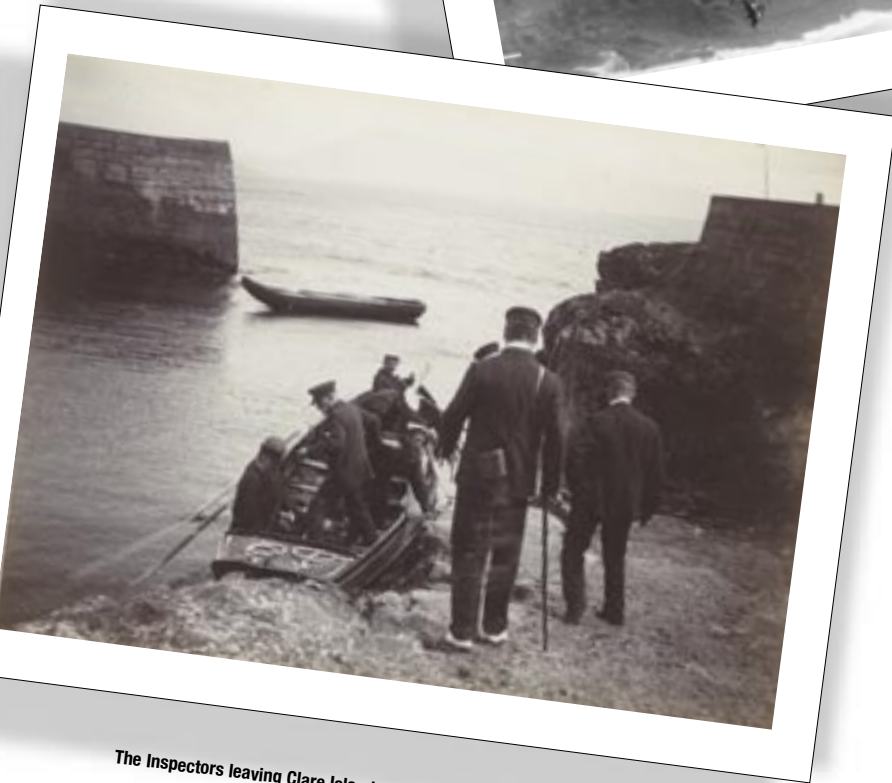
R. I. Best Lecture



The subject of the RI Best Memorial Lecture, which was held in the Bank of Ireland Arts Centre in October, was *The Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language*. The lecture was given by Professor Mairtín Ó Murchú, Senior Professor of Irish at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Pictured with Professor Ó Murchú (centre) are Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh NUI Galway (left), and Brendan O'Donoghue, Director, National Library.



The new Fastnet Lighthouse and the remains of the old tower being dismantled, 1904. CIL 20



The Inspectors leaving Clare Island, 1905. CIL 7-22-4

National Photographic Archive For the Safety of All

Panoramic views of Irish quays, coastlines and islands; informal portraits of lighthouse keepers and their families; unique insights into early 20th century social life in coastal areas; construction work on the Fastnet Lighthouse – these are among dozens of images featuring in a book entitled ***For the Safety of All***, which was published recently by the National Library in association with the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

The book was launched at an exhibition of the same name, which opened at the National Photographic Archive in February.

The photographs were taken by Sir Robert Ball, the distinguished astronomer, mathematician, author and lecturer. For a period of 29 years during the late 1800s



Signalling team in communication, ca.1900. CIL 194



Parade, Glenties, Co Donegal, 1970

and early 1900s he was a member of the Commissioners of Irish Lights committee that circumnavigated the coast of Ireland each year, visiting up to 100 lighthouses, and inspecting beacons, buoys, perches and lightships to ensure that their signalling apparatus was operating properly.

He always brought at least one camera with him on these inspection trips. Some experts argue that his intention was to create the photographic equivalent of the views of coastal elevations that are to be found on most Admiralty charts.

The photographs in the book form part of a 1,000-strong collection of photographs by Ball, much of which was donated to the National Photographic Archive by the Commissioners of Irish Lights three years ago.

For the Safety of All is available from the National Library

Féile

To coincide with the St Patrick's Day Festival and other celebrations taking place in March of this year, the Library's National Photographic Archive will be mounting an exhibition entitled *Féile*, which depicts images of festivals and other celebrations of Irish life during the past century. It opens on 12 March and continues until end-May.

St Patrick's Day parades in Donegal and Dublin, Easter parades in Donegal, and Corpus Christi processions in Cahir, Co Tipperary are among the events that will be represented in the exhibition. Also included will be images of weddings, feiseanna, fêtes and general market days in towns and villages all over Ireland.



Puck Fair Killorglin, Co Kerry ca.1900



Corpus Christi procession, Cahir, Co Tipperary, ca.1963



Puck Fair Killorglin, Co Kerry ca.1900

A number of the photographs come from the recently acquired Tilbrook and Tynan collections. The former comprises colour images of Ireland in the 1950s and 1960s taken by an English tourist, while the latter is the work of a professional photographer from Glenties in County Donegal and comprises his records of the county in the 1950s and 1960s.

Also included in the exhibition are photographs from the Lawrence, Poole and Wiltshire collections, as well as a series of fine photographs of Dublin street parades taken by G A Duncan during the 1950s and 1960s.

An Clár Tógála agus Forbartha

Tá clár tógála agus forbartha na Leabharlainne Náisiúnta ag leanúint ar aghaidh go mear.

I dtús mí Feabhra 2003 rinneadh athlonnú ar an bhfoireann riaracháin agus eile ó phríomhfhoirgneamh na leabharlainne go dtí cóiríocht athchóirithe in Uimh. 4 Sráid Chill Dara. Chun an athlonnú sin agus bogadh bhailiúcháin áirithe lámhscríbhinní a éascú ó Uimh. 2/3 Sráid Chill Dara go dtí Uimh. 5 Sráid Chill Dara bhí sé riachtanach seirbhísí poiblí a laghdú, gan aon rochtain phoiblí ar an bPríomhsheomra Léitheoireachta, ar Sheomra Léitheoireachta na Lámhscríbhinní ná ar an Seomra Ginealaigh ar feadh tréimhse dhá lá déag i dtús mí Feabhra.

Rinne Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí achóiriú ó bhun ar Uimh. 4 Sráid Chill Dara (a bhíodh in úsáid roimhe sin mar limistéar stórála do nuachtáin agus leabhair) in 2002, agus anois is é ceanncheathrú riaracháin buan na Leabharlainne é. Chomh maith leis sin rinneadh uasghrádú ar na córais shlándála in Uimh. 5 Sráid Chill Dara i ndeireadh 2002, agus suiteáladh spréiteoirí uisce, ionas gur féidir an foirgneamh a úsáid anois mar limistéar ainmnithe stórála daingean.

De bhrí go bhfuil na hiar-oifigí riaracháin sa phríomhleabharlann fágtha anois tá an bealach réidh d'athfhorbairt an Sciatháin Thoir, do chruthú spás poiblí breise agus do thabhairt isteach seirbhísí leathnaithe léitheoirí agus cuairteoirí.

Ó rinneadh athchóiriú ar an iarfhoirgneamh NCAD cóngarach don phríomhleabharlann i 2001, is ann a bhí an Roinn Priontaí agus Líníochtaí, tionscadal léarscáileanna na Suirbhéireachta Ordanáis agus roinnt cartlannaithe ar bhonn sealadach. Cuirfear tús i 2003 ar an obair ar spás taispeántais poiblí a chruthú ar urlár talún an fhoirgnimh sin agus táthar ag súil go mbeidh an obair sin críochnaithe faoi thús 2004. Ar ghné den imeacht tosaigh sa spás nua taispeántais sin beidh saothar de chuid James Joyce agus beidh sin socraithe le tarlú ag an am céanna le Comóradh Céad Bliain Bloomsday i Meitheamh 2004.

Ar deireadh, agus an sliocht seo á chur i gcló, tá an Leabharlann ag feitheamh ar chinneadh ón mBord Pleanála ar achomharc a lóisteáil Coláiste Ríoga Lianna na hÉireann in aghaidh chead pleanála a dheonaigh Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath in mí Iúil 2002 d'athfhorbairt Sciathán Thoir agus Bloc Lárnach na Príomhleabharlainne.

Building and development programme

The National Library's building and development programme is continuing apace.

Early February 2003 saw the relocation of administrative and other staff from the main Library building to newly refurbished accommodation in No 4 Kildare Street. To facilitate this relocation and the movement of certain manuscript collections from Nos 2/3 Kildare Street to No 5 Kildare Street it was necessary to curtail public services, with no public access to the main Reading Room, Manuscripts Reading Room or the Genealogy Room over a twelve-day period in early February.

No 4 Kildare Street, (formerly used as a storage area for newspapers, and books), was completely refurbished by the Office of Public Works in 2002, and has now become the Library's permanent administrative headquarters. In addition, the security systems in No 5 Kildare Street were upgraded in late-2002, and sprinklers were installed, so that it is now possible to use that building as a dedicated secure storage area.

The vacation of the former administrative offices in the main Library paves the way for the redevelopment of the East Wing, the creation of additional public space and the introduction of expanded reader and visitor services.

Since the refurbishment of the former NCAD building adjacent to the main Library in 2001, this area has functioned as temporary housing for the Prints and Drawings Department, the Ordnance Survey maps project and for a number of archivists. Work on the creation of public exhibition space on the ground floor of this building will begin in 2003 and is expected to be completed early 2004. The inaugural event in this new space will feature the work of James Joyce and will be timed to coincide with the Centenary of Bloomsday in June 2004.

Finally, as we go to press, the Library is still awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanála on an appeal lodged by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland against the planning permission granted by Dublin City Council in July 2002 for the redevelopment of the East Wing and the Central Block of the main Library.

The NLI Society

The National Library of Ireland Society arranges an annual programme of lectures and has, in the past, funded films, publications and other Library projects. New members are always welcome. Annual membership is €12.70.

If you would like further information, please contact the Hon Secretary, National Library of Ireland Society, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 603 0230. Email: nlisociety@nli.ie

New On-Line Resources

In December 2002 the Library migrated from its existing Dynix system to Horizon, a full Windows-based system. The ease of use and extra functionality of Horizon will help staff considerably in their work, and thereby contribute to productivity in the acquisitions and cataloguing departments. The introduction of the new system will allow the automation of some remaining manual systems, in particular the administration of serials and binding.

Linked to the new system, a new web catalogue was also introduced which is designed to be considerably easier and more attractive to use than the catalogue it replaced. It also offers additional searching facilities. This catalogue will be networked within the Library reading rooms so that users will access the same catalogue whether they are working in the Library or doing research remotely.

A review is under way of the Library's digitisation programme. This is examining procedures currently in place to digitise parts of the Photographs and Prints and Drawings collections and is also exploring the possibility of extending the programme into other Library areas. The materials digitised to date are accessible via the Library's web catalogue and provide a useful introduction to the contents of the collections included.

Easter Closing

The National Library of Ireland will close at 5.00pm on Thursday 17th April 2003 and will reopen at 10.00am on Wednesday 23rd April 2003.

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Acquisitions in 2002

The National Library had one of its busiest years ever in terms of acquisitions, with materials valued at approximately 16 million added to its collections in 2002. As well as the previously unknown James Joyce manuscripts acquired at a cost of €12.6 million, the Library acquired important collections of materials relating to modern Irish writers together with Gaelic manuscripts and literary, political and estate papers.

Among the significant and valuable acquisitions made in 2002 were:

- A collection of papers covering the Irish Nationalist struggle and Partition crisis in 1921-1922, including a Michael Collins election address.
- The Mansfield Papers, relating to estates in counties Kildare, Kilkenny, Meath, Tipperary and Waterford including military, railway and postal history materials.
- Ulick O'Connor Papers including diaries, correspondence, photographs.
- Desmond Fennell Papers including literary, journalistic, social and political materials, c. 1930-95.
- Papers of Battersby's, Auctioneers and Valuers, including valuations, deeds, maps and photographs, 1827-1996.
- Additional papers of Tom MacIntyre, mainly correspondence from fellow writers and literary critics, with drafts of some literary works, c. 1940-90.
- Letters of General Liam Lynch, mainly concerning the Civil War, 1917-23.
- Estate papers relating to the Vandeleur and allied families and lands around Wardenstown, Co Westmeath, c. 1740-1960.
- Inchiquin Estate record book, comprising calendar of leases, indentures, marriage settlements, etc., relating to the Inchiquin (O'Brien) and allied families, with praise poem in Irish by Aindrias MacCruitin (1703-48) and treatise on geometry by Brian O'Brien, 1721.
- Papers of Eamon Kelly, storyteller, writer, actor and broadcaster, 1930-c.1999 (Gift).
- Papers relating to the history of the Jewish community in Ireland (Gift).
- Papers of Deirdre O'Connell, including correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks and material relating to the Focus Theatre (Gift).
- Preliminary pencil and ink sketches (52 in all) for the textual illustrations of *Faust* by Goethe, published in a limited edition by George G Harrap & Co., in 1925, and judged to be Harry Clarke's "graphic masterpiece".
- Soft crayon portrait of WB Yeats by his father, John B Yeats.

Please contact us for further information about these acquisitions.