17 December 2003: Unique collection of work by Harry Clarke, Ireland's most important stained glass artist acquired by National Library

The National Library of Ireland has acquired a collection of work (ca. 600 items) by Harry Clarke, Ireland's most important stained glass artist, one of its most important graphic artists and one of the major Irish symbolists of the early 20th century.

Clarke, who died in 1931 at the age 41, produced a huge volume of work in his short career. His most famous stained glass work, the 1929 Geneva Window, was commissioned for the International Labour Organisation headquarters in Switzerland. His stained glass works may be seen in locations as diverse as Bewley's Grafton Street restaurant in Dublin, the Honan Chapel in University College Cork and St Mary's Church, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

The collection includes original drawings, stained glass drawings and cartoons; fabric designs, photographs and glass plate negatives; advertisements from J Clarke & Sons and Harry Clarke Studios; memorial and other graphic designs by Clarke together with exhibition invitations, preliminary drawings for The Fairy Tales of Perrault; 'dummy' copies of both Goethe's *Faust* and *The History of a Great House* containing preliminary drawings for both publications and a set of plates for the latter.

The manuscript material comprises letters and postcards from Clarke to Thomas Bodkin, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland; correspondence from Clarke to his wife Margaret, and to his sisters Florence and Kathleen, and correspondence from the publisher George Harrap and fellow illustrator John Austen. Also included are Clarke's diaries for the years 1914 and 1919

The collection also includes many first editions and limited editions of books illustrated by Clarke including *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen*, *Tales of Mystery and Imagination* by Edgar Allen Poe, *The Year's at the Spring anthology*, *The Fairy Tales of Perrault*, a promotional booklet for Jameson Whiskey entitled *The History of a Great House,* Goethe's *Faust* and *Selected Poems* by Algernon Charles Swinburne.

Complementing all of this material is the inclusion of a large collection of secondary items comprising catalogues, exhibition notices, reviews, journal articles, biographical and critical publications on the artist and general reference works on book illustration and contemporary art.

Announcing the acquisition, Aongus Ó hAonghusa, Acting Director of the National Library said that when cataloguing and conservation work on the collection archive was completed, it would become an invaluable resource for students of Clarke's work. "The range and depth of subject matter represented is extensive. It will enable researchers to assess the many influences on Clarke's life and work and to reappraise the contribution of this illustrious Dubliner to the visual arts."

5 December 2003: Access to a major National Library collection of historical materials relating to Donegal families now available to the public

The National Library of Ireland has recently completed the cataloguing of an important collection of more than 6,000 documents relating to prominent County Donegal families associated with the Earls of Wicklow, the Forwards of Castle Forward and the Stuarts of Mount Stuart.

The completion of the cataloguing will enable historians, genealogists and members of the public to access an invaluable source of materials relating to the economic, social and political history of County Donegal over a three-hundred year period.

While the collection primarily relates to the Forward family of Castle Forward, who at one time controlled 6,000 acres of land around Newtowncunningham, it also contains some material relating to the associated family of the Stuarts of Mount Stuart, Newtownards, County Down.

Like many prominent 18th and 19th century landowning families, the Forwards and the Stuarts used marriage alliances to increase their wealth and consolidate their political power base. One such strategic alliance was the marriage in 1755 of Alice Forward to Ralph Howard of Shelton Abbey, who controlled almost 20,000 acres of land in and around the Howard family seat in County Wicklow. The only daughter of William

Forward, MP for County Donegal, she brought to the marriage 6,000 acres of land in Donegal and a seat in Parliament. A formidable woman, she was confirmed Countess of Wicklow in her own right in 1793.

The minutiae of the lives of successive generations at Shelton Abbey and Castle Forward are revealed in documents both mundane and esoteric – birth certificates, educational reports, photo albums, diaries, love letters and army commissions as well as legal documentation including marriage settlements, court judgements, death certificates, wills, and probates.

Among the items considered to be the highlights of the collection, particularly for researchers who are interested in the17th century history of County Donegal and Derry, are statements from Colonel John Forward who led the Donegal Cavalry in the defence of Derry in 1689.

Other collection highlights include detailed correspondence between the Howard family and associated families covering a period from the early 18th century to the early 19th century; journals of a late 18th century European Grand Tour by Robert Howard (2nd Earl); records relating to the Howard family art collection held at Shelton Abbey; an impressive collection of 19th and early 20th century photographs; correspondence from the First World War, and a fine collection of estate papers.

The Wicklow branch of the Howard family arrived in Ireland from England in the mid 17th century, settling in Wicklow as minor gentry. Ralph Howard attended Trinity College, where he became a Doctor of Physic in 1670. He was later forced to flee Ireland during the Williamite Wars. His son Robert, who became Bishop of Elphin, interestingly suggested in 1731 “a bill making marriages by papist priests void”.

Throughout the 18th century the Howards acquired additional lands, mainly through advantageous marriage alliances. The enrichment of their estates enabled them to build a power base, which by the 1780s delivered them ennoblement – a process that was facilitated by the family’s control of several seats in Parliament from the 1760s to the 1790s.

Although the 18th and 20th centuries are well represented in the collection, there is a lacuna in the papers for most of the 19th century. There is much personal

correspondence from the end of the Victorian and Edwardian periods as well as poignant material from the Great War.

William Howard, the last Earl of Wicklow, was a close friend of Evelyn Waugh. In the 1920s, while studying at Cambridge University, he converted to Catholicism. Late in life he married Eleanor Butler, a Senator in the first inter-party government.

When the last Earl died without issue in 1978, the title became extinct.

5 December 2003: Access to the Wicklow Papers, a major National Library collection, now available to the public

The National Library of Ireland has recently completed the cataloguing of the Wicklow Papers, an important collection of more than 6,000 documents dating from the early 1700s onwards.

The completion of cataloguing will enable historians, genealogists and members of the public to access an invaluable source of materials relating to the economic, social and political history of County Wicklow over a three-hundred year period.

While the collection primarily relates to the Howard family of Shelton Abbey, who at one time controlled almost 20,000 acres of land around Arklow, Talbotstown and Newcastle, it also contains material relating to the Kennedys of Newtownmountkennedy, who were major County Wicklow land and property owners.

The minutiae of the lives of successive generations at Shelton Abbey are revealed in documents both mundane and esoteric – birth certificates, educational reports, photo albums, diaries, love letters and army commissions as well as legal documentation including marriage settlements, court judgements, death certificates, wills, and probates.

Among the items considered to be the highlights of the collection are material from the Siege of Derry in1689; detailed correspondence between the Howard family and associated families covering a period from the early 18th century to the early 19th

century; journals of a late 18th century European Grand Tour by Robert Howard (2nd Earl); records relating to the Howard family art collection held at Shelton Abbey; an impressive collection of 19th and early 20th century photographs; correspondence from the First World War, and a fine collection of estate papers.

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Ralph Howard, 1st Baron Clonmore, married Alice Forward in 1755. The only daughter of William Forward, MP for County Donegal, she brought to the marriage 6,000 acres of land in Donegal and a seat in Parliament. A formidable woman, she was confirmed Countess of Wicklow in her own right in 1793.

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6 November 2003: Launch of Ireland at Work in the National Photographic Archive

Ireland at Work, a National Photographic Archive exhibition of images of traditional 19th and 20th century work practices and occupations was officially opened today by Peter Cassells, Executive Chairperson of the National Centre for Partnership and Performance.

Speaking at the opening, Mr Cassells said:

"We cannot understand the current world of work and prepare for the future without a knowledge of the past. The ***Ireland at Work*** exhibition will help us to understand where today's industries, occupations and work practices have come from. It will also nurture a love of old skills and crafts and things past, but without idealising the past."

"The timing of the exhibition is opportune. The Taoiseach has asked the National Centre for Partnership and Performance, as part of Ireland's preparations for the knowledge society, to establish a Forum on the Workplace of the Future. This exhibition will be an important source of knowledge for the Forum as we seek to put today's great technological changes into perspective, and assess their impact on Ireland at work", Mr Cassells continued.

The exhibition, which focuses on the more traditional occupations in Ireland during the period 1880 to 1970, provides interesting insights into the ways in which the majority of the Irish population earned their living during this period.

While it covers a range of occupations, it is particularly focused on three industries – farming, fishing and textiles manufacturing. Each of these has been extremely important to the Irish economy and each has undergone huge changes.

In addition, the exhibition features lacemaking, farriery and cooperage – old skills that are now in sharp decline – as well as a number of occupations that are still very much in existence today.

The exhibition also features the work of Irwin Dermer, an American photographer who recorded images of declining crafts in various European countries during the 1960s. Among the artisans profiled are James Brennan, a wheelwright from Kilkenny, and Robert Kennedy, a farrier from Belfast. Dermer's work, entitled ***The Old Trades,*** is housed in a permanent collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and in the National Museum of American History, Washington DC.

22 September 2003: The papers of Deirdre O'Connell, who has been called "the single greatest influence in Irish theatre since the 1960s", formally presented to National Library

The papers of Deirdre O'Connell (1939-2001) and of the Focus Theatre were formally presented to the National Library at a reception earlier today.

The reception also commemorated the founding in Dublin of the Stanislavski Studio 40 years ago by Deirdre O'Connell, a director and actor of extraordinary vision and energy, whom Dr Michael D Higgins TD has called "the single greatest influence in Irish theatre since the 60s".

Deirdre O'Connell and her husband, Luke Kelly, founded the Focus Theatre in 1967, at Pembroke Place, Dublin. The theatre was the natural offspring of the Stanislavski Studio, founded by O'Connell in 1963 when she returned to Dublin having spent five years training and performing in New York.

The Studio was a training school for actors, based on the theatrical philosophy of Constantin Stanislavski, founder of the Moscow Art Theatre. It was (and is) a training school for actors, using the philosophy of acting developed by Stanislavski at the Moscow Art Theatre in the late 19th century, commonly known as "The Method".

Gabriel Byrne made his debut in the Focus in 1976 in a version of Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*. Others who have worked in the Focus include Tom Hickey, Mary Elizabeth Burke Kennedy, Declan Burke Kennedy, Johnny Murphy, Ena May, Sabina Coyne, Tim McDonnell, and Joan Bergin.

Always struggling to survive, both the studio and the tiny theatre have become vibrant and well-established forces in Dublin cultural life. The theatre's repertoire has consistently been distinguished by its regular inclusion of the great modern classics of European and American drama: Ibsen, Strindberg, Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neill, Jean-Paul Sartre and Lillian Hellmann have always been firm favourites. These are combined with works by Irish playwrights such as Declan Burke Kennedy, Tony Cafferky, Robert Meagher, and many others.

The Deirdre O'Connell Papers comprise 22 archival boxes containing several thousand items, and include correspondence, scripts, accounts, programmes, posters, photographs, and a variety of manuscript and ephemeral material, documenting the life of the Focus Theatre over the past forty years. When catalogued, they will be an invaluable source for scholars and researchers interested in the history of Irish theatre and drama in the 20th Century.

To celebrate this important donation as well as the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Stanislavski Studio, the National Library has mounted a mini-exhibition, displaying examples of posters, programmes, photographs and manuscripts from the Deirdre O'Connell Papers. This exhibition went on display in the Library today, 22 September.

14 August 2003: Large collection of election literature to be presented to the National Library

Up to 1500 items of election literature assembled by the General Council of County Councils after the 1999 local elections were presented to the National Library of Ireland at a reception in the library on 14 August.

The collection comprises leaflets and brochures from all the main political parties as well as from a significant number of independent candidates in all local government constituencies in Ireland.

Ranging from the practical to the exotic, the collection will provide a fascinating resource for students of Irish political culture in years to come and will add to the Library's already extensive collection of Irish political ephemera.

As well as featuring photographs of the 1999 Local Government Election candidates, many of the leaflets and brochures contain manifestos and details of local campaign issues. As such, they form an invaluable record of the concerns of people in urban, suburban and rural Ireland in the closing years of the 20th century.

According to Liam Kenny, Director of the General Council of County Councils, the main reason for preserving the collection and presenting it to the National Library was to safeguard material that tends to have a very short shelf life once an election campaign is over.

"We looked at the amount of literature being produced for the 1999 local government elections, and felt that something needed to be done to secure it for posterity", Mr Kenny explained. "In order to ensure that the collection would be as comprehensive as possible, we wrote to all the elected candidates, asking them to send us copies of their canvassing literature. We also collected some samples ourselves."

"Despite all the commentary about apathy in the political system, this array of election literature demonstrates that there are a lot of people in Ireland passionately concerned about democracy at local level, who are prepared to go to great lengths and to exercise enormous creativity in getting their particular message across", Mr Kenny added.

Note: In the context of the National Library's collections, ephemera is defined as printed matter intended for some transient purpose – often pamphlets and single-sheet material such as posters and notices.

Increasingly, researchers regard this as valuable primary source material, which can give unique insights into the lives of previous generations.

For many years, a substantial amount of uncatalogued material, ranging from commercial publications such as calendars and brochures to theatrical and political posters, had been stored at various locations throughout the National Library's complex of storage areas. These materials have now been assembled in a

designated area within the main National Library Kildare Street building. Here, the task of sorting the material into defined subject areas has been taking place, with a view to implementing a structured rehousing and cataloguing programme that will make the collection accessible to the public.

While the emphasis to date has been on sorting through the existing collection, material relating to major political events such as the 2002 General Election and the Nice Referendum has also been collected. In addition, some material relating to the arts and literature was acquired, as well as election posters from the 1930s.

5 August 2003: Remarkable year for the National Library with materials valued at €16 million added to its collections

2002 was a remarkable year for the Library and for Irish literary scholarship with the acquisition, announced on 30 May, of a previously unknown collection of James Joyce manuscripts. These comprise early notebooks, notes and drafts for *Ulysses* and proofs and additions to proofs for *Finnegans Wake* – in all more than 500 manuscript pages and some 200 pages of proofs, together with some typescripts.

Described by Dr Stephen Roe, Head of the European Book Division at Sotheby's, London, as "the most important discovery of a collection of literary manuscripts by a 20th century author ever made, and the most valuable ever sold", the acquisition is being funded over a three-year period from the Heritage Fund (established by the Government in 2001) and with support from the AIB Group (under the tax credit scheme).

In all, materials valued at approximately €16 million were added to the Library's collections during the year. In addition, some €5 million was allocated to meet salaries and other current costs, and €5.2 million was spent on the continuing building programme. Thus, total public support committed to the Library during the year came to more than €26 million.

2002 marked two important anniversaries: the 125th anniversary of the Library's foundation and the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the Irish Office of Arms,

now the Office of the Chief Herald, which is a branch of the Library. In September, the Office of the Chief Herald hosted the 25th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in Dublin Castle.

While these were the signal events of the year, the Library also undertook many other activities and recorded developments of note, including:

The already rich holdings of Yeats-related material were added to by the acquisition from the Yeats family of **William Butler Yeats's personal library**. It comprises approximately 2,500 items including most of his published works, many with manuscript notes and emendations. There are many presentation copies from his friends and contemporaries, including TS Eliot and Ezra Pound. The collection was donated to the Library by the poet's son Michael Yeats and his daughter-in-law Gráinne. As a result of this acquisition, the Library has now become the world's foremost repository of Yeats papers and memorabilia.

Another significant acquisition was the **personal library of Sean O'Casey**, widely regarded as one of the world's leading 20th century playwrights. Consisting of over 1,700 volumes, it includes many of O'Casey's earliest book purchases on topics ranging from 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.

Towards the end of the year the Library catalogues migrated to Horizon, a full Windows-based system which affords greater functionality to curatorial and cataloguing staff and allowed the introduction of the web catalogue designed for greater ease of use and affording additional searching facilities. In addition, progress continued to be made in the retrospective conversion to on-line form of Library catalogues and in the digitisation of the prints and drawings and photographic collections. The materials digitised are accessible via the Library web catalogue and provide a useful introduction to the rich graphic collections in the Library's care.

The recruitment of a music librarian at the end of 2002 will ensure future progress in plans for the **Library's music collection**, which is conservatively estimated to comprise at least 20,000 items. According to Professor Harry White, President of the Society for Musicology in Ireland "the Music Library Project confirms the importance

of music not only as an expression of nationalist culture in Ireland, but also as a primary marker of this country's identity as a European national state."

Four important books were published by, or with the support of the Library: *The National Library of Ireland: One Hundred and Twenty Five Years*; Dr Susan Hood's *Royal Roots, Republican Inheritance: The Survival of the Office of Arms*; Elaine Grogan's *Beginnings: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Early Sketches;* and Dr Peter Harbison's *Our Treasure of Antiquities: Beranger and Bigari's Antiquarian Sketching Tour of Connaght in 1779*.

While the James Joyce manuscripts and the Yeats and O'Casey personal libraries are exceptional in several respects, they formed part a more extensive and wide-ranging acquisitions programme. During 2002 this included expanding collections of materials relating to modern Irish writers as well as important Gaelic manuscripts and literary, estate and political papers including the following:

- A group of papers covering **Michael Collins'** involvement in the Irish Nationalist struggle and Partition crisis in 1921-1922.

- The **O'Neill Manuscript** containing genealogies, religious prose, Ossianic material and bardic verse, much of the latter relating to the O'Neill family scribe Conchubhar Mhágaodh, 1681

- **Four letters and a postcard from Roger Casement** to O'Neill of Clandeboy, 1904-5.

- The **Book of Hara,** vellum manuscript *duanaire*, late 16th century, with some additional 17th century material.

- An important collection of manuscript **music composed by Joan Trimble**, 1950-95.

- The **Gormanstown Papers**, including estate papers, correspondence and materials relating to Irish military and political matters 17th to 20th centuries.

- The **Mansfield Papers**, relating to estates in counties Kildare, Kilkenny, Meath, Tipperary and Waterford including military, railway and postal history materials, writings of Patrick Lattin and letters from Louis VIII, Baron Cuvier and A de Lamartine.

- **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 of his 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.

- Twenty-seven original **letters of Sean O'Casey**, 1954-64.

- **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.

- **Papers relating to the history of the Jewish community in Ireland**, including material relating to anti-Semitism.

- **Papers of Deirdre O'Connell**, including correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks and material relating to the Focus Theatre.

- **Preliminary pencil and ink sketches for the textual illustrations of *Faust*** by Goethe, translated by John anster and published in a limited edition by George G Harrap & Co., in 1925, and judged to be Harry Clarke's "graphic masterpiece".

While visitors to the Library during 2002 totalled almost 100,000, there was a reduction in the numbers of people using the main Reading Room. (33,105 persons signed the attendance book, about 2,500 less than in 2001.) The on-line availability of a growing proportion of the Library's catalogues and other materials, allowing researchers to reduce their number of visits, is likely to have contributed to this reduction, as did the decline in numbers coming to the Library to pursue family history research.

For the first time since the establishment in 1998 of the Genealogy Service, the numbers of people coming to the Library to pursue family history research, and to avail of the Service, declined. The service was used by 9,875 persons in 2002 (a decrease of nearly 3,000 on the 2001 figure).

The decline is visitor numbers is mainly accounted for by the on-line availability of certain genealogy materials, coupled with a drop of almost 1,700 in visitors from the United States.

31 July 2003: New Internet-based genealogy service will be a boon for 80 million members of the Irish Diaspora worldwide including 40 million people with Irish ancestry in the US and 15 million people with Irish ancestry in Britain

Recent research studies have shown that genealogy is the largest hobby in North America, where it is conservatively estimated that between one and two million people are actively involved in tracing their family history every year.

Genealogy is now the fastest growing hobby in Britain, where an estimated 15 million people have Irish ancestry. In the US an estimated 40 million people have Irish ancestry.

Eneclann Ltd and Origins.net, in association with the National Library of Ireland, are making the complete ***Griffith's Valuation of Ireland*** available on the world-wide web.

This monumental 19th century work is the principal tool of genealogists and local historians. It contains information on 1.4 million people – from the smallest farmer to the largest landlord – in the period during and after the Famine.

The availability of this information on-line will be a huge resource for the tens of thousands of Irish people and members of the Irish Diaspora who are currently involved in researching their ancestry. It will also be of great interest to the estimated 200 local history societies in Ireland and 11,000 family history societies in the US.

The new web edition can be accessed, on a pay per view basis, at www.irishorigins.com It will be available free of charge to readers in the National Library of Ireland.

The Primary Valuation of Ireland 1847-1864 – commonly known as Griffith's Valuation became the most comprehensive survey of households available for the 19th century after most of the census records as well as Church of Ireland parish registers for the 19th century were destroyed during the Civil War (when the Public Record Office burned down in 1922).

The new web edition was launched today, Thursday 31 July**,** by one of Ireland's leading historians, Thomas Pakenham (author of *Year of Liberty* and *The Scramble for Africa).*

Speaking at the launch of the new service, Mr Brendan O Donoghue, Director of the National Library said:

"No library in any country in the world, including Ireland, has a full set of the Valuation. The new web edition contains all the revisions and amended versions that were published during the 17 years it took to complete the Valuation. As such, users of this new web resource can be sure that they have all the source material at hand in one place. They will be able to search a complete database of personal and place names, and then access scanned images of the original published pages."

According to the Eneclann Ltd founder and Managing Director, Brian Donovan, research studies on what motivates people to trace their ancestry have shown some interesting findings.

“Finding roots is not the main issue. Furthermore, it is no longer a matter of elitism: people want intersting stories and they particularly relish stories of ancestors who ‘made it’ despite their poverty. Among the economic drivers of the phenomenal increase in popularity of this hobby in North America and Britain is the growth of the ‘grey’ dollar/euro/pound – older people have time and money, and history and family history is their favoured hobby.

“The Griffith’s Valuation acts as a census substitute for the mid-nineteenth century. The launch of this on-line edition marks the first time that the entire survey has been published since it was originally issued in the 19th century”, Mr Donovan concluded.

Note: Eneclann Ltd is Ireland’s leading genealogical research and publishing company, specialising in new and rare historical records. Founded in 1997 at Trinity College, Dublin, Eneclann has brought together the specialist skills of professional historians, genealogists, archivists, software developers and publishers, to provide historical data.

Origins.net specialises in providing high quality genealogy services on the Internet. Founded in 1997, it has been the pioneer of pay-per-view web databases. Scots Origins, launched in 1998, was the first service providing Internet access to governmental genealogical records. English Origins (in association with the Society of Genealogists) followed in 2001. Origins.net has a two-pronged strategy: to work with the custodians of valuable and unique genealogical material to make their material publicly accessible via the web; and to develop specialised search services to simplify searching for genealogical data on the web generally.

23 July 2003: *Remember Emmet: images of the life and legacy of Robert Emmet* launched by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue TD, on 23 July 2003, exactly 200 years to the day of the Rising of 1803

Wednesday 23 July 2003 marked the bi-centenary of the Rising of 1803, the short-lived rebellion led by the flamboyant and enigmatic Irish revolutionary Robert Emmet.

Exactly two hundred years to the day of the Rising, the National Library of Ireland, in association with Wordwell, published ***Remember Emmet: images of the life and legacy of Robert Emmet.***

Written by Dr Ruan O'Donnell, the book was launched this evening in the National Library by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue, TD.

The new book offers a unique combination of new research material on one of the best-known figures in Irish history, and is extensively illustrated throughout.

It contains rare images and documentation relating to Robert Emmet, including 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 book is intended as a portrait of Robert Emmet, from his earliest years to his execution and enduring legacy, including his time as a student activist in 1798, his graduation as a full-blown revolutionary leader in 1803, the famous trial, and his subsequent execution in September 1803.

It is illustrated with over 250 documents and images, many of which have never before been published and which are drawn mainly from the collections of the National Library, as well as the National Gallery, the National Archives, Kilmainham Gaol, the National Museum and other sources in Ireland and America.

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).

Remember Emmet: images of the life and legacy of *Robert Emmet is published by Wordwell in association with the National Library. Price: €15.00.*

Additional information on Robert Emmet

Robert Emmet was born in St Stephen's Green, Dublin in March 1778, and grew up against a backdrop of Irish radicalism and international revolution.

Most of his life was spent in the south city where he attended school at Whyte's Academy on Grafton Street before entering Trinity College aged fifteen. He joined the revolutionary Society of United Irishmen when at TCD in late 1796 and was soon one of the leaders of the organisation in the College.

Although implicated in the 1798 Rebellion, Emmet survived to assume a national role in the United Irishmen in January 1799 when the Act of Union threatened to bind Ireland more strongly to English control. Emmet went secretly to Hamburg in August 1800 from where he gained entry to France and was received by Foreign Minister Tallyrand, to whom he put the case for continued French support for an Irish Republic.

On returning to Ireland in October 1802, Emmet was one of the main activists who laid the ground for the anticipated arrival of French allies. Depots were leased, weaponry assembled and delegates sent across the country to contact dormant cadres. When, on 16 July 1803, an important arms depot was devastated by an explosion, Emmet's coterie decided to strike without waiting for the French, and did so seven days later.

The Rising of 1803 surprised the authorities in terms of its scale and intensity but collapsed, in part owing to Emmet's fears that it could not succeed. He stood down many units poised to act and attempted to disperse compromised followers before taking refuge in the Dublin mountains with his main associates. Thousands were

arrested in the aftermath of the misfired revolt, and Emmet was eventually trapped in Harold's Cross on 25 August 1803.

Tried in Green Street Courthouse on 19 September, he was executed the following day in front of a huge crowd. Emmet's 'speech from the dock' was soon published with his famous challenge to be vindicated by means of Ireland taking "its place amongst the nations of the earth".

His martyrdom elevated him to iconic status for those who accepted his challenge to vindicate his revolutionary ideals.

29 May 2003: New Music Library Project launched

In sharp contrast to the situation regarding 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, classical music works by Irish composers have remained largely ignored up to now.

Conservative estimates are that the National Library holds at least 20,000 such items – primarily 18th and 19th century classical music. According to pianist Una Hunt, who was recently commissioned to carry out a report on the Library's music collections, they include considerable valuable, exciting and hitherto little known material that is ripe for rediscovery and promotion to new audiences.

Against this background, the Library decided to set up a **Music Library Project** under the direction of music librarian Emma Costello, who will be responsible for cataloguing, rehousing and providing guidance on the Library's Irish music collections.

The Project is being launched this evening (Thursday 29 May) at 5.30pm in the National Library, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, where Una Hunt will play rarely performed works by the Irish composers G A Osborne, Philip Cogan and W V Wallace.

Professor Harry White, President of the Society for Musicology in Ireland and guest speaker at the event, has already observed that the creation of this archive comes at a particularly opportune moment.

“It will make the felt life of Ireland’s musical past much more accessible than it has been hitherto, and it will enable historians of Irish musical culture (among many others) to understand the reception and development of art music in this country. The Music Library Project confirms the importance of music not only as an expression of nationalist culture in Ireland, but also as a primary marker of this country’s identity as a European nation state”, Professor White said.

The pieces for this evening’s recital were selected from among 6,000 items of printed music the Jasper Joly Donation, and from the Additional Music Collection, which comprises more than 13,000 items. Both of these collections are particularly rich in printed music of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and include examples of folk and “classical” or art music, composed or published in Ireland.

It is envisaged that these collections will eventually be searchable on the Library’s computerised catalogue. In the meantime, priority is being given to the sorting, cataloguing and rehousing of the uncatalogued printed music held in the Library.

Printed music can be a valuable research tool, not just in the areas of music history or performance, but also in broader fields such as bibliography, social history, politics, cultural and even economic history. The collections held by the National Library of Ireland not only illustrate the musical tastes of previous generations, or trace the development of a particular musical form, but can also reveal useful data about a wide range of historical topics– from the condition of the Irish publishing and printing industry, to the growth of nationalism.

It is envisaged that the first phase of the Music Library Project will result in the creation of a music collection which reflects the extent and diversity of music in Ireland. As a result, the National Library is keen to identify gaps in its collections and to provide a location to house Irish music collections which might otherwise be at risk.

The compilation of a list of Irish composers and their main works is underway and is due for completion in September 2003. The list will then be crosschecked with the

Library's holdings and material will be acquired to expand the collections where necessary.

Issues which will be considered in the future include the digitisation of the collections, and the acquisition of audio-visual material, including sound recordings.

10 March 2003: Féile

Among the 74 photographs in the Féile exhibition will be a selection of Wiltshire Collection images showing the first Bloomsday celebrations held in 1954, which were attended by members of Dublin literary circles including Flann O'Brien, Anthony Cronin and Patrick Kavanagh. Also featured are photographs of Patrick Kavanagh's wedding, and images of various Corpus Christi processions in Dublin.

The selection of images from the Schuster Collection features photographs taken in the 1950s, and shows crowds climbing Croagh Patrick, Co Mayo on Reek Sunday, as well as crowds attending Puck Fair in Killorglin, Co Kerry.

The Tynan Collection, comprising work by a Donegal-based professional photographer taken around Co Donegal from 1940 to 1980, features images of the Glenties St Patrick's Day Parade, various Tidy Towns Competition parades and Easter Sunday parades in Annagry; the Lough Swilly Fishing Festival and the Dungloe Mass Rock.

The Tillbrook Collection focuses on religious festivals in the 1950s and 1960s, and features slides of Corpus Christi Processions in Cahir, Co Tipperary.

The Duncan Collection selection features photographs of St Patrick's Day parades in the 1950s, including images of the Cadbury, Jacobs and Guinness floats, and shots of crowds of onlookers on O'Connell Bridge.

The Poole Collection focuses on the Royal visit to Waterford and Kilkenny in 1900; society weddings and fancy dress balls in the Waterford/Kilkenny area around the same period; Tramore Bazaar; Rosslare Strand races; various agricultural shows as well as images of fife and drum bands and children dancing around the maypole.

The Lawrence Collection photographs, taken between 1880 and 1890, capture images of fair days and market days in Killarney, Clifden, Clonakilty, Roscommon and Glenties in Co Donegal, as well as Puck Fair in Killorglin, Co Kerry.

21 February 2003: 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 is to be published on 21st February 2003 by the National Library in association with the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

For the Safety of All was launched at an exhibition of the same name, which runs at the National Photographic Archive, Meetinghouse Square, Temple Bar Dublin until March 3rd. Admission is free of charge.

The photographs were taken by Sir Robert Ball, the distinguished astronomer, mathematician, author, lecturer and scientific advisor to the Commissioners of Irish Lights. For a period of 29 years during the late 1800s and early 1900s (up until he reached the age of 71), he was a member of the Commissioners of Irish Lights Committee that circumnavigated the coast of Ireland each year visiting up to one hundred lighthouses and inspecting beacons, buoys, perches and lightships to ensure that all signalling apparatus was operating properly.

The tours were often arduous, and access to some lighthouses was very difficult. The inspectors frequently had to disembark from their steamer the *Alexandra* onto small boats, in which they were then rowed to a landing jetty. In places where there was no landing jetty, they were hoisted ashore by lighthouse crew using manually operated derricks.

Sir Robert Ball 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 view of coastal elevations that are to be found on most Admiralty charts.
An extremely determined personality, he had no sight in his right eye, yet he somehow managed to overcome the difficulties of working on the deck of a moving vessel while grappling with cumbersome late-19th century camera equipment.

The photographs in this book and the exhibition 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 brings together a selection of these images for the first time. The photographs provide accurate insights into the pre-World War One era, when seafaring technology was quite unsophisticated. For example, fog signals including cannons had to be ignited by hand; bells rung by an electrically charged striker; signals were sent and received with the aid of large bats and telescopes.

For the Safety of All is available now from the National Library and the National Photographic Archive and from bookshops nationwide. Price €13.

January 2003: Acquisitions valued at €16 million added to National Library collections 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. Included were a very large number of previously unknown James Joyce manuscripts acquired at a cost of €12.6 million. These comprise early notebooks, notes and drafts for *Ulysses* and proofs and additions to proofs for *Finnegans Wake* – in all more than 500 manuscript pages and some 200 pages of proofs, together with some typescripts.

Described by Dr Stephen Roe, Head of the European Book Division at Sotheby's, London as "the most important discovery of a collection of literary manuscripts by a

20th century author ever made, and the most valuable ever sold", the acquisition is being funded over a three-year period from the Heritage Fund (established by the Government in 2001) and with support from the AIB Group under the tax credit scheme.

While the Joyce manuscripts are exceptional in several respects, the Library's regular acquisitions programme continued during 2002 with the acquisition of important collections of materials relating to modern Irish writers as well as Gaelic manuscripts and literary, political and estate papers.

In recent weeks, for example, the Library acquired a collection of papers covering the Irish Nationalist struggle and Partition crisis in 1921-1922, including a Michael Collins election address.

The Library has also acquired the entire personal library of Sean O'Casey, widely regarded as one of the world's leading 20th century playwrights. Comprising almost 1,800 items along with some personal effects, this is the second major acquisition of O'Casey materials in a twelve-month period. (In December 2001, a 5,000-item archive of original manuscripts and personal papers relating to almost 50 years of O'Casey's writing career was acquired).

Among the other significant and valuable acquisitions made earlier in 2002 were:

- The entire personal library of William Butler Yeats, comprising more than 2,500 volumes, which was donated to the Library by the poet's son Michael B Yeats and his daughter-in-law Gráinne in June 2002. The material includes books annotated in the poet's own hand as well as copies of Yeats' published work, many of them showing his revisions for subsequent editions. These provide essential information for tracing the evolution of his texts, especially the plays.

- The Book of O Hara, a vellum manuscript *duanaire*, late 16th century, with some additional 17th century material.

- The O'Neill Manuscript containing genealogies, religious prose, Ossianic material and bardic verse, much of the latter relating to the O'Neill family scribe Conchubhar Mhágaodh, 1681.
- The Gormanstown Papers, including estate papers, correspondence and materials relating to Irish military and political matters 17th to 20th centuries.

- 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.

- Twenty-seven original letters of Sean O'Casey, 1954-64.

- 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 re. 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.