

**National Library of Ireland**

**Prints and Drawings Collection List**

**George Wilkinson Collection**

**(AD 3588)**

Collection comprised of architectural plans, sketches, drawings and notes compiled during research work for Wilkinson's publication *Practical Geology and Ancient Architecture of Ireland*.

*Compiled by  
Prints and Drawings Department  
2008*

# George Wilkinson Collection

## AD 3588

### INTRODUCTION

#### *Biography*

George Wilkinson was born in 1814, the son of a carpenter and builder in Witney, Oxfordshire. Having trained as an architect, Wilkinson won a competition in 1835 to design the workhouse at Thame, Oxfordshire. This launched Wilkinson's career, and he designed many other English workhouses and public buildings such as the town hall at Brampton, Oxfordshire. In about 1840 George Wilkinson went to Ireland as the architect of the Poor Law Commissioners. As well as designing workhouses he also designed other buildings including the Harcourt Street Station in Dublin (1858-9). In 1845 he published *Practical Geology and Ancient Architecture of Ireland* [IR 720941 W4], from here referred to as *Geology and Architecture*, to which this collection relates. The book is divided into three sections. The first gives a survey of the geology of Ireland. The second a study of the ancient architecture of Ireland, including early forts, round towers, ecclesiastical edifices, castles and domestic architecture. The third is a description of the geology of each county, with notes on the use of local stones in buildings. George Wilkinson returned to England in 1888 and died two years later.

#### *The Collection*

The National Library of Ireland acquired this collection in 2005; it consists of 118 sheets mainly of architectural plans and sketches. The majority of the material was produced between 1842 and 1844 as research work for Wilkinson's *Geology and Architecture*. Most are studies of important architectural sites, although there are some relating to geological formations. The drawings in the collection cover 21 Irish counties, as well as some unidentified buildings, with counties Kerry, Limerick, Mayo and Wexford being particularly well covered. Most of the pieces are inscribed, and many also have notes on the contents. For example the illustration of Clones round tower is accompanied by a short essay on the history of the round tower in Ireland. Some of the sketches have later pencil notes relating to changes needed for publication, and there is a small collection of proofs of illustrations for *Geology and Architecture*. As well as the material for Wilkinson's book there are also some architectural designs of Wilkinson's, and some miscellaneous sketches.

George Wilkinson did not produce many of the works within this collection, as he commissioned artists and architects to produce works for him. Many of the items within this collection are unsigned and as most of the illustrations in *Geology and Architecture* are unattributed it is not possible to give a complete list of the artists involved, however some have been identified. Two of the most notable are:

Edward Hassell a British painter and secretary of the Royal Society of British Artist, who specialised in landscapes and interiors of Gothic Churches. Three of the plates in *Geology and Architecture* are attributed to Hassell, and he may have produced other works. Kivas Tully, born in Port Laoise in 1820, qualified as an architect in Limerick. His first position was as assistant to George Wilkinson as Poor Law Architect. He produced several series of studies for *Geology and Architecture*, in counties Clare and Limerick. In 1844 Tully emigrated to Canada, where he design many important public buildings and became a prominent member of the Ontario Department of Public Works. Other artists whose works are represented in this collection include John Kelly, Frank Davidson, Geroge Duggan, M. Moore, John Gibbs and Annie Deane, as well as Wilkinson himself.

The majority of items within this Collection have been arranged alphabetically by county, with a section at the end of items whose location is unknown. There is then a small collection of architectural designs, including a gate house for Sir Gerald Aylmer, some signed by George Wilkinson. Some of the items within this collection have brittle edges which are either torn or have pieces missing, this has been noted in the text.

### *Bibliography*

Howard Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects, 1600-1840* (Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1995).

Steven A. Otto, 'Kivas Tully' in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online*, [www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=41230](http://www.biographi.ca/EN/ShowBio.asp?BioId=41230)

Christopher Wood, *Dictionary of British Art Volume IV. Victorian Painters. 1 The Text* (Antique Collectors' Club, Woodbridge, 1998).

George Wilkinson, *Practical Geology and Ancient Architecture of Ireland* (John Murray and William Curry, London and Dublin, 1845).

Harriet Wheelock  
Archival Studentship  
May 2008.

## COLLECTION LIST

### County Antrim

- Sheets 1 - 3** Pencil sketches of rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede, views of Giant's Causeway and Plastkins, Bougrne and Benbane heads, unsigned; 3 sheet  
August 1842
- Sheet 4** Ink and pencil 'elevation of doorway showing the different stones' of Antrim Round Tower, by J. F. Ryan. This is the basis for figure 13 on page 69 of *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

### County Carlow

- Sheets 5 - 8  
Outsized  
folder** Series of coloured floor plan and elevations of ruins of castles in county Carlow, contains Ballymoon, Carlow, Clonmore and Clogrennan Castles, by John Gibbs (one item is unsigned). Some sheets also contain details of widows, doors and stone carvings; 4 sheets  
[edges of sheets and brittle and damaged]  
undated

### County Clare

- Sheet 9  
Outsized  
folder** 'Killaloe. Elevations, plan and section of Norman doorway in Cathedral, drawn by Kivas Tully for George Wilkinson'; 1 sheet  
[edges of sheet are damaged]  
February 1843
- Sheet 10  
Outsized  
folder** 'Elevations, plan and section of Old Norman Chapel Killaloe, drawn by Kivas Tully for George Wilkinson'. These are the basis of Plate XI in *Geology and Architecture*, see sheet 13; 1 sheet  
[edges of sheet are damaged]  
April 1843
- Sheet 11  
Outsized  
folder** 'Killaloe. Plans elevations etc. of window at east end of Choir in Cathedral, drawn by Kivas Tully for George Wilkinson'; 1 sheet  
May 1843
- Sheet 12** Ink plans and elevations of windows and doorways in Dysart and Ennis Churches, county Clare and Kilmallock and Adane Churches, county Limerick, drawn by Kivas Tully; 1 sheet  
March 1844

**Sheet 13** Proofs of Plate XI from *Geology and Architecture* showing ‘Killaloe. Elevations, plans and sections of old Norman Chapel’, based on drawing made by Kivas Tully (sheet 10); 1 sheet  
c.1845

### **County Donegal**

**Sheet 14** ‘Chimney piece, Donegal Castle’ drawn by Annie Deane; 1 sheet  
1849

### **County Dublin**

**Sheet 15** Sketch of Clondalkin round tower, this is the basis of Plate VIII in *Geology and Architecture*, unsigned and unattributed; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 16** Ink and pencil sketch of pointed archway of porch of Howth Abbey, with manuscript notes in pencil, unsigned. This is the basis for figure 69 on page 143 in *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 17** Pencil sketch of granite quarry at Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire), unsigned. This is the basis for figure 1 on page 16 in *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Fermanagh**

**Sheet 18** Mounted sketch of cross and ecclesiastical remains on Innis Mac Saint (sic), Lough Erne, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Galway**

**Sheet 19** Proofs of Plate XIII and XV from *Geology and Architecture* showing Kilconnel Abbey, county Galway and ‘Norman Castle, Trim’, county Meath. Based on sketches by Edward Hassell; 1 sheet  
c.1845

**Sheet 20** Elevation and floor plan of ‘Menlo Castle, the seat of Sir V. Blake’, unsigned; 1 sheet

[edges of sheet are damaged]  
undated

**Sheet 21** Plan of 'Window head, Galway copy of W[illia]m Lead' original, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 22** A survey sketch of door way in Tuam Cathedral tower by [Frank] Davidson; 1 sheet  
April 18[ ]

### County Kerry

**Sheets 23 –24** Ink plans and elevations of Kenmare Abbey with notes, drawn by John Kelly; 2 sheets  
Aug. and Sep. 1843

**Sheets 25 -27** Ink plans, elevations and details of Aghadoe round tower and cathedral with notes, drawn by John Kelly; 3 sheets  
Aug. and Nov. 1843

**Sheets 28 -30** Ink plans, elevations and details of Mucross Abbey with notes, drawn by John Kelly; 3 sheets  
Nov. and Dec. 1843

**Sheets 31 -33** Ink plans, elevations and details of Ross Castle with notes, drawn by John Kelly; 3 sheets  
Dec. 1843

**Sheet 34** Ink plan of a 'section shewing (sic) side walls & stone roof of small church at Killeighy, Aaghreen, Killarney' by J[ohn] Kelly, with ink and pencil notes. This is the basis of figure 35 on page 101 in *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
1843

**Sheets 35 -39** Coloured plans, elevations and details of the ruins of Ballycarbery Castle, unsigned; 5 sheets  
undated

**Sheets 40 -43** Incomplete set of ink drawing, with pencil annotations, of Killynane Church. Contains sheets 2, 5, 7 and 8 showing exterior and interior elevations and Mac Cartics Tomb. Some of the sketches are the basis for figures 36-39 on pages 103-4 in *Geology and Architecture*, these also show some of the images from the missing sheets, unsigned; 4 sheets

undated

- Sheet 44** Mounted ink wash of an ancient cell on Church Island, unsigned. This is the basis for figure 12 on page 60 in *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

### County Kildare

- Sheet 45** Pencil sketch of round tower and a square tower at Castledermot, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 46 – 49** Pencil notes and sketches on ‘door to Kildare round tower’, unsigned; 4 sheets  
undated
- Sheet 50** Ink drawing with colour wash of East window of Franciscan Friary at Castledermot, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

### County Laois

- Sheets 51-53** Pencil elevation, section and plans of the round tower at Timahoe, unsigned. These are the basis for Plate IX in *Geology and Architecture*; 3 sheets  
undated

### County Limerick

- Sheets 54 –55** ‘Sketch of weathered moulding, in front of domestic house at Kilmallock’ and ‘Kilmallock Abbey. Sketch of stone parapet and gutter’ drawn by Kivas Tully; 2 sheet  
Dec. 1842 and 22 Jan. 1844
- Sheet 12  
(under  
County Clare)** Ink plans and elevations of windows and doorways in Dysart and Ennis Churches, county Clare and Kilmallock and Adane Churches, county Limerick, drawn by Kivas Tully; 1 sheet  
March 1844
- Sheet 56  
Outsized  
folder** ‘Report No.1 Old Building. Ballyallen Castle’, contains coloured plans, elevations and sections with notes, drawn by M. Moore; 1 sheet  
undated

- Sheet 57** 'Report No.2 Old Building. Grange Chapel', contains coloured plans, elevations and sections with notes, drawn by M. Moore; 1 sheet undated
- Sheet 58 Outsized folder** 'Report No. 3 Old Buildings. Askeaton Abbey', contains coloured plans, elevations and details with notes, drawn by [M. Moore]; 1 sheet undated
- Sheet 59** Mounted sketch of St. Mary's Cathedral Limerick, unsigned; 1 sheet undated

### County Louth

- Sheet 60** Proof of figure 23 on page 78 of *Geology and Architecture* showing doorway of Monasterboice round tower, with corrections; 1 sheet c.1845

### County Mayo

- Sheets 61-62** Pencil sketch of fireplace and portion of tower roof and guttering of Moyne Abbey, with notes, drawn by Geo[rge] W[ilkinson]. These are the basis of figures 59 and 61 on pages 134-135 of *Geology and Architecture*; 2 sheets  
2 March 1843 and undated
- Sheet 63** Pencil sketch of interior of window in an old church near Killala, with notes, drawn by [George Wilkinson]. This is the basis of figure 33 on page 99 of *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
2 March 1843
- Sheet 64** Ink drawing of exterior of chancel windows at Ballintubber Abbey, signed [ ? ]; 1 sheet  
184[3]
- Sheet 65** Pencil sketch of interior view of window in Meelick round tower, with notes, drawn by [George Wilkinson]. This is the basis of figure 22 on page 77 of *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 66** Ink sketch of Rosserk Abbey showing plan and elevation of tower, with ink and later pencil notes, unsigned. This is the basis of figures 43 and 44 on pages 113 and 114 of *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 67** Mounted pencil sketch of Killala round tower; unsigned; 1 sheet undated

**Sheets 68 - 69** Pencil sketch of arched masonry in Old Castle, unsigned. This is the base of figure 71 on page 281 in *Geology and Architecture*. Also contains proof of figure 71, page 281 in *Geology and Architecture* showing arched masonry in Old Castle, with note; 2 sheets undated

### County Meath

**Sheet 19 (under County Galway)** Proofs of Plate XIII and XV from *Geology and Architecture* showing 'Norman Castle, Trim', county Meath and Kilconnel Abbey, county Galway. Based on sketches by Edward Hassell; 1 sheet c.1845

**Sheet 70** Sketch of Kell's High Cross, unsigned. This is the basis for figure 63 on page 138 of *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet undated

**Sheet 71 -72** Two sketches of different views of Trim Castle, unsigned; 2 sheets undated

**Sheet 73 -74 Outsized folder** Initial sketch and larger detailed plan of burial chamber at New Grange, showing plan and elevation, unsigned. These are preparatory sketches for Plate VI in *Geology and Architecture*; 2 sheets [large sheets is torn and damaged on edges] undated

**Sheet 75** Pencil sketch of [Saint] 'Columbkille's House', Kells, unsigned; 1 sheet undated

### County Monaghan

**Sheet 76 Outsized folder** Ink elevation and plan of 'The ancient cross, in the market place Clones' with notes, drawn by George Duggan; 1 sheet [edges of the sheet and damaged] Jan. 1843

**Sheet 77 Outsized folder** 'Essay on the round towers of Ireland' with two ink elevations, drawn by George Duggan. One of the elevations is used as the basis for part of Plate X in *Geology and Architecture*, (see sheet 78); 1 sheet [edges of sheet are badly damaged with missing fragments]

Jan. 1843

**Sheet 78** Proof of Plate X of *Geology and Architecture* showing Clones round tower and tower keep of Pembroke Castle, South Wales, with corrections, (see sheet 77); 1 sheet  
c.1845

### **County Offaly**

**Sheet 79** Mounted colour washed sketch of ruins of [Clonmacnoise], unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Roscommon**

**Sheet 80** Mounted sketch of Boyle Abbey, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Sligo**

**Sheet 81** Details of Sligo Abbey, drawn by R. G. Clarke; 1 sheet  
**Outsized** undated  
**folder**

### **County Tipperary**

**Sheet 82** Pencil sketch of round tower and cathedral on Rock of Cashel, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 83** Pencil sketch of Pont-a-Kerry Castle, Clonmel; unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Waterford**

**Sheet 84** Ink elevation of round tower at Ardmore, unsigned. This is the basis for figure 14 on page 70 in *Geology and Architecture*; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 85** Two pencil sketches of Granby Castle, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 86** Ink drawings of four coats of arms from buildings in Waterford City, signed J.K.[L]; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 87** Coloured elevation, plans and details of Franciscan Friary, Waterford, signed J.K.L.; 1 sheet  
undated

### **County Wexford**

**Sheet 88** Coloured elevations and details of Lady Gate, New Ross, signed John Ellis; 1 sheet  
Feb 1843

**Sheet 89** Ink plan, elevations and details of ruins of St. Mary's Church, Wexford, signed J.K.L.; 1 sheet  
April 1843

**Sheet 90 –99  
Outsized  
folder** Sheets A – J of a series of ink plans, elevations and details of Dunbrody Abbey, drawn by John Kelly; 10 sheets  
1843

### **Unidentified location**

**Sheet 100** Pencil sketch of carved mouldings from unidentified church, drawn by [George Wilkinson]; 1 sheet  
Dec. 1833

**Sheet 101** Ink plans and elevations of windows in transept and tower, building unidentified, by G[eorge] W[ilkinson]; 1 sheet  
1833

**Sheet 102** Pencil sketch of windows, with plan of building on reverse, unsigned. Sketch forms part of figure 62 on page 137 of *Geology and Architecture*, however the description is only 'Ancient window of simple masonry' with no location given; 1 sheet  
undated

**Sheet 103  
Outsized  
folder** Ink plans and elevations of details on 'Chantry Chapel of our ladye' (sic), unsigned, no location given; 1 sheet  
[edges of sheet are damaged]  
undated

**Sheet 104** Pencil sketch of ruins of unidentified abbey, unsigned; 1 sheet

- undated
- Sheet 105** Pencil sketch of crossroads with cottages and a large tree, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 106** Pencil sketch of cottage next to a stream with a bridge, unsigned 'Mr Brooks' written on reverse; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 107** Ink sketch of earthen mound with entrance on side, with pencil annotations, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 108** Plan and elevation of 'Archway A' from unidentified location, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheets 109 – 111  
Outsized folder** Colour washed plans and details of designs of stone caring round archways and jams, unsigned; 3 sheets  
undated

### **Architectural Designs**

- Sheet 112** Plan of an upper floor of a house, with notes, drawn by George Wilkinson; 1 sheet  
1841
- Sheet 113** Plan and elevations of a two roomed cottage, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheets 114 – 115** Design of a Gate Lodge for Sir Gerald Aylmer Bart., front elevation, with [ground floor plan of same], unsigned; 2 sheets  
Undated. Possibly Donadea, Co Kildare.
- Sheet 116** Design of [gate lodge] elevations, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 117** Design for a two storied house, showing front and flank elevations and floor plans, unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated
- Sheet 118** Designs of 'architraves etc. to doors of bedrooms leading from gallery', unsigned; 1 sheet  
undated

