

**ARCHIVES IN PROFILE:
The Archives of the Irish College in Rome**



Façade of the Irish College, Rome

'Here we are in hot water about a Fenian Funeral of one of the founders of the society John O'Mahony... the Fenians here determined to give him a grand funeral and to make a great political demonstration in favour of Fenianism. I prevented their manoeuvres from doing as much mischief as they intended to do – However they now have the remains of the unfortunate man lying in state in a Mechanics hall, and next Sunday they will drag them through all the streets of Dublin for about five hours. It is a great profanation, but the libertà of our times allows such parodies of religion.'

So wrote Cardinal Cullen in 1877 to his lifelong confidant and successor as Rector of the Irish College, Tobias Kirby. The letter is one of the 26,000 letters of the Archives, I.C.R. which have been rehoused, recatalogued and scanned and which are now freely available to researchers online.

The Irish College Rome was founded in 1628 and with the exception of a short period at the turn of the 19th century, it has remained open ever since. The Archive of the College spans the entire period but is bulkiest from the mid-19th until the mid-20th centuries. A definitive Archival List for 17th and 18th century material, prepared by former archivist Vera Orschel, is to be published in Archivium Hibernicum later this year. In this piece I wish to concentrate on our most used records from the 19th and early 20th century, namely the Rectors' Correspondence collections.

The importance of the Rectors' Correspondence stems from the dual-role of the Rectors. The

correspondence firstly reflects their administrative role as head of a foreign seminary for Irish students. Arguably their more interesting role, to modern-day researchers at least, was the fact that the Rector often acted as official agents for the Irish hierarchy, liaising on their behalf with Propaganda Fide and Vatican officials up to and including the Pope. They were asked to secure faculties and dispensations, present petitions, reports and addresses and were asked to 'speak with' officials on important ecclesiastical or political issues. Rectors undertook similar work on behalf of Irish missionaries, Irish clergy and religious orders, politicians and laypersons. When former Irish students or associates of the College became members of the hierarchy in the developing churches of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and India they too used the Rector as their direct link to Rome. The correspondence is therefore of international importance.

The significance of the Rector's Correspondence is further enhanced by the fact that highly influential characters served as Rector of the College during periods of great change in Ireland. Cardinal Cullen, arguably the most influential churchman in 19th century Ireland was Rector between 1832 and 1849.



Rector Kirby

wonderful trait, beloved by archivists - he kept absolutely everything! His collection spans the years 1836 to 1895. Turning to the early 20th century, Rector Hagan, a 'heavily politicised' nationalist, was actively involved in political developments in Ireland during the War of Independence and Civil War. His correspondents included, for example, Sean T O'Ceallaigh (circa 130 letters), Eamon de Valera and Patrick Keohane of the *Catholic Bulletin*.

His successor, Rector Kirby, was a regular recipient of intimate letters from Cullen (c. 1,200 letters), Archbishop Croke of Cashel, Archbishop Walsh of Dublin, Cardinal Moran of Sydney, to name but a few. Kirby, who never moved from Rome and was active into his 90s, had a

The College's digitization project, which was funded by the Department of Arts Sports and Tourism and the Dublin Archdiocese, has focused on the 19th century papers up to 1895. A parallel project was also undertaken to convert pre-existing handwritten catalogues into electronic form incorporating missing ISAD (G) elements and using Microsoft Access. OCR was used to convert typewritten sections of these catalogues and a new electronic catalogue was created for uncatalogued documents. All documents were rehoused in acid-free folders and boxes and while the original chronological arrangement was not disturbed, the coding was standardised. Scanning and digital storage was carried out by ICPAL, a branch of the Italian State Archives, to the following specifications: documents were scanned at 2000ppi, 24 RGB colour using a Metis DRS A1 scanner; the TIFF files were converted to JPEG2000 using a compression ratio of 20:1; long-term storage is on LTO-4 magnetic tape while storage for the website is on hard-disc using a RAID5 scheme. ICPAL also host the purpose built website which links fully searchable catalogue descriptions and images and includes collection guides. Documents can be viewed in high resolution but can only be copied in low resolution. The decision was made to make the website password-free but researchers who require assistance or pdf versions of catalogues are directed to the Archivist.

The three-year project was successfully concluded in January 2010. However the College has unfortunately been unsuccessful in its attempts to secure cultural funding for 2010 and is currently without an Archivist. While the College hopes to reverse this situation and continues to be committed in keeping the archive open and accessible, access to the physical collection has had to be suspended as a consequence. Access to the 19th century online collection is, however, still possible and all electronic catalogues are now available on the college's website in pdf format. Please visit the College's website, www.irishcollege.org/archive.htm.

In conclusion I again turn to Cardinal Cullen and to a letter he wrote to Rector Kirby in January 1877. Cullen was engaged in a struggle to appoint a successor to his great rival Archbishop John Ma-chHale of Tuam, 'The Lion of the West'. Having written a strongly worded critique of MacHale to Kirby which was to be conveyed to the Holy See he ended the letter with these words – *'It is not desirable to send statements such as I have now made through the post or to write them in Italian. I write to you in the hope that the letter will not be opened in the post.'* Thankfully Cullen and his contemporaries did write frank and revealing letters and fortuitously their recipient, Rector Kirby, meticulously filed and stored every letter he received during his long and influential life.

The Irish College is pleased to now be in a position to make these letters accessible to modern researchers throughout the world at a 'click of a mouse'.

Martin Fagan, Archivist Irish College Rome.

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**Discover your National Library:
Explore, Reflect, Connect**

Hundreds of rare items from the National Library of Ireland's collections – some of which are either too light sensitive, air sensitive or too valuable to be placed on public display in exhibition cases – can now be viewed in close-up detail by visitors thanks to the use of an innovative technology solution developed by Microsoft Ireland in partnership with Martello Media.



The *Discover your National Library* exhibition, which was opened in January 2010 by **Dr Martin Mansergh TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for OPW and the Arts**, enables visitors to examine objects from the Library's collections in the kind of detail that has hitherto been possible for only a limited number of researchers, academics and other specialists. Over the lifespan of the exhibition, several thousand different objects will be featured and will be made available online.

Such is the rich visual experience created by the high-resolution technologies used to display the items that exhibition visitors will almost certainly be enticed to view these items – and stay engaged by them – for long periods of time.

Among the artefacts on view currently (artefacts on display will change three times a year) are rare manuscripts such as the Book of Maguaran, an early **14th century** poem-book containing poetry composed in Irish for the McGovern family; a 1588 deed signed by **Sir Walter Raleigh**; a 1795 **lottery ticket**; a set of 1930s cigarette cards illustrated by the painter **Jack B Yeats**; several 18th century survey maps of Irish bogs (designed to assess whether it was feasible to grow crops such as corn or hemp on Ireland's bogs at a time when the English government was fighting the Napoleonic wars and suffering

economic shortages); a letter from **Éamonn Ceannt** to his wife Áine O'Brennan, written a few hours before his execution on 8 May, 1916; and a notebook of stunning drawings by 19th century antiquary George Petrie of his archaeological finds, ranging from arrowheads to gold ornaments.

Additional innovative features of the exhibition include 'turn the page' technology, which will enable visitors to read all the pages in the various books featured, and not just the open pages on display. An unusual element of the exhibition is that a designated area has been provided for a series of temporary exhibitions including one to mark the centenary of the Bogs Commission, and another dedicated to Alice Milligan, a prominent figure in early 20th century nationalist and literary revival circles. The year will close with an exhibition on the Irish Texts Society.

Speaking at the launch of the exhibition, Paul Rellis, MD, Microsoft Ireland said: *'We are delighted to have partnered with the National Library of Ireland to help improve the access to these rare treasures and documents. This project shows the true potential that technology has in helping to bring arts and culture to more and more people. We hope that by digitizing this collection, and by helping to bring it online, we will encourage more people to explore and research the extensive range of treasures housed in the Library.'*

One of the most popular features of the exhibition is the interactive Microsoft Surface 'discovery table' using Silverlight technology which is at the heart of the exhibition. Every object in the exhibition (and many which are not currently in the exhibition but will be in the future) is held in the table which is the exhibition's central repository. Here visitors can view images of objects from the collections in amazing detail. The images are tagged in such a way that if the visitor finds an item they are particularly interested in, the technology automatically links them to other similar items likely to be of interest.

Throughout, the exhibition makes extensive use of digital media, with special features including a series of talks shown on large plasma screens, given by the Library's curators, who use a highly accessible approach (rather than academic approach) to describe the significance of certain items on display.

Each display case is accompanied by a touch screen which contains copies of the objects on display so visitors can scroll through multiple pages when the object is a volume, or see other similar objects from the Library's holdings – the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Irish documentary material numbering almost eight million items including

maps, prints, drawings, manuscripts, books photographs, newspapers and periodicals.

The **Discover** exhibition is now open to the public at 2-3 Kildare Street, Dublin. The selection of items on view will be refreshed and updated every four months. Admission is free. The contents of the central Silverlight Discovery Table may be seen on www.nli.ie.

Anna Manahan Remembered Exhibition

The **Anna Manahan Remembered** Exhibition was launched at Dublin City Library and Archive on 15 December 2010. The photographic based exhibition reflects on Anna's stage and screen career, which spanned over 60 years. It recalls her extraordinary talent, her many achievements, and her personal warmth.

Along with material from the Irish Theatre Archive held at Dublin City Archives, the exhibition includes many items from Anna's own personal papers, which were kindly lent to Dublin City Archives by her two brothers, Joe and Val Manahan. Reflecting the affection for Anna among the theatre community, many other individuals and organisations also enthusiastically responded to request for memorabilia including the Red Kettle Theatre Company in Waterford, Druid Theatre Company and City Theatre Dublin.



Anna in *Sisters*, 2005

The exhibition begins with an image of Anna making her London debut in 1948 in *Playboy of the Western World*, and includes a rare picture of Anna with her husband stage director and actor Colm O'Kelly. Colm died in 1955 less than a year after they married, whilst they were both on

tour in Egypt with the Gate Theatre Company. Anna went on stage that same night dedicating her performance to her husband. She never remarried.

Also featured are images of Anna in her critically acclaimed role of Serafina, in the first Irish production of Tennessee Williams' *The Rose Tattoo* in the Pike Theatre in 1957. The production achieved unexpected notoriety when the cast were falsely accused of using a condom, then illegal in Ireland, on stage. Also included are photographs of Anna as *Big Maggie*, a play written for her by John B. Keane, her 1969 Tony Award nominated role in Brian Friel's *Lovers* and of course Anna's triumphant return to Broadway

in 1998 when she won Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for her portrayal of doomed mother Mag Folan in the Druid production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

Her roles in television and film are also depicted with images of Anna as Mrs. Kenefick in *Me Mammy*, the lead in *Leave it to Mrs. O'Brien* and as Mrs. Cadogan in *The Irish R.M.*

Among the honours Anna Manahan received during her lifetime which are recounted in the exhibition are the Gold Medal of the Éire Society of Boston in 1984, the Freedom of Waterford City in 2002, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick in 2003. Very memorably Anna also became the first Patron of Active Retirement Ireland, in 2008, after she spoke out strongly against government proposals to remove universal entitlement to medical cards for the over-70s.

Michael Scott, Artistic Director, City Theatre Dublin, who directed Anna in *The Matchmaker* (2002) and *Sisters* (2005), spoke at the exhibition launch. He gave a warm tribute to Anna, acknowledging her as an inspiration for many playwrights, directors and actors. He also screened footage of Anna featuring intimate backstage interviews from his personal collection.

The exhibition was researched and curated by Ellen Murphy and Andrew O'Brien of Dublin City Archives on behalf of Dublin Public Libraries, and designed and produced by Yellowstone Design Company. It will be on display in Central Library, Ilac Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1 in March 2010, and will be on display in Dublin City branch libraries throughout 2010. It will visit Waterford City Council Central Library, Lady Lane in September 2010.

For Further Information please contact: Ellen Murphy, Dublin City Archives Section, Tel. 647 4997/674 4848.

Ellen Murphy, Dublin City Archives.

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**Limerick Quaker Archive at
Limerick City Archives**

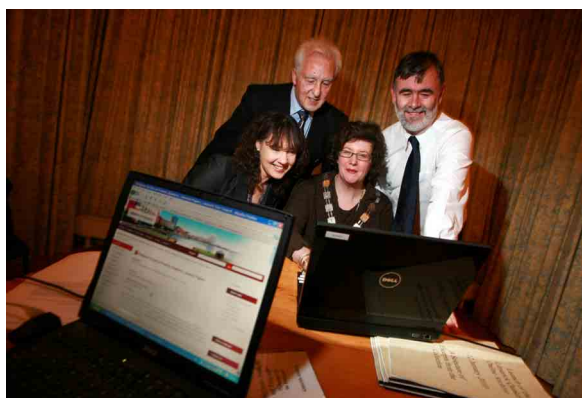
Limerick City Council and the Society of Friends recently launched the transfer of a digital copy of the Limerick Quaker Archive to Limerick City Archives.

The records date from the early eighteenth century and are a wonderful record of the Quakers in Limerick. The original records are held in the Quaker Library in Dublin and the Society of Friends approached Limerick City Archives proposing to extend access to their records by microfilming the records and placing a digital copy of the microfilm online.

The project was funded by Limerick City Council

and city archivist Jacqui Hayes said these records are of great interest to the Limerick area as the Quakers played a significant role in Limerick's business and mercantile history in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. City Archivist, Jacqui Hayes said:

'The Quakers are meticulous record keepers. From July 1729 we have a complete record of the Women's meetings in Limerick. The men's meetings survive for a little later- from 1779 and they are unbroken also up to 1956. This is an incredible record of Limerick men and women meetings and is a wonderful addition to the city's digital archive'



Limerick City Archivist, Jacqui Hayes demonstrates new Limerick Quaker Online Archive

The records were initially microfilmed and the microfilm images were then converted to digital and delivered on CD in PDF format. A copy of the microfilm and PDF's is also held by the Society of Friends as a long-term preservation method.

The Religious Society of Friends was founded in 1652 and the first meeting of Friends in Limerick was held in the home of Richard Pearce in 1655. Later in 1671 a meeting house was erected in Creagh Lane. They remained here until 1807 when a new meeting house was built in Cecil Street and in 1832 a Friends Burial ground was established near Peters Cell. The principle element of Quaker faith was, and remains, the idea that each person is capable of direct experience with the Holy Spirit without interference from any other person. The Quakers advocated a simpler way of practicing the Christian way of life, which included freedom of religious choice and equality of the sexes. Friends were to be sober, simple, plain, honest, industrious, and courageous. The poor would be cared for, there would be no tale bearing and there would be no swearing of oaths.

The Religious Society of Friends is well known for its charity work and innovation. Perhaps the most cited incidence of this is during the Famine in Ireland when Friends formed Relief Committees which provided food to anyone in need regardless of their religion.

The Relief Committee Minutes Books record the decisions of the relief committee in relation to relief in Clare and Limerick during the Famine period. The Minutes of the Limerick men's and women's committee record discussions on travel, marriage, removals and correspondence from friends in Ireland and abroad. The collection also includes Account Books, Notices of Removals, which records friends removed from the Society for improper behaviour, notices of friends transferring from and to other meetings and records of Quaker Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor of Limerick, Councillor Kevin Kiely was delighted that the historical Quaker records are now on-line on for public viewing. He said

'The collection is a wonderful insight into the Quaker community in the Limerick area, documenting their births, deaths and marriages, their monthly meetings and their response to prevailing social and economic conditions. In my view this project is an excellent example of how the City Council can work with communities to support them and enrich the general cultural value to all interested parties.'

The Limerick Quaker Archive can be viewed at www.limerickcity.ie
Jacqui Hayes, Limerick City Archivist.

Photograph Album of Lieutenant Colonel Kirkwood at Kerry Archives

The photograph Album of Lieutenant Colonel John Knox Kirkwood, formerly of Bartra House, Killala, County Mayo (Ref: SC1/2) is unique source for the study of the history of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI), 53rd Regiment, during the period 1866-1886. It is a small but greatly informative part of the collection at the Archives at Kerry Library. It was donated by Brendan Sugrue, Camp, Ballyseedy, along with a collection of three medals awarded to Lieutenant Richard Eyre Goold Adams (3rd Highland Light Infantry) from the Afghan War (1878-1880) and Egyptian Campaign of 1882, for which he was also awarded the bronze Khedive's Star.

Lieutenant Colonel Kirkwood joined the KSLI shortly after its return from duty in suppression of the Indian Mutiny (1857-1859). He was appointed an Ensign (53rd Foot) on 9 January 1863, and promoted to Lieutenant (26 May 1865), Captain (1 April 1873) and Major (21 February 1883). He retired in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on 17 February 1886. Curiously, the KSLI Regimental Record for 1886 does not note Kirkwood's retirement.

Kirkwood is remembered in the Light Infantry HQ at Winchester mainly because of his donation of 34 silver goblets to the Regimental Officers' Mess.

These were engraved with the inscription:
Presented to the Officers' Mess 53rd Regt. By Lieutenant Kirkwood on promotion 26th May 1865.



Line of retreat from Tel El Kebir, 1882

Kirkwood's own active service career is defined by the Shropshire Regimental Record as comprising:

The Egypt Campaign, 1882: The Defence of Alexandria, Occupation of Kafr Dowar, and the Surrender of Damietta, for which he was awarded the Egypt Campaign Medal and the Khedive's Star.

Sudan 1885: Operations around Suakin, for which the Suakin Clasp was added to his Campaign Medal.

Kirkwood's photograph album provides a timeline of his career service from a first overseas posting in Canada, through spells in the West Indies, back in Ireland, Jersey, and latterly Egypt, Malta and Sudan. As well as landscapes, Kirkwood also documented the 'real life' situations of the peoples of Egypt and Sudan, and the horrors of war-as depicted in his image of the line of retreat from Tel El Kebir (above). Coincidentally, Lieutenant Goold Adams, a native of Cork, was awarded the Tel El Kebir Clasp to his Egypt Campaign Medal for his part in this action.

The Kerry context of the album relates to Kirkwood's post-retirement activities in the Glencar area, near Killorglin. He was a keen hunter and angler, and spent a good deal of time at the Glencar Hotel (a former hunting lodge on the Marquis of Lansdowne's estate) near Caragh Lake, where he enjoyed the opportunity to indulge these passions. His Kerry photographs provide a good snapshot of this activity around the turn of the twentieth century, as well as the living conditions of the workers on the estates around Caragh Lake.

The Breen family, pictured below, were tenants of the estate of The McGillicuddy of the Reeks, and appear in a rent ledger of that estate, 1883-1889

(also held by the Archives at Kerry Library, Ref: P35/1.1). It is clear from the captions used that Kirkwood was aware of the part played by local labourers in ensuring a good experience for game-led visitors to the area. His photograph captions regularly address these men by their first names, and even include a portrait of 'Corney Connors', an aged ghillie on the estate.



Mcgillicuddy of the Reeks Estate, c. 1890's

Kirkwood's name appears on the return for the Glencar Hotel in the 1901 census, along with that of a colleague, Lieutenant Colonel John Rahilly (Royal Army Medical Corps, Retired), who appears in one of the photographs. Another colleague from his KSLI days (Colonel H Echalaz) is also photographed, but was not present at Glencar in 1901. While Colonel Rahilly was also listed at Glencar in the 1911 census, Kirkwood was living at 'No. 1 Esplanade Road,' The Marine Station Hotel, one of 3 hotels in Bray run by Bethell Hotels Ltd. Lieutenant Colonel Kirkwood's death (on 10 May 1917, at a nursing home in Dublin) is recorded in *The Irish Times* on 14 May 1917. The Shropshire Regimental Museum's Regimental Journals only date from the mid-1920s, and therefore do not have any indexed reference (i.e. an obituary) to him.

Michael Lynch, Archivist, Kerry Library

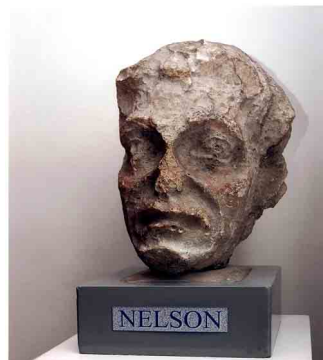
Nelson's Pillar on RTE

The story of how an English national hero became embedded in Dublin's local history was recounted recently on the television documentary series *Scannal* (RTE One, 25 January 2010). This crisply-edited programme was good television - engaging the viewer with an entertaining storyline. The narration blended archival film, photographs, and documents with oral history and personal recollection. The programme also explained something of the Irish attitude to the British Empire over the course of more than 150 years.

Lord Horatio Nelson's most famous victory over the French and Spanish fleets was at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 1805. Some 1,700 Irishmen, including over 500 Dublin men, fought in the great naval battle and it was not long before

Nelson, fatally wounded on the day, rose to immortal hero-worship. In November 1805 Dublin's Lord Mayor Alderman James Vance acted swiftly in proposing a suitable monument. A fundraising committee was formed, plans were submitted, costs were decided and the foundation stone was put in place. In October 1809 the Nelson Pillar was unveiled to all. The Pillar was governed and operated by a small group of trustees from 1809 to 1969, when the site of the former Pillar came into City Council ownership, following on from the explosion of 8 March 1966.

Interviewees (such as Senator David Norris, sportscaster Jimmy Magee, and others) including this writer, recalled memories of the Pillar from their youth, and of Nelson's explosive downfall in 1966. Much of the written sources included in the *Scannal* documentary are held by Dublin City Archives, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. These records include Dublin City Council's Minutes and Reports from 1805 to 1879 (Manuscript) and from 1880 onwards (printed), and secondary sources. Periodically, the Minutes and Reports of Dublin City Council tell of plans to relocate Nelson to Merrion Square, to erect statues to Tone and others, and to help ease the capital's growing traffic problems by removal of the Pillar altogether.



Nelson's head on display in Dublin City Library and Archive

In July 1919, at the first meeting of the Irish War Memorial Committee (the archive held at Dublin City Archives), it was suggested that the Pillar be converted to the national memorial monument to Irishmen who fell in the Great War. Various proposals for replacing the Pillar emerged from 1988

onwards until eventually The Millennium Spire was put in place. It is, in its own way, the new Pillar of Dublin.

The Cecil Sheridan Collection in the Irish Theatre Archive held at Dublin City Archives includes pantomime comedy sketches about Nelson's Pillar, highlighting that the Pillar had become an urban myth. Other documents held in Dublin City Archives' include a letter from a gentleman in America to Dublin Corporation, offering to buy the Head for one dollar - cash on delivery. Fortunately, a clerk, unnamed, penned a courteous reply the next day declining the kind offer - the local authority scribe also returned the numbered dollar bill to its owner.

The documents relating to Nelson's Pillar at Dublin City Archives, are supplemented by sources from

Dublin City Library, also at Pearse Street, including newspapers (such as *The Freeman's Journal*, *The Irish Press*) and articles in periodicals such as the *Irish Builder*, *Dublin Opinion* and also *Thom's Directories*. Interestingly, Nelson received almost exclusive attention from the *Dublin Opinion* cartoonists. Those pillars of Irish history Parnell and O'Connell, whose memory punctuates either end of the capital's main thoroughfare, perhaps not as embedded in popular culture.

Today, all that remains of the Pillar is Nelson's Head, which is in gentle retirement at the Reading Room in Dublin City Library and Archives, Pearse Street.

Scannal is broadcast on RTE One on Mondays at 7.30p.m. and repeats are broadcast on TG4.
Andrew O'Brien, Dublin City Archives.

Irish Archives, Vol 16 Minority Communities

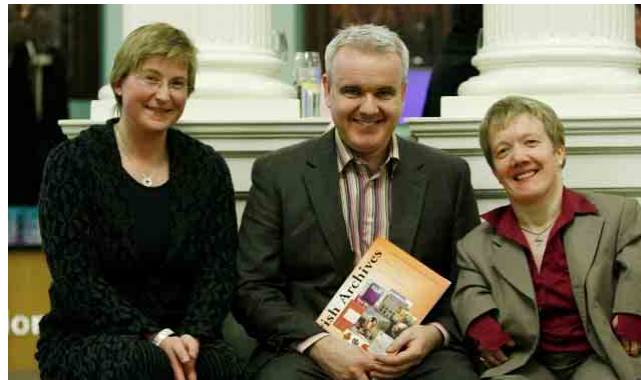
Volume 16 of *Irish Archives*, launched at a special event in the rotunda of the National Library of Ireland on 1 December last, discusses the archival resources available for the study of minority communities in Ireland, celebrating the vital contributions these communities have already made to Irish society, and illustrating how they continue to encourage Irish cultural diversity with their sense of identity, belief systems and ideas.

Examining published sources and additional materials in the Irish Jewish Museum, Professor Cormac Ó Gráda provides a comprehensive survey of the extensive materials available for documenting the history of the Irish Jewish community, and pays tribute to the role of Raphael Siev, long-time curator of the Museum, who died suddenly earlier this year. Drawing on a range of materials in national repositories and others which remain in the custody of churches and meeting houses throughout Dublin, Steven C ffearry-Smyrl brings to life the rich diversity and varying beliefs of the eight main dissenting traditions in Dublin, in addition to several other smaller groups.

Community engagement with locality and society at large, as reflected through the prism of a collection of letters written by soldier parishioners of the Church of Ireland parish of Dundela in East Belfast, to their rector, from the Western Front in early 1918, is discussed by Dr Susan Hood. Dr Aoife Bhreatnach describes the significant collections of sources relating to Travellers as created by the settled community which are held in university repositories throughout the country.

Elizabeth Kirwan's article charts the transformation of the rights and roles of the Irish gay and lesbian communities in Ireland over the last thirty years as documented by the Irish Queer

Archives (IQA) which was transferred to the National Library of Ireland in 2008. This vast collection records the experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people on the island of Ireland and constitutes not only a major source for the study of Irish queer history, but also highlights the valuable role these communities have played in helping to make Irish society more tolerant, open and inclusive.



***Irish Archives* Editors Dr. Susan Hood, and Elizabeth McEvoy at launch with Colm O'Gorman**

Two additional articles complete this year's edition. The conservation of the Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers (CSORP) held in the National Archives of Ireland forms the subject of an article by conservator Marie Carré-Hok, while Colum O'Riordan details the creation of the online Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720–1940 (DIA) by the Irish Architectural Archive and its launch early in 2009. A hugely ambitious project, the DIA has become a fundamental resource for anyone with an interest in Ireland's architectural heritage, whether professional or personal.

Launching the journal, guest speaker Colm O'Gorman, Executive Director of Amnesty International Ireland, made thought-provoking remarks – based on his own experiences – about the role of archives in preserving identity. He observed that recent experience in Ireland has shown that whole aspects of the past had been lost because records were not available or had been destroyed, and he urged that in order to prevent the truth being concealed, preservation of archives was a method of accountability to be cherished and promoted. The launch was attended by a wide range of representatives from the different community groups covered in the journal, as well as ISA members. We are grateful to the Director and Board of the National Library of Ireland for their cooperation in making the event possible.

Copies of the journal can be obtained at a cost of €10 by contacting the editors.

Dr Susan Hood, susan.hood@rcbdub.org, RCB Library, Braemor Park, Churchtown, D14 or Elizabeth McEvoy, emcevoy@nationalarchives.ie, National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, D8
Dr Susan Hood and Elizabeth McEvoy, *Irish Archives*, co-editors.

New Edition of the *Directory of Irish Archives*



Four Courts Press has commissioned a fifth edition of the *Directory of Irish Archives* to be published in Autumn 2010. The first edition was published by Irish Academic Press in 1988 and contained entries for 155 institutions and organizations which held records of historical

significance which were available to researchers. The *Directory* quickly established itself as a useful reference work and this was reflected in the publication of a second edition in 1993 with 224 entries

The publication had, initially, owed much to the enthusiastic support of Michael Adams at Irish Academic Press. When Adams established Four Courts Press as a separate publishing house the *Directory* migrated with him.

The third edition appeared in 1999 under the Four Courts imprint and was followed in 2003 by a fourth edition. With 262 entries the fourth edition has been the most comprehensive to date.

However, in order to ensure that the *Directory* remains as complete and as up to date as possible the editors would be glad to hear about collections which have not hitherto appeared in the *Directory*. In order to qualify for inclusion collections must be of historical significance and must be available to researchers.

The contact details for the editors are:
Seamus Helferty, UCD Archives, James Joyce Library, Belfield, Dublin 4 (seamus.helferty@ucd.ie)
Raymond Refausse, RCB Library, Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14
(raymond.refausse@rcbdub.org)
Dr. Raymond Refausse, Library

Archives in Crisis: Symposium

In 1922 the bulk of Ireland's documentary heritage was destroyed. To debate a proposed merger of the National Archives of Ireland into the National Library, this symposium poses a stark question: what will be the state of Irish archives in 2022 on the centenary of the Four Courts blaze?

Presentations will discuss the cultural significance of archives in Irish society. This will be followed by an open forum moderated by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter. Audience members will have an opportunity to pose questions and share views on archival policy in Ireland. The meeting will conclude by taking nominations to a new *Action on Archives* committee, which will seek to make representation to appropriate bodies.

Speakers: Fintan O'Toole, Catriona Crowe, Eunan O'Halpin. The symposium will take place on Saturday 10 April 2010, 3 PM–5 PM, Robert Emmet Lecture Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin.

Admission is free, and all are welcome. For further information, please contact Dr Peter Crooks, pcrooks@tcd.ie (01 896 1368).

ISA MATTERS

ISA VISIT TO GUINNESS ARCHIVE

Tuesday 6 April 2010

Visit to Guinness archive 5.30pm@ Guinness Storehouse, St. James Gate, Dublin 2.

ISA NEWSLETTER

Items for inclusion in the Autumn 2010 Newsletter are welcome and must be received by 5 Sept 2010. Please send items to Ellen Murphy, ellen.murphy@dublincity.ie or Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2

ISA COMMITTEE

Andrew Whiteside has joined the committee as honorary secretary. We wish to warmly thank Estelle Gittins and Kate Manning, who have retired from the committee, for their significant contribution to the Irish Society for Archives for the past number of years.

ISA LECTURE SERIES

The 2009/2010 programme of lectures has finished. The 2010/2011 programme will be published in the coming months on the ISA website www.ucd.ie/archives/isa/isa-index.html

ISA MEMBERSHIP

To become a member or renew membership of the Irish Society for Archives, please contact: Ms Antoinette Doran, Hon. Membership Secretary, Irish Society for Archives, c/o IURLA Project Office, Room 327, James Joyce Library, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4. or download an application form at: www.ucd.ie/archives/isa/isa-membershipform.html and send it to the above.

ISA Committee Officers:

Dr Raymond Refausse, Chairperson; email raymond.refausse@rcbdub.org
Andrew Whiteside, Hon. Secretary; email: isar@eircom.net
Dr. Kerry Houston; Hon. Treasurer, kerry.houston@dit.ie
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