

Kathleen O'Connell Papers

P155



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Kathleen O’Connell Papers: content and structure

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Introduction

The Kathleen O'Connell Papers are one of a number of non-Franciscan private paper collections transferred from the Franciscan Library Killiney to UCDAD in 1997, under the terms of the UCD-OFM Partnership Agreement. The papers had been deposited in the FLK by Miss O'Connell's niece, Miss Marie O'Kelly.

The papers relate overwhelmingly to Miss O'Connell's association as his private secretary with Eamon de Valera, beginning during his American tour in 1919 [see P155/1] and extending beyond his re-election as Taoiseach after the 1951 general election [see P155/197]. At the core of the collection is the series of correspondence and related material written to her by Mr de Valera while he was imprisoned during 1923-24 or abroad for a variety of purposes: on publicity and fund-raising trips to the U.S., 1927, 1929-30; in Geneva for the General Assembly of the League of Nations, 1935, 1938; on his anti-Partition round-the-world tour with Frank Aiken, March-June 1948; at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, 1949, 1950; on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 1950; and while in Geneva and later Utrecht for treatment and surgery due to his increasingly problematic eye condition, 1936, 1951, 1952.

The content of this material varies widely, from an elaborate scheme of work for her on gathering and preparing for publication all significant documents relating to the period 1916-23 [see P155/13, 14, 15, 20], to routine news of mutual friends he encounters while in the U.S., but it is always of interest. He regularly uses her as a conduit for passing on advice and instruction to his colleagues at home, particularly from the U.S. in the late 1920s, and on many occasions both then and later in Geneva and Strasbourg, he expresses regret that she is not there to assist in whatever work he is engaged upon. During his extended stay in Utrecht, September – December 1952, she went in mid-October with Séan Moynihan to relieve Eamonn de Valera, the son, and Seamus Mac Úgo, the Taoiseach's assistant private secretary, and stayed until late December when they all returned to Dublin [see P155/99-105, 157, 276-280].

This core is supplemented particularly well by the diaries she maintained. While on occasion these may be little more than a series of appointments, more often they contain comment and detail of her contact with Mr de Valera and his activities and opinions. On occasion she maintains a formal journal which is in turn supplemented by relevant photographs, as in the case of the Utrecht trip [see P155/157, 276-280].

The diaries in particular highlight a dilemma in relation to this collection of papers and its relationship with the de Valera Papers. There are undoubtedly items in the de Valera Papers, such as diaries, which would fill gaps in the sequence in this collection and which, arguably, belong more appropriately here. Conversely, there are items here which might be located with the larger collection; but this commingling merely serves to underline the closeness of their working relationship and it appears particularly futile, not to say daunting, to attempt any realignment of documents in either collection.

The diaries also offer the most sustained insight into Kathleen O'Connell's personality and interests, including as they do frequent reference to social and family gatherings and time given to personal pursuits such as language classes and the cinema and theatre. A copy of her obituary from the *Irish Times* is reproduced here to give personal detail and an indication of the worth in which she was held by her contemporaries.

One of the many interesting sidelights of the collection is the insight it gives into Mr de Valera's own opinion of the importance of preserving papers and their significance as evidence. In the draft of a letter from Mountjoy to his solicitor Mr Finnerty in January 1924, he explains the difficulties he is under in prison.

'You are aware that this case covers the whole ground of the dispute between us Republicans and our political opponents – whose prisoner I am here. If I am to give evidence or to be consulted formally in this case I demand immunity for any notes, documents which I may need in preparation for my testimony and for whatever notes, memoranda etc I may make in preparation for or as the result of your visits and counsel ...' [see P155/9].

Even his solitary appeal to the Acting President P.J. Ruttledge, to avoid the use of documents, only serves to underline his recognition of their fundamental significance

'My parting advice is beware of documents. Set our people who can meet each other to use the spoken not the written word – especially on all questions of basal policy' [see P155/12]

In letters to Kathleen O'Connell he outlines a grand schema for gathering and publishing all significant documents relating to the period 1916-23, enjoining her at all times to take steps to avoid seizure of papers, suggesting the construction of a hiding place using an 'architect' they had employed on previous occasions [see P155/13-16]; and providing his own translation of a quotation from Charles Seignobos, *Histoire de la civilisation contemporaine* (1920): 'History is made with documents. Documents are the imprints left of the thoughts and deeds of the men of former times ... For nothing can take the place of documents. No documents, no history' [see P155/20].

S.H.
May 2001

DEATH OF MISS KATHLEEN O'CONNELL¹

SECRETARY TO MR. DE VALERA FOR 36 YEARS

The death has occurred in a Dublin hospital of Miss Kathleen O'Connell, who had been private secretary to Mr Eamon de Valera, T.D., for 36 years. She had been ill for a considerable time.

A daughter of Mr and Mrs John O'Connell, of Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry she went to America at the age of 16, and trained as a secretary. After holding commercial posts, she joined the staff of the Friends of Irish Freedom in New York, and acted as confidential typist to Clan na Gael.

When Mr. de Valera went to America in 1919 she was assigned to him as private secretary, and she returned with him to Ireland in 1920. She accompanied the delegation which met Mr. Lloyd George in London in July, 1921, and it was she who typed the lengthy correspondence with Lloyd George and the subsequent communications between the Dail executive and the treaty delegation in London.

During the civil war and afterwards she continued to work as Mr de Valera's secretary. When Fianna Fáil took office in 1932 she was reinstated as a civil servant.

In 1944 she was appointed personal secretary to the Taoiseach, but this post was abolished when the inter-Party Government came into office in 1948. Subsequently, she retired from the Civil Service, but she continued to act as Mr.de Valera's secretary up to the time of her illness.

A TRIBUTE

Mr. de Valera in a tribute to Miss O'Connell said:

'The death of Kathleen O'Connell has brought to a close a career of unremitting service to our country. She regarded her time as the nation's, and gave of it unstintingly. Whenever a task had to be done she was available, ever ready to sacrifice her personal engagements and her leisure for the public service. Her life was a dedication.

For some two-score years the most important confidential organisation and State documents passed through her hands, the final authoritative copies being, indeed, very often typed by her. They ranged from those written from America to the Cabinet of the Republic in 1919-20, and later correspondence with Lloyd George, down to the State papers of the last World War. Her duties brought her into personal contact with almost every important figure

¹ From the *Irish Times*, 9 April 1956

in modern Irish history, both in America and here at home. She was trusted and respected by them all.

Her position as personal secretary was an exacting one, but she brought to it a devotion and a tact that was unflinching. The part she played in the national struggle was unique, yet she was the symbol of the many unobtrusive, ardent workers whose unselfish loyalty in the exact and faithful execution of their tasks brought success.

She will be mourned by all of us who knew her as a comrade in the national cause and by the thousands more who, in the course of years, had met her and became her friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.'

SIMPLE TASTES

A friend of Miss O'Connell writes: The death of Miss Kathleen O'Connell removes from Irish political life a remarkable personality. She seldom took part in any public occasion, yet for more than 40 years she was at the centre of things. Of simple tastes, happy among a circle of quiet friends, nevertheless she knew the secrets of State as intimately as Mr. de Valera himself did. They were not the secrets of internal affairs only, but of revolution, of war, of international crises.

Miss O'Connell came on the national scene before the Rising of 1916. She had emigrated to the United States before the first World War, had trained as a secretary and obtained an important post in the commercial world of the Middle West. But her heart was in Irish things, and she soon was acting as secretary of a Gaelic League delegation and from there she graduated to the secretarial staff of one of the great Irish-American organisations. She was engaged to bring messages and money to Ireland before the insurrection and on other most confidential work.

Later, when the new Irish leader went on his famous mission to the United States after the first Dáil Éireann was founded, he quickly felt the need in the maelstrom of Irish-American politics of somebody efficient, discreet, and capable of bringing order out of chaos. Miss Kathleen O'Connell was recommended to him and thus began the association of a life-time.

She came to know from the inside the conflicts between the secret and open American organisations, as later she was to know the clash of personalities within the I.R.A. and Sinn Féin and later still the inner details of the great treaty division and the civil war. She kept all these secrets, convincing most of those from the outside who met her in those days that things like that would not be told to her unimportant self. She was at her key post through three separate Anglo-Irish crises: that of 1921, that over the oath and land annuities in 1932 and that of the ports and economic settlement of 1938. In the beautifully-typed letters received by various British Premiers there was enough explosive to wipe all other news from front pages, but Miss Kathleen O'Connell lived and acted and spoke as if she had never heard of any crisis and certainly knew nothing of its details.

She was, in fact, the perfect secretary, never obtruding either her views or her personality,, never expressing an opinion unless directly asked; immaculately efficient in all that she did, and careful that her chief went to each meeting or council or appointment with the right papers and, incidentally, the right information about his interviewer.

She was particularly suited to a political leader, even one so energetic as Mr. de Valera, for she made her work her vocation. Hours of work meant nothing to her, length of day, inability to have her own social life - indeed, to have any life but that which conforms to the strenuous, all-hour labour of a national and political leader. She broke many a pleasant holiday on the receipt of a telegram, without even concern.

DEEP INTEREST

Her life was one of magnificent unselfishness, but in return for it she had a career incomparable with that of any ordinary secretary. As an intelligent, well-read, intuitively political person she took the deepest interest in the great events around her. She met leading men and women of her own and of other nations. She was the personal friend of all the big figures of the 1916-1948 period in Irish politics. With her gift for friendship she won the confidence of many foreign visitors to Government Buildings and often established a life-long association with them. She travelled widely both on political missions and because of a personal love of seeing new countries and other peoples, and to all she was the unperturbed, ingenuous and unimportant Irish woman.

Those closest to Kathleen O'Connell knew her to be an idealist, ardent, warm-hearted, of irrepressible optimism. At the darkest hour her smile often lifted the heart, and from her long experience she would tell of another darker time that had ended in brightness.

Through her long illness, this capacity to see the shining things never left her. Her religious faith, as well as her national faith, was profound and sustaining. She leaves a lovely memory, especially to those who know of the secret good she did over so many years for otherwise friendless victims of the struggle.

A noble-hearted Irish patriot has passed on.

**A. Correspondence and other papers concerning
Kathleen O'Connell as private secretary to Eamon de Valera,
1919 - 55**

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|------|
| 1 | 2 October 1919 | <p>Handwritten letter from Eamon de Valera, The Bellevue Stratford, Philadelphia, to Kathleen O'Connell.</p> <p>'If you would please attach yourself to the Consular staff with Mr Fawcett I would be very much obliged. There is great constructive work for Ireland to be done in that department and I know from experience what assistance to Mr Fawcett your able and methodical help will be'.</p> <p>Handwritten envelope</p> | 1p |
| 2 | 1919-20 | <p>Loose pages from a small pocket notebook containing notes in Eamon de Valera's hand made during his American tour, consisting mainly of contact details for American cultural and labour organisations; and notes on aspects of the scheme of organisation to be developed in the U.S.</p> | 20pp |
| 3 | 17 July 1920 | <p>Letter from Thomas J. Wheelwright, Mission Church, 1545 Tremont Street, Boston, to Kathleen O'Connell, 1045 Munsey Building, Washington D.C. He is anxious to find out the Chief's present address and plans, as he hopes to see him.</p> <p>Handwritten envelope</p> | 1p |
| 4 | [1920-52?] | <p>Seven letters from Sinead de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, all but one undated, concerned mainly with personal and routine matters affecting the de Valera household. <i>Includes:</i></p> <p>letter written after Sinead's return from the United States (18 November [1920], 4pp).</p> <p>'I can feel nothing much else but regret that I went to America. It was a big mistake to go for such a long journey for such a short stay. Since I came home I find it hard to be content or to get along in the old groove'.</p> | |

- 4 contd. Letter from Sinead in Greystones, to Kathleen O'Connell in London with the delegation for the negotiations ([July 1921], 2pp).
 'I am glad you are having such a nice time. Your photo was not good [see P155/234] but I thought Mrs Farnan was splendid. I am delighted she and the doctor are with Dev. I'd suggest – by way of a little diversion – that Dev and the doctor sing the duet "The Whistling Thief" – but be sure Dev takes the part "Mary, Mary" ... Will you please give my love to Lily [O'Brennan]? Tell her to have a good time and make the most of the change. She wants it badly'.
 Letter from Sinead, Greystones, to Kathleen (c. October 1922, 4pp) concerning the urgency of her moving house and discussing the possibilities. [She moved to Claremount Road, Sandymount, in November 1922].
 Letter from Sinead, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, to Kathleen (1 October 1952, 2pp).
 'I had a short note from Dev this morning [in Utrecht]. He seems to be in good form and hopeful. I am easy about him now'.

7 items

- 5 October 1921 Note from M[ary MacSwiney] to Kathleen O'Connell (1p) enclosing two documents for P.[resident] (not present) and a letter from Muriel [MacSwiney, in Germany] to Kathleen (20 October 1921, 3pp). She emphasises the need to cultivate American public opinion.
 'I do wish heaps more people could rejoin Harry. He is excellent but alone he is not enough especially at the present time. It is most essential that everyone should help him. The other side are not neglecting matters'.

2 items

- 6 2 April 1923 Letter from Máire Nic S.[uibhne] to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly concerning arrangements for the President to meet Monsignor [Salvatore] Luzio [papal visitor].
 'The matter stands thus. Mgr L. does not want to write but he has assured Professor Clery that the Holy Father commissioned him especially to see Mr de Valera. He is willing to go anywhere & to make any arrangements we desire. He wants the meeting next Saturday or Sunday, April 7th or 8th. Will the President be available by then do you think? ... I shall write a full report for the President during the week, of the people on our side who have seen the Nuncio [Msgr. Luzio] & any points I think may be useful to him – i.e. if I don't spend every day under arrest between now and then. I wrote three articles under their nose at Oriel House the other day & brought them away with me, so I had great value. Did more work than I could have done at Suffolk St.'

2pp

- 7 6 April 1923 Letter from M[aire] NicS[uibhne] to Kathleen O'Connell reporting a persistent rumour that the P.[resident] had returned to town and that the C.I.D. were on watch for him. She has reported the same to the D.I. [Director of Intelligence].
1p
- 8 3 July 1923 Copy typescript letter from Kathleen O'Connell, Secretary [to the President], to [Austin Stack] the Minister for Finance, enclosing statements of account [not present] for the President's and Foreign Affairs Departments for June, and mentioning specific outstanding aspects of the accounts.
1p
- 9 October 1923-
January 1924 Three handwritten draft letters by Eamon de Valera, from Kilmainham and Arbor Hill, for typing by Kathleen O'Connell. Two of the letters concern visits. The third is to his lawyer Mr Finnerty (3 January 1924, 3pp) concerning the unacceptable conditions being attached by the prison authorities to their consultations.
'I am informed that you wish to see me professionally as my lawyer in connection with the litigation in the American courts concerning the Republican funds I presume although I have no exact information. The officer who announced your presence here just now gives me to understand that you have given your word that you will deal with matters arising out of this case only – that his instructions are to search me personally & this cell also I expect if we meet here, both prior to and subsequent to every visit from you. Your promise & word is worth something or it is not. If you are regarded as worthy of trust why am I to be searched before your visit and after.
You are aware that this case covers the whole ground of the dispute between us Republicans and our political opponents – whose prisoner I am here. If I am to give evidence or to be consulted formally in this case I demand immunity for any notes, documents which I may need in preparation for my testimony and for whatever notes memoranda etc I may make in preparation for or as the result of your visits and counsel. ... I shall be regarded naturally as the chief witness in the case and my testimony will be weighed as such. I demand facilities accordingly if I am to be heard at all'.
4pp

- 10 [c. January 1924] Handwritten note from [P.J. Rutledge] the A/P [Assistant President], to [Eamon de Valera] the P[resident]. 'Re Miss O'C[onnell] – You misunderstood the arrangement I have proposed. I wish her to carry out the work you have outlined and my suggestion about S.T. [O Ceallaigh] is to safeguard that work. If she goes into an office for herself and does not appear to be attached to any Dept. you know what is going to happen. First it will attract our opponents and secondly it will stir up the curiosity of our own people and very few if any of our people should know the nature of this work. Nominally she will be working for S.T. but really doing the work outlined ... I hope I have made myself clear. I have put this arrangement before her as a suggestion and am awaiting her own views. If she does not like this arrangement I will make another suggestion and do everything to carry out your wishes in the matter. The question of economy does not arise. I will see that salary etc is as you suggested.'
- 2pp
- 11 [c. January 1924] Handwritten note by Eamon de Valera.
'A chara. Miss O'Connell my secretary may need to get or consult certain important books that you know of. It may be inconvenient to ask anyone else to get or consult them. May I ask you to accord the necessary facilities. Sincerest regards E de Valera.
PS. If you meet some of my kind friends that you know of will you please say that my refraining from writing or trying to communicate is not due to forgetfulness or want of appreciation. Austin is getting along very well. They will be glad to know. Please destroy this immediately... - I am under the closest observation'.
- 1p
- 12 January-February 1924 Series of seven handwritten memoranda from Eamon de Valera in Arbour Hill Detention Centre, to the A/P [Acting President, P.J. Rutledge] concerning heads of policy, and organisation, both in the U.S. and at home. Some of the mema are dated, some marked with the date received, but were all written within a period of weeks. All are written on small notebook pages.
1. 'The envelopes you sent me had to be destroyed on moving – I can keep nothing here. The cell also is likely to be searched at any time'. Consists mainly of a restatement of the anti-Treaty position.
'I have just seen decision about the Dáil funds. Some of the things I said formerly – that our cause will, of a certainty, triumph ultimately – The current of Irish sentiment that has flowed down the hill for seven hundred years is not now going to turn back on its course – That our men are now the custodians of the national tradition, that they must endeavour by living noble lives to be worthy of their cause ...' Marked 'SP Ref 102-1001'. (4pp)

12 contd.

2. Brief treatment of policy in areas such as education, temperance, local government, the army and finance.
 'My parting advice is beware of documents. Set our people who can meet each other to use the spoken not the written word – especially on all questions of basal policy. Beware of getting caught yourself, C/S and the others. They want you badly – we want you worse still. The present time is the time of all others we want continuity of policy and a restraining hand on two extremes of policy. Your position is particularly strong from the Army side as member of the F. Courts Executive & from the civil side no less. ... As for me – immediately Finnerty leaves they will seal me in the tomb as well as they can – It will be just as well, for what I would have to say wouldn't be worth the risk of sending it. As for me personally – they will neither be able to provoke me nor make me really unhappy no matter what they do' (3 January 1924, 7pp).

3. 'I would like you to keep this or a copy for me. It may save me the trouble of writing one of the same kind on some other occasion to somebody else'. Consists of a detailed response to the proposal to hold an American Convention the following month, a proposal he considers a 'fearful mistake'. He puts forward a detailed modus operandi for restructuring the organisation in the U.S. at state rather than national level, proposes an executive structure, suggests personnel; and deals with membership and financial issues (17 January 1924, 25pp, sent in two parts).

4. 'USA. I have given some further thought to affairs there & the more I think the more convinced I become that we must take matters there in hand at once firmly and finally'. Takes up his proposals for reorganisation in the U.S. with much comment on his previous experience there (Recd. 24 January 1924, 18pp).

5. Deals mainly with organisation at home and the need to co-ordinate the various bodies such as the Cabinet, the Council of State, Cumann na Poblachta, the Second Dáil, Sinn Féin and the Army. Proposes a structure 'for the actual control and conduct of affairs' (Recd. 24 January 1924, 4pp).

6. 'H.[ome] matters cont[inue]d'.
 'I would like to treat of the following points
 (a) Our immediate political objective & corresponding policy
 (b) Organisation for the purpose – must be flexible
 (c) Position as regards § "Government" of the Republic and §. The Army
 (d) Special steps to defeat probable – if not actual (I do not know the latest F.S. "Defence of the Realm" Act)
 I can only deal with (b) here' (19pp).

12 contd.

7. 'I got a couple of days ago your message to the TDs and your note on home organisation. Of course I have to destroy everything immediately. The latest will interest you. My last letter to my wife was sent to their army analyst to be tested for "invisible ink". Their whole intelligence staff is turned in our direction at present'.

He replies in some detail to the Acting President's comments on his proposals with regard to both the U.S. and home organisation.

'Home matters. Organisation. I agree that if C.[umann] na P.[oblachta] is dead (there are formal matters Trustees etc etc which must be wound up as soon as possible to prevent possible trouble later) no purpose would be served by reviving it – It was never more than the aggregate of elected members & the name is unsuitable for an Assembly. We need some name for the Assembly as such. If we could preserve for it the name Dáil Éireann it would be best but can we?' (Recd 2 February 1924, 13pp).

13

19 January 1924

Handwritten notes from Eamon de Valera to
Dear K.[athleen O'Connell].

'I have just heard you have come to town. How glad I will be to see you again if that be possible. You know how valuable my documents are & the care that must be taken not to endanger any of them. You will all be watched, you know that of course, and you should not put any indication of the hiding places on paper – in letters etc.

You remember the typed copies of the Reports of the Dáil sessions – given you by one of my former secs? My remarks about the appointment of the plenipotentiaries were in them. It would be well to have them to compare with those put in by the F.S. If I remember rightly they were one of the very first bundles we sent to the Dump, when I finished going thro' what we had and were making up the "Volumes". They went with the big brown envelope but I think the volume of the "Summaries" would also be useful to have at hand, and my little green book – containing my request for recognition to Pres[i]d[en]t Wilson with the exhibits at the end.

When this hearing is over [Republican bonds case] I think we ought to prepare for publication – a Documentary History of the Period Easter 1916–Easter 1923'.

He discusses how this might be done in cooperation with Mrs Childers, with himself contributing a commentary and explanation.

'Bringing the necessary documents together will be the hardest part of the work'.

He provides a schema for the proposed book before leaving the letter aside for the night.

'I will proceed to indicate the principal events I remember & the likely sources of information for the several sections on separate pages. You can add to them from time to time as new facts occur to us. The first part [November 1913–Easter 1916] will be the hardest to get material for'.

- 13 contd. He takes it up again to give the main points for each of the segments into which his schema divides the period, together with comments on the relevant documentation for each segment. He then gives an alternative and 'less formidable' approach to the project to make it more manageable, together with additional notes and comments under headings such as 'Sinn Féin', 'Elections', 'England's offers and Coercion Acts, 'Dáil Proceedings and Decrees', 'Volunteer & Army history' and 'Bibliography, Sources etc.'.
25pp
- 14 25-28 January 1924 Five letters written in sequence from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell and sent together. The letters deal overwhelmingly with her personal position and the programme of identification, location and copying of documents he has already outlined. He suggests the construction of a hiding place in her new flat, using an "architect" they had used on former occasions; and gives detailed instruction on avoiding seizure of documents.
'I have been very anxious about you from the moment of my arrest – cursing myself that I had not made full provision and arrangements in your regard. Work for a political body is the most unsatisfactory that there is and were I able to limit my view to your material interests I would be ready to advise you to return to commercial work. But, selfishly speaking I must confess, I would regard your going away as a loss completing that of Harry's. You are the only one left with any intimate information of the time and events which – well, I will not say more particularly. If you were to go more than my right hand had gone.'
10pp
- 15 [c. January 1924] Letter from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell enclosing a note for the A[ssistant] P[resident] and enclosing a copy for herself [not present].
'I made it [the copy] because I thought that perhaps you might care to have it in case anything happened to me & life is always precarious. I hope it will not lose anything in being shown to you – we keep too often to ourselves what we think of our friends and say the nice things – the appreciative things we feel, only when they are dead. I want you to know that I have observed much more than I ever expressed and I want you to know also that I realise that no cause has had a more loyal adherent than the Republic has had in you and no public man has ever had a more faithful assistant & friend – and now lest you should imagine Jail has in some way affected me that I write like this I turn to business.'
He goes on to lay out at length a modus operandi and programme for the project he mentions in his letter of 19 January 1924 [P155/13], a

- 15 contd. documentary history of the period 1916-23, mentioning relevant documents, likely sources, and explaining the basis on which she would be working. 'This work I am asking you to do is "free-lance" work & if you do not let it be known generally what you are at you will completely bewilder the F[ree] S[tate]. Of course working in the open you must not go near any of those important places underground. ... I do not know whether I have confused you or made matters clear by this long explanation. Under the circumstances you can only do your best – Be assured I will be satisfied whatever you will have succeeded in doing – I know you are not an idler. You will be receiving in any case a valuable training as assistant either to a politician, a statesman, a historian or, not to be despised, an eccentric.'
- 7pp
- 16 [January 1924] Two dissociated pages [pp. 5 and 6] of a letter from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly concerning preparations for the Republican bonds case and his anxiety about the safety of his document dumps. 'Do not worry about my being in. I have more cause to worry about those who are outside. I am very lonely of course at times & anxious about S[inead] & the family but I have no end of work to do. I wish this case was over ... You know it would be a disaster if they got to know the dump & the less interfering with it the better. ... As regards the summaries – I hate to have these papers going about. They are probably safer where they are than with you till you are fixed up. By the way, Seán T's, Mrs Childers & any intermediary houses to which messengers pass are likely to be raided when this case is over ...'.
- 2pp
- 17 [January 1924] Handwritten notes by Eamon de Valera consisting mainly of the main events, salient points and a chronology relevant to the case [Republican bonds]. The pages have been numbered 3-7 at a later date.
- 6pp
- 18 [c.January 1924] Handwritten undated note from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen [O'Connell] asking her to bring in copies of college statutes and calendars and all communications relating to coming meetings [of the Senate of the National University], as well as the revised *Rules* and *Clár* for the Sinn Féin Árd Fheis.
- 1p

- 19 [c.January 1924] Notebook pages, mainly of Gregg shorthand in Eamon de Valera's hand, possible letters or a note for the A/P, to be typed by Kathleen O'Connell, with some conventional words inserted.
5pp
- 20 2 February [1924] Letter from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, with both names in code. He hopes she received his recent notes. He describes in detail the format and quantity of his mathematical notebooks which he wishes her to number and send to him in prison together with mathematical textbooks he specifies. He turns again to give advice on maintaining secrecy and avoiding seizure of the work he has asked her to carry out and offers as a title a quotation from Charles Seignobos [*Histoire de la civilisation contemporaine*, 1920] which he translates roughly 'History is made with documents. Documents are the imprints left of the thoughts and the deeds of the men of former times ... For nothing can take the place of documents. No documents, no history'. He suggests her doing the work on the project to gather all the significant documents relating to the period 1916-23, under the subterfuge of the Irish shorthand writing project they had intended doing together; and provides a list of classes of documents to be included.
13pp
- 21 Christmas 1925 Card [accompanying a gift?] from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, 61 Highfield Road, offering Christmas and New Year wishes.
2 items
- 22 10 February 1926 Letter from Máire Nic Suibhne, 4 Belgrave Place, Cork, to [Kathleen O'Connell], mainly concerning delays in receiving correspondence. 'Give my love to Mrs Dev if you see her and tell her I am glad little Terry is better'.
1p

- 23 6 December 1926 Letter from Eamon de Valera, The George Hotel, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, to Kathleen O'Connell, 33 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin. He expects to be back on Friday and asks that all the papers for the meeting of the Senate [of the National University of Ireland] should be ready for him. The meetings in Glasgow had been 'fairly successful'. Asks after Miss [Dorothy] Macardle's health.
Handwritten envelope. 1p
- 24 24 February 1927 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Fianna Fáil notepaper, 33 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell. He is writing at 7.00 am. 'I have been up all night packing and getting things ready [for the trip to the U.S.] ... Tell Seán [T. O Ceallaigh] that he can choose whichever he pleases or make any alterations in the language so long as the sense remains the same [in the Irish language version of the draft Fianna Fáil constitution/scheme of organisation?].
1p
- 25 25 February 1927 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Rob Roy Hotel, Cobh, to Kathleen O'Connell, 33 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin. 'Am writing McDonagh with reference to the St Patrick's Day message – and will try send a couple of lines in Irish to Seán T. [O Ceallaigh].
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 26 25 February 1927 Letter from Francis [Frank Gallagher], Rob Roy Hotel, Cobh, to Kathleen O'Connell. 'The Chief is in great form and is just now doing the 1000 things he should have done ages ago. You know the way. The tender leaves at 11.45 and then he will be completely in my power and God help him'.
1p

- 27 7 March 1927 Letter from Eamon de Valera, The Waldorf
Astoria, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 33
Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.
'Frank [Gallagher] is sending clippings to Dorothy [Macardle] and Seán T. [O
Ceallaigh]. Will you ask Seán T. for those sent him and keep them for our own
files.
The publicity here has been very good. The case [on entitlement to the Dáil
Éireann Loan funds in U.S. banks] is starting tomorrow ... I am being urged to
go on the big tour ... I am inclined to agree if the arrangements can be
satisfactorily made'.
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 28 26 March 1927 Letter from Eamon de Valera, The Waldorf
Astoria, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 33
Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin (1p).
'I have been in court every day for the past fortnight. The case has gone so far
as well as I could expect and my belief is that the F.[ree] S.[tate] will be
adjudged "not entitled" to the money ... I will be starting out on Wednesday
or Thursday next for the big tour. It is important that I go to these places but I
fear that the election will be rushed'.
Attached is a copy typescript letter from Eamon de Valera to the honorary
secretaries of Fianna Fáil (29 March 1927, 2pp) mainly concerning monies
being raised for the election fund but mentioning the Dáil Éireann loan case
and the situation in Irish-American circles in general.
Handwritten envelope 2 items
- 29 postmarked
15 December 1927 Card from [Eamon de Valera], on board the
S.S. Leviathan, Southampton, to Kathleen
O'Connell, 227 North Circular Road, Dublin.
Christmas wishes. 1 item
- 30 postmarked
17 January 1928 Postcard from [Eamon de Valera], Chicago, to
Kathleen O'Connell, 227 North Circular Road,
Dublin. He has just seen Tess at the station on
his way to the west coast. The card is a colour view of Michigan Avenue
North showing the Wrigley Building.
1 item

- 31 29 November 1929 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Dáil Éireann notepaper, to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly concerning arrangements for various party and domestic matters during his absence in the U.S. including arrangements for forwarding memoranda and letters; domestic accounts; Seán [Moynihan]'s request for a copy of the *Preliminary Report of the Census of Population*; and a Christmas campaign for the purchase of Irish-made goods.
4pp
- 32 29 November 1929 Letter from John [Seán Moynihan], on Fianna Fáil notepaper but from Corrigan's Hotel, Cork, en route to New York.
'The Chief is in good form and is busy writing letters at the moment'.
Mainly concerns *Nation* business including advertisers and the payment of bills.
2pp
- 33 8-11 December 1929 Letter from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, begun on board the S.S. Republic two days from New York, resumed just before landing and finished from the Hotel Pennsylvania, his headquarters in New York – 'I miss the Waldorf'.
Consists mainly of routine news.
'I will probably arrange to be in Rochester for Xmas and then to Chicago – but of course must wait till I land to find how things are before definitely deciding ... Have had a busy time with Camera men & Journalists – but they are not giving so much publicity because I am on a business mission'.
Handwritten envelope 3pp
- 34 17 December 1929 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell. Refers to an enclosed memorandum, not present, concerning the logistics of his fund-raising tour.
'Show the memo to Seán T. also. I do not want it generally known how we are going to set about the work – so there is to be no publicity except to say that all the old friends are proving as loyal and devoted as ever and that I am likely to speak in the several sites mentioned in memorandum, where preparations are being made to receive me'.
2pp

- 35 20 December 1929 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 11 Hume Street, Dublin. He encloses Christmas greetings which she is asked to send to named individuals, mainly connected with Fianna Fáil or the *Irish Press*. Handwritten envelope. 1p
- 36 Christmas 1929 Christmas and New Year greetings, in Irish and English, from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell, on Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, notepaper. 1p
- 37 1 January 1930 Card from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 11 Hume Street, Dublin. 'It is just past midnight. The racket outside is terrific – Bells, bugles, bombs, sirens, etc. etc. etc. I want to have my first letters in 1930 addressed to the old friends'. Mentions meeting and speaking to mutual acquaintances. Handwritten envelope 1 card
- 38 4 January 1930 Card from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 11 Hume Street, Dublin. Refers to the terms of a bequest mentioned by her, gives some details of meetings, functions and mutual friends. 'I sent Mrs [Mollie] Childers a wire at Christmas to the Grand Hotel Nacional Lucerne. I hope she received it'. Handwritten envelope 1 card

- 42 postmarked Letter from Eamon de Valera, New
7 April 1930 Washington Hotel, Seattle, to Kathleen
O'Connell, 11 Hume Street, Dublin, redirected
to 13 Upper Mount Street, Dublin.
'Have been out in the wild west now for some days. Am going on to Portland
San Francisco Los Angeles & back by Denver St Louis & Chicago. Will
probably be in New York as soon as this reaches you. It was funny to see the
excitement here when Cosgrave resigned. It was in vain that I told them that
he had a majority and would be re-elected. They wanted me to engage to write
newspaper articles, to talk over the National Broadcasting "link-up" from
coast to coast – which would be sent on the short-wave to Ireland. Not since I
first arrived at the Waldorf was there such a fuss. ... The economic conditions
here are bad I am told – a number of people out of work. They say 3 or 4
millions ... I am glad that Liam's [Pedlar] health is improving. I wish he were
here he would have been invaluable – but the gobadán cannot mind the two
shores'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 43 6 May 1930 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Wardman
Park Hotel, Washington D.C. notepaper, but
from the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 13 Upper
Mount Street, Dublin.
'I will be leaving here in a fortnight. I do not know how we shall be able to get
through one half the things that remain to be done'.
Mentions fellow passengers for the return voyage on the S.S. George
Washington and encloses a postcard he had written (3 May 1930) and intended
to send from Washington, of the Wardman Park, mentioning mutual
acquaintances he had met.
'When I was passing the Washington [Hotel] I thought of "Ossy" and his
monocle and when passing the Occidental it brought Harry [Boland] to mind'.
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 44 24 December 1931 Christmas greetings in Eamon de Valera's
hand, to Kathleen O'Connell, on Fianna Fáil
notepaper.
Handwritten envelope 1p

- 45 16 August 1932 Note from Máire Ní S.[uibhne] to Kathleen O'Connell, making arrangements to see her the following day and enjoining her to secrecy.
1p
- 46 3 June 1933 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Grand Hotel, Naples, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin. 'We have reached farthest point in journey and are now about to start home. Was yesterday at the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum and on the top of Vesuvius'.
Encloses two press cuttings from Italian newspapers reporting his visit accompanied by Charles Bewley.
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 47 12 September 1935 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel de la Paix, Genève, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin.
'How I missed you yesterday. I was preparing my American Broadcast and what a labour it was to write it out. However I got it ready with a few moments to spare. Do write and let me know any comments you hear on the situation generally'.
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 48 23 September 1935 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel de la Paix, Genève, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin.
'Tell Seán [Moynihan?] I got his letter and noted the points. I didn't agree with him about the N. East of course – I could not refer to it more specifically without doing harm instead of good ... The speech got a good press I think. There is very little hope here that a peaceful settlement can be reached but one never knows'.
He refers to the nature of Ireland's commitments under the Covenant of the League of Nations and the importance of Seán [Moynihan?] and the Vice-President [Seán T. O Ceallaigh] understanding precisely the nature of those commitments.
Handwritten envelope 4pp

- 56 20 January 1938 Letter from Máirín de Valera, Lund, Sweden, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin, referring to a report, which she translates, in one of that day's Swedish newspapers. 'Miss Kathleen O'Connell has been now for some days the busiest woman in London, for she is de Valera's private secretary, and she has a full time job while her chief talks with Chamberlain. There are telegrams, telephones & letters all at once day and night'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 57 5 August 1938 Shore to ship radiogram from 'Chief' [Eamon de Valera] to Kathleen O'Connell.
'No anxiety. Reception all arranged McCullagh'.
Handwritten annotation by Kathleen O'Connell.
'Wirelessed me on board [S.S.] Pres[ident] Roosevelt on my way home from Villers sur Mer Normandy where I fractured my leg on a visit'.
Envelope 1 item
- 58 14 September 1938 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel de La Paix, Genève, to Kathleen O'Connell.
Encloses a letter for Fr Power.
'I hope your leg is knitting quickly and that you are keeping otherwise well. I expect you got the letter I sent you. It was a bit of a surprise to find myself elected as President of the Assembly. The work is really easier than to be chairman of a committee – however I need not say how I miss you here at a time when I should like to send confidential letters to the Tánaiste which you alone could type for me ... I hope Chamberlain will succeed'.
2pp
- 59 20 September 1938 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Delegation of Ireland to the Assembly of the League of Nations, to Kathleen O'Connell, written at 9.00 am.
He is anxious about her since she has not replied to his previous letter and he was told in a telephone conversation with the Tánaiste that she was not so well. If he does not hear during the day he will telephone that night.
'A great deal of personal correspondence has come and I miss you very much. I will now have to set to work to prepare them – one for end of assembly and another for radio for America'.
1p

- 60 20 September 1938 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel de la Paix, Genève, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 or 16 Herbert Street, Dublin, written at 11.00 am. He writes after speaking to her on the phone and again explains his previous anxiety at not hearing from her. 'I must run now to the Assembly. I hope you will make sure to see the Surgeon if you are in pain. It would be a mistake not to keep him acquainted with the condition of the leg from day to day. Seán Brennan who had his wrist broken says that for about two days when the bone begins to knit the pain is very very severe – but no pain after that. I hope the worst is now over'. Envelope marked 'By hand. Urgent' and 'Maurice Moynihan. Please forward'. 2pp
- 61 22 September 1938 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel de la Paix, Genève, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin. He writes about her recuperation. 'I haven't begun to draft my radio talk yet – It is going to be a job and these days are very full up – lunches dinners etc. to which unfortunately the Pres of the Assembly is supposed to go. Strange I find it very hard to write – want of practice I suppose. I get writer's cramp after a few lines – or is it old age. *Irish Press* should publish copy of the Partition map side by side with Czechoslovakia. Tell Maurice [Moynihan?]. Handwritten envelope. 2pp
- 62 2 June 1939 Letter from Thomas J. Wheelwright, Redemptorist Mission House, Saratoga Springs, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell [in New York?]. He is sending a package with pens, books and some letters to the hotel. 2pp
- 63 16 August [1939] Letter from Thomas J. Wheelwright, Redemptorist Mission House, Saratoga Springs, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, Government Buildings, Dublin, enquiring what work he would be booked for in the Spring of 1940. 'I think May would be the best month if I am to go over. ... When Ed comes over, have him insist on two days free of engagements each week. I am afraid that the Committee will map out a program for every moment of his stay and the result will be dreadful fatigue and perhaps ruin his efficiency during the coming term'. Handwritten envelope 2pp

- 64 21 July 1943 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Dáil Éireann notepaper, to Kathleen O'Connell, Cathair Dhomhnaill, Chiarraigh. Mainly holiday news. He is going to Donegal. 'I hope it is as fine in Caherdaniel as it is here and that you are able to be out of doors. The more you are in the open the better. There is a heavy time before us so keep in the sun as much as possible – and take it easy'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 65 June 1944 Letter from Margaret Burke Sheridan, on Gresham Hotel notepaper but from 6 Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, to An Taoiseach Eamon de Valera (25 June 1944, 2pp).
'This being a great day for Ireland in more ways than one, I thought the best way to commemorate our dear Kathleen's part in it was to have her immortalised and so I took advantage of my friendship with Sig[nor de] Gennaro to have this picture painted. I hope you will accept it in the spirit of profound devotion & sincere friendship with which I send it to you'.
Typescript copy reply from Eamon de Valera (29 June 1944, 1p) thanking her and telling her he has in turn given the portrait to Kathleen O'Connell who appreciates it very much.
'The picture does not quite show the Kathleen that I know as co-worker and friend for the twenty-five years that it was intended to commemorate but it is a very good one none the less'.
Later typescript annotation that the picture was given to her nephew Capt. Seán O'Connell, County Cork.
[see also P155/257] 2 items
- 66 29 June 1944 Handwritten unsigned note from Eamon de Valera, Department of the Taoiseach, to Kathleen O'Connell.
'For some thirty years now my life has been devoted mainly to public affairs. The twenty five years just passed is a very large portion of that time and in many ways the most eventful portion of it. There have been in these twenty five years many ups and downs, successes and failures. There is no one living who has been so intimately associated with my work during that period as you have been. You saw most of it in its inception and in its working out. A principal collaboration'.
2pp

- 67 21 June 1947 Letter from Eamon de Valera on pre-1937
Department of the President notepaper, but
from his home, to Kathleen O'Connell, Tralee, County Kerry.
He has received her letter and is glad she stood up to the long journey so well.
Mainly news of mutual acquaintances.
'The Americans are beginning to come in their numbers ... I had Monteith, his
wife, McCartan from Detroit, his nephew a young priest, Frank Gallagher &
F[ran]k Aiken to lunch on Thursday. I am thinking of joining the MACHA
(corvette) at Cobh instead of at Kilrush if time will permit and after seeing our
western islands going on to IONA (Columkille) – Scotland on the way from
Tory island to Dublin'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 68 13 July 1947 Card from Eamon de Valera, Hydro Hotel,
Kilkee, County Clare, to Kathleen O'Connell,
Cathair Dhomhnáill, Ciarraigh. The card is delivered by the driver who will
take her back to Dublin.
'Don't attempt to do all your old work in the office. I gave Maurice
[Moynihan] your keys and mine. Go through my desk and have everything
ready for my return'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 69 20 September 1947 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Picadilly Hotel,
London W1, to Kathleen O'Connell.
'Things going satisfactorily so far. Off to Paris at 9.00 am'.
Has torn his trousers and has arranged for a replacement pair to be sent
through Foreign Affairs.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 70 7 March 1948 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Carmody's
Hotel, Ennis, to Kathleen O'Connell.
He is just about to leave for the airport at Rineanna. Urges her to take it easy
before her trip to Lourdes.
'I just met Canon Duggan. He promised to bring me back a spare halo'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp

- 71 11 March 1948 American Airlines postcard from Eamon de Valera to Kathleen O'Connell.
'I am writing this 10,000 ft up over the Tennessee Valley on way to Nashville - Tulsa – San Francisco. Bad weather over Washington sent us on this route. Some awful bumps sent lunch tray to the roof'.
1 item
- 72 12, 13 March 1948 Letter from Eamon de Valera, The Mayo [Hotel], Tulsa, Oklahoma, before leaving for San Francisco, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin.
'Everything going splendidly so far ... I like flying very well. The Atlantic journey and that from Nashville to here as pleasant as possible'.
He forgot to mention that he had met her brother in New York.
'Very many people were asking for you. Have just got a wire from Dr Mannix to be with them on May 2. How I wish I could go'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 73 25 April 1948 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Hotel Mark Hopkins, San Francisco notepaper, but written just before landing in Honolulu, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin.
'In a quarter of an hour or so we shall be in Honolulu having completed the longest single "hop", 2,400 miles, on our journey. We slept more comfortably than in a train and you can see that the writing is steadier than I could write on a train ... I hope you were not disturbed by the accident which caused us to return to Shannon after being an hour or so out to sea. It will get us more prayers'.
They expect to be in Sydney on Tuesday.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 74 27 April 1948 Letter from Eamon de Valera, on Pan American World Airways en route to Australia, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin.
In a few hours they will be at their journey's end at Sydney. He gives a log of their whole journey and stopovers and the four successive sunrises they saw while flying.
'I hope I shall be able to work as well in Australia as in the U.S. I hope I am not presumptuous'.
1p

- 82 11 August 1949 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Ville de Paris, Strasbourg, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin. Refers to being badly beaten in the election for vice-president [of the Council of Europe] 'The only use in going forward was to get name before assembly in preparation for another occasion ... I think I asked you to tell Seán Lemass that I think it would be well to have Miss Pearse at any formal function – such as starting the presses at the production of the first number of the *Sunday Press*. Her mother I think pressed the button for the *Irish Press* itself when starting'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 83 20 August 1949 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Hotel Ville de Paris, Rue des Mesanges, Strasbourg, to Kathleen O'Connell, Rossie Lodge, Inverness, Scotland. 'I corrected an interv[iew] I gave to *European Affairs*. Miss Foley of External Affairs typed it for me. It meant she had to give up her Saturday afternoon. How many Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas days, Eas[ter] days you had to sacrifice. How much I could have saved y[ou] if I could only be methodical and do things in good time. I have made one formal speech here and have acted on the Rules Committee. I am giving that over to [William] Norton and the Economic Committee to Frank [Aiken] as my sub. I will then go myself on to the Cultural Committee. There is no such organisation here as in Geneva. The only staff here are Denis Devlin and Miss Foley who was for some years at Vichy with Seán Murphy and is excellent at French'. He gives details of their travel plans and encourages her to enjoy her holiday. 'Do not get swallowed up by the Lough Ness monster'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 84 22 August 1949 Postcard from Kathleen O'Connell, Gairloch, Scotland, to Eamon de Valera, Hotel Ville de Paris, Strasbourg. Greetings and best wishes from Gairloch. View of the beach.
1 item

- 89 8 August 1950 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Le Nouvel
Hotel, Strasbourg, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8
Herbert Place, Dublin, but redirected to 22 Elgin Road, Dublin.
They are settled in Strasbourg but he intends seeing his eye specialist in
Zürich on a few occasions.
'The work of the Assembly commenced yesterday. Seán MacEntee led off on
his own. I am sure he got wide publicity ...
I have no idea as to how our trip to Langres, Luxeuil, Rome, Palestine was
"written up" or what photos appeared. The whole trip will give me material for
many a day.
I suppose at home you are all getting in form for the local elections. I feel as if
I had been absent for years'.
He enquires about her moving home and her new address on Eglinton Road.
Handwritten envelope 4pp
- 90 15, 17 August 1950 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Le Nouvel
Hotel, Strasbourg, to Kathleen O'Connell, 22
Elgin Road, Dublin. Complains about the inefficiency of the post and the lack
of letters. Asks about her new flat.
'I am looking forward to the ending of this Assembly and returning home
more than I ever did before'.
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 91 21 August 1950 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Le Nouvel
Hotel, Strasbourg, to Kathleen O'Connell, 22
Elgin Road, Dublin. Mainly concerning her new address and his previous
mistake in thinking it was Eglinton Road.
'I have just learned thro' a letter to Frank Aiken from Jack Lynch ... that you
are now definitely fixed in your new flat and that you like it.'
Handwritten envelope 2pp
- 92 23 August 1950 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Le Nouvel
Hotel, rue des Francs-Bourgeois, Strasbourg, to
Kathleen O'Connell, 22 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin.
He is delighted she is settled in her new flat and is pleased with it. He
mentions Dorothy [Macardle] and wonders when she will be coming to Dublin
and when her book [*Children of Europe?*] will be appearing. Her reference to
Bob Barton's wedding was his first news of it.
'I will have a lot to tell you when I see you. Have a good map of Palestine at
hand.'
He encloses another postcard from Nazareth [blank]. 2pp

- 97 30 October 1951 Handwritten transcript of a statement issued by W.[illiam] Warnock [Irish Envoy to Switzerland], concerning the Taoiseach's eye treatment. 'Taoiseach's eyes recovered from Geneva treatment. Eyes must be rested before operation possible'. Statement is written on verso of a Dáil Éireann card, the recto containing a cutting from the *Irish Times* (2 November 1951) reporting the Taoiseach's return home.
- 1 item
- 98 31 October 1951 Transcript [in the hand of Maurice Moynihan, Secretary to the Government] of the text of a telephone message from T.J. O'Driscoll, Assistant Secretary, Department of External Affairs. 'The following message from the Taoiseach has been received from Berne: *The doctor says that he may not operate on the eye at the moment. If the doctor holds to that decision, the Taoiseach may leave for home on Saturday or Sunday next (that is on the 3rd or 4th of November 1951)* Mr [William] Warnock [Irish envoy to Switzerland] has added to the Taoiseach's message a statement that the Taoiseach has written some letters home which may give an impression different from that which he desires to be conveyed by the foregoing message. Mr Warnock has also stated that the doctor's feeling is that the eye should be rested after the recent treatment and that, if an operation is necessary, it should take place later – not on the occasion of the Taoiseach's present visit to Switzerland'.
- 1p
- 99 23 September 1952 Typescript copy letter from Kathleen O'Connell, to 'My dear Chief' [in Utrecht]. She thanks him for his letter but questions whether he is satisfied with his own progress. 'But may be you will get a pleasant surprise when the pin-hole glasses are removed!' Encloses news from home and another letter from Bithrey [not present].
- 1p

- 100 23 September 1952 Typescript copy letter from Kathleen O'Connell to Seamus [Mac Úgo in Utrecht]. She is delighted at the good news received that morning and is looking forward to the Taoiseach's return at the end of the following week. She refers to a meeting between Mr Bithrey and Fr Troy and hopes that all is now well.
1p
- 101 27 September 1952 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Utrecht, to Kathleen O'Connell. Dictated [to Seamus Mac Úgo, his assistant private secretary?]
'I'm afraid I will not be home as soon as I had hoped. I had a third operation yesterday. I didn't tell anybody because I didn't want to make the family or any of you anxious before it was over ... If Frank Gallagher requires information for the newspapers as regards my present situation this is what the Professor suggested might be said: *certain complications made a further operation necessary. That was performed on Friday last. The immediate results are satisfying but it will take some further weeks before the final results can be determined.*
Describes the routine of hospital life and possible plans to visit Lourdes with his son Eamonn and Dr & Mrs Farnan.
'[Seamus] McHugo and Seán [Brennan, his A.D.C.] read for me generally and of course give me any Government information that is sent along. The doctor does not want me to do anything heavy, however, and thinks I should confine myself to listening to light reading'.
2pp
- 102 [September 1952] Handwritten draft letter from Kathleen O'Connell to Eamonn [de Valera in Utrecht with his father].
'Countless Masses, Novenas & Prayers are beseeching Heaven that the beloved patient in Utrecht will return to us much improved & that it will be a permanent cure'.
She passes on news and best wishes from a number of colleagues and reports the level of interest in his father's health.
'I am inundated with enquiries from everyone – including Mins. & Parl. Secs. regarding the Chief's operation. I am answering all letters including a very nice letter from the British Amb[assador, Sir Walter Hankinson] & Lady Hankinson'.
She discusses routine matters such as the wording on the Taoiseach's Christmas cards and offers to come to Utrecht if she can be of any service.
4pp

- 103 2 October 1952 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Utrecht, to Kathleen O'Connell. Dictated [to Seamus Mac Úgo, his assistant private secretary?].
 'When I came here first I thought I might be home for the 5th. As that is not now possible the only way I can give you my good wishes is through this. You know how I wish you every happiness. We have been a third of a century now working together – no short spell. It is too much to hope that the partnership will not be severed before the half-century could come round ... You know that I already had a third operation. It will take some days before definitive results can be determined but the bandages have been removed today and I am given the "pin-hole" spectacles. The result seems better'.
 He describes his routine and visitors he had received.
 'Tell Maurice [Moynihan] we got the material he sent and that I like to keep in touch with what the Government is doing'.
 3pp
- 104 3 October 1952 Typescript copy letter from Kathleen O'Connell to Eamon de Valera. She is giving Viv[ien his son] a verbal message from [Seán MacEntee] the Minister for Finance concerning the success of the Government Loan; and encloses a copy of a letter from a Portadown Orangeman (1 October 1952, 1p) offering best wishes for his complete recovery.
 'I am also sending you a birthday gift in advance – a little book which was recommended by Mr MacEntee as a book which would amuse you, "Many Dimensions" by Williams. He said I should send you out a few thrillers, but I told him from experience you weren't keen on these , that you would think it [a] waste of time to read these, like playing bridge for recreation'.
 1p
- 105 20 November 1952 Typescript copy letter from Dad [Eamon de Valera in Utrecht] to Ebb [his son Eamonn].
 'A week ago I had my last operation and so far everything appears to be going all right. I pray it will continue so, and that we shall have that promised journey to Lourdes together'.
 Letter dictated [to Kathleen O'Connell] 1p

- 106 June 1955 2 letters from Eamon de Valera, Dáil Éireann, to the Rev. J.W. Leahy, St. James's Presbytery, James's Street, Dublin (24, 30 June 1955, 1p each). He encloses a small offering, requesting that Masses be said for the recovery of Kathleen O'Connell who is very seriously ill. The second letter includes news of an improvement in her condition.
2 items
- 107 13 September 1955 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Dáil Éireann, to Kathleen O'Connell, Mount Oliver Guest House, Dundalk. He expects to be in Dundalk on 19 September. She should stay longer if she finds Dundalk agreeing with her.
Typed envelope 2pp
- 108 16 September 1955 Letter from Eamon de Valera, Dáil Éireann, to Kathleen O'Connell, [Dundalk]. His travel plans have changed and he will be travelling direct to Dundalk rather than to Sligo. He asks her to arrange lunch. 2pp
- 109 20 April 1956 Typescript copy letter from [Eamon de Valera], Cross Avenue, Blackrock, County Dublin, to Mrs Terry Coll Coar [his cousin], in response to a letter of sympathy she had sent Marie O'Kelly on the death of Kathleen O'Connell.
'I can truly say that my best friend is gone. My brother Tom was very fond of her, and wanted us to throw up everything and go over there and take time to write our memoirs together. Both of them are gone now. I hope they have met'.
1p

B. Personal and other correspondence, 1915 – 55

- 110 27 January 1915 Letter from Diarmuid [Lynch?] to Kathleen O'Connell, 624 Madison Avenue, New York, mainly concerning the state of Irish-American organisations since he left to return to Ireland, and events at home.
 'The majority of the existing Vol[unteer]s are on the McN[eill] side now. The opposition has dwindled & the whole movement more or less disrupted. Most of those who stood by J.E. R.[edmond] have lost confidence but still they hold on through a mistaken sense of loyalty ... Thousands left the Volunteers in disgust, other thousands because they felt it was but a preliminary to being marked men for an army they don't want to join - & so it goes. All around the coast line farmers have been warned to clear away all stock to inland points & burn hay etc. which they can't carry in the event of a German landing. The farmers are going to do no such thing. The question is does the Govt. really fear a landing or was the move in the interest of recruiting?'
 12pp
- 111 31 May 1916 Letter from Pádraig [Ó Shea, a neighbour from Caherdaniel], County Kerry, to Kathleen O'Connell in the U.S. He has arranged to have forwarded newspapers covering the period of the Rising, newspaper reports being the only source of information available at present due to the censorship regime in operation. The letter is concerned wholly with the aftermath of the Rising, the executions and their legacy.
 'I think you met a good many of the men who were mixed up in the business the time you were up in Dundalk at the Oireachtas ... Kerry kept very quiet during the business. The Volunteers in this county looked upon McNeill as their chief and they acted on his order ... The *Kilkenny Journal* in a burst of indignation informed the world that Mr Redmond's Volunteers in that town paraded the streets, headed by a piper's band to celebrate the shooting of the first batch of rebels, who were shot by order of court marshal (*sic*). What a satisfaction it must be to Mr Redmond today to realise that the sentiments of loyalty which he implanted so carefully in the breasts of his followers, has borne such good fruit ... Curiously enough there appears to have been a large number of Irish girls involved in the Rebellion. They fought with the men, many of them sniping away with rifles, and doing serious damage by all accounts'.
- 8pp

- 115 July-September 1920 Two letters from Harry Boland, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell, 1045 Munsey Building, Washington D.C.
The first letter, from the Waldorf-Astoria (16 July 1920, 2pp & envelope), lets her know that he is forwarding a bundle of correspondence which she should acknowledge.
The second letter, from the American Commission on Irish Independence, 411 Fifth Avenue (9 September 1920, 1p), makes arrangements for the closure of his bank account in Washington. 'If you would also send me on my white hat, I would be much obliged to you'.
2 items
- 116 [1920] Undated letter from Liam Mellowes, c/o American Commission etc. (*sic*) [on Irish Independence] 411 Fifth Avenue, New York City, to Kathleen O'Connell, [Washington].
He makes some arrangements about books and photographs, mentions that he will be in Cleveland, and explains who Michael Rohan is.
2pp
- 117 8 May, 18 December 1921 Two handwritten letters from Jerry [Jeremiah O'Sullivan, her grand uncle], 1992 Webster Avenue, Bronx, New York City, to Kathleen O'Connell mainly containing personal news. He had tried in vain to see her on the previous New Year's Day as she was leaving New York, even attempting to bribe a police sergeant to be allowed board her vessel. (8 May 1921, 4pp).
'I little thought Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith would let themselves to such a patched up agreement. However I suppose they must accept the inevitable with the best grace they possibly can'. (18 December 1921, 2pp).
2 items
- 118 19 July 1922 Letter from Kathleen O'Connell, Field General Headquarters, Irish Republican Army, to her sister Annie, reassuring her that she is well.
'I wish that I had my camera – but of course there is no chance that you will be able to send it to me. I miss every opportunity it seems – in London – in Dublin – in Paris & now more than ever'.
1p

- 119 15 July 1923 Letter from C.[aitlín] Bean Cathal [Brugha] to Kathleen O'Connell mainly concerning difficulties in effecting delivery of a message to Mrs S. Thanks her for her message of remembrance [on the first anniversary of the death of Cathal Brugha].

1p
- 120 4 August 1925 Letter from Seán T. [O Ceallaigh], Hotel Breevort, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell. Acknowledges receipt of a note and letter. Expects to see her soon. 'Cáit is not as much improved in health as I'd wish her to be'.

1p
- 121 [c.1925] Postcard from Cáit Bean Seán T.[O Ceallaigh], sent from Toulon, but with a view of Monte Carlo, to Kathleen O'Connell, Suffolk Street, Dublin. 'My time is getting short in France. I believe it has done me great good. I saw a number of beautiful places along the coast & shall have my regrets to leave the blue, blue skies & seas even for the wonders of another Continent'.

1 item
- 122 March 1930-
December 1955 Six letters and notes from Mary Alden Childers, 12 Bushy Park Road, Terenure, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly of a well-wishing and affectionate nature. 'My dear love to you & my affectionate thoughts of you flow on with no lessening even though long periods pass with no word. My many years – I am now 80 – make writing more difficult but my inner mind remains filled with wonderful memories which I cherish & love to tell over to myself' (17 December 1955, 2pp).

6 items
- 123 7 June 1932 Card from Máire Ní Suibhne, Cork, to Kathleen O'Connell, offering sincere sympathy on the death of her father.

1 item & envelope

- 124 9 October 1936 Copy typescript letter from Kathleen O'Connell to Sister M. Lizette B.V.M., St Bridget's College, Archer Avenue, Chicago, thanking her for the watch which the pupils of her old school had presented to her through Fr Michael O'Sullivan; together with a page of signatures of the pupils who had subscribed to the gift.
2pp
- 125 14 October 1936 Letter from Phyllis O Ceallaigh, 38 Anglesea Road, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin, thanking her for her present on the occasion of her recent marriage [to Seán T. O Ceallaigh].
'We got married so quietly and silently that we should have been treated with the same silence by our friends and it was truly what we deserved'.
Handwritten envelope 1p
- 126 21 July 1937 Letter from Máirín [de Valera], Kristinaborg, Fiskeböcksil, to Kathleen O'Connell, thanking her for her prompt telegram on the result of the general election. Mainly personal news.
'Did you like the Scandinavian food? I do but it does seem a bit silly to fry their porridge and boil their sausages doesn't it?'
1p
- 127 1937-51 Six letters and a postcard from Dorothy MacArdle, at various addresses in Ireland, England, Austria and France, to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly of a personal and affectionate nature but commenting on current affairs and referring frequently to Eamon de Valera.
Includes: postcard from the Austrian Tyrol [1937?] to Kathleen O'Connell, 15 Herbert Street, Dublin.
'Shall feel greatly obliged if Dr Magennis will read the American chapter [of *The Irish Republic*] but I hope he'll find nothing wrong. Only real errors can be corrected now & all at my own expense!'
Letter from Little Bessel's Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, where she is recuperating (24 October [1938?]), referring to life in London. 'It was a horrible time – gas masks, newspaper scares, incessant wondering as to what was likely to happen & of course rage & misery over the treatment of the Czechs. England can never pose as the champion of little nations again!'

- 127 contd. Letter from Stratford-on-Avon (25 November 1938, 2pp) where she continues to recuperate. She recommends strongly to Kathleen for her fractured leg, a treatment she has received on her own wrist, of 'ionisation and application of infra-red rays'.
 'Have you got M^{me} MacBride's book? [*A Servant of the Queen*] If not, I'll send it to you for Christmas. I find it charming, & inconsequent & unscrupulous in spots, like herself. ... I am longing, of course, to find really interesting & active work, but it isn't easy. The world is too stormy to write plays in'.
 Letter from Bedford Gardens, Kensington, London (15 June 1944, 2pp, incomplete).
 'I have just seen the "March of Time" film on Cine & am absolutely delighted about it, & want to hug Bob [Barton] who surely had a hand in it! There is too much of the "nation of priests & peasants", but the political stuff is just what I have longed to see put out. Probably it won't be seen in Eire'.
 7 items
- 128 February 1938 Three letters from Eamonn de Valera, British Postgraduate Medical School, University of London, to Kathleen O'Connell, mainly of a routine nature, but including some personal news.
 'Tho' I have quite a busy time I am not overworking. I manage to play games, see an occasional opera, and generally enjoy myself. The working conditions here are excellent and I have very fine quarters at the hospital'. (5 February 1938, 1p).
 3 items
- 129 19 July 1938 Letter from Mary T. McWhorter, Mission Helpers of St Columban, South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, to Kathleen O'Connell, Department of the President, sympathising with her on the death of her mother and enclosing news of Irish-American social events in the city.
 Envelope 1p
- 130 22 December 1938 Christmas greetings from Archbishop Paschal Robinson, Apolostic Nuncio, to Kathleen O'Connell, Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Dublin.
 'May 1939 bring many new blessings upon yourself and your work'.
 Handwritten envelope 1p

- 131 16 May 1939 Letter from Seán T. [O Ceallaigh], Waldorf-Astoria, New York, to Kathleen O'Connell making arrangements to rendezvous [They are in New York for the World's Fair].
We are to meet Pres.[ident] R.[oosevelt] tomorrow & I'm sure you would like to meet him too'.
2pp
- 132 [1939?] Postcard from Máirín [de Valera], Universitetet, Lund, to Kathleen O'Connell, Hotel de la Paix, Genève.
1 item
- 133 1944-48 Four letters from Annie M.P. Smithson, 12 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell. The first undated letter (1p) thanks her for 'the trouble you have taken over my case'. The other letters (5 April 1944, 1p; 5 June 1944, 1p; 26 December 1944, 1p) refer to her autobiography before and after publication [*Myself and others*, 1944], and the fact that Kathleen O'Connell is mentioned in it; and mention mutual friends and topical events such as the result of the 1944 general election. Included are two letters from Elizabeth Moore, 12 Richmond Hill, Rathmines, to Kathleen O'Connell (19 January, 10 February 1948, 1p each) referring to the deterioration in Miss Smithson's health.
5 items
- 134 [July 1946] Card from Thomas J. Wheelwright, St Alphonsus Retreat House, Redemptorist Fathers, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. He is glad she received the watch. Personal news.
1 item

- 135 [1946?] Letter from Thomas J. Wheelwright, St
Alphonsus Retreat House, Redemptorist Fathers,
Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. Acknowledges receipt of a book. Mainly personal
news.
'I am rushed to death trying to organise various Retreat Groups. Here in
U.S.A. a great many Cath. Men are apathetic towards any Relig. Work outside
of Mass'.
2pp
- 136 3 November 1950 Letter from Eithne [de Valera, wife of
Ruaidhrí], Blackhorse Avenue, North Circular
Road, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell, thanking her for a 'beautiful present' of
cut-glass bowl and cruets.
1p
- 137 7 January 1955 Typescript copy of a letter from Liam [her
nephew], Tel Aviv, Israel, to [Kathleen
O'Connell]. He describes his journeys in Jordan; his impressions of Jerusalem,
Christmas spent in Bethlehem, visits to Nazareth and Galilee, and his travel
plans.
2pp

C. Diaries and Journals

a. Individual diaries and journals, 1921 - 53

- 138 1921 Desk diary mainly containing entries from June. Attached is a full typescript transcript (8pp) and a further page containing a transcript of entries from a different diary [not present] for the period 6-13 July 1921.
- 5 May President met Craig. Latter very frightened. P. amused.
- 22 June Arrested at Glenvar. President taken to Glenvar. K.O'C. to the Bridewell.
- 28 June Released. Didn't know what to make of it. Was bewildered and unhappy. ... Went to Glenvar. Pres. came an hour after. Awfully queer to see him "free". He went home.
- 10 July Cathal Brugha & Barton called out to Glenvar to see President. Barton came with wire from L.G. President replied that he would arrive in London on Thursday for conference.
- 11 July Truce signed at 12 noon. Very busy all day at M.[ansion] H.[ouse]. M.C. called out this evening and spent several hours with the President. Hot discussion. President rather upset. Great excitement getting ready for London. Up until all hours.
- 27 October Dispatch threatening return of delegation received today. Sinn Féin Ard Fheis. P. went to Gresham with Cosgrave to K. O'H. [Kevin O'Higgins] wedding.
- 6½x4x½inches
- 139 1922 Pocket diary containing occasional entries mainly clustered around the period after the attack on the Four Courts when she records her travels on the run outside Dublin.
- 7 January Treaty ratified, Ghastly moment. Shall never forget it. Went to Farnan's.
- 8 January Cumann na Poblachta formed. Cathal Brugha, Mary MacS. Liam Mellows, Childers, G. McGann. Tea at 53 Kenilworth Square where we were staying – Dr J. Peterson's.
- 29 June Four Courts being shelled. Pres. 'joins up' at 41 York St. HQ 3rd Battalion. O'Connell Street occupied.
- 4 July Tried to get into Cathal [Brugha in the Hammam Hotel] with dispatch from O/C Dublin Bgde. Failed. No sentry on door. Companion was seriously wounded.

- 139 contd. 28 July Ordered to leave Carrick this morning. P. arrived while I was at Murphy's & waited for me. Was annoyed. Said I was holding up whole Army. Arrived at Clonmel around 1.30.
- 3 August Went to Fermoy tonight. Arrived about 1 am. K. Barry told me of Harry's [Boland] death. An awful shock. I wept. Poor old Harry. God rest his generous soul. I dread telling P. about it.
- 4 August Kathy told him of H's death. He felt it terribly – crushed & broken. He lost his most faithful friend. We travelled in silence all the way to Clonmel.
- 10 August Chief went to visit 2nd Southern. Heard 400 of the enemy (F.S.) were in Clonmel. He returned about 7pm . Came to Mess Room where K.B., L. Lynch & I were having tea. He was awfully tired & depressed. Barracks cleared in preparation for burning at moments notice. 4x2½x1½inches
-
- 140 1922 Desk diary with regular entries for the first half of the year. Entries irregular thereafter. Includes reference to the Treaty debates and attendance at the Irish Race Congress in Paris, January 1922.
- 29 January Miss MacSwiney, Father Shanley and mise went to mass to Notre Dame. I later went to the Madeleine. Met Michael Hayes on the way there. Our party including President and Duke were invited by Count O'Byrne and family to luncheon at Volney's. Later we all went to the Unknown Warrior's grave. President placed wreath on his grave. P. and members of the party visited Myles O'Byrne's grave.
- 15 April Easter Saturday. Came to office at 11 am. W.B. Yeats called to see Chief but could make no appointment for him.
- 28 June At 4am this morning was awakened by the sound of heavy guns – rifle and machine gun fire. At first didn't know what it was and then came to the conclusion that the Four Courts was attacked The President arrived in from Greystones about 11.20. An impromptu conference was called at which Cathal Brugha, Seán T., Charlie Murphy, Eamonn Donnelly, Joe MacD. & others attended. As soon as President arrived he told me he was going into action immediately. He asked me to see that documents & other important papers were put in a safe place.
- 29 June Early in the morning accompanied by Joe Begley the Chief called at Barry's Hotel and interviewed O/C D.B. About 12 he left for York St. & enlisted in the ranks as a private. He remained there about an hour or so and took up position with O/C III at Batallion H.Q., 8 Mercer St.

- 140 contd. 7 July Poor Cathal died at 7.45 this morning. Our Minister for Defence! Strange irony of fate. The first life given in defence of the Republic.
- 4 November Ernie O'Malley arrested after strenuous resistance at Humphrey's, Ailesbury Rd. Ernie wounded but taken prisoner.
- 8 December Another Stop Press!! Who is it now we wonder – we hold our breaths. Can't get paper for a while. Must wait until someone comes in and brings us the news. Courier arrives. We can hardly wait until she tells us – the news is told very simply. We are stunned – Rory & Liam, Joe McKelvey & Dick Barrett were taken out this morning and executed.

6x3½x¾inches

- 141 March-August 1923 Loose pages from a journal maintained sporadically by Kathleen O'Connell during the period. The first pages (March 1923, 5pp) are almost entirely in shorthand, with the exception of some place names, and are headed 'Dev's Diary' and 'transcribed into big diary'. The pages for June and July record brief details of callers and meetings with some shorthand transcribed into conventional text at a later stage. The entries for April, May and August are more narrative and extensive and concerned mainly with the progress of the war and the general election in Clare.
- 6 April Preparing for meeting with Mgr. Luzio [papal visitor]. He arrives about 8.30 pm. Evening papers announce Derrigs captured (sic) & that he was seriously wounded. Mrs – called there. Don't know if the other boys were captured – M.T. etc [Moss Twomey].
- 10 April Papers report that C/S captured & wounded seriously. President very upset at the news
- 14 April A. de S. reported captured alone & unarmed – another blow. Sent down with wreath to place on grave of late C/S. Note received from D/CS dated Apr. 11, H.Q. 2nd Southern. Great relief – all safe so far. Didn't know C/S was dead at time he wrote. Gives a short description of wounding of C/S and their own miraculous escape – 5 others, the A/CS, OC 2nd, O/C Waterford Bde, O/C 3rd Tipp & D/CS.
- 15 April C/S buried. Papers give acc[oun]t of Stack's capture & document found on him – in his own handwriting – perhaps.
- 26 April P. left for B - . Prepared peace proclamation – 6 principles - before he left & took it with him. Anxious about his safety. He stayed the night.
- 2 May Two more executions took place at Ennis. P. was optimistic about situation in general for peace until he heard of executions. He was very upset.

- 141 contd. 4 May G went to D for form which Jameson got from the F.S. & forgot to bring with him. P. couldn't possibly agree to it. Wrote memorandum to all Ministers & C/S showing line P. intended going on. Asked for their views.
- 6 May P. worked on Proposed Terms of Settlement (draft) all day.
- 8 May Revised draft sent to D & J before 11. P. confident they would be accepted. G. to meet D. & perhaps J. at a certain house at 9.30 this evening. They would probably come to see P. P. expecting them. G. returns saying proposals were presented to Cosgrave & Co & that they turned them down. She brings copy of Cosgrave's reply to J. & also a letter from Jameson. P. very disappointed. How earnestly & anxiously he worked for peace only God alone knows. As he said himself, the voice of the gladiator rings through Cosgrave's reply.
- 28 May Evening papers publish captured document, P.'s address to Army & C/S's order to dump arms. S. Moylan is brought to see P. Talked well into the night or morning rather.
- 15 August Beautiful day. Up early. Went to Mass at Lahinch. Heard about 4 Masses. ... Go to meeting. Magnificent demonstration. People cheer madly and frantically when the P. appears. ... He looks wan & tired but supremely happy & pleased. He speaks for a few minutes & then!!! Oh God. I will never forget it!!! (To be filled in when I feel calmer & can think clearer). 38pp
- 142 1924 Small pocket diary containing very brief entries, some in shorthand, mainly recording appointments and meetings. Some names and addresses at back.
- 26 October P. addressed mtg. At Sligo. Proceeded to Derry and was arrested. Taken to Belfast Jail. 3½x2½x¼inches
- 143 1924 Small pocket diary containing brief occasional entries beginning with a holiday in Kerry in January. Mainly meetings and appointments.
- 15 January Wire from Lily. Recalled to Dublin. Terrible time getting away.
- 8 February Secured digs at 15 Fitz[william] Square. Mrs Comerford called.
- 13 April Anniv[ersary] celebration for Liam Lynch at Fermoy. 20,000 present. Seán T. gives oration. 3½x2½x½inches

- 144 1924 Italian appointments diary, originally printed for 1922 but changed to 1924 by hand.. Very occasional brief entries.
- 1 September S.F. Standing Comm. Dorothy McArdle 3 pm. President's letter to Smuts July 31 published for first time.
5x3x¼inches
- 145 1925 Large pocket diary containing regular entries for appointments and meetings. Overseas contact details and petty cash expenditure record at back.
- 12 May Wrote letter to Pope.
31 October Archbishop Mannix leaves Ireland. P. goes to Howth to spend weekend.
6x4x½inches
- 146 1926 Small desk diary containing regular terse entries for meetings, interviews and appointments.
- 16 May La Scala meeting – Chief states his policy. Wonderful meeting – overflow enthusiastic & attentive.
8x5x½inches
- 147 1927 Pocket diary with occasional entries for meetings and appointments. Entries for April-May record stops on an American tour. Entries for the later part of the year are very sparse.
- 9 May Arrived in Cobh early this morning. Seán T., Mrs Pearse & Madam travelled from Dublin ...
10 May Good report in "Independent" & "Times" of Chief's m[ee]t[in]g in Cork. Said over 10,000 present. Great preparations for his reception in Dublin this evening.
5½x4x½inches

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 148 | 1931 | Small pocket diary containing occasional entries mainly of a personal and social nature including a holiday in Bruges and attendance at French classes. |
| | 19 July | 10 ^o c Mass at Notre Dame. To Ostend with Polytechnic Party. Went to races. |
| | | 4x2½x¼inches |
| | | |
| 149 | 18 September-
6 October 1932 | Handwritten loose leaf journal by Kathleen O'Connell of the trip to Geneva for the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the League of Nations which Mr de Valera addressed as Acting President. Includes outline details of the outward and return journeys with meetings in London and Paris; and a record of working and social meetings while in Geneva. |
| | | 19pp |
| | | |
| 150 | 1933 | Small French pocket diary containing entries mainly for the months January-March. |
| | 2 January | 11 ^{am} Chief arrived in office. Tells me he is going to dissolve Dáil & have a general election. Summons Ministers & discusses situation with them. They are in agreement. Gives statement to press about 1.30 ^{am} . General election proclamation appears in all papers. Everyone taken by surprise. |
| | 11 February | Working all afternoon on P.'s broadcast speech to U.S.A. tomorrow. |
| | | 4x3x¼inches |
| | | |
| 151 | 10-29 September 1934 | 2 League of Nations diaries (32pp each) for the period of the XV th Assembly. Both record details of meetings and social events with approximate and at times exact duplication. Attached is a handwritten journal (5pp) by Kathleen O'Connell, on Le Grand Hotel Paris notepaper, for the journey to Geneva, 6-9 September. |
| | | 3 items |

- 152 8 October [1935] Fragment of a journal entry in Kathleen O'Connell's hand, written on a scrap of newspaper, concerning the Irish delegation's departure from London en route to Geneva for a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations. Attached is a later handwritten transcript [by Fr Ignatius OFM, Librarian, FLK, 19 January 1997]
- 1 item
- 153 7-13 October 1935 Loose leaf handwritten journal by Kathleen O'Connell of the journey of the Irish delegation to Geneva for the Assembly of the League of Nations and meetings and proceedings there.
- 7pp
- 154 28 June-1 July [1936] Loose leaf handwritten journal by Kathleen O'Connell of the journey of the Irish delegation to Geneva to attend a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations. Concerned mainly with their stopovers in London and Paris and the first day of the Assembly.
- 4pp
- 155 1936 2 pocket diaries for portions of the year [May-June, August-September] mainly containing brief entries for official business and meetings.
- 12pp
- 156 June-October 1950 Pages torn from a desk diary containing occasional entries in Kathleen O'Connell's hand. Entries are a mixture of official and personal business, such as her search for a flat.
- 1 September Chief got back to Leinster H[ouse] from Irish Press Board meeting. Lord Pakenham came as arranged. Stayed until 7.45. Chief came home with me to see new flat at 22 Elgin Road. He was delighted with it. Looked all over it & made suggestions. We had tea & he told me all about his trip to Holy Land. It was most thrilling.
- 20pp

- 157 12 October 1952- Journal of Kathleen O'Connell's stay in
 4 January 1953 Utrecht during Eamon de Valera's treatment
 there. The handwritten journal begins on 22
 October with her return to Utrecht; but attached there are 2pp of a typescript
 account of her initial trip, 12-21 October, including the journey to Utrecht, Mr
 de Valera's birthday party on 14 October, and her return to Dublin in the
 expectation that he and the rest of the party would be returning the next day.
 The main journal is written in a pocket notebook and is maintained on an
 almost daily basis, describing the routine of life revolving around the hospital
 and news of the Taoiseach's eyesight
- 21 November After bkfst John [Moynihan] & I went looking for bedroom
 slippers for Chief. We got two left shoes on appro when the
 attendant guessed who they were for. John got books. Father
 van den Berg was there when we arrived at Hosp. He paid a
 long visit today.
- 6x4x1/2inches

b. Series of pocket diaries, 1933 - 46

Series of 21 pocket diaries kept by Kathleen
 O'Connell, usually on an irregular basis,
 recording outline details of her own social and personal activities such as
 outings and holidays, bridge meetings, language classes, family and friends
 and cultural visits; and the President's meetings and commitments. Diaries are
 almost all Stationery Office/Oifig an tSoláthair issue. In occasional years two
 or more separate diaries are maintained, usually with no absolute demarcation.
 Where any pattern is discerned it is mentioned in description. Some diary
 entries are in pencil and overwritten in ink at a later date. Extracts given are
 intended to be broadly representative rather than individually significant.

Size of the standard diary is 5 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/2 inches

- 158 1933 Pocket diary with c.25 very occasional entries.
 Entries mainly social and personal.
- 10 June Chief returned by mail boat from Rome. Red carpet & salute
 of 19 guns saluted him. He was not so very pleased about it.

- 159 1933 Very few entries mainly recording her annual leave.
- 160 1934 Few entries, almost all clustered in the period February-March.
17 March P. broadcast at 6 to 6.15. Listened in at office.
- 161 1935 Occasional entries relating mainly to the President's schedule.
25 October 10. President saw Seán MacEntee & Joe Connolly & Frank Aiken re Northern Elections. Executive Council meeting at 11. At 4.15 he saw Cahir Healy M.P. and Mr Steward M.P. who came from the 6 counties to see him re elections. Mr Connolly and Mr MacEntee were with him when he interviewed them.
- 162 1935 Frequent entries for social and personal events.
- 163 1936 Occasional entries for social and personal events.
- 164 1937 Regular entries mainly for personal activities.
1 March Donal phoned. At 6 pm he called for me to Govt. Bldgs. I introduced him to P. Latter wished to meet him. Then we went to Stephen's Green Cinema to tea & pictures. Met Frank Dowling. Had supper at Regal & walked home about 12.
9 March Donal & Fr. D. called & brought me to Eric Gill's lecture at the School of Art.

- 165 1937 Occasional entries for official business.
- 166 1938 Occasional entries for official business in the first half of the year.
- 167 1938 Occasional entries, mainly personal, for the second half of the year.
- 168 1939 Regular entries, mainly official business, for the period January-April only.
- 25 February Did not go to Mass. Walked into office early. Mtg Govt at 11.30 to discuss Offences Against State Bill.
- 12 March Coronation of Pope Pius XII. Chief attended ceremonies in St. Peter's.
- 11 April At 4 Chief saw Lord Elveden re Lord Iveagh's offer thro' Lord Granard.
- 169 1939 Not Stationery Office issue. Very few entries, mainly of an American itinerary, May-June.
- 24 December Chief called for me at 10.45. Had Mass & worked in office all day until 7.15. He was distressed over raid on Magazine Fort.
- 170 1940 Very few entries, mainly of personal activities.
- 3 August Motored to Ballybunion with Mrs Moynihan & Maurice.
- 18 December At 12^oc phoned nursing home to enquire for Chief. He was out of the theatre & in bed. Went up to see him about 4^oc. Frank Gallagher also there.

- 171 1940 Entries, mainly for personal and social activities, are much more frequent in the early part of the year.
- 25 April At 6 Marion called to the office & came home with me to tea. Maudie Aiken came about 8 & we went to Mrs Foley's to play bridge.
- 14 May Chief in office early. Upset by news of surrender of Holland. Institute of Studies Bill in Senate. Went to tea at Hibernian with Marian & pictures afterwards.
- 30 September Chief went with Derrig & other Ministers to Wicklow to inspect forestry nurseries. Mairin went with him. About 4 I left office. Met Rosaleen Young. Went to see Paul Muni in 'We are not Alone'. Fine picture.
- 172 1941 Entries, mainly for personal and social activities, are much more frequent in the early part of the year.
- 20 January Dreadful blizzard – snow today. Chief called for me. Mrs de Valera also in car. Did not go home to lunch. Mtg of Cab. Emery. Comm. at 10. Sir John Maffey called at 12 & stayed for an hour.
- 10 February Went to see 'The Summit' (1st night) by Geo. Shiels with Mary Kehoe. We enjoyed the Abbey but it wasn't a pleasant play. Crowded.
- 11 October Miss Margaret Burke Sheridan to come tonight to play her records. Had many friends invited.
- 173 1941 Entries, mainly for personal and social activities, are much more frequent in the second half of the year.
- 6 September Eoin O'Keeffe phoned me to say that there was a ladies' bicycle, a new Hudson in Stillorgan. He said to come out and look at it. Went with Mr Myler to O'Keeffe's & we all went down to look at it. I purchased it [for] £7.2.6. and Mrs O'Keeffe rode to Mt. Merrion on it.
- 30 September At a quarter to nine Mr Walshe called for me to bring me to Micheline Kerney's wedding. Great crowd at it & at the reception later in "86". I left about 11 and went to Iveagh House. Dr Young came over. I intro. her to Mr Walshe & showed her over the place. Went to Adelaide with her & then to Browne Thos. for coffee with Mrs Agnew. Went to Michael's for lunch. He drove me to see Gerard then to Savoy for supper

- 173 contd. & to Mary O'Sullivan's later. Got home before ten. Met Mrs Burke Sheridan at the wedding.
- 13 October Arrived in office about 9.30. Chief had the usual departmental appts & saw the M/Justice & Atty Gen. The latter is to be married on Wednesday. Gerry called & we all left for lunch.
- 174 1943 Reasonably regular entries throughout the year, mainly personal activities.
- 9 January Chief went off with Seán T. to Maynooth to Dr Coffey's funeral. It was a dreadful day. Joan Murphy called to me in the afternoon & stayed until 6. We had tea & she darned some stockings.
- 11 March Went to Gresham to dinner with Mrs Dowdall. Marion & Mena also came. We had a delicious dinner – Chicken Alexandria etc. Met Stephen & Mrs O'Mara. After dinner we all retired to a private sitting room & played bridge. Took a taxi home about 12. Mena treated us to her winnings.
- 27 June Kathleen Egan & I went to Frank Gallaghers to lunch. Had a most delightful day. Roland Gallagher was there.
- 5 September Went to 9^oc Mass. Met Dr Young about 11^oc and we cycled as far as Morehampton Road & turned back as it was raining. We intended cycling to Bray but took the train instead.
- 175 1944 Reasonably regular entries throughout the year, mainly personal activities.
- 1 January At midnight Tom & Annie Seán & Viv & the Chief telephoned to wish me a happy new year. Mrs Aiken called to see Taoiseach at 10. Then he went to Iveagh House to give 1st sitting to Albert Power sculptor at 11. Later he saw the American Minister David Gray (*sic*).
- 10 January Mairin came in with Chief & then went with him to 10^oc Mass. He asked that I show her the jewels. Had them ready when they got back. At 12^oc he went to Iveagh House for a 3rd sit for Albert Power's bust.
- 22 February Sir John Maffey called at 4³⁰ & left a note from the Dominions Office. Chief disturbed.

- 176 1945 Reasonably regular entries throughout the year, mainly personal activities. Very extensive entries during her hospitalisation in January.
- 7 January Very busy getting ready for hospital. Chief phoned me at 12 to say he would bring me in as he was going to Dr Farnan's [in] Howth for dinner.
- 14 April I brought Miss Smithson & Mrs Cullen (Peggy Doyle) to see 'The Keys of the Kingdom' & to the Gresham afterwards for tea.
- 2 May Papers are full of Hitler's death. Chief went to Mass at Arbour Hill at 10^oc, Didn't get back until almost 1. Budget Day. He was in the House most of the afternoon. He saw Deputy McCann for a long interview after tea in Dáil. At 6 Chief called on German Minister accomp. by Joe Walsh to offer condolence. He phoned me before to listen to news. Heard that Germany and Italy surrendered unconditionally & that Laval flew to Spain.
- 17 May Heard BBC news at 7 a.m. It quoted a few seconds of Chief's broadcast. All the Irish papers carried it in full & there were editorial comments. Everyone was full of praise of it.
- 12 June Went to the Yeats Exhibition in the College of Art. Chief went there also. Huge crowd.
- 177 1946 Entries extremely sparse, recording personal activities.
- 178 1946 Regular and extensive entries, recording both personal activities and the Taoiseach's official business and engagements.
- 3 March Went to Olympia to see Colaiste Mhuire students perform The Bohemian Girl in Irish.
- 11 July After questions in the Dáil Chief rose & made the statement that he would have made last night if he had been allowed. He read Dr. Ward's letter of resignation. There was a full dress debate.
- 23 July Telegrams pouring in & phone calls all the day kept me frightfully busy. I can't realise that Fr. Wheelwright is no more. He was so vigorous & you would take a lease of his life for another 20 years.
- 12 September At Rosstown. It is raining. Went to 9 Mass in the little chapel. It is lovely, made from two American huts.

- 178 contd. 28 November Chief came over from Dáil to speak on private phone to President. He stayed on until 7 & went over reply to Diarmuid Lynch with me. I was very weary.
- 29 November Chief busy this morning making a new "start" writing notes for a historical record that he hopes to write one day.

c. Series of desk diaries, 1947 - 55

Series of 8 octavo desk diaries maintained by Kathleen O'Connell containing a record of Mr de Valera's meetings and other commitments, both as Taoiseach and as leader of the Opposition, often with narrative commentary, as well as a journal of her personal and social activities. The diaries are not maintained on any consistent basis and an attempt has been made to give an indication in each instance of the nature, regularity and extent of entries. Where 2 diaries have been maintained for a single year, one of them is a simple appointments diary

- 179 1947 Regular entries, rather more extensive in the very early part of the year and concerned mainly with the Taoiseach's diary.. Entries are sparse for March-April during her hospitalisation and recuperation and during May-June are mainly personal.
- 8 January Very stormy & wet morning.. I phoned Mrs Bob Brennan to ask her to come in to see Taoiseach as we heard she was leaving for America at 1 today. Chief saw her. Mentioned possibility of Bob coming home re Radio Eireann. She came at 11. He saw Frank Gallagher at 11^{.30} & Fred Boland at 12 until he went for lunch. T. went to Leinster House to attend Anti-Partition Comm. meeting. Returned about 4^{.30}.
- 17 January I went to 8 Mass. Chief was very busy preparing for Govt. mtg. Many big questions to be discussed. Wages etc. Also British Nationality Bill. He is troubled & is giving a good deal of thought to these important matters. After lunch he saw the Swiss Chargé d'Affair (*sic*) Mr de Bourg who has just returned from Switz. He also for a moment saw a young univ student from Notre Dame who is writing a thesis about our neutrality. About 4^{.50} he saw Mr Dulanty for a few minutes. Then he had to go to Govt. mtg. at 5. He came to his room at 7 & had a discussion with Atty., F. Boland & M. Moynihan. Came to me at 8^{.15} for a cup of tea. We returned to office at 9 & I read documents to him until 10^{.30}. He was dead weary.

- 179 contd. 31 July Chief was disturbed at Russian representative statement in Security Council re our attitude during the war. He sat down at once & drafted reply. Busy all day on it.
- 12 September Chief went to hear Bellazza conducting at the Royal. Mairin de Valera came to tea about 6^{.30}. We walked in to the Royal but were picked up by Carroll O'Daly & Mrs Ryan in Nassau St. Enjoyed Capt. Boycott but not the Burlesque after. Got a lift home from the O'Dalys & Mairin from Mrs & Dr Ryan.
- 180 1948 Entries more regular and extensive in the early part of the year, mainly in connection with the general election campaign.
- 17 February Mtg Govt – probably the last (It was). Chief went home to tea. Took suitcase & lots of parcels. Maurice & I went to Dáil & had tea. Felt sad. Returned to office. Busy until 1^{am} clearing out files. The Chief came back at 8 & helped me. Rumours & counter rumours. Got phone call about 10 saying Nat. Labour would definitely vote against F.F. tomorrow.
- 27 February At 12 Chief saw Seamus MacDermott of Gaelic American. Long talk. He also saw Seán Lemass & Frank Aiken. He cabled reply to Gerald Reilly of the United Societies of San Francisco accepting their invitation to go there for St. Patrick's Day.
- 5 May Pat Lavelle dropped in to see me in Leinster House. We went to the Academy to view the exhibition of pictures. Thought Seán O'Sullivan's painting of Ernie O'Malley superb.
- 21 June Rory de Valera was married this morning in Booterstown to Eithne Smith of Downpatrick. Chief dropped into office for a few minutes before going to Ard Fheis. I went with him. He got a great reception.
- 5 October In Caherdaniel. All wished me a happy birthday.
- 12 October Chief phoned me this morning to welcome me back & secretly wishing I think that I should come to office. I had a lot of little jobs to do so didn't.
- 181 1951 Marked 'Taoiseach' on cover and used exclusively as an appointments diary, mainly for the period June-December with some earlier isolated entries. Records name of interviewee and time only. Also includes some isolated narrative entries during the last quarter of the year.

- 182 1951 Reasonably regular and extensive entries throughout the year.
- 27 January Intended going in at 9¹⁵ this morning. Chief called for me at 9³⁰ but thought I had gone in. He was anxious about papers which he thought he left in office. Not there. Phoned Irish Press. Found that he had left them there. He was relieved. He went to 10 Mass in Westland Row. Arrived back in time to see Fr. O'Dea, Glenstal at 10⁴⁵. He was going to US & wanted letters from Chief. He saw Dr. O'Reilly at 11³⁰. He went over F.F. pamphlet with him until 12³⁰ when he saw Mr Gageby of the Sunday Press. We left office about 1⁰⁵ & he dropped me at Gresham where I had arranged to join Mrs Dowdall for lunch.
- 10 March Did not go to office today. Chief went to Sir Joseph Glynn's funeral & to see Dr Joyce afterwards. He phoned me. Was depressed about his eyes. Says only God can help him now
- 4 May Chief went to Board mtg. of Irish Press. Maurice Moynihan phoned me at request of Taoiseach at 5^{pm} to inform Chief that he had advised the Pres. To dissolve Dail as from Monday 7th. Phoned Chief at Press.
- 24 November Chief came at usual time. Randolph Churchill arrived at 11. He had long interview with Chief for over an hour..
- 29 November Dail at 10³⁰. Dillon spoke. Very vindictive & malicious speech. Chief intervened. Accusations of corruption & dishonest practices annoyed & upset him very much.
- 183 1952 Regular and extensive entries until the middle of October and her departure to Utrecht [see P155/157].
- 16 January Chief at Gresham Hotel all day at Mtg. of Co. Mgrs Agric Committee. He returned to office about 5. P.J. O'Reilly & engineers were there from Radio Eireann to arrange for broadcast. Went to lunch to Hunting Horn. John Moynihan [Secretary to the Executive Council, 1932-37, Assistant Secretary, Department of Finance, 1937-52] told him he was leaving end of March.
- 15 February King George VI buried today. Chief talked to Prov. Holy Ghost Fr O'Carroll on phone offering sympathy on death of Arch. Kelly. He also spoke to his brother Fr Kelly Pres. Clonliffe College. Said he would go to the Req. Mass on Monday at Kimmage Manor. Maurice M. came in for a few minutes & then they went together to the Govt. Mtg.
- 16 February Chief went to 10³⁰ Mass at Univ. Church. He met John Burke – he came over to his car. Wanted to know why the Govt did not bring the Ext. Assets home. ... Chief saw Mr Mansergh for about ½ hour. He saw Dorothy Macardle at 12⁴⁵.

- 183 contd. 14 May Chief came in at 11¹⁵. Mr Hardy had arrived with boots. Fitted them. Was inclined to find fault but decided he would be satisfied. Wore them. He dictated to me note for Terry. Went over to L.H. for his signature.
- 28 June In new home at 25 Up. Pembroke St. Delighted with it. Did not go to office. Chief phoned. I think he rather expected I would be in. What a hope!
- 22 September Letter from Chief this morning. Distressed me. Was disappointed in the news. Told Maurice. He also had a letter requesting a lot of data to be sent out to him to Utrecht. Mrs McHugo phoned me. She was cheerful.
- 184 1953 Used as an appointments diary for the period January-June, listing time and appointee.
Regular entries for the second half of the year.
- 1 September Chief left Collinstown at 11^{am} for Paris. First lap of his journey to Lourdes & Fatima. Seen off by Spanish, French & Portuguese foreign representatives, F. Aiken, The Lord Mayor, Viv, Miss O'D., Seán B., P. Burke T.D. etc.
- 28 October Chief in office. Told him of report in Irish Times of Dr. Browne's joining Fianna Fail. He went to Party mtg at 11³⁰. Browne, French O'Carroll & Cogan applied for membership to F.F. Party. Accepted. Chief wrote to them & letters handed to O'Carroll & Cogan in reply to theirs. He prepared statement for the press. He saw the three of them in his room in L.H. They signed the pledge. The Party Whip was present.
- 185 1954 Mainly used as an appointments diary but includes occasional narrative detail.
- 17 June Chief not in L. House today. Called to me at 12. Had a long chat & arranged about my new type of work.
- 186 1954 Contains regular entries but mainly of a personal nature and occasionally confined to a list of her visitors. Reference to her official duties and responsibilities tends to become more irregular but can be extensive where it occurs.

**D. Papers concerning her career and Military Service Pension,
1935 - 54**

- 187 28 May 1935 Form letter from the Civil Service Commission to Kathleen O'Connell, informing her that her Certificate of Qualification for the post of Junior Executive Officer has been granted and sent to the authorities of her department.

1p
- 188 7 July 1944 Letter from S.M. Ó Cinneide, Assistant General, St Mary's, Marino, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell (7 July 1944, 1p), referring to a photograph in that day's *Irish Press*, celebrating her twenty fifth anniversary as secretary to Mr de Valera '... all those who have come in contact with you have carried away with them most lasting impressions of your courtesy and efficiency'. Cutting from the *Irish Press* (7 July 1944, 1 item) containing the photograph referred to in the letter, taken at Government Buildings the previous day, showing Kathleen O'Connell taking dictation from Eamon de Valera, both seated at his desk, facing one another.

2 items
- 189 July 1944 Copy typescript letter from [Maurice Moynihan, Secretary to the Department of the Taoiseach] to the Secretary of the Department of Finance (11 July 1944, 2pp) referring to recent discussions between the Taoiseach and the Minister for Finance concerning a proposal that Kathleen O'Connell be promoted. 'Her duties as Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach are of a special nature, not comparable with those ordinarily assigned to officers of the Executive grades, and the necessity, which will continue, for retaining her on those duties has debarred her from opportunities of promotion which would otherwise have been open to her in common with other Junior Executive Officers'. Letter from Maurice Moynihan Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell (13 July 1944, 1p) informing her of the sanction of the Minister for Finance for her promotion and setting out the conditions attached.

2 items

- 190 1945 **Military service pension:**Typescript copy letter from Kathleen O'Connell to [the Secretary of the Department of Defence] (28 September 1945, 1p) enclosing her evidence which she has gone over and revised, together with a supplement supplied by Eamon de Valera commenting on and supporting specific aspects of her statement.
Typescript copy narrative by Kathleen O'Connell of her national service in support of the military struggle, covering the period from the President's arrival in the United States, June 1919, her work as his confidential secretary, her return to Ireland, December 1920, her work in support of the President and Cabinet, her record during the Civil War, and her activities and responsibilities throughout, until the end of September 1923 (15 June 1945, 5pp)
Typescript copy transcript of Kathleen O'Connell's interview before the Army Pensions Board, questioned by the referee [T. Mac Firisigh], D. Gill, J. McCoy and M. Cremen, on the basis of her supplied statement with specific reference to the military aspect of her national service (28 June 1945, 18pp).
Typescript copy note [by Eamon de Valera] (28 September 1945, 1p) enclosing his comments (3pp) on the transcript of Kathleen O'Connell's evidence before the Army Pensions Board. His comments relate mainly to the relations between the Volunteers and the Government in 1919, his own position, and the modus operandi of the Cabinet.
Two drafts of Mr de Valera's comments (September 1945, 5pp & 13pp), the shorter containing amendments and corrections in his own hand.
6 items
- 191 October-December 1945 Notification from the Office of the Referee, Military Service Pensions Board, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin, of the Referee's findings in respect of her application for a pension, consisting of a table indicating her periods of service (22 October 1945, 1p). Form letter from the Secretary, Department of Defence, to Kathleen O'Connell (8 December 1945, 1p) enclosing her service certificate under the Military Service Pensions Act, 1934 (30 November 1945, 1p) 3 items
- 192 January 1946-December 1953 **Military Service Pension:** material relating to Kathleen O'Connell's application for and award of a pension under the Military Service Act 1934. Includes a completed copy in Kathleen O'Connell's hand of Form MSP/34/1, Application to the Minister for Defence for a Service Certificate, with details of her military service from April 1919; and correspondence with the Secretary, Department of Defence (1946-53, 7 items) concerning the award of a pension and aspects of its administration. 8 items

- 193 17 February 1948 **Retirement:** typescript copy letter from [Maurice Moynihan] Secretary [to the Department and Private Secretary to the Taoiseach], to the Secretary to the Department of Finance (17 February 1948), concerning the abolition of the office of Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach, 'created in July 1944 for special reasons which, in the opinion of the Taoiseach, no longer exist', and the retirement of Kathleen O'Connell. Letter details her salary and holiday entitlements. Cutting from the *Irish Press* (5 March 1948) reporting her retirement and describing her career and achievements, with a photograph of herself and Mr de Valera at his desk. Letter from Mary of St Barbara, Convent of Mary Reparatrix, Merrion Square, Dublin, to Kathleen O'Connell (28 February 1948), sympathising on the result of the election and hoping her trip to the U.S. will be enjoyable.
'I wanted to thank you for your great kindness to us during these years in so many ways. We are most grateful & shall always remember you in our prayers'.
Letter from J. Degnan, Nonos Printinghouse Ltd, O'Connell Street, Limerick, to Kathleen O'Connell (5 March 1948, 1p) enclosing some photographs which she may find of interest if she has not already seen them (not present).
'As one who knew and admired your efficiency in the old days may I be permitted to extend my congratulations on your completion of such a long period of service in the National interest ...'.
Letter from Maurice Moynihan, Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, to Kathleen O'Connell, 8 Herbert Place, Dublin (2 April 1948, 1p), informing her that her retirement from the Civil Service has been agreed by the Minister for Finance who has decided to grant her a compensation allowance under the Superannuation Act, 1909.
- 5 items
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- 194 February-March 1948 Copy handwritten letter from Kathleen O'Connell to the Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, applying for leave to retire from the Civil Service on the grounds that the office of Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach has been abolished (19 February 1948, 1p). Handwritten draft in Eamon de Valera's hand, on Dáil Éireann notepaper, of a public statement or press release concerning her retirement, focusing on her long career and breadth of service (March 1948, 2pp).
- 2 items

- 195 10 March 1948 Cuttings from two newspapers reporting proceedings in the Dáil on the previous day, including a question from Captain Peadar Cowan to Patrick McGilligan, Minister for Finance, concerning the abolition by the Taoiseach on 17 February, a day before a change of Government, of the post of Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach.
2 items
- 196 August 1950 Handwritten statement by J.L. on Dáil Éireann notepaper, of Miss O'Connell's allowances for each of the three weeks ending 29 July, 5 August and 12 August 1950. Annotated, 'I was told that the Chief said there was to be some adjustment in your weekly allowance. I got no particulars but I presume the matter will be fixed up later'.
1p
- 197 27 July 1951 Letter from Maurice Moynihan, Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, to Kathleen O'Connell, Department of the Taoiseach, offering her an established appointment as Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach and laying out the terms and conditions attached.
1p
- 198 July 1951 Pages from *Dáil Debates* reporting the Adjournment Debate (11 July 1951, 8pp), consisting of a question tabled by Oliver Flanagan for the Minister for Finance [Seán MacEntee] '...if the former personal secretary to the Taoiseach [Kathleen O'Connell] has secured an appointment from the Government in the Civil Service ...'. Question tabled in the context of the reported abolition of the post three years previously
Cuttings from two newspapers reporting the debate (12 July 1951, 2 items)
3 items

- 199 1951, 1954 **Income tax:** two notices from the Office of the Assessor of Income Tax for Public Departments, to Kathleen O'Connell, 22 Elgin Road and 25 Upper Pembroke Street respectively (1p each), informing her of the assessment of income tax due by her for the each of the years in question. 2 items
- 200 [after 1951] Typescript statement of Kathleen O'Connell's Civil Service career, entitled 'Particulars of Service', giving details of grading, promotion and salary, including her re-entering the service as Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach on 13 June 1951. 1p
- 201 25 September 1953 Letter from N.S. Ó Nualláin, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, to Kathleen O'Connell, Department of the Taoiseach, offering her 'appointment, in an unestablished capacity, as Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach with effect from the 6th October 1953, the date following that on which you will reach the age of retirement from established employment in the Civil Service'. 1p
- 202 1 January 1954 Letter from Maurice Moynihan, Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, to Kathleen O'Connell, Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach, informing her of the award of an annual allowance under the Superannuation Acts, suspended during the period of her present unestablished employment. 1p
- 203 31 May 1954 Copy typescript letter from [Kathleen O'Connell] to the Secretary [Department of the Taoiseach] (31 May 1954, 1p) tendering her resignation as Personal Secretary to the Taoiseach.
Letter from Maurice Moynihan to Kathleen O'Connell, (31 May 1954) notifying her that her resignation has been accepted.
'I am to convey to you an expression of appreciation of the services rendered by you during the period of your employment in the Civil Service'. 2 items

E. Memoirs and Memorabilia, 1888 – 1956

- 204 1888, 1917 **Certificates:** certified copy of Kathleen O'Connell's birth certificate (copy issued 30 March 1932). Certificate of naturalisation as a citizen of the United States (4 August 1917).
2 items
- 205 1919 Kathleen O'Connell's individual subscriber's receipt for a subscription of ten dollars to the Irish Victory Fund, through the Shamrock Club of New York.
1 item
- 206 14, 15 July 1921 Two Grosvenor Hotel, London postcards, autographed on successive days by members of the delegation in London for the de Valera-Lloyd George talks
2 items
- 207 1921-36 Membership and admission cards of Kathleen O'Connell including a Sinn Féin membership card and Ard Fheis platform ticket; admission tickets to the public session of Dáil Éireann, 21 August 1921; and membership cards for the Secretariat de Delegation Irlandaise of the League of Nations (1934, 36, 2 items)
6 items

- 208 November 1922- Material relating to the imprisonment of Tessie
September 1923 [Teresa] McConnell in Mountjoy Jail and the
North Dublin Union, including letters written
and received by her, mostly from and to members of her family. Virtually all
the letters have been censored. Includes:
letters from her mother, her sisters Annie and Lena, mainly concerned with
family news;
an invitation to an 'entertainment to be held at 23 Suffolk Street, Mountjoy (25
December 1922);
a letter from Tessie to Kathleen (December 1922, 2pp). 'It was terrible about
Childers. We heard of the execution that evening & we were horrified. The
four young fellows who were executed a few days ago were sacrificed to give
them a chance to execute Childers. Mary MacSwiney is growing weaker every
day. We are constantly in and out to her room for she has refused having the
nurses as Annie [her sister] wasn't allowed in. She is very bad today. Two
other girls were brought in here last night – Miss [Eithne] Coyle from Donegal
& one of the girls you know from communications, Nora O'Shea' ;
St Patrick's Day card hand-made in Kilmainham Jail;
a letter from Rita Bermingham, North Dublin Union Internment Camp, to
Tessie McConnell after her release (14 October 1923, 1p), informing her of
events in the camp and news of those released and still in custody.
9 items
- 209 1924-54 Photocopies of title pages of books inscribed by
the author or as gifts to Kathleen O'Connell.
Includes *Ireland's Claim to the Government of the United States of America*,
inscribed by Eamon de Valera (1925) and *Myself - and Others*, inscribed by
Annie M.P. Smithson (1944). Also includes a photocopy of the title page of
The Trapp Family Singers by Maria A. Trapp, inscribed by Kathleen
O'Connell to Marie O'Kelly and annotated at a later date by Miss O'Kelly that
she had read the book to her aunt while helping to nurse her through the final
two years of her life.
5 items
- 210 14 March 1927 Handbill announcing a reception by the citizens
of New York to Eamon de Valera under the
auspices of the de Valera Reception Committee, at Carnegie Hall, New York
City.
8½x6 inches

- 211 11 August 1927 Deputy de Valera's Dáil Éireann admission card, stamped 11 August 1927, the day before the Fianna Fáil deputies complied with the provisions of Article 17 of the Treaty and took their seats in Dáil Éireann.
1 item
- 212 1 June 1938 Kathleen O'Connell's invitation from the Taoiseach, on behalf of the Government, to a reception in honour of the President, to be held in Dublin Castle.
1 item
- 213 1944 Three poems, all in the same hand, celebrating Kathleen O'Connor's service at the time of the twenty fifth anniversary of her appointment as Mr de Valera's personal secretary.
 'The glamour of the band and gun
 The thrill of banners green
 The battle's glorious moment won
 Was not for you – Kathleen!' (20 lines)

 'Five and twenty silver links
 Make up the chain of years' (12 lines)

 'As servants of the Church's cause
 Hear no applause – no joybells rung
 The holder of a Nation's trust
 Still living must remain unsung' (16 lines).
3 items
- 214 1944, 1965 Photocopies of pp.268-271 from *Myself and Others* by Annie M.P. Smithson (1944) dealing with her sharing a flat in Upper Pembroke Street with Kathleen O'Connell, visits there by Eamon de Valera, and herself and Kathleen O'Connell holidaying in Bruges.
Photocopy of pp.176-177 from *The Anglo-Irish Treaty* by Frank Gallagher (1965) dealing with the drafting of Document No. 2 in 53 Kenilworth Square and Kathleen O'Connell's presence as secretary.
2 items

- 215 4 June 1949 Twenty first birthday card from Kathleen O'Connell to Marie [O'Kelly], also inscribed by Eamon de Valera.
1 item
- 216 1955-56 Handwritten letter from Fionán MacColuim, on An Saol Gaelach notepaper but from Brugh Sponncáin, An Coirean, Cill Airne (26 June 1955, 5pp), to Kathleen O'Connell. He has heard that she is seriously laid up and is responding to requests from several quarters to put on paper his own memories of her involvement with the Gaelic League in New York. His diaries and notebooks from that period have largely been destroyed or lost but he quotes from a notebook written in 1912 and reminisces about her recruitment as secretary to the Gaelic League in New York City. Includes a press cutting (14 April 1956, 1p) containing an obituary in Irish of Kathleen O'Connell written by Finghin na Leamhna [MacColuim] and further notes in Irish on Kathleen O'Connell's work in the United States (2pp), written at the request of Marie O'Kelly.
3 items
- 217 [1950s] **Autobiographical and personal material:**
short memoirs, reminiscences and autobiographical items by Kathleen O'Connell. Includes a statement of her educational background and attainments in Kerry and Chicago (1p); autobiographical fragment dealing mainly with her early experiences in Chicago where she went in 1904 (2pp); typescript copy statement of her employment history in the Civil Service (1p); handwritten statement by Kathleen O'Connell of her responsibilities as personal secretary to the President of the Executive Council (2pp); typescript memoir dictated by Kathleen O'Connell to Marie O'Kelly (1 July 1955, 1p) concerning her work in the U.S. in the New York office of the Irish Industrial Exhibition; typescript note by Marie O'Kelly of points made in conversation between Kathleen O'Connell and Mab McGarry (2 October 1955, 1p) concerning incidents during the period of residence at Loughnavale; handwritten note by Kathleen O'Connell of being given his pen by Eamon de Valera, 'the broad one which he used on many important occasions. He said he would never again use it & there was a note of sadness in his voice' (c. April 1953, 1p).
7 items

- 218 April 1956 Memorial and acknowledgement cards on the death of Kathleen O'Connell, 25 Upper Pembroke Street.
2 items
- 219 April 1956 Typescript copy text of a eulogy delivered by Owen B. Hunt to Kathleen O'Connell, on radio station WJMJ, Philadelphia.
3pp

F. Press cuttings, 1921 - 56

- 220 1921-51 Volume of presscuttings mainly reporting aspects of Mr de Valera's career, particularly his trips overseas for diplomatic and health reasons; and containing vignettes of Kathleen O'Connell's life and career. Most cuttings relate to the League of Nations General Assembly in Geneva, 1937; the London talks, January 1938; and the Tanaiste's trip to the World's Fair in New York, May-June 1939. Cuttings are mainly from the *Irish Press* but include others from British daily and Sunday papers, Irish local papers and U.S. newspapers and periodicals. The rear of the volume contains cuttings mainly of obituaries of members of the O'Connell family.
c. 100 items
- 221 August 1923 Volume of newscuttings, only very partially used, containing cuttings from Irish and English daily newspapers, 16-17 August 1923, reporting the arrest of Eamon de Valera during an election meeting at Ennis, 15 August 1923. Newspapers include the *Irish Times*, *Manchester Guardian*, and *Westminster Gazette*.
c. 25 items

- 222 1938, 1945 **Mrs Marianne O'Connell:** two press cuttings, one from the *Irish Press* (24 June 1938) reporting the funeral of Mrs Marianne O'Connell, mother of Kathleen; together with a typescript extract from a letter from Sister M. Teresita, Convent of Mercy, Ballybunion, to Mrs T.C. O'Kelly, [Kathleen O'Connell's sister] concerning Mrs O'Connell's contribution to the anti-Treaty cause (12 June 1945, 1p).
'She was a pure patriot, with a heart of gold, who kept the spirit alive in that part of the country which was hostile'.

3 items
- 223 17 January 1938 Cutting from the *News Chronicle* entitled 'Busiest woman in London today', published at the start of the Anglo-Irish talks between Chamberlain and de Valera. Cutting contains three photographs of Kathleen O'Connell, facing the camera, answering the telephone, and reading telegrams.

1 item
- 224 [January 1938] Cutting from the *Irish Times* of portion of the 'Irishman's Diary' concerning Kathleen O'Connell, her discretion and efficiency in her chosen role.
'I met her first more than ten years ago, when the Fianna Fáil Party had just been started, and she was working under great difficulties in a little upstairs room, so far as I can remember, in Middle Abbey Street. I see very little, if any, difference in her to-day'.

1 item
- 225 9-14 April 1956 **Death of Kathleen O'Connell:** file of press cuttings containing reports of the death and funeral of Kathleen O'Connell. Most include appreciations of her achievements and describe the highlights of her life and career. Cuttings are mainly from Irish national daily and Sunday newspapers but some are included from Kerry newspapers and from Irish editions of English Sunday papers.

25 items

G. Photographs, 1912 - 56

- 226 1912/13 Full-length studio portrait of Kathleen O'Connell dressed in a white, Greek style, loose, ankle-length robe, gathered at the waist. Annotated 'Taken by Anna Frances Levins, New York. (Later Lady Esmonde). 1912 or 1913. Pageant at 69th Regiment Armory'.
2 prints: 7x4½ and 7½x5 inches
- 227 23 August 1919 Mounted studio portrait of Eamon de Valera, autographed, dated and dedicated 'To Miss Kathleen O'Connell as a souvenir of work done together'. Sepia.
Photographer: White, 172 Trenton Street, Boston, Mass.
Print size: 10x7 inches
- 228 December 1920 2 group photographs of Kathleen O'Connell and others taken at Halfred Farm, Cleveland, Ohio, Christmas 1920. Other members of the group are Joe Begley, Nan and Seán Nunan and Gilbert Ward. The group is on a road in open countryside, a stand of trees visible across a field to the left. One of the photographs is more formally posed, the group looking to camera.
Print size: 5x3 inches
- 229 1920 Studio portrait of Kathleen O'Connell taken in Washington. She is sitting in left semi-profile but facing the camera, wearing an evening dress and chiffon stole.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 230 [c. 1920] Studio portrait of Kathleen O'Connell, standing in right semi-profile, wearing a half-sleeve dark silk blouse and appliquéd crêpe skirt.
Sepia
Print size: 9x7 inches

- 231 [1920] Photograph of Eamon de Valera in side view, sitting in a garden in a wicker rocking chair reading a book, in dappled sunshine. 2 prints, both autographed, one dedicated to Kathleen O'Connell, in Irish, and dated 14 December 1921.
[same location as P155/256]
Print size: 6x4 inches
- 232 [1920] Full-length photograph of Eamon de Valera standing in a garden in dappled sunshine under a canopy of trees. 2 prints, one annotated 'At Newport, Conn. With Mr C. Moore.'
Print size: 5½x3½ inches
- 233 [early 1920s] Mounted group photograph on the occasion of the marriage of Annie and Thomas C. O'Kelly [parents of Marie O'Kelly]. The wedding party is pictured against a stone wall and includes Kathleen O'Connell, Eamon de Valera and Mary MacSwiney.
Photographer: Seán Hurley, Grafton Street, Dublin
Print size: 6x4¼ inches
- 234 July 1921 B/w group photograph of the Irish delegation to the London talks, taken in the Grosvenor Hotel. de Valera and Griffith are seated at front with Kathleen O'Connell, Mrs Farnan and Lily O'Brennan behind Griffith. Count Plunkett, Erskine Childers, Laurence O'Neill, Austin Stack and Robert Barton are standing at back.
Photographer: Photopress, Press Photographic Agency, Fleet Street, London.
Print size: 8x6inches
- 235 4 September 1921 Group photographed on the steps to the entrance to [St Columban's College?], Navan. Includes Eamon de Valera at front on the steps to the entrance to the building, Kathleen O'Connell behind him to his right. A group of c. 12 priests and seminarians and 2 other women are gathered on the top steps.
Handwritten caption 'Navan. Sept. 4th 1921'.
Mounted print.
Print size: 6x4½ inches

- 236 [1924] Photograph of Eamon de Valera at an unidentified railway station. He is standing on a platform, wearing a greatcoat and cap, a man in uniform greatcoat and peaked cap [a railway employee?] behind him. A brick arch and tracks are visible behind.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 237 1925 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell with Mrs Margaret Pearse at Millstreet Drislane Convent, Cork. They are both standing on stone steps in the garden with a gatepost and planter behind.
Mount size: 6x4 inches
Print size: 4x2½ inches
- 238 11 November 1927 Studio portrait of Eamon de Valera in right-side profile, autographed and dedicated to Kathleen O'Connell.
Photographer: Lafayette
Print size: 6x4 inches
- 239 [1920s] Photograph of Eamon de Valera seated at his desk, hands on the table holding a pen, looking straight to camera.
Photographer: *Irish Press*
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 240 1930 Photograph of Margaret Burke-Sheridan autographed and dedicated 'To Kathleen with fondest love, Christmas greetings Dublin '43. Taken actually on the stage of Covent Garden Opera House, London during the singing of the "Ave Maria" in Act 4 of Verdi's "Othello"! 5 May 1930'.
Photograph shows Miss Burke-Sheridan in dramatic pose, kneeling before a credenza with large candlesticks, her hands clasped as in prayer. She has a beatific expression.
Print size: 11x10 inches

- 241 [c. 1930] Three quarter length photograph of Kathleen O'Connell in velvet evening dress with slashed sleeves, standing beside a Georgian fireplace, one hand resting on the mantel, the other at her side holding an evening bag.
Photographer: Vyvyan Poole, St Alban's Park, Dublin 8
Mount size: 10x8
Print size: 8x5
- 242 July 1931 Photograph of a square in Bruges, Belgium, taken by Kathleen O'Connell while holidaying there with Annie M.P. Smithson. The scene is of a cobbled square, tall buildings at back, a man leading a large dog pulling a small cart to the front. An annotation in Kathleen's hand records that she sent the photograph to the *Irish Independent* which published it and gave her 10/-.
Print size: 3x2½ inches
- 243 23 September 1932 Photograph of Eamon de Valera in Geneva during his presidency of the Assembly of the League of Nations. He is standing on the pavement in front of parked cars, having left his hotel.
Photographer: Sport & General Press Agency, London
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 244 [c. 1932] Photograph of Eamon de Valera sitting in an armchair reading a book. The wall behind is covered with a tapestry.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 245 18 May 1935 Group photograph taken on the occasion of the visit by Mr de Valera and Mr A. Ogilvie, Premier of Tasmania, to St Columban's College, Navan. The group is photographed outside an entrance to the college building and includes Mr and Mrs Ogilvie, Frank and Maud Aiken, Mr de Valera, Máirín de Valera, Kathleen O'Connell and Rev. Dr M. O'Dwyer, Superior General. Attached is a cutting from the *Irish Press* publishing the photograph with caption.
Print size is: 9½x7½ inches

- 246 July, August 1935 Album containing photographs from trips by Kathleen O'Connell to Waterford (9-12 August 1935, c. 20 prints) and Norway (15-29 July 1935, 13 prints). Many of the photographs include Kathleen O'Connell with friends and most have captions identifying the location. The Waterford photographs include trips to Dungarvan, Lismore, Rinn and Ardmore. Included is a photograph from a much earlier period (captioned 1914 or 1917) of three unidentified girls at the seashore, sitting on the grass wearing summer dresses and hats, with cars parked behind them and the sea beyond.
Album size: 6x5x $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Print size: 4x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
- 247 January 1937 Group photograph of Eamon de Valera, Dr Máirín de Valera, Kathleen O'Connell and Dr Eamonn de Valera walking abreast along Dun Laoghaire pier as the President was leaving by the mail boat en route to Zürich to consult Dr Vogt. Mr de Valera and his daughter are arm-in-arm, looking at the camera and smiling. Kathleen O'Connell and Eamonn de Valera are in conversation.
Photographer: *Irish Independent*
Print size: 8x6 inches
Mount size: 12x10 inches
- 248 17 January 1938 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell seated at a desk, a typewriter in front of her, looking directly to camera, in the Piccadilly Hotel, London during the de Valera-Chamberlain talks.
Photographer: Sport & General Press Agency
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 249 6 May 1939 Photograph of a group at Kingsbridge Station en route to New York for the opening of the Irish Pavilion at the World's Fair. The group consists of John J. Hearne, Kathleen O'Connell, Eamon de Valera and Seán T. O Ceallaigh photographed in front of a railway carriage.
Print size: 8x6 inches

- 250 6 May 1939 Group photograph on board the S.S.
Washington at Cobh, bound for the U.S.
Includes Seán T. O Ceallaigh, Kathleen O'Connell and Captain Dooley, the
acting ship's captain.
Photographer: John Pellican, photographer, S.S. Washington
Print size: 5½x3½ inches
- 251 10 May 1939 Photograph of the attendance at a ceilidhe in
the tourist cabin of the S.S. Washington,
including the Galway and Kerry county football teams. The attendance is
gathered at one end of the cabin, mostly standing. One group, seated at a
table right of centre at the front, includes Kathleen O'Connell, Seán T. O
Ceallaigh, John Hearne, and Spencer Tracy and his wife.
Print size: 7x5 inches
- 252 30 May 1930 Group photographed at Boston airport as the
Irish party of Seán T. O Ceallaigh, Kathleen
O'Connell and John Hearne are about to depart for New York. Five American
associates, such as members of the business community, are
included in the group which has Seán T. O Ceallaigh at its centre. [see also
P155/220]
Print size: 9x7 inches
- 253 30 May 1939 Group photograph of the Irish party of John
Hearne, Seán T. O Ceallaigh and Kathleen
O'Connell about to board their aircraft at Boston bound for New York. They
are standing in front of the aircraft being wished bon voyage by P.A.
O'Connell, and Eugene P.F. Sheehan [see also P155/220].
Print size: 9x7 inches
- 254 May 1939 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell in left-side
view, seated at an outdoor event, a grandstand
behind, at Suffolk Downs, East Boston, Mass. on Memorial Day, 1939.
Print size: 5x3 inches

- 255 [1930s] Full-length photograph of Eamon de Valera leaning against the rail of a liner, either docking or putting to sea. A high industrial building is out of focus behind him. He is dressed in his overcoat. Sepia.
Print size is: 9x6½ inches
- 256 16 June 1943 Group photographed at the entrance to the Good Shepherd Convent, Waterford. Eamon de Valera, left of centre front, is talking to the Superior with Seán Goulding T.D. and P.J. Little T.D. on either side of them. A group of four nuns is gathered on the steps to the main entrance to the convent.
Print size: 5x3 inches
- 257 June 1944 Photographs of two portraits of Kathleen O'Connell by Signor G. de Gennaro [commissioned by Margaret Burke Sheridan, see P155/65]. The original portraits are virtually identical, there being slight differences in the subjects dress and jewellery.
Print size: 7x6 inches
- 258 July 1944 Photograph taken at Leinster House on the occasion of Kathleen O'Connell's twenty-fifth anniversary as secretary to Mr de Valera but differing from the published photograph. She is taking dictation but both are seated on the same side of the desk with a window to the side and a bookcase behind.
Irish Press photograph.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 259 July 1944 4 photographs taken at Leinster House, one of which was published in the *Irish Press* (7 July 1944) to celebrate Kathleen O'Connell's twenty-fifth anniversary as secretary to Mr de Valera. She is taking dictation from him, both seated at his desk, facing one another. The prints vary slightly in their angle and field of vision. One of them is autographed by Mr de Valera and one by both of them.
Print size: 8x6 inches

- 260 28 August 1944 Photograph of a group of twelve people gathered between large stone columns at the entrance to a building [Woodlock?]. Eamon de Valera is at front and the group behind includes a bishop and Kathleen O'Connell, Dr Mairín de Valera, Seán Lemass, Seán Brennan and P.J Little.
Print size: 8x6 inches
Mount size: 11x8 inches
- 261 [c.1944] Photograph of Eamon de Valera and Kathleen O'Connell seated at his desk, she taking dictation. They are seated on the same side of the desk, he on the right reading from a papers he is holding in his right hand, she writing in a shorthand notebook.
Photographer: Irish Press
Print size: 8x6inches
- 262 30 June 1946 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell and Margaret Burke Sheridan leaving the Gresham Hotel after Sunday lunch, in jovial mood, captured by a street photographer.
Photographer: Sackville Portrait Studios
Print size: 5x3 inches
- 263 February 1948 Photograph of Eamon de Valera casting his vote in a ballot station in the 1948 general election. He is standing smiling and talking to a seated woman impersonation agent. Two men are in ballot booths behind.
Photographer: Anthony Linck
Print size: 9½x7½ inches
- 264 March 1948 4 photographs taken to mark Kathleen O'Connell's retirement as secretary to Mr de Valera, one of which was published in the *Irish Press*. The two of them are seated on the same side of the desk, she taking dictation but looking at the camera. The photographs vary slightly in field of vision. One is autographed by Mr de Valera. [See also P155/193]
Photographer: Irish Press
Print size: 8x6 inches

- 265 [May 1948] Photograph of Eamon de Valera, Lady Mountbatten, wife of the Viceroy of India, and Jawharlal Nehru, taken outdoors at night. The three are standing, Mr de Valera in profile in conversation with Lady Mountbatten.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 266 [May 1948] Photograph of Eamon de Valera and Jawharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, taken indoors during the round-the-world anti-partition tour undertaken by Mr de Valera and Frank Aiken. The two are standing side-by-side, Mr de Valera jacketless.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 267 15 March 1949 Group photograph of Edmund Williams, Chairman, Irish Press Board of Directors, pressing the switch on the new Hoe Superspeed Press on its first production run. Mr Williams is watched by Eamon de Valera, Controlling Director, Seán Lemass, Managing Director, and J.J. O'Leary, Director.
Photographer: *Irish Press*
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 268 [c. 1949] 3 photographs of Kathleen O'Connell and Eamon de Valera seated on opposite sides of his desk in Leinster House. She is taking dictation while he is writing also. The photographs vary slightly in pose. One is autographed by Mr de Valera.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 269 [1940s] Group photograph of Eamon de Valera, Frank Gallagher and Kathleen O'Connell in the Taoiseach's office in Government Buildings. The Taoiseach is seated at his desk, Frank Gallagher is standing on his left holding a document and pointing to it. Kathleen O'Connell is standing at the corner of the desk looking on.
Print size: 9½x7½ inches

- 270 [1940s] Group photograph of Eamon de Valera, Frank Gallagher and Kathleen O'Connell. The Taoiseach is in the middle with Kathleen O'Connell on his left, Frank Gallagher on his right.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 271 [1940s] Photograph of an unidentified portrait of Kathleen O'Connell. She is sitting in right semi-profile, holding a sheaf of papers, dressed in a tailored jacket and v-neck blouse.
Print size: 6½x5 inches
- 272 [c. 1950] Photograph of Eamon de Valera and Kathleen O'Connell. She is standing at his left shoulder watching him sign documents she has brought. He is seated at his desk. One of the 2 prints is autographed by Mr de Valera.
Print size is: 10x8 and 8x6 inches
- 273 September 1950 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell's family group on the ground at Collinstown airport before leaving for a Holy Year visit to Rome. Kathleen is on the extreme left of the group of five, a man in the middle with two women on either side.
Photographer: Irish Press
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 274 September 1950 Group photograph of Kathleen O'Connell and family members about to board a flight to Paris en route to Rome for their Holy Year visit. The group is standing on the steps of an Aer Lingus plane at Collinstown, Kathleen O'Connell at the front, three women and a man behind.
Photographer: Irish Press
Print size: 8x6 inches

- 275 September 1950 Photograph of Eamon de Valera wishing Kathleen O'Connell a pleasant flight as she boards a plane for Rome on a trip with family members for Holy Year. She is on the steps of the Aer Lingus flight, he is standing on the tarmac shaking her hand. A second man [Bob Briscoe?] looks on.
Photographer: Irish Press
Print size: 8x5 and 8x6 inches
- 276 14 October 1952 Group photograph taken on the occasion of Mr de Valera's birthday while in Utrecht for eye surgery. The photograph is taken in the clinic and shows 11 people including the Taoiseach, Kathleen O'Connell, Colonel Seán Brennan and Seamus McHugo as well as the eye consultant and other members of the hospital staff. The group is standing around an occasional table holding a cake in the shape of Ireland, decorated with small tricolours.
Print size: 9x6 inches
- 277 5 December 1952 Photograph of Kathleen O'Connell and Seán Moynihan in front of a figure dressed as Saint Nicholas, on his birthday, in the Nederlandsch Gasthuis voor Ooglyders, Utrecht. Kathleen is handing the saint a parcel, Seán Moynihan behind her. A further figure in fancy dress with blacked face is behind him
Photographer: A. Ph. De Keizer, Utrecht
Print size: 6½x4½ inches
- 278 26 December 1952 Group photograph taken at the Hotel de Pays Bas, Utrecht. The Taoiseach and Seán Moynihan are seated, with Kathleen O'Connell and Dr Eamonn de Valera standing behind. A festive decoration with holly, fir and a candle stands on a table to the left of the group.
Photographer: F.F. v.d. Werf, Utrecht
Print size: 9x7 inches

- 279 29 December 1952 Group photographed at Schipol Airport, Amsterdam, including Kathleen O'Connell and Eamon de Valera, en route to Dublin after the Taoiseach's eye surgery in Utrecht. The other three figures in the group include [Seamus Mac Úgo and Mrs McNeill?].
Photographer: Anefo, Amsterdam
Print size: 9½x7 inches
- 280 December 1952 Group photographed at Dublin Airport as the Taoiseach returns from eye surgery in Utrecht. He is standing to the left being welcomed by his daughter and her husband, Emer and Brian Ó Cuiv and four of their children. Kathleen O'Connell and a number of others look on.
Photographer: Irish News Agency
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 281 August 1953 Group photograph taken during the South Galway bye-election. Colonel Seán Brennan, Kathleen O'Connell and Eamon de Valera are standing before a stone wall with the wall and roof of a cottage visible behind. Mr de Valera is dressed unseasonably in an overcoat and Homburg.
Irish Press photograph.
Print size: 8x6 inches
- 282 [1955] 3 photographs taken during Kathleen O'Connell's final holiday in Caherdaniel before her death. She is in the hills above the village, walking or sitting with a book. The landscape is rock and heather and in one photograph the sea is visible in the background.
Print size: 5½x3½ inches
- 283 [1955/56] Studio portrait of Kathleen O'Connell. She is wearing a dark jacket with lace on the collar, a single strand of pearls and pearl-cluster earrings.
Print size: 8x6 inches

- 284/ 9 April 1956 Twelve photographs of the funeral and interment of Kathleen O'Connell. Photographs are b/w prints, taken by an *Irish Press* photographer.
- 1 Funeral cortège moving down Haddington Road, bringing Miss O'Connell's remains to St Mary's Church. Photograph is taken from a slightly elevated position showing the hearse and mourning vehicles flanked by a guard of honour of members of the Old I.R.A. and Fianna Fáil National Executive. The rear of buildings on Baggot Street are visible in the background.
 - 2 View of the cortège taken from in front and slightly to the side at eye level, showing the hearse and leading members of the guard of honour.
 - 3 Coffin draped in the tricolour being carried from St. Mary's Church, Haddington Road. Photograph is taken from a slightly elevated position, with the Church entrance on the left, front railings on the right, the coffin supported at waist level by five pall-bearers surrounded on three sides by mourners.
 - 4 A group of four mourners outside St Mary's Church, with Eamon de Valera at the centre.
 - 5 Coffin being carried into Glasnevin Cemetery. The pallbearers have turned towards the entrance. Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh is among the mourners walking closest to the coffin.
 - 6 Coffin being carried inside the gates of Glasnevin Cemetery by Frank Aiken, Oscar Traynor and Mr P.J. Burke. The view is of the right side of the coffin.
 - 7 Coffin being carried towards the grave by Frank Aiken, Oscar Traynor, P.J. Burke, Seán Nunan and Ben Hickey. View is directly in front with mourners walking on either side.
 - 8 Main group of mourners inside Glasnevin Cemetery following the coffin. View is slightly elevated. Eamon de Valera is towards the front of the group.
 - 9 Coffin being carried inside the cemetery. Frank Aiken and Oscar Traynor are the front pallbearers. View is from in front, slightly to the left, with sarcophagi and memorial crosses behind the cortège.
 - 10 Seán MacEntee reading the funeral oration at the graveside, surrounded by mourners.
 - 11 President Seán T. O Ceallaigh at the graveside with his aide-de-camp on his right.
 - 12 Graveside military honours with an Army firing party firing a salute into the air. The main group of mourners are on the other side of the grave.

Print size: 8x6inches