

**Papers of Kevin O'Higgins**

**P197**

**Descriptive Catalogue**



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Language	<b>x</b>
Finding Aid	<b>x</b>

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## CONTEXT

### Biographical History

Kevin Christopher O'Higgins (1892–1927) was born on 7 June 1892 in the Dispensary House, Stradbally, Queen's County (County Laois). His parents were Thomas Francis Higgins (*d.* 1923), medical officer for the Athy union and county coroner, and Anne Sullivan (*d.* 1953), daughter of Timothy Daniel Sullivan (poet, patriot, MP, and lord mayor of Dublin), and sister of the wife of Timothy Michael Healy KC, first governor-general of the Irish Free State. He was the fourth son and the fourth of fifteen children.

The family moved to 'Woodlands', an eighty-six acre farm near Stradbally, where Kevin O'Higgins spend most of his childhood, attending the local convent school, then the Christian Brothers' school, Maryborough, Clongowes Wood College, and St Mary's College, Knockbeg, Carlow. He then attended St Patrick's College, Maynooth, with a view to joining the priesthood. However, he was later moved to Carlow seminary, in 1911, for breaking the non-smoking rules, and ultimately abandoned the possibility of a vocation. For a brief period he acted as an apprentice to Maurice Healy, a Cork solicitor and brother of Timothy, while at the same time resuming his BA studies (legal and political science), at University College, Dublin. Shifting his focus to the practical political realm of the fight for Irish independence, he was little interested in his studies and obtained only a pass BA in 1915 and a similar LLB in 1919.

O'Higgins' political allegiances were established when he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1915. Two years later he became captain of the Stradbally company, Carlow brigade, and in 1918 was imprisoned for five months in Mountjoy gaol and Belfast internment camp. In the December 1918 general election he was elected Sinn Féin MP for Queen's county, quickly gaining recognition for his abilities in Dáil Éireann. In January 1919 he became assistant minister for local government, and raised a republican loan in his constituency of £10,000. Upon the arrest of the minister for local government (W.T. Cosgrave) in 1920, O'Higgins became substitute minister, officially appointed to this provisional post by the Dáil in June. In the general election of May 1921 he was re-elected for the Laois-Offaly constituency and once again appointed assistant minister for local government in August.

Through his Sinn Féin activism, O'Higgins met his future wife, Brigid Mary Cole (1898–1961). One of two daughters of a widow, her father was Andrew Cole, of Drumlish, co. Longford and her cousin was the Provincial of the Carmelite Order in Ireland. Brigid was an English teacher at St. Mary's College, Knockbeg. The rector of this school, Father Patrick Doyle, was one of the seminary instructors who had allowed O'Higgins to smoke when he had been a student there, and later permitted him and other Sinn Féin members to use the college as a hiding place. Some anxiety arose due to the romantic interest of Gearoid O'Sullivan, a teacher at Knockbeg and later Adjutant-General of the Free State Army, in Brigid. However, in October 1921 O'Higgins declined the position of secretary to the Irish delegation at the peace negotiations in order to marry Brigid Cole on 27 October 1921 in the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar Street, Dublin. The ceremony was attended by Eamon de Valera, and Rory O'Connor, O'Higgins' best man, friend and colleague.

O'Higgins was a strong supporter of the outcome of the peace negotiations,

speaking out in favour of the settlement in the Dáil. As a leading proponent of the pro-treaty position, he strongly supported Michael Collins and was heavily critical of Eamon de Valera during the civil war of 1922–23. In January 1922 he became minister for economic affairs in Arthur Griffith's first Free State government and he held a similar position in the provisional government chaired by Michael Collins. In the 1922 general election he was again returned for his Laois-Offaly constituency, and after the deaths of both Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins in August, he became minister for home affairs and vice-president of the executive council. The home affairs ministry was changed to the ministry of justice in 1924, and to that responsibility he added external affairs in the summer of 1927. After transferring to County Dublin for the election of 1923 he had headed the poll, on behalf of Cumann na nGaedheal, which he again achieved in the June elections of 1927.

He played a vital role in consolidating the newly established institutions of the post-treaty Irish Free State. For his work he is recognized as the founder of the unarmed Garda Síochána, the national police force established in 1922. His determination and strength in the face of civil war brutality was most poignantly demonstrated by the murder of his father on 11 February 1923, as well as in his signing the death warrant of Rory O'Connor, his former friend and best man. He also notably took the lead in confronting the private factions within the Free State army, as the government sought to return it to peacetime numbers in 1924. At the Imperial Conference of 1926, his insightful contribution to Commonwealth debates are duly noted by its participants. O'Higgins' significant reputation internationally as the government's key spokesman was thus cemented.

His name was also made as a reformer of the Irish drink trade, with three Liquor Acts to his credit. A belief in the need for unity through reconciliation rather than division and violence characterised his view of partition and the ideal of a united Ireland. Viewed by many as a stern and conservative man, O'Higgins possessed a self-depreciating sense of humour and wit that was often unacknowledged. He and Brigid had two daughters, Meav (*b.* June 1923) and Una (*b.* January 1927). A son, Finbarr Gerald, was also born in November 1924, but died in infancy.

O'Higgins' assassination occurred on Sunday the 10 July 1927 near his home in Booterstown, Dublin, while walking to mid-day mass alone. He had just recently returned from a League of Nations naval conference in Geneva. On his death-bed O'Higgins forgave his attackers, gave instructions regarding his affairs and spoke to his family and friends. The following day his remains were removed from his home, Dunamase House, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, to the Mansion House, Dublin, where thousands filed past his coffin, which lay in state until 8 p.m. on Tuesday. His funeral took place in the morning of 13 July after a requiem mass at St Andrew's Church, Westland Row. It was a day of national mourning, with the funeral cortège stretching for over 3 miles along crowded streets. O'Higgins was buried in the north-west corner of Glasnevin cemetery, in the division known as St Brigid's, in the same grave as his infant son.

### **Sources:**

David Harkness, 'O'Higgins, Kevin Christopher (1892–1927), Politician and Social Reformer', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford: 2007.

John P. McCarthy, *Kevin O'Higgins: Builder of the Irish State*, Dublin: 2006.

Terence de Vere White, *Kevin O'Higgins*, London: 1948.

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**Archival History**

Deposited by Una O'Higgins O'Malley in January 2004.

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## **CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

### **Scope and Content**

Letters from Kevin O'Higgins to Brigid O'Higgins (nee Cole) discussing personal and political matters 1920–27.

Correspondence of Kevin O'Higgins with family members, friends and colleagues regarding his personal life and various political developments 1918–27.

Correspondence of other family members, mainly Brigid O'Higgins 1883–1937.

Letters of condolence upon the death of Kevin O'Higgins 1927.

O'Higgins' student verses, speeches and articles, mainly concerning fight for independence, subsequent civil war divisions, and Ireland's economic and social development 1910s–28.

Material regarding O'Higgins political career including treaty negotiations, the post-treaty provisional government, dual monarchy and international conferences 1915–27.

Newscuttings concerning Kevin O'Higgins; photographs mainly of O'Higgins, family and colleagues 1890s-1980s.

Posthumous reference material mainly accounts of Kevin O'Higgins' political contributions 1927-2003

Material relating to his children, Una and Maev, his wife, Brigid O'Higgins, and other family members 1921–92.

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## **CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE**

### **Access**

Available by appointment to holders of a UCDA reader's ticket. Produced for consultation in microform.

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### **Language**

English

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### **Finding Aid**

Descriptive catalogue

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## **DESCRIPTION CONTROL**

### **Archivist's Note**

Descriptive catalogue prepared by Antoinette Doran, October 2007

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## **ALLIED MATERIALS**

### **Related collections in UCD Archives**

P39 Papers of Cumann na nGaedheal and Fine Gael Party

### **Related collections elsewhere**

Rory O'Connor letters in National Library of Ireland  
Kevin O'Higgins documents in National Archives of Ireland

## **1. Correspondence**

### **1.1. Holograph letters from Kevin O'Higgins to Brigid O'Higgins (née Cole), 1920-27**

**P197/1**      18 March 1920

1p

Letter confirming his attendance at an undisclosed occasion and stating that he will 'look up the small man to-morrow'. Affectionate and playful tone is used throughout, with the closing statement, 'Pet don't mind the boy he's half daft with excitement'.

**P197/2**      29 May 1920

3pp

Letter referring to a return train journey and her 'butting in' to his thoughts 'at all kinds of inopportune moments'. O'Higgins mentions the 'Big Worry', probably alluding to the romantic interest shown towards Brigid by Gearoid O'Sullivan, a fellow teacher at St. Mary's College, Knockbeg, County Carlow, (later becoming Adjutant-General of the Free State Army). O'Higgins' states 'I don't want to butt in. It is your affair primarily. But you should do what you think best for yourself. If you do that no one in the picture, or out of it, will have any right to complain.' O'Higgins also makes general statements concerning the political situation in Ireland, stating 'It's a queer complex kind of an old world, and just at present this particular clod of ours is about the most complex of the whole damned lump, with the juggernaut of politics butting into every phase of our existence. It's different for us, we have the fun of the fight, but its bad to think of the old wheel catching little people who didn't go looking for trouble - at least not from that quarter.' References are also made to 'cousin George', [George Gavan Duffy?], A.E. [George William Russell], and to Miss H [a Department secretary].

**P197/3**      1 June 1920

4pp

Letter thanking her for the note and enclosures, and stating that if it is not possible for him to visit on Saturday (5 June 1920) then he will come on the 12 June 'failing orders to the contrary'. He makes reference to Monday 7 June as being the anniversary in question (his birthday): 'a sufficiently gloomy occasion without additional pangs in the nature of "bumps"'. An allusion is made to a question posed by Brigid which 'raises big issues' that O'Higgins would prefer to discuss in person rather than 'to set them down in a form which would

**P197/3 contd** permit of their being produced in evidence'. He refers to his own 'really very banal' experience of a previous failed relationship. Reference is also made to his old 'Brig Comm'.

**P197/4** [June 1920?]

4pp

Letter from O'Higgins, 40 Synge Street, Dublin, to Brigid Cole in Glengariff, Co. Cork. Brigid, Irene O'Higgins (Kevin's sister) and the Rector of Knockbeg, Father Patrick Doyle, were holidaying in Glengariff in the summer of 1920. O'Higgins expresses his hope that they had a comfortable journey, enquires about the rector and his sister, and outlines his feelings towards Brigid, stating, 'I'd be afraid of life without my Bird, it wouldn't seem worthwhile somehow'. He also makes reference to presents received from 'my big friend' [Michael Collins] 'as a result of his recent good fortune'. Preparation for the expected 'hard work' of the next month is mentioned, as well as not having heard yet from 'G' [?] or MacNeill, and requesting that if Brigid is writing to O'B [John O'Byrne?], he would like to arrange a meeting.

**P197/5** [June 1920?]

3pp

Letter expressing his thanks for her letter, stating that his landlady is 'getting kind of wise to the little one's writing', and that he has had to tell her, 'I was an only son and my mother for some unaccountable reason was fond of me'. He also makes reference to 'G' [Gearoid O'Sullivan?], and 'the little party', conveying gladness that 'the Rec' (the Rector of Knockbeg) and 'I' (Irene O'Higgins) are getting on well while they holiday with Brigid in Glengariff. O'Higgins also expresses his disdain for 'C' (W.T. Cosgrave), making lengthy reference to his return after a brief imprisonment: '...the man is only fitted to drive his wife about the countryside in a smart pony and trap and return the salutes of the peasantry with the proper mixture of graciousness and bonhomie'. He also complains at Cosgrave's suggested appointment of 'Spud' [Jim Murphy?] as secretary to the commission (commission of experts set up by O'Higgins in June to explore the possibility of carrying out local administration without English government funding). An interruption to his letter writing by 'Irene's Shaun' concludes the text.

**P197/6**

[June 1920?]

4pp

Letter referring to his evening with Irene's (O'Higgins) Shaun at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, where he met 'a superfluity of friends from (his) salad days'. An encounter with Gearoid O'Sullivan is also mentioned, with a reconciliation of friendship made between the two men. O'Higgins expresses admiration for a newspaper interview given by 'A.G.' (Arthur Griffith) to the representative of a French newspaper, demonstrating Griffith's strength and ability. He goes on to mention the current position, which sees 'David' (Lloyd George) demanding immediate action, while O'Higgins ironically points out that it is Lloyd George's move to make. The 'last mad card' in the orange riots is also referred to, with the prediction being made that 'Belfast like Derry will react against them'. O'Higgins' wryly comments: 'They can't bustle us, children, we're the new non-bustable brand of seed potato, guaranteed to give crows indigestion, what thinks no small beans of itself'. An allusion is made to his five month prison sentence in 1918, which he states did not seem half as long as the five days until he is reunited with Brigid.

**P197/7**

[June 1920?]

4pp

Incomplete letter (pages one and two missing) expressing anger at the 'jumped-up junkers'. Reference is made to a Mr Newth, who O'Higgins states he is seeing in relation to the 'scheme' as a potential foreman of unspecified works. There are allusions to Pat O'Neill, who O'Higgins predicts will turn down the job offered to him in connection with the scheme because of his hypochondria. [Conk?] is put forward as a likely alternative. After expressing his fears concerning future uncertainty O'Higgins states 'I was going to tear this up but I'll let it stand, for it is better that the child should know me for what I am, not always strong or in the bullying phase but a moody old devil at times'. Repayment of a loan is also alluded to. O'Higgins mentions a visit from 'Roory' [Rory O'Connor?] in which he congratulates him 'on the recent very efficient and well disciplined strike of the plutocrat officials of the corporation - of whom he is one'. O'Higgins also refers in passing to the 'Comm' (Commission of Enquiry into Local Government).

**P197/8**

20 June 1920

4pp

Letter expressing his commitment to her. He states, 'I am no superman, God knows, dearie, but I have never yet wanted anything very badly that I did not manage to get'. An invitation to a trip to

**P197/8 contd**

Bodenstown with Diarmuid (O'Hegarty), 'R' (Rory O'Connor) and 'G' (Gearoid O'Sullivan) is mentioned, with O'Higgins declining to go but meeting O'Sullivan who was 'perfectly friendly and natural'. He alludes to Brigid's former relationship with O'Sullivan, and expresses gladness that she did not marry him. O'Higgins refers to an Aeridheacht (open-air gathering) at Queens University, Belfast, at which he has been asked to speak, with the consent of the 'Big Feller' (Michael Collins). A change in his work is alluded to, and O'Higgins' dismay at Cosgrave's intended appointment of 'Spud' [Jim Murphy?] as secretary to the Commission of Enquiry into Local Government concludes the letter.

**P197/9**

24 June 1920

4pp

Letter referring to Brigid's move to either Dundrum or Kingstown, and 'an arrangement' for Sunday 4 July which he assures her will not involve 'any risks that aren't essentially part of the game'. In answer to her question concerning his understanding of 'the man on the hedge', O'Higgins asserts he does not hold much sympathy for such a neutral position: "There oughtn't to be any man on the hedge at present, and if there weren't the load wouldn't be cutting the breasts of those who are pulling it'. He goes on to state his understanding and sympathy with women at times of war, alluding to those who lost 'lovers, husbands or sons' in World War I. He berates her for worrying needlessly about his strength and health, remarking on her condition as 'being a shade less robust than her thirteen stone boy'. The letter concludes with his expressions of love, which he wonders should he be making in such an outspoken and unreserved manner.

**P197/10**

28 June 1920

4pp

Letter referring to a meeting between them on the preceding Wednesday. O'Higgins states that he may have news concerning the 'difference of opinion between M [Michael Collins?] and myself' which "has been left to the body to which we are both responsible'. He implies that this may lead to his resignation: 'They will have little difficulty in getting a better man, and I will be somewhat freer to set about building a little nest'. Reference is also made to the difficult terms of his relationship with 'G' (Gearoid O'Sullivan) due to his romantic interest in Brigid: 'I am sorry for him from my heart and unless he makes it impossible for me I will be as good a friend to him as he has in the world - but what the good God has given me was never his.' O'Higgins concludes by expressing his hope that he will be worthy of the upset and disturbance he has caused her.

**P197/11** [July 1920?]

6pp

Letter making reference to the attempted hanging of the writer and Sinn Féin activist Edward Darrell Figgis by a British officer. A visit from 'Irene's Shaun' is mentioned, as is a description of his sister, Irene, as 'a rather wonderful old child when you get to know her very well'. The letter primarily contains long passages in which O'Higgins expresses his love for Brigid: 'Life for me now is all relative to you, there is no joy but in having you, no sorrow but in absense from you, no fear but the fear of losing you.'

**P197/12** [July 1920?]

4pp

Letter outlining his enjoyment at writing to her, which he explains as 'the expression of my deeper thoughts...because its meself that knows that I have a bad servant in me tongue in these matters'. He engages in a satirical account of his pleading to the charges made against him by Brigid concerning his poor eating habits, his smoking and his lack of exercise. Allusion is made to his expulsion from Maynooth College because of his smoking, with him directly mentioning the 'present archbishop of Melbourne' and Dr John Foley as the 'eminent' ecclesiastic(s) who first pointed out this habit.

**P197/13** [26 July 1920]

4pp

Letter in which he refers to 'the conflagrations in Bantry' that he hopes she is not near, wishing her return to Dublin 'were things are done somewhat less crudely'. He discusses the opening of the Commission of Enquiry into Local Government and expresses his luck at getting Rory O'Connor as secretary. Allusion is also made to Cosgrave, whom he states has 'carefully stuck me for the chair of this show'. A local fete is mentioned, with O'Higgins remarking on the 'Christian Brothers' subtle method of charming the siller out of the pockets of the new poor'. A visit by Connor Maguire in which he comments on O'Higgins' seriousness is satirically related: 'And if Maguire comes in next week I'll say 'Sir' to him - meet him at the door, get him two or three chairs, sit on the waste paper basket meself and sing him comic songs!' Reference is made to the current political situation which requires hardness and strength. O'Higgins expresses indignation at Unionist leader Edward Carson who is 'mobilising behind the skirts of Brittainia to murder non combatants in the North for propaganda purposes'.

**P197/14** [27 July 1920]

6pp

Letter outlining his opening address at the Commission of Enquiry into Local Government, which he states was heavily influenced by his happiness at receiving a letter from Brigid. He goes on to express concern at a possible disagreement which may have occurred between her and his sister, Irene. O'Higgins also attempts to counter any suggestion that he has an idealised image of Brigid through lengthy passages concerning his feelings for her. He also refers to his 'pre-1916' days in which he 'slacked', avoided exams and 'drank like old Joe Addison'. There are allusions to his bad temperament while waiting for her return, which he states may cause 'the moth eater getting an L of a time' (reference to the Department clerk). Cosgrave is mentioned, with O'Higgins affectionately remarking, 'Poor old C – but he knows I love him – unofficially'. Criticism of the 'sacerdotes' (priests) is expressed, as well as an overall shift in the opinions of Protestants and the broader political mindset: 'They're discovering belatedly that a Republican is not necessarily a man who 'sauces' his tea or eats peas with his knife – it's just dawning on them that it's a proposition that it might be well to consider on its merits'.

**P197/15** 10 August 1920

1p

Letter arranging an outing on Thursday between O'Higgins, Brigid and her sister, to whom O'Higgins refers to as the 'Bolshevch'. A trip to Greystones on the following Sunday is also mentioned.

**P197/16** [August 1920?]

4pp

Letter referring to an abandoned visit to 'D' (Dalkey) to see 'the lasses' (O'Higgins' sisters) which was cancelled due to Irene and Christine going to a matinee with 'Bard (Bren Sullivan) and his sister'. Allusion is made to a retreat and a new Rector in Knockbeg. An encounter with 'The Flier' is also referred to. Cosgrave's 'effacement' is suggested, with O'Higgins stating, 'Just as well he'd afface himself when he's no ruddy use, n'est ce pas?'. He states that according to R O'C (Rory O'Connor) the railway strike should be abandoned 'as a matter of tactics'. O'Higgins praises Brigid for her patience comparing her 'greatness' to that of the 'Big Feller' (Micheal Collins) or any of these auld heavy weights'.

**P197/17** 24 August 1920

2pp

Letter concerning a visit to Brigid in Bray where she is staying with her aunt. O'Higgins refers to his nervous state about a visit that evening, possibly alluding to his discussing their marriage with Brigid's family. Mention is also made of his resignation as follows: 'I wrote to MC [Michael Collins?] today telling him I was clearing out and giving reasons but not all the reasons...'

**P197/18** [September 1920?]

1p

Letter wishing her good luck at the start of a new teaching term. Reference is made to his loneliness, which he believes will pass, and to her keeping well and doing 'her best' in their current situation.

**P197/19** [September 1920?]

4pp

Letter expressing hope that the 'who are you shovin?' incident involving 'Dundrummers' had not negatively effected Brigid. Reference is made to 'Mrs M' (Mrs Malvey), a neighbour. O'Higgins expresses his happiness and love for Brigid in lengthy passages, stating, 'Both you and I my girl will face our work thanking God for the summer of 1920 ...'.

**P197/20** 9 September 1920

2pp

Letter discussing O'Higgins' communication with his father concerning their engagement and arranging the details of Brigid's first meeting with his family at 'W' (Woodlands, the O'Higgins family home). The procuring of notes and 'full instructions about books etc.' from Cussen (George Patrick Cussen, solicitor) is mentioned. Reference is also made to Brigid's shaken state after 'the motor incident' and to a potential visit by him to 'little Miss Ita' (a younger sister at boarding school in Dublin). He states that it is 'hard luck about G', referring to Gearoid O'Sullivan's reaction to their relationship.

**P197/21** [September 1920]

4pp

Letter referring to 'dispatches' received from his parents outlining their happiness at the engagement and their excitement at the prospect of meeting Brigid for the first time. He alludes to his sisters as Brigid's 'press agents' and to a visit he has made to her 'petyoges' [mother and sister?], who he states are 'a little inclined to bully your lad about his grub by threatening to report him to his competent authority'.

**P197/22** [September 1920?]

2pp

Letter concerning arrangements for Brigid's first meeting with O'Higgins' parents. Progress with his studies is mentioned. O'Higgins also states that he 'is getting a firmer and more authoritative grip on 'things' and thinks he can make it necessary for his partner (Cosgrave) to act or bow himself out'.

**P197/23** [September 1920?]

2pp

Letter referring to a visit to his sister [?], 'little Moll' and a letter received from 'R' (Rector of Knockbeg). O'Higgins alludes to the political situation, stating, 'There is a good deal of rushin' abaht on here at present – verily a feverish dance, but it is the dance of Death and the faster the pace the nearer the end – for our friends'. He expresses regret at not knowing when he was younger what lay ahead for him and the role that he is now playing. He also asserts that he is working hard and focusing on the 'normal' as the best means of bringing calmness and serenity.

**P197/24** [September 1920?]

4pp

Letter referring to the political struggle, which contains O'Higgins' statement, '(t)hings is tough at the moment but blood and tears are the cement of nationhood and we are paying the price of the sins of our immediate predecessors – Nugent, Devlin et hoc genus omne – a nation can not go wrong with impunity – no more than an individual'. He also alludes to the suggestion by 'R' [Rory O'Connor?] that he is depressed, which he dismisses. The purchasing of an engagement ring is discussed, with O'Higgins planning on getting it blessed before

**P197/24 contd** he brings it to her. The first meeting of their families is also referred to. O'Higgins asserts his love for her and his desire to make her happy so as 'to compensate in some way for the worry that is incidental to her lad's occupation and the terrible glorious times in which we live'.

**P197/25** 23 September 1920

4pp

Letter regarding the sizing of her engagement ring and his eagerness to give it to her so that it may 'bring back the poor little sprite who hasn't been much in evidence of late'. He apologises for his bad temper and promises to never 'fret his little girlie in any way any more'.

**P197/26** 29 September 1920

2pp

Letter mentioning the resizing of the engagement ring and asserting his positive outlook towards the climate of political and social unrest: 'He has his head up and plugs around grinning to himself at the futility of Force against Spirit. Properly understood these bes great times – beesn't they, little adjutant?'. Mention is also made of visits to 'M' and 'W', referring to their respective family homes at Mayfield and Woodlands.

**P197/27** 4 October 1920

1p

Letter reporting an uneventful journey and expressing regret at upsetting Brigid. He states, 'Your boy is hopin' the little one will be forgettin' some things – he knows she forgives them...'

**P197/28** 5 October 1920

2pp

Letter referring to his happiness at Brigid having the engagement ring. His brother 'J' (Jack) and his sisters are alluded to. He also states that the 'big push' appears to be failing and that 'we'll be all wiser by January'. He asserts, 'Further the blood of brave men has been worth Independence in every land, in this land it is not going to be sold for 'Home Rule'.

**P197/29** 6 October 1920

8pp

Letter outlining his dismissal of 'R.C.'s' (Rector of Knockbeg's) 'unspoken condemnations' of O'Higgins' perceived selfishness and his preoccupation with Brigid. He asserts that she has never caused him to neglect his work but rather has been a source of strength and inspiration. He states that he and 'R' (Rory O'Connor) 'are going great guns these times' and their 'affairs are looking up'. Reference is also made to a possible visit by his sister Moll to Brigid and a letter from his mother to her.

**P197/30** [October 1920]

4pp

Letter expressing concern about Brigid's doubts regarding 'loop no. 2', and assuring her that their marriage will definitely go ahead. He states that all is going very well and 'not since the 'drive' (collection of loan) did he do a better week's work'. Reference is made to a visit by him to her mother and sister, Moll. He hopes that his fondness for them is reciprocated. The following assertion is also made concerning his character: 'I think in dishing out my qualities Providence did really give me a big share of insight - to see and appreciate the finer and subtler side of people's characters and a capacity for being rather deeply stirred by what I see - good or bad...'. Another planned visit to her mother on Sunday is also mentioned, with 'Prov' expected to be there (reference to Brigid's cousin, Provincial of the Carmelite Order). He concludes by retracting his 'snarl' regarding the Rector of Knockbeg in his previous letter, stating that he may have been ungenerous and somewhat bitter.

**P197/31** [October 1920?]

2pp

Letter outlining a potential job opportunity for Brigid as a school inspector, which was communicated to him by Prov (Brigid's cousin, Provincial of the Carmelite Order), who in turn received the information from Mother Eucharía, Headmistress of Loreto convent school. The need to secure support from Dr John Foley, possibly through the intervention of Fr Timothy Corcoran, is also mentioned. He concludes by advising her not to place all her hopes on the job, and consider the hard work, travel and pressure involved.

**P197/32** [October 1920?]

4pp

Letter referring to Brigid's teaching and her youthful spirit, which he states has not been altered by 'Corkie' [Dr. Timothy Corcoran?] and Mother Eucharist. He alludes to her 'butting in' to his thoughts while he is working. Reference is made to an outfit which he hopes she receives and to a note that the 'Big Feller' (Michael Collins) has shown to him. O'Higgins admits that he did in fact 'write that terrible thing', but 'no one took it seriously...[as] anything but a slip of the pen'. He also mentions seeing Rory (O'Connor) on a tram but failing to ascertain whether 'he knows it wasn't my own name I put to his precious document'.

**P197/33** [October 1920?]

2pp

Letter referring to his aunt, Fanny Sullivan, whose address is given as 87 Marlboro Road, Donnybrook, and to 'Uncle N', probably alluding to his younger brother, Niall. He asserts that his 'cynical fit' has abated, and he 'has his head well up above the ould black waters'. Contains reference to the 'drive' (collection of a loan by O'Higgins on behalf of Sinn Fein).

**P197/34** [October 1920?]

2pp

Letter relating a return train journey on which soldiers boarded the train causing him to exit at Clondalkin (West Dublin) and walk to the city centre. He expresses hope that the train lines will be open on Saturday for Sister Philippa (his sister, Kathleen) and 'her brud'. He also demonstrates affection for the city, stating it 'is a nice friendly kind of an 'ole to relapse into this old metropol!'. Reference is made to Brigid's mother and sister, and to his aunt, Fanny Sullivan.

**P197/35** 13 October 1920

2pp

Letter expressing worry at Brigid's health and annoyance at the Rector of Knockbeg, who, according to O'Higgins, is 'surpassing himself in moodiness and waspishness'. He also alludes to Philippa's departure from London port (his sister, a Loreto nun undertaking missionary work in India) and arrangements for Brigid's weekend in Dublin. Mention is made of his successful attempt to quit smoking

**P197/35 contd** and of a possible get together orchestrated by Moll between O'Higgins, Ben [Cole?] and John O'Byrne.

**P197/36** [October 1920?]

2pp

Letter expressing shock at Brigid's suggestion that he was angry with her. He outlines his busy schedule as the reason for not replying to her letter and states that 'she is all there is in life for him'. He also refers to returning to his accommodation before curfew.

**P197/37** [October 1920?]

4pp

Letter expressing his grief at the departure of Philippa (his sister, undertaking missionary work in India). He states that in the face of such sorrow one must appreciate their blessings and he asserts, 'God will be Father, Mother and family to little Phil and perhaps if we who are left try to accept this cross humbly we may become sharers in some small way in the merits and graces of her sacrifice'.

**P197/38** [October 1920?]

4pp

Letter suggesting Brigid visit his family home, Woodlands, over the weekend as it would be 'an act of charity' that should cheer his mother up no end. Reference is made to 'her lady friend', a possible coded allusion to himself: 'will the child wire early on Friday to W "Free to go B" and to the lady friend "Business satisfactory".'

**P197/39** [November 1920?]

4pp

Letter referring to a trip to Carlow because of 'Brag' (?), a bishop or potential bishop. A visit by O'Higgins to Brigid's sister, Moll, and John O'Byrne is mentioned. News about Philippa (his sister) from Marseilles is reported as negative, with her having 'suffered terribly'. Reference to No.4 and his being 'madly in love with Gran' alludes to Granny O'Rourke, a friend of Brigid's mother who lived in 4 Conyngham Road.

**P197/40** [November 1920?]

4pp

Letter expressing concern regarding the Rector of Knockbeg's illness and asserting his fondness for him 'when all is said and done'. Reference is made to the 'Uncle N Affair', possibly alluding to some inappropriate comments made by his brother, Niall. Arrangements for a visit by Brigid to Dublin at the weekend are discussed (advocating the avoidance of Newbridge by train) and O'Higgins' high spirits and good health due to his success in giving up cigarettes are mentioned. Allusion is also made to a copy of a song he has ordered for her, a fortifying tonic, and a visit to her mother.

**P197/41** [November 1920?]

3pp

Letter mentioning 'Macredy' (Nevil Macready, commander of the British forces in Ireland) and Eric Geddes, British Minister for Transport. O'Higgins expresses pride at Brigid's ability not to let 'any o' that bunch' worry her, but rather 'just keeps the little heart up and prays for better times'. Philippa's (his sister) ill health is discussed, with criticism being directed at the nuns in Gibraltar and Dalkey for their inhumane treatment at agreeing to put her on a boat while she was so unwell. He states that her address for Christmas will be Loreto House, 7 Middleton Row, Calcutta, and it would be very kind of Brigid to write to her. A comment is made concerning '(o)ur friends...breakin' the Sabbath', a possible allusion to Bloody Sunday (21 November 1920). He states 'the week-end is not without incident but the many headed multitude is behavin' very fine'. He goes on to wryly observe that 'hookin' from armoured cars and joining in raids have become popular pastimes to alleviate boredom. O'Higgins attempts to assuage Brigid's concerns regarding their plans for the Christmas holidays, stating that alternative transport arrangements can be made for her.

**P197/42** 22 November 1920

2pp

Letter referring to the events of Bloody Sunday and expressing gladness that she is away from the city because of his fear that 'these times will have more than a passing effect on those who are in close touch with the crude horrors that occur...'. He states that it is unlikely he will see her before the Christmas holidays and instructs her to disregard the newspapers and avoid any worry or upset they may cause. A new 10 pm curfew for Dublin is mentioned, with O'Higgins wryly remarking that they are 'bein' put to bed early for bein' bold boys'. He also states, 'We have not good qualities for this

**P197/42 contd** kind of fight – too clever, too imaginative, and too ruddy cynical'. Allusion to the negative actions of Galway's public representatives is also briefly made.

**P197/43** [23 November 1920]

4pp

Letter reporting an incident in which he was 'in the hands of our friends for over an hour and by an extraordinary fluke got clear'. This refers to a raid on Dublin County Council offices which were being used by Dáil Éireann's Local Government staff as a temporary headquarters. They gave false names and details, and the soldiers failed to identify their hostages. O'Higgins further states that 'W' is dead, alluding to the pseudonym of Wilson, which he must now drop and instead use 'Hennessy'. He also mentions the rumour that 'brother J' (Jack) has been arrested, which he hopes is not true.

**P197/44** [November 1920?]

2pp

Letter referring to travel arrangements and plans for the Christmas holidays. He expresses understanding at how difficult life must sometimes be for her and sadness at their physical separation. Reference is also made to his studying of law books.

**P197/45** [November 1920?]

2pp

Letter referring to a visitor of Brigid's which symbolises for O'Higgins her 'might have been'. This is a possible allusion to Gearoid O'Sullivan. He states that it has been a black week for him and that he wishes she and his mother were 'under an anaesthetic until t' is all over and awaken with the good news'. Mention is made of a play he has seen at the Abbey Theatre, from which he quotes a line concerning 'our being given the task of angels while we are but men' (possibly a production of 'The island of saints and how to get out of it'). O'Higgins goes on to state, 'you and I will look back on all this someday, girleen, and be glad we had to go through it'. T' will broaden and sweeten all life for us, giving a vision and perspective that will justify the price.'

**P197/46** [December 1920]

4pp

Letter concerning their plans for the Christmas holidays, which will mean going to Woodlands, his family home, at New Year because there will be a full house for Christmas. He states that his sister Moll ('Moll H') is very sorry that her 'little new sister' cannot be there for the festivities. The Rector of Knockbeg is mentioned, with O'Higgins deferring to her judgement on the subject of writing to him, but also asserting, 'it's simply food to his egoism and self complacency to let him think that his approval is a matter of importance'. Mention is made of a magazine order from Eason and his sending of cigarettes to her. He also asks her to send 'Emer's Farewell' with a note to his aunt's address at 87 Marlboro Road, Donnybrook. He refers to the completion of his new navy suit, in which 'he looks a h- of a nut, though it's himself that says it'.

**P197/47** 9 December 1920

2pp

Letter referring to the long delay in receiving her letter and outlining his worry at the absence of any communication. Reference is made to an enclosure she has sent from the 'small priest' (Rector of Knockbeg), to which he has no comment to make. He states that he in fact had lunch with the Rector, George [Gavin Duffy?], Rory O'Connor and Michael Collins that day in the Gresham Hotel. Rory's return 'from his holiday's' is alluded to.

**P197/48** [December 1920?]

2p

Letter regarding arrangements for a visit by Brigid and complaints concerning the poor weather and his 'forlornity' at a week of 'hibernatin' [Christmas holidays?]. Reference is also made to his sister Moll and to both his and Brigid's mothers.

**P197/49** [December 1920?]

3pp

Letter mentioning the railway strike and its effect on Brigid's weekend visit to the 'metrop' (Dublin). The moth-eater (his clerk) and 'a Johnfolian attitude' [Rev. John Foley, Head of Carlow College?] are mentioned in passing. Reference is made to his work, which he states is yielding results. Cosgrave's absence is alluded to within this

**P197/49 contd** context, with O'Higgins stating, 'I'm goin to show my jumped-up quitter of a senior partner that I can steer the ould canoe in a squall, and keep it headin right'. He also asserts that he is 'worryin the opposition', wryly remarking, 'they called me a "person" lately, I am hoping to be promoted to "individual" any day now'.

**P197/50** [December 1920?]

3pp

Letter referring to the demise of British rule, with O'Higgins stating 'our friend Sean Buide is dying like a candle, most brilliant at the close' (Sean Buide is a term of derision originally referring to the Irish followers of the English King William III). Difficulty with the 'K' (Knockbeg) situation is commented upon. O'Higgins states that the R (rector) should be more plain and decisive in his explanation so that action can be taken. Further allusion is made to Britain's lack of success in 'the Big Push' which the 'average Dubliner is supremely contemptuous of'.

**P197/51** [December 1920?]

4pp

Letter concerning 'R' (Rory O'Connor?) and the 'senior partner' (Cosgrave) who, according to O'Higgins, 'has rather definitely quit'. Shakespearean similes are employed in relation to Cosgrave ('he, like Macbeth, should have died another time') and reference is made to the danger of prematurely expecting peace. Violence in the West is mentioned, acting as a precursor to the rest of the country. The actions of Sweetman (Roger Sweetman, Sinn Féin member) and 'Fr O'F' (Father Michael O'Flanagan) in calling for a truce are heavily criticised. A brief visit from 'J O'B [John O'Byrne?] and Kerne is also alluded to.

**P197/52** [January 1921?]

1p

Letter alluding to the arrest of his father. He states that 'in belated justification...a charge is being formulated of an inquest held under wrong auspices and contrary to order, many months ago'. O'Higgins expresses the belief that 'they're out to keep' his father, and under the circumstances his sisters are doing relatively well. He also refers to his happiness at the prospect of Brigid returning to Dublin permanently and states that they will always have 'very pleasant and tender' memories of Knockbeg.

**P197/53** [January 1921?]

1p

Letter concerning thoughts of his family at Woodlands, and allusion to his father's imprisonment, which are preventing him from having any interest 'in the approach of Spring'. He refers to P.J.L. [P.J. Little ?, editor of *New Ireland*] as 'right enough intellectually and may be relied on to serve Truth with his pen while his hand can grasp it'. O'Higgins goes on to negatively comment on the Catholic Church, stating that it 'has not the courage of its convictions' and 'has bowed the knee to the force always muttering 'render unto Caesar' without any inconvenient inquiries as to the basis of Caesar's power'.

**P197/54** 9 February 1921

2pp

Letter referring to her 'sad wee note' which outlined her apparent state of unhappiness and fatigue. He expresses the hope that his 'little hero woman is not going to crumple up on the old journey – though the road be rough and the pace terribly hard on little feet'. Reference is also made to his cold and ear infection, causing him to stay in bed, and to the cigarettes he has sent her to 'smoke the blue fellows out'.

**P197/55** [February 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to a visit to Dalkey to see his sisters and his purchasing of books for Brigid's pupils. There is also allusion to a 'family council', possibly referring to a government meeting. O'Higgins states 'One old lady was rather fretful and querulous but we were all very tactful and considerate towards her' (oblique reference to Cosgrave?). He presents a favourable outcome to the meeting, expressing the view that the 'prospects of getting the business through are pretty good'. He also jokingly raises the question of all men being liars, wittily remarking on 'the conscious inexactitudes of feminine "conversation"'.

**P197/56** Not dated

4pp

Letter referring to a break she is to look forward to, and to his ability to keep 'a sane outlook despite these giddy ould times'. He continues by alluding to the 'two big things' that motivate him and prevent his

**P197/56 contd** becoming 'a pessimistic agnostic'. These two elements are identified firstly as her positive influence, and secondly as his part in the fight for independence. At length he negatively comments on Eimar Ultan O'Duffy's novel, *The Wasted Island*. Reference to Brigid taking care of her health and to his planned trip to the Gaiety Theatre are also noted.

**P197/57** [February 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to Rory O'Connor's imprisonment in Kilmainham jail. Mention is also made of the books he has sent her and to his cold, which has led him to take a day off. He alludes to visits to her mother and sister, and to his own sisters. He instructs her not to worry about 'R' and mentions a letter of contingent instruction by him that refers to O'Higgins as 'his very good friend – and comrade'.

**P197/58** [February 1921?]

4pp

Letter referring to his recovery from a cold after spending Thursday and Friday in bed. He mentions an excursion with his sisters and the excessive kindness of Brigid's family while he is staying at Mayfield, her family home. He alludes to a 'sodality meeting' he is to attend that night and guesses that she will be going to Dublin Street (County Carlow). He refers to her birthday (19 February), which is in two weeks time. He also mentions a letter he has written to Rory O'Connor in prison and states 'it has been a stab in a sore place for me – but for one little brown-eyed childeen who mightn't be likin' it much I would infinitely prefer it to have been myself'. He asks if Brigid will pass on a letter to 'N' (Niall), his younger brother, who has been unwell at school. He concludes with the following statement concerning the political situation: 'The winter push ushered in with interviews and big drums has failed – likewise the peace offensive.'

**P197/59** [February 1921?]

4pp

Letter referring to his stay in Mayfield, Brigid's family home, and to the improvement of his cold and ear infection. He mentions the 'revelry' that must be occurring because of the lawyers on circuit in Carlow. He hopes that she is not staying out too late at the detriment of her health, and he asserts he is no way jealous. A visit by P.J. [?] to him is also mentioned, which was made to O'Higgins because his ear infection prevented his going out to meet P.J., George [Gavan

**P197/59 contd** Duffy?] and Michael [Collins?]. A trip to the theatre with his sisters to see 'Country Dressmaker' is discussed, with his commenting on the various performances of the cast. Arrangements for Brigid's journey to Dublin on Saturday are considered, and he makes reference to her last birthday, and all that has happened in a year. He concludes by considering how the fight for independence has effected the national character: 'Mineself thinks that fundamentally it must be for better. I think that anything that makes the individual think less of and for himself and more of and for the community in which he's a unit, is good'.

**P197/60** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter informing Brigid of her Uncle Lawrence's pneumonia and of the 'very charming' boudoir cap her sister has made her as an Easter gift. Reference to his family and a visit to his aunt's house on Marlboro Road are made. He also refers to the 'nervous break-down' of 'Push-Omega', that is, the repair required to his bicycle. A comment concerning their 'small friend' is made in relation to 'that famous lunch', with him expressing the view that he is 'regarded as the "villain of the piece" in connection with a certain dinner table conversation' [?].

**P197/61** [March 1921?]

1p

Letter enquiring about her return train journey from Dublin, and expressing hope that she will not develop the flu. Reference is made to a retreat that her students had taken, which should cause them to be 'much improved'. He also offers his assistance in any way to her work. In a postscript he alludes to Rory O'Connor's imprisonment, stating it 'is bad without R'.

**P197/62** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to her Uncle Lawrence's recovery from pneumonia. The 'luncheon business' is mentioned, with O'Higgins stating it is not worth worrying about. The meeting between his father and Rory O'Connor in prison is discussed. He states that they are 'strange bed-fellows...The acquaintance will be good for the old man as R is certainly among the best we can show'. He comments on the general state of the political conflict, asserting the following: 'I have very definitely the conviction of a crisis safely passed and while the future

**P197/62 contd** is not at all likely to be 'roses, roses all the way' there is a corner turned and we're on the straight run for home – a long run perhaps, hard on wind and limb, but we're on it, or I'm even a bigger mug than I think I am'. He continues by stating that this conviction does not mean his own work is going brilliantly, but rather despite the fact that it is 'pretty desperate', progress is slowly being made. He also refers to the repair of his trusty bicycle, 'a wise old horse'. A postscript alludes to the release of Rory O'Connor, stating it is 'Great about R!' and mentioning the *Sunday Independent*.

**P197/63** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter instructing her to enjoy her brief break from work and mentioning his 'first ould love messages' which were sent a year earlier. He states that 'It has been the most wonderful year' of his life, and that in another year's time they will 'be not a pair, but one'. He goes on to assert, 'If there is peace, tant mieux, but if there is not girleen mine, we must try for peace o' mind'. Allusion is made to his 'rectifying the stumbles' and continuing 'the weekly laundry process', which should allay any fears she may have.

**P197/64** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter informing her that developments are progressing 'rapidly and magnificently' in the fight for independence. He states that the following four to six weeks should bear witness to significant changes, asserting that 'even if events don't move quite so well or so rapidly you can take it that there has been an advance which puts the issue absolutely beyond a shadow of a doubt'. This three hour old news leads him to hope that this 'bud will flourish and bloom and will require no more of "war's red rain" to bring it to fruition or maturity'.

**P197/65** [March 1921?]

4pp

Letter alluding to his brother Brian's arrest, communicated by the phrase, 'the poor red fellow was "unfortunate"'. He asserts in relation to the arrest that 'the right is still right and must be served to the end'. He attempts to explain his 'moods' to her, citing his country surroundings during his formative years as one of the reasons for his 'taciturn' and 'brooding' temperament. He refers to her mother as 'St J' and states that she is incorrect in her assumption that silence is 'a

**P197/65 contd** sure indication of either ill-health or ill-temper'. He also states that Charles Lamb is a literary figure who he shares an affinity with and that he is helped by a 'grim fatalism' which prevents his 'utter collapse'. Mention is made of him being the only male family member left to arrest, with the exception of his younger brother, Niall, since both other brothers (Thomas and Brian) and his father (Thomas) were then in prison. He concludes with a note of optimism for the time ahead, stating 'things will come right – are in fact coming right at the moment'.

**P197/66** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter discrediting her suggestion that he had not written because he was annoyed with her. Mention is made of his walking to their 'future nest on the banks of the canal'. The imprisonment of his father and his family's reaction to this are also mentioned. He states that he is very proud of them, asserting 'Justice is vindicated on earth by the patient and dignified sufferings of people like them rather than by the mean-spirited effusions of the Bishop of Cork (Bishop Daniel Cohalan) and many of his colleagues'. O'Higgins is referring here to members of the Catholic hierarchy who criticised the IRA's fight for independence. He goes on to dramatically declare, 'Whether we win, lose, or draw eventually the moral value of the struggle is unquestionable – probably not since the persecutions of the early Christians has human nature risen to finer heights in endurance for an ideal than in Ireland to-day'.

**P197/67** [March 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to a visit from George [George Gavan Duffy?] and Rory O'Connor at which O'Connor speaks of his time in prison with O'Higgins' father, and relates his adaptability and good spirits. O'Higgins also alludes to a lunch, which he states had only the slightest 'atmosphere', and he dismisses any suggestion that there may be 'fences' built between him and Brigid. He expresses his anticipation at her next visit and his need for a break away from the city, as the 'ould nerves beginnin' to kick against eight hour days and nine o'clock curfew'.

**P197/68** [April 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to a seaside holiday they have had in Bray, County

**P197/68 contd** Wicklow, which he alludes to as the 'wonders of the stolen week'. He mentions 'Whit' as quite a long time away, but as being 'a milestone markin' somewhat more than half-way on the road'. The theft of his bicycle light is discussed, with the hope expressed that there is a special place in Hell reserved for such a crime. A reference is made to 'Demp' [Father Dempsey?], who has spoiled their holiday photographs.

**P197/69** [11 April 1921?] (Note: Dated 11 VI 1921 but in sequence with 11 IV 1921)

1p

Letter expressing concern that he has not heard from her for a week. He refers to a visit to her sister and mother, and to seeing 'the famous skirt'. Mention is made of his teeth extractions, with his comment that his false teeth may be in before she next sees him, or at least 'before the summer'.

**P197/70** [13 April 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to the problem of an unreliable postal service and alluding to the rumours that his father has been released from prison. Gladness at his brother Niall's good mood at school is also mentioned. He states that work is going well and he has had a tooth pulled, with another still to come out. He refers to his excitement at the prospect of their break 'next Saturday four weeks' (Whit). He also advises her to appreciate their existence in such a momentous period in Irish history, asserting that she should 'keep the little brown eye on the undercurrents for these years will stand out in our calendar for ever'. Mention is made of his memories of their trip to Bray, County Wicklow and to his attempts at creating a savings fund: '£12 this month (started it minus £15) and £25 per month after'.

**P197/71** [15 April 1921?]

1p

Letter expressing sadness at her anxiety and troubles. He reassures her that a rest will make her feel better and arrangements for her train journey are mentioned. Any concerns about her students' exam results are to be forgotten, as he states, 'many boys have grown up to be bad old men because of doing too well in these school exams'.

**P197/72** [17 April 1921?]

2pp

Letter referring to his father's release from prison, stating that both his family and father 'took the whole business in gallant style'. Rory O'Connor's praise of his father's 'stoicism under the harrow' is also mentioned. He considers the effects of the political struggle on the temperaments of those directly involved as follows: 'What monomaniacs we'll all be if we don't pull things off soon. Five years concentration – is it any wonder that some of us have no small talk? Wonder will we be dull fellows when 't' is over or will the economised gaiety of years suddenly effervesing shock the sedate.' He states that four weeks to the day will be Whit (15 May 1921) and that there should be significant developments by then. He expresses satisfaction at having foreseen such developments and having communicated them to her in early March. However, he warns against becoming overly hopeful, indicating that the British 'may well be relied on to try every trick in their dirty bag to stampede a not very wise or highly educated people'. Allusion is made to the passing of P.J. [?], and to Uncle Joe, who is now his only senior at the school in which Brigid teaches.

**P197/73** [April 1921?]

2pp

Letter mentioning Whit as 15 May and instructing her, 'any worryin's got to be done in this ménage' will be done by him. He hopes that she is not losing 'the fine sea complexion'. He also makes an oblique reference to Asquith by quoting his phrase in the context of their relationship: 'don't be gettin broodin' about anythin' the old lad "may or may not" (Asquith!) have dished out at odd moments'.

**P197/74** [April 1921?]

2pp

Letter apologising for not having written during the week because of his hectic schedule. He comments on his trips to the dentist and the transfer of Miss H, his secretary, due to his 'partner' [Cosgrave?] getting 'on her nerves'. He later states that she has been replaced by his partner's sister-in-law, whom he does not like, wryly asserting, 'nous ne clickerons jamais'. He mentions Brigid's mother and sister, wondering how they 'weathered recent events' and also asks how she is handling her own situation. He states that P.J. [Patrick Doyle?] would have caused her to be nervous, but the present Rector, Michael, should have 'a steadying effect'.

**P197/75** 28 April 1921

2pp

Letter referring to the next month's 'blessed Whit days', which should provide a welcome rest. He continues by wryly commenting on the Holy Ghost's intervention with David (Lloyd George, British Prime Minister): 'Wonder will the Holy Ghost make any fist o' David – methinks mebbe Dave will be wrong headed to the end and will go plungin' along to the abyss like the herd o' pigs possessed by the Devil that the Bible tells abaht....' Mention is made of a visit to Brigid's family, including a reference to her cousin, Provincial of the Carmelite Order. He also instructs her not to be saddened by individual tragedies and losses, but to 'preserve her sense of proportion'. He proceeds as follows: 'What are these things when set against the tragedy of defeat? Less than nothing, what will they appear when viewed in the light of victory? Things to be mourned but not to be grudged.'

**P197/76** 3 May 1921

2pp

Letter enquiring about her safe return to Carlow and stating that he is less saddened by their separation during the summer because he is not plagued by visions of her living in the cold wind and fog, 'crochin' over a mean fire'. Reference is made to his younger brother, Niall, and 'Uncle Joseph'[?]. He instructs her to read the newspapers in the coming months because, despite their inaccuracy, the news should prove 'most infernally interestin'. He also alludes to his savings, asserting his gladness at having spent all his money in his earlier days and thus avoided the error of 'scrapin and starvin' and limiting before having plenty of flittin abaht'.

**P197/77** 6 May 1921

2pp

Letter referring to his immunity to insults regarding his face and remarking that her rudeness was due to her 'unfortunate Loreto training' (Loreto College) and the influence of Mother Eucharía, (Headmistress of Loreto). He comments that he does not know what Dave (Lloyd George) or James Craig are going to do, but it is their move to make. Reference is made to the people of Leix, to whom he can not or will not give back eleven thousand pounds (loan collected on behalf of Sinn Fein). He assures her that he has had nothing stronger to drink than tea, and his mood is most likely due to the rain, which often affects his temperament. He also bemoans the fast pace of living, and asserts 'the desire of ease is the world's motive force'. He comments on his occasional wish to sleep on the 'soft and

**P197/77 contd** invitin' tram tracks that he passes on the way home, except for the tendency of people to 'misconstrue' his intentions. A 'blasphemous note' from G [George Gavan Duffy?] regarding the 'selection' [of delegates for Treaty negotiation?] is mentioned, with O'Higgins remarking that G will 'stoop to stand all right'.

**P197/78** [13 May 1921?]

2pp

Letter apologising for his last letter's negative tone, blaming 'some kind of planetary complications' which reportedly effected the moods of women and some men. He instructs her not to worry about the summer and asks her to come visit him in order to demonstrate her trust and belief in him. He reports that the fight for independence is hopefully moving towards a conclusion, and he is predicting significant developments in June or July. Mention is made of the 'the move in Kildare'. He continues by quoting T.K. Kettle's remark, made in 'a lucid moment', regarding those who have lent their names to the 'move in Kildare': 'Not for this did our fathers fall'. He concludes by reassuring her that he will do his best to rectify the matter which is causing her worry, possibly referring to their marriage and home.

**P197/79** [May 1921?]

2pp

Letter expressing sadness at her unwell state and recounting a weekend mix-up concerning a visit to his sisters and to her sister and mother. Reference is made to a 'full sodality meeting' at which great progress is being made, possibly alluding to Dáil Eireann. He states that there will be 'a big addition to the roll soon' which may bring certain 'dangers', but through the practice of 'delegated authority' such difficulties can be minimised. The result of this development will be 'a clearer definition of the fundamental facts'. Mention is made of an incident with George [Gavan Duffy?]. O'Higgins expresses frustration at their prolonged separation and looks forward to their future, asserting that the war should not upset her because 'things are comin out all right'.

**P197/80** 17 May 1921

2pp

Letter referring to his state of physical and mental exhaustion and expressing worry at her ill health. He states that her 'fretting so much about past and future' can only add to her condition and that he does not want to discuss matters in a letter. Reference is made to the

**P197/80 contd**      uncertainty of her plans for September and the amount of notice required to terminate her employment. He also comments on the state of the political situation as 'tending very well', with the possibility that any week may 'bring momentous changes'. The only course to lead them 'out of difficulties' is being taken, but this will require at least a year to produce a solution [law studies?].

**P197/81**            27 May 1921

2pp

Letter outlining his previous three letters since Whit (15 May) in response to her statement that she has not heard from him in a 'very long time'. He asks her to confirm if she has received these letters. He expresses anxiety at their location, and states that even though they were neither addressed nor signed, they contained 'intrinsic evidence as to the general nature of the writer's activities'. He instructs her not to let this cause her concern and asks what became of the 'Jubilee break' visit. Allusion is also made to her opinion of 'the fate of the rival establishment'.

**P197/82**            31 May 1921

2pp

Letter referring to the postage delay and her doubts about his perceived lack of communication. In relation to this he states, 'One of the many disadvantages of not having a united pledge-bound party on the floor of the House is that we can not have questions asked about things like this but only grin (or groan) and bear it'. Reference is made to a Jubilee invitation to her which was 'a perfectly rotten twist'. The end of the school year in two weeks is mentioned, with his reassurances that he will make proper arrangements for the summer months. He advises her not to allow her job to cause stress, observing that she should not 'crock her little self in an attempt to make prize-men and exhibitioners out of respectable mediocrites'. Progress towards ending the conflict is developing very well, with his commenting that they 'had the rival firm fought to a standstill quite apart from the recent débâcle' (occupation and burning of the Custom House). He continues by referring to a concurrent observation made by Judge O'B (John O'Byrne) 'the evening before the event'. The central role of 'bluff' in these matters is cited as an important issue and, if 'the end is not yet', he asserts they 'must say with the Frenchy whose bullet missed his fleeing enemy by a hair's breath - "eh bien, ce sera pour une autre fois!"

**P197/83** 29 June 1921

2pp

Letter commenting on his happiness at hearing that she is in good health and enjoying her break. He states she should stay as long as she likes because he knows she will not 'settle down with some son of a beef king'. Mention is made of his new teeth, which constitute 'a pardonable outlay' during his attempts at saving. He asks her to send his regards to Reverend D and to pray for 'a few people these times', as her prayers are very important for those who are too distracted to say their own. Reference to long walks at his family home at Woodlands, County Laois, is also made. He concludes the letter with the caution 'to be careful with R [?] on "confidentials" - breeze with M [?] etc. etc.'

**P197/84** [19 January 1922]

2pp

Letter from Jermyn Court Hotel, Piccadilly Circus, London, referring to the treaty negotiations with Winston Churchill and the other British representatives, and the awaited arrival of Michael Collins in order to proceed. He states that they will not stay any longer than is necessary, as it is 'bad business' for them to be away from Ireland at that time. He remarks on his desire to go home, stating 'it's not so bad spittin at the beggars across the table but once we knock off it's a dismal business - very unlike the last time'. Reference is made to E.J. (Éamonn Duggan) and Hamar (Hamar Greenwood, British Chief Secretary for Ireland).

**P197/85** [21 January 1922]

2pp

Letter from London outlining his schedule for Saturday and Sunday. He states that he has just returned from 10 Downing Street, where he, Michael Collins and E.J.D (Éamonn Duggan), met with 'the Welshman' (David Lloyd George). He comments on his own positive performance during the series of talks, stating 'he scored heavily off Hamar (Hamar Greenwood) a couple of times'. Reference is made to a dinner party he, Collins and Duggan are to attend that night with Sir John and Lady Hazel Lavery. He alludes to the fact that Winston Churchill will also be in attendance. Mention is made of seeing his 'Uncle Walsh' [J. Walsh?], with allusion to Walsh's poor health and 'violet ray treatment' given.

**P197/86** [23 January 1922]

4pp

Letter referring to Michael Collins' high spirits and the busy day of talks they have had. Lunch at the home of Winston Churchill's brother is mentioned, as well as a dinner party with Sir John and Lady Hazel Lavery, which he states was relatively enjoyable. He expresses his opinions on the British negotiators, commenting negatively on Hamar Greenwood (Chief Secretary for Ireland) and Sir John Anderson (Undersecretary for Ireland), the former being a 'complete charlatan', while the latter is described as a 'civil service sneak'. Churchill is portrayed as 'emotional and enthusiastic', possessing a childlike character – 'a boy of sixty, but a clever boy'. O'Higgins gives particular praise to Edwin Samuel Montagu, Secretary of State for India, who is described as a modest and 'thoroughly decent type' who fully supported their proposals. A meeting with Lloyd George is commented upon, with a description of his ability to face them at one moment 'with the beaming ingenious face of a boy' and then as 'a very very old fox'. He also praises Michael Collins' abilities and intelligence, stating that Collins' skills can match any of the British statemen's. Reference is made to terrible fog, which disrupted the transport system. The letter concludes with his repeated assertions that he wants to return home to her, 'away from this artificial atmosphere of wooden men and painted women'.

**P197/87** 22 June 1922

3pp

Letter commenting on Tom's [O'Higgins?, brother] unwise decision 'in definitely abandoning all hold on Maryboro'. Reference is made to the 'very serious' nature of the political situation, with the election results and the publishing of the constitution causing anger among the anti-treaty followers. He refers to the abundance of young men 'who would jump at the offer of three or six months locum in Maryboro (Prison)', but it is not the place of a married man to engage in such behaviour. The IRA shooting of Henry Wilson (British field marshal and conservative party politician) in London is mentioned, with O'Higgins stating that it has added 'another barrel of oil to the conflagration'. Comment is also made on the tampering with ballot papers in Michael Collins' constituency, which may possibly lead to the result in that area being invalidated. He concludes his remarks on the election by stating, 'a few anti skulls less in the sovereign assembly does not alter the fundamentals – the position of course never did depend on counting heads'.

**P197/88** 27 June 1922

2pp

Partial letter written from City Hall referring to the Free State government's move against the anti-treaty occupied Four Courts. Reference is made to the arrest of J.J. 'Ginger' O'Connell (a general in the new National Army) by anti-treaty forces, which acted as catalyst to this 'inevitable' action. O'Higgins' explains that O'Connell's arrest was carried out in retaliation for the Free State government's arrest of the organiser of a robbery carried out in the name of the 'Belfast Boycott', which he states 'has been extended of late to cover all the sins on the calendar'. He asserts that the move is going well and it is hoped that the evacuation of the Four Courts will have been achieved before night. Mention is made of their home, referred to as both 'the fort' and 'Dunamasa' (13 Mayfield Road, Terenure). He suggests that it may be necessary for them to sleep under guard, but that Molly (her sister) is being 'quite sensible'. He emphasises that there is no need for concern about his safety and that although 'the situation is sad enough', it was 'absolutely necessary'. Mention of the postponement of Bettystown is made, possibly referring to a planned holiday.

**P197/89** [September 1925]

4pp

Letter written from Hôtel des Deux Mondes, 22 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, en route to League of Nations conference in Geneva. Reference is made to other Irish delegates including Diarmuid O'Hegarty, Joseph Walshe and Desmond FitzGerald. Disappointment is expressed at missing K (Kathleen Sullivan), his cousin and occasional secretary, in London, and he assumes that she is now with Brigid in Ireland. Mention is also made of Mrs M (Mrs Maurice Healy) and 'the 99s' (his family who have moved to 99 Marlboro Road, Donnybrook). He remarks upon a lunch at 'the Denis Gwynne ménage', where he has met James Garvin, editor of the *Observer*. He comments on Garvin as 'one of the greatest talkers' he has ever encountered, and states that the 'hostile orchestra is tuning up here over the Boundary issue'. Although Garvin will never support the Irish nationalist cause, O'Higgins is positive that he managed to make an effective argument and doubts Garvin will 'join the *Daily Mail* or *Morning Post* campaign against' them. Arrival times at Geneva and Brigid's stay in the new 'fort' (Rockfort, holiday home in Greystones, Co Wicklow) are also referred to.

**P197/90** [September 1925]

4pp

Letter written from Grand Hotel, Bellevue, Geneva, at the League of Nations conference expressing appreciation of the sights and cultural attractions of Paris. Particular mention is made of the Church of Sainte Chapelle at the Palais de Justice, and an enquiry as to whether 'H' (Patrick Hogan?) is familiar with it. He reports that they are now comfortably lodged in Geneva and he is availing of early morning swims in the adjacent lake. He also sends his love to his daughter, Maev, and hopes she is enjoying her holiday. The general consensus is for a short and uneventful assembly, with O'Higgins commenting on the British and French discouragement of talks on the most important issue 'because they are engaged in delicate negotiation over that very matter'. Here he is explicitly referring to the Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. Confusion concerning a meeting with his cousin, Kathleen Sullivan, in London is remarked upon, with his instructions to tell her he completely understood she could not change her theatre engagement. Enquiry is also made about his eldest brother, Jack.

**P197/91** [September 1925]

4pp

Letter from Grand Hotel, Bellevue, Geneva, at the League of Nations conference outlining the slow progress of the assembly and lack of engagement by the Irish delegates. Criticism is directed against America, who are 'unofficially' and 'semi-officially' all around the League. He describes them as 'a terrible tribe - terrible in their crudeness, in their ignorance, in their appalling self-complacency'. Reference is made to a talk given by himself and Desmond FitzGerald at an American lunch, in which he sought to publicise the North-Eastern situation. Allusion is made to the 'medical row' at home, which he has been following in the Irish papers they receive. This is a reference to the decision to put the Irish Free State medical profession on a national register. He also refers to the 'Lion-hearted and the Speaker' leaving for America [Richard Mulcahy? and Micheál O hAodha]. He expresses dissatisfaction with the League, stating 'the shadow of that vegetarian vulture Lord R. Cecil overhangs it all'. Disillusionment with the ideals of the League are also articulated as follows: "Security, Disarmament, Arbitration", is a wonderful trilogy if it didn't mean Security in my ill-gotten gains, Disarmament for the other fellow, and Arbitration with the Court well packed'. However, he concludes by observing that they are at least moving in the right direction, and that it is necessary for these issues to be discussed at length 'sincerely and insincerely' before they may become fact.

**P197/92** [23 September 1925?]

3pp

Letter from Geneva outlining his plans for returning home. He alludes to 'a breeze' with the British Foreign Office that has improved his mood, and which he will explain to her more fully when he returns home. Apart from this, he comments on the proceedings as being 'as dull as ditch water' and looks forward to their termination. He also refers to the controversy over the creation of a Free State national medical profession register, expressing hope that 'our friend [Cosgrave?] has made no undesirable concessions'.

**P197/93** [September 1925?]

4pp

Letter from Geneva commenting on the League of Nations' assembly proceedings. Particular mention is made to the oratorical skills of the French delegate Joseph Paul Boncour and the 'acute and fearless mind' of the Italian representative, Antonio Cippico. He enquires if 'H' (Patrick Hogan) has joined her in Greystones and expresses gladness at the presence of the 'D.B.s' (family of D.B. Sullivan) and the Leigh-Doyle for her to socialise with. His opinions on the League of Nations are voiced, with a 'mildly cynical' view articulated in relation to the 'unlimited lip-service to idealism' which nevertheless allows a 'crafty imperialism' to flourish. The presence of Lord Robert Cecil is noted by O'Higgins with disdain, remarking that in his 'humble judgement' he is 'the biggest blackguard in an assembly which contains a fair sprinkling of them'. Reference is also made to other British delegates including Leopold Amery (colonial secretary) and Austen Chamberlain.

**P197/94** [October 1926?]

2pp

Letter from Hotel Cecil, Strand, London, concerning the Imperial Conference. He refers to meeting Edward Carson at a dinner reception, stating 'He was very friendly'. O'Higgins reports that his work is going well and he is hopeful that they will make significant developments quite soon. The arrival of Cosgrave and Patrick McGilligan is also mentioned. He concludes by expressing his desire to return home to her and his daughter, Maev.

**P197/95** [October 1926?]

2pp

Letter from London referring to the Imperial Conference proceedings. Particular mention is made of the High Commissioners Reception and a dinner party at the Lavery's. He refers to 'the biggest fence of all', a visit to Buckingham Palace, which is to take place that night. Positive comment is made on their progress and he outlines his desire to remain while their 'status push' is ongoing because he has a better chance of success than Desmond FitzGerald. Reference is also made to Patrick Hogan's 'Connaught tour'.

**P197/96** [October 1926?]

2pp

Letter from London outlining the Imperial Conference proceedings. He remarks that the visit to Buckingham Palace was not as formal as he had envisaged. 'G' (King George V) is described as 'very gracious and affable', having spoken to him for a quarter of an hour. He asserts that the Irish delegation are 'by far the best team in the Conference – bar one – and one would need to have been here in '23 to realise the vast change in (Ireland's) position'. He continues by wryly remarking that if current progress continues, by 1929 the name will be changed from 'British Empire' to 'Irish Empire'.

**P197/97** [October 1926?]

2pp

Letter from London concerning the Imperial Conference. He refers to J.B. Hertzog of South Africa as 'scholarly' and 'sincere', unlike the Australian, Stanley Bruce. Constructive discussion between the Irish delegates, Hertzog, and Mackenzie King of Canada are mentioned. He also instructs her to inform Patrick Hogan that he is fond of John Dulanty, who has arrived and is 'standing by on trade matters'. He expresses concern for her health and alludes to her pregnancy. Reference is also made to his daughter, Maev, to whom he promises to bring home a present.

**P197/98** 27 October 1926

2pp

Letter from London expressing disappointment that he is missing their anniversary and referring to his first aircraft flight at Croydon, which he greatly enjoyed. Reference is made to a debate at the Irish

**P197/98 contd** Club between O'Higgins and Lord Birkenhead. He outlines his 'leg pulling' as follows: 'told B we were prepared to pass lightly and charitably over the errors of 'his hot-headed political youth' and went on to tell of the unvarying success with which I invoked his Irish grandmother in times of crisis'. He concludes by stating that he is rushing to 'the first round of the Constitutional tussle'.

**P197/99** [November 1926?]

4pp

Letter from London outlining the proceedings and personalities of the Imperial Conference. He states that they are primarily involved in discussions with Lord Balfour, chairman of the committee on inter-imperial relations, with assistance from Austin Chamberlain, Leopold Amery and Lord Birkenhead. The abilities of J.B. Hertzog (South Africa) and Mackenzie King (Canada) are criticised, with particular disapproval being aimed at Stanley Bruce of Australia. Comment is also made on New Zealand, which 'must be rather like Northern Ireland – it produces the same type of Jingo reactionary'. Despite the slow pace, he asserts that 'the direction is right'. He predicts 'some day Anglo-Irish relations will be represented by a dual monarchy – two quite independent Kingdoms with a common King and perhaps a Defense (sic) Treaty'. The obstacles which prevent this occurrence are slowly being overcome, but the presupposition of a united Ireland is still 'so remote'. Reference is made to the Lavery's trip to America and Hazel Lavery's daughter (Miss Troudeau), who has instead opted to stay with friends in Kilkenny. Another visit to Buckingham Palace is also mentioned.

**P197/100** [17 November 1926]

4pp

Letter from London referring to 'last Sunday's happenings' (the killing of two gardai in IRA attacks on twelve unarmed police barracks on 14 November). He reassures her that such incidences are stunts, not to be taken too seriously. With the imperial conference drawing to a close, he states they have made significant progress generally, and in Constitutional matters. He bemoans the 'lousy futile anglophobia' which is preventing the possibility of a united Ireland and formal independence. Reference is made to the historical significance of the imperial conference continuing as follows: 'Lord, if only people at home had a true sense of their interests they would seize the opportunity of next year's election to steam-roll the irregular elements and go full steam ahead for a united Ireland and a dual monarchy'. He also affirms 'I know that it is perfectly attainable' and refers to the events of Sunday as totally 'injurious to real progress'.

**P197/101** [30 June 1927]

4pp

Letter from Grand Hotel de la Paix, Geneva, discussing the League of Nations conference on naval arms control. Reference is made to discussions with Sir Francis Charles Bridgeman, the Canadians and other international delegates, which he describes as cumulatively helpful in reinforcing his chief interest, the constitutional position. On the matter of naval disarmament, he states it is likely that Britain and America will wish to produce some form of treaty to at least provide the appearance of progress. A report to Cosgrave and the Executive Council is mentioned, and his uncertainty as to whether he should return home or wait in case an agreement is reached. He expresses concern over not being there to monitor 'the phraseology of the document', as Canada and South Africa 'have not yet learned to take a stand on their own' and have vision which is 'entirely second hand and derivative'. An outing to Chamounix with Michael MacWhite involving a cable car ride of the Alps is also discussed, as well as his early morning swims in the lake with Joseph Walshe and John Costello.

**1.2. Kevin O'Higgins' correspondence with friends, family members, colleagues, 1918-27**

**P197/102** 20 October 1918

2pp

Letter to Mr Sheridan communicating O'Higgins' decision to contest the Queen's County (Laois) seat in the 1918 general election. He acknowledges the honour of being selected by the Comhairle Ceanntair (District Council), and the significant responsibility to county and country contained therein. His allegiances to the Sinn Fein party are outlined, and he bemoans the lack of an independent Ireland within the broader context of international politics as follows: 'It is to be regretted that even at this hour when the world is ringing out with the cry of 'self determination'...men are found to come forward and ask the electors of Ireland to declare for something less than that which Irishmen from our own time back through the ages have poured out their blood.' He also expresses confidence in the people of Leix to vote for 'the Sovereign Independence of Ireland'.

**P197/103** 11 September 1920

3pp

Letter to Molly Cole, his future sister-in-law, enquiring about her own and her mother's well-being. He outlines Brigid's theory concerning

**P197/103**  
contd

the 'Law of Compensation', which states 'that we pay for our pleasure in this world, even perfectly legitimate pleasure, by corresponding and proportionate pain'. Reference is made to his sister Ita, whom he intends visiting the following day; his sister Philippa, who has moved to North Great George's Street; and his sister Irene, who is studying at Dalkey Convent. His intention of calling on Molly in Dundrum is also mentioned. Allusion is made to a 'taxi incident' involving Brigid and to her first meeting with his parents at Woodlands, his family home (see P197/19 and P197/20) .

**P197/104** [November 1921?]

1p

Letter to Molly Cole, his sister-in-law, apologising for not being able to visit on Monday night. Alternative arrangements for Wednesday are suggested, and he advises her to 'be as good as you can without the supervision of your bro'. Reference is also made to his hectic schedule, with his joking question as to what will happen when 'the wife' (Brigid) arrives: 'Couldn't very well bring her along – could I? Though I've no doubt she'd fix things up splendidly if I did....'

**P197/105** 11 January 1922

2pp

Typescript letter from G. P. Cussen, Cussen and Kieran Solicitors, 41 Kildare Street, Dublin, to Kevin O'Higgins, Minister for Economics, Dáil Éireann, Dublin, expressing congratulations at his appointment as Minister. He also assumes that O'Higgins will not be pursuing his studies for the legal profession, and may consequently return the notes he has borrowed at his own convenience if this is the case.

**P197/106** 8 June 1922

4pp

Letter from Thomas O'Higgins, Woodlands, Stradbally, Leix, to his son. He expresses the hope that Kevin and Arthur Griffith 'were able to square things up with the English this time so that perhaps they will not trouble you or old Ireland for the future'. Criticism is directed against the duplicity of the English, with allusion also made to the hypocrisy of their fellow countrymen. His forwarding of two letters addressed to Kevin requesting positions is mentioned. He also mentions an anti-treaty speech given by Father Burbage, and a further published explanation in the *Nationalist* to which he has written a reply that has received significant praise. Rumours of Tom (son?) having gotten 'some big post at the Curragh' and allusion to

**P197/106**  
contd

the 'Maryboro job' is made. His wish to see Jack (son) placed nearby is communicated, with the qualification that there are apparent difficulties with this, despite Jack having 'stood up for the country in his own way as much as many ex soldiers and ex British officers who are now for the Republic'.

**P197/107** 13 June 1922

3pp

Letter from Thomas O'Higgins, Woodlands, Stradbally, Leix, to his son. Reference is made to a letter of reply he has composed in response to Father Burbage's 'jeer' at him and their cause published in that week's *Nationalist*. He requests advice on whether to send the letter and if he is to do so, on the editing and revision of its content. Mention is made of a mix-up concerning the letter by the maid, Minnie, when he attempted to telephone Brigid at Dunamare, who was then out. He concludes by expressing the hope that Kevin and Brigid will come for a visit to Laois as soon as possible.

**P197/108** 30 December 1922

2pp

Letter to Tom O'Higgins (cousin), Ministry of Home Affairs, Dublin, expressing thanks for his Christmas letter and discussing the difficult political situation Ireland now faces. He acknowledges that there are 'a lot of quite decent people thinking badly of us now', but they can only proceed on their current course and "take what's coming to us afterwards'. He also asserts that 'the long fellow' (de Valera) has played a major role in the division, continuing as follows: 'I think of what he said at his last cabinet meeting about the nice "orderly split" we were going to have. I smiled then - and I have smiled many times since.' He also asks to be remembered to Miss Lyons, instructing him to tell her "politics is the science of the second best" - the best is rarely attained in this world, and even idealists have a duty to keep their feet on the ground and take stock of facts, particularly if the destinies of a country happen to be in their charge'.

**P197/109** 11 September 1924

6pp

Holograph letter from Patrick McCartan, 10 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, to Kevin O'Higgins regarding the Boundary Commission and Article 12 of the Treaty. He advises on a course of action which would see the Irish Free State pull out of negotiations and announce the

**P197/109**  
contd

Treaty as having been violated by the British Government. He instructs O'Higgins to inform the Governor General he is to vacate the Vice-Regal Lodge and order Eoin MacNeill to return home from negotiations in London. The creation of a new civic defence force, with possible advice to be sought from Joe McGrath and Austin Stack is suggested, as well as the drafting of a new constitution by the whole Dáil as a constituent assembly. He states that O'Higgins can not trust the staff working in government departments. If this plan is implemented, he asserts that they will force the British to provide a clear definition of Article 12 and may achieve the goal of a united Ireland.

**P197/110** 12 September 1924

4pp

Copy typescript letter from Kevin O'Higgins to Patrick McCartan, 10 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, replying to McCartan's letter of the 11 September which outlined a possible plan of action for the Irish Free State government. O'Higgins begins by stating his complete disagreement with the proposal and outlining the flawed logic of McCartan's argument by pointing out that the opinions of Birkenhead, Balfour and other British politicians and newspapers do not represent the official government attitude, just as the opinions of Barton, Gavan Duffy, Joe McGrath, Sean McGarry, Miss McSwiney and certain Irish newspapers do not reflect the Free State government's position. The lack of justification for the suggested withdrawal from negotiations is expressed, and the negative contribution of the Civil War to the possibility of a fair outcome to the Boundary Commission is highlighted. He concludes by asserting that he still hopes for 'a straight deal on the proviso to Article 12', but if this is not achieved, he will consider the British to have been 'foolish but not nearly as foolish as ourselves'.

**P197/111** 21 April 1927

1p

Holograph letter to Arthur Cox thanking him for the cheque for £100 and providing assurances that 'anonymity is secured'. Reference is made to the election, and J.McG.'s [Joe McGrath's?] decision not to stand if he could be guaranteed a seat in the Senate.

**1.3. Mainly correspondence of Brigid O'Higgins (née Cole) and other family members, 1883–1937**

**P197/112** 28 September 1883

2pp

Photocopy of holograph letter from Thomas O'Higgins, Clonaslee, to P.[?] Meehan regarding the purchase of a house and land from a Mrs Burton.

**P197/113** 1 October 1909

3pp

Photocopy of letter from T.D. Sullivan, 1 Belvedere Place, to his grandson Eugene [?] thanking him for a photograph and commenting positively on his appearance. Sullivan states that he would not look out of place on Grafton Street, Oxford Street or Piccadilly, and will grow up to become 'a fine man', a credit to his family, name and race.

**P197/114** 3 June 1910

2pp

Photocopy of holograph letter from E. Collins, Four Courts, Dublin, to P. Meehan concerning delays in the appointment of Dr Thomas O'Higgins by the Lord Chancellor to an unidentified position.

**P197/115** 9 October 1920

2pp

Letter from Kathleen O'Higgins (Sister Philippa), Loreto Convent, Dalkey, to Brigid Cole. Reference is made to Brigid and Kevin's relationship, with her stating that it is 'the greatest comfort in the going away to know that such a real solid happiness has at last come into his (Kevin's) life'. She also comments on Kevin's view of their relationship as 'a very sacred thing' due to his being 'much too stolid' for any 'trifle'. Mention is made of her departure on the of October, and to her brother, Niall, and [sisters?] Brenda and Jenny.

**P197/116** 25 June 1921

4pp

Holograph letter from [M. Donohue?], Knockbeg, County Carlow to Brigid Cole acknowledging her decision to leave her teaching post at Knockbeg College. He commends her excellent work and states that her absence will be a personal loss to him, as her advice and guidance has been invaluable. Reference is made to the recruiting of her replacement (preferably male) and to difficulties with accommodation. The bishop, Mr R. Donovan and Fr Corcoran are also mentioned.

**P197/117** 21 August 1923

2pp

Photocopy of holograph letter from Brigid O'Higgins, Lisanskeagh, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, to Lady Hazel Lavery, thanking her for the gift given to Maev and discussing the general political situation, election campaign and the death of Michael Collins.

**P197/118** December 1924; December 1990

2 items

Holograph covering letter from Mary Mulcahy, niece of Nora O'Connor, with enclosed card from Brigid O'Higgins to Nora O'Connor returning thanks for expressions of sympathy and referring to the 'terribly sad' death of their son, Finbarr Gerald O'Higgins from pneumonia at two weeks old.

**P197/119** [17 September 1925?]

2pp

Holograph letter from [S.A.B?] to Kathleen [female relative?]. Reference is made to the medical board question, international affairs, the Parnell divorcee (Captain William O'Shea), and the Shannon Scheme.

**P197/120** 18 May 1927

2pp

Letter from Kathleen O'Higgins (Sister Philippa), Loreto House, 7 Middleton Row, Calcutta, to Brigid O'Higgins. Reference is made to the changes and difficult times they have had over the past six years and she expresses happiness that Kevin has not altered. Mention is also made of the first time she and Brigid met, and her instant awareness that Kevin would find 'his help and support as well as his happiness' in her. A book concerning the life of St Monica and her positive reaction to their daughter Maev's wilfulness is communicated, as well as comments concerning her own improving health.

**P197/121** 6 September 1927

2pp

Photocopy of typescript letter from Tim Healy, Vice Regal Lodge, Dublin, to Kitty [?] referring to the death of his mother and Kevin O'Higgins. He makes reference to Brigid O'Higgins' stay with them and the £20,000 sum given to her by the Dáil.

**P197/122** 22 April 1928

6pp

Letter from Kathleen O'Higgins (Sister Philippa), Loreto Convent, Tara Hall, Simla, India, to Brigid O'Higgins containing recollections of Kevin's life. Reference is made to their schoolmaster, Mr Dalton, who compared him to Daniel O'Connell and to his early years at Clongowes Wood, Knockbeg College and the National University. His Sunday visits to her in Rathfarnham and Dalkey are mentioned, with her recalling 'his face as he told me of Pearse's speech by the graveside of O'Donovan Rossa'. His refusal to acknowledge the risks towards his own life and his sense of humour are discussed, with reference being made to his imprisonment in Belfast Jail and the manner in which he informed her of their brothers' (Tom and Brian's) arrest: 'Friend Tom has taken to the contemplative life (enclosed order, you know) and Brian likewise has chosen the better part.' She also quotes from the last letter sent to her by Kevin before his death: 'Soon we too shall pass, whether by political or physical death. But we carried our brick and we laid it fair and square and as well as we knew how. And that is all that matters, to do our work in our time, and to leave nothing which must be undone by those who come after us.'

**P197/123** 18 July [1928?]

2pp

Letter from Brigid O'Higgins, Knockbann, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, to Arthur Cox regarding Kevin's high opinion of him and her hope that he will enter politics if he is so inclined. She states that there were only two men whose opinion Kevin would seek, Arthur Cox and James Hogan.

**P197/124** 29 December 1937

2pp

Letter from Kathleen O'Higgins (Sister Philippa), Loreto Convent, Asansol, India, to Brigid O'Higgins. Mention is made of Brigid's letter, and the Irish political situation which sees Eamon de Valera in power. She comments on the probable failure of the Fianna Fáil government due to its overspending, comparing it to the demise of the Labour government in Britain. The relative success of Portugal's self-governance is cited, with the attempted murder of António de Oliveira Salazar demonstrating 'that countries as well as the human race can only be saved through the sacrifice of their best'. The articles in the *Irish Times* commemorating the tenth anniversary of Kevin's death are alluded to, as well as her difficulty in forgiving de Valera for the outbreak of the civil war.

#### **1.4. Letters of condolence to Brigid O'Higgins and other correspondence concerning Kevin O'Higgins' death, 1927**

**P197/125** 12 July 1927

2pp

Holograph letter from Lilian Cooper, Khyber Pass, Dalkey, Co Dublin, to Brigid O'Higgins expressing condolences at the death of Kevin O'Higgins and offering to accommodate Brigid in their house in Co. Sligo if she wished to leave Dublin.

**P197/126** July 1927

c90 items

File of letters of sympathy to Brigid O'Higgins, mainly from political, religious and other well known figures and organisations. Also contains notice of funeral mass (13 July) and untitled list of names, addresses and subscriptions.

*Kevin O'Higgins Papers*

**P197/126**  
**contd**

Includes:

- Holograph letter from W.T. Cosgrave, President of Executive Council (11 July 1927, 2pp).
- Holograph letter from Leopold (Maurice) Amery, British Colonial Secretary (10 July 1927, 3pp).
- Holograph letter from Oliver St. J. Gogarty (11 July 1927).
- Copy of telegram received from King George V (11 July 1927).
- Holograph card from Eily O'Connor, sister of Rory O'Connor (13 July 1927).

**P197/127** July 1927

c40 items

File of letters of sympathy to Brigid O'Higgins from members of the clergy and other religious figures.

**P197/128** July 1927

c100 items

File of letters of sympathy to Brigid O'Higgins entitled 'general'.

**P197/129** July 1927

c160 items

Additional file of letters of sympathy to Brigid O'Higgins entitled 'general'.

**P197/130** July 1927

c240 items

Telegrams of sympathy to Brigid O'Higgins.

**P197/131** 21 July 1927

2 items

Invitation to requiem mass offered for Kevin O'Higgins at St. Joseph's Church, Paris. Also contains typescript list of people assisting at the mass, including ambassadors and ministers of various nations, from

*Kevin O'Higgins Papers*

**P197/126**  
**contd**

the Department of External Affairs for Brigid O'Higgins.

**P197/132** 6 September 1927

2pp

Holograph letter from Brigid O'Higgins, Vice Regal Lodge, Dublin, to [Henry] Kelly expressing thanks for his kindness and sympathy, and referring to the patience and heroism of Kevin's last hours of life. Mention is also made of passing on regards to [Hugh] O'Friel, [J.P.] Clare and Mr Thomas Coyne.

**P197/133** 1969

1 item

Diary containing manuscript transcriptions and excerpts from letters of sympathy and other tributes upon the death of Kevin O'Higgins.

## **2. Poetry, speeches, articles and publications by Kevin O'Higgins**

### **2.1. Student verses, 1910s**

**P197/134** [1915–19?]

20pp

Poems written by Kevin O'Higgins, mainly during his college years. The subject matter of his poetry is concerned with the Irish nationalist cause and various key political figures.

Includes:

- 'A Contrast' based on the opposition between Edward Carson and Roger Casement (c1916, 1p).
- 'Easter Week, 1916' paying tribute to the nationalists who died for '(t)heir country's life and soul to save' (c1916, 1p).
- 'All About Me' and photocopy of 'To P.H. Pearse' written during his five month jail sentence in Belfast Prison (1918, 2pp).
- 'Roscommon Election' referring to the republican electoral victory of Count Plunkett (1917, 2pp).
- 'How he Died' recounting the execution of John MacBride (c1918, 3pp).

### **2.2. Draft speeches and articles, 1921–27**

**P197/135** [1921–22?]

8 items

Typescript speeches and commentaries, mainly by or annotated by Kevin O'Higgins. Primarily concerning post-Treaty divisions and the partition of Ireland. Also contains documents such as copy of the Sinn Fein constitution and a partial copy of report of the republican delegation to the treaty negotiations.

Includes:

- 'Communism and Documentarian Republicanism' regarding postal and other strikes and the dangers of an 'Irish Red Army' [1921?, 2pp].
- 'Arrest for illegal possession of arms in Tyrone Sunday last' concerning the arrest of members of the Monaghan Gaelic League football team, who were also members of the IRA, on the way to play in the final against Derry city (1921).
- 'Maintenance of a truce in the six counties' referring to the six counties' failure to abide by the terms agreed upon by Britain and Ireland in the Anglo-Irish truce (1921).

**P197/136** [January 1922]

2pp

Holograph draft of Treaty debate speech citing the example of Nero's 'egotistical vanity' as he drew inspiration from the burning of Rome, rather than fulfilling the responsibilities of his high office. The poor economic, social and political state of Ireland is discussed, with the victory gained from the Treaty being eroded by 'cynicism' and bitterness. The Dáil Éireann vote in favour of the Treaty is also referred to (7 January 1922).

**P197/137** [March 1922]

6pp

Holograph article entitled 'Mexican Politics' in defence of the Treaty and in opposition to Eamon de Valera and the anti-treaty supporters. Comparison is made between Ireland and Mexico, with the economic and social conditions of Ireland's citizens rapidly deteriorating. The divisive factions within the anti-treaty side are highlighted, as well as the relative unimportance of semantics which 'the formulists (sic) and men of words' have based their rejection of the Treaty upon. Criticism is levelled against de Valera's 'Document No.2', which shares significant similarities with the Treaty, and has therefore been abandoned for fear that the 'guileless electors' may ask themselves whether the differences are really worth 'another round'. Reference is made to the 'Limerick incident' (clash of the anti-treaty forces and the Free State Army), and the undemocratic direction which the anti-treaty forces have taken. Article published in *An Saorstát* (18 March 1922). (See P197/255 for published article.)

**P197/138** [1922?]

7pp

Holograph draft speech/article entitled 'Another Round' written in defence of the Treaty. The speech focuses on a counter-argument to de Valera's call to 'fight another round' with Britain, highlighting the economic, political and social obstacles to such a position. A focus on the similarities between de Valera's 'Document No. 2' and the Treaty is presented. The political climate in Britain and the then current coalition government is also emphasised as a unique situation, with the danger of Ireland becoming 'the sport and pawn of English party politics for another generation' if the Treaty is rejected.

**P197/139** June 1922

2pp

Holograph election speech entitled 'To the Electors of Leix and Offaly' in defence of the Treaty. The speech outlines his commitment and activities since being elected in 1918. An explanation of his acceptance of the Treaty based on the will of the people is given, with his assertion that he has not abandoned any of his former political principles, but rather advises 'the people to trust in evolution rather than revolution'.

**P197/140** Not dated

5pp

Holograph speech at the inauguration of Irish language classes. Reference is made to the connection between political, economic and cultural freedom and the need to maintain a native Irish language that will establish independence from British culture and its moral decline. The example of America is discussed, as well as the manner in which language can be used as a means of political manipulation through terms such as 'loyalist', 'extremist', 'reprisal' and 'grants'. The excellent work of the Gaelic League is commended, with the speech concluding by quoting Padraic Pearse's statement: 'Ireland not free merely but Gaelic as well – not Gaelic merely but free as well'.

**P197/141** 31 October 1924

23pp

Typescript address entitled 'Ireland Today' by Kevin O'Higgins, delivered at the Irish Society, Oxford University. Reference is made to the history of modern Ireland, the treaty, partition, the impact of civil war divisions, and the economic and social developments made by the Free State government. (See P197/146 for published version of speech entitled *Three Years Hard Labour*).

**P197/142** December 1925

14pp

Holograph speech/article outlining the legislative and administrative developments achieved in the three years since the establishment of the Irish Free State. The argument of Ireland experiencing a period of 'convalescence', rather than the 'sickness' suggested by anti-treaty supporters, is presented. Particular reference is made to

**P197/142**  
**contd**

developments in employment, agriculture, crime, housing, industry, trade, the Shannon Electricity Scheme, drainage, roads, defence and international relations.

**P197/143** Not dated

11pp

Typescript speech/article concerning the poor living conditions and poverty experienced in Connemara. The establishment of a permanent body to facilitate development, employment programmes and education is advocated. The Kylemore Fisheries is suggested as a potential source of employment, as well as the development of new and improved road building schemes.

**P197/144** [1927]

2pp

Holograph draft speech/article regarding the 1927 general election and the likely unfavourable gain of seats by anti-treaty parties. The positive developments achieved by the Free State government since 1922 are highlighted, including the completion of land purchase and improvements in the agricultural industry, Shannon Scheme, Barrow drainage, sugar beet industry, housing, roads, arterial drainage and taxation.

**P197/145** Not dated

5pp

Partial typescript of speech concerning the Treaty and the Irish economic climate. Reference is made to the 'top-heavy' structure of economic development, with agricultural production underpinning Ireland's economic fabric. Inequalities concerning farmers and farm workers who are both earning less than the cost of living is highlighted, with specific reference made to the wage disputes between these two groups in Waterford.

### 2.3. Published articles and other publications, 1917–28

**P197/146** 1917–1928

8 items

Mainly publications by Kevin O'Higgins consisting of booklets, speeches and articles primarily concerning post-Treaty Irish politics.

Includes:

- *Proposals for an Irish Settlement: Being a Draft for the Government of Ireland* by 'two Irishmen', O'Higgins' copy but authorship unknown (1917, 31pp).
- *Civil War and the Events which led to it* by Kevin O'Higgins (15 April 1922, 47pp).
- *Three Years Hard Labour* by Kevin O'Higgins, an address delivered to the Irish Society of Oxford University (31 October 1924, 16pp).
- *The Catholic Layman in Public Life* by Kevin O'Higgins (not dated, 15pp)

**P197/147** May–July 1919

8 items

Newscuttings from *The Nationalist and Leinster Times* of articles by Kevin O'Higgins. Titles of articles are 'The Disloyal Irish', 'Still Unconquered', 'Abstention', 'Sinn Fein and the Peace Conference', 'Unionism', 'What is the answer?' (regarding British opposition to Irish independence), 'Sinn Fein and Ulster' and 'Some Alternatives to Sinn Fein'.

**P197/148** February–April 1922

5 items

Copies of *An Saorstát* containing articles by Kevin O'Higgins.

Includes:

- 'Wanted –A Straight Answer' concerning the right of the people to vote on acceptance of the Treaty (25 February 1922, 1p).
- 'Mexican Politics – On a purely Irish Basis' regarding the danger of Treaty divisions and the 'purely destructive' and untenable attitudes of Anti-Treaty leaders, and in particular de Valera (18 March 1922, 2pp).
- 'The New de Valera: A Contrast and Some Disclosures' discussing de Valera's altered political stance and 'bitter' partisan attitude (25 March 1922, 2pp).
- 'Under Which Thimble?' referring to the 'rabid Republicans' and 'Document-Twoites' who are bringing about a disintegration of national liberty (15 April 1922, 2pp).

**P197/149** [1922?]

62pp

Publication entitled *Arthur Griffith Michael Collins* containing a contribution by Kevin O'Higgins concerning Michael Collins, 'The Quenching of our Shining Light'.

### 3. O'Higgins political career

#### 3.1. Qualifications and early career, 1915

**P197/150** 3 November 1915

1 item

Degree of Bachelor of Arts conferred upon Kevin O'Higgins by University College Dublin, constituent college of the National University of Ireland.

**P197/151** 6 November 1915

3pp

Indenture of apprenticeship between Maurice Healy, Solicitor, 48 Grand Parade, Cork and 5 Eden Quay, Dublin, of the one part and Kevin Christopher O'Higgins, Woodlands, Stradbally, Queen's County, of the other part.

#### 3.2. Treaty negotiations 1921-22

**P197/152** July-December 1921

c160 items

Secret negotiations regarding the Anglo-Irish Treaty. File of Irish delegation of plenipotentiaries containing copies of minutes of meetings, conference notes, extracts from preliminary documents regarding Treaty terms, correspondence between Irish and British delegates, proposed articles of agreement, correspondence among Irish government representatives and memoranda.

Includes:

- Copy letters from Arthur Griffith to President Eamon de Valera concerning negotiation developments and the terms of the Treaty. In particular refers to discussions between the British Government and Ulster Unionist ministers on the matter of an All-Ireland Parliament (3 November-4 December 1921, 11 items).

**P197/153** October 1921-January 1922

c40 items

Additional secret Treaty negotiations. File of Irish delegation of plenipotentiaries containing copies of memoranda, notes, *aide-*

**P197/153**  
**contd**

*mémoire*, correspondence between Irish and British delegates, reports to Dail Eireann and drafts of Treaty.

Includes:

- Correspondence between Arthur Griffith and David Lloyd George regarding Treaty drafts and terms (30 November–13 December 1921, 4 items).
- Document entitled 'The President's Alternative Proposals' outlining Eamon de Valera's Treaty terms [January 1922?, 5pp].
- Documents of the Provisional Government of Ireland containing recommendations for Cabinet Committee in consultation with Irish Ministers (20 January 1922, 6pp); and a record of arrangements agreed for implementing the Treaty by Sir Hamar Greenwood, Mr Montagu, Mr Duggan and Mr Kevin O'Higgins, also containing appendix outlining agreement between Mr Michael Collins and Sir James Craig regarding Boundary Commission and Northern Ireland (23 January 1922, 14pp).

**P197/154** 10–17 November 1921

6 items

Additional secret documents held by the Irish delegation of plenipotentiaries. Contains copies of correspondence between David Lloyd George, 10 Downing Street, London, S.W.1, to James Craig, Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue, S.W. concerning the possibility of an all-Ireland parliament.

**P197/155** 6 December 1921

5 items

Additional secret documents held by the Irish delegation of plenipotentiaries. Copies of documents including letter from Arthur Griffith to David Lloyd George (6 December 1921), letter from Arthur Griffith to de Valera (6 December 1921) and Treaty articles of agreement.

**3.3. Post-treaty government: economics and justice  
ministerial duties, 1922-7**

**P197/156** 27 January 1922

3pp

Holograph letter from J.B. Hughes, 183 Clonliffe Road, Dublin, to Kevin O'Higgins concerning the compilation of a memorandum on the Irish 'cost of living' question and expressing positive reactions received from the staff of the Ministry of Transport regarding their 'new Chief'. Reference is also made to an early study he compiled during the 'Larkin Strike' in 1913-14.

**P197/157** 30 March 1922

1p

Holograph covering letter from H.H. Piggott, Ministry of Transport, 6 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1 to Kevin O'Higgins concerning enclosed copy letter to J.J. Blake, Roads Department, 6 Hume Street, Dublin. He expresses the hope that he has accurately represented their earlier conversation in the letter.

**P197/158** 30 March 1922

5pp

Typescript copy letter from H.H. Piggott, Ministry of Transport, 6 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1 to J.J. Blake, Roads Department, 6 Hume Street, Dublin, concerning a discussion with O'Higgins regarding the transfer of powers in relation to the licensing and registration of motor vehicles. Points concerning forms, registration authorities, licences, acts and regulations are made.

**P197/159** 9 May 1922

1p

O'Higgins' copy of Ministry of Defence memorandum for a meeting of the provisional government concerning the police in Limerick city. The establishment of a police force by the citizens of Limerick consisting of 45 men is outlined, with the proposal that if the men are found to be loyal to the Government and disciplined they may be paid through the Dáil Chief of Police.

**P197/160** 10 May 1922

3pp

O'Higgins' copy of Ministry of Defence memorandum for a meeting of the provisional government concerning proposals in connection with the carrying out of searches. Contains a sample search warrant, a draft public notice and instructions regarding search parties.

**P197/161** 17 May 1922

6pp

Partial copy typescript proposal with missing title page concerning the General Election and the primary goals of obviating the division in Sinn Fein caused by the Treaty. Proposal submitted by Kathleen Clarke, Sean O'Maolevin, P. Rutledge, Liam O'Moaliosa and Enri O'Beolain.

**P197/162** 24 May 1922

3pp

Typescript letter from [Diarmaid Fawsitt?], technical advisor to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, to Kevin O'Higgins, Minister of Economic Affairs, concerning a salary increase and a clear definition of his status and job title.

**P197/163** [1922]

1p

First page of typescript memorandum by Kevin O'Higgins concerning the social and economic state of Ireland, the dangers an outbreak of civil war may bring, and increased division between the North and South.

**P197/164** [1923-25?]

54pp

Notebook entitled 'Shannon Schemes and Other Matters' containing manuscript notes by James B. Murray for Kevin O'Higgins, concerning the electrification of the Irish Free State and the Siemens-Schuckert proposal.

**P197/165** 23 May 1924

5pp

Partial typescript letter from Kevin O'Higgins to [members of the committee for demobilisation (MacNeill, Blythe and McGrath)?] containing his outline of events regarding the 'army mutiny' and offering a counterpoint to General Mulcahy's statement given to the committee.

**P197/166** 14 July 1925

2pp

Typescript copy of letter from Kevin O'Higgins to Dr Denham Osbourne, 4 Mountjoy Square, Dublin, concerning a new medical appointment to the Garda Síochána and the position of Dr Lowe, the current assistant medical officer appointed to the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1918. O'Higgins denies the claim made by Osbourne and Mr Hubbard Clarke that Lowe's contract has not been renewed due to his religious beliefs, explaining the review of administration being undertaken due to the amalgamation of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and the Garda Síochána. Reference is also made to Lowe's 'unfortunate connexion with the Mountjoy Hunger-Strike, and in particular with the tragic death of Thomas Ashe'.

**P197/167** August 1925

10 items

Medical register controversy. Mainly annotated newscuttings and transcripts of articles concerning the controversy over a decision to put the Irish Free State medical profession on a national register thereby severing Ireland's connection with the General Medical Council in England. (See P197/91 and 92)

**P197/168** 5 October 1926

1p

Document of welcome issued to Liam MacCosgair (Liam Cosgrave) and Caoingín Ó h-Uigín (Kevin O'Higgins) on behalf of the Cork City Executive of Cumann na nGaedheal. Praise is expressed for the government's achievements and successes. The document is signed on behalf of the Cork City Executive by Liam de Róiste, M. Collins Powell, Barry M. Egan, Eamonn Ó Coeláin and Joseph M. Buckley.

**P197/169** 23–26 November 1926

15pp

Dáil Éireann report of the select committee on certain proposals for legislation to amend the constitution, together with committee proceedings. Proposals submitted to committee included the insertion of a special provision for the automatic re-election of the Ceann Comhairle ; removal of requirement that the day of a general election must be proclaimed a public holiday; extension of maximum duration of Dáil from four to five years; increase maximum membership of Executive Council from seven to twelve members.

**P197/170** December 1926–January 1927

4 items

Proposal to arm the Garda Síochána. File concerning the proposal made by the Garda Commissioner to arm all members of the Garda with revolvers, presented for circulation among members of the Executive Council.

Includes:

- Typescript copy of memorandum by [Kevin O'Higgins?] regarding the proposal in the broader context of the Irish political climate (6 December 1926).
- Copy of letter from Executive Council to the Secretary, Department of Justice, rejecting the proposal (24 January 1927).

**3.4. Dual Monarchy and International conferences:  
Imperial conference and League of Nations Conference on Naval Disarmament,  
1926–27**

**P197/171** November 1926

61pp

Booklet entitled *Summary of Proceedings, Imperial Conference, 1926*. Contents includes lists of delegates, opening statements, inter-imperial relations and economic questions.

**P197/172** January 1927

2pp

Newscutting from *Empire Mail* containing photographs of the principal representatives at the Imperial Conference, London.

**P197/173** June–August 1927

4 items

League of Nations Conference for the Limitations of Naval Disarmament at Geneva. Documents relating to the background and proceedings of the naval arms conference. Mainly consists of memoranda and reports.

**P197/174** 24 June 1927

2pp

Official Royal decree of full powers appointing Kevin O'Higgins as plenipotentiary of the Irish Free State in respect of the League of Nations Conference for the Limitations of Naval Disarmament at Geneva. Contains the Royal Seal and the signature of King George V. (See P197/175)

**P197/175** 5 September 1927

1p

Typescript covering letter from Sean Lester, Department of External Affairs, Dublin, to Brigid O'Higgins, Dunamase, Booterstown, Co. Dublin enclosing the full power granted to Kevin O'Higgins, which is not deemed necessary to be retained among the conference archives as no treaty was signed. (See P197/174)

**4. Newscuttings, 1921–27**

**P197/176** October 1921–June 1927

10 items

Newscuttings concerning the life of Kevin O'Higgins.

Includes:

- Photograph and details of bridal party at the wedding of Kevin O'Higgins and Brigid Cole in the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar Street, Dublin. Party includes Eamon de Valera and Rory O'Connor (27 October 1921).
- Article in the *Evening Herald* concerning the killing of Thomas O'Higgins (Kevin's father) by armed raiders at his home of 'Woodlands', Stradbally, Co Leix (Laois) (12 February 1923).
- Photograph of Kevin O'Higgins, J.B. Hertzog and Leopold Amery walking down the street in London at the 1926 Imperial Conference. (October/November 1926).
- Photographs of O'Higgins unveiling a memorial to members of the Garda Síochána who died in execution of their duties, and pinning the Scott Gold Medal on John J. Ward (23 June 1927).

**P197/177** July 1927

c20 items

Newscuttings reporting the shooting, death and funeral of Kevin O'Higgins. Contains articles from *The Irish Times*, *Irish Independent*, *Evening Mail*, *The Nationalist*, *The Echo* and *The Observer*.

**5. Photographs, 1890s–1986**

**P197/178** [1894?]

10 x 6.5 cm; 3.8 x 2.5 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins as a young child, surrounded by his brothers, Jack, Tom and Michael. Professional photograph mounted on card.

**P197/179** [1895?]

6.5 x 9.5cm; 2 x 3.6 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins as a young child sitting in a small cart. Professional photograph with a copper metal base.

**P197/180** [1895?]

14.5 x 10 cm; 5.6 x 4 inches

Sepia photograph of house in Stradbally, where Kevin O'Higgins was born and lived until his family moved to 'Woodlands' in 1900. In the right foreground at some distance is a horse and carriage with driver, Anne O'Higgins, and her four sons, Jack, Tom, Michael and Kevin.

**P197/181** [1896?]

9.5 x 14 cm; 3.7 x 5.5 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins and his younger sister Kathleen. Professional portrait studio photograph mounted on card by William Lawrence, Dublin.

**P197/182** [1908?]

14.5 x 10.5cm; 5.8 x 4.1 inches

Sepia photograph of the O'Higgins family outside their home of 'Woodlands', Stradbally, Co Leix (Laois). From top left to right; Jack, Thomas (father), Kevin, Michael; (middle left to right) Kathleen, Anne (mother) holding Ita, Irene, Mary; (bottom left to right) Patricia, Rosaleen, Niall, Brian, Christine.

**P197/183** 27 October 1921

20 x 15 cm; 7.7 x 5.9 inches

Sepia photograph of the wedding party at the marriage of Kevin O'Higgins and Brigid Cole. Outdoor scene with (standing, left to right) Eamonn de Valera, Kevin O'Higgins, Rory O'Connor and (sitting, left to right) Irene O'Higgins (sister), Brigid Cole, Molly Cole (Brigid's sister). Professional photograph mounted on card by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.

**P197/184** 27 October 1921

20.5 x 14.5 cm; 8 x 5.7 inches

Sepia photograph of the wedding party at the marriage of Kevin O'Higgins and Brigid Cole. Included are W.T. Cosgrave, Eamon de Valera, Rory O'Connor (best man), the bride's mother, the grooms parents and many of his siblings. Professional photograph mounted on card by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.

**P197/185** [27 August 1922]

20 x 15.5 cm; 8.1 x 6.1 inches

Sepia photograph of the coffin of Michael Collins being carried by his colleagues from the hospital to the gun carriage in which he would be transported to City Hall for the lying-in-state. Kevin O'Higgins is partially visible as the coffin bearer third from left. Press photograph, with nurses and onlookers lining the steps of the hospital as the coffin is carried down.

**P297/186** Not dated

19 x 14 cm; 7.5 x 5.5 inches

Sepia photograph of memorial ceremony [Armistice Day, London?]. Large crowds including army and government ministers surrounding cenotaph with floral wreaths at its base. Kevin O'Higgins is second from right in the second row of government ministers. Press photograph by Sports and General Press Agency Ltd., London.

**P197/187** Not dated

22 x 8 cm; 8.6 x 3.2 inches

Sepia photograph of house and grounds of 'Dunamase' ,Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Dublin, home of Kevin and Brigid O'Higgins. Written on reverse in pencil is address and 'For Kevin O'Higgins with compts. from Arthur H. Kelly'.

**P197/188** Not dated

21 x 16 cm; 8.2 x 6.3 inches

Sepia photograph of Diarmuid O'Hegarty, secretary of Executive Council, Kevin O'Higgins, Vice President and Minister for Justice, Desmond FitzGerald, Minister for External Affairs, Joseph Walshe, secretary, Department of External Affairs, and Michael McWhite, official, Department of External Affairs.

**P197/189** Not dated

20.5 x 16 cm; 8.1 x 6.2 inches.

Sepia photograph of Treaty supporters including Kevin O'Higgins (seated left), Arthur Griffith (seated second left), and Sean MacEoin, a general in the Free State Army (seated right).

**P197/190** Not dated

19 x 14 cm; 7.5 x 5.5 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins sitting at a desk with a pen in his hand. Professional photograph mounted on card by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.

**P197/191** Not dated

6 x 10 cm; 2.5 x 4 inches

Sepia photograph of profile of Kevin O'Higgins in a street smoking a cigarette. Another male profile next to him is also partially visible.

- P197/192** Not dated  
8 x 13 cm; 3.1 x 5.1 inches  
Sepia postcard photograph of Kevin and Brigid O'Higgins outdoors, with their black and white dog, Ben, partially visible on the right behind the O'Higgins'.
- P197/193** February 1923  
20 x 15.5 cm; 8 x 6 inches  
Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins and W.T. Cosgrave welcoming guests to the Irish Free State's first official function at the Mansion House, Dublin.
- P197/194** 1924  
19.5 x 14.1 cm; 7.7 x 5.6 inches  
Sepia photograph of an Irish Free State cabinet meeting. Ministers seated around table (left to right) are Joe McGrath, Diarmuid O'Hegarty, secretary of Executive Council; Hugh Kennedy, Attorney General; Desmond Fitzgerald, Minister for External Affairs; W.T. Cosgrave, President of Executive Council; Ernest Blythe, Minister for Finance; and Kevin O'Higgins, Vice President and Minister for Justice. Professional photograph by W.D. Hogan, 56 Henry Street, Dublin, mounted on card.
- P197/195** [August 1924]  
20 x 16 cm; 7.8 x 6.2 inches  
Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins, Homer Buckley, his daughter Pat, and Thomas Robinson at the Governor-General's garden party. Press photograph with six additional men visible or partially visible in the middle ground.
- P197/196** 13 August 1924  
19.5 x 13.5 cm; 7.5 x 5.5 inches  
Sepia photograph of President Cosgrave's speech at the unveiling of the cenotaph erected in the grounds of Leinster House in memory of Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins. Press photograph featuring large seated crowd with Governor-General Tim Healy and Cabinet

**P197/196**  
contd

Ministers, including Kevin O'Higgins in second row.

**P197/197**

[1924]

12.5 x 12.5 cm; 5 x 5 inches

Metal printing plate showing cenotaph erected in the grounds of Leinster House in memory of Arthur Griffiths and Michael Collins.

**P197/198**

[October 1926]

14.2 x 19 cm; 5.6 x 7.6 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins and J.B. Hertzog [?], South African Prime Minister, walking together at the 1926 Imperial Conference in London. Press photograph by Sports and General Press Agency Ltd., London.

**P197/199**

[1926?]

20 x 25 cm; 8 x 10 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin and Brigid O'Higgins at the RDS Horse Show. Press photograph for *Irish Times*.

**P197/200**

Not dated

12.5 x 18.5 cm; 5 x 7.5 inches 2 items

Printed sepia portrait image of Kevin O'Higgins with personal details printed below image.

**P197/201**

Not dated

10 x 15 cm; 4 x 6 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins. Professional portrait photograph by Lafayette Studio, Dublin, mounted on card.

**P197/202** July 1927

21 x 15.5 cm; 8.2 x 6 inches

Black and white photograph of the funeral procession carrying O'Higgins' coffin through Glasnevin cemetery.

**P197/203** 1927

26 items

Commemorative album of photographs presented to Brigid O'Higgins by the Garda Review. Contains sepia press photographs from O'Higgins' official duties as Minister for Justice and from his funeral. Includes:

- Holograph covering letter from W.R.E. Murphy to Brigid O'Higgins, stating that the Garda Síochána have compiled the album 'to serve as a lasting memorial of our deeply regretted Minister' (7 September 1927, 1p).

**P197/204** [1927]

10.5 x 15 cm; 4.3 x 6 inches

Sepia photograph of Kevin O'Higgins' headstone. Celtic cross with inscription, 'In Lovng Memory of Kevin O'Higgins. Born June 1892, Died of July 1927. And of his Infant Son Finbarr Gerald O'Higgins. Born November 1924, Died December 1924. R.I.P.' Professional photograph mounted on card, from Harrison and Sons. Architectural Sculptors, 178 Pearse Street, Dublin.

**P197/205** 1927

14 x 8.5 cm; 5.5 x 3.5 inches

Sepia photograph of garden and exterior wall of house in Donegal, with Brigid O'Higgins, her daughters (Una, the youngest, and Maev) and a nun.

**P197/206** [1927]

14.5 x 10.5 cm; 6.7 x 4 inches

Sepia photograph of Maev and Una O'Higgins. Professional studio portrait mounted on card by Lafayette Studios, Dublin.

- P197/207** [1930?]  
16 x 20.5 cm; 6.2 x 8.2 inches  
Sepia photograph of Maev and Una O'Higgins sitting on the knee of T.M. Healy (Governor-General) outside the Vice-Regal Lodge.
- P197/208** [1930s]  
15 x 20 cm; 6 x 8 inches  
Sepia photograph of Brigid O'Higgins, Una O'Higgins (left) and Maev O'Higgins (right) taken outdoors against a brick wall. Professional photograph taken at the wedding of Molly Cole (Brigid's sister) by C.C. Fennell Photographers, 'Balfeighan', Dundrum, Dublin.
- P197/209** Not dated  
8 x 10.5 cm; 3 x 4 inches  
Sepia photograph of two elderly women [right, Brigid Cole's mother ?] with a young child.
- P197/210** Not dated  
9 x 14 cm; 3.5 x 5.5 inches  
Black and white photograph of bronze bust of Kevin O'Higgins by Oliver Sheppard, placed in Áras An Uachtaráin.
- P197/211** Not dated  
16 x 20.5 cm; 6.2 x 8 inches  
Sepia photograph of portrait of Kevin O'Higgins by John Lavery, hanging in the Municipal Gallery, Dublin.
- P197/212** [1944?]  
20.3 x 15.3 cm; 8 x 6 inches  
Sepia photograph of Leo Whelan's portrait of Kevin O'Higgins in Leinster House, with onlookers (right to left) Una O'Higgins (daughter), Brigid O'Higgins (wife), Anne O'Higgins (mother), and Maev O'Higgins (daughter). Press photograph mounted on card, from

*Kevin O'Higgins Papers*

**P197/212**  
**contd**

Independent Newspapers, Independent House, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

**P197/213** [1970s?]

15 x 10 cm; 5.9 x 4 inches

Colour photograph of Celtic silver tea-service which had been given to Kevin and Brigid O'Higgins as a wedding present by the Irish signatories of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921.

**P197/214** [1970s?]

11 x 17 cm; 4.6 x 6.6 inches

Black and white photograph of Maeve Hillery, Una O'Higgins O'Malley and President Patrick Hillery admiring a Celtic silver tea-service at Áras An Uachtaráin. The tea-service had been given to Kevin and Brigid O'Higgins as a wedding present by the Irish signatories of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921. Pictured here being presented by Una to Áras An Uachtaráin. Press photograph from *Irish Times*.

**P197/215** November 1986

29.5 x 19 cm; 11.6 x 7.5 inches

Black and white photograph at the launch of the revised edition of Terence de Vere White's *Kevin O'Higgins*. Included are Una O'Higgins O'Malley, her three grandchildren, Garret FitzGerald (Taoiseach), and Joan FitzGerald.

**6. Posthumous reference material**

**6.1. Accounts of O'Higgins' life and political contributions , 1927-86**

**P197/216** July 1927–October 1928

2 items

*The Irish Statesman* containing articles and poems in memory of Kevin O'Higgins by R.N.D. Wilson (23 July 1927, 1p) and Simone Tery (13 October 1928, 3pp).

**P197/217** [July 1927]

11 items

File compiled by Henry Kelly, Private Secretary, on the death of Kevin O'Higgins. Contains newscuttings and obituaries, manuscript account by Kelly the of assassination, and details of funeral arrangements.

**P197/218** August 1927; 24 June 1972

3 items

Typescript covering letter from H.J. Nangle, 'Cloghogue', 331 Navan Road, Dublin 7 to Una O'Higgins O'Malley regarding his recollections of Kevin O'Higgins as a member of the Garda Síochána and enclosed copy of *The Garda Review*, Vol.2, No.9, August 1927 dedicated to the memory of Kevin O'Higgins (24 June 1972, 1p). Issue contains articles, tributes and photographs of O'Higgins and his funeral procession.

**P197/219** 1928

1 item

*The Clongownian* containing article by Thomas Bodkin entitled 'Some Personal Reminiscences of Kevin Christopher O'Higgins' (See pp17–20).

**P197/220** February 1928–1948

5 items

Biography of Kevin O'Higgins. Mainly photocopies of letters from James Hogan to Brigid O'Higgins regarding her suggestion that he write a biography of Kevin O'Higgins and subsequent complications with the project.

Includes:

- Photocopy of typescript letter from James Hogan to Terence de Vere White congratulating him on his biography, *Kevin O'Higgins* (1948, 1p).

**P197/221** Not dated

6pp

Manuscript document entitled 'Memories of Kevin O'Higgins' by Bryan Cooper. A description is given of his experiences as a Dáil colleague, citing O'Higgins' immense political skill. Specific reference is made to O'Higgins' handling of the Intoxicating Liquor Bill (1924) and the Treason Offences Bill (1925). Private talks with O'Higgins concerning the policies he intended to adopt at the Imperial Conference in 1926 are also mentioned, as well as O'Higgins' disappointment at the results of the 1927 general election.

**P197/222** 22 December 1948

5pp

Photocopy of confidential account by M. O'Muinhneachain, Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, regarding a conversation with Lieut-General Michael J. Costello concerning the contents of Terence de Vere White's *Kevin O'Higgins*. Costello's recollections of relevant events and the in particular the Army Mutiny of 1924 are recounted.

**P197/223** Not dated

6pp

Holograph notes by Arthur Cox concerning the political achievements of Kevin O'Higgins and the difficult task presented to him by civil war.

**P197/224** November–December 1986

11 items

Publication of the revised edition of Terence de Vere White's *Kevin O'Higgins*. File concerning the revised edition of *Kevin O'Higgins* to include the names of his killers. Mainly contains newscuttings and letters of Una O'Higgins O'Malley.

Includes:

- Speech by Garret FitzGerald regarding O'Higgins life and political achievements given on the occasion of the launch of the revised edition (10 November 1986).

## **6.2. Accounts and research by Una O'Higgins O'Malley and O'Higgins family members, 1947–2002**

**P197/225** 1947

1p

Typescript excerpts from Brigid O'Higgins' notes concerning Kevin's positive attributes and his dying wishes.

**P197/226** April 1958

3pp

Niall O'Higgins' (brother) speech during the unveiling of the O'Higgins memorial in Stradbally, Co Laois.

**P197/227** [1963–2002]

c30 items

File mainly containing newscuttings, articles, letters to editor and letters to Una O'Higgins O'Malley regarding Kevin O'Higgins life, various controversies (e.g. relationship with Lady Lavery), and debates over his political contribution and murder.

Includes:

- Typescript draft of article entitled 'The Legacy of Kevin O'Higgins' by John McCarthy, partially published in *Irish Examiner* marking the 75 anniversary of O'Higgins' death (10 July 2002, 5pp).

**P197/228** [1968–1990]

c20 items

File concerning dual monarchy. Contains letters to Una O'Higgins O'Malley concerning a radio documentary and research on O'Higgins' contribution to the Imperial Conference (1926). Also related copies of documents from Public Record Office, London, concerning a dual monarchy (1926–27) and newscuttings of relevant articles in *The Irish Times*.

**P197/229** 10 October 1985

2pp

Typescript letter from Uinseann MacEoin, 20 Marlborough Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, to Una O'Higgins O'Malley concerning a reply on behalf of Harry and Cathleen White to her letter. O'Higgins extreme reluctance at signing the order to execute Rory O'Connor is discussed.

**P197/230** 1985–91

c20 items

Media developments concerning the identity of Kevin O'Higgins' killers, named as Archie Doyle, Bill Gannon and Timothy Coughlan. Mainly consists of newscuttings and letters to Una O'Higgins O'Malley.

Includes:

- Letters from Roger Gannon, Flat 3, 67 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent, to Una O'Higgins O'Malley regarding their various meetings and the request of a number of his family members to remain private on the matter of his father's actions (9 August 1987–1 January 1989, 3 items).
- Copy of Roger Gannon's holograph statement lodged in the National Archives of Ireland concerning his father's involvement in O'Higgins' death (27 July 1990, 12pp).

**P197/231** July 1987

c30 items

Sixtieth anniversary of Kevin O'Higgins' death. Mainly contains letters to Una O'Higgins O'Malley concerning the reconciliation and memorial mass for Kevin O'Higgins, Tim Coughlan, Archie Doyle and Bill Gannon in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown, Dublin (11 July 1987).

**P197/232** March–April 1988

2 items

Typescript accounts by Una O'Higgins O'Malley of her first meeting with Roger Gannon, son of Bill Gannon, and a summary of his account of her father's murder.

**P197/233** September 1990

3 items

Criticism of claims made in Tim Pat Coogan's *Michael Collins*. Documents regarding claims of a relationship between Hazel Lavery and Kevin O'Higgins. Mainly contains newscuttings.

Includes:

- Letter from Tim Pat Coogan, Eventually, Castle Park Road, Glenageary, County Dublin to Una O'Higgins O'Malley, 9 Castle Court, Booterstown, County Dublin stating that he will take her comments into consideration when publishing a revised edition (18 September 1990).

**P197/234** 23 August 1991

1 item

Tape of interview on the Myles Dungan radio show concerning the death of Kevin O'Higgins. Guests are Roger Gannon, Una O'Higgins O'Malley and Prof Donal McCartney.

**P197/235** June 1992

c15 items

Centenary events to commemorate the birth of Kevin O'Higgins. File containing articles, speeches, and letters to Una O'Higgins O'Malley concerning events and her article published in *The Irish Times* (6 June 1992).

Includes

- Typescript copy of speech by Rt Hon Roy Bradford on 'Kevin O'Higgins: Statesman, Scholar, Freedom Fighter' delivered at a meeting of the Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations at Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast (17 June 1992,) and at Russell's Hotel, Dublin (19 November 1992?).
- Copy of Kevin O'Higgins' birth and baptismal certificate presented to his family at a Centenary Mass in Stradbally, Co Laois (7 June 1992).

**P197/236** Not dated

2pp

Copy of typescript lyrics to 'Friend O' Mine' by Fred E. Weatherly with holograph note by Una O'Higgins O'Malley stating 'This had been K O'H's party piece but after the death of Rory O'Connor he never again sang it'.

**P197/237** 2003

4pp

Typescript notes by Una O'Higgins O'Malley made for TV interview (Orpheus Productions) concerning her knowledge of her father received from his letters and letters of condolence after his death, as well as citing notes and recollections made by her mother, Brigid O'Higgins. Also refers to 'Lavery Letters' explaining the reasons for public apology regarding their authenticity.

### 6.3 Newscuttings, 1927-2002

**P197/238** [1927-54?]

7 items

Newscuttings after the death of O'Higgins. References to the County Dublin By-Election (Gearoid O'Sullivan's selection for candidature in place of O'Higgins), the Public Safety Bill, and various memorials to O'Higgins are made.

Includes

- Article regarding the portraits of O'Higgins, Griffith and Collins by Leo Whelan which were to be placed in Leinster House (9 October 1943)

**P197/239** July 1927-June 1992

11 items

Newscuttings of articles concerning the life and death of Kevin O'Higgins, many occurring on the anniversary of his murder. Mainly from *The Irish Times*.

Includes:

- Excerpt from Lord Birkenhead's statement to the *Daily Mail* reprinted in *The Tablet* regarding the murder of O'Higgins (16 July 1927, 1p).
- Article by John A. Costello entitled 'Constitutional Work of Kevin

**P197/239**  
contd

O'Higgins' in *The Irish Times* (10 July 1937, 1p).

- Article by Pamela Hinkson entitled 'A Broken Irish Bridge' chronicling O'Higgins' contribution to Irish politics (5 February 1949, 2pp).

**P197/240** 4 January 1930

1p

*The Star* containing extracts from address given by Kevin O'Higgins in the Dail (25 October 1922) at the enacting of the Constitution of the Free State.

**P197/241** January 1932

1p

*Irish Times* supplement containing articles on the lives of Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and Kevin O'Higgins.

**P197/242** [1944–2002]

11 items

Newscuttings and supplements regarding O'Higgins life, death and centenary of his birth.

Includes:

- Article in the *The Irish Times* referring to the unveiling of portraits of Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and Kevin O'Higgins at Leinster House (22 January 1944, 1p).
- Photograph of the Bishop of Killaloe, Liam Cosgrave and Anne O'Higgins (Kevin O'Higgins' mother) at the unveiling of the portraits of Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and O'Higgins at Leinster House [1944, 1 item].
- Article from *The Times* recounting the murder of Kevin O'Higgins (11 July 1927) reprinted in the 'On this Day' section (11 July 1990).
- Supplement with *Fortnight* entitled 'Figure cast in bronze' by Roy Bradford with preface by Una O'Higgins O'Malley (nFFot dated, 12pp).

**P197/243** 26 May 1963; 2 June 1963

4pp

*The Sunday Express* containing a two part series entitled 'The Noon Assassins' by Raymond Foxall, outlining the political and personal struggles faced by Kevin O'Higgins during the civil war, and recounting the last hours of his life.

**P197/244** 2 June 1963

2pp

Newscutting from *The Times* containing letter to editor by Harry F. Batterbee entitled 'New Shamrock Leaf' relating a conversation at the 1926 Imperial Conference between Stanley Baldwin, Austin Chamberlain, and Kevin O'Higgins regarding partition.

**P197/245** 23 August 1964

1p

Article in the *Sunday Independent* by Ulick O'Connor entitled 'Gogarty in the Seanad becomes Mr de Valera's most scathing opponent', in which reference is made to O'Higgins political contribution, particularly his role in the 1926 Imperial Conference.

**P197/246** 6 June 1992

1p

Article in *The Irish Times* by Una O'Higgins O'Malley entitled 'Bricklayer of the Nation', on the centenary of Kevin O'Higgins birth. Reference is made to his own letters and the large quantity of letters of sympathy sent after his death to explain his role and influence on the nation.

**P197/247** 9 October 1992

1 item

Copy of article concerning the bicentenary of Knockbeg College in *The Nationalist*, with reference made to Kevin O'Higgins, past pupil.

**7. Marriage, family and Brigid O'Higgins material, 1921-92**

**P197/248** 27 October 1921

6pp

Typescript of the toast given by Rory O'Connor at the wedding of Kevin O'Higgins and Brigid Cole entitled 'The Men of 1916'.

**P197/249** [1920s]

6pp

Typescript entitled 'Miniatures of Well-Known Women: Minister's Wives' containing a description of Mrs Brigid O'Higgins.

**P197/250** [1923-32]

2 items

Volumes entitled *Baby's Record* containing manuscript details of the early childhood of Maev and Una O'Higgins.

**P197/251** 1930; 1989

2pp

Holograph covering letter from Marie [?], 1 Kilcolman Court, Upper Glenageary Road, Dublin to Una O'Higgins O'Malley regarding enclosed article by Brigid O'Higgins (18 July 1989). Article by Brigid O'Higgins concerning the need for scientific management in home-making in *The Ideal Irish Home* (1930).

**P197/252** Not dated

3 items

Knockbeg College, Carlow. Contains manuscript notes by Brigid O'Higgins regarding the history and running of the college and details of Kevin O'Higgins' attendance and a copy of her article entitled 'Some Recollections of Knockbeg' in *The Knockbeg Annual*.

**P197/253** [1940]

1p

Newscutting entitled 'Well-Known Solicitor Weds Minister's Widow' concerning the marriage of Brigid O'Higgins to Arthur Cox.

**P197/254** 18 August 1953

2pp

photocopy of entry of death registered in Donnybrook, Dublin, for Annie Josephine Higgins, widow (Kevin O'Higgins' mother).

**P197/255** 24 September 1992; 1918–21

4pp

Holograph covering letter from Dan Dunne, St. Mary's, Knockbeg College, Carlow, to Una O'Higgins O'Malley with photocopies of pages from the college wage ledger concerning Brigid Cole (1918–21).