

IL1 – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

(Leabharlann Náisiúnta na h-Éireann)

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND derives its origins from the Library of the Royal Dublin Society, founded in 1731. In 1877 a substantial portion of the Royal Dublin Society library was purchased by the then Government and the new National Library of Ireland was established. An agreement of 1881 provided that the Library should operate under the superintendence of a Council of Trustees, eight of whom were appointed by the Royal Dublin Society and four by the Government. In May 2005, under the provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, the Library became a new corporate entity managed by a twelve member Board appointed by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The National Library of Ireland aims to collect, preserve and make accessible materials on or relating to Ireland, whether published in Ireland or abroad, together with a supporting reference collection.

GENERAL INFORMATION

National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland (01-603-0200; fax: 01-676-6690)

Email: info@nli.ie

Internet: <http://www.nli.ie/>

Online Catalogue: <http://hip.nli.ie/>

Director: Mr Aongus Ó hAonghusa (aohaonghusa@nli.ie)

Keeper of Services & Systems: Mr Brian McKenna (bmckenna@nli.ie)

Keeper, Administration: Ms Colette Byrne (cbyrne@nli.ie)

Keeper of Outreach & Preservation: Ms Catherine Fahy

(cfahy@nli.ie)

Total staff: 120

Holdings: c6 million items

Expenditure: €2 million (2006-07)

Admission: Open to all those with a need to use the Library's research collections, or to visit the Library's exhibitions or events. Readers wishing to consult newspapers or microform materials may acquire a temporary pass from the Information/Ticket Desk. Otherwise, a Readers Ticket is required for access (requiring proof of identity and two passport photos). To view manuscripts, a supplementary Manuscripts Readers Ticket is required. Access to Prints and Drawings Collections is by appointment. No ticket is required for access to the reading room in the National Photographic Archive.

The Information/Ticket Desk is open during the following hours: Mon-Wed 0930-2100, Thu-Fri 0930-1700, Sat 0930-1300.

For enquiries about collections, opening hours and admission procedures, contact:

Reader Services (01-603-0211; fax: 01-661-2523)

Email: readerservices@nli.ie

For enquiries about exhibitions and events, contact:

Exhibition Enquiry Desk (01-603-0277; fax: 01-661-2523)

Photographic Exhibitions (01-603-0371; fax: 01-677-7451)

Email: yeats@nli.ie or photoarchive@nli.ie

STRUCTURE OF THE LIBRARY

The main Library building was opened in 1890. In recent years improvements have taken place to the Library's premises. A former storage area was converted into an administration building while a new exhibition area was developed adjacent to the main Library. In 2007, additional microfilm reading space was provided. The Library's photographic collections are held at the National Photographic Archive, a purpose-built facility in the Temple Bar area of Dublin. The main reading rooms are:

MAIN READING ROOM AND MICROFILM READING ROOMS

7-8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Open: Mon-Wed 0930-2100, Thu-Fri 0930-1700, Sat 0930-1300

MANUSCRIPTS READING ROOM

2-3 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Open: Mon-Wed 0930-2030, Thu-Fri 0930-1630, Sat 0930-1230

Note that manuscripts are not issued between 1230-1400 or 1700-1800 (Mon-Wed)

READING ROOM, NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Open: Mon-Fri 1000-1700

The main curatorial departments of the Library are:

DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS

Keeper of Manuscripts: Mr Gerard Lyne (glyne@nli.ie)

Comprising c1 million items, the earliest dating from the 11C. The main components of the collection are Gaelic MSS, landed estate archives, MS maps, political, social and literary papers, materials relating to the arts, music and architecture, and a number of business archives.

There are four parts to the Manuscripts Catalogue: *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation* (items catalogued pre-1965), the *Supplement to Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation* (items catalogued

1965-75), Manuscripts Card Catalogue (items catalogued 1976-90), and on OPAC (items catalogued post-1990).

Special Collections

Gaelic MSS Collection (earliest dating from 14C, 1,236 vols); extensive collections of estate papers (mostly 17C-20C), among the more notable of which are: Balfour; Bellew; Castletown; Clements; Clonbrock; Conyngham; Coolattin; De Freyne; De Vesce; Doneraile; Farnham; Fingal; Ffrench; Headford; Inchiquin; Lismore; Louth; Mahon; Mansfield; Monteagle; O'Hara; Ormond; Powerscourt; Prior-Wandesford; Sarsfield; Westport; Wicklow; Wynne; papers of Irish political figures, 18C onwards, including: Edmund Burke; Wolfe Tone; Daniel O'Connell; William Smith O'Brien; James Fintan Lalor; T.C. Harrington; T.P. Gill; William O'Brien; J.F.X. O'Brien; John Redmond; Piarais Béaslaí; Sir Roger Casement; Erskine Childers; Thomas MacDonagh; Bulmer Hobson; Eoin McNeill; Seán T. O'Kelly; Patrick Pearse; Thomas Johnston; papers of Irish writers, including: William Butler Yeats; James Joyce (including the James Joyce/Paul Léon Papers); Maria Edgeworth; Canon Sheehan; Richard Brinsley Sheridan; George Moore; John Millington Synge; George Bernard Shaw; Seán O'Casey; Patrick Kavanagh; Benedict Kiely; James Plunkett; Hugh Leonard; Michael Hartnett; Tom MacIntyre; Dermot Bolger; Roddy Doyle; Colm Tóibín; Paul Durcan; Marina Carr.

The Gaelic MSS in the collections are being made available online in digital format through the ongoing Irish Script on Screen project: <http://www.isos.dias.ie/>

GENEALOGICAL OFFICE (OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HERALD OF IRELAND)

2-3 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland (01-603-0311; fax: 01-662-1062)

Email: herald@nli.ie

Keeper of the Genealogical Office & Chief Herald of Ireland: Mr Fergus Gillespie (fgillespie@nli.ie)

The Genealogical Office, which incorporates the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland, has functioned as a branch of the Library since 1943. The Chief Herald is the heraldic authority for Ireland, the State authority responsible for the devising and granting of arms. The Office of the Chief Herald does not undertake genealogical research or searches of its holdings on behalf of the public.

Special Collections

Materials relating to heraldry and genealogy, including: Registers of Arms; Registers of Pedigrees; funeral entries; archives from 1552. The Register of Arms and other Office collections can be viewed by application in the Library's Manuscripts Reading Room.

DEPARTMENT OF PRINTED AND VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Keeper of Printed & Visual Collections: Ms Colette O'Flaherty (coflaherty@nli.ie)

Includes the following sub-departments:

PRINTED BOOKS

Assistant Keeper (Printed Books): Mr Gerard Long (goluing@nli.ie)

Collections comprise approximately 1 million titles, with extensive general coverage of the humanities. The emphasis, particularly as regards current acquisitions policy, is on material relating to Ireland and the Irish people.

A significant proportion of the Printed Books Collection is listed on the Library's OPAC.

Special Collections

Foundation collections: Royal Dublin Society Library Collection (mainly science and technology, 70,000 vols); Joly Collection (Irish materials and rare editions, 25,000 vols); other major collections include: Dix Collection (printing in Ireland, 18C-19C, 8,000 vols); Griffin Collection (Irish-American diaspora, c4,000 items); LO Collection (rare books, especially Irish); Lough Fea Pamphlets (17C, 300 items); William O'Brien Collection (republican and socialist pamphlets, 19C-20C, c1,000 items); O'Kelly Collection (religion in Ireland, 18C-20C, 946 titles);