The Archives and Special Collections 2017
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publications Based on Archival and Special Collections</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media Coverage Linked to Archival and Special Collections</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Usage of the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitors</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visits Abroad</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation in Teaching Programmes</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collections Discoverability</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection Launch Events</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Collection Related Events</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exhibitions and Seminars Featuring Archives and Special Collections</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outreach</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recently Added Collections</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Publications and Presentations</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Archives</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

Welcome to this review of developments in archives and special collections at NUI Galway in 2017. Compiling the review takes time and effort from lots of people but it serves to highlight the huge contribution archives and special collections make to research and teaching in this University and further afield. The number of publications based on our collections has grown, as has the range of events, including exhibitions, they generate. They also stimulate connectivity with institutions worldwide and add to the global reputation of the University, aided by an increased focus on digitisation and online discovery.

All of this is made possible by the exemplary commitment shown by many parties on campus, notably Library staff, the Archives Strategy Committee, individual academics and the University leadership. That commitment enables us to attract prestigious collections, such as those of Mary Robinson and Conradh na Gaeilge. In those and other cases the University has shown that it will manage the collections effectively and promote their active use. The ongoing challenge is to build on recent successes by continuing to secure the resources to store, describe and digitise collections and to facilitate innovative scholarship.

John Cox, University Librarian

Publications Based on Archival and Special Collections


Staging Beckett in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Trish McTighe, David Tucker, eds. Methuen Drama, 2016 (Druid, Gate, Abbey Archives for chapters below)

- Beckett at the Abbey 1967–1990: Broadening the Canon - Anthony Roche
- The Gate Theatre’s Beckett festivals: tensions between the local and the global -David Clare
- The sonic geography of Druid’s Waiting for Godot - Trish McTighe

Rape on the contemporary stage. Lisa FitzPatrick. Palgrave MacMillan, 2018 (images from Druid Archive; Research from Druid/Gate/Abbey archive)
He was Galway: Máirtín Mór McDonogh, 1860–1934. Jackie Uí Chionna. Four Courts Press, 2016. (University Archives, Special Collections)


Letterdyf House: een huis in Ierland. Alexandrien van der Burgt-Franken, Jan Bongenaar, edss Companyöperatieve Vereniging tot Exploitatie van Letterdyfe House, 2016) (Tim Robinson Collection)

Irish medical education and student culture, c.1850-1950. Laura Kelly, Liverpool University Press, 2017. (Sir Peter Freyer Papers, University Archives, University Calendars/magazines)

The theatre of Tom Murphy: playwright adventurer. Nicholas Grene. Methuen Drama, 2017

Judging Shaw. Fintan O’Toole. Royal Irish Academy, 2017. (Abbey, Druid, Lyric Theatre archives)


Coastal works: culture of the Atlantic edge. Nicholas Allen, Nick Groom, and Jos Smith, eds. Oxford University Press, 2017. (Tim Robinson Archive)


**MEDIA COVERAGE LINKED TO ARCHIVAL AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The Works Presents: Tom Murphy, RTÉ One, 14 March 2017. (Abbey, Druid archives).

Irish Times, 27 April 2017, reported Mary Robinson’s intent to donate her archive to NUI Galway.

Conradh na Gaeilge archive launch, 3 October 2017 featured in multiple media, including RTE News (from 36.15), Nuacht TG4 (from 5.12) and Irish Times.

TheJournal.ie and Engineers Ireland featured the Michael O'Shaughnessy archive launch and exhibition.

RTE Brainstorm: The secrets behind a peace process by Niall O Dochartaigh, referencing the Brendan Duddy archive.

RTE History Show, 19 November 2107, included an interview with Dr. John Walsh, Gaeilge, about the Conradh na Gaeilge archive.

Irish Times, 2 December 2017, noted the donation of the Arden/D’Arcy archive to NUI Galway by Margareta D’Arcy

Forthcoming documentary on Gerry Adams. TV3, Vincent Browne, 2018. (Kevin Boyle, Brendan Duddy archives)

**USAGE OF THE ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS READING ROOM**

Between January and December the number of visitors to the Special Collections Reading Room was 2,445, an increase of 10% compared with the previous year. This reverses a decline of 3% in the previous year. Postgraduate numbers were highest at 941, followed by staff at 570 and undergraduates at 396. Patterns indicated high demand in Feb/Mar and Oct/Nov, reflecting the use of archives in various college courses and coursework assessment deadlines. 224 new users were registered during the year, including those visiting to use the Abbey and Gate Theatre digital archives.

Usage for the Abbey and, Gate Theatre Digital Archives, was significantly higher. Data for the first three quarters of 2017 (with 2016 figures in brackets) show 2,427 (1,600) logins, with 11,822 (6,689) items viewed. These figures represent increases of 51% and 76% respectively. A key factor was the availability of the Gate digital archive throughout the whole period; this archive had only become accessible from July in the previous year. Usage of the Gate archive was higher in some months than that of the Abbey archive.

The most frequently used paper archival collections were: Kevin Boyle, Lámhscribhinní de hÍde, Brendan Duddy, John McGahern, Tim Robinson. Thomas Kilroy, Lyric Theatre/O’Malley and Druid Theatre.
The most frequently used book collections were: the main Special Collections books, many of which originated in the Old Library in the Quadrangle, along with the Miscellaneous, St. Anthony’s and Delargy collections. Staff publications were also very popular.

**VISITORS**

While the bulk of our users are drawn from NUI Galway staff, students and researchers, a sizeable number (522, or 22.4%) of the readers up to the end of November 2017 were external, including academics and researchers from other universities as well as from the local community. This figure is up from 21.5% in 2016.

Visitors came from, among other places, Notre Dame, Wisconsin, New York, Concordia, Germany, Brazil, Prague, Birmingham, Bristol. They made particular use of the Abbey, Gate, Tim Robinson and Kevin Boyle archives and of Yeats and Lady Gregory material in our special collections in 2017.

Archives and special collections proved to be a significant attraction for successful participants in the Moore Institute Visiting Fellowship Scheme and the Library was delighted to continue to contribute to its funding.

Groups of visitors from other institutions included:
Villanova University (Abbey Theatre Summer School)
Carleton College, Minnesota (Literature and Theatre)
University of North Carolina, Greensboro (Library and Information Science)
Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts (Irish Studies in Context)

The University hosted many conferences and other events in 2017; a flyer about the archives was inserted in the delegate pack in many cases and this drew visitors to the collections during each event.

**VISITS ABROAD**

There were opportunities in 2017 to visit other institutions with linkage to archives at NUI Galway. A particular highlight was a visit to Northwestern University in Chicago by University Librarian John Cox and Professor Patrick Lonergan. Northwestern holds the early years of the Gate Theatre archive and the visit initiated a dialogue around potential collaborations to digitally reunite the early and recent archives and to mark the 90th anniversary of the Gate in 2018.

John Cox also visited the University of California, Berkeley, to view its substantial holdings of the archive of Michael O'Shaughnessy and their possible digitisation. This facilitated a visit to NUI Galway by Dr. Gray Brechin from the Department of Geography at...
UC Berkeley. Gray spoke eloquently at the launch of our O’Shaughnessy archive in October 2017. We look forward also to a visit from Theresa Salazar, Curator, Western Americana, at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, in April 2018.

**Participation in Teaching Programmes**

The Special Collections Librarian provided sessions as follows:

- Five sessions on the LIB2100, Archives & Special Collections module for single-honours 2BA History students
- Introductory sessions on Special Collections resources for students on MA courses in Irish Studies, Culture & Colonialism and the GS530 module for PhD students
- Focussed training sessions on Special Collections resources for 3BA students in Archaeology and History
- Sessions on locating and using NUIG and other theses to GS530 module
- Session with HI487 (3BA History) students on resources for Women’s History

The Archivists were actively involved in these programmes:

- Breaking the S.E.A.L. – project delivered to an expanded group of three local secondary schools, engaging 120 students.
- New dedicated MA seminar series on Irish theatre archives co-delivered with Dr. Catherine Morris, new Teaching Fellow in Theatre Archives.
- Engagement with undergraduate, postgraduate and external groups, including the “Using Archives and Special Collections” module for 2BA Single Honours History: ‘Introduction to Archives’ and ‘Sources for Early Modern Ireland’ for the MA in History; Archives sessions developed for new 1BA Applied Social Sciences, as well as introductory session to archives for 1BA History.
- Engagement with undergraduate, postgraduate and external groups, including an introduction to archives for 1BA History tutorials; 1BCN Children Studies; Irish Language Manuscripts for the MA in Irish; cultural collections for the MA in Culture and Colonialism; theatre collections for the BA in Theatre and Performance; acquisition and appraisal policies presentation to the Masters in Archival Studies Class, UCD.
Collection level descriptions for all available archival collections were integrated into the main Library catalogue.

Cataloguing of the Dominican Library was facilitated by the appointment of Aaron Binchy as a Contract Special Collections Cataloguer from July to December.

Other special collections (books) catalogued included: Colman Morrissey; Tim Robinson; Éamon de Buitléar; Mícheál Ó Curraoin; Sheila and John Mulloy; Siobhán McKenna; Mairéad NicDhonncadh; Seán MacGiollarnáth.

The following archival collections were listed: Muintir na Tíre, by Contract Archivist Fiona Kearney; Maurice Hayes Collection; Druid Theatre Collection; Rev. Murphy Collection.

28 February saw the launch of the descriptive list and opening of access to the Flynn and Lehany Coal Mining Company Collection.

A seminar was held on 14 September to mark the accession of left-wing newspapers donated by the Trench and Sherry families and by Dr John Cunningham, History.

The donation of the Conradh na Gaeilge archive was announced on 3 October.

The Michael Maurice O’Shaughnessy archive descriptive list and digital resource were launched on 10 October.

A one-day seminar on Irish and British Political Theatre was held in the O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance on 24 November to mark the donation of the John Arden/Margaretta D’Arcy Archive.

Archives and Special Collections featured strongly in a seminar on how exhibitions can promote research on 28 November.

Dr. Sandra Collins, Director of the National Library of Ireland, gave a lecture on Memory Keeping in the Digital Age, 15 November.

Presentation to Údarás na hOllscoile, 28 February, by John Cox and Professor Patrick Lonergan on the Archives and Special Collections at NUI Galway.
Archives in Research Seminar, 2 February
Keynote lecture; Professor Frank Shovlin (Director of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool) - Prospecting for Gold: A Year with the McGahern Papers.

Archives in Teaching Seminar, 2 March
Keynote panel featuring Dr. Nessa Cronin, Prof. Lionel Pilkington, Dr. Iain McLaren, Dr. Sarah-Anne Buckley.

‘Outside the Walls’: Researchers in the Community, 6 April 2017 – Special Collections Seminar at which four speakers representing various community heritage and history organisations outlined the nature of their current research and the possibility of greater links with the University were explored.

Culture Night, 22 September. Talks, with accompanying exhibition, included:
  • Muinter na Tire Periodical literature by Fiona Kearney
  • James Hardiman: Historian of Galway by Marie Boran

Arts in Action Programme
  • Jean Ritchie Lecture by Henry Glassie, 2 February
  • Readings and music for Threshold/Lyric Theatre Archive, 18 October
  • ‘She was the Idea of Ireland’ - Siobhan McKenna event with Lelia Doolin, 8 November

Book Launch, 2 February: Touchstones: John McGahern’s Classical Style, Professor Frank Shovlin (Liverpool University Press)

Book Launch, 7 November: Judging Shaw, Fintan Ó'Toole (Royal Irish Academy)

EXHIBITIONS AND SEMINARS FEATURING ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Printed Special Collections materials sourced for the seminar Before 1916: Robert Lynd and Visions of Ireland to Come.

Path Breaking Women of NUI Galway exhibition, March-August

Display of material from Dominican Library for RECIRC conference on the reception and circulation of early modern women’s writing, 1550-1700, 22-25 March

Found in translation: France, Ireland and the legacy of Michel Déon, 25 April, as part of the Cúirt festival.

Representations of Jews in Irish Literature exhibition, December 2016-January 2017

Printed Special Collections material displayed in association with Anatomists on the Edge conference, 27-29 June 2017.
Opening of new O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, 10 April: written history of drama on campus produced from archival sources, with physical/digital exhibition and tour for President Higgins and Sabina Higgins.

An exhibition to launch the archive of NUI Galway alumnus Michael Maurice O’Shaughnessy opened on 10 October 2017. Digital exhibition also online.

Judging Shaw: The Exhibition, O’Donoghue Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance, November-December, including material from Abbey and Lyric Theatre archives.

Material contributed to TCD exhibition, Tom Murphy: A Life in the Theatre (Druid/Abbey archives)


OUTREACH

Archives talks on main Open Day programme for Postgraduate Open Day and Find Your Masters Week. (November)

Supporting material for a number of conferences held in Moore Institute, including display for Revolution: Ireland and Russia in the Wake of 1917, Conference of the Irish Association for Russia, Central and East European Studies, May; Victorian Popular Fiction Association, 8 June; Tudor and Stuart Ireland, August

Exhibition and tours for EDEN Postgraduate English and Drama conference, May 2017

Display of material for 1967 Alumni group during commemoration events organised by the Alumni Office

Social media campaigns such as monthly blog articles on Muintir na Tire and other archive collections, and targeted campaign for ‘Explore your Archive’ Week, November.

The Archives and Special Collections Blog had 52,347 views during the year from many countries, the following being the most frequent, and in this order: USA, Ireland, Russia, UK, Germany and France.

Engagement with the Archives Twitter account was strong in 2017: Total impressions: 723,000; distinct visitors: 14,783; new followers: 550
We have been fortunate to add a number of new collections in 2017, including:

- Archive and library of Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, covering her whole career.
- Maurice Hayes papers, received in May, and encompassing the career of the former Senator and Northern Ireland Ombudsman and public servant who died in December.
- Donation of rare issues of the Connaught Journal newspaper by Ronnie O’Gorman.
- Ó Coinne Collection: books donated from the library of Liam Ó Coinne by his widow Anna, mostly relating to Irish Studies.
- Further donations from the Sisters of Mercy, Forster St. Convent, principally on 19th Irish religious history.
- The Traveller’s Companion, by Madame de Genlis, a travel guide originally published in 1808, formerly the property of James Hardiman and including his signature.
- Colohan family bible: originally belonging to John Colohan, who graduated in Medicine from QCG in 1857 and subsequently lived in Australia (facilitated by Prof. Tadhg Foley).
- P.J. Henry collection, donated by his widow Geraldine. Principally modern Irish and European drama.
- Further donations by Tim Robinson, including his copy of Captain O’Malley’s diary, some more of his maps, and material relating to Cré na Cille and Connemara and Elsewhere.
- Markus Casey Collection, including archaeological research notes relating to studies of Irish coastal promontory forts, excavations in Galway and motorway construction.
- R. J. Ray (Robert Brophy) Collection, including playwright’s personal diaries, theatre scrapbooks, Abbey records and files of correspondence.
- Tom Sherry Collection of socialist, anarchist and communist periodicals.
- Glynn Collection of material relating to the Militant Tendency in Ireland, predecessor of the current Socialist Party.
- John Cunningham Collection of (mostly) left-wing periodicals from the 1980s.
**STAFF PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLICATIONS:**


**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Marie Boran**

Session on research materials in Special Collections at the James Hardiman Library for participants on *Publishing & Archiving* course run by the Old Tuam Society, in association with Galway County Council Heritage service

Paper on the life and work of James Hardiman to *the Westport Historical Society* as part of its Heritage Week programme

Joint lecture (with Brigid Clesham) on sources for Landed Estates research in North West Ireland at the Sligo Field Club Annual Seminar

Seminar entitled “*Outside the Walls*: researchers in the Community”, listed in the Events section

**Barry Houlihan**


“Eugene O’Neill and Ireland– From the Archives”, NUI Galway, July 2017

“Sound and Vision: Recovering movement, gesture and the actor’s craft from NUI Galway Digital Theatre Collections”, City, University of London, November 2017
Aisling Keane
“Opening up a Mapping Project Digitally”, CONUL Conference, Athlone, May 2017

“Digitally Preserving a Mapping Project: The Tim Robinson Archive at NUI Galway”, DPASSH Conference, Sussex Humanities Lab, Brighton, June 2017

**VIDEO PRESENTATIONS:**

John Cox, *Archives at NUI Galway*
Monica Crump, *Conradh na Gaeilge Archive*
Kieran Hoare, *John Arden/Margaretta D'Arcy Archive*
Barry Houlihan, *Galway International Arts Festival, Judging Shaw Exhibition*
Aisling Keane, *Michael O'Shaughnessy archive*

**DIGITAL ARCHIVES**

Highlights included:

- The completion of the digitisation of the *Gate Theatre archive*, on time and on budget, in July; featured on the blog of the *Association of Performing Arts Collections*.

- The digitisation of the *Michael O'Shaughnessy archive*, including a novel timeline presentation based on a *digital memoir*, using the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF).

- Drafting of a *Digital Preservation Policy*.

- Development of a *platform* for archiving exhibitions digitally.

Issue of the Connaught Journal, 29 December 1791