



Note from your Editor

Well folks, this is a retirement issue of sorts. Valerie Ingram will be retiring as Librarian of the OPW in November, but before she goes she has contributed a final and very interesting article giving an overview of the collections of the OPW heritage libraries, including some wonderful illustrations. Valerie, one of the founder members of the GLS, started her government library career in the Library of the Department of Agriculture, where she spent 17 years, and we have been firm friends as well as colleagues ever since. The National Botanic Gardens was at that time part of the Department of Agriculture. With her love of natural science Valerie in particular, was in her element caring for a wonderful, but poorly resourced library, that was largely inaccessible except to the privileged few. When NBG transferred to OPW it was a great opportunity for Valerie, who transferred to and subsequently became Librarian for the whole of OPW. With increased support and funding, Valerie managed the transformation of the scattered NBG collections into a wonderful botanical and horticultural library. Likewise, as can be seen from the many articles she has written for GLINT, she has developed all the other OPW libraries under her care to their present excellent state.

As I myself plan to depart within the next year this may be the last issue of GLINT that I produce, though if promised articles materialise in the meantime, there may be one more issue before I leave. Just in case I would like to thank all the contributors who, down the years, have helped to make GLINT such a useful publication.

Contents

This issue includes:

- *Library Collections in OPW Heritage Sites*
Valerie Ingram
(Page 6)
- *Valerie Ingram—a tribute*
Nuala Canny and Jane Smith
(Page 3)
- *Visit of Danish Parliamentary Librarians to the Oireachtas Library & Research Service*
Seamus Haughey
(Page 16)
- *GLINT—down the years*
Mary Doyle
(Page 18)
- *News items including*
Photo gallery
New Committee (Page 2)
Snippets (Page 5)

GLS Web Address

<http://www2.libraryassociation.ie/sections-and-groups/government-libraries-section/>

Committee Report 2009—2010

The GLS continued to provide a networking forum for librarians in the government libraries sector with six ordinary meetings held between August 2009 and May 2010. Major issues of interest to the GLS during the period included copyright, open-access repositories, professional standards for librarians within government libraries (including qualifications, continuing professional development, salaries) and the creation of a union catalogue.

The GLS representative to the Executive Board, Joe Donnelly, has been involved, among other things, in drawing up new rules and regulations for LAI members with other members from the Executive Board.

A GLS LinkedIn page was set up by Orla Gillen and it is hoped this will facilitate communications and improved networking among Government Librarians in the future.

The GLS was represented at the meeting between the Executive Board and the Sections and Groups in December 2009 by Zoe Melling and Conor McCabe.

The GLS was represented on the Library Ireland Week Task Force by Conor McCabe.

Joseph Donnelly was again nominated as the GLS representative on the LAI Executive Board.

The GLS AGM was held in September 2010.

The new Committee

Chair: **Noeleen Murtagh** (Food Safety Authority)
Secretary: **Muireann Tobin** (Revenue)
Treasurer: **Donal McSweeney** (Central Bank)

Other Committee members:

Máire Caffrey (Teagasc)
Jean Cassidy (Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs)
Joe Donnelly (Judges' Library)
Mary Doyle (Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)
Conor McCabe (DPP)
Zoe Melling (Legal Aid Board/Refugee Documentation Centre),
Fiona Morley (Legal Aid Board/Refugee Documentation Centre)



Noeleen Murtagh, Muireann Tobin,
Donal McSweeney

Valerie Ingram, OPW Librarian A Tribute

by

Nuala Canny and Jane Smith

When Valerie Ingram retires, we will be without a multi-talented, learned government librarian with a rich knowledge in the varied information needs of OPW staff countrywide.

Since 1993, Valerie has been the Head Librarian of the Office of Public Works, with responsibility for such diverse subject areas as architecture, construction, engineering, arterial drainage, flood relief, property management, heritage, conservation, art, law, health and safety, public



administration, management, economics and computing.

The library collection, which dates back to 1831 and before, is rich in both nineteenth and twentieth century material, thanks to the care of Valerie. While Government Librarians, OPW staff, friends and family who know Valerie, are very aware of the dedication she puts into her work, a brief mention of her achievements is appropriate on this occasion.

Firstly, not many librarians have had the opportunity (or inclination) to put together a design brief for a library – especially a library that is being housed in the very place that some of our best architects and engineers work.

With no hesitation or fear, Valerie was adamant that the OPW library would be designed correctly, so she swiftly set about writing up a library design brief. As she wrote herself in GLINT (which I will get to later), “*He (who is*

just as likely to be she) may be excellent at his job but is unlikely to be designing libraries on a regular basis and may not even be aware of some aspects which would seem very obvious to you.” Valerie wanted her collections to be held and preserved in a way only a librarian could appreciate.

She also provided design briefs for a rare books repository in the Pensioners’ Library at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, for the National Botanic Gardens Library, where she briefed the architect Ciaran O’Connor who saw the Herbarium and Library Building through to completion, while also taking charge of the collection there until 1997 (and again since it returned to OPW in 2005). And now with the onset of decentralisation of the OPW library to Trim, Valerie once again has put her very significant mark on the design of the new library there.

When Valerie first joined the OPW in 1993 after spending many enjoyable years in the Dept of Agriculture Library, she had the enormous task of amalgamating five OPW library collections: the original Board’s Library dating back to 1831 when the Board of Commissioners for Public Works was established, the Architectural Technical Library, the National Monuments Library and

the Waterways and the Wildlife Service collections.

In 2001 she was asked to take responsibility for the care and management of the Farmleigh library, a task for which she was well suited with her knowledge and interest in rare books. This very fine collection of rare books belonging to the Guinness family were carefully reshelfed (after being in storage), while she also added a new collection relating to Ireland and Irish culture to be enjoyed by guests and dignitaries who stay at Farmleigh. She also has responsibility for the library collections housed in the various historic buildings managed by the OPW – fourteen in all.

Valerie's artistic side can be seen in GLINT – the Government Libraries Section (GLS) of the Library Association of Ireland's electronic magazine – as she designed the logo. Not only this, she has been a prominent member of the GLS since its inauguration (including Committee Secretary), while contributing regular articles to its magazine.

Valerie, after 17 years in the OPW, will be sorely missed and difficult to replace. While there is plenty more to write about on Valerie's achievements in the library world, perhaps a small mention of two important areas outside of her professional duties that are close to her heart is appropriate – her charity and her travels. Valerie was instrumental in helping set up along with a number of others the Hope Foundation Movement, a charity for the provision of wells in remote villages in Nigeria, where previously the villagers had to walk many miles daily to collect and carry back supplies of water for washing, food preparation etc. and for which Valerie enthusiastically does the mini-marathon every year to raise funds.

Valerie is also a keen traveller with places as far flung as Australia and India under her belt and, more recently in the treasured company of her husband Aubrey, to Nigeria, Japan, China, Siberia, and this year Tahiti in search of the periodic and wonderful solar eclipse.

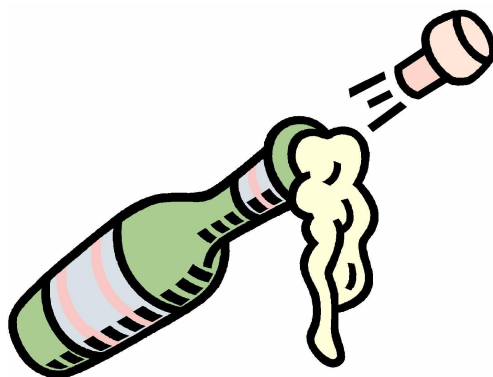
It is sad to see a person with such a wealth of knowledge leaving the library world. As technology moves on and libraries change, I would like to finish off with a quote, again from Valerie herself. It has been said that Librarians are a dying breed especially now in the Age of Google, but, as Valerie so eloquently put it herself in an article in Glint: *"While there is much greater scope for communication in the electronic era, it is still valuable to meet people face to face. It gives more opportunity to tease out exactly what they need to know, and as they browse in the library they can become aware of material which may not be quite what they thought they wanted but which could answer present and potential queries."*

On Valerie's retirement – her great contribution to and hard work in the field of librarianship will be a sad loss.

Happy Retirement, Valerie

Nuala and Jane

And so say all of us!



Snippets

From Mary Doyle, Librarian, Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ...

Interesting Copyright Notice

Now that open access is increasing in popularity it is worth checking the details of copyright notices carefully. I came across an interesting one recently in a book with multiple contributors and an editor. The copyright notice was roughly as follows:

© 2006 Publisher. Copyright is not claimed for chapters 23, 29, 31, 37 and 61, which are in the public domain.

Canadians fight back against costly journals

Have a look at a very interesting article on the reaction of Canadian university libraries to the exorbitant increase in fees for the journal Nature and the Web of Science

<http://tiny.cc/r78f9>

Creative Commons Licence Search

Search for material available for use under a Creative Commons Licence

<http://search.creativecommons.org/>

Somebody out there likes us!

Item on Resource Shelf 21/7/2010

"From National Public Radio: Why The Next Big Pop-Culture Wave After Cupcakes Might Be Libraries" <http://tiny.cc/cwpix>

Speaking of which...

Resource Shelf/ Docuticker

Resource Shelf and **Docuticker** are very useful ways of checking out interesting new resources

Resource Shelf - dedicated librarians and researchers share the results of their web searches for resources and information. It is updated daily. <http://www.resourceshelf.com/>

Also check out **DocuTicker**, a compendium of 'grey literature' (reports published by government agencies, think tanks, research institutes and other public interest groups) available for free on the web. DocuTicker offers a hand-picked selection of resources, reports and publications from government agencies, NGOs, think tanks and other public interest organizations.

<http://www.docuticker.com/>

From Máire Caffrey, Librarian, Teagasc ...

UKSG (UK Serials Group)

This group is a very useful one to join for anyone involved with serials. It *"exists to connect the information community and encourage the exchange of ideas on scholarly communication. It is the only organisation spanning the wide range of interests and activities across the scholarly information community of librarians, publishers, intermediaries and technology vendors."*

They regularly run courses, which are open to non-members, in the areas of usage statistics, E-resources licensing and technical issues, which I've found to be very useful. They also sponsor relevant research projects.

They publish a journal, Serials, which is free to members. Members can also sign up for their email newsletter "Serials E-News". I've found this very useful for keeping up to date with developments both in the area of Serials publishing and general library issues. They also collect and collate journal publisher pricelists on their website, which is a great timesaver.

<http://www.uksg.org.uk/>

Doodle for event scheduling

You may or may not have come across this useful website which helps when trying to set up a meeting or event involving a number of people. When you're trying to find the most suitable date, you just set up the event on Doodle, input as many alternative dates/times as you wish, then email a link (generated by Doodle) to all the participants. They can then go in and indicate whether they're available, not available or "could make time if absolutely necessary" on each date. As it's colour coded, it's very easy to see which is the most suitable date/time. There are further functions available with the premium product, but even the free basic one is very handy. <http://www.doodle.com/>

Oxford English Dictionary on the Web

Did you know there's a new FREE Oxford English Dictionary on the web? It's at <http://oxforddictionaries.com>

Library Collections in OPW Heritage Sites

*Valerie Ingram, Librarian,
Office of Public Works*



The Office of Public Works headquarters library provides a library and information service to all staff in the 135 OPW locations countrywide. It also plays an important role in relation to the library collections in OPW heritage sites. Assistant Librarians are based at the National Botanic Gardens and Farmleigh libraries. In the other sites where there is no regular librarian presence, the collections have been catalogued and advice provided in relation to their management and appropriate environmental conditions.

Each of the library collections held in OPW heritage sites has its own special characteristics. Of particular historic interest are those associated with former residents. The libraries at the Glebe House in Co. Donegal; Farmleigh, the Pearse Museum (St. Enda's), the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, and Rathfarnham Castle in Dublin; Innacullin (Garinish Island) in Co. Cork; and Derrynane House in Co. Kerry are all examples. Sadly Arthur Butler, 4th Marquis of Ormonde, sold the contents of Kilkenny Castle, including the library, in 1935. The leather bound volumes which visitors now see in the bookcases were purchased by the OPW at the time when they restored the library and drawing room. However sixty volumes from the Ormonde collections came to light over the years since and the OPW acquired them. The 140 leather bound volumes in the Casino at Marino, Dublin, were also 'books bought by the yard'. Only seven of the over one thousand books at Castletown, Co. Kildare, have Castletown bookplates. All of this collection was donated to the Castletown

Photo: Kilkenny Castle

Foundation, or prior to that to the Irish Georgian Society, and is on loan to the State.

The libraries at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin and the John F. Kennedy Arboretum in Co. Wexford were built up for the use of the organisations of which they form part. The collections at two visitor centres, the Blasket Centre, Co. Kerry, and the Battle of the Boyne – Oldbridge Estate, Co. Meath, also fall into that category. The following is an attempt to give a flavour of what characterises each of these great house and special collections.

Glebe House and Gallery

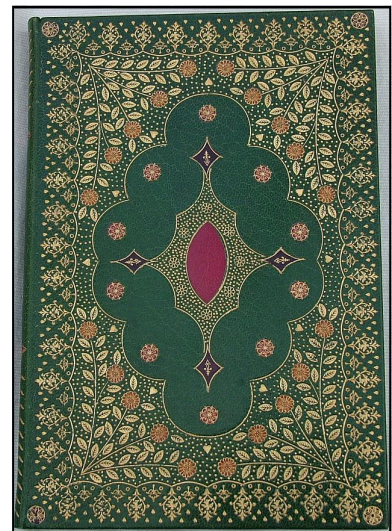
In 1981 the artist, Derek Hill, donated the **Glebe House and Gallery** to the Nation. The OPW purchased his library after his death in the year 2000. It covers a broad range of subjects but its most important aspect is the unique and valuable collection of art books from around the world, including copies of Derek Hill's own books, *'Portraits'* and *'Islamic architecture and its decoration A.D. 800-1500'*. He received gifts of books from many writers and artists. Among the famous names found in dedications written in them are Molly Keane, Jack Yeats, Norah McGuinness, John Betjemen, Noel Coward, Elizabeth Bowen, Siegfried Sassoon, Patrick Kavanagh, Jennifer Johnston and Seamus Heaney. The jewel of the collection is a 1915 book of Japanese woodblock prints.

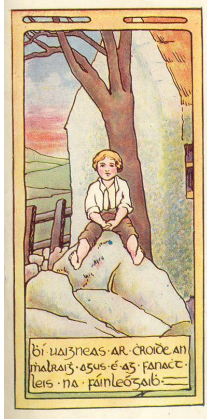


Derek Hill
(Portrait by Tom Hallifax)

Farmleigh

Following the Government purchase of **Farmleigh** from the Guinness family in 1999, a loan agreement was set up whereby the library of the late 3rd Earl of Iveagh would remain in its original home under the care of the OPW. The collection, now known as the Benjamin Iveagh Library, was donated to Archbishop Marsh's Library in 2008, but with the proviso that it would stay permanently at Farmleigh and be managed and maintained by the OPW. Benjamin Guinness (1937-1992) was given the library on the occasion of his 21st birthday. He became a keen book lover and collector, purchasing many fine Irish bookbindings and first editions. The work of the Parliamentary Binders is perhaps the most noteworthy amidst this magnificent collection which includes examples of all the major Irish bookbinding styles. Jonathan Swift's *'Gulliver's Travels'* and James Joyce's *'Ulysses'* are two examples of first editions by famous Irish writers. The manuscripts also include many remarkable

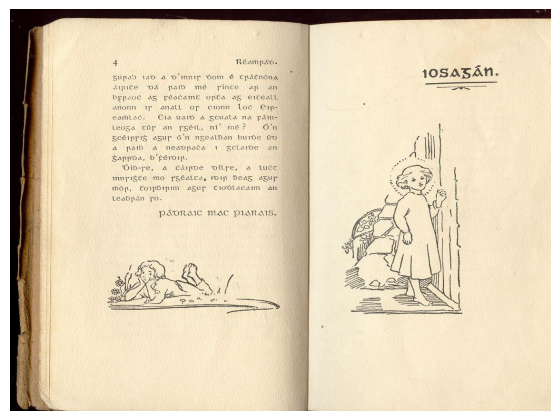




items. The '*Treatise on the Irish alphabet and language*' was presented to Elizabeth I. It is said that she greeted Granuaile with the words, "Conas atá tu?", perhaps learnt from this little primer. A letter of Daniel O'Connell to his 'own darling love', tells his wife that the Catholic Emancipation Bill has at last been passed. Researchers and interested groups may visit the Library by appointment. In addition to the Benjamin Iveagh Library there is a selection of over one thousand books of Irish interest which were purchased by the OPW Librarian for the enjoyment of guests staying at Farmleigh.

Pearse Museum — St Enda's

The Pearse family's library is housed at the **Pearse Museum in St. Enda's** and in the Pearse reserve collection in Kilmainham Gaol. It was donated to the State following the death of Senator Margaret Pearse in 1968. Many of the books belonged to James Pearse, Patrick Pearse's father, who was largely self-educated and had a wide range of interests. Among those which were owned by Patrick Pearse are his law books, works of English literature and many publications in the Irish language. There are first editions of the books he wrote himself, including the short story collections *Iosagán agus scéalta eile* and *An máthair*. Publications associated with St. Enda's, the school he founded, including various school magazines, are of special relevance to the history of Irish education.



Royal Hospital Kilmainham

The **Royal Hospital Kilmainham**, now the home of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, was founded in 1680 as 'a comfortable retreat [for] antient, maimed and infirm officers and soldiers'. Volumes in the library date from the sixteenth century on. It includes two collections, what survives of the original library, and the Pensioners' Library of mainly nineteenth century books on many topics which formed a lending library for the inmates. There are also about 350 prayer books. Many of the early books contain bookplates which indicate by whom they were donated and at what date. The Earl of Pembroke's bequest of seventeen items was by far the most generous. The bindings on the liturgical works are fine examples of early Irish bookbinding. Owing to forthcoming refurbishment works at the Royal Hospital this collection will shortly be moved to Farmleigh for safe keeping.

Rathfarnham Castle

The forty books at **Rathfarnham Castle** relate to the period in the twentieth century when it was owned by the Society of Jesus. They are all of a religious nature and were donated to the OPW by Fr. Edmund O'Keeffe S.J. in 1998. Twelve of them, bearing various Jesuit library bookplates, were in a box with the note 'room of Fr. John Sullivan S.J.' They were found in Fr. Sullivan's room at the time of his death. He had been Rector of Rathfarnham Castle from 1919 - 1924.

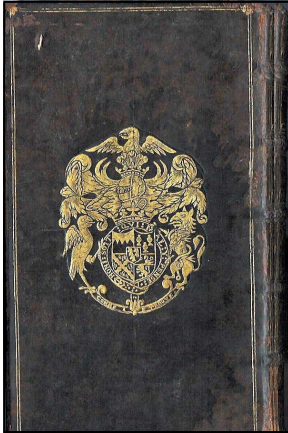
Innacullin

Innacullin on Garinish Island was the home of the Bryce family and their library which includes a wide variety of subjects remains in situ. Six different members of the Bryce family wrote books which form part of the collection, the majority of titles being by James Bryce, jurist, historian and politician, and Chief Secretary of Ireland 1905-1907. Other volumes of note include some rare Irish works, and more modern books containing dedications from well known people, such as Douglas Hyde, the first President of Ireland, and the writer and poet, Katherine Tynan. The house at Innacullin is not currently open to the public so visitors see only the beautiful Italian-style gardens.

Derrynane

Derrynane House is known for its association with Daniel O'Connell, whose successful campaign for Catholic Emancipation in Ireland was already mentioned in connection with the library at Farmleigh. Over one third of the 706 volumes in the library there have signatures of various members of the O'Connell family and 23 of them bear the name 'Daniel'. There were however several Daniels in the family including the most famous Daniel's third son. Some of the inscriptions in childish writing are clearly his. The books date from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century and the subject range is quite broad. At least three ladies of the family enjoyed the popular fiction of around the turn of the twentieth century.

Kilkenny Castle



The most noteworthy of the sixty volumes at **Kilkenny Castle** which had formed part of the Ormonde collection is a set of nine volumes of the works of Cicero, translated into French in 1670. They bear the armorial crest of the 1st Duke of Ormond in gilt on both covers. This is probably the set listed in 'Catalogue of His Grace the Duke of Ormond's books at his Grace's closet at Kilkenny Castle, an account taken of them by his Grace's directions ... 1684-5'. The rest of the books are all of a later date. Many of them have book plates, eighteen with the motto 'Comme je trouve'. The volumes purchased to fill the bookcases were almost all published in the nineteenth century and cover many subjects. Even the bookmarks which turn up in them can be rather delightful: calling cards, cigarette cards, a 1930 album of famous screen stars, prayers, memoriam cards, invitations to religious events and to Duffy's circus, and various advertisements including one for a tonic for your pet canary.



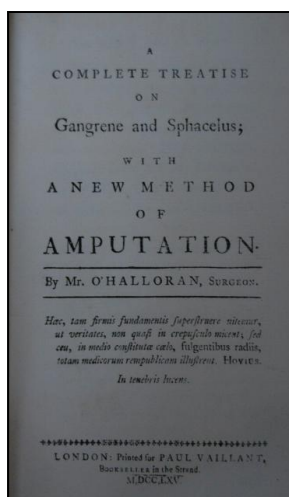
Boulton Grierson binding

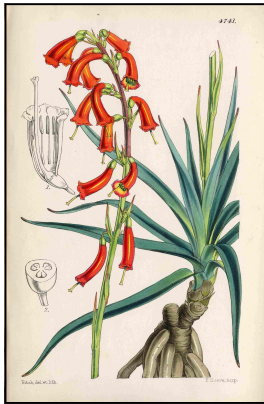
Casino, Marino

The books at the **Casino, Marino** date from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the majority deal with religious matters, followed closely by literature.

Castletown

The books and journals at **Castletown** cover the whole range of arts and sciences. A very fine collection of volumes was donated by J. Paul Getty Jnr. to the Irish Georgian Society for display at Castletown. As at Farmleigh, there are examples of Irish parliamentary binding. A magnificent cover in red goatskin with gold tooling, the work of Boulter Grierson's binder ca.1765, rather incongruously encloses 'A *complete treatise on gangrene and sphacelus; with a new method of amputation*'. A set of four volumes of the works of John Locke, bound in 1763 by William McKensie of Dame St. in brown morocco and bearing the coat of arms of Trinity College Dublin, was presented as a prize to Charles William Bury in 1784. William Hutchinson Carroll's seventeenth birthday present in

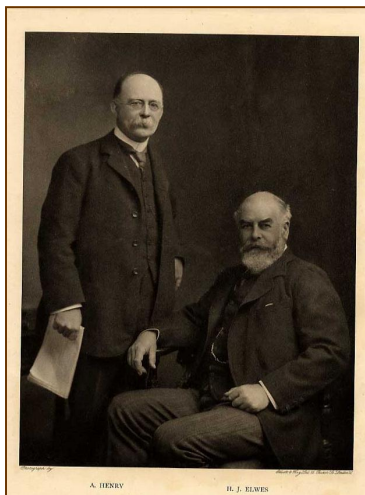




Bravoa geminiflora
Curtis's Botanical Magazine v9
Third Series (1853)



Dendrobium falconeri var.
sepalis petalisque obtusioribus
Curtis's Botanical Magazine v14
Third Series, t.5058 (1858)

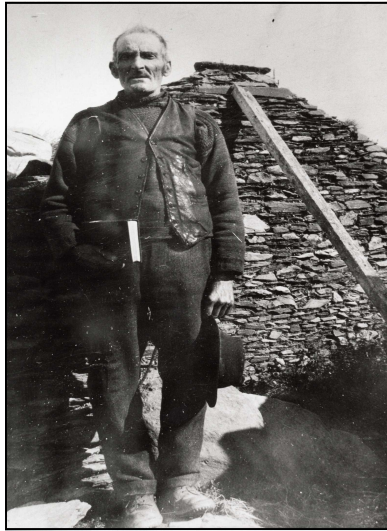


Augustine Henry and
Henry John Elwes
from
"The Trees of Great Britain and
Ireland"

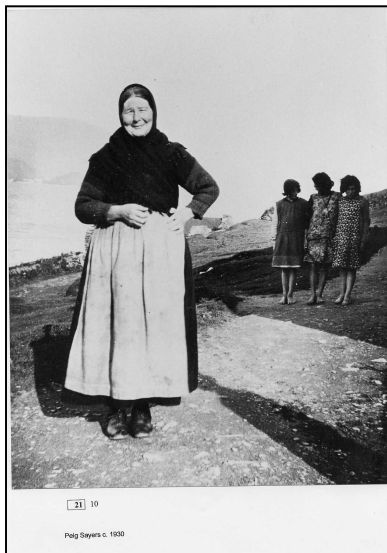
1834 was a library of 31 volumes all measuring just 9 cm high in a morocco box. *The ruins of Balbec*, by Robert Wood (1757) bears the bookplate of Thomas Connolly and there is evidence that it was consulted for the interior finishing of Castletown.

National Botanic Gardens

The earliest of the institutional collections, the **National Botanic Gardens** Library, was initiated in 1799, four years after the Gardens were established. It is the only library of its size in Ireland which specialises in botany and horticulture. The oldest book is Brunfels' *Herbal*, published in 1532. The holdings were greatly enriched by gifts and bequests. In 1911 William Edward Gumbleton left a remarkable collection of nineteenth century colour-plate books to the Gardens. Pierre Joseph Redouté was artist to the Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, and painted many of the plants growing in her garden. His books, *Les roses*, *Les liliacées*, and *Jardin de la Malmaison* form part of the Gumbleton bequest, as do the early volumes of *Curtis's botanical magazine*. First issued in 1787, this is the longest running botanical periodical with colour illustrations of plants, and the Gardens have a complete set. The library of Augustine Henry, first Professor of Forestry in the Royal College of Science (now University College Dublin), was another important bequest. Over the past thirty years the Gardens Library has grown greatly because of agreements set up for the exchange of publications with botanical and horticultural institutions worldwide. Books including floras, periodicals, nursery catalogues and offprints are included in the published material held. The archives of the Gardens also form part of the Library, and collections of photographs and of botanical art. There are over 3,000 art works, from George Victor du Noyer's 1830's paintings of apples and wild roses and fungi to the work of modern botanical artists such as Wendy Walsh. The Library serves the botanical and horticultural staff and horticultural students at the Gardens and also the many plant enthusiasts, students and botanists who visit.



Tomás Ó Criomhthain



Peig Sayers

John F. Kennedy Arboretum

Following the death of President Kennedy in 1963, Irish Americans wished create a memorial to him in Ireland, and thus was born the idea of the **John F. Kennedy Arboretum**, which was formally opened in 1968. A library of arboricultural and botanical material was built up. H.M. Fitzpatrick donated 31 of his own notebooks and a large number of items - books, notebooks, letters and articles - which had belonged to Augustine Henry, so this collection complements the Henry material held in the National Botanic Gardens.

Blasket Centre

The **Blasket Centre**, built in 1993, tells the story of the people who lived on the Great Blasket Island until resettlement on the mainland in 1953. Early 20th century scholars encouraged the Irish speaking islanders to write their life stories. Many will remember studying *Peig*, by Peig Sayers at school. Other well-known titles are *An tOileánach*, by Tomás O Criomhthain and *Fiche Blián ag Fás*, by Muiris O Suilleabháin. The library at the Centre holds a very comprehensive collection of books by the Blasket writers, and information in a wide range of media relating to the life and culture of the Island. In addition to books, articles, genealogical records, manuscripts and photos, there are films and an archive acquired from Radio na Gaeltachta including interviews with Blasket born people and recordings of their music and song. A collection of c.1400 books of Irish interest from the library of Máirin Bean Uí Dhálaigh (wife of President Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh) was presented to the Centre. Researchers are allowed access to the Blasket Centre library.

Battle of the Boyne – Oldbridge Estate

A collection of books and articles was acquired for a library in the newest heritage site at the **Battle of the Boyne – Oldbridge Estate**, which was officially opened in May 2008. While the Visitor Centre provides an excellent overview of the events of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne

and the historical background, members of the public who wish to pursue their research further can have access to the library.

Postscript: Emo Court, Bolton Library

This article was originally written in 2009. Since then the contents of **Emo Court**, Co. Laois, including the library, were purchased by the Office of Public Works. While the house was transferred into State care in 1994, the contents remained the property of the original owner, Mr. Cholmeley Harrison, and were only acquired subsequent to his death. He brought the library with him from his previous home in Co. Waterford so it is not associated with the earlier history of Emo Court. There is a considerable collection of leather bound nineteenth century volumes of novels and poetry. More modern works include novels, history and biography, books on houses and gardens, furniture, art, porcelain and pottery, gardening, peerages and other books relating to family history, dictionaries and a set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Items with special links to Mr. Chomeley Harrison include notebooks, books containing drawings and paintings by members of the family, and a photograph album. Perhaps the most unusual volume is a 1685 coronation ceremony book. This was the year when James II came to the English throne.

And the very latest news is that the Office of Public Works is to take in charge the **Bolton Library** in Cashel, Co. Tipperary... The press release announcing this is reproduced on the next page.

Valerie Ingram,

OPW Librarian.

11.6.2010

Some statistics

OPW HQ Library collection including publications purchased for OPW staff in offices and sites countrywide but excluding the collections listed below. Books: 33,074. Periodical titles: 1696. Architectural and Engineering plans and drawings: circa 56,000.

Battle of the Boyne. Books: 188. Periodical titles: 2.

Blasket Centre. Books: 1542. Periodical titles: 30. Articles: 692. Photographs: 522.

Casino Marino. Books: 140.

Castletown. Books: 1022.

Derrynane. Books: 715.

Emo Court. Books: circa 1900. Periodical titles: circa 10.

Farmleigh. Benjamin Iveagh Library. Books: 2539. Pamphlets: 980. Periodical titles: 60. Manuscripts: 549.

Farmleigh OPW collection. Books: 1473. Periodical titles: 8.

Glebe House. Books: 3684. Periodical titles: 202.

I Inacullin. Books: 1781.

John F. Kennedy Arboretum. Books: 2065. Periodical titles: 205. Manuscripts. Glass plate slides.

Kilkenny Castle. Books: 1393. Periodical titles: 265.

National Botanic Gardens. Books: 17,056. Periodical titles: 1961. Offprints. Nursery catalogues: 420. Manuscripts: 1807 plus. Botanical art: 2252. Photographs: 170.

Pearse Museum. Books: 1378. Periodical titles: 46.

Rathfarnham Castle. Books: 41.

Royal Hospital Kilmainham. Books: 1705 plus.

As libraries inevitably grow and evolve, many of the above figures are likely to change.

From the collections of the National Botanic Gardens



Metrosideros florida
Curtis's
Botanical Magazine v5 Third
Series, (1849)



Abelia triflora
Wendy Walsh
1982



Ulex europaeus
'Strictus'
Wendy Walsh
1982

Illustrations reproduced by kind permission of
the OPW, Carlann Ionaí an Bhlascaoid Mhóir, Tom Hallifax and Wendy Walsh

Office of Public Works to Take in Charge the Cashel Bolton Library

Tuesday 25th May 2010 PRESS RELEASE

The Minister of State at the Dept. of Finance with Special Responsibility for the Office of Public Works and the Arts, Dr. Martin Mansergh, TD, wishes to announce that the Office of Public Works will be taking in charge the Bolton Library, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. The Office of Public Works will present the Library as part of the Rock of Cashel complex, mindful of the historic relationship between the Bolton Library and the Rock of Cashel, i.e. it was originally the Library of the Cathedral on the Rock.

The Minister of State, Dr. Mansergh, is delighted at the positive outcome to long drawn out efforts to secure the future of the Bolton Library in Cashel. The Library contains a unique collection of antiquarian books and pamphlets from all over Europe, including early material of Irish interest, and covering subjects from theology to history, including 18th century political pamphlets, to mathematics. They were first collected by Theophilus Bolton, Archbishop of Cashel from 1730 to 1744, and are now housed in the Chapter House of the Cathedral Church, John St., Cashel. The book collection will remain in the Bolton Library, and, as with the Library recently acquired in Farmleigh, the ownership will in due course be lodged with Marsh's Library, while the building will be on long-term lease from the Church Representative Body of the Church of Ireland to the Office of Public Works. The books and other documents, while remaining in situ, will be managed in association between the University of Limerick and its Library and the Office of Public Works. A Board of Visitors/Advisory Body will be established with representatives from the OPW, the Church of Ireland, the University of Limerick and other interested bodies to draw on their expertise in the management of the library.

The Minister is conscious of the care and custodianship taken of the Library particularly by successive Deans and Bishops, and those who gave voluntarily of their time to serve on the Board of the Library, and indeed all those who contributed to fund-raising events to cover running expenses. He also acknowledges the support given by the late Tony Ryan and GPA and more recently by the National Heritage Council to maintain the fabric of the building. There will be further architectural works to be carried out by OPW over the next few years.

The Rock of Cashel, Ireland's medieval acropolis, has been experiencing up to a quarter of a million visitors each year, which is putting a strain on existing visitor facilities and on the National Monument, particularly the Vicar's Choral. The opening of a complementary visitor facility at the Bolton Library will assist in the spreading of the visitor load. It will form part of the Rock of Cashel complex, and will be promoted and managed in association with the Rock of Cashel, and visitor traffic can be directed to it. This could add significantly to the capacity of Cashel to absorb increased numbers of visitors, and act as a signpost to the other attractions within the town.

Visit of Danish Parliamentary Librarians to the Oireachtas Library & Research Service

by

Seamus Haughey, Oireachtas LRS

The Oireachtas Library & Research Service recently hosted a visit by four Danish parliamentary librarians. The visit stemmed from a conversation between Madelaine Dennison, Head of the Oireachtas Library & Research Service and the Danish Chief Librarian (Hanne Rasmussen) at the 2009 conference of the Library and Research Services for Parliament Section of IFLA. Among the items of shared interest discussed by Madelaine and Hanne were the production of legislative analysis type products and the provision of information skills training to parliamentarians and their staff. It was agreed that a follow-up visit to allow for a more detailed exchange of experiences would be beneficial to both Services.

The Danish Parliamentary Library provides an information and library service to the 179 Members of the Danish Parliament (The Folketing) and their staff. Their parliament is unicameral and Members are elected under a variation of the proportional representation system used in Ireland. The four visitors, who are all professional librarians, were Laura Holt Clemmensen, René Alsund, Susanne Nylander and Lisbet Elkjaer. As well as providing the usual library duties such as document delivery and acquisitions services they are also subject specialists and provide information retrieval and research to committees in their subject areas. They also prepare background material for parliamentary debates on Bills and motions. They help users to search the parliament website and the Internet and provide introductory presentations to all new Members and staff. Their Parliamentary Library has a total of 22 staff.

The visit took place on the 20th and 21st of September. During the two days the visitors heard about all aspects of the L&RS including recent developments, our collections policy, our legislative analysis service, our information service and our information skills training. While some formal discussions took place, there was also time for informal and wide-ranging discussions over coffee and lunch in the Oireachtas visitors bar and Members restaurant. The Danish librarians also provided an interesting and very informative presentation on their library service. The presentation, which was well attended by Oireachtas Library & Research Service staff, generated many questions and a further lively discussion. They also met with Mark Mulqueen, Head of the Communications Unit in the Houses of the Oireachtas, where they discussed efforts to promote greater public interest and understanding of the work of parliament. Prior to their departure they were provided with a tour of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

On Wednesday 22nd the Danish librarians continued their visit to Dublin and called into the Law Library and the Judges Library. Here they were greeted by John Duffy and Joe Donnelly and were given a guided tour of the buildings and informed of the role of both institutions.

Addendum

Following their visit to John Duffy in The Law Library of The Bar Council in The Four Courts and Church Street, the Danish librarians crossed the Four Courts complex to the Judges' Library

(Courts Service), where they met Joe Donnelly and Frances Keaney. Topics discussed ranged from physical infrastructure, library facilities and collection management to research services, library promotion and library users. *Joe Donnelly, Judges' Library*



Judges' Library—left to right:
Frances Keaney, Susanne Nylander, Laura Holt Clemmensen, Lisbet Elkjær Kristensen,
René Søborg Alsland, Joseph Donnelly

Photo Gallery



AGM 2010

GLINT down the years

Mary Doyle, Librarian, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

In view of my planned retirement, albeit not for some months yet, I thought I would have a brief look over the back issues of GLINT.

GLINT - *Government Libraries Information Newsletter* was first produced in November 1987 just 18 months after the Government Libraries Group (GLG), was set up. The first issue included a brief description of the setting up of the Group.

The early issues were little more than a newsletter with brief notes on the Committee and current activities, which at the time included a very active social element. The latter included trips to Castletown House, a barge trip and a climb to the top of Lugnaquilla from the Glen of Imaal.

By Issue 2 there was already an indication that the newsletter would evolve into publishing more substantial articles on various aspects of Library management, with an article by Lisa Shields on her reasons for going it alone in computerising the Library of the Meteorological Service.

Subsequent issues dealt with various aspects of computerisation in Government libraries in great depth.

The frequency of the issues in the early days was impressive, with sometimes as many as three issues in a year. In more recent times there has sometimes been a gap of more than three years between issues! However, the articles in general became more substantial and, as staff resources decreased over time, we are glad that the many contributors found the time to write their articles and we are very appreciative of their efforts.

1998 saw the loss of two of our early stalwarts with the sad death of Mary Moore, then Assistant Librarian in the Oireachtas and formerly Librarian in the Department of Fisheries and the departure of Lisa Shields. Lisa departed in happier circumstances, as she left to enjoy a well-earned retirement that I am happy to be able to report she continues to enjoy.

Issue 13 in 1999 was a special issue on aspects of the Copyright Bill that were of concern to Librarians. This was a very influential issue, as it alerted many Librarians to potential problems in the Bill that they had not been aware of at the time. Many of the problematic provisions were subsequently removed or amended before the Bill became the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000.

Issue 16 almost turned out to be a special issue on moving Libraries and is full of detailed information on how to approach this onerous task. It also included an article on rescuing your library, should disaster strike. The pattern was only broken by an article on Knowledge Management. Issue 17 likewise turned out to be a special issue on E-information.

Initially there was an Editorial Committee of three (according to the first issue of Glint), but it seems the role of sole Editor soon fell on my shoulders, ably assisted by Lisa Shields of the Met

Service as Production Editor, responsible for text editing, layout and typesetting. When Lisa retired I took on both roles. With Issue 15 GLINT became an electronic-only publication, which enabled me to produce in colour and include better quality photographs.

Like the government libraries themselves, Glint has developed over the years and reflects very well, I think, on the contributions made by the many Librarians who have been employed in the libraries during that time and on the value to us all of the GLS.

Overview of the Contents of GLINT - Issues 1 – 17

Number 1 – November 1987

- History of the Group
- Current activities – including
 - Directory of government libraries
 - Library visits
 - Policy document
 - Training
 - Social Activities
 - Directory
- Library notes
- Peggy Burke, former Librarian in the Department of Agriculture

Number 2 May 1988

- News items including
 - Directory of Government Libraries in the Republic of Ireland
 - Stationery Office Liaison Group
 - New Journal [Information Technology News, published by Dept of Finance]
 - Training
- Re-inventing the wheel? Why we decided on do-it-yourself computerization, by Lisa Shields

Number 3 - August 1988

- News items including
 - Visit to the Library of the Geological Survey
 - Trivial pursuits – barbecue
- EDC / GLG joint study group
- Computerisation at the State Laboratory – choosing the software, by Aisling Judge

Number 4 – October 1988

- News items including
 - Inmagic Users' Group
 - Recent article on our Government libraries [in Seirbhis Phoibli 9(2) 41-45]
- Computerisation in the Meteorological Service Library, by Lisa Shields

Number 5 – March 1989

- News items including
 - Department publications
- Training workshop [An introduction to library work, run by Oracle Information Services], by Maedhbh McNamara
- Choosing a small system – a librarian's point of view, by Aisling Judge

Number 6 – August 1989

- News items including
 - Joint seminar on microcomputer software evaluation
 - Training for government libraries in the UK
- Weather diary [description of the diary of William John Moore, held in the Library of the Meteorological Service], by Lisa Shields
- Our government libraries, by Oliver Marshall and Mary Doyle [reprinted, by kind permission from Seirbhis Phoibli 9(2) 41-45]

Number 7 – February 1990

- News items including
 - Meeting with the Government Supplies Agency

- Summary of library software evaluation, by Aisling Judge
- Note on CD-ROMS, by Mary Doyle

Number 8 – August 1991

- News items including
 - Report on activities in 1990
 - Developments in software selection
 - Training
 - Catalogue of government publications not issued through the Government Supplies Agency
- An overview of Cardbox Plus in the Department of Agriculture and Food Library, by Mary Doyle

Number 9 – November 1991

- News items including
 - Bibliographic control of government publications
 - Computer software demonstration
- Portrait of a Library – the Oireachtas Library, by Maedbh McNamara

Number 10 – November 1992

- News items including
 - Exchange of visits with our Northern Ireland colleagues
 - Departure of Aisling Judge
- Visit to the National Archives, by Maedhbh McNamara
- National bibliography project – how it relates to government publications: summary of talk given by Virginia Mulvihill at the Group's AGM in 1992

Number 11 – January 1996

- News items including
 - National Gallery Library news
 - Library software evaluation questionnaire (issue also included, as a supplement, the library software evaluation questionnaire, which a number of government libraries were using to assist them in selecting their computer systems)
 - Note of an article in An Leabharlann 11(1) 1994 by Kirby Porter on 'Libraries

and the management of information in the Northern Ireland Civil Service'

- Report on the Copyright Seminar, held in May 1995
- The Office of Public Works Library, by Valerie Ingram

Number 12 – December 1998

- News items including
 - Death of Mary Moore
 - Departure of Lisa Shields
- FOI conference, by Mary Doyle
- Visit to Northern Ireland 1996, which included a talk on 'Charging in Libraries'
- Government Libraries and national policy on libraries
- Conservation, Reilly's and St Kevin – report on a GLS visit to Reilly Bookbinders, by Valerie Ingram
- SMI and government publications, by Mary Doyle and Mairead Mullaney

Number 13 – August 1999

- Special issue on the Copyright Bill

Number 14 – December 1999

- News items including
 - Government Library Groups
 - Government Supplies Agency
 - Web publication guidelines
 - Union List
 - Training
 - SMI funding
 - Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997
 - GLS website
- Special issue on Copyright – updated
- Report on the knowledge management seminar, presented by Sylvia Webb as part of our exchange visit to Northern Ireland in 1999, by Eunice Delaney
- Irish Statute Book on CD-ROM, by Madelaine Dennison

Number 15 – April 2003

- News items including
 - Training
 - GLS website
 - Information resource sharing
 - Cataloguing and archiving of electronic publications
- The Office of Public Works Library – changes, losses, gains, by Valerie Ingram
- Farmleigh Library, by Julia Cummins
- Licensing for Electronic Publications: some issues, by Mary Doyle

Number 16 – April 2004

- News items including
 - GLS motion to the LAI AGM
 - Porter, Kirby Setting up a new library and information service [new book]
 - Snippets, including useful information resources
- Knowledge management, by Madelaine Dennison and Maria Fitzsimons
- Disaster recovery, by Mary Doyle
- Libraries on the move (3 articles), by Kay Kennedy, Valerie Ingram and Joe Donnelly
 - Exodus from 72/76 St. Stephen's Green, by Kay Kennedy
 - Designing a government library, by Valerie Ingram
 - Relocation of the Judges' Library: design of the new space and facilities, move of the library and reorganization of the collection, by Joe Donnelly

Number 17 – April 2009

- News items including
 - Photo gallery
 - GLS motion to the LAI AGM
 - Vade mecum na Gaeilge: a guide to sources of information on the Irish language, by Isold O Deirg [new book]
 - Snippets, including useful information resources
- A survey of the availability of official publications on Government Department websites, by Johanna Archbold

- Use of Cardbox database software to update the Library and Information Service website of a government department, by Mary Doyle
- Publishing government e-information: challenges and opportunities – report on a one-day seminar organised by the GLS, by Joe Donnelly
- BIAL annual study conference and exhibition 2008, by Joe Donnelly

Number 18 (Current issue)

- News items including
 - Photo gallery
 - New Committee
 - Snippets, including useful information resources
- Valerie Ingram—a tribute, by Nuala Canny and Jane Smith
- Library Collections in OPW Heritage Sites, by Valerie Ingram
- Visit of Danish Parliamentary Librarians to the Oireachtas Library & Research Service, by Seamus Haughey; with brief note of visit to the Judges' Library, by Joe Donnelly
- GLINT down the years, by Mary Doyle

Photo Gallery



Zoe Melling, Noeleen Murtagh, Joe Donnelly



Fiona Morley, Jean Cassidy

AGM 2010

Glnt is published irregularly by the Government Libraries Section of the Library Association of Ireland
Editor: Mary Doyle, Librarian, Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Email: glslai@hotmail.com