

EITHNE COYLE O'DONNELL PAPERS

P61



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archives@ucd.ie

www.ucd.ie/archives

T + 353 1 716 7555

F + 353 1 716 1146

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CONTEXT

Biographical history

Eithne Coyle was born in Killult, near Falcarragh, county Donegal in 1897. During her early life she experienced the Land War in Donegal. As a result of the hardship suffered at this time, her father Charles died at the early age of thirty six. Her mother Mary (née McHugh) was republican and nationalist in outlook, and gave her daughter much support in her political activities. The rest of Coyle's family held similar political views: Donal Coyle, Eithne's brother was Commandant in the first northern division IRA, while her sister was deeply involved in the republican movement in Dublin.

After the Easter Rising Eithne Coyle joined Cumann na mBan in Cloughaneely, county Donegal. In April 1918 Coyle, together with Leslie Price, organised a branch of Cumann na mBan in their native district of Falcarragh. During the War of Independence Coyle established branches of Cumann na mBan in Tyrone and Roscommon, while working in close connection with the Volunteers. While she was in Roscommon, her house was raided and its contents burned by the RIC. On 1 January 1921 she was arrested, charged with harbouring seditious documents and imprisoned in Roscommon, Athlone and Mountjoy Jails. At the end of 1922 Coyle, Eileen Keogh, Kathleen Burke and Linda Kerns all escaped from Mountjoy Jail and sought refuge in Dublin, Kilcullen, and finally at Ducketts Grove in Carlow.

When the truce was declared Eithne Coyle returned to Donegal, but on the outbreak of the Civil War she went to Dublin. While in Dublin she worked for the Volunteers, carrying arms and despatches, as well as working for Cumann na mBan. As a result of her activities in the Civil War, she was again imprisoned in Mountjoy Jail. During this term of imprisonment, she went on hunger strike for the attainment of political status. In late 1923 Coyle was released from jail with the passing of the general release order of that year. After her release she worked with the Irish Hospital Sweepstake, and was elected President of Cumann na mBan in 1926, holding office until her resignation in 1940. From the late 1930s and early 1940s Cumann na mBan became more or less obsolete. However, Coyle's interest in the republican cause did not wane. Her letters to the newspapers, and her circular questionnaires as well as her large collection of publications illustrate a passionate interest in Ireland's affairs.

During the 1920s and 1930s her activities were mainly concerned with the publication of Republican pamphlets, organising political meetings, and presenting Cumann na mBan ideas on specific cases. She was also imprisoned once again, this time for pulling down British flags flying on O'Connell Street. Although Coyle was involved in electioneering for Sinn Fein at this time, she never became a member. Eithne Coyle spoke out strongly against the Coercion Act of the early 1930s and against the de Valera government of the time.

In 1935 she married Bernard O'Donnell, who had been an active member of the IRA in Donegal. At the time of his marriage O'Donnell was involved in Saor Eire, although his wife never became a member of this organisation. The couple had one son and one daughter. Bernard O'Donnell died in February 1968, and Eithne Coyle O'Donnell passed away on 5 January 1985.

Archival history

The Eithne Coyle O'Donnell Papers were deposited in UCD Archives by her son Father Christopher O'Donnell and her daughter Sister Máire O'Donnell in 1982.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content

Autobiographical and biographical material.

Material relating to Cumann na mBán, Cumann Poblachta na hÉireann, and Oglagh na hÉireann.

Eithne Coyle O'Donnell's personal writings and letters, as well as her memorabilia.

System of arrangement

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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.

Language

English.

Finding Aid

Descriptive catalogue.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note

This descriptive catalogue was prepared by Virginia Teehan in 1984. The catalogue was reformatted and made ISAD(G) compliant by Sarah Poutch in October 2015.

1. AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL

1.1 Early life and Maude Gunne McBride

P61/1

1974

3 items

Manuscript drafts and covering letter by Eithne Coyle

Relating to Maude Gunne MacBride but including a detailed account of Eithne Coyle's experiences as a child in her native district of Falcarragh, county Donegal, during the Land War of the 1890s. An outline is included of how the Coyle family survived the anti-Land League policy of the local landlord Colonel Alphert and 'his battering ram' who 'terrified the native population'. There is an account of the arrest of Father McFadden while saying mass in Gweedore church and the resultant killing of Police Inspector Martin. Amongst the information supplied about conditions in Donegal in the late nineteenth century is the fact that the writer's father died at the age of thirty six 'on account of the hardship he suffered during the' Land War.

Throughout the reports Coyle speaks of Maude Gunne MacBride's helpfulness and generosity towards the people of Donegal and the respect in which she was held by them. The second part of the report deals with Maude Gunne MacBride's relationship with Eithne Coyle before 1916. There is a lengthy and detailed account of Eithne Coyle's escape from Mountjoy prison and an outline of her actions while on the run. She also deals with Maude Gunne MacBride's activities in the republican movement: her involvement in prisoners' rights; her arrest and suspected involvement in the 'Irish Nihilist Plot'; and the 'Dynamite Plot'. In her conclusion the writer refers to Maude Gunne MacBride as 'an outstanding Irishwoman now sleeping in peace in the Republican plot in Glasnevin Cemetery'.

1.2 Eithne Coyle and Cumann na mBan

P61/2

1940s

2 items

Manuscript draft and typescript accounts by Eithne Coyle

Relating to her involvement with Cumann na mBan from the time when she joined in Cloughaneely, county Donegal until the time of writing. She mentions an Irish college founded by Roger Casement, supported by Patrick Pearse and Douglas Hyde; details of branch policies and activities including their anti-conscription policy and involvements in the electioneering campaign for the 1918 elections (with an account of how Mary Mac Swiney was dragged from a platform after making a speech in Cookstown, county Tyrone); her election speech the following night where 'she inspired the young people and gave them hope and courage to carry on until Ireland would be free'; and a description of her involvement with the Volunteer movement in Roscommon the result of which led to her arrest on 1 January 1921 and subsequent imprisonment in Roscommon, Athlone and Mountjoy Jails. She mentions Countess Markievicz who was in Mountjoy Jail at the same time serving a sentence of hard labour: 'the other prisoners could only wave to her at mass on Sundays'. She mentions others imprisoned including Linda Kerns, May Burke, C. Tobin, Maura MacKee, Liam Mellows, Paddy Moran and Rory O'Connor.

Her escape is covered as well as her time 'on the run'; her activities as despatch officer for the first Northern and Western division of the IRA; an attempt on her life while crossing from Aranmor Island with Commandant Plunkett; attacks on the 'B' Specials; and transportation of arms and issuing news bulletins; information on her imprisonment and hunger strike during the civil war is also given. She recalls her return to Donegal after her release, and her election as President of Cumann na mBan after the resignation of Countess Markievicz. Included at the end of the typescript version is the manuscript annotation 'Sighle [Humphries, member of the executive council, Cumann na mBan] told me recently that the executive never accepted my resignation and decided to give me leave of absence so it seems that I am still President of an organisation that no longer exists'.

P61/3

1916

1p

Photograph

Countess Constance Markievicz in uniform.

1.3 Proposed history of Cumann na mBan

P61/4a 1970s

2 items

Proposed history of Cumann na mBan and related material

Two copy books, one containing a draft questionnaire for the week of 23 April 1916, and for the following periods; April–July 1921; July 1921–June 1922; June 1922–March 1923; 1 April–30 September 1923. This questionnaire was completed by Charlotte Dempsey *née* Veney, (member of Cumann na mBan) of Thomas Street, Gorey, county Wexford. Other information in the copybook includes a list of names and companies (haphazardly arranged) of members of Cumann na mBan, and a report on the activities of nurse Linda Kerns (member of Cumann na mBan) during the Civil War, including her arrest, imprisonment and subsequent escape from Mountjoy Jail.

Included is a draft copy of a letter addressed to Sean MacBride supporting his condemnation of the treatment of Republican prisoners, which he expressed in a television programme. The writer goes on to condemn Minister for Justice Patrick Cooney TD for his treatment of political prisoners. She describes him as 'the most ignorant and cruel Minister of so called Justice of our time'.

P61/4 November 1972–February 1973

107pp

Replies to questionnaires

Circulated by Eithne Coyle to surviving members of Cumann na mBan and covering the period 1914 to 1923. Questionnaires include the following questions: name of branch; names of members alive or dead; numbers in the branch district council; names of officers; who founded your branch; what year; general activities civil and military; nature of help given to local volunteers; carrying arms and despatches; branch help given to Dáil Éireann administration such as republican court; collection of rates; republican police.

Replies include representatives of most Dublin branches, Ranelagh, Fairview, Chapelizod, Dublin Central Branch; Harcourt Street Branch; branches in Carlow; Kerry; Dundalk and Glasgow. manuscript accounts attached to the circular questionnaires indicating personal involvements in Cumann na mBan by many members including Annie Murphy, district secretary of the executive council in Carlow, giving the name of each branch in the Carlow district in July 1921; approximate strength of each branch; also names of those who submitted claims for IRA pensions and whether their applications were successful.

P61/4 contd Other contributors include: Meggie Jordan, Drumcondra branch; Aoife de Burcha, Chapelizod branch; Roisín Colbert née Ryan, Ranelagh branch; May Fahy née MacCormac, Central branch, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

P61/5 [1945]

7pp

Report by Linda Kerns

Typescript annotated report written by Cumann na mBan member, nurse Linda Kerns, about her escape with three other members from Mountjoy Jail in 1921. Kerns outlines in detail her arrest and detention in Sligo Jail; her imprisonment in Derry, Armagh and Walton jails and eventually Mountjoy Jail. She describes the plans for escape in Mountjoy, involving nurse Josie O'Connor [Cumann na mBan member] 'on the outside' and Eithne Coyle, Eileen Keogh and Kathleen Burke in the jail. Difficulties in crossing the prison wall and fear of the sentries are detailed. The escapees got refuge in the house of a Miss O' Rourke in Earlsfort Terrace, and from there they went to the Cross and Passion Convent in Kilcullen, county Kildare. Michael Collins sent them orders 'to clear out' as they had been 'given away', and they then took refuge in Duckett's Grove, an IRA training camp in Carlow. Kerns gives a full account of their activities in all these places at Kilcullen and Carlow.

Also included is a black and white photograph of Linda Kerns (right) and Eithne Coyle (far left) in the house of Dr. MacLaverty after their escape from Mountjoy Jail.

2. POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

2.1 Cumann na mBan

2.1.1 Constitution, Conventions, Correspondence and Printed

P61/6 December 1929-[1940s]

5 items

Publications and pamphlets

Includes:

1. 'The Story of Liam Mellows', detailing his political career (activities in the Fianna, IRA, and the part he played in 1916. Information is also supplied about his time 'on the run', his escape to America, imprisonment in Mountjoy Jail and his execution (8 December 1929, 2pp);
2. 'His Excellency's Piano', an outline of the cost of maintaining the British monarch in office and refuting his position as ruler of Ireland ([1929], 1p);
3. 'The Story of the Catalpa', the story of the successful escape by six Fenians from a sentence of penal servitude in Australis in 1876 (February 1930, 6pp);
4. 'Liam Mellows His Life and Times' (December 1933, 4pp);
5. recruitment poster for Cumann na mBan which depicts the profile of a young woman holding a rifle. The titled reads 'Free Our Country, Join The Women's Army, Cumann na mBan' ([1940s], 1p).

P61/7 April 1932-June 1945

8 items

Letters from members of Cumann na mBan and others

Mainly relating to the organisation and policies of the organisation.

Includes:

1. typescript letter from Mary MacSwiney with reference to her resignation from the position of vice president of Cumann na mBan. She expresses disappointment that Cumann na mBan should give allegiance to the Republic and objects to the passing of the social policy of James Connolly at the last annual convention 'which is in line with the principles of Karl Marx' This she feels is incompatible with the teachings of Christianity, and to connect Marx with Connolly is doing an injustice for Ireland. It is for these two reasons that she resigned, her resignation has no personal connotations (13 June 1933, 1p);
2. manuscript letter (in Irish) from Cú Uladh (President of the

P61/7 contd

Gaelic League) pointing out that he thinks that the proposed protest marches to further the rights of political prisoners during the Eucharist Congress is a futile one, mainly because prisoners themselves would be unable to attend. He also mentions the fact that he is seeking nomination to contend in the forthcoming general election, pointing out that he is 'a nationalist in every way' and asks Eithne Coyle to use her influence in Donegal to help him gain support. He concludes on the note that Lemass and 'his like' are obviously 'anti Cú Uladh' because they condemn him so often ([1932], 2pp);

3. typescript letter to Eithne Coyle from Pádraigín Ní Chochlain and Blanaid Nic Chartaigh (Honorary Secretary, Cumann na mBan) informing her that the Executive of the organisation has refused to accept her resignation as it would have a very bad effect on the organisation and could mean its breaking up. The writers feel that her loss would be 'irreplaceable', and appeal to her to reconsider her decision (24 September 1940, 1p).

P61/7a

1934-36

5 items

Cumann na mBan Constitution

Copies of the Constitution of Cumann na mBan outlining the objectives and aims of the organisation, and the rules for the executive organisation of branches and district councils. Activities are educational, military, and economic. Members should be encouraged to buy Irish. Also included are: the report of the annual convention, giving a list of delegates, secretary's report and treasurer's report and balance sheets; reports of activities for the year; an outline of the educational, publicity and training policies; and matters relating to Cumann na Cailíní and the Easter Lily campaign. Issues arising out of the secretary's report include a discussion on the formation of Cumann Poblachta na hÉireann (the motion was carried with one dissident).

Includes typescript copy of the presidential address delivered by Eithne Coyle, whereby she outlines the history of the organisation, condemning the contemporary Fianna Fail government as being 'unrepresentative of the Irish people'. She condemns its economic programme 'which encourages British capitalists to control our native industries and allow them to pay starvation wages to our native workers'. She also condemns fascism, mentioning its suppression of trade unionism and women, and talks about the threat of world war while echoing the philosophy 'that England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity'. Finally, Coyle speaks of the future and 'Ireland's freedom which can only be achieved by armed uprising' (1936, 8pp).

2.1.2 Addresses, Photographs and Menus

P61/8

1922

2 items

Addresses

Two highly decorative addresses: One was presented to Cumann na mBan, on behalf of Emakume Abertzale-Batza, (a right wing women's organisation in the Basque region of Spain). The flyleaf is decorated with the Irish tricolour and the Basque national flag. The address is written in French and Basque.

The second address was presented to Countess Markievicz (then president of Cumann na mBan) welcoming her to Butte, Montana, U.S.A. It was presented by Cumann na mBan members Julia D. Lynch, J.J. Twomey, Catherine Harrington and Anne M. Sullivan (President of the Butte Branch Cumann na mBan). The address begins 'to Erin's daughter who represents the soul of freedom that Ireland has throughout past centuries ever fought for....' it continues by outlining the work and service that Countess Markievicz has done for Ireland. The cover of this address depicts a hand holding a torch, decorated with small ribbons of American and Irish national colours.

P61/9

1922

7 items

Photographs and menus

Includes:

1. monochrome photograph of Linda Kerns (left), Eithne Coyle (right) and Mae Burke at rifle practise in Duckett's Grove, Carlow after their escape from Mountjoy Jail (1922, 1p);
2. black and white photograph of Eithne Coyle at rifle practise in Duckett's Grove, Carlow (1922, 1p);
3. black and white press photograph of a rally in Dundalk after the release of Hannah Sheehy Skeffington. The photograph shows Eithne Coyle delivering a speech (1933, 1p);
4. black and white press photograph of reception in Dundalk after the release of Hannah Sheehy Skeffington from Armagh Jail. The photograph includes Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, Eithne Coyle in Cumann na mBan uniform, the Mayor of Dundalk and other members of the Dundalk Corporation (1933, 1p);
5. as above (1933, 1p);
6. menu from a dinner given in honour of Hannah Sheehy Skeffington by the Irish Women's Franchise League. The menu includes 'Consommé Armagh' 'Derry Chicken' and 'Peach Melba Poblacht' (March 1933, 3pp);

Eithne Coyle O'Donnell Papers

P61/9 contd

7. black and white mounted photograph of the members of Anne Devlin Cumann na mBan, Glasgow (1933, 1p);
8. black and white mounted press photograph of Hannah Sheehy Skeffington delivering a speech in Tallaght, county Dublin. Eithne Coyle is in the audience (1930s, 1p).

2.2 Cumann Poblachta na hÉireann

2.2.1 Arms, Objectives and Rules

P61/10 1934

16pp

Manifesto, Constitution and Rules

Outlining the reasons why the organisation was established; the objectives; membership criteria; the hierarchy of control and organisation; official positions within the organisation; and the Rules.

2.3 Oglagh na hÉireann

2.3.1 Constitution

P61/11 1933–34

2 items

Constitution and governmental programme for the Republic of Ireland

The constitution outlined in this booklet was adopted by the general army convention of the IRA in March 1933. It deals with sovereignty, citizenship, language, religion, education, government, the state and the citizen, distribution of the nation's resources, banking and credits, trade and commerce, etc. Also included in this file is a copy of the constitution of the Irish Volunteers outlining the official title, membership, army control, general army convention, duties and powers of the executive, selection of delegates to the battalion and general army conventions, brigade conventions, election of officers, resolutions to the general army convention, and changes in the constitution.

2.3.2 Members' Personal Statements

P61/12 2 May 1916

3 items

Eamon Ceannt and Thomas MacDonagh

Copies of statements made by Eamon Ceannt and Thomas MacDonagh before their execution in Kilmainham Jail. Ceannt rejects the notion that Ireland should have surrendered: 'I see nothing gained but grave disaster caused by the surrender which has marked the end of the Irish insurrection'. He bears 'no ill will against those whom he fought'. Soldiering has 'opened my heart and helped me to see pure humanity where I expected to find scorn and reproach'. Concluding his statement, Ceannt speaks to his wife Áine and family members Nell, Richard and Mick bidding them 'conditional farewell'.

MacDonagh's statement is directed to his wife Muriel. He firstly reiterates his love for Ireland and his desire to help 'her make a Sovereign independent state'. His only regret at his time of death is the separation from his wife and children, Donagh and Barbara. MacDonagh continues by appealing to his brother Joseph and friend Sean Houston to help his wife in financial matters, although assistance has already been guaranteed by Cumann na mBan in this area. He also speaks of the negotiations for surrender making no apology for his acts: 'I acted honourably and thoroughly in all I set myself to do'. Finally, he expresses his love for his wife and children and his sorrow in leaving them.

P61/13 c1938

3 items

Seamus Robinson and John McGollogly

Each man details his involvement in the nationalist movement. Robinson divides his information chronologically, starting with family involvement in nationalist movements, and outlining his own involvement with the Gaelic League in Glasgow (1903-12) and involvement with the Irish Volunteers in Glasgow (1913-1915). He also speaks of his brother Joe, describing his arrest in January 1916 and his subsequent trial. Robinson continues by describing his activities as a member of the IRB Kimmage garrison during Easter Week on a daily basis, and his subsequent imprisonment in Richmond Barracks and Reading Jail. He also gives a list of names of members of the Kimmage garrison.

McGallogly outlines: his own involvement with the IRB in Scotland and also that of his brother James; his involvement in Easter week;

P61/13 contd his arrest and detention in Richmond Barracks, Kilmainham Jail, Mountjoy Jail, and Portland and Lewes prisons; and the strike in Lewes prison and his subsequent release. He also gives details of the split in the IRB in Glasgow, his involvement in starting fires in Manchester and the storage of ammunition there, and his resultant imprisonment in Exeter. Includes list of internees forwarded by Eamon (Mooney, late Glasgow Brigade) to Joe Robinson. The list gives the names of members of the IRA who were sent to Dublin from Glasgow prior to Easter Week, giving their name, company, activities in Ireland, company there and the part that each played in the Rising, and place and dates of internment. This document includes information about Cumann na mBan member Margaret Skinner, Glasgow branch, outlining the part that she played in the Easter Rising and mentioning the book that she co-wrote with Nora Connolly and 'Miss' O'Neill, *Doing My Bit For Ireland*.

2.3.3 Service Pensions

P61/14 March–May 1945

15 items

Application for IRA pension by Eithne Coyle

Manuscript letters of reference relating to the activities of Eithne Coyle from the foundation of Cumann na mBan until 1923. The letters outline her activities for this period and referees include T. Simons, A. McCarthy, Jack Lafferty, Leslie and Tom Barry, and Joseph Burke. Also includes a notebook containing transcriptions of evidence about the eligibility of Eithne Coyle for an IRA pension. The address of each contributor was submitted. Contributors include Hugh McKay, Tom Barry, Margaret Kennedy, and Joe McDevitt. Also includes notes from newspapers reporting arrests, trials and escapes of Eithne Coyle at various times. Some of the extracts are taken from the *Freeman's Journal*, *Evening Herald*, *Derry Sentinel*, *Roscommon Herald* and *Belfast Telegraph* (22 March–14 May, 24pp).

P61/15 23 May 1946

3 items

Letter to Myles Breen

Typescript copy of letter to Myles Breen from solicitor on behalf of Cha and Din Kavanagh in relation to the latter's application for IRA pensions and the case submitted on behalf of Joseph Robinson.

3. PERSONAL WRITINGS AND LETTERS

3.1 Speeches

P61/16 1935–37

6 items

Easter Week commemoration ceremonies in Loughbawn, county Westmeath and other locations

In her speeches Eithne Coyle condemns the Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera's policy of coercion, calls for the end of partition and the establishment of a free independent republic. In later speeches she rejects the new constitution. Includes a circular copy of the list of members of the National Commemoration Committee, Easter 1937.

P61/17 1935

4 items

Trinity College, Dublin lecture

Manuscript draft and typescript copies of lecture. Delivered in Trinity College to the Gaelic Society and entitled 'Women in Irish History'. She spans Irish history from 1798 to the 1920s mentioning figures from Anne Devlin and Sarah Curran, to Countess Markievicz. She outlines in detail the activities of Cumann na mBan in Easter Week with reference to the positions taken by members in occupied buildings and work they carried out in carrying arms and despatches. She mentions Padraig Pearse's speech of acknowledgement to Cumann na mBan before he surrendered. She speaks of Margaret Pearse, mother of Padraig, and quotes the latter's poem said to have been written before his death. Includes a related photograph.

3.2 Letters to the Press

P61/18 1973

6 items

Irish Times and Irish Press

Draft and copies of a letter published in the *Irish Times* and *Irish Press*. The letter was written in response to a television programme entitled '1922' broadcast on 31 December 1972 which featured Ernest Blythe. The writer wishes 'to prick the bubble of Earnan de Blaghd's boast of his unceasing efforts to preserve the Irish language'. She condemns this claim and points out incidents which would illustrate the contrary such as a civil service campaign to preserve the Irish language, which was unsuccessful. As well as Blythe's policy on the Irish language Coyle condemns his policies as Minister for Finance. Finally, she deals with the then governmental policy of giving grants to foreign companies, this is contrary to her view that the land and business of this country should be reserved for the people of Ireland. 'I often wonder what Michael [Collins] and his fellow patriots would think of the present governmental policy. Davitt's claim "The land for the people of Ireland" is now in the category of bad words so readily censored in Ireland today.' Includes related newspaper cuttings.

3.3 Letters Received from Former Colleagues and Others

P61/19 1933-78

22 items

Members of Cumann na mBan and others

Manuscript letters from members of Cumann na mBan and from others in various parts of the country. Matters discussed include Eithne Coyle's health and the sale of the publications *An tOglaigh* and the *Wolfe Tone Annual*. The writers include Una Stack, Gobnait Ní Bhrudair, (letters partially in Irish), K. Lynn, and Art Ó Concúibhair. Also included are letters from individuals inquiring about Eithne Coyle's life and involvement in the republican movement.

4. PERSONAL MEMORABILIA

4.1 Memorial Cards, Photographs and Postcards

P61/20 1916–56

11 items

Memorial cards

Memorial cards for Sean Prendergast, Una Stack, Kathleen O'Brennan, Lily O'Brennan, Mary Agnes Burke, Pat Morrin, Richard Cross and Sean McCaughey. Commemoration cards including one for Cathal Brugha.

P61/21 1920–23

16 items

Photographs

Including: a framed monochrome profile photograph of Pádraig Pearse; two copies of Gray's photograph of John Daly, Thomas J. Clarke and Sean McDermott; photographs of Cathal Brugha, Michael Hanrahan, Eva Gore-Booth and Countess Markievicz, and John Daly; snapshot of Vallemount, county Wicklow where Neil Plunkett O'Boyle was shot in May 1923; studio portrait [of Eithne Coyle]; a group photograph of eight men armed with rifles, three seated and five standing; photograph of Eithne Coyle with an annotation reading 'Mountjoy background'; and a group photograph of women seated and standing on a series of steps, including Eithne Coyle and Hannah Sheehy Skeffington.

P61/22 1916

2 items

Picture postcards

Commemorative postcard of 'The Battle of Carlisle Bridge' (O'Connell Bridge) and a black and white postcard of 'M. Fadden's Monument' in Gortahork, county Donegal.

4.2 Notebook, Poems and Songs

P61/23 1876–1885

2 items

Notebooks

Notebook containing pencil sketches of figures and various sketches of flowers and floral designs. Manuscript notes include information on the grain industry with notes about tariffs and export duties. At the front of the book is the annotation 'Gena Mary's own book Oct.10.1876'. File also contains a smaller notebook outlining the daily activities of a person living in or visiting Paris and Florence while studying art from March to June of 1885. Scattered throughout the pages are sketches of people, animals and hunting scenes.

P61/25 [1942]–1971

5 items

Republican songs and poems

Includes:

1. 'The Lay of the Ghosts of B Wing' (not dated, 2pp);
2. 'The Fianna to Liam Mellows', a song and report of the contribution made by Mellows to the Republican cause (not dated, 1p);
3. photostat copy of 'The Ardoyne Freedom Fighter pays tribute to Paddy McAdorney killed in action Aug. 19 1971' (1971, 1p);
4. poems by Thomas McDonagh, selected by his sister (not dated, 32pp);
5. 'A Soldier of Ireland', in honour of Thomas Williams who was hanged in Belfast Jail on 2 September 1942 ([1942], 1p);
6. 'Rags and Rebels' by Liam MacGabhann (not dated, 39pp).

4.3 Invitations, Tickets and Press Cuttings

P61/26 1932–1949

7 items

Invitations

File containing invitations to meetings, ceili and personal invitations to speak at women's meetings. Tickets include one for a gathering of the Brotherhood of Pearse, 1 Frankfort House, Dublin. Includes typescript invitation from Sean MacBride (Honorary Secretary, League Against Imperialists And For National Independence) to speak at a public meeting protesting against any attempt to use Armistice Day as an occasion of imperialist displays.

P61/27 July 1922–March 1973

9 items

Photocopies of articles concerning Republican and Nationalist activities

Concerned with activities mainly in the north western counties. Articles include 'Clan na nGaedheal, Girl Guides were ready for the Easter Rising', and 'Rosses Martyrs - Sinn Fein; Neil Plunkett Boyle, Owen and Con Boyle' outlining activities in fighting for nationalist movement between 1916 and 1923.

P61/28 May 1923–December 1977

110pp

Press cuttings book

Extracts from newspapers concerning: nationalist activities of Eithne Coyle; reports and articles on speeches delivered by her in Trinity College, and commemoration ceremonies throughout the country; articles on historical figures including John O'Leary, John Mitchell, The O' Neill of Donegal, and Charles Stewart Parnell; articles concerning Cumann na mBan, its activities and reports of meetings; Mna na Poblachta (Women of the Republic), and the Republican Congress; book reviews including reviews of Eoin MacNeill's book *Early Irish Laws and Institutions*, and Samuel Levenson's biography of Maude Gonne MacBride; articles concerning Eamon de Valera and the position that he took in relation to the establishment of the Republic; and many obituaries including Mrs Tom Clarke, Mary MacSwiney, Linda Kerns and other members of Cumann na mBan.

P61/28 contd Other articles included are an interview with Muriel MacSwiney, letters in relation to the newspaper debate concerning Sean O'Faolain's biography of Countess Markievicz, and a photostat copy of the newspaper report of Maude Gonne MacBride's oration at Drumbane Castle, Stranorlar, Raphoe, county Donegal. The newspaper and journals concerned include the *Irish Press*, the *Irish Times*, the *Irish Independent*, the *Derry Journal*, the *Cork Examiner*, *An Phoblacht*, and the *Dundalk Democrat*. Hannah Sheehy Skeffington, Dorothy MacArdle, Mary MacSwiney, and Proinsias Mac Aonghusa are amongst the writers included.

4.4 Prison Material and Other Items

P61/29 1916-44

3 items

Personal items relating to Coyle's involvement in the nationalist movement

Includes the prison identity card issued to Eithne Coyle while imprisoned in Mountjoy Jail.

P61/30 1923

50pp

Autograph book

Contains a collection of signatures and comments from female political prisoners in the North Dublin Union. These include Nora Connolly O'Brien, Sighle Nic Amlaoibh (Sheila Humphries, member of Cumann na mBan and later President of that organisation), Blathnaid Ní Suilleabháin (Blathnaid O'Sullivan), Sorcha Nic Diarmuida (Sarah McDermott), and Maighrhead Uí Buachalla. At the end of this book the signatures of Countess Markievicz and Uná Ní Fhaircheallaigh have been pasted in. Includes cartoon drawing by Grace Plunkett of Tim Healy and William T. Cosgrave.

4.5 Pamphlets, Publications and Related Material

P61/31 1946

13pp

'New Ideas Competition' entry

Copy of entry to the competition, organised by NAIDA. The competitor's name is W.A. Doody and the title of the essay is 'Improvements Relating to Democracy Machinery'. Doody examines the present system of democracy and finds it inadequate, his solution being the establishment of 'a national system of local community societies, whereby a community poll would reveal the peoples will at any time or on any issue'.

P61/32 1922-46

16 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'The Constitution of the Irish Free State', published by the Stationery Office (1922, 34pp);
2. 'Thoughts on the Constitution' by Professor Alfred O'Rahilly (1937, 75pp);
3. 'The Republic of Ireland' by Mary MacSwiney (1937, 75pp);
4. 'Draft Constitution' by Mary MacSwiney (1935-37, 14pp);
5. proceedings of Dáil Éireann debates, including a speech by Taoiseach Eamon de Valera defining the status of the Dáil (2 April 1932, 8pp);
6. 'The Way to Peace', an outline of a speech by de Valera in Dáil Éireann, with the aims of Fianna Fáil printed on the back cover (1934, 39pp);
7. statement issued by Dáil Éireann (16 April 1932, 4pp);
8. 'Restore the Republic', issued by the Dáil Éireann Executive Council (1934, 8pp);
9. 'Catechism of the Land Annuities' by Senator Maurice Moore (1930, 4pp);
10. 'Spotlight on Anglo-Irish Financial Quarrels and the Diffuse White Paper on the Annuities' by Henry Harrison OBE (1932, 16pp);
11. 'Step by Step From the Republic Back Into the Empire' by Diarmuid Ó Cruadhlaoh (not dated, 40pp);
12. 'The Partition of Ireland: How Britain is Responsible' by Henry Harrison OBE (1939, 16pp);
13. 'Partition A Positive Policy' by Gearóid Ó Cuinneagáin (Gerard Cunningham), (1946, 32pp);
14. 'Ireland's Right to Unity', the case by the All-Party Anti-Partition Conference at the Mansion House, Dublin (not dated,

- P61/32 contd** 17pp);
15. 'The Breaking of the Bonds' by Neville Roberts on behalf of the group YES (not dated, 36pp);
 16. 'A Free State in Fetters: Financial Freedom is the Foundation of all Freedom' by Neville Roberts on behalf of YES (not dated, 31pp).

P61/33 1918-42

15 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'Significance of Sinn Fein Psychological Political and Economic' by J.R. White (1918, 30pp);
2. 'The Strength of Sinn Fein', a presidential address delivered by Reverend Michael O'Flanagan at the annual Sinn Fein Ard Fheis (October 1934, 1p);
3. 'Economic Programme of Sinn Fein as founded on the Democratic Programme of Dáil Éireann' (1924, 4pp);
4. 'Tracts for the Times, The Separatist Idea' by Padraig Pearse (1916, 20pp);
5. 'Turning Point in Irish History', a copy of a lecture by Joseph Grianna (1924, 15pp);
6. 'Irish Citizenship', copy of a lecture by Dr Conn MacMurchandra (1924, 23pp);
7. 'Ethics of Irish Revolution' (1924, 16pp);
8. 'Nationality and Culture' by Francis Stuart (1924, 15pp);
9. 'The Republic of Ireland Vindicated' by J.J. O'Kelly (Sceilig), a presidential address at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis (October 1931, 16pp);
10. 'The Robbery of Ireland and the Remedy' by J.J. O'Kelly (Sceilig), (1928, 63pp);
11. 'The Oath of Allegiance and All That it Implies' by J.J. O'Kelly (Sceilig), (1925, 47pp);
12. 'The Sinn Féin Outlook', a presidential address at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis by J.J. O'Kelly (Sceilig), (1930, 15pp);
13. 'The National Outlook, The National Situation', Sinn Féin inaugural address (1936, 20pp);
14. 'Summary of Policy' by Coras Poblachata na hÉireann (1940, 8pp);
15. 'The Republican Plan for the New Ireland', outlined by the Central Committee of Coras na Poblachta (1942, 8pp).

P61/34 1917–42

11 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'Austin Stack 1880–1929' (not dated, 30pp);
2. 'Sir Roger Casement' by L.G. Redmond Howard (not dated, 64pp);
3. *The Life of Michael Davitt* by D.B. Cashman. Also included is *Secret History of the Land League* by Michael Davitt (not dated, 256pp);
4. 'Thomas Davis, Nation Builder' by M.J. McManus (not dated, 16pp);
5. 'An Ulsterman for Ireland, John Mitchell' (not dated, 46pp);
6. 'Naire Naisiuda, or Sean Treacy's Shame' by Matthew O'Grady (Mathún Ó Grada) and James Kelly (Seamus Ó Ceallaigh), (1942, 12pp);
7. 'Golden Moments with P.H. Pearse' (1921, 59pp);
8. 'Prospectus, Collected Works of P.H. Pearse (1942, 15pp);
9. 'Ghosts – P.H. Pearse' (1918, 15pp);
10. 'Economic Salvation: and the means to attain it as explained in the writings of Ireland's great teacher of economics Arthur Griffith', selected and arranged by Seamus Whelan (1934, 62pp);
11. 'Erskine Childers' by Padraig de Brún (1922, 16pp).

P61/35 1932–62

8 items

Wolfe Tone Annual

Eight editions of the annual.

P61/36 1942

8 items

Towards a New Ireland

File of editions of the pamphlet.

Includes:

1. 'The Disgrace of the Dole' by Seamus Farrell, issue number 3 (April 1942, 10pp);
2. 'How New Zealand Met The Crisis' by B. Barton Waters, issue number 4 (1942, 12pp);
3. 'How New Zealand Saved the Farmers and Guaranteed Wages' by B. Barton Waters, issue number 5 (1942, 16pp);
4. 'The Invisible Empire' by B. Barton Waters, issue number 6 (1942, 16pp);

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5. 'The Truth About Portugal' by B. Barton Waters, issue number 7 (1942, 16pp);
6. 'Education' by B. Barton Waters, issue number 10 (1942, 11pp);
7. 'How Afforestation Provides Farmers Markets', issue number 11 (1942, 12pp);
8. 'The Rights of Man', issue number 12 (1942, 11pp).

P61/37

1934–1950s

5 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'Workers of Ireland Which Way?' by Reverend A.M. Crofts (1934, 24pp);
2. 'Aiseirghe for the Workers', outlining the aims and ideas of the group Aiseirghe (not dated, 28pp);
3. 'James Connolly's Policy and Catholic Doctrine' by Countess Markievicz (not dated, 46pp);
4. 'Labour's Programme For A Better Ireland' (1943, 1p);
5. 'Dr Browne's resignation, some questions answered' (1950s, 9pp).

P61/38

1917–62

10 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'Easter Week And After' by Seachainaidre (not dated, 16pp);
2. 'The Last Post', a record of those national figures buried in Dublin cemeteries (1932, 93pp);
3. souvenir booklet to mark the erection of a monument to Donnacha MacNiall Ghuis at Glencolumbcille, county Donegal (1962, 4pp);
4. 'The Claim of the Irish Republic' with foreword by Sean Ó Ceallaigh (1928, 16pp);
5. 'Women in Ancient Ireland' by C. Máire Ní Dubhghaill (Cissie M. Doyle), (1917, 30pp);
6. 'The Prophecies of St Columcille' (not dated, 26pp);
7. 'Ireland at the Crossroads' (not dated, 4pp);
8. 'For or Against the Ranchers – Irish Working Farmers in Economic War' by Peadar O'Donnell (1930, 8pp);
9. 'The Story of the Drumboe Martyrs', foreword by James Quill (1958, 56pp);
10. 'Freedom of the Peoples' by Judge Rutherford (1927, 63pp).

P61/39 1916–58

8 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. 'The Irish Republican Congress' by George Gilmore (1935, 32pp);
2. 'Patriotism' by Reverend William J. Philbin, Bishop of Clonfert (1958, 20pp);
3. 'Easter Week Commemoration', issued by the Easter Week Commemoration Committee (1941, 2pp);
4. 'Provisional Drill and Service Regulations for Field Artillery (Horse and Light)' (volume I, parts I, II and III), issued by the United States War Department, Office of the Adjutant General (1916, 277pp);
5. 'British Imperialism in Ireland' by Hannah Sheehy Skeffington (not dated, 28pp);
6. 'Tracts for the Times: the Secret History of the Volunteers' (1916, 8pp);
7. copy of a speech delivered by Reverend Dr O'Dwyer on the occasion of being conferred with the Freedom of the City of Limerick (14 September 1916, 16pp);
8. 'Some Irish Graves in Rome – O'Neill and O'Donnell' by Reverend Dr Healy, Archbishop of Tuam (not dated, 19pp).

P61/40 1919–55

5 items

File of pamphlets and other published material

Includes:

1. Irish Volunteer Force, terms and conditions of service (1919, 8pp);
2. 'An tÓglaigh – Irish Army Quarterly' volume V, number 2 (1933, 98pp);
3. special communique issued by the Army Council with regards to Stephen Hayes (1942, 2pp);
4. 'Irish Republican Digest' featuring the Rising of 1916, book 7 (1955, 66pp);
5. 'Iris Drong Áth Cliath – Dublin Brigade Review'. Published by the National Association of the Old IRA (not dated, 123pp).

P61/41 1937

4pp

'Prison Bars'

Published by the Women's Defence League.

- P61/42** April–May 1929
3 items
Weekly Bulletin
Issued by the Republican Bureau. Includes issues from 14 April, 20 April and 4 May 1929.
- P61/43** November 1922–January 1929
4 items
An Phoblacht
Photostat copies of four issues, from 17 November and 20 December 1922, and 8 and 9 January 1923.
- P61/44** [1916]
16pp
'Dublin Six Days After the Insurrection'
Thirty one pictures from the camera of T.W> Murphy (The O'Tatur), sub-editor of *Motor News*.
- P61/45** [1930s]
392pp
Historia Vasca
Presented to Eithne Coyle on behalf of the women of Euzkadi, inscribed with the manuscript annotation 'For her many sacrifices in Éireann's cause'. The book has a highly decorated fly leaf with a colourful [Euzkadi] crest which is painted on pigskin with the title of the book.
- P61/46** Not dated
116pp
The Jingle of the Keys
By Margaret Buckley, this book outlines the activities of female prisoners in Mountjoy, Kilmainham and North Dublin Union jails. Reference is made to Eithne Coyle and a foreword by Mary MacSwiney is included.

P61/47 1945

88pp

Prison Escapes

Edited by Noel Hartnett with a foreword by Oscar Traynor TD, Minister for Defence. Included is a contribution by nurse Linda Kerns (a member of Cumann na mBan) referring to her escape from Mountjoy Jail with Eithne Coyle and Eileen Keogh.